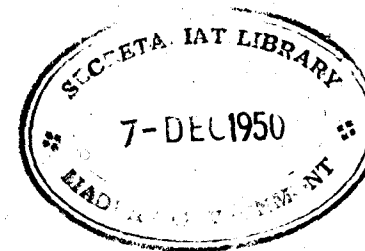


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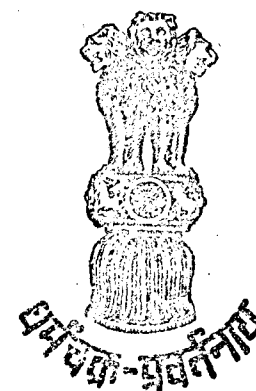
THE
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA
(LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

Official Report

Volume I, 1947

(17th November to 27th November, 1947)

First Session
OF THE
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)
1947



The Speaker:

The Honourable Mr. G. V. MAVALANKAR.

Panel of Chairmen:

Pandit THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA, M.C.A.

Mr. HUSSAIN IMAM, M.C.A.

Shri M. ANANTHASAYANAM AYYANGAR, M.C.A.

Shrimati G. DURGABAI, M.C.A.

Secretary:

Mr. M. N. KAUL, Barrister-at-Law.

Assistants of the Secretary:

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Mr. N. C. NANDI.

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Committee on Petitions:

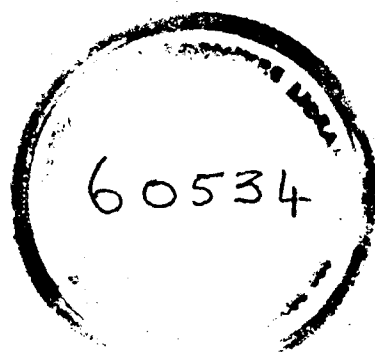
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Shri MOHAN LAL SAKSENA, M.C.A.

Pandit MUKUT BIHARI LAL BHARGAVA, M.C.A.

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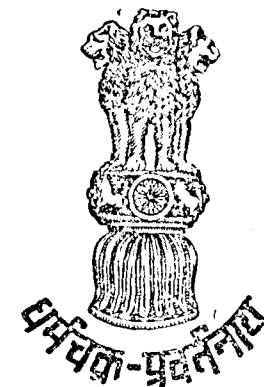
THE
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA
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Official Report

Volume II, 1947

(29th November to 10th December, 1947)

First Session
OF THE
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)
1947



DOMINION LEGISLATURE
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE).

The Speaker:

The Honourable Mr. G. V. MAVALANKAR.

Panel of Chairmen:

Pandit THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA, M.C.A.
Mr. HUSSAIN IMAM, M.C.A.
Shri M. ANANTHASAYANAM AYYANGAR, M.C.A.
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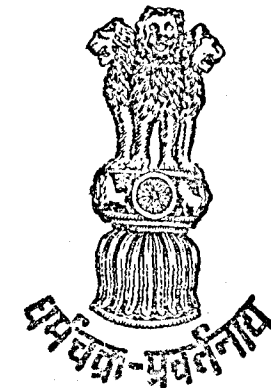
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Volume III, 1947

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**First Session
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1947**



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Pandit MUKUT BIHARI LAL BHARGAVA, M.C.A.

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6. No. 6, dated 22nd November, 1947—

- (i) Page 493, transpose lines 3 and 8 from bottom;
- (ii) Page 519, line 13, for "or" read "on";
- (iii) Page 520, line 5 from bottom, for "G. Ranga" read "Prof. N. G. Ranga";
- (iv) Page 529, for the heading "DENTIST BILL" read "DENTIST'S BILL";
- (v) Page 536, transpose line 2 above line 1.
- (vi) Page 539, line 3 from bottom, insert "for" after "pay".

7. No. 7, dated 25th November, 1947 —

- (i) Page 576, line 23 from bottom, for "0 00" read "0800-2300";
- (ii) Page 578, for the existing heading to starred question No. 285, read "COMMITTEES FOR DISPOSAL OF MATERIAL OF BUILDINGS DISMANTLED BY MILITARY AUTHORITIES";
- (iii) Page 607, under the heading "ELECTION TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR MINISTRY OF DEFENCE" for "(9) Maharajadhiraja Sir Kameshwara Singh, and" read "(9) Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, and".

8. No. 8, dated the 26th November, 1947—

- (i) Page 703, for the sub-heading "Standing Committee for the Ministry of Health" read "Standing Committee for the Ministry of Food", and for the sub-heading "Standing Committee for the Ministry of Food", read "Standing Committee for the Ministry of Health."
- (ii) Page 704, line 3, for "(2) Mr. R. E. Patel" read "(2) Mr. R. E. Platel";

9. No. 9, dated the 27th November, 1947—

Page 7 insert "391 * Shri K. Santhanam: Will the Honourable Prime Minister please state:".

In volume II—

10. No. 1, dated 29th November, 1947—

- (i) Page 835, for the sub-heading "(a) Oral Answers" read "Written Answers";
- (ii) Page 844, in the heading to starred question No. 425, insert "IN DELHI" after "MUSLIMS";
- (iii) Page 954, line 21, insert "ADVISORY" after "CENTRAL";
- (iv) Page 905, line 17, for "wages" read "ways";
- (v) Page 907, line 28, for "Shri Mohan Lal Saxena: Two of my friends who went to work in the" read "Shri Mohan Lal Saxena (U. P. General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me at the".

11. No. 2, dated 1st December, 1947—

- (i) Page 938, line 5 from bottom, for "average" read "acreage";
- (ii) Page 950, in heading to starred question No. 465, for "COTTON" read "CATTLE";

- (iii) Page 967, line 8, for "In on cease" read "In one case";
- (iv) Page 986, line 3, insert "have" in the beginning;
- (v) Page 1000, line 20, insert "Shri H. J. Khandekar:" before "Mr. Speaker";
- (vi) Page 1014, line 15 from bottom, for "design" read "decision";
- (vii) Page 1015, line 18, for "her" read "other".

12. No. 3, dated 2nd December, 1947—

- (i) Page 1057, line 17, for "(3) Shri P. Kushiraman" read "(3) Shri P. Kunhiraman";
- (ii) Page 1058, delete the first two lines;
- (iii) Page 1074, line 27 from bottom, for "then" read "others".

13. No. 4, dated the 3rd December, 1947—

- (i) Page 1127, insert foot note "†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent" at the bottom of the page";
- (ii) Page 1148, in the heading to question No. 566, for "FALLING" read "HAULING";
- (iii) Page 1160, line 2 from bottom, for "(11) Shri R. Santhanam" read "(11) Shri K. Santhanam";
- (iv) Page 1200, lines 10 and 22, delete "(i)".

14. No. 5, dated 4th December, 1947—

- (i) Page 1201, line 23 from bottom, insert "set" after "yet";
- (ii) Page 1227, for the existing heading to starred question No. 611, read "NEW RAILWAY LINES IN SOUTH INDIA";
- (iii) Page 1256, line 16, for "would" read "mould";
- (iv) Page 1269, after line 23, insert "per cent. over the pre-war level. The House will be surprised to know that the".

15. No. 6, dated 5th December, 1947 —

- (i) Page 1286, for the existing line 5, read "630. *Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: With reference to the answer given to";
- (ii) Page 1323, line 26 from bottom, for "sud" read "suddenly gets";
- (iii) Page 1332, transpose lines 18 and 19;
- (iv) Page 1350, for existing lines 13 and 14, from bottom read "DEMAND No. 90—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS—STORES SUSPENSE (NOT MET FROM REVENUE)";
- (v) Page 1351, line 18, for "draw" read "defray".

16. No. 7, dated 6th December, 1947—

- (i) Page 1367, in heading to question No. 642, for "SEIZURE" read "SIEGE";
- (ii) Page 1369, last line, for "Jamiat-ul-Ulema" read "Jamia Milia";
- (iii) Page 1370, lines 4 and 14, for "Jamiat-ul-Ulema" read "Jamia Milia";
- (iv) Page 1381, line 20, insert "on" after "be";
- (v) Page 1403, line 29, for "appear" read "appeal";

No. 9, dated 9th December, 1947—

صفحہ ۱۵۳۲ نیچے سے سطر ۸ بجائے ۱۹۶۵ء کے ۱۹۴۵ء پر ہیں۔

No. 10, dated 10th December, 1947—

پृष्ठ ۱۶۵۲، اُنت سے گیارہویں پंक्ति، "रुपेण" के स्थान पर "सारे" पढ़ें।

صفحہ ۱۶۴۶ سطر ۱۱ بجائے ۱۹۶۵ء کے ۱۹۴۵ء پر ہیں۔

पृष्ठ १६५३, पंक्ति १२, "१६१" के स्थान पर "१९१" पढ़ें।

अन्त से चौथी पंक्ति, "मैं की तरह" के स्थान पर "की तरह" पढ़ें।

अन्त से दूसरी पंक्ति, "काटो" के स्थान पर "कोटा" पढ़ें।

अन्तिम पंक्ति, "है वह" के स्थान पर "कोटा है वह" पढ़ें।

صفحہ ۱۶۶۹ سطر ۱۵ بجائے ۱۹۶۵ء کے ۱۹۴۵ء پر ہیں۔

CORRIGENDA

to the Index to the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative) Debates Volumes I to III, 1947 (17th November to 12th December, 1947),—

Page 6, last line, for "1621" read "1521";

Page 8, line 19, for "542-47" read "542-43";

Page 10, transfer line 4 after line 1;

Page 11, line 26, omit "occupied";

Page 13, for existing line 21 from bottom, read "BOTANICAL SURVEY—";

Page 23, last line, for "12200" read "1220";

Page 35, line 16 from bottom, for "135" read "1350";

Page 44, line 18 from bottom, insert "87" at the end, and line 17 from bottom, insert "97" at the end;

Page 55, line 7 from bottom, for "Corruption of" read "Corruption in" and for "1318-23" read "1315-23";

Page 84, line 8, for "159" read "1592";

Page 100, line 3 from bottom, for "680" read "1680";

Page 102, line 32 from bottom, omit "contd.";

Page 105, omit line 8;

Page 109, line 16, for "56" read "5-6";

Page 112, omit lines 3 and 4;

Page 114, for existing line 7 from bottom, read "Question 1—";

Page 128, line 26, for "500-93" read "500-03";

Page 127, omit line 6 from bottom; and

Page 130, line 14, for "82" read "282".

- (vi) Page 1408, for the existing fourth line from bottom, read "than any of their employees in such enterprises. But I do admit they";
- (vii) Page 1409, for the existing line 2, read "their charities. They are the safest investment, so far as you believe in God";
- (viii) Page 1416, line 5 from bottom, insert "is" before "possible".

17. No. 8, dated 8th December, 1947,—

- (i) Page 1448, transpose the heading "MEAT RATIONING IN INDIA" to above question No. 682;
- (ii) Page 1463, in heading under "MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT" for "RAILS" read "RAIDS";
- (iii) Page 1466, line 13 from bottom, insert "wages" after "governs";
- (iv) Page 1497, line 14, for "off" read "of".

18. No. 16, dated 10th December, 1947,—

- (i) Page 1588, line 11, for "Red-cliffe" read "Radeliffe";
- (ii) Page 1599, in heading to question No. 778, delete "CADRES";
- (iii) Page 1638, line 12, for "when" read "with";
- (iv) Page 1659, line 14 from bottom, for "fail" read "fall".

In Volume III,—

19. No. 1, dated 11th December, 1947,—

Page 1700, for the existing heading to postponed starred question No. 673, read "EXPLOITATION OF FORESTS IN ANDAMANS ISLANDS".

20. No. 2, dated 12th December, 1947,—

- (i) Page 1751, in heading to question No. 834, for "INDIAN" read "INTERIM";
- (ii) Page 1767, in the 1st and 2nd columns under the heading "Statement No. III", against line 6 from bottom, insert "2. China (Ambassador)", and in the last line for "hours" read "houses";
- (iii) Page 1829, transpose lines 4 and 5.

[HINDUSTANI PORTION].

In Volume I,—

No. 4, dated 20th November, 1947—

صفحه ۳۶۸ سطر ۱۵ بجائے دسواں کے دکھشہا پڑھیں۔

No. 7, dated 25th November, 1947—

صفحه ۵۷+ سطر ۷ بجائے دتھے کے دتھے اور سطر ۸ بجائے دجہاں کے "جہاز" بالترتیب پڑھیں۔

صفحه ۶۴۳ سطر ۱۳ بجائے دلیگیس کے دلیگیسی اور سطر ۱۹ بجائے دتعلق کے دمیرا تعلق بالترتیب پڑھیں۔

No. 9, dated 27th November, 1947—

پृष्ठ ۷۷۷ پکت ۲۶, "بچی" کے स्थान पर "पहुंची" पढ़ें।

पृष्ठ ८१४, उपांत पक्ति में "दुये दुफा" के स्थान पर "दफा" पढ़ें

In Volume II,—

No. 2, dated the 1st December, 1947—

पृष्ठ ९९५, अन्तिम पक्ति में "राज्य शु होगया" के स्थान पर "राज्य शुरू होगया" पढ़ें।

No. 3, dated 2nd December, 1947—

पृष्ठ १०६३ पक्ति १६, "छिनोनी" के स्थान पर "घिनोनी" पढ़ें

No. 4, dated 3rd December, 1947—

صفحه ۱۱۱۹ نیچے سے سطر ۵ لفظ دارور کو حذف کریں۔

पृष्ठ ११२५, अन्त से छठी पक्ति, "सुभीता" के स्थान पर "सुभीता जैसा" पढ़ें और अन्त से पांचवी पक्ति में "जैसा" काट दें।

صفحه ۱۱۳۷ نیچے سے سطر ۳ بجائے ۱۹۴۲-۴۷ کے ۱۹۴۶-۴۷ پڑھیں۔

पृष्ठ ११४२, पक्ति ४, निमित्त के स्थान पर "निश्चित" पढ़ें।

No. 5, dated 4th December, 1947—

صفحه ۱۲۵+ نیچے سے سطر ۵ بجائے "adicalism" के "Radicalism" पڑھیں۔

No. 6, dated 5th December, 1947—

صفحه ۱۲۹۹ سطر ۱۲ بجائے د کا انتظام دے دکا مناسب انتظام د پڑھیں۔

صفحه ۱۳۱۸ سطر ۲۱ بجائے "Cosmetiecs" के "Cosmetics" اور सطور २५-२३

بجائے دبددهه के دبددهه بالترتيب پڑھیں۔

صفحه ۱۳۲+ سطر ۶ بجائے دबाوجود نہیں کے دबाوجود لائسنس نہیں پڑھیں۔

صفحه ۱۳۲۶ سطر ۱۸ بجائے "Precedure" के "Procedure" پڑھیں۔

صفحه ۱۳۲۸ سطر ۵ بجائے درثوت کے درشوت پڑھیں۔

No. 7, dated 6th December, 1947—

صفحه ۱۳۷+ سطر ۱ بجائے دجامعيل مليه کے دجامعیه مليه اور نیچے سے سطر ۲

بجائے دکیونکه کے دکیونکه بالترتيب پڑھیں۔

No. 8, dated 8th December, 1947—

صفحه ۱۳۸۹ اردو پیرا سطر ۸ بجائے دپڑھیں کے دپڑھیں پڑھیں۔

صفحه ۱۳۹۱ سطور ۶-۵ کو ایسے پڑھیں د کے Principle اس کے ساتھ apply ہی

نہیں ہو سکتے ہیں Compensation کے بارے میں میری

صفحه ۱۳۹۳ سطر ۷ بجائے د۱+۹ کے د۱+۹ پڑھیں۔

صفحه ۱۵+۷ اردو پیرا سطور ۲-۳—

بجائے "Ajmer Merwara Rent Control Bill اور Delhi"

"Delhi and Ajmer Merwara Rent Control Bill" پڑھیں۔

صفحه ۱۵+۷ اردو پیرا سطر ۳ بجائے "Rent Institution Controller" کے

"Rent Controller Institution" پڑھیں۔

पृष्ठ १५०८, पक्ति १३, "गुस्ता" के स्थान पर "गुप्ता" पढ़ें।

CORRIGENDA

to the Index to the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative) Debates,
volumes I to III, 1947 (17th November to 12th December, 1947).—

- Page 6, last line, for "1621" read "1521";
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- Page 100, line 3 from bottom, for "680" read "1680";
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- Page 105, omit line 8;
- Page 109, line 16, for "56" read "5-6";
- Page 112, omit lines 3 and 4;
- Page 114, for existing line 7 from bottom, read "Question *—";
- Page 123, line 26, for "500-93" read "500-03";
- Page 127, omit line 6 from bottom; and
- Page 130, line 14, for "82" read "282".

THE
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA
(LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

*Official Report of the First Session of the Constituent Assembly
(Legislative)*

Volume I—1947

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY (LEGISLATIVE)

Monday, 17th November, 1947.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House in New Delhi, at Eleven of the Clock, being the First Day of the First Session of the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative), pursuant to sub-section (2) (a) of Section 19 of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted by the India (Provisional Constitution) Orders, 1947. Mr. President (The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad) was in the Chair.

DECLARATION BY MEMBERS.

The following members made the declaration under Rule 2C:

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Madras: General);
The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (U.P.: General);
Shri Mohan Lal Gautam (U.P.: General);
Maharaja of Parlakimedi (Orissa: General);
Shri Loknath Misra (Orissa: General);
Dr. Sir S. V. Ramamurthy (Udaipur State); and
Shri Lal Mohan Pati (Mayurbhanj State).

ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER.

Mr. President (The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad): I desire to welcome Members to this the first session of the Constituent Assembly on its legislative side. As you are aware, under the Independence of India Act the Legislative Assembly as well as the Council of State ceased to exist after the 14th August last, and the functions of both Houses were to be carried on thereafter by the Constituent Assembly. This is the first occasion when the Constituent Assembly has met for that purpose. It was felt that it would be desirable to maintain the distinction between the constitution making function of the Constituent Assembly and its ordinary function of a legislature. For that purpose it was thought desirable to have some one to preside over the deliberations of the Assembly when it did its work as a Legislature because of certain anomalies which had arisen on account of my being the President of the Constituent Assembly and also a Member of the Government. You have, therefore, now to proceed to elect a Speaker, who will be independent of the Government and carry on the functions of Speaker and preside over your deliberations. The Secretary had announced a time for putting in nominations for the Speakership. The nomination only of one gentleman has come in and that is of Shri G. V. Mavalankar.

Therefore, in accordance with the provision of sub-rule (3) of rule 2B of the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) Rules, I have to announce to Honourable Members that nomination papers duly filled in have been received on behalf of Shri G. V. Mavalankar. The names of the proposers and seconders are as follows:

Proposers:

Shri Satyanarayan Sinha
Seth Govindas

Seconders:

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena
Shri K. M. Munshi

As no nomination papers have been received on behalf of any other Member, I declare Shri G. V. Mavalankar duly elected.

I would now invite Shri G. V. Mavalankar to occupy the Chair.

[*Thereupon Mr. President (The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad) vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar)*]

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (Leader of the House): Mr. Speaker, we meet in this room after a relatively brief interval and there are many old faces here and many new ones. But this interval has seen a sea change in the fate of our country and in the face of our country. We meet to-day in a new capacity—that of a sovereign legislative body. We meet as the representatives of a free and independent India. We meet, I regret to say, as the representatives of not the whole of India as we have known it, but minus a part of it. Not only have these great and historical changes taken place, but during the last few months other events have happened which have brought shame to our country and to us. Nevertheless, we have faced these events in the past and we have to a large extent overcome them, if I may say so. But the problems that face us are colossal in their magnitude and it is a happy omen that we should start our business here to-day by the election that has taken place and which has placed you, Sir, in that high office. You bring to us the accumulated wisdom of that high office and those of us who have had the privilege of knowing you, value you as a councillor, a friend and a guide, and a leader in this House. It is a matter of great gratification and pleasure to me, to my Government, and I am sure to every Member of this House, that you have accepted this high office, because in the difficult times ahead you will have to face also difficult problems in guiding us, and we shall have the satisfaction of knowing that our guide is a true and trusted guide.

Therefore, Sir, with deference, I congratulate not you so much, but the House on the choice that it has made. I trust that under your guidance all of us, whether we are members of the Government or not, or Members of this House, will discharge our duty without fear or favour, without affection or ill-will to anybody. We have started this new life of ours by taking a new oath of allegiance, not to any external authority but to the interests of India, and in taking that oath I have no doubt we hope to discharge that duty by every single citizen of India, whatever he may be, wherever he may be, to whatever creed, religion or caste he may belong, without any partiality or without any favour.

I welcome you, Sir, and I congratulate the House on this happy occasion.

Mr. B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur (Madras: Muslim): Mr. Speaker, I have great pleasure in associating myself with what has been said by the Honourable the Prime Minister and I join him in congratulating you in being elected as

the Speaker of this august body. I trust that as the custodian of the rights and privileges of this House upon which depends the future destiny of this great country, you will do everything to protect such rights and privileges.

I once again congratulate you on this auspicious occasion.

Sir V. T. Krishnamachari (Jaipur State): I beg to associate myself wholeheartedly with the congratulations offered to you by the Honourable Pandit Nehru on your unanimous election as Speaker. No better choice could have been made for the Speaker of the first free Parliament of India than yours. You have already won our confidence and endeared yourself to us as President of the Legislative Assembly. We are extremely fortunate that we shall have the benefit of your wise counsel and invaluable assistance in the extremely difficult days that lie before us. I offer to you my most sincere congratulations.

Nawab Muhammad Ismail Khan (U. P. Muslim): I rise to offer you our heartfelt congratulations on your election to this high office. Our Prime Minister has congratulated the House on the choice it has made. May I add to that word "choice" and say "wise choice"? We who have worked under you in the last Legislative Assembly know fully well how courteous and just you are to every party and how you have by your judicious and impartial rulings won the confidence of every section of the House. I think the House could not have made a better choice. Indeed it is a great honour for any Indian to be elected the first Speaker of the sovereign legislature of a free and independent India. I offer you again my most sincere congratulations and I am sure that we shall work unitedly and with full confidence in you as our Speaker.

Shri V. I. Munishwami Pillai (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate you heartily on your assumption to the *gadi* of the Speakership of the Dominion Legislature of India. Coming as I do from the South and representing the Scheduled Castes I wholeheartedly welcome your election to be the Speaker of this august body. Though a new member to this legislature we have seen in the press and have also heard what is told by others that you have always had a very kind heart towards the poor men of our great country. Being the first Speaker of this august body, I am sure you will extend your goodwill and kindness to all the members of this House who are representing here millions of our countrymen. I wish you good luck and a good time in the great Chair which you occupy.

Shrimati Hansa Mehta (Bombay: General): Mr. Speaker, I have great pleasure in associating myself with the sentiments expressed by the previous speakers in congratulating you on this great honour. We in Bombay are particularly proud of you, because you were our first Speaker in the new Assembly in Bombay. With your impartiality and your wise judgment you made a mark there. This House should congratulate itself on having you as its Speaker, because we are sure that you will bring here also your great qualities as a Speaker. Sir, I congratulate you.

Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar): Honourable Members, I am deeply thankful to you all for the confidence you have reposed in me by electing me to this high office of the Speakership of the first Parliament of Free India. I am conscious that the honour conferred on me and the confidence reposed in me carry with them a heavy responsibility. I hope that it may be given to me to prove myself worthy of both. I can only say that I shall spare no pains for the purpose.

Many of the members assembled here as legislators of free India have had experience of Indian legislatures functioning under the British *aegis*. All the members have hitherto engaged themselves in the most difficult and

intricate task of constitution-making. To-day, we are meeting under wholly different circumstances and with a different character of business. We have begun to function as a legislature or Parliament of Sovereign India, having an independent and distinctive place on the world map. We have aspired and will continue to aspire to maintain the best relations with all the powers of the world and we hope that India will be privileged to play an important role in the achievement of world peace and prosperity.

Free, frank and impersonal discussion of every question, viewed from the point of view of the betterment of the conditions of the masses and with an international outlook on world peace is, I may be permitted to say, the very soul of democracy, for which the last devastating war was said to have been fought. In order to work for the fulfilment of that democracy, we shall be required to lay down our own standards and establish traditions, and with the sincere co-operation of all the members of this august Assembly, I hope to be helpful in upholding the best democratic standards and traditions and the dignity and independence of this House. I thank all members once again and pray that the Almighty may help us all in our efforts.

DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF LATE LALA LAJPAT RAI.

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General): Sir, to-day happens to be Lala Lajpat Rai's death anniversary day. Our friends of the East Punjab are having a holiday to celebrate the memory of that great leader of India. Lala Lajpat Rai was a leader in this House: he was the leader of the Nationalist Party and also the deputy leader of the Swaraj Party before that. May I request you to mark our homage to that great leader in a fitting manner?

Mr. Speaker: I understand that we have a very short agenda before us and that the Honourable the Leader of the House is not going to move his resolution to-day.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (Leader of the House): I do not propose to move it. It is vitally important but not urgent.

Mr. Speaker: In that case, we will finish the whole business in a very short time and then we will adjourn.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

(INFORMATION PROMISED IN REPLY TO CERTAIN QUESTIONS DURING THE PREVIOUS SESSIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE TO-DAY.)

Mr. Mohammad Nauman's starred question No. 995(d) of 14th March, 1946.

IRREGULARITIES IN FOODGRAIN PURCHASES BY SENIOR FOOD CONTROL OFFICER, O. AND T. RAILWAY.

Statement showing the appointments made in the O. and T. Railway, Food Department.

Subordinate Staff		Inferior Staff			
Hindus including Scheduled Castes	Muslim	Hindus including Scheduled Castes	Muslims	Hindus including Scheduled Castes	Total Muslim
63	15	101	46	164	61

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiah's starred question No. 1014 (b), (c) and (f) of 15th March, 1947.

RETIRED EUROPEAN I.C.S. OFFICERS EMPLOYED IN INDIAN STATES AND ZAMINDARIES

(b) Superannuated European Indian Civil Service officers draw their normal Indian Civil Service pension.

(c) Their salaries are shown in list I attached. Sir Alexander Tottenham has in the meanwhile died and Sir Collin Garbett has left India.

(f) There are approximately 69 Europeans in the service of the Indian States who have served in India in Services other than the Indian Civil Service. Their names and details, where they are now serving, are shown in list II. This list is possibly not entirely accurate owing to the changes which take place from time to time.

LIST I [1014 (b) and (c)]

Name of European Indian Civil Service Officer	State where he is employed	Salary drawn in the State
1. Sir Alexander Tottenham C.I.E., I.C.S. (Retd.)	Pudukkottai	Rs. 2,500 per mesnem
2. Sir Collin C. Garbett, K.C.S.I., C.S.I., C.M.G.	Bhopal	Rs. 1,500 "
3. Sir Thomas Austin, K.C.I.E., I.C.S. (Retd.)	Kolhapur	Rs. 3,000 "

LIST II [1014 (f)]

Names of European serving in Indian States	State where serving
1. Dr. A. M. Heron	Hyderabad
2. Mr. G. A. Anderson, O.B.E.	"
3. Brigadier L. Gilbert, C.I.E., M.C.	"
4. Lt.-Col. W. E. J. Beeching	"
5. Mr. M. J. Millet	"
6. Mr. W. B. Robinson	"
7. Mr. F. S. Young, C.I.E., C.B.E.	Bhopal
8. Mr. A. C. Armstrong, C.I.E., C.B.E.	"
9. Dr. Miss M. Stowe, M.B., Ch.B.	"
10. Mr. Mark Lubo Schinkey	"
11. Mr. Guy Thorpe	"
12. Mr. C. M. B. Mersh	"
13. Lt.-Col. N. J. G. Jones	"
14. T/Major W. M. Mair	"
15. T/Major H. M. Closs	"
16. Lt. R. N. Roy	"
17. T/Capt. G. O. Allan	"
18. Lt.-Col. H. S. Stewart	"
19. Lt.-Col. B. J. Ryan	"
20. Dr. H. Jacoby, M.D. (Berlin)	"
21. Major General R. D. Inskip, C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O., M.C.	"
22. Lt.-Col. A. S. Mackay	Dewas (Senior)
23. Mr. P. Johnstone	Rajgarh

Names of European serving in Indian States

State where serving

24. Mr. J. E. Armstrong, C.I.E., O.B.E.	Bundelkhand Group
25. Mr. L.E. Ferrant, M.B.E.	Charkhari
26. Mr. Ralph Albert Horton, C.I.E.	Indore.
27. Major General A. H. Williams, C.I.E., M.C.	"
28. Senior Major Alfred James Curtis, M.B.E.	"
29. Major A. G. Wheeler.	Alwar
30. Mr. G. T. Beer, M.B.E.	Bundi
31. Mr. F. A. Naughton	Jaipur
32. Dr. J. F. Robinson, M.D., F.R.C.S.E., F.A.C.S.	"
33. Brigadier, C. W. Palin, M.C., I.A.	"
34. Major C. J. Phillips	"
35. Mr. P. S. Clarke	"
36. Mr. R. H. T. Mackenzie	Bikaner.
37. Mr. J. W. Connelly	"
38. Mr. G. A. Bennet	"
39. Mr. G. A. Carroll	Jodhpur
40. Major-General R. C. Duncan, C.I.E., M.V.O., O.B.E.	"
41. Captain E. France	"
42. Mr. A. P. Cox	"
43. Mr. G. T. Simpson	"
44. Mr. R. Cardoza	"
45. Mr. M. R. Williams	"
46. Mr. T. Sexton	"
47. Mr. W. H. Kinchella	"
48. Lt.-Col. C. O. B. Daunt, M.C., I.A. (Retd.)	Udaipur.
49. Major J. F. Maxwell	"
50. Sir Robert G. Allan, C.I.E.	Baroda.
51. Brigadier H. R. C. Lane, C.B., D.S.O.	"
52. Major M. W. Reed	Cutch
53. Captain M. H. S. Harvey-Jones, O.B.E.	Junagadh
54. Mr. T. D. Collaghan, M.B.E.	Nawanagar.
55. Mr. F. H. Bibra	Bhawnagar
56. Mr. J. P. Nicholson, O.B.E.	Limbdi
57. Mr. B. A. Dubois	"
58. W/S Major/Lt.-Col. D. A. Wharton-Brown	Tripura.
59. Mr. H. W. Alderson	Bastar
60. Dr. (Capt.) W. P. S. Mitchell, M.B.E., K.I.H.	"
61. Mr. F. H. Welsh	Nandgaon
62. Brigadier H. L. Scott, C.B., D.S.O. M.C., I.A. (Retd.)	Kashmir
63. Mr. R. Powell, I.P. (Retd.)	"
64. Lt.-Col. Severn Williams, C.I.E., I.P.S. (Retd.)	"
65. Lt.-Col. R. L. Lemon	Gwalior
66. Col. H. M. Tulloch	Gwalior
67. Mr. H. C. Papworth, O.B.E.	Travancore
68. Major Sir Henry Howard, C.I.E., M.C.	Travancore and Cochin.
69. Capt. F. F. Pearson	Manipur

Mr. Manu Subedar's starred question No. 1151 (b) to (d) of 21st March, 1946.

ILL-TREATMENT OF INDIAN PASSENGERS TRAVELLING BY M. S. Battery.

(b) to (d). Government understand that the general question of the allotment of accommodation to all types of passengers in the "Batory" has been the subject of close investigation by the Ministry of Transport and they have come to the conclusion that there was no question at all of any discrimination against Indian passengers in the allotment of berths. It has been stated that in general terms senior ranking officers and women and children were provided with the best cabin accommodation and that there is no evidence of any 'ill-treatment' of Indian passengers, as has been alleged, so far as berthing was concerned.

The Ministry have stated that the "Batory" was not altogether too suitable a ship to send into Eastern waters and that it was only because of the dire shortage of transports available at that time that this vessel was employed to India for one voyage. They have further stated that the payers of passage money for all passengers berthed on 'B' and 'C' decks were subsequently refunded a portion of their fare and it was hoped that this would do a great deal to remove any sense of grievance which arose with regard to the accommodation.

The Ministry have also pointed out that the P. & O. Steam Navigation, Co., merely acted as the Operating Line for the booking of civilian passengers and that they were not directly responsible for the berthing of passengers which was done at a Conference in Glasgow, attended by the Service Departments, the Sea Transport Officer and a representative of the Company and that it was the general opinion that the best possible arrangements had been made in very difficult circumstances.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh's starred question No. 1924 of 17th April, 1947.

POSSESSION OF ESTATE OF MR. HARI JEE OF SHAHABAD DISTRICT, [BIHAR
IN BURMA.

As particulars of Mr. Hari Jee's property in Burma are not available the required information could not be furnished by the Government of Burma.

Railway	Date of discovery.	Place of		Action taken
		Place of discovery	Details of weapons discovered	
		Origin	Destination	
Oudh Tirhut Rly.—Contd	22-10-46	Ghaziipur City	Do. Ghaziipur City	Found to contain nothing objectionable.
	22-10-46	Do.	Do.	Hunting knives with blades 5" long and levers. 12 Small penknives—not available.
	7-11-46	Muzaffarpur	Do. Muzaffarpur	Details of the contents not available.
				92 pkts. pen-knives
				92 pkts. pen-knives
				161 pkts. knives
				108 pkts. knives
				13 daggers
				22 pkts. razors and knives
				18 pkts. knives
Great Indian Rly.	12-9-46	Poona Wazirabad	Poona	These articles have been detained under orders of the Police who intimate that the C.I.D., Poona are still investigating the matter.
				47 pkts. knives and razors
				16 pkts. knives and razors
	17-9-46	Poona Wazirabad	Poona	18 pkts. knives
				25 pkts. knives
	2-10-46	Kalyan Jammu Tawi	Kalyan	66 pkts. knives and daggers
				67 pkts. knives and daggers
	17-9-46	Nasik Road Wazirabad	Nasik Road	1 case cutlery
				1 case cutlery
	18-9-46	Mannad Wazirabad	Mannad	1 gunny parcel
				Seized by Sub-Inspector of Police, Nasik City and Mannad respectively.
	8-11-46	Jubbulpore Wazirabad	Jubbulpore	1 gunny parcel knives
				1 gunny pen-knives, scissors, etc.
	9-11-46	Satna Wazirabad	Satna	1 gunny parcel pen-holders, pencils and pen-knives. 1 parcel knives, safety razors, etc.
				Only pen-knives seized by the police.
				Remains undelivered. Police are pursuing investigations.

12-9-46	Sholapur Wazirabad	Sholapur	1 parcel knives	Handed over to the D.S.P. Sholapur for safe custody.
21-11-46	Bhopal Wazirabad	Bhopal . . . . .	....	Pending delivery at Bhopal. S. M. was asked to open them in presence of the Govt. Railway Police.

On 21-11-46. One parcel was opened before delivery and was found to contain knives and cutlery. This parcel was seized by the G.R.P., Bhopal.

This was detected at Bina and the S.I., G.R.P., Bina accompanied the parcel upto Saugor to acquaint the S.I., G.R.P. thereof the facts. The parcel was delivered on 11th October 1946 in presence of the G.R.P., and City Police Saugor who seized the parcel and kept it under custody. The City Magistrate has since ordered this parcel to be handed over to the consignor but he has not turned up for delivery.

Not available Bina	Wazirabad	Saugor	4 dozens folding knives with blades of 4.5".
			8 dozens knives having blades 2.6".
			10 dozens knives having blades of 2".
			12 dozens knives having blades of 1.7".
			3 dozens knives having iron blades of 2".

Mr. K. O. Neogy's unstarred question No. 13 of 28th October, 1946.
ACTION BY THE POLICE AND RAILWAY AUTHORITIES re CONSIGNMENTS OF DAGGERS AND KNIVES IN TRANSIT.
Statement showing particulars of consignments of knives, daggers or other lethal weapons discovered by the Railway authorities of the Railway Police while in transit since July 1946.

Railway	Date of discovery	Place of discovery	Origin	Place of destination	Details of weapons discovered	Action taken
Adampur Katwa, Burdwan Katwa, Bankura, Damodar, Kalighat, Fubwa, Rlys.						
Arrah Sasaram, Fultwah Islampur, Howrah Amta, Howrah Sheikhdala Rlys.						
Barsi Light Rly.						
Bengal Provincial Rly.						
Bikaner State Rly.						
Bombay Port Trust Rly.						
Calcutta Port Com.						
Commissioner's Railway.						
Darjeeling Himalayan Rly.						
Dholpur State Rly.						
Shri Rohtas Light Rly.						
Ukwar Baroda State Rly.						
Central Railway						
E.H. the Nizam State Rly.						
Gadghari Light Railway						
Ipur State Railway						
Managar & Dwaraka Rly.						
Ipur Railway						
Dras Port Trust Rly.						
Theran Light Rly.						
Sore State Rly.						
North Western Rly.						
India State Rly.						
North Indian Rly.						

No consignments of knives, daggers or other lethal weapons have been discovered over these Railway.

Junagadh State Rly. . . 2-9-46 . . . Junagadh . . . Sialkot . . . Junagadh

The parcel was opened in presence of the Traffic Supdt. and the Police Jamadar and was found to contain 360 pencils and 52 penknives and knives of various sizes and qualities. It was rebooked to Sialkot on 24-9-46 at the request of the consignors—Supreme & Co., Sialkot City, as authorised by the Agency Police.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

Nature	No.	Origin	Place of destination	Date of discovery	Place of discovery
German Steel daggers	3	Wazirabad	Motihari	23-9-46	Motihari
Batanwala daggers	5	Do.	Do.	23-9-46	Do.
Bread knives	36	Do.	Do.	23-9-46	Do.
Medium size knives	6	Do.	Do.	23-9-46	Do.
Big knives	12	Do.	Do.	23-9-46	Do.
Medium small knives	60	Do.	Do.	23-9-46	Do.
Small knives	60	Do.	Do.	23-9-46	Do.
Barber scissors	12	Do.	Do.	23-9-46	Do.
Daggers	12	Do.	Do.	23-9-46	Do.
Big knives	48	Do.	Do.	23-9-46	Do.
Bread knives	48	Do.	Do.	23-9-46	Do.
Medium size knives	12	Do.	Do.	23-9-46	Do.
Barber Scissors	36	Do.	Do.	23-9-46	Do.
Small knives	12	Do.	Do.	23-9-46	Do.
Very small knives	18	Do.	Do.	23-9-46	Do.
Sikari Diner daggers	6	Do.	Do.	23-9-46	Do.
Batanwala daggers	12	Do.	Do.	23-9-46	Do.
Bread knives	84	Do.	Do.	23-9-46	Do.
Knives	6	Do.	Do.	23-9-46	Do.
Batanwala daggers	12	Do.	Do.	23-9-46	Do.
Sikari Diner daggers	54	Do.	Do.	23-9-46	Do.
Small knives	6	Do.	Do.	23-9-46	Do.
Shield Steel knives	6	Do.	Do.	23-9-46	Do.
Bread knives	Not available.	Do.	Do.	23-9-46	Do.

These consignments were booked as cutlery but were found to contain daggers and knives as shown in column 7. They were seized by Govt. Rly. Police concerned under the orders of the Magistrate of the District.

[illegible][illegible]

Railway	Date of discovery	Place of discovery	Place of		Action taken
			Origin	Destination	
	"	"	"	"	3 cases cutlery
	"	"	"	"	1 case knives
	"	"	"	"	1 parcel knives
	"	"	"	"	2 parcels knives
	"	"	Nizamabad Pb.	"	1 parcel knives
	"	"	"	"	1 parcel knives
	"	"	Wazirabad	Bombay Central	1 parcel
	"	"	"	"	1 parcel cutlery
	"	"	"	"	1 parcel cutlery
	"	"	"	"	1 parcel cutlery
	"	"	"	"	4 parcels cutlery
	"	"	"	"	1 case
	"	"	"	"	2 cases
	"	"	"	"	1 case knives
	"	"	"	"	3 cases
	"	"	"	"	1 case cutlery
	"	"	"	"	4 cases cutlery
	"	"	"	"	5 cases cutlery
	"	"	"	"	1 case

Note.—Instructions were issued in the Rly's Weekly Gazette No. 23 of 6-9-46 enjoining upon the staff to exercise proper scrutiny of all such consignments and to inform the Ry. Police about the details of such of them as arouse suspicion, reporting the matter to the

Dy. Chief Traffic Manager. Delivery to be effected only after the Ry. Police have examined the contents and allowed them to be delivered.

This parcel was noticed by the Supdt. Ry. Police while being carried in Brake Van of Up of 6-9-46 for Kankroli. On investigation it was found that the said parcel contained 45 knives to be used as pen-knives and for domestic purposes.

The matter was reported to the police who took over the parcel on 21-10-46. On investigation it was found to contain pen-knives.

The G. R. P. suspected the contents to be knives and advised the S. M. not to deliver the consignment but to report the matter to them if the consignee turned up for delivery.

Description of contents in Way Bill was illegible. The parcel was delivered but the Local Police suspected the contents to be knives and have taken up the case which is pending.

Mewar State	6-9-46	Kankroli	Bhilwara.	Kankroli	45 pen-knives	
	20-10-46	Kuanthal	Wazirabad	Kuanthal	486 pen-knives	
Bengal-Nagpur—contd.	Not available	Gondia	Sialkot City	Gondia	Two packages cycle goods	
	Not available	Amgaon	Peshawar	Amgaon	...	

Railway	Date of discovery	Place of		Details of weapons discovered	Action taken
		Origin	Destination		
		Raipur	Baraduar	Raipur	GRP-Raipur allowed delivery of the consignment but confiscated it subsequently.
		Raipur	Delhi	Raipur	Delivered to the consignee but was subsequently confiscated by the GRP-Raipur. The District Magistrate after enquiry, ordered the package to be handed over to the consignee.
		Raipur Chalbasa	Wazirabad Wazirabad	Raipur Chalbasa	Ditto. The parcel was delivered in presence of Civil Police Inspector and was found to contain razors and pen-knives which were not considered objectionable.
		Chhindwara	Wazirabad	Chhindwara	The Local Police of Chhindwara opened and examined the contents on suspicion. The Station Master has been instructed not to deliver the consignments without prior orders of GRP-Raipur. The consignments are still lying undelivered.
Bhavnagar State	Not available.	Bhavnagar Ter. minus.	Wazirabad	Bhavnagar Ter. minus.	Delivered to one Mr. Maganlal Kunvarji on 22nd June 1946.
		Do.	Do.	Do.	Opened and checked in presence of the Railway

Police. Are kept at Bhavnagar Terminus Station in safe custody awaiting instructions for their disposal from higher authorities.

Booked by Messrs. Western Steel Works, Wazirabad on 23rd July 1946 to sell at Bangalore. No one came to take delivery upto 26th September 1946 when the police with a warrant issued by the Sub Divisional Magistrate requested that the package be opened and finding the contents as given in column 7 took charge of it.

The parcel was lying undelivered at Gudivada till 25th December 1946 when the Inspector of Police, Masulipatam, Sub-Inspector, Gudivada and a C. I. D. Officer examined the package and finding the contents as given in column 7 confiscated it.

The parcel received at Rajkot Jn. was delivered after consultation with Police Chief Constable, Rajkot Jn. while that received at Morvi was confiscated by the Morvi State Police.

Police. Are kept at Bhavnagar Terminus Station in safe custody awaiting instructions for their disposal from higher authorities.

Railway	Date of discovery	Place of discovery	Place of		Details of weapons discovered	Action taken
			Origin	Destination		
Bukhtarpur Rly.	20-11-46	Bihar Sharif	Wazirabad	Bihar Sharif	1 case said to contain knives.	Informd Bihar Sharif Police, who seized and subsequently released the parcel. Delivered to consignee on 22nd November 1946.
	20-11-46	Do.	o.	Do.	Ditto	Bihar Sharif Police informed who seized and then released the parcel. Delivered to the consignee on 25th November 1946.
	5-12-46	Pachraon	Delhi	Pachraon	1 case cartridges (200)	Seized by Bihar Sharif Police. Not released upto date.
	27-12-46	Bihar Sharif	Lucknow	Bihar Sharif	1 case cartridges	Seized by Bihar Sharif Police on the information given by S. M. Bihar Sharif and released. Delivered on 4th January 1947.

Supplementaries to Sardar Mangal Singh's starred questions Nos. 106 and 107 of 31st October, 1946.

SURPLUS MILITARY STORES.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar's, Shri Sri Prakasa and Seth Govinddas's

Supplementaries

No. 106.—Other countries have also destroyed many of their fighter aircraft for the reason that they are useless for civil purposes.

Fighter aircraft are of no use in Civil Aviation. These are designed for very high speed and are normally single seater aircraft with no load capacity except for the carriage of ammunition, etc. The engines are extremely high powered and the expense involved in maintaining these engines is very high.

A total of approximately 75,000 tons of Ordnance Stores and 4,200 tons of ammunition is stacked in the open in Central Ordnance Depot, Jubbulpore. The Ordnance stores are little affected by weather conditions, 31 per cent. of such stores are under paulins or temporary shelters, and of the remainder only 2 per cent. are of a type which might deteriorate due to adverse weather. Most of the ammunition is either unserviceable or awaiting repair.

PROFITEERING BY GOVERNMENT IN THE DISPOSAL OF CERTAIN ARTICLES

Prof. N. G. Ranga's Supplementary

No. 107.—The suggestion in effect amounts to sale through agencies. The Disposals Enquiry Committee set up by Industries and Supplies Department which, among other things, enquired into the various methods of disposal, came to the conclusion that the use of agencies as a method of disposal was not desirable. The Government of India have agreed with the recommendations of the Enquiry Committee. In the circumstances, it is regretted that the suggestion cannot be given effect to.

Shri N. Narayan Murthi's unstarred question No. 35 of 4th November, 1946.

BUILDINGS IN WARD NO. 14, DELHI, NOT ACQUIRED BY DELHI IMPROVEMENT TRUST

(a) Ahata Kidara Scheme.

Lessee

Buildings on 1,011 sq. yds. belonging to . . . M. Moizuddin and others.
Buildings on 1,153 sq. yds. belonging to . . . Must. Naimat Bi, w/o Moh. Ahmed.
Buildings on 386 sq. yds. belonging to . . . M. Mohd. Sharif, s/o Shahabuddin
Buildings belonging to . . . Syed Ahmed Shah.

(b) Proceedings for acquisition are being taken.

Serai Purani Idgah Scheme.

No property falling under the Serai Purani Idgah Scheme has yet been acquired by the Delhi Improvement Trust.

Prof. N. G. Ranga's supplementary to Mr. Manu Subedar's starred question No. 534 of 14th November, 1946.

SUPPLY OF TIMBER FROM BURMA, ANDAMANS AND INDIAN FORESTS

Early this year the High Commissioner for India intimated that the Chief Forest Officer, Andamans, could supply to the United Kingdom about 100 tons of converted material

and 750 to 1,000 tons of Gurjan logs every quarter. It was further stated that this type of timber had no market in India, and that His Majesty's Government were very anxious to obtain the same. The High Commissioner also enquired whether the Government of India would be prepared to grant an export licence. In view of the fact that the revised scheme for the Andamans Forest Reconstruction provides for export to the United Kingdom of 4,400 tons of Gurjan timber annually, made up of :—

	tons.
Gurjan planks and scantlings	2,700
Flooring strips	1,000
Padauk and silver grey squares	250
White Chuglam, Dhup, etc.	450

The Government of India agreed to comply with the wishes of His Majesty's Government. Taking the conversion wastage at approximately 40 per cent., the quantity of timber to be exported to the United Kingdom works out to about 2,700 tons a year in sawn form.

Up to the end of March, 1947, two licences have been issued against the quarterly quota, one for export of 300 tons of Gurjan logs from Calcutta on 12th February 1947 and another for 500 tons of logs of the same variety from Port Blair on 8th March 1947.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar's supplementaries to Mr. Manu Subedar's starred question No. 16 of 3rd February, 1947

SHORTAGE OF MATCHES AND PROFITEERING BY VENDORS AND MIDDLEMEN.

The question of giving assistance to cottage match factories was gone into in great detail when the Tariff Board Enquiry into the Match Industry took place in 1926—28. Attention is invited to Chapter VII, and paras. 26 and 27 of Chapter X of the 'Report of the Indian Tariff Board regarding the grant of protection to the Match Industry'. The Tariff Board came to the conclusion that the 'manufacture of matches as a cottage industry had hardly any future' and that they could not therefore, 'recommend any special measures for the encouragement of cottage match factories'. The Board, however, recommended that in case 'an excise duty was imposed on matches manufactured in India, a reduction not exceeding 2 annas per gross should be made in the case of cottage factories in consideration of their limited resources'. Excise duty is at present being levied in accordance with Finance Department (Revenue Division) Notification No. 4 dated 11th May 1946. The rate of excise duty on matches depends upon whether the daily output of the factory exceeds or does not exceed one hundred gross of containers; in the case of smaller factories the duty being less.

In view of what has been stated above, it is very doubtful whether the cottage industry would be able to stand up to competition against highly organised, large-scale concerns.

Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal's starred question No. 41 of 5th February, 1947.

SALE OF INDIAN MEDICINES IN MAURITIUS AND PROTEST AGAINST MR. RIDLEY'S STATEMENT RE ADOPTION OF FRENCH NAMES BY INDIANS.

As regards parts (a), (c), (d) and (e) information furnished by the Government of Mauritius is as follows :

(a) Some Indo-Mauritians desire to use Indian medicines because they have confidence in them and because they can be sure these medicines will not contain beef, alcohol, or other ingredients against which they may have religious objections. There are no restrictions on sale of Indian medicines in the open market in Mauritius provided the law regarding the sale of drugs is complied with. Two Indo-Mauritian pharmacists were recently consulted by the Mauritius Government. One of them said he was quite ready to order Indian medicines if there were sufficient demand but so far the demand had been feeble. The other said that he had sufficient demand and had ordered medicines from two firms in India but had received no reply. He proposed to try again.

(c) Change of name, religion and style of living was once considered progressive by some Indo-Mauritians. Since about 1936, however, when the centenary of Indian immigration in Mauritius was celebrated, the tide is said to have turned,

and whilst quite ready to adopt what is useful and practical in European customs, the Indo-Mauritian in essentials wishes to stand by the culture and civilization of his ancestors.

(d) Uptill 1935 it was believed by some Indo-Mauritians that they had a better chance of promotion into the higher ranks of Government if they joined the general population. Whether there was any basis for this in the past or not, it is no longer thought by that Government to be true now.

(e) There are several Indians with Indian names holding high Government offices.

(b) and (f). If Indians elect to proceed to, and settle down, in overseas countries they can hardly expect that all the special facilities which people enjoy in India should be made available to them in their country of adoption, particularly if alternative facilities are available in the latter. It is also extremely doubtful whether Indian medical practitioners versed in Indian systems of medicine would care to proceed to Mauritius. Appointment of such Indian Doctors must obviously rest with the Government of Mauritius. It is open to the Indian community in Mauritius to make arrangements for the importation of Indian medicines and Indian Doctors. If and when any approach is made to Government for such purposes Government would give such assistance as they can.

Seth Govinddas's starred question No. 71 (c) of 6th February, 1947

FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION TEST FOR RECRUITMENT TO PERMANENT VACANCIES IN THE CENTRAL SECRETARIAT.

Number of applicants for 1st and 2nd Division Examination who were nominated by the Home Department on the results of the previous examinations for the 1st and 2nd Division	28
Number of applicants for the 3rd Division Examination nominated by the Home Department on the results of the previous examinations for the 3rd Division	398
TOTAL	526

Railway	Date of discovery	Place of		Details of weapons discovered		Action taken
		Place of discovery	Place of	Origin	Destination	
Engal, Assam	8-9-46	Parbatipur	Kalimpong	Shillong	Nepali daggers	Consignee could not be traced. The consignment is under the custody of Government Rly. Police, Parbatipur.
	15-10-46	Seldah	Kidderpore C. B. Office.	Katihar	3 sharp daggers 18", 14" and 13" long respectively. One of these daggers contained blood stain.	Consignment taken over by Govt. Railway Police, Calcutta.
	23-9-46	Narsinghdi	Calcutta (Burra-bazar).	Narsinghdi	2 dozen daggers	The parcel is now in custody of Government Railway Police, Bhairab.
	1-10-46	Sutang	Meerut City	Sutang	One cloth packed trunk suspected to contain daggers.	Asstt. Sub-Inspector, Government Rly. Police, Patrol of Shaistagan is stated to have effected delivery without opening the trunk. The matter has been reported to Supdt. Railway Police, Hallgong.
	30-10-46	Howrah	Wazirabad	Howrah	2 cases containing clasp knives with 6" blades.	Lying under custody of Govt. Railway Police, Howrah.
East Indian—contd.	23-9-46	Do.	Do.	Do.	4 cases containing knives of various sizes.	Retained under safe custody in Inward Goods Office, Howrah.
	9-9-46	Jharla	Ugoke	Do.	2 cases containing razors and knives of different sizes.	Detected by Govt. Rly. Police. All cases sealed by G. R. Police, Jharla and retained at Jharla station.
	9-9-46	Do.	Wazirabad	Jharla	1 case containing razors and knives of different sizes and quality.	
	6-9-46	Allahabad	Nizamabad	Allahabad	7 cases containing pocket knives of different sizes.	Detected by Allahabad City Police and taken over by City Dy. S. P., Allahabad.

15-9-46	Mirzapore	Sialkot	Mirzapore	1 case containing daggers, knives and other sports goods.	Detected by C. I. D. Police. Only six daggers and 27 knives taken over by Police. Rest rebooked to Sialkot.
East Indian Railway—14-10-46					
31-8-46	Lucknow	Gujranwala	Amritsar	1 bundle kirpans	Taken over by Govt. Railway Police.
			Lucknow.	2 packages each containing knives.	Detected by Civil & G. R. Police. One package sent to City Magistrate Court by G. R. Police, the other retained under safe custody pending orders of City Magistrate.
5-9-46	Lucknow.	Wazirabad	Lucknow.	4 packages each containing knives.	Discovered by G. R. P. Made over to G. R. P. of City Magistrate.
19-10-46	Benares Cantt.	Unbooked	...	6 knives	Discovered by G. R. Police from a passenger arriving Benares Cantt. by 15 UP Express on 19th October 1946.
8-11-46	Benares Cantt.	Unbooked	...	11 daggers	Case under trial. Found in the drain near Goomti Cabin Benares Cantt. and made over to G. R. Police.
7-11-46	Monghyr	Wazirabad	Monghyr	1 case containing knives.	Lying under custody of Monghyr Town Police.
7-11-46	Do.	Khankhan	Do.	4 cases containing Bhallas & Pharsas.	
13-11-46	Do.	Wazirabad	Do.	1 case containing knives	
10-11-46	Do.	Do.	Do.	Knives	
12-11-46	Do.	Amritsar City	Do.	1 case containing swords	

Office	Number of staff as on	
	1st January 1946	1st January 1947.
8. Karachi	3 4	4 4
		Assistant Welfare Inspectors. Welfare Assistants.
9. Quetta	1 1	2 1
		Assistant Welfare Inspectors. Welfare Assistants.
10. Stores	1	1
		Assistant Welfare Inspector.
11. Walton Training School	1 2	1 2
		Assistant Welfare Inspector. Welfare Clerks.
12. Assistant Works Manager, Works.		1
		Assistant Welfare Inspector.

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava's starred question No. 419 of 20th February, 1947.

CRIMINAL TRIBES IN AJMER-MERWARA.

(a) The number and the various kinds of Criminal Tribes Registered in the districts are as follows :—

Tribe	No. on register
Gypsies	
1. Sansis	285
2. Kanjars	459
3. Nats	1
	<u>745</u>
	Gypsies.
Domiciled.	
1. Baories	49
2. Rawats	15
3. Merats	15
4. Chakras	79
5. Naiks	101
6. Minas	98
	<u>357</u>
	Domiciled.

The total number is thus 1,102 The places of localities of various tribes are also shown below :

Sansies.—Nasirabad, Kekri, Sawar, Ajmer, Beawar, Pisangan, Pushkar, Bhinai, Srinagar.

Kanjars.—Nasirabad, Kekri, Sawar, Ajmer, Beawar, Goela, Todgarh, Bijainagar, Jawaja.

Nats.—Beawar.

Baori.—Mangliawas, Gegal, Pushkar, Pisangan, Beawar.

Rawat.—Beawar.

Merat.—Beawar.

Chakras.—Masuda, Bijainagar, Beawar, Ajmer.

Naik.—Masuda, Bijainagar, Jawaja, Bhinai, Goela, Pisangan.

Minas.—Kekri, Sawar (here only one Mina is residing).

(b) There are no regular settlements for criminal tribes in Ajmer-Merwara. The members of these tribes were rounded up and induced to live at certain Central places near police stations or outposts, as a measure of protection to the public. No policy for educating these tribes or for providing them with employment has so far been formulated. The late Deoli Regiments and Mina Corps provided some facilities for the education and employment of members of these tribes along with others.

The question of the establishment of a settlement in Ajmer-Merwara for these tribes has been engaging the attention of the Local Administration for some time and was also considered by the Advisory Council. The Council is however, opposed to the idea of calling any tribe a criminal tribe or segregating any class of persons in a settlement and is of opinion that no stigma should attach to any person by reason of his birth and no scheme should be prepared involving segregation of any tribe; but that special facilities for the education and advancement of backward tribes including the so called criminal tribes should be provided. Consequently the proposal for the establishment of a settlement for members of Criminal Tribes has been dropped and measures for their education and uplift are being considered.

(c) Yes. Sansies have been established not only at Bhinai but at Ramsar, Srinagar, Sawar and other places where there are Police stations so that they may be kept under surveillance.

(d) Some complaints were received in the past but nothing can be done to remove them as they are likely to be more dangerous at places where there are no police stations. As stated at (b) above, the question of the uplift of these Criminal Tribes is now under consideration.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal's starred question No. 464 (a) of 21st February, 1947.

CONVERSION OF CANTEENS INTO INDIAN REFRESHMENT ROOMS AT JUBBULPUR, MUTTRA, AGRA AND OTHER STATIONS

(a) The position with regard to Military canteens at the stations mentioned is as follows :

Dehri-on-Sone.—The Military canteen which existed at this station has been abolished.

Jubbulpore.—The canteen was closed on 14th March 1947.

Nagpur.—The Women Voluntary Service and British Other Ranks snack Bar was closed on 25th January 1946.

The Women Voluntary Service and Indian Other Ranks canteen was closed on 1st March 1947.

The Free Tea canteen was closed on 24th February 1947.

Muttra.—The canteen is likely to be closed on 1st April 1948.

Agra.—The canteen was closed on 1st March 1947.

Manikpur.—No canteen was provided at this station.

Seth Sukhdeo's starred question No. 474 (b) of 21st February, 1947.

ACCOMMODATION FOR STORAGE OF FOODGRAINS

A statement showing the maximum capacity of 50 : 50 basis and subsidised godowns that has been in use since completion is laid on the table of the House.

Pandit Mulrat Bihari Lal Bhargava's starred question No. 202 (a), (b), (c) and (e) of 11th February, 1947.

WOMEN EMPLOYED UNDER THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

Statement showing the number of Ladies employed under the Central Government (including all attached and subordinate Offices)

[illegible]

(7) Education Department	3	3	.....	1 Directress of Education.
(8) Employment Selection Bureau.	1	1	.....	....
(9) External Affairs Deptt.	30	9	9 (qualified)	....
(10) F. P. S. C.	3	3	3 (qualified)	<i>Confidential Section—</i> 1 Senior Special Assistant. 2 Confidential Assistants. 1 Clerk (all the posts are outside the ordinary cadre. One post is vacant).
(11) Finance Department	8	2	1 (not educationally qualified. On leave preparatory to retirement).	....
(12) Finance Department (Supply).	3	1	....	....
(13) Food Department	38	8	4 (qualified)	1 Secretary. 3 Confidential Lady Stenographers. 3 Confidential Lady clerk-cum-typist. 1 Chief Nursing Superintendent.
(14) Health Department (Attached Offices).	2	2	2 (qualified)	....
(15) Home Department	18	13	11 (qualified)	....
(16) Industries and Supplies Deptt.	62	15	6 (qualified)	3 Lady Receptionists (Dte. Genl. of Disposals).
(17) Information and Broadcasting Department.	15	8	4 (qualified)	1 Lady Supervisor (Dte. Genl. of Disposals).
(18) Intelligence Bureau	2	2	2 (qualified)	....
(19) Jt. Financial Adviser (Food).	1	1	....	....

The services of 5 European ladies are being terminated w. e. f. from 1st March 1947

STATEMENT SHOWING THE MAXIMUM CAPACITY OF 50:50 BASIS AND SUBSIDISED GODOWNS THAT HAS BEEN IN USE SINCE COMPLETION

(In Tons.)			
Name of Place	Maximum capacity that has been in use since completion	Total capacity of the godowns so far completed	Reasons as to why the entire capacity of the godowns has not been utilised
1	2	3	4
50 : 50 BASIS GODOWNS—			
C. P. & Berar	24,500	24,500	Does not arise.
Orissa	14,450	14,450	Does not arise.
Sind	12,000	29,400	Some of these sheds are situated in rice areas and some in wheat areas, so, some sheds remain vacant in off season for rice or wheat. Arrangements have since been made to utilize these sheds in off seasons through local retailers in the Deficit areas.
Punjab	1,378	22,800	Defects in the selection of the sites of Lahore sheds. They are being remedied.
SUBSIDISED GODOWNS EASTERN STATES—			
Khairgarh State	1,000	1,000	Does not arise.
Kalahandi	502	1,000	There was no full stock to be stored.
Patna	Nil	1,500	The matter regarding settling of rates was under correspondence between the State and the Agents so long, so, the godowns were not used at all. Necessary action to utilise the godowns to the fullest extent is being taken by the Patna State.

Supplementaries to Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal's starred question No. 652 of 3rd March, 1947.

PRICE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

An enquiry was made from the U. P. Government who have clarified the position as follows:

The price paid in both the Agra and Muttra districts as well as in the rest of the Province under the Direct Procurement Drive was the statutory maximum price of Rs. 10-4-0 per month. Since this price was supposed to be the price at the primary assembling market in the village, an addition was made for catage to the purchasing centre. This additional percentage was also uniform throughout the Province.

If the question refers to Black Market price, U. P. Government have no accurate information as to the position last year. It may be that prices in the area in the immediate proximity of Agra town were higher than those in the neighbouring Muttra district but it seems unlikely that a price of Rs. 20 was reached.

Supplementaries to Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal's starred question No. 707 of 4th March, 1947.

CONVICTION OF PROFESSOR BASUDEO BISHEN DAYAL FOR PREACHING HINDU RELIGION IN MAURITIUS

According to the information now received from the Government of Mauritius the following is the position:—

First prosecution.—Professor Basudeo Bishen Dayal was first prosecuted on the 16th March 1944, for holding an illegal meeting on the 22nd February 1944. He was found guilty and sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 150 and costs. After sentence had been passed, he refused to pay fine and was in consequence arrested and imprisoned on the 9th May 1944. He was released on the 22nd June 1944. Before prosecution he had been warned both orally and in writing of the consequences of persisting in his course of action.

Second prosecution.—On the 19th May 1944, Professor Basudeo Bishen Dayal was charged with holding three illegal meetings on the 11th, 12th and 19th March 1944. He was found guilty on all three counts. He was sentenced to a fine of Rs. 300 and costs on each of two counts. The first count was dismissed. The fine and costs were paid on this occasion by a sympathiser.

Third prosecution.—On the 20th October 1944, he was charged with holding an illegal procession on the 8th October 1944. He was found guilty on the 3rd November and was sentenced to twelve month's imprisonment. He was released on the 18th July 1945, having earned remission of the remainder of his sentence by good conduct in goal.

(a) During the hearing of the last mentioned case on the 20th October 1944, he refused to plead to the charge and informed the Magistrate that "he should know whether he was guilty or not". He was then sentenced to seven day's imprisonment for contempt of Court.

2. Professor Basudeo Bishen Dayal has not been arrested thereafter but his brother Sukhdeo Bishen Dayal was prosecuted for holding an illegal procession in contravention of law governing holding of public meetings and processions and was sentenced to 65 days' imprisonment for failure to comply with orders of Court.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai's supplementaries to Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal's starred question No. 784 of 10th March, 1947.

SUPPLY OF CATTLE FOOD IN INDIA

Deteriorated foodgrains are not destroyed if they are capable of being: reconditioned for human consumption, used as cattlefeed, or utilized by starch factories.

Only decomposed grains not fit for any of the above uses and which are deemed as involving danger to public health are destroyed.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang's starred questions Nos. 882, 883, 884 and 885 of 12th March, 1947.

COMMUNAL PROPORTION OF COMMISSIONED AND NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

No. 882.—(a) and (b). N. C. O's. are promoted and not directly recruited. The figures for officers commissioned in the three services between 1st September 1946 and 3rd March 1947 are given below:—

(1) R. I. N.	Nil
(2) Indian Army	303
(3) R. I. A. F.	127
(b) (1) R. I. N.	Nil
(2) Indian Army:	
Hindus (including Scheduled Castes)	121
Muslims	77
Sikhs	63
Christians	38
Parsis	2
Others	2
TOTAL	303

(3) R. I. A. F.:	
Hindus	72
Muslims	20
Sikhs	11
Scheduled Castes	Nil
Christians	20
Parsis	4
Others	Nil
TOTAL	127

GAZETTED OFFICERS EMPLOYED IN THE DEFENCE DEPARTMENT

No. 883.—(a) Gazetted Officers employed in the Defence Department between 2nd September 1946 and 5th March 1947:

Hindus	20
Muslims	4
Sikhs	4
Others	8
TOTAL	36

(b) Promotions made among Gazetted Officers between 2nd September 1946 and 5th March 1947:

Hindus	18
Muslims	7
Sikhs	3
Others	14
TOTAL	42

PERCENTAGE OF DEMOBILISED SOLDIERS COMMUNITY-WISE

No. 884.—(a) The total number of Viceroy's Commissioned Officers and Indian Other Ranks released during the period 1st September 1946 to 4th March 1947 is as follows:—

Hindus (including Gurkhas)	158,970
Muslims	84,373
Sikhs	13,206
Others	22,594
TOTAL	279,143

(b) The percentage of the men released in each community [as in (a) above] to the total is as follows:

	Per cent.
Hindus (including Gurkhas)	57
Muslims	30
Sikhs	5
Others	8
TOTAL	100

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

Community	Number of Indian Officers (including Medical and Dental) released during the period 1st September 1946 to 4th March 1947	Percentage of officers released in each community to the total number of officers released during the period 1st September 1946 to 4th March 1947
(c)		Per cent.
Hindus	1,204	57.3
Muslims	377	18.0
Sikhs	154	7.3
Others	365	17.4
TOTAL	2,100	100.0

Community	Number of V. C. Os. released during the period 1st September 1946 to 4th March 1947	Percentage of V. C. Os. released in each community to the total V. C. Os. released during the period 1st September 1946 to 4th March 1947
(d)		
Hindus	2,311	49
Muslims	1,558	34
Sikhs	469	10
Others	327	7
TOTAL	4,665	100

(e) Separate figures for Non-Commissioned Officers are not kept. The number of N.C.Os. authorised in each unit is in proportion to the number of Other Ranks of that community authorised for that unit. As such the percentage of the N.C.Os. released during the period 1st September 1946 to 4th March 1947 to the total number of N.C.Os. released will be approximately the same as given in reply to part (b) above.

COMMUNAL PERCENTAGE OF EMERGENCY OFFICERS

No. 885.—(a) and (b). 467 Indian Emergency Commissioned Officers were granted regular commissions during the period 1st September 1946 to 3rd March 1947 and their distribution by communities is as follows:—

Hindus	184
Muslims	131
Sikhs	103
Others	49

No temporary ranks have been made permanent. The number of permanent commissions granted has been stated above. If it is intended to know the number of substantive promotions made, it is regretted that statistics in this detail are not available.

Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal's starred question No. 1166 (b), (c) and (d) of 25th March, 1947.

**INDIAN STAFF OFFICERS IN OFFICES OF ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF OF GENERAL HEAD
QUARTERS AND CHIEF ENGINEERS OF COMMANDS**

Commands	Part (b)	Part (c)	Part (d)
Northern Command	3	Indians . Nil. Non-Indians . 3	Vacancies were filled by officers already holding suitable ranks who became available on rundown of establishments.
Southern Command	3	Indians . Nil. Non-Indians . 3	Vacancies were filled by officers already holding suitable ranks who became available on rundown of establishments.
Eastern Command	2	Indians . 1 Non-Indians . 1	A qualified Indian Officer was not readily available to fill the second vacancy.

Prof. N. G. Ranga's starred questions Nos. 1176 (b) and 1177 of 25th March, 1947.

**APPEAL AGAINST CONVICTION OF SRI BORRA APPALA NARAYANA REDDI OF
WALTAIR**

No. 1176(b).—The history of Sri Borra Appala Narayana Reddi's career in the army is as follows :

He was enrolled as a Viceroy's Commissioned Officer (Jemadar) on the 28th January 1942 in the Indian Pioneer Corps, and promoted as a Subedar on the 5th November 1943.

In December 1943, when on field service, he was tried by Field General Court Martial and convicted on two charges of inciting a mutiny.

**COURT MARTIAL OF SRI GOLLAKOTA RAMABRAHMANANDA RAO OF PEDDAPURAM,
EAST GODAVARI.**

No. 1177.—(a) and (b). Gollakota Ramabrahmanandarao of Peddapuram, East Godavari District was enrolled in the Army as a Grade III Hav. Clerk. He completed the Recruit's Course in Anti-Gas Training and the Table of Weapon Training the same year. In January 1945, while serving with No. 2, I.A.O.C. Training Battalion, he was tried by a Summary-General Court Martial on a charge of stabbing to death his wife, a Nursing Sister in the Auxiliary Nursing Service. He was found guilty of murder and sentenced to death. The C-in-C. confirmed the finding but commuted the sentence to transportation for life and dismissal from service. The prisoner is now serving his sentence in the Rajahmundry Jail.

(c) Yes, Sir. A defending officer was appointed for the prisoner. There was no suggestion during the trial that adequate opportunities were not provided for his defence. In fact, the prisoner admitted having stabbed his wife and the question for consideration was whether he was guilty of murder or of a lesser offence.

(d) There is no record of any appeal by or on behalf of the accused having been received either by the C-in-C. or by the Central Government.

Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop's starred question No. 1185 (c) of 25th March, 1947.

PROTEST AGAINST THE MILITARY CAMP AT RAIWALA NEAR HARDWAR.

The Government of the United Provinces have stated that there is no agreement between the Provincial Government and any body else to the effect that the Ganga Sabha would be consulted in matters concerning Hindu pilgrimage to Hardwar and its vicinity. It is, however, understood that the Provincial Government have constituted an Advisory Committee for Hardwar and Rishikesh and that the Ganga Sabha has been given a seat on it.

Mr. Hafiz M. Ghazanfarulla's starred question No. 1215 of 26th March, 1947.

ALLOTMENT TO UNITED PROVINCES OF COAL DUST FOR BRICK BURNING.

(a) Coal allocations for the various industries etc., in a province are sanctioned from month to month on the basis of the availability of coal and transport and on the demands of the consumers during brick burning coal to the United Provinces during each of the first three months of this year were 33,067. tons.

(b) Figures of despatches of brick burning coal are not normally maintained Province-wise.

(c) In view of the reply to part (a) this question does not arise. But it is generally impossible to make up subsequently a short-fall in supplies in any particular month.

(d) and (e). The Hon'ble Member is presumably referring to the provincial quota, comprising the requirements for domestic consumption and small scale industries. The average monthly allocation of steam coal to the U. P. against this quota during the first quarter of this year was the same as during 1946, i.e., 381 tons a month.

(f) The allotment of steam coal to ice factories in the U. P. was 742 tons a month during the cold weather months of January and February 1947, and was increased to 1484 tons during March. Allocations to ice factories are made on the recommendation of the Provincial Coal Controller and if he advises that the present allocation is inadequate a request for enhancement will be examined on merits.

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar's starred question No. 1362 (b) of 2nd April, 1947.

CONTROL OVER METROPOLITAN BISHOPS AND CLERGY IN INDIA.

Further enquiry shows that the matter is not the concern of the Government which is, therefore, unable to furnish a reply to the question.

Seth Sukhdev's unstarred question No. 116 of 3rd April, 1947.

COMPLAINT re THE RECRUITMENT OF DIESEL ENGINE DRIVERS ON N. W. RAILWAY.

(b) No, on the contrary the Railway Administration reports that there is at present shortage of such staff.

(c) The reply to the first part is in the negative. The latter part does not arise.

Captain G. T. B. Harvey's starred question No. 1459 (g) and (h) of 8th April, 1947.

HOLIDAY CAMP FOR TROOPS AT KODAIKANAL.

(g) The average number of troops on leave who used the Camp was 42.

(h) The Camp was never full.

Sardar Mangal Singh's unstarred question No. 120 of 8th April, 1947.

PROSECUTION BY THE ANTI-CORRUPTION DEPARTMENT.

(a) The total number of officers above the rank of Sub-Inspector employed in the Delhi Special Police Establishment is 47. They include 26 Hindus, 17 Muslims, 2 Sikhs, 1 Parsee and 1 European.

(b) The numbers of Government servants prosecuted from each community during 1945 and 1946 are as under :

Year	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Christians	Total
1945	104	19	8	29	160
1946	52	24	8	11	95

(c) The numbers of successful prosecutions during the above period are as under :—

Year	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Christians	Total
1945	35	7	...	6	48
1946	7	7	1	1	16

A majority of the cases are, however, still pending in courts.

(d) It is not possible to indicate exactly the amount spent on these prosecutions. But the expenditures incurred on the prosecuting agency during 1945-46 and 1946-47, was Rs. 35,000 and Rs. 33,000 respectively.

Mr. S. Guruswami's starred question No. 1569 of 11th April, 1947.

**STAFF EMPLOYED IN AND DISCHARGED FROM THE ORDNANCE SERVICE,
MILITARY ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT AND MILITARY ENGINEERING SERVICE**

Statement showing the number of non-gazetted staff employed in the M. E. S. as on 1st April 1946 and 1st January 1947.

Class of employee	1st September 1946	1st January 1947	Reduction
Unskilled	57,238	46,142	11,096
Skilled & Semi-skilled	37,911	28,434	9,477
Clerical	4,584	3,794	790
Administrative and Executive	8,571	8,254	317
TOTAL	108,304	86,624	21,680

NOTE.—As the collection of statistics in this detail was started only in January 1946, it is regretted that it is not possible to give figures regarding discharge since the cessation of hostilities.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

ABOLITION OF B. A. RAILWAY.

Mr. Speaker: Notices of three adjournment motions have been received. The first is by Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra regarding the "abolition of the B. A. Railway and its fragmentation into three parts, based on the notional division, placing them under different administrative arrangements causing great dislocation of trade and inconvenience to the people".

The matter is no doubt important but I doubt the urgency of it. Further I find from the programme that Honourable Members will have the opportunity of discussing this question during the course of the Railway Budget, general discussion, as well as on the demands for grants.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (West Bengal: General): I do not want to move the motion.

Mr. Speaker: I believe the Honourable Member accepts the same position as regards the second motion of which he has given notice?

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: What is the second motion, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: It is an adjournment motion on the same subject *re* "the failure of the Government of India in the department of Railways to take over charge of the portions of the B. A. Railway falling within the Indian Union under the award of the Bengal Boundary Commission and the consequent dislocation of traffic and loss of earnings to the Indian Union which continue to be sent to Pakistan since August 15th, 1947 under orders of the Railway authorities of the Government of India."

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: I do not want to move the motion. I shall take it up during the general discussion on the Railway Budget.

PLIGHT OF REFUGEES FROM WESTERN PAKISTAN.

Mr. Speaker: There is an adjournment motion in the name of Diwan Chaman Lal regarding the plight of the refugees from West Pakistan. Does he propose to move it?

Diwan Chaman Lal (East Punjab: General): I do not propose to move the motion.

Mr. Speaker: There is another adjournment motion in the name of Lala Deshbandhu Gupta. I think that his object can be better achieved by a short notice question.

Is the Honourable Member keen on moving his motion?

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta (Delhi): No Sir, I will abide by your advice, and raise the question by a short notice question.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S ASSENT TO BILLS.

Secretary of the Assembly: Sir, I lay on the table a statement showing the Bills which were passed by the Indian Legislature during the Budget Session, 1947, and which have been assented to by His Excellency the Governor General.

Statement

- (1) The Criminal Tribes (Amendment) Act, 1947.
- (2) The Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947.
- (3) The Indian Extradition (Amendment) Act, 1947.
- (4) The Coffee Market Expansion (Amendment) Act, 1947.
- (5) The Factories (Amendment) Act, 1947.
- (6) The Indian Railways (Amendment) Act, 1947.

Statement—contd.

- (7) The Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947.
- (8) The Indian Navy (Discipline) (Amendment) Act, 1947.
- (9) The Sugar (Temporary Excise Duty) Act, 1947.
- (10) The Explosives (Temporary Provisions) Act, 1947.
- (11) The Reserve Bank of India (Amendment) Act, 1947.
- (12) The Railways (Transport of Goods) Act, 1947.
- (13) The Delhi Muslim Wakfs (Amendment) Act, 1947.
- (14) The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.
- (15) The Armed Forces (Emergency Duties), Act, 1947.
- (16) The Trading with the Enemy (Continuance of Emergency Provisions) Act, 1947.
- (17) The Requisitioned Land (Continuance of Powers) Act, 1947.
- (18) The Imports and Exports (Control) Act, 1947.
- (19) The Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara Rent Control Act, 1947.
- (20) The Indian Finance Act, 1947.
- (21) The Business Profits Tax Act, 1947.
- (22) The Income-tax and Excess Profits Tax (Amendment) Act, 1947.
- (23) The Reserve Bank of India (Second Amendment) Act, 1947.
- (24) The Rubber (Production and Marketing) Act, 1947.
- (25) The Indian Tariff (Amendment) Act, 1947.
- (26) The Control of Shipping Act, 1947.
- (27) The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 1947.
- (28) The Indian Coinage (Amendment) Act, 1947.
- (29) The Capital Issues (Continuance of Control) Act, 1947.
- (30) The Taxation on Income (Investigation Commission) Act, 1947.
- (31) The Antiquities (Export Control) Act, 1947.
- (32) The Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1947.
- (33) The Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Act, 1947.
- (34) The Indian Boilers (Amendment) Act, 1947.
- (35) The Panth Piploda Laws (Amendment) Act, 1947.
- (36) The Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Act, 1947.

CONTINUATION OF BILLS PENDING IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Mr. Speaker: Before we proceed to the business I have to make two announcements.

Honourable Members will notice from the List of Business for today that the five motions in the name of Honourable Ministers relate to Bills which, immediately before the establishment of the Dominion, were pending in the old Legislative Assembly. Under statutory provisions contained in Section 30 of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted, these Bills are now being continued in the Constituent Assembly on its Legislative side. The object of the motions for the present is to continue these Bills as pending in the present Assembly.

SITTINGS OF ASSEMBLY ON HOLIDAYS.

Mr. Speaker: The second announcement I have to make is this. It has been the practice in the past that the old Legislative Assembly did not sit on days which were declared as holidays by the Delhi Administration. In accordance with this practice, no meetings have so far been fixed for 22nd November and 24th November on account of Moharrum. It has been suggested

that in view of the heavy Government programme, the number of holidays to be observed may be reduced and only one holiday may be observed by the Assembly on account of Moharrum, namely, 24th November, which is the only holiday observed by the Government of India. If the general opinion in the House is in favour of this view, I will fix a meeting for Saturday, 22nd November, for the disposal of official business.

BANKING COMPANIES BILL

Mr. Speaker: Now, we shall take up Legislative business. The Honourable Mr. Chetty.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Minister for Finance): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Banking Companies be continued."

The Bill has passed the stage of the Select Committee in the last Legislative Assembly, and the Report of the Select Committee has also been submitted. It is my intention to move that this Bill be taken into consideration during the Budget Session. For the present I move that the Bill be continued.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Banking Companies be continued."

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): Mr. Speaker, Sir, some of the members here suffer from certain difficulties in appreciating the motion. We do not know what the Bills were, how they have been changed and what their contents are. They have not been circulated to us. I hope they will be circulated and then we will be in a position to give our opinion on them. It is no doubt a formality but it should be strictly adhered to.

Mr. Speaker: I understand that copies have been circulated.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Many of us have not received them.

Mr. Speaker: As I understand the Honourable the Finance Minister, the point is that the present motion is only to continue the Bill. The actual consideration of it will be taken up in the next Budget session, that is the February session. It will not be taken up in the present session.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: The point I was emphasising was whether we are consenting parties to the Bill, I think our consent is necessary and some kind of appreciation of the nature of the Bill is a condition precedent to our consent. If that is so I think the Bill should be circulated amongst us. It is a small formality as I have already submitted but it is a very necessary formality in a very formal House like this.

Mr. Speaker: The point is that this Bill was pending in the last Assembly, and under Section 30 of the Government of India Act, it has to be kept alive. The present motion is that it may not be allowed to die but be kept alive. It is absolutely a formal motion. It is only to keep it alive. It does not mean that we are proceeding with it at this stage. Members will have every right and opportunity of discussing its merits later on.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: In that case we would be mere silent spectators without committing ourselves to the acceptance of its features.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Banking Companies be continued."

The motion was adopted.

INSURANCE (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil (Minister for Works, Mines and Power): Sir, I move.

"That the Bill further to amend the Insurance Act, 1938, be continued."

It is similarly situated with respect to its progress as was the first Bill which was moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Chetty.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Insurance Act, 1938, be continued."

The motion was adopted.

LEGAL PRACTITIONERS AND BAR COUNCILS (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Minister for Law): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Legal Practitioners Act, 1879, and the Indian Bar Councils Act, 1926, be continued."

Shri Biswanath Das (Orissa: General): May I know the stage at which this Bill stands?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It was merely introduced.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Legal Practitioners Act, 1879, and the Indian Bar Councils Act, 1926, be continued."

The motion was adopted.

PROVINCIAL INSOLVENCY (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Minister for Law): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Provincial Insolvency Act, 1920, be continued."

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Provincial Insolvency Act, 1920, be continued."

Shri Raj Krishna Bose (Orissa: General): I would like to know if this Bill also was referred to a Select Committee?

Mr. Speaker: It was only introduced.

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): It can be newly introduced. What is meant by 'continuation'? Only if it has gone through the other stages of discussion or Select Committee there is a purpose in having a motion for its continuation. It can as well be newly introduced.

Mr. Speaker: I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the provisions of sub-clause (2) of Section 30 of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted:

"A Bill which, immediately before the establishment of the Dominion, was pending in the Legislative Assembly of the Indian Legislature may, subject to any provision to the contrary which may be included in rules made by the Dominion Legislature under section 38 of this Act, be continued in the Dominion Legislature as if the proceedings taken with reference to the Bill in the said Legislative Assembly had been taken in the Dominion Legislature."

So the time and expenditure incurred in the previous stages—publication, etc.—are now dispensed with. That is the point in continuing the Bill.

Shri M. S. Aney (Deccan and Madras States Group): May I know, Sir, whether, in view of the wording of the particular clause, just read out—it is

PROVINCIAL INSOLVENCY (AMENDMENT) BILL

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necessary that a motion for continuation should be made? The rule permits the Government to continue the Bill and take it through further stages if it wants to do so. Is a separate motion for its continuation therefore necessary at all?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: If the motion for continuation is not made the Bill lapses. That means all the stages will have to be begun again.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): Sir, on this point of order the section which you were pleased to read says that a Bill which was pending in the Legislative Assembly 'may be continued'. It is thus discretionary on the part of this House to continue or not to continue it. Therefore a decision of the House is necessary.

Mr. Speaker: That is exactly why the motion is brought. The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Provincial Insolvency Act, 1920, be continued."

The motion was adopted.

HINDU CODE

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Minister for Law): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to amend and codify certain branches of the Hindu Law be continued."

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to amend and codify certain branches of the Hindu Law be continued."

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): May I know the present stage of this very important Bill? I understand there has been a considerable amount of agitation among our Hindu friends over it and it is better we have a picture of the stage at which the Bill is at present.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It was only introduced. No further stage was taken.

Shri R. V. Dhulekar (U. P.: General): In the new set up we should have no Hindu Law and no Muslim Law. We should have a general law and therefore.....

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member is speaking on the merits. He will have an opportunity of saying it when the Bill comes before the House. At present the only question is whether the Bill should be continued or not continued.

Shri R. V. Dhulekar: So, Sir, I oppose; it should not be continued.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to amend and codify certain branches of the Hindu Law be continued."

The motion was adopted.

FOREIGNERS (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Minister for Home, Information and Broadcasting, and States): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Foreigners Act, 1946.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Foreigners Act, 1946."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

DOCK WORKERS (REGULATION OF EMPLOYMENT) BILL

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram (Minister for Labour): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for regulating the employment of dock workers.

Mr. Speaker : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for regulating the employment of dock workers."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

INDIAN PATENTS AND DESIGNS (EXTENSION OF TIME) (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee (Minister for Industry and Supply) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Patents and Designs (Extension of Time) Act, 1942.

Mr. Speaker : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Patents and Designs (Extension of Time) Act, 1942."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

DELHI AND AJMER-MERWARA RENT CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil (Minister for Works, Mines and Power) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to continue in force certain amendments of the Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara Rent Control Act, 1947.

Mr. Speaker : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to continue in force certain amendments of the Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara Rent Control Act, 1947."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE REGULATION (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Minister for Finance) : Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947.

Mr. Speaker : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

DELHI PREMISES (REQUISITION AND EVICTION) BILL

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil (Minister for Works, Mines and Power) : Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to confer certain powers in respect of premises in the province of Delhi.

Mr. Speaker : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to confer certain powers in respect of premises in the province of Delhi."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

ELECTION TO STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Minister for Finance) :

Sir, I move :

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the Speaker, fourteen members to serve under the Chairmanship of the Finance Minister on the Standing Finance Committee for the remaining part of the financial year 1947-48."

Sir, Honourable Members who have been associated with the work of the Central Legislature are familiar with the scope and functions of the Standing Finance Committee. The functions of this Committee are derived partly from a resolution which was adopted in the Central Legislature in the year 1922, and partly as the result of conventions established on the initiative of the Committee itself. The functions of the Committee during the last few years have been as follows: "To scrutinise all proposals for expenditure in all departments of the Government of India."

Under this category, only proposals involving a recurring expenditure of Rs. 1 lakh and over, and non-recurring expenditure of Rs. 5 lakhs and over, were considered by the Standing Finance Committee.

As regards new items, in other words, extensions to existing services, a reference is made to the Committee only when a question of policy is involved, and not in cases of ordinary normal growth of departmental expenditure which do not involve any departure in the policy already accepted. All supplementary grants relating to new services or any new items in which substantial questions of policy were involved, were also referred to the Committee. The Committee was also invited from time to time to suggest retrenchment and economy in expenditure, and generally the Committee was intended to assist the Ministry of Finance and advise the Ministry in such cases as may be referred to it by the Ministry. As a member of this Committee for many years myself I know that it has played a very useful and important part and I have therefore no hesitation in recommending to the House the acceptance of this motion for the election of a similar committee for the remaining part of the current financial year. Sir, I move

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved :

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the Speaker, fourteen members to serve under the Chairmanship of the Finance Minister on the Standing Finance Committee for the remaining part of the financial year 1947-48."

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General) : Sir, The Honourable the Finance Minister has pointed out that the functions of the Standing Finance Committee were derived partly from a resolution which was adopted in the Central Legislature in 1922 and partly as the result of conventions established on the initiative of the Committee itself. We then agitated that we should at the same time have an Estimates Committee which is in existence in England and in all free countries. While I do not object to the present motion as an interim arrangements till March 1948, I strongly urge on my friend the Finance Minister that we will now have to function as a free and sovereign Government where the representatives of the people should be associated with the Government; we should have an Estimates Committee of which the Finance Minister may be the Chairman and where the whole budget will be considered and passed. This is done in England. If the Honourable the Finance Minister finds any better system of associating the elected representatives of the people with the finances of the country, he may introduce that convention. We were fighting for an Estimates Committee when my Honourable friend was the President of the Assembly and Sir George Schuster was the Finance Member but the British Government did not permit the Finance Member then to have an Estimates Committee in India. Now, that we are free, we can have it.

44 CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) [17TH NOV. 1947]

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): Sir, I do not move my amendment but my object is to ask whether this matter may not be considered by the Finance Minister and taken up at the next Budget Session. Sir, I expected to ask him that he would try to enlarge the scope of the Standing Finance Committee. The scope of the Finance Committee, as we heard him read out the various functions of the Committee, is very limited. Those functions were laid down at a time when a foreign Government was in charge of this Administration. I expected naturally that he would devote his attention to the matter but the time at the disposal of the Finance Minister has been very short. I am sure, having regard to changed circumstances, he will consider if it is not advisable to place the various estimates that come before us by way of the Budget before the Finance Committee to be scrutinised in instalments so that within a period of three years all the various items may be under the searchlight of the Standing Finance Committee. This matter was raised by Sir James Grigg who was the Finance Member in 1937-38, and he circulated a memorandum to the Leaders of the parties in this House. It was our leader, the late Shri Bhulabhai Desai, who for a long time worked for it but later on he did not pursue the matter. He suggested in his memorandum that a non-official Chairman and not a Minister might preside over the deliberations of the Finance Committee and the Finance Minister may be an *ex-officio* member and all the items in the Budget before the Budget Session of the Assembly might be placed before the Standing Finance Committee. I believe, Sir, that the Honourable the Finance Minister will try to review his motion and try to suggest at the next Budget Session if it is not possible or desirable to enlarge the scope of the functions of the Standing Finance Committee so that the Standing Finance Committee might get to know details of the various items and suggest various methods of retrenchment, and not only those items alone which according to the Finance Minister might be placed before the Standing Finance Committee.

Automatically every item in the Budget must come up for scrutiny by the Standing Finance Committee. The previous Government was very chary of its power and did not want to discuss all matters. Some matters were by statute withdrawn from the purview of the Assembly and of what really was left many items were non-votable and even with regard to votable items it was left to the sweet will and pleasure of the Finance Member for the time being, who on all past occasions was not always of a dark colour but fair. He wanted to see that all items did not come to the scrutiny of the Standing Finance Committee which composed of a large number of Members of this House. I know, Sir, that the colour has changed but I do not want the colour both of the Administration and of the Committee to be the same.

Sir, I do not formally move my amendment, but I again request the Honourable the Finance Minister to take the facts into consideration and try to enlarge the scope of the functions of the Standing Finance Committee and in the revised form place it before the House before the next Budget Session and that before the Budget is actually presented at the next Session of the Assembly.

Shri Biswanath Das (Orissa: General): Sir, the motion that has been moved by the Honourable the Finance Minister needs explanation. Sir, under the old Act, we had only the Public Accounts Committee—the only statutory Committee under the Act. All the Committees were regarded as non-statutory with the result that the executive Government of the day which was not fully responsible generally brought such measures before the Committee as they liked or, of cases wherever and whenever they wanted taxation, they brought such proposals before these Committees for a justification.

Now, the conditions are changed. I therefore appeal to the Honourable the Finance Minister to expand the scope of the resolution not only with reference to the Resolution of 1922 but also to take a fresh lead and to see that the Committee so elected by this House is fully associated with the

Ministry of Finance. Sir, the question has been adverted to by my Honourable friends that far deeper association and better kind of association is being effected in other countries. I do not see any reason why the programmes and policy of the Government should not be thoroughly and fully discussed in the Committee. If this is not accepted, namely full association of the Committee with the Ministry of Finance, I think there is every justification to have a Committee. If that is not the position I do not see any reason why there should at all be a Committee. I fully believe, Sir, that my Honourable friend would agree to expand the scope of the Resolution so as to bring within it real power and influence and association so as to make the Committee helpful to the Ministry and useful to the country and to this Assembly. Sir, the Honourable the Finance Minister and myself entered the Madras Council together; I think he will recollect how often he was anxious to see that these *ad hoc* Committees were elected and non-officials associated in the work of government. Now fortune has brought us a free India and I believe he will throw aside the Resolution of 1922 and begin a fresh leaf—absolutely a fresh leaf, in which the Committee is fully associated with the Ministry of Finance, forgetting all the past, forgetting even the links that connect the past and the present. The Budget for 1948-49 is near at hand, I think it is proper time that the Honourable the Finance Minister makes an announcement on the floor of the House that he would take this Committee into full confidence, making it a really useful and helpful Committee for himself and for the Honourable Members of this House so that it would minimise the discussion on the floor of the House and establish a link of co-operation between the Finance Ministry and this House.

With these words I support all that has been stated and I also fully support the point of view of my Honourable friend for a non-official Chairman of the Committee, unless my Honourable friend the Finance Minister feels that there will be loss of status. I fail to see why this question of status should at all come in. A Member of the House will be appointed as Chairman of the Committee or the Committee will have its own Chairman. If that position is accepted, I think we will fully and heartily congratulate the Honourable the Finance Minister and accept the motion with its changed outlook and form.

Shri K. M. Munshi (Bombay: General): Sir, I have a few remarks to offer more as a matter of suggestion to the Honourable the Finance Minister than as a matter of criticism. As has already been stated by the Honourable Mr. B. Das, the Select Committee now suggested is a very old and obsolete method of associating the members of the House with the financial affairs of the country. I would, if I may, draw attention to the developments in England on this question and I hope that if not now, at least as early as possible, the Honourable the Finance Minister will be able to see his way to adopt my suggestion.

Firstly, with regards to the Estimates Committee of the House of Commons. This Estimates Committee has generally been accepted as one of the most important Committees of the House of Commons. I suggest that this should replace our Finance Committee. Not only that, there is one important constitutional aspect of a new Committee which was brought into existence in the House of Commons in the year 1942, namely, the Select Committee on National Expenditure. In 1942 when the two-party system was given up and a Coalition Government was set up in England, it was found that the wholesome criticism of the Opposition in matters of expenditure was absent and in order to obviate this difficulty, this Select Committee on National Expenditure was set up, with a view to scrutinise the expenditure. It was felt that in the absence of a strong two-party system, it was necessary that the whole expenditure of the country should be brought under the scrutiny of such a Committee before whom all matters were to be placed. This Committee

[Shri K. M. Munshi]

has been functioning since 1942 and has done very good work. If I may refer to May's Parliamentary Practice, page 642, it says:

"The practice was established whereby the departments affected by the recommendations in the Committee's reports submitted memoranda thereon to the Committee; these replies were periodically reported to the House, either in the same or in a following session. The Prime Minister also supplied the Committee, for their confidential information, with replies to recommendations contained in the memoranda addressed to him under the special powers described above."

In this way, the meetings of this Select Committee were always held in camera and their Reports were never published, but they went over all items of expenditure with a view to introduce economy on all Departments. I suggest that this constitutional method should be adopted in this country as early as possible.

Again, if I may draw attention once again to this book, this Committee was, among other things, authorised to "report, what, if any, economies consistent with the execution of the policy decided by the Government might be effected therein." This is a very important function and I am sure my Honourable friend the Finance Minister will agree with me that we require stringent economy in every Department and a Committee of this kind should be associated with the Finance Department. This is all I have to submit.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U. P.: General): Sir, with regard to the motion before the House, I associate myself with all that has been said by my Honourable friends Mr. Munshi and Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar. There are three motions before the House for appointing Standing Committees similar to those that existed in the past. All that I wish to say is that our Ministers should not say that these are the functions which these Committees had in the past and they shall continue. I say that the new spirit of the new age should also be brought into the Committees. I want the Honourable the Finance Minister to tell us that now this Committee will have other functions also and he will thus be able to avail himself of the wisdom of the whole House to scrutinise the Budget and to advise him on all matters of financial importance. We are embarking on a new adventure. We have a nation to build and finance will be the most important thing on which we shall probably succeed or fail. We therefore urge that this is a very important motion and I would request the Honourable the Finance Minister to enlarge the number of members on the committee, as also to have a non-official as Chairman. This is all that I wish to say about this motion.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Sir, the Standing Finance Committee which I am asking this House to elect is intended to function only for the unexpired portion of the current financial year. In giving the scope and functions of the Committee, it was my intention just to give an idea to the Honourable Members as to what these were in the past, but I might assure Honourable Members that it is not my intention to confine the scope and functions of the Committee strictly to the four walls of those that I enumerated today. I may give the assurance that I shall take the Committee into the fullest confidence. I shall be prepared to place before the Committee any matter which it may desire me to place before it. I would suggest, however, that in the course of the work of this Committee, the Committee itself might take up the question of accurately defining the scope and functions of the Standing Finance Committee and when I make my next motion for the election of the Committee for 1948-49, we may more clearly define and enlarge its scope and functions. In the meantime, the House can rest assured that I shall place all facts and figures before the Committee and shall welcome their fullest co-operation.

Then, Sir, my Honourable friend Mr. Munshi made a reference to the Estimates Committee of the House of Commons. The functions of that Committee are somewhat different from those of our Standing Finance Committee. In one material particular, the Estimates Committee of the House of Commons has not got so many powers as our own Standing Finance Committee. Whenever there is any question of policy involved in a new expenditure, we place this matter before the Standing Finance Committee and it has a very definite say even in the formulation of policy, but the Estimates Committee of the House of Commons has only to suggest retrenchment in expenditure consistent with the policy enunciated by the Government. In other words, it has no power to shape or alter that policy. From that point of view therefore, I would submit that our Standing Finance Committee has really wider functions and powers. In fact, there is one important difference. We place the proposal for expenditure before the Standing Finance Committee before the Budget is actually introduced in the Legislature, whereas in the House of Commons the Estimates Committee considers the items of expenditure only after the Budget estimates have been presented to the House of Commons. As a matter of fact, the usual practice of the Estimates Committee in the House of Commons is simply to take one group of expenditure during a year and just suggest all the retrenchments that could possibly be made. In other words, they do not at all cover all the various demands for grants that come before the House of Commons in any particular year. In fact, many Parliamentarians have questioned the utility of the Estimates Committee. One famous writer on parliamentary procedure made a caustic observation that after weeks of deliberation the only substantial cut that the Estimates Committee was able to make in a particular year in the Navy estimate was to cut down the quantity of tobacco supplied to the sailors in the Navy.

Shri K. M. Munshi: It will not happen here.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I am only suggesting that although the British House of Commons is the mother of Parliaments, our Standing Finance Committee has got really wider functions than the Committees of the House of Commons. In any case, we need not necessarily be guided by what happens at Westminster. We shall establish our own conventions. And so far as the Standing Finance Committee of this House is concerned, I will give the categorical assurance to Honourable Members that it is my intention to make the work of this Committee really effective and useful, so that every possible item of expenditure might be scrutinised by this Committee and that this Committee might really act as the agents of the Legislature.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the Speaker, fourteen members to serve under the Chairmanship of the Finance Minister on the Standing Finance Committee for the remaining part of the financial year 1947-48."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION TO STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYS

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Minister for Railways and Transport): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the Speaker, eleven members to serve on the Standing Finance Committee for Railways for the unexpired portion of the current financial year."

I do not think Mr. Speaker, it is necessary for me to explain at any length to the House what the scope and functions of this Committee are. The Standing Finance Committee for Railways originated as a result of the Resolution of 1924 under which railway finances were separated from general finance. What at present happens, therefore, is that the Standing Finance Committee for Railways performs the same functions in regard to Railway finance that the

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Standing Finance Committee performs in relation to public finance generally. There is hardly a matter of any importance relating to the financial policy and administration of railways which is not placed before the Standing Finance Committee for Railways. Their advice has to be taken before any decision is arrived at by the Railway Ministry, and as far as I am able to speak from experience since the Interim Government took office, I cannot think of any matter of any importance in relation to railway finance on which the Ministry has not accepted the advice tendered by the Standing Finance Committee. I am quite aware that the scope and functions of this Committee stand in need of change in view of the political set up under which we are now working, and the considerations which have been urged by my Honourable Colleague the Finance Minister are considerations which I believe *mutatis mutandis* apply in the case of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways. The only suggestion that I am making at present is that the arrangement which has prevailed so far may continue for the unexpired portion of the year, and if any suggestions are to be made by Honourable Members regarding the question of widening the scope of this Committee, I can give an assurance similar to that given by my Honourable Colleague the Finance Minister, that it will receive my fullest and most earnest consideration.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the Speaker, eleven members to serve on the Standing Finance Committee for Railways for the unexpired portion of the current financial year."

May I know if Mr. Ayyangar is going to move his amendment?

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): No, Sir.

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): While supporting this Motion, I want to make only two observations. The first is that hitherto the practice is that the Financial Commissioner presides over this Committee. I think it is time that the Railway Minister began to preside over the Committee.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sir, I should straightaway correct my Honourable friend's impression. The Minister for Railways now presides over the meetings of this Committee. The old practice ceased some time ago.

Shri K. Santhanam: I am sorry, I am rather a little out of date. The other point is that the scope is confined only to the Railway financial policy. It should really become a Railway Standing Committee. Not only the financial measures but also all matters of policy including the grouping of railways and other matters should come before the Railway Standing Finance Committee. It is only then that it can perform its functions usefully. In fact there is another motion for the Central Advisory Council for Railways. So far as I know this is a nominal Committee and that Advisory Council has not played a very effective part. The functions of both the Committees should be combined and there should be only one Committee which deals with the entire problem of Railways so far as the Government of India is concerned. I think this matter will be borne in mind by the Member as he has promised and when he puts them forward next year the entire scope will be fully defined.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I have been in the Standing Finance Committee for several years. Though technically the Standing Finance Committee deals only with financial matters, we have been trying to get into it for discussion various other matters relating to the general administration of railways. That is particularly due to the Honourable Member who is now in charge of the administration. I am much obliged to my Honourable friend Mr. Santhanam for having made this suggestion. For every other Department under a Minister we are having separate Standing Committee. The

motion stands in the name of the Honourable the Premier and will come up for discussion tomorrow, that Standing Committees may be appointed for various Departments of the Government, consisting of ten non-official Members over which the head of the administration will preside. There is no similar Standing Committee for Railway Departments. There is one for Roads. Therefore there is a lacuna. Therefore instead of having a separate Standing Committee to deal with various matters, not directly financially, but other administrative matters having a separate Committee, the scope of this Committee may be enlarged so as to deal with all matters and the word 'finance' removed and any suitable name may be chosen. At this stage, I hope, therefore, the Honourable Member will take that into consideration. He may withdraw his motion and bring the matter during the course of this Session so as to bring in a motion for a more comprehensive Committee and set out the various functions of that Committee combining the functions of the Standing Finance Committee with the functions of Standing Committees for various other Departments as are set out in the Rules which have been circulated for consideration of the House. The Honourable Member may bring forward another motion later on to enlarge the scope of the powers of the Standing Finance Committee so as to include within its scope matters relating to the outside administration of the Departments concerned.

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General): I did not catch the side talk of my Honourable friend, Dr. Matthai. I doubt if he is seeking guidance under the old rules.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Ever since I was appointed Railway Minister, this has been the practice.

Shri B. Das: The whole rule has gone.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa (C.P. and Berar: General): I am sorry I am not in favour of suggestion made by the previous speakers to combine these Committees into one. From experience as I have of the Provincial Advisory Committees of the Railways, I think the Committees which are going to come hereafter will have very heavy work for the improvement of the Railways in this country. Therefore I do not want the burden to be put upon this Committee by such combination. I feel that if the Committees are combined into one, then they will not be able to do justice and look after the grievances of the travelling public. There are very many grievances and there are many improvements that are required to be made in the Railways and if this one Committee is appointed, I am sure the real difficulties and hardships of the travelling public will be entirely ignored. Therefore, Sir, I think that the Standing Committee of Finance should work for the finances of Railway only and should not assert the power of the other Committee. I therefore, suggest, Sir, that the motion moved by the Honourable Minister for the Railways should remain as it is.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, my Honourable friend Mr. Sidhwa has misunderstood the suggestion made by myself and Mr. Santhanam. It is not our intention that the Central Advisory Council for Railways or the Local Advisory Councils should be abolished. They have independent functions to discharge.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member is not, I am afraid, giving a personal explanation but adding something by way of reply.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Madras: General): Sir, I am not in favour of the suggestion made by my Honourable friend Mr. Santhanam that both these committees should be combined into one. The question of railway finance is not on all fours with that of ordinary general finance because the railways happen to be more or less a nationalised industry, and the industrial problems as affecting the general public have got to be viewed in a different way. Necessarily those who are interested in the welfare of the passengers and conveniences to be provided for them and also the general commercial public who utilise the

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goods traffic have got to be considered separately in a separate committee and have got to be given special consideration by members who are interested in it and who are elected to that committee. Therefore these two committees have got to be kept apart. At the same time the Railway Finance Committee should be given greater powers, and I am glad the Honourable Minister concerned has already given us an assurance that he will certainly try to extend the scope of the work as well as the powers of this committee.

The other suggestion that I should like to make is this: I am glad that the Honourable Minister has already stated that ever since he has come into the department he has been presiding over this committee. I should like him, as his other colleague has done, to put down here that the Minister concerned with the Railways should be the Chairman of this Committee.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sir, there is only one point of importance which has been raised in the discussion on this motion and that is that there is need for separation between the consideration of problems of a financial character and the consideration of problems of a general administrative character. Speaking with some experience of railway administration I want to say that in practice this distinction does not hold. I am not aware of any important question of administration which does not arise in the course of the Committees consideration of financial matters. In a nationalised industrial concern like the railways you cannot raise any question which has any administrative importance without its financial repercussions being at the same time apparent. But I am prepared to give this assurance that when matters of this kind come up before the Standing Finance Committee I will give the Finance Committee the fullest latitude for examining not merely the financial but also the administrative implications of the proposals we bring before them. I am in entire agreement with my Honourable friend Mr. Sidhwa that there are many matters arising in the course of day to day administration which are of great importance to the travelling public and to the business community, and you cannot have the Standing Finance Committee going in detail into these matters. That could be considered only by the second committee the appointment of which, with your permission, Sir, I will move next.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the Speaker, eleven members to serve on the Standing Finance Committee for Railways for the unexpired portion of the current financial year."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION TO CENTRAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RAILWAYS

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Minister for Railways and Transport): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the Speaker, eight non-official members to serve on the Central Advisory Council for Railways for the unexpired portion of the current financial year."

I have already spoken on the general scope and functions of this Council.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the Speaker, eight non-official members to serve on the Central Advisory Council for Railways for the unexpired portion of the current financial year."

Shri M. S. Aney (Deccan and Madras States Group): Sir, I support this motion and in doing so I wish to make a few observations. In the course of discussion on the previous motion some of my Honourable friends who have experience of the working of the Railway Finance Committee as well as the Advisory Council suggested that the functions of these two bodies should be combined and that only one committee, viz, the Railway Standing Finance

Committee, should be kept up and all the powers given to it. I personally think that the work of the Standing Finance Committee should be mainly concerned with the examination of the financial effect of the proposals placed before them or other proposals that they might like to take up. But the Central Advisory Council is an important committee although its importance was not sufficiently recognised by the old Assembly because the railway authorities were very chary and reluctant to convene meetings of that Committee and prepare the agenda. In the past the Railway Member and the Railway Board were mainly guided by the Resolutions adopted by a body known as the Railway Conference which mainly consisted of the different Railway Agents. They did not want to take the elected Members of this House and the Council of State who were members of the Central Advisory Council into confidence on many of these questions. That was one of the reasons why the Central Advisory Council was not able to function as effectively as it should have done. But I am sure all important questions of policy with regard to the railways are matters properly to be discussed by the Central Advisory Council, which again has created a network of provincial committees to which my Honourable friend Mr. Sidhwa referred; and a way has to be found out by which the railway administrations can be actually brought into close contact with the people who suffer or who have grievances against the administration. There are many other questions of policy which have to be discussed by the Central Advisory Council. I therefore think that in future the Honourable Minister should call more frequent meetings of this body whenever there are important questions of policy to be considered. If that is done much of the grievance which members feel about the work of this Council will be removed. In my opinion it is necessary that these two bodies should be kept separate and both should be kept functioning properly. Also hereafter the main source of guidance for the Railway Board and the Honourable Minister should be the advice given by this body and not the Resolutions passed by the Railway Conference in which Traffic Managers and Railway Agents only find a place and not others.

Shri H. V. Kamath (C. P. and Berar: General): On a point of information, under whose chairmanship will this Council function?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Under my chairmanship.

Pandit Govind Malaviya (U. P.: General): Sir, May I suggest to the Honourable the Railway Member, to consider whether it will not be more useful and desirable to enlarge the size of this Advisory Council? The railways at present constitute the crux of literally all the problems facing every phase of our national life. Practically all the troubles which face us in whatever direction, if analysed, boil down to the one chief difficulty of the railways not working as we wish and need them to work. I do not suggest that they are not working as we wish them to work because of any inefficiency on the part, or unwillingness on the part of the Honourable the Railway Member. We know his difficulties. But Sir, whether it is the crisis in the Food Department or in the Industries Department or regarding the supply of cloth or whether it is the question of the carrying of the passengers or of refugees or of coal, steel, cement and other essential commodities or of goods—whatever it is—it is always a difficulty of transport. I feel, Sir, that a great deal of improvement in this hopeless situation may be possible if this Committee is enlarged, thereby making it possible for a larger number of people familiar with local difficulties in the various parts of the country to be able to advise the Committee and the Honourable Member as to what steps may help him to get over difficulties regarding the sections of the railways falling in the territories of these members respectively. Another point which I should like to submit for consideration is that we are now meeting today under changed circumstances and very happy circumstances in so far as we are now a national, sovereign and independent body. Our Government, under the brilliant leadership of our

[Pandit Govind Malaviya]

great leader is facing tremendous difficulties and problems, and I believe I am voicing the opinion not only of every Member of this House but of every sensible man in this country, when I say that they carry with them not only the support but also the admiration of every Indian for the manner in which they are tackling those difficult and great problems. Every one of us is at their back. My reading of history does not tell me of another instance where a newly born Government has been face to face with problems half so difficult or on half the magnitude of the problems which our Government is faced with. But our leaders are tackling these terrible problems that face them marvellously, almost superhumanly. We are grateful to them for it and wish them greater Godspeed and success. But, Sir, I am afraid there is a tendency in the Government Departments today—I am submitting this merely for consideration and not by way of criticism—to let things go on as they have been going on before: to let the wheels roll on as they have been rolling on before and to let things continue. I therefore, Sir, beg to submit for the considerations of the Honourable Member for Railways, and for the consideration of other Members of the Government also, that these Standing Committees, these Advisory Committees, though technically they must naturally be advisory committees, should now be called upon to really assist the Ministers to administer their departments expeditiously and effectively in as popular and liberal a manner as may be possible.

Sir, one thing which has often struck us has been the fact that these Standing Committees in the past have been treated—I hope I shall not be misunderstood more or less as mere formalities. They have been meeting sometimes once in a year: sometimes twice in a year and no more, and even in those meetings a loaded agenda is gone through almost in a formal manner and nothing more can be done. I hope, Sir, that hereafter the meetings of these Advisory and Standing Committees will be held oftener, indeed every month if possible, and that all problems facing the departments of the Honourable Members will be placed before these committees consisting of representatives from all parts of the country and that their opinions and suggestions will be consulted and the fullest advantage taken of their experience of local situations, difficulties and possibilities of improvement. I should like to support the view that instead of the Advisory Council we might have a Standing Committee for Railways with as widened a scope for it as possible.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (West Bengal: General): I agree with Pandit Govind Malaviya on the question of the enlargement of the Advisory Council for Railways. I had the privilege of being associated with the Standing Finance Committee and the Advisory Council for Railways for a number of years. I have some idea of the nature of the work. It is indeed a mistake to suppose that the Standing Finance Committee and the Central Council for Railways can be amalgamated into one. It must be borne in mind by those who have to do their share in the Standing Finance Committees that the work is so heavy and so exacting in nature that I do not think that an unwieldy Committee, with numbers of heads added to it, can really function in an effective manner.

In my opinion, as I have found it, the relationship between these Committees is something like this: Standing Finance Committee discuss questions of policy, particularly those having a financial bearing; whereas the Standing Advisory Council for Railways is concerned with the execution of those policies. Therefore I do feel that there is necessity for the separate maintenance of each of these two Committees.

With regard to the Committee for which the motion has been moved, in the past this Committee seldom used to meet, and if it did meet at all, it would meet to discuss very unimportant subjects, though this is a Committee which must deal with very many important matters, matters which cannot be

taken up in the Standing Finance Committee for railways for more than one reason. Then again the Central Advisory Council for Railways functions as a liaison between the Central Railway authority and the local railway administrations and the general public. The general public and the business community have their own problems and grievances and troubles. They have to be reflected through the local Advisory Committees with which the members of the Central Advisory Council are associated. I am afraid many of our new friends do not know the practice.

The practice is this: All members of the Central Advisory Council for Railways are called upon to serve on the local railway Advisory Councils in the different provinces. They carry out, as a matter of fact, the policy that is adopted by the Standing Finance Committee and by the Railway Minister here, they see that it is implemented in the local administration of railways. Therefore this Committee is of great importance. But in the past this Committee very seldom met: usually it met after the close of the Budget session and transacted very little business. I do suggest to my Honourable friend, Dr. John Matthai, that this Committee should be made to meet more freely and frequently, so that it may really prove a useful institution in the sense that it will serve the important purpose of enabling the public to have sufficient scope for ventilating their grievances as also help in the solution of the problems that confront the administration.

With regard to the question of the enlargement of this committee I am not opposed to it. But may I tell my Honourable friend Mr. Govind Kant Malaviya that all members of the Standing Finance Committee become *ex-officio* members of the Central Advisory Council for Railways. Therefore the net result is that even with the present proposed strength the Central Advisory Council for Railways will consist of 11 plus 8, 19 members. I do not think that is a very small number and I think the Assembly as it is constituted at the moment may very well be represented by 19 members in all. If the Honourable Minister for Railways is pleased to add to the number I do not object to it. Therefore I support the motion as it is with the request that the Honourable Minister should try to activate this Council more and more and endeavour to take it more and more into his confidence.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose (Orissa: General): Sir, though much has been already said by my Honourable friends, one thing has not yet been stressed. I personally feel that it is not really desirable that the number of members in this Committee should be increased, because in addition to the Central Advisory Committee, there are provincial advisory committees also. The real difficulty in the procedure of implementation of the recommendations of these Committees has been that there has not yet been created an effective agency either to give effect to or co-ordinate the recommendations made by the provincial committees and the Central Advisory Committee. That is a point which I would like to emphasize. Although the Advisory Committees sit very rarely, their recommendations are not implemented as much as quickly as they ought to be. Of course, I have never been on these committees, but from what I know about their work I really feel that they have been so far only nominal bodies and the railway administration does not very much care for their recommendations. What is really to be done is not to expand the scope of these committees, because even now they have very wide powers but to set up some agency, either of the Government or of the railway administration itself, to implement the resolutions of the provincial and Central Advisory Committees and to see that a system of priority is also introduced so that the first thing comes first.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony (C. P. and Berar: General): Sir, I have two suggestions to make to the Honourable Minister in charge in this connection. The first is that we should hold more frequent meetings of these committees. I

[Mr. Frank R. Anthony]

have been a member of the Railway Standing Finance Committee for the last nine months but so far I do not think we have had a single meeting. The other suggestion that I would like to make to the Honourable Minister is in support of what Pandit Govind Malaviya said, that is, if it is possible the Honourable Minister should definitely enlarge the strength of this committee. I have always felt that in this House, even when the membership was much less than what it is today, the different sections of the community were not adequately represented, that only users of railways have been represented and that people who really understand the worker, because of the restricted membership of this House, have not been able to find a place on this committee. I suppose the Honourable Minister is aware of the acute problems that are facing the administration today. I have just returned from an extensive tour covering 15 main railway centres and I have been most unhappy about what I have seen everywhere. Forty per cent. of the men are carrying out the job done previously by a whole complement. These facts are not coming to the notice of the administrative members of the Railway Board and even the Honourable Minister may not really know what is taking place among the workmen. It is a most serious problem. I am more than perturbed by what I have seen and unless the Railway Minister promises to harness the experience and advice of the people in the House who actually know what is happening I feel that he will be out of touch with the spirit of the men. I am one of those who feel very perturbed about it and unless we get on top of this problem I feel that what is undoubtedly one of the most vital of our services is likely to fall down on the administration.

श्री देशबन्धु गुप्ता : सभापति जी, हमें प्रसन्नता है कि अंगरेजों की सत्ता चली गई परन्तु खेद है कि अंगरेजी का स्थान इस धारा सभा में अभी तक वही है जो पहिले था जिस कारण वायु मण्डल भी वही नजर आ रहा है। आशा है इससे भी शीघ्र छुटकारा मिल जायगा।

मैं अपने भाई गोविन्द मालवीय जी की तजवीज की तार्ईद करने के लिये खड़ा हुआ हूँ। इससे पहले इस कौंसिल में सेन्ट्रल लेजिस्लेचर (Central legislature) की ओर से बारहव प्रतिनिधि होते थे। छः सेन्ट्रल असेम्बली (Central Assembly) की ओर से और छः काउन्सिल आफ स्टेट (Council of State) की। मैं समझता हूँ कि इस संख्या को कम करने का कोई कारण नहीं है। यदि बारह स संख्या बढ़ाई न जाय तो कम से कम बारह को संख्या जरूर रखी जाय। मैं समझता हूँ कि सरकार को इस तजवीज के मानन में कोई आपात्त न होगी।

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta (Delhi): Mr. Speaker, we are pleased to find that the influence of the English is gone, but I am sorry to find that English still holds the same place in this meeting as it has hitherto received. For that reason we find the same old atmosphere. I hope that soon we shall be rid of this too.

I have risen to support the proposal made by my friend Mr. Govind Malviya. Up to this time the Central Legislature had twelve representatives on this Council; six represented the Central Assembly while six represented the Council of State. I see no reason why this number should be decreased. If the number can not be increased from twelve, it must not be decreased too. I think the Government will have no difficulty in accepting this proposal.

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): Sir, my suggestion that this Council should be amalgamated with the Standing Finance Committee for Railways has created some sort of controversy. If this Council is to be enlarged on the lines suggested by the Honourable Mr. Aney and it is to be entrusted with real functions I have no objection whatsoever. But my experience is that it has worked as a nominal body. If Honourable Members were to look into the reports of the Central Advisory Council and the Standing Finance Committee for Railways they will find that the work of the Council has been most meagre. It used to meet for half an hour and some questions about catering and other minor matters used to be placed before it and then some resolutions used to be recorded which were never, so far as I know, implemented. I think we should set out face against all kinds of fictitious committees. Either we should have a real committee or no committee at all. Why I suggest the amalgamation of these two committees is this. Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra has explained how the position stands. All the members of the Standing Finance Committee are also members of the Central Advisory Council. Therefore if necessary you can enlarge the number of members from 11 to 15 or 19 and get one committee—a committee for all matters on railways. Let it sit every month for two or three days and discuss all questions. Otherwise the division of functions is likely to enable the Railway Department to say that certain subjects are within the purview of one or the other body and thereby between the functioning of these two Committees neither body will have jurisdiction over a range of subjects. That is what I want to avoid. I want to avoid dyarchy. Why should there be any dyarchy and why should there not be a single committee properly constituted. Why should it not discuss all problems.....

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member is again repeating the same observations about the amalgamation of the two committees. The House has heard the arguments on that point and it has decided to adopt the formation of one of the Committees, and the House has already voted upon it. That is closed now.

Shri K. Santhanam: I am not pressing for an amalgamation at all. I am only pleading that this Advisory Council should not repeat its past and that it should be a new council altogether, that it should have real functions and that it should meet at least once a quarter. Unless it does so, it will be a sheer waste and be merely a paper committee. I do not want any paper committee to be approved by this House. That is the only point I wanted to make.

श्री राम सहाय : मैं जब पहिले खड़ा हुआ था यह प्वाइन्ट आफ आर्डर (Point of order) रेज (raise) करना चाहता था कि इस किस्म का कोई ऐमेन्डमेन्ट (Amendment) नहीं है कि आठ से ज्यादा मेम्बर बढ़ा दिये जाय या Standing Finance Committee for Railways and Central Advisory Council for Railways को एक दूसरे में मिला दिया जाए। क्या ऐसी सूरत में इस पर कोई डिस्कशन (discussion) हो सकता है।

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri Ram Sahai (Gwalior State): When I first stood I wanted to raise this point of order that there is no such amendment which envisages that the number of members should be increased by more than eight, or the Standing Finance Committee for Railways and Central Advisory Council for Railways should be amalgamated as one. Can there be any discussion on this point in such circumstances?

Mr. Speaker: It is perfectly competent for a Member to make whatever suggestions he may have to make, even though there is no amendment.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam: General): Sir, I have listened carefully to the various observations which have been made by the Honourable Members of the House on this motion. I think I can make an humble suggestion. The wishes of the House, I think, will be well met if the word 'Advisory' is dropped. Sir, we all know very well that the advice which is given in these Council meetings is given gratis. And advice given gratis is never heeded much. Therefore I think if you drop the word 'Advisory' the wishes of the Members of the Finance Committee and the Central Council will be very well met. I had had the good luck or bad luck of becoming a Member of the Advisory Council of Eastern Bengal Railway for a considerable time. I found that as soon as you sit the President of the Council makes a curious attempt to divert the time and attention of the Members by giving each Member a small packet and that, by the time the Members open the packets and see what they contain, the whole proceedings of the Council are over. Sometimes it so happened that the Members managed to see the packets quickly, and then we heard different observations from members coming from different parts. Somebody was asking for a waiting room in a certain station; somebody else was asking for a change in the time table at a certain place or the stoppage of mail in a certain place, and so forth. All the discussion goes on in an unbalanced way with the result that it becomes very easy for the railway authorities to ignore them altogether. Therefore I agree with the Honourable Members who have put forward the view that it should be a real Council, that this advice given should not be neglected as advice given gratis, and efforts should be made to make it a real, working body. With these words I support the motion.

श्री जयनारायण व्यास : सभापति जी, मैं मालवीय जी के जो सजेसन्स (suggestions) हैं उनकी बहुत जोर से तारीफ़ करता हूँ। इन दिनों रेलवे बहुत ज़रादा अहमियत पकड़ गई है। फौजी लिहाज़ से भी रेलवे और ज्यादा महत्व रखती है। और फौजी एक्सपर्ट्स (experts) भी और ऐसे लोगों का भी जो इस मामले में राय दे सकें हमारी ऐडवाइजरी कमेटी (Advisory Committee) में रहना वाजिब होगा। साथ ही साथ आपके यहाँ स्टेट्स (States) भी आ गई हैं और स्टेट्स (States) के सरकारी और गैर सरकारी याने सरकारी रेलवे से ताल्लुक रखने वाले लोग और गैर सरकारी लोग जो स्टेट रेलवे के स्टाफ़ (staff) में इन्टरेस्टेड (interested) हैं उनकी तकलीफ़ में इन्टरेस्टेड (interested) हैं वह भी पसन्द करेंगे कि रेलवे की जो ऐडवाइजरी कमेटी (Advisory Committee) बने उसमें वह आएँ।

साथ ही साथ रिफ्यूजीज़ (refugees) के मामले से भी रेलवे की अहमियत बढ़ गई है। हमारे हिस्से होने की वजह से, पाकिस्तान के चले जाने की वजह से, कई हिस्से में उसके पाकिस्तान आ जाता है, इस खयाल से भी रेलवे बहुत अहमियत रखती है, और कितने हिस्सों से आज भी फौजी ताकत हम भेजने जा रहे हैं जहाँ रेलवे नहीं है, मैं त्रिपुरा स्टेट (State) की बात कहता हूँ। ऐसी सब बातों का खयाल रखते हुए, मैं यह अर्ज करूँगा कि जैसा पंडित गोविन्द मालवीय ने कहा था उसी तरह से न सिर्फ़ उसकी तादाद में बढ़ती होनी चाहिये बल्कि उसका जो स्कोप (scope) है उसमें भी तरक्की करना मैं ज़रूरी समझता हूँ।

मैं इन शब्दों के साथ पंडित गोविन्द मालवीय की राय की तारीफ़ करता हूँ।

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri Jai Narain Vyas (Jodhpur State): Mr. Speaker, I fully support the suggestions put forth by Mr. Malaviya. The Railways have assumed much importance in these days. From the military point of view too, Railways occupy a very prominent position. It would, therefore, be advisable to include in our Advisory Committee Military experts and others too who can express their opinion on such matters. Moreover the States have also now joined us and both the official and non-official members who are concerned with the Government Railways and non-officials who are interested in the State Railway employees will like to be included in the panel of the Advisory Committee.

Inter-alia the problem created by the refugees has also increased the importance of Railways. Owing to the partition of the country and the creation of Pakistan, many portions of the Railway lie in that country. This thing has also given importance to Railways. And to-day we are despatching Defence forces to places which are not connected by Railway. I am referring to Tripura State. Keeping all these factors in view, I will submit that not only I support what Pandit Govind Malaviya had said but I feel that its scope should be further expanded.

With these words, I support the views of Pandit Govind Malaviya.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa (C.P. and Berar: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have some experience of the working of Provincial Committees. I do not share the view that these Committees are paper Committees. It is true that they are advisory Committees. But much depends upon the Members who take interests in the Committees. In that way they would compel the Chairman to sit for six hours. I can assure you that I was making the Chairman of the Committee on which I was serving, sit for four and a half hours, and he dared not refuse to permit me to make the motions that I was moving in those Committees. It is true that the resolutions that are passed are merely advisory and even if they are passed by majority of votes it is for the Chairman to accept them or not. But the constitution provides that the matter be referred to the Railway Board. I do admit that the Railway Board generally accept the proposal of the Chairman and not the advice of the majority of the advisory Committee. But these were olden days. I am sure the present Railway Member dare not go against the advice of the people and accept the advice of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee. I am prepared to accept that an expansion of this Committee should be made and more powers given to it. But I do not share the view that this Committee has not been doing any work. It is incorrect. These Committees were the creation of a very long controversy and agitation in this very Assembly and on the clamour that the Members made. I remained for twelve years on the Provincial Committees and I can claim that I have been able to provide small facilities for the clamouring public. I attach a very great importance to these Committees. In the present changed constitution the Committee should no doubt have more power. We are still thinking of the olden days and probably feel that the same thing that transpired in the olden times under a bureaucratic regime will continue in the Committee. It is impossible to believe that. We must change our outlook and see how we are living, the atmosphere in which we are working. I would prefer some more powers to be given to the Committee. I do not mind even if its name remains 'Advisory'. The majority view of the members cannot be flouted by the Chairman, whosoever he is.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sir, I must confess frankly that when I moved my simple motion I was not prepared for a discussion covering so extensive a field. I almost felt for a moment that I was back in the middle of a Budget debate.

There were two or three important points which were raised in the course of the discussion. The first point, a point to which my honourable friend

[Dr. John Matthai]

Mr. Santhanam obviously attaches a great deal of importance, was that there might be sacrifice of public interests if we made to clear-cut a distinction between administration and finance. To that point my honourable friend Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra has already made a reply, that under the existing practice, when this Committee meets, all the members of the Standing Finance Committee are admitted as *ex-officio* members on this Committee, so that, in practice, that distinction does not exist. Whatever administrative or financial matters may be brought by the Railways, the members of this Committee would be in a position to consider them as a whole.

Various appeals have been made to me not to continue the habits of the ancient regime. I have been asked to activate this Committee, to call for more frequent meetings of the Committee. With all these appeals I have the utmost and the most profound sympathy. If I say that I want to activate this Committee, that I want to have more frequent meetings of this Committee, I do not say it from a sense of duty.

From my little experience of these committees I find it is worth my while to take account of suggestions made by them. On many important matters during the last Budget session I was greatly helped by suggestions which had been made to me by members of this Committee so, from the point of view being able to do my own work a little better, I find it is worth while to take the committees seriously.

My honourable friend Mr. Anthony referred to the question of labour. I was impressed by the point that he made. In fact I have developed a strong feeling that the railways in this country, like every other industry of importance, depend for their future on the organization of a better structure of industrial relations. If it is possible for me to devise a composition for this committee which would bring into the committee people who represent the labour point of view, I should certainly give the fullest consideration to it. My Honourable friend Mr. Aney referred to the question of the Indian Railway Conference Association. To a large extent I agree with him. I have recently had under active consideration the question whether the functions which are now discharged by the Indian Railways Conference Association should continue. I feel that there is a great deal which is now being done by the Indian Railway Conference Association which are really matters that ought to be under the consideration of the Ministry rather than the Conference Association. As I understand it, there was justification for the Railway Conference Association at the time when most of our railways were company railways; but now that all the Class I railways are State railways, it seems to me that the composition and scope of the Indian Railway Conference Association stand urgently in need of revision and reorganization, and I have the matter as I say, under active consideration and I hope to come to a decision at a very early date.

Sir there was one point that was made—I forget by whom,—that recommendations on important matters which the Advisory Council make do not receive adequate consideration by Government. As far as the present Ministry is concerned there is not a matter on which recommendations are made by this Advisory Council which I would not go to any length to be able to accept. But there is one matter in this connection to which I should make reference. Even where important matters of administration or policy are raised—I am speaking with all respect—it is extraordinary how often members would switch discussion towards questions of purely local interest. I was anxious on more than one occasion to get them to consider certain important matters as question of principle and policy, but they went back to small matters such as what happened at the Trichinopoly railway station or the price at which fruits were sold at Egmore railway station. It is not always, if I may say so, the fault of the person who presides over these meetings.

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General): The fault of the past administrations.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: My honourable friends can rest assured that if a question of importance is brought before the Council, there is no one from whom they would receive greater co-operation than myself. That is all I have to say.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the Speaker, eight non-official members to serve on the Central Advisory Council for Railways for the unexpired portion of the current financial year."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform Honourable Members that the following dates have been fixed for receiving nominations and holding elections, if necessary, in connection with the following Committees and Council, namely:

	Date for nomination.	Date for election.
Standing Finance Committee.	19-11-47	21-11-47
Central Advisory Council for Railways.	19-11-47	21-11-47
Standing Finance Committee for Railways.	19-11-47	21-11-47

The nominations for these Committees and council will be received in the Notice Office upto 12 noon on the dates mentioned for the purpose. The elections, which will be conducted in accordance with the Regulations for the holding of elections by means of the single transferable vote, will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room (No. 21) in the Council House, between the hours 10-30 A.M. and 1 P.M.

RESOLUTION RE RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION AND THE PROTOCOL CONCERNING THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE OF PUBLIC HYGIENE.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur (Minister for Health): Sir, I move:

"This Assembly is of opinion that the Constitution of the World Health Organization and the Protocol concerning the International Office of Public Hygiene be ratified."

I understand that the Constitution and the Protocol as well as a summary of the World Health Organization have already been circulated to members: but in view of the fact that perhaps many of them may not have had time to read that summary or anything about the World Health Organization, I feel I might say something in explanation of this ratification. There were originally two World Organizations concerned with dealing with world health problems. One was the International Office of Public Hygiene, and the other the League of Nations World Health Organization. Both these could not function during the World War. Their duties were taken up by an organization known as the UNRRA. Later in 1946, the Social and Economic Council of the United Nations, at the instance of several nations, called a Health Conference and appointed a Preparatory Commission, of which India was a member, to formulate proposals; and they recommended a World Health Organization whose objectives were to prepare International Sanitary Conventions, to prevent the spread of epidemic diseases, to promote research in all fields of health, to work for the improvement of nutrition, housing, sanitation, maternity and child welfare, industrial hygiene, medical education, standardization of food, pharmaceutical and biological products, etc. I may mention that all these are

[Rajkumari Amrit Kaur]

of vital importance to India. The Constitution, briefly, is allotting its work to three organs: one will be the World Health Assembly which will be meeting once a year: one will be an Executive Board which will meet twice a year composed of 18 member-states; and thirdly there would be a Secretariat of a Director-General and other staff. Now this Constitution was signed by all the 51 members of the United Nations, of which India was one, and it will come into force when members of the United Nations have ratified their signatures; and this is the ratification that I now seek from the Indian Legislature. I may mention that an Interim Commission was set up, on which India was represented, to carry on the functions of this Health Organization. Its headquarters are now at New York and it has a Branch Office in Geneva also. The Protocol deals only with the handing over of the duties and functions of the International Office of Public Hygiene. India, I may mention, has taken an active part throughout in the establishment of the Organisation and also in its work and deliberations and it is an Indian member who is now Chairman of the Committee for deciding the permanent headquarters of this Organisation. I would like to say that we are going to press for these permanent headquarters to be in India. The Indian member is also Vice-Chairman of a Committee on technical questions, is a Chairman of the Drafting Sub-Committee and is a Member of Priorities and Steering Committees.

In asking the House to ratify what has already been signed by the Indian representative at the World Health Organisation, I would like to say that India can gain in several ways by becoming a Member of the World Health Organisation. We can get technical assistance to our Governments in strengthening our health services. That assistance may include expert staff if we wish for it, equipment for training our people. We can also get advice and guidance on our health problems from expert committees. Then when it becomes possible to send out such teams India can also have expert teams for development of health programmes in co-operation with other Governments. We can also get fellowships for post-graduate studies and moreover results of research will all be available to us. We may even get financial help for our research organisations. As health matters are extremely vital to India and as it is the policy, and perfectly correct policy, for India to collaborate with other nations of the world in all good causes, I ask this House to ratify our Membership of the World Health Organisation and I am sure the House will have no hesitation in accepting the motion.

Shri K. M. Munshi (Bombay: General): Sir, I wish to submit that the House be now adjourned.

Mr. Speaker: I will put the motion before the House. Resolution moved:

"This Assembly is of opinion that the constitution of the World Health Organization and the Protocol concerning the International Office of Public Hygiene be ratified."

Shri K. M. Munshi: Sir, I submit that the House do stand adjourned till tomorrow because this motion might take some time. Many Members are anxious to take part in discussion and it is very inconvenient to the Members to meet at 3 P.M. because many of them are members of the All-India Congress Committee and will be busy in the afternoon.

Mr. Speaker: Apart from that consideration, Members may not have had copies of papers etc. early enough. Some one remarked that he received them only this morning. I, therefore, am of opinion that time may be given, so that Members may read the papers and have a discussion tomorrow.

Now that leaves practically no business before the House. I wish to invite Honourable Members' attention to one or two points. I understand that, on account of Members not intimating immediately, to the office, their arrival and the address in Delhi, similarly not intimating in advance as to when they are leaving their places, it has not been always possible to send their post to them in such a manner, that it would reach their hands at the proper time and the proper place. Members have come here and the packets have gone to their

[Mr. Speaker.]

places, or they have not gone and it is not known where the Members are staying. It is, therefore necessary, for Honourable Members to keep in touch with the office and immediately contact the office and inform it of their arrivals, departures and the addresses to which their post may be sent to them.

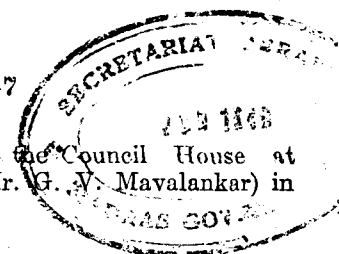
Then I might invite the attention of Members to Circular No. 12 along with which copies of four Bills have been sent and copies of the Reports of the Select Committees in respect of some further Bills have also been sent. I have to request the Members to be so good as to preserve them for use whenever the matter is fixed for discussion here. As a measure of economy it is not possible to distribute every day about 300 copies of the same papers for an indefinite period. Whatever is distributed should be kept by Members carefully and brought to the House. That has been the practice followed during the last Legislative Assembly period. If anybody, just by forgetfulness, misses to bring his copy, he can get a copy in the Lobby for reference.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 18th November, 1947.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA
(LEGISLATIVE)

Tuesday, 18th November, 1947

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.



DECLARATION BY MEMBERS.

The following members made the declaration under Rule 2C:—

- Rai Sahib Raghuraj Singh (Eastern States—Group II);
- Raja Saheb of Bobbili (Madras: General); and
- Shri V. R. Kalappa (C. P. and Berar: General).

Mr. Speaker: Unfortunately, Mr. Kalappa has lost his power of speech. Therefore, the Secretary will read the Declaration on his behalf and he will sign the Register.

(The Secretary then read the Declaration on behalf of Mr. Kalappa, who then signed the Register.)

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

(a) ORAL ANSWERS.

REHABILITATION OF REFUGEES FROM PAKISTAN.

1. ***Shri Biswanath Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of refugees that have come over to India from different Provinces and States of Pakistan and *vice versa*;
- (b) the number that is receiving aid from Government;
- (c) details of the arrangements made with the Government of Pakistan to keep the moveable and immoveable properties safe;
- (d) the number, if any, that desire to return to Pakistan and *vice versa*; and
- (e) any programme or arrangements made for their rehabilitation?

The Honourable Shri K. O. Neogy: (a) The number of evacuees who arrived in the territories of the Indian Union prior to the setting up of the Military Evacuation Organization on 4th September, 1947 cannot be accurately estimated. A very rough estimate suggests that the number was about 13 lakhs. The total number of Non-Muslims evacuated by the Military Evacuation Organization from West Punjab and North West Frontier Province between the 4th September, 1947 and the 11th November, 1947 is 20,19,126. About 2,40,000 Non-Muslims have been evacuated from Sind by sea and Rail. A rough estimate of migration from Bhawalpur is 80,000. No separate figures are available for Baluchistan. The number of Muslims evacuated by the Military Evacuation Organization from East Punjab and East Punjab States between 4th September, 1947 and 11th November, 1947, is 19,34,436. Figures prior to that date are not available.

(b) The number of Non-Muslim refugees in camps in East Punjab and Delhi

Province is about seven lakhs fifty thousand. Besides there are about three lakhs refugees in relief camps in the United Provinces.

(c) The Pakistan Government have issued two Ordinances for custody of evacuee property and its use for rehabilitation of refugees. The broad features of both Ordinances have been incorporated in the East Punjab Ordinance on the same subject. The East Punjab Ordinance has been extended by the Central Government to Delhi. The Ordinance provides for custody of moveable and immovable property and interim administration of industrial and business concerns of evacuees. Where this is essential the Custodian may sell immovable property. Representations to the Government of West Punjab that stock-in-trade of Non-Muslim shopkeepers may be sold subject to a reserve price on the basis of invoice value or on the basis of appraisal by assessors have not proved successful. In Delhi and East Punjab the Custodian is assisted by an Advisory Committee. The Government of West Punjab have refused to accept the suggestion from the Government of India for the appointment of an Advisory Committee to assist the West Punjab Custodian.

(d) Government have no information.

(e) East Punjab Government have set up a Department of Rehabilitation with a Directorate each for Rural Rehabilitation, and Urban Rehabilitation. According to a well organised scheme, Deputy Commissioners have been made responsible for allotment of land to agriculturist refugees, in their districts, in consultation with non-official Advisory Committees. Out of the total area of forty five lakh acres abandoned by Muslims in East Punjab, thirty three lakh acres are cultivable, of which twelve and a half lakh acres have been allotted and over one lakh seventy seven thousand families have been settled. For Urban refugees, residential accommodation is to be provided, by the Resettlement Staff set up in each District under the Deputy Commissioner, associated with Urban Resettlement Committees in each District town.

In response to an appeal from the Central Government nearly all Provinces and many States of the Indian Union have offered accommodation either for temporary care or for resettlement and rehabilitation of refugees. According to the latest estimates it seems likely that one half million refugees from West Punjab and N. W. F. P. cannot be resettled in East Punjab. The Government of India is very shortly starting a programme of dispersal of refugees to accommodation offered elsewhere in Provinces and Indian States.

So far as Urban rehabilitation is concerned the Government of India have asked the Provincial Governments and Indian States to examine quickly and report on the possibilities of suburban development schemes in the vicinity of big towns.

In Delhi the Government of India are exploring the possibility of reserving for refugees certain sites both in residential and industrial areas.

Arrangements have been made for the registration and placement of refugees through Employment Exchanges and for the training of a large number of refugees in technical and vocational trades in training centres which were started in the first instance for demobilised Services personnel.

The question of giving financial assistance to refugees is receiving attention. Sanction has already been accorded to the grant of loans to students and trainees whose parents and guardians are unable to find funds, having become refugees, in order to enable them to prosecute their studies or training in India or abroad.

The question of giving advances to women who have lost their husbands or supporters and to others is under active consideration. For those wishing to set up their own industries, assistance on the lines of the provisions contained in Aid to Industries Acts of certain Provinces and assistance in kind are contemplated.

A Loans Section has already been set up in the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation. The possibility of setting up a Rehabilitation Finance Corporation is under expert scrutiny.

Many other aspects of rehabilitation are under active examination. For instance, possibility of absorbing a large number of skilled workers in Railway Workshops after short periods of training is being examined. Centres are being started in various relief camps where refugees will be engaged on remunerative occupations like Spinning and Weaving, Hosiery knitting, Button making etc. Houses for women and children are being set up at Jullundur and Delhi. Schemes for vocational training of juveniles are being prepared. Altogether the rehabilitation programme will be a comprehensive one but any action that can be taken on particular aspects of rehabilitation is not being and will not be held up.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: May I know, Sir, if the Government are aware that recently the Pakistan Government have taken possession of all the safe deposit vaults and whether any reciprocal action is being contemplated by the Government here?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am afraid my Honourable friend's information is not quite correct. No safe deposit vault has yet been taken possession of by the West Punjab Government. What has happened is that a Notification has been issued under which the West Punjab authorities would be competent to take possession of safe deposit vaults unless the Managers-in-charge are prepared to operate them with effect from the 20th of this month. On this subject several representations have been made by this Government. I should like to read out the earliest telegram that was sent protesting against this proposal. This telegram was sent by the Honourable the Prime Minister to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on the 8th of November last. In view of the importance of the subject, I make no apology for reading out the entire text of this telegram.

"I understand that the West Punjab Government has passed an order requiring owners and managers of safe deposit vaults to resume work by the 20th November failing which that Government will take possession of the vaults. I shall be grateful for urgent information, as to whether this report is correct. If it is, I must lodge the strongest possible protest against the order of the West Punjab Government. Conditions in Lahore and other towns where safe deposit vaults are located are so insecure for non-Muslims that the managers and their staff will be incurring great personal risk in attempting to resume work by the 20th of November. Moreover I am reliably informed that the number of small depositors is less than 5 per cent. The Managing Director of one of the safe deposit vaults went to Lahore some time ago and tried to open the vault but was prevented from doing so. If in these circumstances the West Punjab Government take possession of the vaults that would mean expropriation of property worth an immense amount of money. Our Minister for refugees has telegraphed to you suggesting an inter-Dominion Conference on various matters on the 11th of this month. I understand that no reply has yet been received by him. I hope it will be possible for this Conference to be held soon and the subject of safe deposit vaults may be included in the agenda. Pending such discussion, I would ask that the order said to have been issued by the West Punjab Government should be withdrawn. I should be grateful for a very early reply."

The date of the telegram is 8th of November and no reply has yet been received to this telegram.

Another telegram was sent later. But meanwhile we had sent a Memorandum indicating the various points which we desired to be raised for purposes of discussion at the proposed inter-Dominion Conference, and the question of safe deposit vaults occupied a very prominent position in that Memorandum.

Shri M. S. Aney: May I suggest that the Honourable Member lays all these documents on the table instead of reading it?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: If that is the desire of the House I could lay on the table all relevant documents in this connection, but may I just wind up this particular point by mentioning that the Prime Minister sent another

telegram on the 15th of November and there again the protest was renewed and a constructive suggestion was made. I would read out only that portion of the telegram which contains the constructive suggestion.

"If you must insist on opening these vaults within the next three or four days, I would ask that the vaults be opened in the presence of the Deputy High Commissioner and other officers accompanying him. Depositors now resident in Pakistan may open their lockers, but lockers belonging to persons now resident in India should not be touched. As soon as business of residents in Pakistan has been completed the vaults must be put under double lock, the key of one lock being detained by representative of the West Punjab Government and the key of the other lock being retained by the Deputy High Commissioner or an officer nominated by him for the purpose. We will be prepared to make available as many officers as may be necessary, so that one of our own officers will be present at each safe deposit vault to operate the double lock and afford access to persons resident in Pakistan during specified hours. I suggest that this arrangement is absolutely essential until the matter is discussed further at the next inter-Dominion Conference. I would emphasize that persons resident in Pakistan should be afforded locker space only after complete identification and with reference to entries made in safe deposit vaults registers."

To this telegram again no reply has been received.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: May I know if as one of the items of long-range programme of rehabilitation Government have considered the building of one or two cities, notably at Kurukshetra and elsewhere, in order to provide immediate occupation to the thousands that are gathered there and also to provide amenities for the urban population to move among these refugees?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: That point has been under active consideration for some time. The specific question raised by the Honourable Member as regard the possibility of building a town at Kurukshetra came up, I understand, for the consideration of the Advisory Committee attached to our Ministry the other day. It does not seem, as far as I can judge, that it will be advisable from the technical point of view to have the idea of a city at Kurukshetra adopted. But we have not yet examined the proposal with the help of experts. As regards other towns, as I have indicated in reply to the main question, we are considering the possibility of extending suburban development near about New Delhi apart from reserving an area in an industrial locality. Then again, the most important point in this connection is the question of the capital of East Punjab. That question has been gone into by a committee appointed by the East Punjab Government, and I understand the report presented by that committee is under examination. As soon as a decision is taken as regards the location of the capital of the East Punjab Government the object that my Honourable friend has in view will be very largely achieved.

Shri Biswanath Das: With reference to part (c) of the question, have Government seen very serious protests in the press that refugees coming from Pakistan were subject to a search of their properties and that they were relieved of all their moveable properties before coming to India? This was also noticed by Mr. Suhrawardy who made a protest about it. Have the Government of India made any protest or representation about this to the Pakistan Government? If so, on what dates were protests made and with what result? Is there any possibility of these moveable properties which were taken away forcibly by the Pakistan authorities being restored to these refugees?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I will request my Honourable friend to wait till another question which raises this specific issue is reached. I am going to answer that question when it comes up in some detail.

Mr. B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur: Sir, in view of so many facts and figures involved in these long answers and also in view of the importance of the subject matter of the question, may I suggest that the answers may be typed and circulated so that supplementary questions may be asked tomorrow?

Mr. Speaker: That, I am afraid, is not possible.

Shri Biswanath Das: Will the Honourable Minister be pleased to lay on the table all papers in this connection showing what action has been taken and also replies from Pakistan Government so that Honourable Members may know that Government are taking adequate and necessary steps in this regard?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I shall certainly do so.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know if in view of the importance of this subject Government will be prepared to allot a day for its discussion in the House?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: That is a matter for the Honourable the Prime Minister.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: I have already written to the Leader of the House formally to allot a day for discussion.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Sir, Government are agreeable to allot a day for the discussion of this subject.

Mr. Speaker: I find that in some questions there are requests for information which involve long statements to be made and an unduly long time is taken over these statements. In such cases involving long statements, I would suggest to Honourable Members that they may first ask unstarred questions and any questions arising on replies thereto may be put as starred questions so that it would be easier for all honourable members to get the information and ask supplementaries.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, in that case time will be lost in giving fresh notice of a starred question and getting an answer. If that suggestion were adopted I think it would be more convenient to circulate these answers in advance to Members—as agreed upon in the other legislature—and that will provide better opportunities for Members.

Mr. Speaker: In the changed circumstances, the former agreement will not do. I just made a suggestion; otherwise the difficulty is that we can never go through the list of questions. Two or three questions will take up the whole question hour and all the other questions will go in as unstarred. So I suggest that Honourable Members may first ask for a statement to be laid on the table of the House. It is for Honourable Members to consider the suggestion.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CERTAIN DISTRICTS OF THE DECCAN STATES.

2. ***Shri R. R. Diwakar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether an intensive geological survey of each District has been made by the Geological Survey Department;

(b) if the answer to (a) above be in the affirmative, when was such a survey made of the following Districts: (i) Bijapur, (ii) Belgaum, (iii) Dharwar, (iv) North Kanara, (v) South Kanara, (vi) Bellary, (vii) Coorg, and (viii) Nilgiris

(c) whether any such survey was undertaken by the Survey Department of the Government of India at the request of the Deccan States and the State of Kolhapur;

(d) if the answer to (c) above be in the affirmative, when was such a survey made and of which of the States;

(e) whether the Reports of all such surveys are published; if so, whether copies of the reports are available to the public;

(f) whether geological maps of different districts are published, if so, on what scale and whether such maps are available for sale to the public; and

(g) if the answer to (f) above be in the negative, whether Government are planning to undertake the work of such a survey and the publication of geological maps of different areas on 'an inch a mile' scale?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) An intensive geological survey has been made only of some areas, but a geological reconnaissance survey of nearly all districts in India has been completed by the Geological Survey of India.

(b) Intensive geological survey of these Districts was carried out as mentioned below—

(i) Bijapur—In 1944-45, 1945-46 and 1946-47, but not yet completed.

(ii) Belgaum—In 1936-37, but not yet completed.

(iii) North Kanara—In 1927-28, partially.

Detailed survey in the districts of Dharwar, South Kanara, Bellary, Coorg and Nilgiris has not yet been taken up although reconnaissance survey in each of these Districts was done previously.

(c) Yes.

(d) The survey of a portion of Mudhol State was carried out during the Field Season 1946-47, at the request of the Resident, Deccan and Kolhapur States.

(e) Yes; copies of reports are available to the public except that unpublished reports can be had only through the local Government concerned.

(f) Yes, on various scales ranging between 1 inch = 32 miles and 1 inch = 1 mile, and they are available on sale to the public.

(g) The detailed survey of different areas all over India is contemplated to be carried out progressively according to the projected 5-year plan of the Geological Survey of India depending on the availability of modern 1" topographical sheets, on the geological importance of the area and on the availability of trained officers.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it contemplated that the whole survey will be completed in these five years?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That is the idea, if the material, as suggested in answer to part (g), is made available.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are any vigorous steps being taken to train the necessary surveyors and other scientists needed and also to manufacture the instruments needed for this purpose?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: As regards training the personnel steps are being taken; as regards manufacture of material steps are contemplated.

Shri V. I. Munishwami Pillai: Are Government aware that the Madras Government recently undertook a survey and unearthed the existence of many useful minerals such as lignum, etc.? Will they consider acting with the Government of Madras in this matter and doing something to complete the research?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Whatever is possible to be done will be done by the Geological Department.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I know if private Indian companies will be permitted to go on prospecting surveys?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Private Indian companies are not banned from doing private prospecting or surveying of minerals provided they get the necessary license from the local Governments concerned.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will any efforts be made to get into cooperative relations with the Indian universities, in order to get a sufficient number of undergraduates trained in geological work so that they can be recruited by the Government of India?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: My Honourable friend may be pleased to know that only a fortnight before a circular had been sent to all the Indian Universities asking them to recommend such graduates or undergraduates as are willing to be trained under the direction of the Geological Survey of India.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: May I know whether there is perfect co-ordination in the efforts in this line between the Provincial Governments and the Central Government?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: So far as I am aware, Provincial Governments do not do much work in this connection, but if they do certainly there will be coordination on the lines indicated by the Honourable Member.

PUBLICATION OF THE RESULTS OF GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

3. *Shri R. R. Diwakar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether Government are contemplating to make available to the public all materials collected after investigation and research by Geologists in different centres in the provinces?

(b) What steps are taken by Government to create interest in the industrialists and the public for the utilisation of geological resources of their local areas?

(c) Is there any Bureau or a publicity branch of the Geological Department where free advice and information can be had on requisition by industrialists?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Materials collected after investigation and research by officers of the Geological Survey of India, are published regularly in the "Memoirs", the "Records", the "Palaeontologia Indica" and occasionally in special works such as the "Manual of the Geology of India", the "Bibliography of Indian Geology", etc. in special geological maps, and in books, published from time to time, by officers of the Survey on geology and allied subjects. A list of the publications of the Geological Survey is placed on the table. Besides the publications aforesaid, a Mineral Information Bureau was started in 1946 to supply information and advice to the public.

(b) The publications of the Geological Survey of India including their "Bulletins of Economic Minerals" and the quarterly journal "Indian Minerals" are intended to popularise utilization of local geological resources amongst industrialists and the public. The well-equipped Library of the Geological Survey can be freely used by the public and serves the same purpose. The Mineral Information Bureau in the Geological Survey is intended to give advice to the public in matters of development and utilisation of mineral resources. The Government of India have also addressed Provinces and States, advising them to control their mining concessions with a view to encouraging domestic utilisation and local processing, refining and treatment of ores and minerals.

(c) Yes. The Mineral Information Bureau in the Geological Survey of India is maintained for this purpose.

Shri B. Das: Is the Honourable the Minister aware that the previous Government had the habit of informing London and New York about the discovery of minerals first and the Geological Survey did not publish such news till ten years after.

*Not printed in the debates. A copy placed in the Library of the House.—Ed. of D.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I am not aware of any habit of the previous Government. I know about the present Government and its policy towards this.

Shri B. Das: Has the practice of the present Government so changed that the Indian public can know all about the geological and mineral discoveries since he took charge?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Whatever information my honourable friend or other industrialists want will be readily available.

Shri K. Santhanam: Will the Honourable Member print a pamphlet for the information of this House giving the mineral position of India?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I shall bear this suggestion in mind.

APPEALS FROM THE HIGH COURTS IN INDIA.

4. ***Shri R. R. Diwakar:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Law be pleased to state whether appeals from the High Courts in India still lie to His Majesty in Council?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, are they governed by the same laws and regulations and rules as before?

(c) If the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what is the forum to which appeals are to be preferred from the decisions of the High Courts in different provinces?

(d) Are the appeals now pending before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council to be heard and disposed of by them?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, unless a provision to the contrary is made in the new Constitution.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What sort of Court do the present Government propose to set up for appeals from the High Court?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: That is not a matter for the Government to decide but for the Constituent Assembly.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is the Honourable the Law Member aware that in the new set up under the present Government of India Act and the Dominion Independence Act that with regard to appeals to the Privy Council the jurisdiction of the Privy Council may be abolished and vested in the Supreme Court?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I do not know if the Government can take a decision when the Constituent Assembly is sitting for the purpose of defining the Constitution.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Did not the previous Law Member want to bring about a resolution to take action under Section 299 and other sections of the Government of India Act to avoid appeals going to the Privy Council in certain matters?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I do not know if that position remains as it was. I admit that the Law Member then was proposing action as referred to by my Honourable friend but there was nothing in contemplation with reference to the making of the new Constitution.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Will the Honourable Member, Mr. Ayyangar, ask for the information? This seems to be going into an argument.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I did ask for the information. But the Honourable Member does not appear to know what has gone on before!

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I said I am aware of it!

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Does the Honourable Member propose to take action under the present Government of India Act?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I do not think such an action can be taken when we know that within a few months the new Constitution will be framed.

Shri K. Santhanam: Is the Honourable Member aware that if the establishment of a Supreme Court is delayed till the new Constituent there will be great transitional difficulties when the Constitution comes into force?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It is a question of opinion.

JURISDICTION OF THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL TO DECIDE PENDING APPEALS.

5. ***Shri R. R. Diwakar:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Law be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council will have jurisdiction to entertain, hear and finally decide the appeals now pending before them and those that will be filed hereafter, so long as no changes are made in the existing enactments like the Civil Procedure Code?

(b) What is going to be the future policy of the Dominion Government with regard to the Privy Council?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of the early establishment of a Supreme Court with the jurisdiction of the Privy Council?

(d) If so, what is the approximate time required for the establishment of such a Court?

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

(b) The future policy of Government in regard to Privy Council appeals will naturally be in accordance with the decision of the Constituent Assembly as incorporated in the new Constitution.

(c) No; not until the new Constitution is brought into force.

(d) It is not possible to give an estimate at present.

Seth Govinddas: May I know if the Constituent Assembly decides that no appeals should be made to the Privy Council, what is going to happen to the cases which have already been sent to the Privy Council before that decision is reached?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am sure the Constitution Assembly will make appropriate provision to cover such cases when coming to its decision.

DETAILS re LABOUR ORGANISATIONS IN THE INDIAN UNION.

6. ***Shri S. Nagappa:** Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the number of labour organisations in the Indian Union province-wise;

(b) the office-bearers of the organisations;

(c) the nature of labour; and

(d) the nature of protection given by Government to the labourers?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) I lay on the table a Statement (No. I) giving information, as far as available, regarding the number of trade unions registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926.

(b) The information asked for is not available.

(c) It is not understood what the Honourable Member means by 'nature of labour' but if he desires information regarding trade unions classified according

to industry, the same has been furnished in the Statement (No. II) laid on the table.

(d) This can hardly be dealt with effectively in the form of a question and answer. The Honourable Member might, however, refer to the various Central and Provincial Acts which provide protection for workers in different ways. Many aspects of labour, as the Honourable Member may be aware, fall within the Provincial sphere.

STATEMENT I

Total number of registered trade unions provincewise during the year 1945—46

Name of Province.	Number of Trade Unions
Bengal	*417
Madras	241
Bombay	114
U.P.	81
Bihar	53
Delhi	47
C. P. & Berar	46
Assam	15
East Punjab	† 7
Orissa	7
Ajmer-Merwara	4
Coorg	1

*Separate figures for West Bengal are not readily available.

† Figure is based on the return furnished by the Government of the Punjab for 1944-45.

STATEMENT II
Classification of registered Trade Unions according to industry.

	Delhi	Madras	Bombay	C.P. & Berar	U.P.	Bihar	Orissa	Assam	Bengal	Coorg-
Railways & Transport	5	34	15	5	14	5	..	1	16	..
Other than railways	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Tramways	..	39	30	7	27	..	..	..	8	..
Textiles	10	17	5	2	3	2	2	1	2	..
Printing Press	1	6	7	18	..	..	..	..	3	..
Municipal	2	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	4	..
Seamen	..	7	8	..	..	..	..	1	3	..
Docks and Port Trusts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	12	..
Engineering	3	14	9	3	4	7	1	1	50	1
Miscellaneous	26	123	56	11	33	37	4	11	1	1
Total	47	241	114	46	81	53	7	15	99	1

* Figures are based on annual returns furnished by Provinces for 1945-46.

† Figures are based on annual returns furnished by the Province for 1944-45.

¶ Separate figures for West Bengal are not available. There were 417 registered Trade Unions in the whole of Bengal but industrial classification is available only for 99 unions.

‡ Four unions which are known to be in the sylhet District have been excluded.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: Does the Government know that the Scheduled Caste labourers in the Bombay Presidency are not allowed to work in the weaving department of textile mills?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I do not think that arises.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It is more or less a question which can be raised in the Bombay Assembly.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: It is a question relating to a department of the Government of India.

Mr. Speaker: But it is a question that should first be raised with the Bombay Government.

Shri S. Nagappa: Arising out of the answer to clause (c) of the question, when I referred to the nature of labour I meant both industrial as well as agricultural labour. I would like to know from the Honourable Minister what steps have been taken by the Government of India to relieve the troubles of agricultural labour?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: The answer is there, already. If I may be permitted to deal in detail, I may inform the House and the Honourable Member that agricultural labour is also covered under the Trade Union Act. Agricultural labourers may organise and form their own trade unions under the Trade Unions Act. I am aware that the condition of the agricultural labourer is far from satisfactory and I may inform my Honourable friend that Government is not ignoring their problem. An enquiry is proposed and a questionnaire has already been sent to the Provincial Governments inviting their suggestions for necessary additions and amendments in it and as soon as their suggestions are received a pilot enquiry will be instituted.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know if the Honourable Minister is aware that Provincial Governments have been taking shelter under the plea that the Central Government is preparing some legislation in order to relieve the distress of the agricultural labourers? If the Central Government is taking any steps in this direction, may I know at what stage such legislation is?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I may inform my honourable friend that soon after this question a question on that subject is coming up and if my friend will wait till then, he will have ample opportunity to know more on the matter.

LEGISLATION FOR PROVIDING AMENITIES TO LABOUR

7. ***Shri S. Nagappa:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether there is any scheme or proposal to bring in legislation (i) to redeem the debts of labourers; (ii) to form Wage Finding Boards in the case of agricultural labourers; and (iii) to insure the lives of both agricultural and industrial labourers and to provide old age pensions?

(b) If so, when will these measures be introduced?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) (i) No.

(ii) I am not clear whether the Honourable Member is referring to the establishment of Wage Boards. If so, I would refer the Honourable Member to the Minimum Wages Bill, now before the House, which provides for the constitution of Wage Boards and the statutory fixation of minimum wages for workers in agricultural employments.

(iii) There are provident fund schemes in operation in individual industrial concerns. Recently, as a result of the recommendations made by the Coal Conciliation Board, a decision has been taken to institute provident funds for the benefit of all workers in the coal mining industry. The question of instituting

similar schemes for other industrial workers and of organising life insurance schemes for the benefit of workers is under my consideration.

(b) Answers to (a) cover the point.

Shri S. Nagappa: Arising out of the answer to part (i) of the question that no legislation is contemplated by the Central Government to redeem the debts of the labourers, may I know whether the Government is aware that especially agricultural labourers are not able to clear their debts in spite of their serving their creditors throughout their lives? Will the Honourable Minister please state what steps the Government is proposing to take in order to redeem them from their debts?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I may inform the Honourable Member that some of the Provincial Governments have already been taking the necessary steps in this direction. Some provinces have got debt redemption acts. If necessary, provincial governments should be induced to take further action in the matter.

Shri S. Nagappa: With reference to part (ii) of the question regarding Wage Boards, may I know whether in the fixation of wages the area or locality where the present wages are prevailing will be taken into consideration or will they make it uniform throughout, without taking local conditions into consideration?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I think this question could be more appropriately raised when the Minimum Wages Bill comes up for consideration.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: With reference to part (ii) of the question, may I know whether the minimum wages will be fixed for agricultural labourers in different areas?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I have already informed the House that agricultural labour will be covered under the Minimum Wages Bill. As regards the details the Honourable Member will have the opportunity of making suggestions, when the Bill comes up for consideration in the House.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that none of the provincial debt relief acts concerns itself with the indebtedness of agricultural workers and there is a case for at least relief to the agricultural workers from the burden of their inherited debts?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: There is a necessity for that but the provincial assembly will be a better forum for that purpose than this House.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Can the Honourable Minister give an idea to the House as to the volume or size of the indebtedness of agricultural labourers? Have the Government any idea?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: It is very difficult to give an answer.

NUMBER OF CASES TRIED BY THE FEDERAL COURT AND PRIVY COUNCIL.

8. ***Shri S. Nagappa:** Will the Honourable Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases tried by the Federal Court during the last three years—year wise; and

(b) the total number of cases that have gone to the Privy Council?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The total number of cases heard by the Federal Court during the three years 1944, 1945 and 1946 was 34, 16 and 2 respectively.

(b) The total number of Indian appeals filed in the Privy Council during the same three years was 58, 69 and 61 respectively.

Shri B. M. Gupte: May I know how many cases of appeals were reserved by the Privy Council?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: That does not arise.

Shri Biswanath Das: In view of the fact that none of the Commonwealth countries are allowing their litigant public to prefer appeals to the Privy Council will the Honourable Minister please state whether this Government is thinking of making any interim arrangement between the decision of the Constituent Assembly on this question and the present day?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I do not quite follow my Honourable friend's question but I can tell him that the Government is examining the matter and if they find it feasible they may take interim action.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I know what is the specific question that is being examined? My question is very clear and specific. What I said was that no Commonwealth country is allowing its litigant public to prefer appeals to the Privy Council. In view of the fact that India is one of the Commonwealth countries, will the Government please consider the question or have they considered this aspect of the question of making any interim arrangement between the decision of the Constituent Assembly and the present day?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I said that the Government is considering the matter and before any action could be taken Government have to see that the Federal Court becomes a Supreme Court and has got the full complement of judges to discharge the functions that will devolve on them if they were to discharge the functions of the Privy Council.

Mr. B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur: Is the Honourable Minister aware that the previous government was contemplating the question of providing appeals to the Federal Court, according to the option of the party, in addition to appeals lying to the Privy Council, in view of the fact that the Federal Court judges had not sufficient work to do and this measure could afford to facilitate the litigant public to pursue their appeals from the high courts?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The whole question is being considered.

MIGRATION BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN.

9. ***Mr. R. K. Sidhwa:** Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation please state:

(a) the total number of non-Muslim population in West Punjab as at present and also the total number of Muslim population in East Punjab;

(b) how many non-Muslims there are still in West Punjab who are waiting for migration to East Punjab and *vice versa*;

(c) the population of non-Muslims in the North West Frontier Province as at present and how many of them still require to be migrated from this Province;

(d) the approximate population of non-Muslims in Baluchistan and how many of them still remain to be migrated from that province; and

(e) the number of non-Muslims evacuated from Sind between 1st September upto date?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) According to the 1941 census there were 36 lakhs of Non-Muslims in the West Punjab and 53 lakhs of Muslims in East Punjab including states.

(b) The number of Non-Muslims left in West Punjab Refugee camps was 9,76,356 on the 11th November 1947. There are also scattered groups of Non-Muslims whose exact number are not known. Muslims left in the East Punjab on the same date were 10,70,583 according to the figures supplied by the Military Evacuation Organization.

(c) According to the 1941 census there were 2.88 lakhs Non-Muslims in N.-W.F.P. and about 20,000 in tribal areas. On 1st November, the number of Non-Muslims in N.-W.F.P. and the tribal areas was 48,500. Reports suggest that all require to be evacuated to the Indian Union.

(d) The approximate population of Non-Muslims in Baluchistan in 1941 was 66,000. The number of Non-Muslims still to be evacuated is not definitely known.

(e) About two lakhs and forty thousand Non-Muslims were evacuated from Sind by sea and Rail upto the 6th November, 1947.

Seth Govinddas: May I know by what date the Government think the evacuation scheme will be completed?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: We very much hope that the process will be completed, in any case, by the middle of December.

Seth Govinddas: Have Government made an estimate about the cost of this evacuation?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: So far as any accurate estimate is concerned, it is not available. This point has been raised in another question and I was, hoping to be able to answer that.

An Honourable Member: Is it the intention to compulsorily evacuate the Muslims from East Punjab to West Punjab?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: No, Sir. This question arises with reference to the next question where I am expected to make a statement in this matter.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government be able to say how many non-Muslims have been evacuated from Baluchistan, because they say that they do not know how many are there?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Baluchistan evacuation is proceeding by air mostly, and we have certain information as regards the people who have come away. But having regard to the difficulty of communication there, it is rather difficult at the moment to make any definite estimate. But we are trying our best to see that everyone who is desirous of being evacuated is evacuated.

Shri Rameshwar Prasad Sinha: May I know whether adequate arrangements have been made by the Government for the safety of the lives and properties of such of the non-Muslims as have still to be evacuated from the Pakistan Dominion?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I have already covered it partly in reply to part (c) of question No. 1, because that question covers the case of all evacuees from Pakistan. The question whether those who are still to be evacuated stand in a better position than those who have already been evacuated, with reference to the property owned by them, is rather difficult to answer because theoretically they may be in a position while there to dispose of their property. But I do not know whether in practice they are in a position either to dispose of all their property or make any special arrangements for the protection of their interests.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are we to understand that poor people are also being given a chance of being evacuated from Pakistan by air, free of cost?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: In exceptional cases, they are. But in the beginning the people evacuated by air were those who could pay for the passage. So long as we could get full loads of that type of persons, we could only make an exception in favour of people who needed special attention due to their ill-health, old age and so on.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: What is the number of Non-Muslims still awaiting evacuation from Sind?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I do not know what the Honourable Member means, because so far as Sind is concerned it is not our information that every non-Muslim is desirous or determined to get evacuated. I can give him the census figure of Sind of the non-Muslim population which is 12.65 lakhs according to the Census of 1941. The number of persons evacuated from Sind so far has been 2,40,000. I do not know whether it will be safe to assume that the rest, namely over 10 lakhs of non-Muslims in Sind, are all anxious to be evacuated.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know the number of persons who have been evacuated from Delhi?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am afraid I have not got the figures of Delhi in particular.

Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand: Arising out of the answer of the Honourable Minister, may I ask if the figures given by the Honourable Minister include the number of non-Muslims who have been evacuated, or are awaiting evacuation, from Bahawalpur State?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: As far as I can see, this question has nothing to do with Bahawalpur State.

Mr. B. Paker Sahib Bahadur: May I know the policy of the Government as regards this evacuation? Is it to encourage the evacuation of non-Muslims from Pakistan to Hindustan and to encourage the evacuation of Muslims from Hindustan to Pakistan, or is it their policy to discourage both these kinds of evacuation and to ask people to stick to their homes?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: This issue has been specifically raised in question No. 11. But if the House so desires, I am prepared to state in substance the answer which I was proposing to give to that question.

Mr. Speaker: I would prefer the answer to go in at this stage because there are only five minutes left in question hour and thereafter no supplementary questions can be put. The Honourable Minister may give the answer now.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The policy of Government in this matter has been stated more than once. On the 30th August 1947 this was the declaration that was made by the Government of India in agreement with the Government of Pakistan:

"Whereas they will do everything possible to facilitate the movement of those refugees who have decided to move from one side of the boundary to the other, they wish to appeal to the minorities in their areas not to move except under government auspices and proper guards."

Then, later, on the 3rd September, as a result of an inter-Dominion conference, a statement was issued from which I would like to read out an extract:

"The immediate task to which the Governments must devote all their resources and energy is to give protection to all refugees and evacuees in both West and East Punjab and to get safely across the border all those who desire to cross over from West to East Punjab or from East to West Punjab."

Again, as a result of an inter-Dominion conference held on the 19th and 20th September, the following declaration was made on behalf of both the Governments:

"The situation in the Punjab has developed in such a way that mass movement of Muslims from East Punjab and of non-Muslims from West Punjab is taking place. The Governments of India and of Pakistan have therefore decided that the movement of these people from East to West Punjab and vice versa is to have first priority. They have agreed to co-operate with each other in this matter to the fullest extent and to take all steps to ensure that the movements in both directions are completed with the greatest possible speed and with the greatest measure of security."

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: May I know whether anything was done to evacuate quickly the Harijans of Sind who sent frantic appeals to Government?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: This matter has been engaging our attention and recently it has been decided to appoint special officers from among the Harijans to look after their interests in regard to their evacuation as also in regard to their resettlement.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: May I know in what part of Baluchistan the non-Muslims are stranded, by which it is not possible for the Government to bring them either by rail or by road transport?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I would like to have notice of that question as it will require examination.

An Honourable Member: What is the position in respect of non-Muslims in Bahawalpur State which has acceded to Pakistan?

Mr. Speaker: It does not arise. This question refers to West Punjab, North West Frontier Province, Baluchistan and Sind.

Shri R. V. Dhulekar: May I know why preference was given for evacuation by air for those persons who paid the fares and why urgency of the persons desiring to be evacuated was not taken into consideration and why they were not also evacuated by air free of cost?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Air evacuation, although it is a very expensive process, is not very helpful so far as numbers are concerned. Therefore it was thought that when alternative methods of evacuation were being employed, there was no justification in the very first instance for providing absolutely free transport by air for all without any discrimination.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS.

EXPENDITURE ON MIGRATION BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN.

10. ***Mr. R. K. Sidhwa:** Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation please state the total expenditure incurred by the Government of India on account of migration of population from the province of one Dominion to the province of another Dominion and also maintenance of refugees camps in the Dominion of India, upto the middle of October 1947?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The precise figures are not available, but it is estimated that the Government of India had incurred a liability of about five crores by the middle of October 1947.

POLICY OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA re MIGRATION OF POPULATION

11. ***Mr. R. K. Sidhwa:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation please state what is the policy of the Government of India as regards migration of people from the province of one Dominion to the province of another Dominion?

(b) Is it left to each province to give relief to the immigrants?

(c) Have the Government of India contributed any amount for their maintenance?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) The policy of Government of India is to discourage mass migration from one Province to another. In the case of Punjab, however, this Government in agreement with the Government of Pakistan have decided that the East and the West Punjab Governments will give the maximum assistance towards the evacuation of refugees from one province to the other and will make all necessary arrangements for refugees prior to evacuation. In all cases, however, individuals wishing to migrate are allowed to do so.

(b) Initially each province is meeting the expenditure on the migrants but most of these provinces have come to Government of India for assistance.

(c) Yes. The Kurukshetra Camp is being run directly by this Government, the East Punjab Government has also been given assurance of full support. All expenditure on evacuation is falling on this Government and the extent of this expenditure is likely to be considerable.

Honourable Member is also referred to my answer to starred question No. 10.

EXPENDITURE ON REFUGEE CAMPS AND NUMBER OF PERSONS AWAITING TRANSFER TO INDIA

12. *Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation please state:

(a) the amount spent over the refugees and their camps upto the end of October, 1947 by the Government of India;

(b) the amount allotted to provincial Governments and the name of such Governments for the purpose of refugees;

(c) the total number of refugees at the end of September, 1947 in Delhi;

(d) how many persons still remain within the Pakistan Government area who want to be transferred to the Indian Area;

(e) what arrangements are being made to complete this transfer; and

(f) how many persons still remain in the Indian area to be transferred to the Pakistan area?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) It is not possible to estimate at this stage the amount spent by the Government of India on refugees and camps. It will be some time before even approximate figures become available. The magnitude of the task may be indicated by the fact that evacuation has been carried out by air, by sea, by rail, by foot convoy through various agencies at various places. Relief supplies of food, medicines, of warm clothing, of tents and numerous other items have been rushed by different Ministers to different points. So far as camps are concerned they have been administered by Provincial Governments prominently in East Punjab and United Provinces. In Delhi relief camps were administered under the control of the Delhi Emergency Committee. The big relief camp at Kurukshetra became the direct responsibility of the Central Government.

(b) The following allotments have so far been made to Provincial Governments: East Punjab—6½ lakhs; Delhi—7 lakhs.

For further information, the Honorable Member is referred to my answer to his question No. 10.

(c) The total number of Non-Muslim refugees in Delhi at the end of September was about twelve thousand in the refugee camps and approximately one and a half lakhs living with their friends and relations.

(d) The Honourable Member is referred to my answer to his question No. 9 (b) and (c). It is not possible to estimate the number of persons who still remain in the other parts of the Pakistan Government area who desire to be transferred to the Indian area.

(e) Co-ordination has been established between the Military organisations of the Indian and Pakistan Governments; joint committee has been formed for laying down train movements. Arrangements have been made for the proper guarding of refugee camps pending their movements and also of trains. Evacuation by air is also in swing; in addition to the planes owned by Indian Companies, a fleet of about 20 planes have been chartered from the B. O. A. C. Evacuation by sea is taking place from Sind.

(f) The Honourable Member is referred to my answer to his question No. 9 (b). It is not possible to give an estimate of the number of Muslims in other parts of the Indian Union who desired to be transferred to the Pakistan Government area.

PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION TO THE EMPLOYEES OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

13. *Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power please state the total number of employees in the subordinate and inferior grade service of the Government of India in Delhi, who have not been provided with Government accommodation?

(b) Have Government any programme for providing houses to them? If so, within what period will they be completed?

(c) What provision for accommodation has been made for the Government of India employees who opted out from Pakistan and have joined their service in New Delhi?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) The total number of employees in the subordinate and inferior services of the Government of India in Delhi who have no Government accommodation to live in, are 13,375 and 12,270 respectively.

(b) The Government of India have the following building programmes on hand with a view to relieving the acute housing shortage in Delhi:

Construction of 200 officers' flats, 1,000 clerks' quarters and 1,000 peons' quarters in New Delhi and 1,000 clerks' and 250 peons' quarters in Old Delhi.

Provided building materials are available, it is expected that the building should be completed within a year's time. However, the present supply position is extremely acute and uncertain.

(c) The following arrangements have been made for the accommodation of repatriated officials of the Government of India.

All accommodation classed as 'Special Accommodation' is being allotted exclusively to married officers drawing less than Rs. 600 p.m. while higher officers are accommodated in Constitution House and York Hotel. For single officers accommodation is provided in the Kitchner Road and Lodi Road Hostels. So far 1,177 quarters have been allotted to these repatriated staff and there are still 1,125 persons on the waiting list in addition to 675 employees of the Railway and Posts and Telegraphs Departments who are not eligible for accommodation in the General Pool. Attempts are made by the Custodian of Evacuees property to meet their needs on a priority basis as far as possible.

CONSTRUCTION OF DAMS ACROSS LAXMANATERTHA AND HARANGI RIVERS.

14. *Mr. C. M. Poonacha: Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether any schemes have been drawn up by the Coorg Administration to construct dams across the rivers Laxmanaterttha and Harangi;

(b) if so, whether these schemes have been approved by the Government of India;

(c) whether Mysore State Government have raised any objections to the construction of these dams;

(d) whether Coorg Administration has referred the matter to the Government of India for necessary action: if so when; and

(e) what action Government have taken in the matter?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Yes. The scheme with regard to the Harangi river was prepared by the Coorg Administration in 1907 and revised in 1910, but the papers are apparently not available in the records of the Coorg

Administration. The scheme in respect of Laxmanatœrtha has been prepared in 1941. A fresh scheme will have to be prepared for the Harangi project.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply to part (b) of the starred question No. 853 given on 11 March, 1947 at the previous session of the Legislative Assembly.

(d) Not so far.

(e) The Chief Commissioner of Coorg, who was asked to furnish certain details for the purpose of addressing the Government of Mysore to withdraw their objections to the Laxmanatœrtha Project, gave a reply in April 1947 which was referred to the Central Waterways Irrigation and Navigation Commission. The Commission deputed two of their officers to visit the dam site and to collect further data. They have just returned from Coorg and their report is under consideration by Central Waterways Irrigation and Navigation Commission.

IMPORT OF MINERAL OIL

15. *Shri Debi Prosad Khaitan: Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) how much mineral oil is imported into India and how much of it is refined oil and how much raw oil;

(b) the number of refineries in India and the quantity refined per year; and

(c) if Government put up their own refineries to refine raw oil, how much saving can be made in terms of money on the refined oil imported and how would that saving affect our scarcity of Dollar and Sterling Exchange?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) 2,549,856 tons of refined mineral oil was imported into India and Pakistan combined, during the year 1946. These are the latest figures available. No raw (crude) oil was imported. Figures for India alone are not available.

(b) There is only one refinery in India at Digboi in Assam and the quantity of refined oil produced in that refinery during 1946 was 183,998 tons.

(c) Government have been for some time considering the question of setting up refineries in this country with the object of manufacturing refined products from imported crude oil, and estimates of the costs involved are being worked out in consultation with the Oil Companies. Until such estimates are ready it is not possible to state, at this stage, what saving, if any, could be effected in foreign exchange, or, in the value of refined products as compared with the prices being paid for the imported oil.

PUNJAB NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED IN CALCUTTA *Statesman* OF 28TH SEP-

TEMBER, 1947, re PAKISTAN TALK OF FORTIFYING BORDERS

16. *Shri Biswanath Das: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the Punjab Newsletter from its staff correspondent published on page 11 of the moffusil edition of the *Statesman* of Calcutta dated the 28th September 1947, stating that "there is talk in high Pakistan circles of fortifying their borders";

(b) whether Government have seen the article published on page 1 of the *Statesman* of Calcutta dated the 29th September, 1947 under the heading "Pakistan appeals to Dominions—ending communal disorders—Britain used as channel";

(c) the action taken in regard to the matters referred to in (a) and (b) above; and

(d) whether Government propose to place all the papers in this regard on the table of the House?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Government have no knowledge of the alleged talks in high Pakistan circles of fortifying their borders. As regards (b), the Government of India fully explained their point of view to His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom to whom the Pakistan proposal had been addressed.

(d) Since the correspondence which originated with the Pakistan Government was addressed to the United Kingdom Government, it is for the latter Government to decide whether it should be published and, if so, when.

NEWS PUBLISHED IN THE *HINDUSTAN TIMES* DATED 20TH SEPTEMBER, 1947,

re PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT'S CIRCULAR TO MUSLIM OFFICERS IN INDIA

17. *Shri Ram Chandra Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister please state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item published in the *Hindustan Times*, Delhi, dated the 20th September, 1947, that the Pakistan Government has sent a Circular letter to the Muslim Officers holding key-posts in the Dominion of India, asking them to stick to their posts in order to serve the cause of Pakistan?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to place a copy of the said letter on the table of the House?

(c) If the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, do Government propose to make enquiries now and inform the House of the contents of such letters?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Government have seen the news item in question.

(b) Government are not in possession of the letter reported in the news item.

(c) Government do not consider it necessary to make any enquiry of the Pakistan Government on the basis of the news item.

NEWS AGENCY FOR WESTERN PUNJAB

18. *Shri Ram Chandra Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the news from the Western Punjab regarding communal situation are extremely meagre?

(b) If so, do Government propose to urge on the Pakistan Government the necessity for issuing daily reports regarding communal situation?

(c) Do Government propose to devise their own agency for this purpose?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes, but there has been an improvement during recent weeks.

(b) It was agreed at a Conference between the two Dominion Governments that both the East and West Punjab Governments should issue daily reports about the situation in their areas. This is at present being done.

(c) There is a Deputy High Commissioner for India at Lahore and District Liaison Officers under him who also collect factual information regarding West Punjab.

EVACUATION OF NON-MUSLIM REFUGEES FROM WESTERN PAKISTAN

19. *Shri Ram Chandra Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation please state what is the total number of non-Muslim refugees in India from the West Punjab, North West Frontier Province, Baluchistan and Sindh?

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(b) How many non-Muslims are still awaiting departure for India from the aforesaid provinces?

(c) How many non-Muslims were killed while in refugee camps or in transit from West Punjab to India?

(d) How many non-Muslims were killed in West Punjab from the 1st August, 1947 till the 30th September, 1947, and from the 1st October, 1947 to the 15th October, 1947?

(e) How many non-Muslim girls and ladies were kidnapped and how many of them have not yet been restored to their relations during the recent riots?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) Total number of Non-Muslims evacuated by the Military Evacuation Organization from West Punjab and N.-W. F. P. between 4th September, 1947 to 11th November, 1947 is 20,19,126. About 2,40,000 Non-Muslims have been evacuated from Sind by sea and rail. Rough estimate of migration from Bhawalpur is 80,000. No separate figures are available for Baluchistan. The figures of evacuees who arrived in the territories of the Indian Union prior to the setting up of the Military Evacuation Organisation cannot be accurately estimated. A very rough estimate would suggest that the number was about thirteen lacs.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to my answer to clause (d) of question No. 12.

(c) Reliable figures are not yet available.

(d) No figures on which any reliance can be placed are available.

(e) No definite figure is yet available.

LOSS BY NON-MUSLIMS IN PAKISTAN FROM ARSON AND SEIZURE OF PROPERTY.

20. *Shri Ram Chandra Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation please state how many houses and other buildings belonging to the non-Muslims in Pakistan were burnt during the recent riots?

(b) What is the total amount of loss of property of non-Muslims in the West Punjab?

(c) Is it a fact that the non-Muslims migrating from the West Punjab, North West Frontier Province, Baluchistan and Sindh are not allowed to bring their movables to India? If so, what action do Government propose to take in this connection to protect the rights of these persons?

(d) How many buildings belonging to the non-Muslims in West Punjab have been put in possession of Muslims in Lahore and other district cities?

(e) What action do Government propose to take to get the said properties returned to the non-Muslims to whom they belong?

(f) Is it a fact that non-Muslims who own factories, workshops, mills, etc., in West Punjab are not allowed to remove the machinery and other materials to India? If so, what action do Government propose to take in the matter?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) No definite figures are yet available.

(b) Property falls in several categories. But broadly speaking it may be divided into Urban and Rural and secondly Movable and Immovable. So far as immoveable property is concerned, it is recorded in Revenue papers or in cadastral surveys. Property belongs to evacuees who are either in East Punjab or in Delhi. In Delhi the Central Government has appointed a Registrar of Claims whose jurisdiction is so far as the registration of claims of Non-Muslim refugees is concerned is not confined to persons now residing in Delhi (Delhi Province). A suggestion was made some time ago to the Governments of East Punjab, the United Provinces and Bombay to set up similar machinery for registration of claims. Governments of East Punjab and United Provinces have appointed a Registrar of Claims but no information is

available about Bombay. Until comprehensive registration is completed it is not possible to give even a rough estimate of immovable property of evacuees in Pakistan.

So far as movable property is concerned there are again several categories. There is stock-in-trade of merchants in shops. In these cases no inventory is available. The Custodian of Property in West Punjab was auctioning this property from time to time. Representations made by the Government of India led to suspensions of auctions; but it is understood that property is now being disposed of by tender. A suggestion that a reserve price be put on these stocks on the basis of invoices to be furnished by owners or on the basis of appraisal by assessors was not accepted by the Government of West Punjab. Much movable property is in vaults of banks and safe deposits. No inventory is available in such cases. There are stocks of cotton and grain hypothecated with banks. Again no inventory is made in such cases.

So far as personal property is concerned evacuees in a large number of cases have locked up their premises and come away. It is not possible for Government to compile data and attempt a valuation unless this item is also included in the Claim forms. In some cases this information is given but not generally.

(c) Yes. Government have protested to the Government of Pakistan in some cases. The situation has improved, though complaints regarding searches still continue.

(d) Government have no information.

(e) The West Punjab Government has appointed a Custodian of Evacuee Property; under the ordinances in force, Non-Muslims who have left Pakistan can return to claim their properties. No action from this Government is called for return of properties.

(f) This is correct. Government is negotiating with the Pakistan Dominion Government in this matter.

OBSERVATION BY INDIA'S HIGH COMMISSIONER IN CANADA *Re* INDIA REMAINING IN THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH.

21. *Shri Dip Narayan Sinha: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a Press Report appearing in the *Hindustan Times* of the 3rd October, 1947, on page 4 at the foot of column 3, in which Mr. H. S. Malik, India's High Commissioner in Canada is reported to have observed that "India . . . would remain in British Commonwealth"; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the High Commissioner represented the views of the Government of India in making the above observation?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes. Mr. Malik was addressing the Canadian Club on the occasion of his first public appearance in Ottawa, and what he actually stated was as follows:

"It is a matter of great joy that Britain and India have parted as friends without bitterness. I am sure that our connections will continue to be friendly and goodwill will prevail. I do know that a good many of us hope that conditions in India and other places will make it possible that India may continue to be a member of the Commonwealth of British Nations. * * * One thing is essential. The public mind of India must be convinced that its members will be treated in the same way as other members in all parts of the Commonwealth."

(b) It will be clear from the quotation given in reply to (a) that the High Commissioner was not making a statement of the Government of India's policy.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIA'S HIGH COMMISSIONERS AND AMBASSADORS.

22. *Shri Dip Narayan Sinha: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state :

(a) the names of India's High Commissioners and Ambassadors so far appointed, with the names of countries of their deputation;

(b) the period for which each of the High Commissioners and Ambassadors will serve;

(c) whether it is a fact that India's High Commissioners and Ambassadors have got Indians on their staff; and

(d) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to replace all the non-Indians by Indians on the staff of India's High Commissioners and Ambassadors abroad?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) A statement has been placed on the table of the House.

(b) The normal period of appointment is three years but most of our heads of missions have been appointed for one year in the first instance.

(c) All appointments in the grade of Officers are now held by Indians, except in the Office of the High Commissioner for India in London where some such appointments are still held by non-Indians. This is a legacy, from the past. As these non-Indian officers vacate their posts they will be replaced by Indians.

(d) The accepted policy is that all key positions abroad should be held by Indians. An exception may have to be made in respect of clerical and menial posts owing to the difficulty of finding suitable Indian personnel for such posts, except at disproportionately high cost.

Statement showing the names of Indian High Commissioners and Ambassadors and the countries to which they are accredited.

HIGH COMMISSIONERS.

Name.	Country to which accredited.
Mr. V. K. Krishna Menon	United Kingdom.
Mr. Sri Prakasa	Pakistan
Sir R. P. Paranjpye.	Australia.
Mr. H. S. Malik	Canada.
Dr. M. A. Rauf	Burma.
Mr. J.A. Thivy (Representative).	Malaya.
Mr. V.V. Giri (Representative)	Ceylon.

AMBASSADORS.

Mr. Asaf Ali	United States of America.
Mr. K. P. S. Menon	China.
Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit	U.S.S.R.
Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia (Ambassador-designate)	Nepal.
Mr. Ali Zaheer (Ambassador-designate)	Iran.
Sir B. Rama Rau	Japan.

CASUALTIES AND LOSS TO HINDU-SIKH EVACUEES FROM WEST PUNJAB.

23. *Shri Debi Prosad Khaitan: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Hindus and Sikhs killed during the recent disturbances in the West Punjab—district wise;

(b) the number of Hindu and Sikh evacuees evacuated from the West Punjab—district wise;

(c) the number of Hindu and Sikh women abducted or missing in the West Punjab;

(d) the approximate value of property lost by the Hindus and Sikhs in the West Punjab in the shape of (1) lands, (2) immovable property, such as houses, (3) merchandise, (4) Industrial concerns, machines, buildings etc., and (5) household possessions and personal effects; and

(e) what arrangements have been made by the Government of India themselves or the Government of Pakistan for compensating industrialists, businessmen and shopkeepers of West Punjab who have now evacuated to India?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) No figures on which any reliance can be placed are available.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to question No. 1 (a) by Shri Biswanath Dass. Separate figures for West Punjab or district-wise totak are not available.

(c) Figures are not yet available.

(d) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given by me to clause (b) of question No. 20 by Shri Ram Chandra Gupta.

(e) The question of Government assuming responsibility for compensation to industrialists and others in respect of property left behind in either Dominion and in the event of such responsibility being accepted, the method of evaluation and scales of compensation are matters under consideration; and it is proposed to discuss these matters with the representatives of Pakistan Dominion shortly in order to explore possibilities of settlement.

CASUALTIES AND LOSS TO NON-MUSLIMS AND MUSLIMS IN WEST AND EAST PUNJAB.

24. *Shri Gopal Narain: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation please state:

(a) the numbers of Hindus and Sikhs killed in West Punjab and Muslims killed in East Punjab;

(b) how much land and property have been left behind by Hindus and Sikhs in West Punjab and by Muslims in East Punjab; and

(c) the number of Hindus and Sikhs left at present in West Punjab and Muslims in East Punjab?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) No figures on which any reliance can be placed are available.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given by me to clause (b) of question No. 20 by Shri Ram Chandra Gupta.

(c) Non-Muslims left in West Punjab refugee camps were 9,76,356 on 11th November, 1947. There are also scattered groups of Non-Muslims whose exact numbers are not known. Muslims left in East Punjab were 10,70,583 on the same date according to the figures supplied by the Military Evacuation Organization.

CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL COURT.

25. *Shri Phulan Prasad Varma: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Law be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the Constituent Assembly of India has passed certain transitional provisions by which the Federal Court will be deemed to be the Supreme Court, and will be the ultimate appellate authority and new appeals will lie to the Supreme Court instead of to the Privy Council?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what steps have Government taken or are going to take to implement these provisions?

(c) Are Government aware that in the transitional provision it has been laid down that the cases pending before the Privy Council will be disposed of by the Privy Council?

(d) If the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to clarify as to what exactly is meant by the expression 'pending'?

(e) Are Government aware that there is a great deal of uncertainty in the mind of the litigant public, Advocates and High Court Judges regarding the precise position in the matter?

(f) If the answer to part (e) be in the affirmative, do Government propose to issue a statement on the subject?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Government have seen the relevant portions of the memorandum embodying the recommendations of the Union Constitution Committee, which were subsequently adopted by the Constituent Assembly.

(b) Government cannot take any steps to implement these recommendations until a provision is included in the Constitution which is now being framed by the Constituent Assembly.

(c) No, Sir. The memorandum referred to above does not contain any such recommendation.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Government are not aware of any uncertainty in the mind of the litigant public. They have received certain enquiries on the subject from members of the bar but these do not suggest that there is a great deal of uncertainty.

(f) The resolution adopted by the Constituent Assembly is clear enough and Government do not consider it necessary to issue any statement in regard to it at this stage.

STRENGTH AND COST OF INDIAN EMBASSIES AND HIGH COMMISSIONER'S

OFFICES ABROAD

26. *Shri K. Santhanam: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the present strength and estimated cost of the Indian Embassies in (i) The United States of America, (ii) The Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, and (iii) China; and

(c) China; and

(b) the present strength and estimated cost of the offices of the High Commissioners in (i) the United Kingdom, (ii) Canada, and (iii) Australia?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: A statement has been placed on the table of the House.

Statement showing the present strength and estimated cost of the Indian Embassies in (a) The United States of America, (b) The Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics, and (c) China; and of the Offices of High Commissioners in (a) United Kingdom (b) Canada and (c) Australia.

Name of Embassy or Office of High Commissioner	Present strength (excluding lowest grade like messengers)	Approximate gross estimated cost per annum.
1 Embassy of India in the United States of America, Washington.	47	Rs. 12,10,000.
2 Embassy of India in China, Nanking	15	Rs. 7,23,400. (In addition a sum of Rs. 5,00,000 has also been sanctioned during the current financial year for purchase of land and construction of building for the Embassy.)
3 Embassy of India in the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics, Moscow.	15	Rs. 11,29,100.
4 Office of the High Commissioner for India in the United Kingdom, London.	692	Rs. 66,00,000.
5 Office of the High Commissioner for India in Canada, Ottawa.	10	Rs. 4,18,000.
6 Office of the High Commissioner for India in Australia, Canberra.	10	Rs. 2,04,000.

VALUATION OF PROPERTY LEFT OVER BY EVACUEES.

27. *Shri K. Santhanam: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated area of agricultural land abandoned by Hindus and Sikhs in West Punjab, their estimated value and annual income;

(b) the number of houses in the urban areas abandoned by Hindus and Sikhs in West Punjab and their estimated value;

(c) the extent and value of agricultural land and houses in the urban areas abandoned by Muslims in East Punjab; and

(d) whether any agreement has been arrived at between the Governments of India and Pakistan regarding the method of valuation and disposal of these properties and the settlement of the claims of migrants on both sides?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) and (b) Figures are not yet available to form even an approximate estimate.

(c) No valuation has been attempted.

(d) The matter is being taken up with the Pakistan Dominion Government.

PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION TO GOVERNMENT SERVANTS IN DELHI.

28. *Shri K. Santhanam: Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Government servants in Delhi who have applied for but have not yet been allotted Government quarters;

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(b) the steps which are being taken by Government to relieve the acute shortage of housing accommodation in the city;

(c) whether there is any proposal to build an upper storey to all the Government quarters in New Delhi; and

(d) whether steps will be taken to reduce the size of compounds of officers' bungalows and utilize them for building new quarters?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) A statement showing the position is placed on the table of the House.

(b) With a view to relieving the acute shortage of housing accommodation for Government servants, Government have decided to construct the following additional quarters: 200 officers' flats, 1000 clerks' quarters and 1000 peons' quarters in New Delhi and 1000 clerks' quarters and 250 peons' and duffry quarters in Old Delhi.

(c) There is no proposal to build an upper storey to all the existing Government quarters in New Delhi. This is not feasible as the roofs, walls and foundations were designed for single storey buildings only. Government however propose to take different areas along some important roads one by one and consider the feasibility of building multi-storeyed houses in these areas.

The quarters referred to in the answer to part (b) will have one or more upper storeys. It is the intention of Government to have multi-storeyed buildings wherever possible in all future constructions.

(d) Government hope ultimately to reduce the size of compounds of residential buildings owned by them in New Delhi, as far as practicable. Each case will have to be separately considered on merits.

Statement showing the number of Government servants who have applied for but not yet been provided with Government quarters.

The number of officers and staff who have applied for but not been provided with Government accommodation in Delhi is as follows:—

(1) Officers drawing Rs. 600 or more p.m.	196	
(2) Married Officers drawing less than Rs. 600 p. m.	13,212	including 650 Officers of the Eastern Punjab Railway and P.&T. Department who have applied for but are not eligible for accommodation in the Central Government, Pool.
(3) Single officers drawing less than Rs. 600 p. m.	152	
(4) Class IV officers	12,270	
Total	25,841	

NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS OF INDIA AND CEYLON re INDO-CEYLON PROBLEMS.

29. ***Shri M. S. Aney:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ceylon Government have expressed their keen desire to the Government of India to open negotiations for the settlement of Indo-Ceylon problems as soon as possible after the elections under the Soulbury Constitution are over and a new government responsible to the legislature is formed in Ceylon;

(b) whether the Government of India have received any communication in regard to the above subject from the New Government of Ceylon; if so, whether Government propose to place it on the table of the House; and

(c) if not, whether the Government of India have taken any steps to urge on the New Government of Ceylon the necessity of opening negotiations and arriving at a satisfactory settlement without delay in the interests of better understanding between Ceylon and India?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, formal communication has so far been received from the newly formed Government of Ceylon on this subject but the Prime Minister of Ceylon has expressed to our Representative in Ceylon his desire to come to India for discussion with us at the end of this year. We would welcome his visit.

(c) Does not arise.

INDIA'S HELP TO THE VIET-NAM.

30. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Viet-Nams' appeal for India's help in its struggle for freedom against French Imperialism has been considered by the Government of India;

(b) whether any representations have been made by the Government of India to the French Government to achieve an earlier understanding with the Indo-China people by recognising their national independence; and

(c) what other steps are being taken by Government to aid the Viet-Nam people?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The Government of India have seen press reports to the effect that Dr. Ho Chi-Minh had appealed for India's assistance for the Viet-Nam Republic in its struggle against France. No such appeal has, however, been received directly.

(b) and (c). The Government of India have repeatedly brought to the notice of the French Government their own deep sympathy, and that of the people of India, for the nationalist cause in Indo-China, and their strong desire to see this dispute settled as quickly as possible. They have also made it clear that no facilities can be granted in India for the furtherance of the French war effort in Indo-China.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S EMBASSIES AND APPOINTMENT OF AMBASSADORS AND FIRST COUNSELLORS.

31. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the number and the names of the countries in which the Government of India have opened their Embassies;

(b) the names of our Ambassadors and their first Counsellors and the provinces they come from; and

(c) the sum which the Government of India have spent and the sum they propose to spend on each one of these Embassies and the plans of Government for the opening of similar Embassies in other countries?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b) A statement (No. I) is laid on the table of the House.

(c) As regards the first part of the question, a statement (No. II) is laid on the table.

As for the second part, the position is as follows:

The Embassy in Nepal will be formally opened very soon and the expenditure likely to be incurred up to 31st March, 1948 is estimated at about Rs. 52,000. Before the end of the current financial year diplomatic representation may be established in Belgium, France, Switzerland and Egypt. Details, however, have not yet been worked out. It is anticipated that the cost of these new Embassies will not exceed Rs. 3,25,000. Budget demands for the year 1948-49 have not so far been formulated.

Statement No. I.

Showing the countries in which the Government of India have opened Embassies, the names of the Ambassadors and their first counsellors and the provinces they come from.

S. No.	The name of the country	The name of the Ambassador and Province of origin.	The name of the first counsellor and Province of origin
1	United States of America	Mr. Asaf Ali, —Delhi	Mr. B.R. Sen, — Bengal.
2	China	Mr. K.P.S. Menon, C.I.E., Travancore State.	(Post does not exist).
3	Russia	Mrs. Vijaya Laxmi Pandit, United Provinces.	Mr. A.V. Pai, —Madras.
4	Iran	Mr. Ali Zaheer (Ambassadors designate) United Provinces	(Post does not exist).
5	Nepal	S. Surjit Singh Majithia, (Ambassador-designate) Punjab.	(Post does not exist).

Statement No. II.

Showing the expenditure incurred or to be incurred on the Embassies in various countries.

I. Expenditure incurred during the financial year 1946—47 (based on revised estimates for that year)—

- (1) Indian Embassy in United States of America 7,76,500
- (2) Indian Embassy in China 4,10,000

II. Estimates of expenditure incurred during the period from 1st April 1947 to 14th August 1947— Not available:

III. Estimates of expenditure proposed to be incurred during the period from 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948:—

- (1) Indian Embassy in United States of America Rs. 7,56,800
- (2) Indian Embassy in China Rs. 4,52,100 plus Rs. 5,00,000 for purchase of land and construction of building for the Embassy.
- (3) Indian Embassy in Russia Rs. 7,05,700. (This includes about rupees two lakhs, initial expenditure for furniture and equipment).
- (4) Indian Embassy in Iran Rs. 46,000.

In addition to the above the following expenditure also is being incurred in connection with the Indian Information Services attached to the Embassies:—

- (i) Indian Information service, United States of America (Washington) Rs. 3,37,500
- (ii) Press Attache, Shanghai Rs. 62,000
- (iii) Press Attache, Tebran Rs. 43,400

CULTURAL MISSIONS TO MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES.

32. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of sending Cultural Missions to the Middle Eastern countries especially the Arab States and Egypt; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take early steps in sending such Missions with a view to establishing and strengthening cultural ties between those countries and India?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The Government of India do not at present contemplate sending purely Cultural Mission to the Middle East. They have already agreed to exchange Ambassadors with Iran and Egypt and it is hoped that these diplomatic Missions will not only look after our political and economic interests but will also strengthen the cultural ties between these countries and India.

STATUS OF INDIANS UNDER NEW SCHEME OF POLITICAL REFORMS IN MALAYA.

33. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have made any representation regarding the new schemes of political reforms in the Federation of Malay States; and

(b) if so, what response has been made in regard to the grant of equal rights of citizenship to Indians in Malaya?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b). Suitable representations have recently been made to His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom on the Constitutional Proposals for the Federation of Malaya. These are intended to secure representation of the Indian community on the Federal Executive Council and to facilitate their admission to the Malayan Citizenship Under the Constitution Proposals all Malayan citizens will be treated equally and will have the same rights. No reply has yet been received from the United Kingdom Government.

ANTI-INDIAN PROPAGANDA BY PAKISTAN REPRESENTATIVES ABROAD

34. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the Anti-Indian propaganda that being carried on by the Representatives of Pakistan in Australia; England U.S.A. and the Middle-East countries; and

(b) and if so, whether any representation has been made to Pakistan Government to stop such unfriendly propaganda or to substantiate their allegations?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The Government of India are aware that their actions and policies as well as events in India have been presented by spokesmen of the Pakistan Government in certain countries a wholly misleading light. According to their information, this has not happened in Australia.

(b) The Government of India have not considered it worth while to make any representations to the Pakistan Government. Steps have been taken however, to counteract mis-representations of the kind referred to in the answer to part (a).

35. *Shri Jagat Narain Lal: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Non-Muslims killed and injured in the Pakistan area and the approximate cost of the property of Non-Muslims destroyed in that area;

(b) the total number of refugees who arrived in India from Pakistan area up to the end of September, 1947 and their distribution in India province-wise;

(c) the total cost incurred by the Central Government over them so far;

(d) the total cost incurred over them so far by each of the provinces of India; and

(e) the steps that Government have taken for the safety of the Non-Muslims in the territory of Pakistan?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) No figures on which any reliance can be placed are available. Data for assessing the approximate value of the property are not available.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to my answer to question No. 1 by Shri Biswanath Das. The number of refugees who were evacuated from West Punjab and North West Frontier Province by the Military Evacuation Organisation between the 4th September and 28th September, 1947 was 6,52,827. No separate figures for other Provinces are available. The figures of their distribution, province-wise in India, are not yet available.

(c) The Honourable Member is referred to my reply to Questions No. 10 and 12(a) by Mr. R. K. Sidhwa.

(d) Bihar.—Rs. 2,52,500 sanctioned for expenditure, so far.

West Bengal.—Expenditure of Rs. 97,000 incurred upto end of October, 1947.

Orissa.—Nil till end of October, 1947.

Bombay.—Rs. 46,486 so far (Part expenditure, as reports awaited from certain district officers).

C. P.—Rs. 11,240 spent so far.

Madras.—Expenditure incurred Rs. 46,000.

U. P.—Expenditure of Rs. 13 lakhs sanctioned upto end of October, 1947.

Assam; East Punjab.—Report awaited.

(e) Government have appointed Deputy High Commissioners at Karachi and Lahore and a special officer at Peshawar. The East Punjab Government have appointed a Chief Liaison Officer, a Deputy Chief Liaison Officer and District Liaison Officers in each of the districts. Arrangements have been made for close guarding of the Refugee Camps with units of Indian Army. Evacuation has been systematised and intensified by closer co-operation between Military Evacuation Organization and the Government of Pakistan. Evacuation of isolated pockets and concentration of Non-Muslims in larger numbers has also been attempted as a first step to evacuation in more inaccessible areas.

STEPS FOR COMPENSATION FOR LOSSES SUSTAINED BY NON-MUSLIMS.

36. *Shri Jagat Narain Lal: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state what steps have Government taken to secure compensation for the losses sustained and the property left behind by those who

have been killed or injured and who are still staying in Pakistan and those who have migrated from Pakistan?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given by me to clause (b) of Question No. 20 by Shri Ram Chandra Gupta.

DAMODAR VALLEY SCHEME PROJECT

37. *Shri B. A. Mandloi: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether besides the multi-purpose project of the Damodar Valley Scheme, Government have got examined any other such schemes?

(b) If so, what are the names of those schemes with reference to the Province or Provinces in which they are to be undertaken?

(c) Have Government fixed any order of priority in working out any of the schemes?

(d) when these schemes are likely to be undertaken?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Yes.

(b) A statement showing the various multi-purpose development schemes under investigation by the Central and the Provincial Governments is laid on the table of the House. This has been compiled on the basis of information available with Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission.

(c) and (d). The order of priority in Provinces is as given in the statement; but it is likely to be modified according to circumstances in future. As regards the schemes undertaken by Central Technical Power Board and Central, Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission the Tilaiya and Konar Dam Projects on the Damodar river and the Hirakud dam on the Mahanadi are more or less ripe for execution. The Bhakra Project in East Punjab, the Tungabhadra Project in Madras, the Rihand dam in United Provinces, and the Mor Project in Bengal are also ripe for execution. Preliminary work is going on in respect of the Tilaiya, Konar, Hirakud and Bhakra dam projects as also in some other provincial Government projects.

It is difficult to state when the actual construction of each project will begin, as that will depend on the results of further investigations, financial implications and the available of personnel, equipment and materials.

Statement showing the various multi-purpose developed schemes under investigation by the Central and Provincial Governments referred in part (b) of Starred Question No. 37 in the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative) for 18th November 1947.

(i) Mahanadi Valley Scheme in Orissa.

(ii) The Damodar Valley.

(iii) Kosi Dam Project in Nepal and Bihar.

(iv) Narmada, Tapi and Sabarmati projects in Bombay, Central Provinces, Baroda, Central India and Kathiawar States.

(v) Indravati and Sabri schemes in Bastar State.

(vi) Brahmaputra, Barak and Someshwari rivers valley development schemes in Assam.

(vii) Sone Valley Scheme in Bihar, United Provinces and Rewa State.

Under investigation by the East Punjab Government

(i) Bhakra Dam Scheme.

Under investigation by the United Provinces Government

- (i) Rihand Dam Scheme.
- (ii) Nayar Dam Scheme.
- (iii) Ramganga Dam Project.

Under investigation by the West Bengal Government

- (i) Mor Project.

Under investigation by the Madras Government

- (i) Tungabhadra Project.
- (ii) Ramapadsagar Project.

Under investigation by the Coorg Administration

- (i) Lakshmanteertha Project.
- (ii) Harangi Project.
- (iii) Barapole Schemes.

Under investigation by the Patiala Government

- (i) Dochi Dam Scheme.

Under investigation by the Kotah, Mewar and Indore States

- (i) Chambal Scheme.

UTILIZATION OF NARBUDDA, TAPTI AND MAHANADI RIVERS FOR MULTI-PURPOSE SCHEME

38. *Shri B. A. Mandloi: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of India in co-operation and consultation with the Central Provinces and Berar Government contemplate to utilise the Narbudda, Tapti and Mahanadi rivers for multi-purpose scheme, viz., transport, irrigation and electricity?

(b) If so, have the above schemes taken a definite shape and when are they likely to be undertaken?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Yes.

(b) The investigation of the Narbuda and Tapti schemes is just being started; the work will be completed as quickly as possible by the Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission. It is not possible to say at present when the projects will be ripe for execution.

In respect of the Mahanadi the Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission have completed the preliminary investigations and submitted a report to the Orissa Government. That Government considered it and placed it before their Legislature. The Provincial Legislature have considered the report and authorised the Orissa Government to give effect to the recommendations made in the report. The Orissa Government have since accorded their administrative approval to the Hirakud Dam Project and have requested the Government of India to ask the Commission to undertake construction of the Project as Agents of the Orissa Government. At a Conference consisting of the representatives of the Governments of Orissa and Central

Provinces and Berar and some States on the 14th November, it was decided to proceed urgently with the construction of the Hirakud Dam. The work will commence as soon as detailed designs are completed and other necessary preliminaries finished.

COMPENSATION FOR LOSS OF PROPERTY TO EVACUEES.

39. *Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) how much property has been estimated to have been left by non-Muslim evacuees in Pakistan;

(b) how much property has been estimated to have been left by Muslim evacuees in India; and

(c) what agreement, if any, is reached about awarding compensation for the loss of property sustained by evacuees?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) The Honourable member is referred to the answer given by me to clause (b) of Question No. 20 by Shri Ram Chandra Gupta.

(b) The Honourable member is referred to the answer given by me to clause (c) of Question No. 27 by Shri K. Santhanam.

(c) It is proposed to take up the question with Pakistan Government Representative shortly.

SELECTION OF AMBASSADORS, HIGH COMMISSIONERS, CONSULS, ETC.

40. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether Government propose to review the policy in determining the selection of Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Consuls, Charge de' Affairs, Personal Envoys, Agents, etc?

(b) How many of them at present are non-officials and how many are civil servants?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The policy is and has been to select the most suitably qualified person and needs no review.

(b) Of posts of the rank of Minister and above eleven are held by non-officials and three by officials. Among consular posts three are held by non-officials and two by officials.

ESTABLISHMENT OF DEVELOPMENT BOARD

41. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state as to when and how the Development Board is proposed to be established?

(b) What will be its functions and approximate cost of its maintenance?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b). As a Development Board is already in existence, I presume that what the Honourable Member has in mind is the setting up of a Central Organisation for planning. That matter is under consideration.

REPORT ON WORKING OF OFFICE OF ECONOMIC ADVISER TO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

42. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state the nature of the work of the Economic Adviser to the Government of India?

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- (b) Is the Statistical Section also working under him?
(c) Are any periodical reports issued about the working of his office?

(d) If so, when was the last report issued and was the same supplied to members of the Legislature?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Broadly speaking, the functions of the Economic Adviser consist of the collection, study and interpretation of all economic information bearing or likely to bear on India's economic welfare and the supply of information and advice to Government as a whole and to the executive Ministries as required.

- (b) Yes.
(c) No.
(d) Does not arise.

WORK OF INDIAN DELEGATION TO WORLD TRADE CONFERENCE IN GENEVA

43. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement regarding the work of the Indian Trade Delegation to the World Trade Conference in Geneva?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The Conference at Geneva which the Honourable Member has in mind is presumably the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment. The Committee has prepared a draft Charter which will be discussed at the World Conference scheduled to meet at Havana on the 21st November, and the Indian Delegation took an active part in the shaping of this draft. A copy of the report of the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment containing the draft Charter is placed on the table of the House. The Indian Delegation also conducted tariff negotiations with the other countries represented at Geneva. The results of these negotiations are embodied in a general agreement on Tariffs and Trade which has been released today. A press note issued in that connection, a copy of which is placed on the table of the House, indicates the scope and nature of these negotiations.

APPOINTMENT OF LABOUR OFFICER FOR BURMA

44. *Shri S. Nagappa: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India propose to appoint a Labour Officer for Burma;
(b) if so, whether Government propose to select an Andhra, as most of the labourers in Burma are Andhras who can express only in Telugu language;
(c) whether Government have received any representation from any Andhra Public Body to this effect; and
(d) if so, what are the representations and what action has been taken by Government so far in the matter?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes.

(b) The selection is being made through the Federal Public Service Commission and the candidate considered by the Commission to be best suited for

Not printed in the Debates. A copy of each placed in the library of the House.

the post will be chosen. The Honourable Member's statement that most of the labourers in Burma are Andhras is not borne out by available figures.

(c) and (d). Relevant extracts from a representation received from the Honorary Secretary, Andhra Provincial Hindu Religious Affairs Council, Pali, and Government's reply are placed on the table

Extracts

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER, DATED THE 10TH JUNE 1947, FROM THE HONORARY SECRETARY, ANDHRA PROVINCIAL HINDU RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS COUNCIL, PALI, TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS.

Our Council feels it a dire necessity to send one Andhra man to Burma who can come down to the level of the labour classes in order to gain close contact with them just to represent their grievances to the Indian Representative of Burma.

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER NO. F. 30-10/47-O.S. (II), DATED THE 18TH JULY 1947, FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS, TO THE HONORARY SECRETARY, ANDHRA PROVINCIAL HINDU RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS COUNCIL, PALI.

The Government of India have sanctioned the post of a Labour Officer in the office of the Representative of the Government of India in Burma and an appointment thereto is likely to be made shortly. Such an officer, when appointed, will look after the interests of Indian labourers including Andhra labourers in Burma.

ANTI-INDIAN PROPAGANDA IN BRITISH AND AMERICAN PRESS

45. *Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the reports sent by correspondents of British and American newspapers in India about the Punjab disturbances to England and the Dominions, the United States and China have been one-sided and exaggerated and have tended to create a prejudice against India in these countries?

(b) What steps have been taken by the Indian Embassy in the United States and the Indian High Commissioner in England to counteract this anti-Indian propaganda in these countries?

(c) Have Government impressed on the correspondents concerned the imperative necessity of fairness and accuracy on their part?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: This question is the concern of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and will be answered by the Deputy Prime Minister on a day allotted to that Ministry.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIAN AGENTS IN BRITISH COLONIES

46. *Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether Government have made any efforts in the course of this year to persuade the British Government to agree to the appointment of Indian Agents in those British Colonies where there is a settled Indian population? If so, what has been their result?

(b) If Government's efforts have been successful, what are the Colonies where Government propose to appoint Indian Agents?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b). At the request of the Government of India, which was repeated this year, His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom have agreed in principle to the appointment of Indian Agents in East Africa, Fiji, Mauritius and the British West Indies subject to agreement being reached about their precise status and functions. Discussion is now in progress between the two Governments on the status and functions of the Agents.

MODIFICATION OF IMMIGRATION BILLS BY GOVERNMENT OF KENYA, UGANDA AND TANGANYIKA

47. *Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the Immigration Bills which the Governments of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika proposed to place before their Legislatures last year have been modified in any respect in response to the representation of the Government of India, and if so, in what respect?

(b) Have Government received any representations from the Indian Communities in these Colonies regarding the new Bills? If so, on what points?

(c) What steps have been taken by Government to protect the interests of the Indians concerned?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Following representations from the Government of India, the 1946 Immigration Bills have been revised, and the new Immigration Bills published in April 1947 contain the following improved features:

(i) The definition of a "prohibited immigrant" has been modified so as not to apply to permanent residents so that a permanent resident as well as a person born in one of the East-African territories will not be liable to deportation.

(ii) A "permanent resident" of the colony will automatically be entitled to an entry permit or entry pass under the revised regulation.

(iii) The holder of a passport containing a certificate of permanent residence issued under authority will automatically be entitled to inter-territorial movement.

(iv) Requirements of capital from immigrants intending to engage in business or trade have been considerably reduced.

(b) Yes. Apart from raising objection to the basic principles of the Bills, representations have been made against the under-mentioned provisions in the Bills.

(i) Arrest without warrant of a person suspected of having contravened the immigration law.

(ii) The requirement of medical examination of immigrants at the will of the Immigration Officers.

(iii) Prohibition of a change of prescribed occupation within five years of entry.

(iv) Failure to provide for the constitution of the prescribed Authority for granting entry permits and of the Appellate Tribunal in the body of the Bills.

(v) Wide rule-making powers left to the local governments.

(c) Government have made suitable representations to His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom.

ESTABLISHMENT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES OF THE ASSEMBLY

48. *Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether Government propose to take steps during this session to establish Advisory Committees of the Assembly similar to those which existed before the 15th August, 1947, to advise them on matters concerning external affairs and the interests of overseas Indians? **D**

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: It is proposed to establish such Advisory Committees. **N 2731 N 47**

CONFLICT BETWEEN LANDLORDS AND AGRICULTURAL LABOUR

49. *Shri V. I. Munishwami Pillai: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the relationship between landlords and agricultural labour is getting greatly strained due to the present low wages with the result that the sowing and harvesting operations yield smaller output of foodgrains? **N 47-1/303**

(b) What efforts do Government propose to make in order to create a contented labour?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) Government are aware that the relationship between landlords and agricultural workers is strained in some parts of the country.

(b) Suitable action is being taken by Provincial Governments to settle the differences between employers and workers. The Minimum Wages Bill, now before the House makes provision for the statutory fixation of minimum wages. Government are also in correspondence with Provincial Governments regarding the institution of an enquiry into the conditions of agricultural labour. It is proposed to start with a pilot enquiry. The object of this and a fuller enquiry that may be planned later is to obtain the data necessary for the formulation of measures for improving the conditions of agricultural workers.

RECRUITMENT OF LABOUR IN THE PLANTATION AREAS

50. *Shri V. I. Munishwami Pillai: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether Government are aware that a large number of coolies are recruited for labour in the plantation areas in the ghats and mountains for very low wages?

(b) Is it a fact that in some parts of India large number of coolies employed by certain landlords are being sold to other landlords who in turn sell them to owners and managers of plantations in the ghat areas?

(c) If the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative do Government propose to make enquiries and to abolish such system?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) The question of wages for plantation workers was considered at the first meeting of the Plantation Labour Conference held in January last. Employers in Assam and Bengal then agreed to the payment of an additional dearness allowance. It was agreed at the Conference that a Family Budget Enquiry should be conducted to collect the data for fixing fair wages. The report embodying the results of the enquiry in Assam and Bengal is under print. The report in respect of the South Indian plantations is expected to be completed shortly. The second meeting of the Plantation Labour Conference will be held early next year and one of the important subjects that will come up for consideration at the meeting will relate to the fixation of fair wages.

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(b) whether steps have been taken to implement even that offer allowing Indians in French Indo-China to remit upto Rs. 200 per mensem per recipient in India;

(c) whether the Debt Settlement Agreement which was hoped to be completed soon, has been reached, if not, whether the Government of India propose to move in the matter and instruct the Vice Consul at Saigon to conclude the Debt Settlement and to remove the blockade and facilitate free remittances to India;

(d) whether the Government of India propose to consider the advisability of arranging to distribute the sum of Rs. 45 lakhs of the frozen assets of the French Indo-China Government in India among the Indian Nationals in India proportionate to the amounts to their credit in Indo-China;

(e) whether the Government of India propose to advance to the Indian Nationals a sum of at least Rs. 15 lakhs, as in the case of Burma Evacuees, with a view to relieving the immediate distress of the Indian Nationals struggling in India; and

(f) whether any representations have been made by the Indo-China Association and other bodies regarding this matter and if so, whether any action has been taken thereon, giving relief to the Indian Nationals owning property and funds in Indo-China, either by releasing the frozen assets of Indo-China Government with the Government of India, or by making advances to such persons to be recouped out of their holdings in Indo-China, through the Agent of the Indian Government there?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b). The French Government have agreed to allow remittances by Indians in Indo-China subject to a maximum of Rs. 200 per head, and an overall limit of Rs. 50,000 per mensem. They have however stipulated that these arrangements will take effect only after the Debt Settlement Agreement is signed.

(c) Negotiations for the conclusion of a Debt Settlement Agreement are still in progress between the Government of India in the Ministry of Commerce and the French representatives in India. This matter has to be settled in India and not by the Indian Consul at Saigon. I understand that only one point now remains for settlement and it is hoped that the Debt Settlement Agreement will be signed in the near future.

(d) No, Sir. The course suggested by the Honourable Member would amount to the forfeiture of the French assets in India, which would not be justified.

(e) The Evacuee Relief Scheme is in process of being wound up and it applied in any case only to persons who were forced to flee from enemy occupied territories during the war. So far as persons dependent on remittances from Indo-China are concerned, the Government of India will be prepared to consider the grant of an advance in rupees, against a corresponding deposit in piastres in Indo-China, in any case of proved hardship. Each case will be considered on its merits and it is not possible to say what the amount involved would be.

(f) The Government of India have received representations from various individuals as well as organisations. As to the action possible on these representations, I would refer the Honourable Member to the replies I have just given.

DEBT SETTLEMENT ARRANGEMENT WITH FRENCH GOVERNMENT OF INDO-CHINA.

56. *Shri V. N. Pillai: Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) the circumstances under which the debt settlement arrangement with the French Government of Indo-China have been delayed;

(b) whether it is a fact that in spite of representations made by various associations and interests to remove the ban of the free flow of funds into India, no action has yet been taken and if so, the reasons for the delay; and

(c) whether any suggestions have been made by the President of the Indo-China Association for solution of this problem of blocked up funds and if so, what action is proposed to be taken thereon and when?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) The Government of India regret that in spite of the anxiety of both the Government of India as well as the French Government to conclude a Debt Settlement Agreement with the least possible delay, it has not been possible to sign an agreement owing to differences of opinion between the two Governments on certain points. Most of the difficulties have now been resolved and there is only one point outstanding on which a reply from Paris is awaited.

(b) The ban referred to in the question has not been imposed by the Government of India but by the French Government. Government of India have made strong representations to the French Government, and a provisional agreement has now been reached on the question of remittances. As soon as the Debt Settlement Agreement has been signed, the arrangement will come into effect.

(c) Some suggestions were made but Government of India are anxious not to take any steps without the agreement of the French Government. They are, however, making every effort to settle this matter satisfactorily with all possible speed.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN PRIME MINISTERS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN re DISCONTINUANCE OF SEARCHES OF REFUGEES.

57. *Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether it is a fact that an agreement was arrived at between the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan on the 14th September that the searches of the refugees should be discontinued?

(b) Is it a fact that the Government of India have discontinued the searches but not the Government of Pakistan?

(c) What is the reason given by the Government of Pakistan for continuing the searches?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) Yes. In terms of a Press Communique issued from Government House Lahore on 3rd September 1947, after a meeting between the Prime Minister of India and the Prime Minister of Pakistan, the Provincial Governments of East Punjab and West Punjab agreed that evacuees will be permitted to take away at their discretion and within the limits of transport available moveable property, including licensed weapons, food, domestic animals, cars and vehicles which are not licensed for public use. There has been no explicit agreement in regard to N.-W. F. P. and Sind, but the Prime Minister Pakistan has on more than one occasion accepted the position that the agreement pertaining to West and East Punjab should apply to N.-W. F. P. and Sind also.

(b) Government of India have adhered to the agreement. But numerous cases have come to notice in which searches have continued in some parts of the Dominion of Pakistan.

(b) Government are not aware of the practice referred to by the Honourable Member.

(c) Does not arise.

INDIAN MILITARY MISSION IN GERMANY

51. Shrimati D. Velayudhan: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether Government have received any complaint regarding the Indian Military Mission in Germany?

(b) Who was in charge of the Military Mission and when was it formed?

(c) Had Government given any instructions regarding the duties and responsibilities of the Mission?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the answer given to Mr. G. B. Dani's question No. 718 on 4th March 1947 and to the Press Note dated the 28th February 1947 of which I placed a copy, on the same date, on the table of the House, in connection with my answer.

(b) The Mission began functioning in February 1946. Major General D. Stuart was Chief of the Mission until August the 15th of this year, when he was succeeded by Col. M. S. Wadalia.

(c) Yes.

REPATRIATION OF INDIANS FROM GERMANY.

52. *Shrimati D. Velayudhan: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether Government have got out of Germany all the Indians who were imprisoned or put in concentration camps there?

(b) Are Government aware of the whereabouts of one Mr. Nambiar who was kept in German concentration camp?

(c) Has he been released from there?

(d) If so, what steps have Government taken to bring him back to India?

(e) Are Government aware that he had not even enough clothing and that the Military Mission did not care anything about his welfare?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to a press note issued by the Government of India on 28th February 1947, of which I placed a copy on the table of the House on 4th March 1947.

(b) The information of the Government of India is that Mr. Nambiar is in Switzerland.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

(e) Government have received no complaint to this effect.

RESCUE OF ABDUCTED HINDU AND SIKH WOMEN FROM WEST PUNJAB AND REHABILITATION OF REFUGEES.

53. *Shrimati D. Velayudhan: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the measures Government have taken to get back the abducted Hindu or Sikh women in the Punjab;

(b) the number of abducted women till now rescued;

(c) whether Government have any idea of the number of Hindu and Sikh women abducted in West Punjab;

(d) whether Government have any scheme for the rehabilitation of the refugees;

(e) whether Government propose to take any measures to accept them as citizens of the Indian Union if they do not wish to go back to their old homes;

(f) the measures Government have taken to get back the movable property of the evacuees from West Punjab;

(g) the measures Government have taken to protect the landed property of the Hindus and Sikhs left in the West Punjab;

(h) whether they will be given any price for their property left there; and

(i) whether Government have taken any measures to allot them lands for the normal settlement of the refugees wherever lands are available in the Provinces?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) Abducted Hindu and Sikh women in the West Punjab are being recovered through the agency of Military Evacuation Organisation and Liaison Officers, with the help of local authorities.

(b) and (c). Figures are not yet available.

(d) The Honourable member is referred to the answer given by me to clause (e) of Question No. 1 by Shri Biswanath Das.

(e) Yes.

(f), (g) and (h). The Honourable member is referred to the answer given by me to clause (b) of Question No. 20 by Shri Ram Chandra Gupta.

(i) Allotment of land will be done by the Provinces or States where the refugees are to be rehabilitated. The Honourable Member is further referred to the answer given by me to clause (e) of Question No. 1 by Shri Biswanath Das.

ABOLITION OF THE TITLE "HIS EXCELLENCY" USED BY INDIAN GOVERNORS.

54. *Shrimati D. Velayudhan: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that titles such as "His Excellency" are used by our Indian Governors, and;

(b) whether Government propose to abolish such titles?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes.

(b) Government do not propose to take any action in this matter at present.

REMITTANCES FROM FRENCH INDO-CHINA TO INDIA.

55. Shri V. N. Pillai: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the stage at which the matter of the removal of the ban on remittances from French Indo-China to India, stands at present, subsequent to the interim offer made by the French Government to allow remittances upto Rs. 200 per mensem;

(c) The reason given is that search is needed for unlicensed arms and the ban on export of bulk merchandise and certain specified articles. Searches have been particularly severe in Sind but as a result of representations made by the Government of India the position has improved now. The Government of N.-W. F. P. have issued an Ordinance prohibiting the export of items like electric goods, sewing machines, watches, cycles, typewriters, woollen and silken clothes. Under the pretence of powers conferred by this Ordinance, local officials, in many instances, are carrying out harassing searches. The position regarding searches in West Punjab has also improved.

INDIAN ARMY AND THE INDIAN AIR FORCE (AMENDMENT) BILL [RECONSTRUCTION OF SELECT COMMITTEE]

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh (Minister for Defence): Sir I move:

"That the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Indian Army Act, 1911, and the Indian Air Force Act, 1932, for certain purposes and to make certain consequential amendment to the Administrator General's Act, 1913, be reconstituted with the following persons as members thereof, namely, Shri T. T. Krishnamachari, Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi, Shri U. Srinivasa Mallayya, Shri K. Santhanam, Shri Brajeshwar Prasad, Dr. V. Subrahmanyam, Shrimati Renuka Ray, Sardar Jogendra Singh, Shri Mohan Lal Saksena, Shri Jainarain Vyas, Col. Shri Maharaj Himmat Singhji, Shri Bikramlal Sondhi, Shri A. P. Pattani, Shri M. S. Aney, Shri Nandkishore Das, Mr. Hussain Imam, Shri S. K. Patil, Shri V. C. Kesava Rao, Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru, and the Mover.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Indian Army Act, 1911, and the Indian Air Force Act, 1932, for certain purposes and to make certain consequential amendments to the Administrator General's Act, 1913, be reconstituted with the following persons as members thereof, namely, Shri T. T. Krishnamachari, Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi, Shri U. Srinivasa Mallayya, Shri K. Santhanam, Shri Brajeshwar Prasad, Dr. V. Subrahmanyam, Shrimati Renuka Ray, Sardar Jogendra Singh, Shri Mohan Lal Saksena, Shri Jainarain Vyas, Col. Shri Maharaj Himmat Singhji, Shri Bikramlal Sondhi, Shri A. P. Pattani, Shri M. S. Aney, Shri Nandkishore Das, Mr. Hussain Imam, Shri S. K. Patil, Shri V. C. Kesava Rao, Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru, and the Mover.

May I know from the Honourable the Mover of the motion the period within which the Select Committee is to report and the quorum?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: If the Select Committee can finish its deliberations during the present session, the intention is to pass the Bill during this session.

Mr. Speaker: Whatever the intention, it has to be made clear in the motion itself, and even now the Honourable Member may add the date and the quorum.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I suggest that the quorum may be five, and the Select Committee may be directed to report by the 30th of November.

Mr. Speaker: The Select Committee will report by the 30th of November and the quorum will consist of five.

Shri Biswanath Das (Orissa: General): Sir, reference to a Select Committee means that the House accepts the principles underlying a Bill. The Bill in question has not been discussed on the floor of this House. It may have been discussed previously and the previous legislature may have accepted the principles underlying this Bill. But so far as this Legislature is concerned, it has not been discussed nor has the principle underlying the Bill been accepted. Under these circumstances I raise the point of order namely that the motion made by the Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh is out of order and cannot be referred to a Select Committee without this House going into the principles and accepting those principles and agreeing to a reference to the Select Committee.

Mr. Speaker: It is not possible to agree to the point of order raised. This House has succeeded the previous House. It has taken everything that has come before that House and the stage at which the Bill was, has to be taken as the stage at which it should be taken here. It is provided for by section 30 of the Government of India Act and I do not think the matter may be treated as a *de novo* subject coming here. It is only a question of reconstitution of the Committee. The principle has been accepted by this House.

Shri Biswanath Das: Am I entitled to make my submission to you in this regard?

Mr. Speaker: No, I have now given a ruling.

The question is:

"That the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Indian Army Act, 1911, and the Indian Air Force Act, 1932, for certain purposes and to make certain consequential amendments to the Administrator General's Act, 1913, be reconstituted with the following persons as members thereof, namely, Shri T. T. Krishnamachari, Shri L. Krishnaswami Prasad, Dr. V. Subrahmanyam, Shrimati Renuka Ray, Sardar Jogendra Singh, Shri Mohan Lal Saksena, Shri Jainarain Vyas, Col. Shri Maharaj Himmat Singhji, Shri Bikramlal Sondhi, Shri A. P. Pattani, Shri M. S. Aney, Shri Nandkishore Das, Mr. Hussain Imam, Shri S. K. Patil, Shri V. C. Kesava Rao, Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru, and the Mover, with instructions to report by the 30th November, 1947, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

The motion was adopted.

MINIMUM WAGES BILL

RECONSTITUTION OF SELECT COMMITTEE

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram (Minister for Labour): Sir, I move:

"That the Select Committee on the Bill to provide for fixing minimum wages in certain employments be reconstituted with the following persons as members thereof, namely, Prof. N. G. Ranga, Pandit Balkrishna Sharma, Shri R. R. Diwakar, Shri K. M. Munshi, Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, Shrimati G. Durga Bai, Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri, Shri Satya Narayan Sinha, Shri V. C. Kesava Rao, Diwan Chaman Lall, Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar, Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Nawab Muhammad Ismail Khan, Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth, Pandit Hiralal Shastri, Mr. Frank R. Anthony, Shri Brijlal Nandlal Biyani, Shri Biswanath Das, and the Mover, with instructions to report on the first day of the next session of the Assembly, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Select Committee on the Bill to provide for fixing minimum wages in certain employments be reconstituted with the following persons as members thereof, namely, Prof. N. G. Ranga, Pandit Balkrishna Sharma, Shri R. R. Diwakar, Shri K. M. Munshi, Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, Shrimati G. Durga Bai, Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri, Shri Satya Narayan Sinha, Shri V. C. Kesava Rao, Diwan Chaman Lall, Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar, Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Nawab Muhammad Ismail Khan, Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth, Pandit Hiralal Shastri, Mr. Frank R. Anthony, Shri Brijlal Nandlal Biyani, Shri Biswanath Das, and the Mover, with instructions to report on the first day of the next session of Assembly, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (Madras: Muslim): Sir, as you know, as regards the constitution of these Committees, the practice of this House has been to refer to the Parties for members to be included in the Committees. I find that on these two motions that have been made, as far as I know, no reference has been made to any of the Parties. Names have been entered

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without getting the consent of the Parties. However, Sir, I do not want to raise the issue now. I do not know what the new practice is. I should like to speak to my colleague on the other side to find out the position, but for the present I accept this under protest.

Mr. Speaker: I wanted to refer to the point from a different point of view. Honourable Members know that I have not been able to make any allotment of seats. On account of not knowing many of the Members of the House and on account of Members changing their seats, it is difficult for me to find out who is desirous of speaking or putting a question. So it would be better if we could come to some arrangement on that; and then I think it would be possible to evolve the old procedure but at present we are just trying to proceed as best as we can.

I will now put the motion to the House.

The question is:

"That the Select Committee on the Bill to provide for fixing minimum wages in certain employments be reconstituted with the following persons as members thereof, namely, Prof. N. G. Ranga, Pandit Balkrishna Sharma, Shri R. R. Diwakar, Shri K. M. Munshi, Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, Shrimati G. Durga Bai, Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri, Shri Satya Narayan Sinha, Shri V. C. Kesava Rao, Diwan Chaman Lall, Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar, Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Nawab Muhammad Ismail Khan, Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth, Pandit Hiralal Shastri, Mr. Frank R. Anthony, Shri Brijlal Nandlal Biyani, Shri Biswanath Das, and the Mover, with instructions to report on the first day of the next session of the Assembly, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

The motion was adopted.

UNITED NATIONS (PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES) BILL

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (Leader of the House): I beg to move, Sir:

"That the Bill to give effect to the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations be taken into consideration."

Sir, the Bill is more or less a formal one giving certain privileges and immunities to representatives of the United Nations, which are normally accorded to members of the diplomatic corps. India being a Member of the United Nations Organisation should give these privileges to the representatives of the U.N.O.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to give effect to the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations be taken into consideration."

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General): Sir, in free India we are today discussing a measure relating to the U.N.O. for the first time. It is not my object here to oppose the privileges proposed to be granted by this Bill. As proposed, representatives and officers of the U.N.O. will be entitled to certain privileges and immunities amounting to rights possessed by members of the diplomatic corps. But may I ask the Prime Minister what steps he will take to prevent the possibility of these representatives or officers or their families or guests acting as spies for their countries? Sir, during the recent Punjab disturbances, we had the painful experience of how the representatives of the B.B.C. of England circulated news in America and England—exaggerated news and false stories about India. I would like to be assured by the Government that they will see that the powers sought to be granted by this Bill are not abused by those who enjoy them.

My second point is in connection with India's position in the U.N.O. Sir, India is a Member of the U.N.O. and of the U.N.E.S.C.O. Only two days

ago I read in the paper that there were only 14 outsiders and no Indian personnel employed there whereas 814 were either American or British. Is it going to be the privilege of the American swash-bricklers or the British bullies to monopolise all secretariat jobs in the U.N.O. or the U.N.E.S.C.O.? I believe India pays very heavily for the organisation of the U.N.O. But are we going to be treated as helots there? Why should we not have an equal share prorata to our financial contributions in the loaves and fishes? America and England have lost their colonies and empires; they want to control Asia through this U.N.O. organisation as they tried to do through the League of Nations now defunct. I may be told that it is not so, but from my past experience I know the attitudes of the Americans and the English. Therefore, I do hope that the Prime Minister will give an assurance to this House and to the country at large that in the organisation of U.N.O. and U.N.E.S.C.O. and any other organisations that may spring forth from the U.N.O. dreams, Asia and particularly India will have proportionate and prorata representation in the personnel of the staff of those bodies. Our old friend, Dr. Pillai, who is our representative in the U.N.O. was complaining publicly that Indians are not there. Sir, I am not against the ratification or acceptance of these privileges to representatives of the U.N.O., but I do not want the old idea to be accepted that because India was a colony or is a Dominion of Britain, she must foot the bill while the Englishman and the American wander all over the world and talk any nonsense that they like.

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): Sir, I support the motion, but I want to make a point, which may appear technical but which is really a matter of principle. I do not think it is right that in any legislation the executive should be given the power to prescribe punishments. It is the natural prerogative of a legislature to prescribe punishments. Here in Clause 2 at the end there is a provision that "without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, provision may be made for the punishment of persons offending against the order." I understand that the real object of this provision is that the Government of India want to apply the sanctions or punishments which may be prescribed by the League of Nations, or otherwise they will come to the legislature for adding sections giving punishment. If that is so. . . .

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (East Punjab: General): May I raise a point of order, Sir? The Honourable Member is referring to the other Bill dealing with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

Shri K. Santhanam: Oh, I am sorry.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): Sir, I support the principle of the Bill and recommend to the House that it may be accepted as it stands even without an amendment. It is to our advantage to have this enactment passed into law as early as possible. The headquarters of the United Nations, as all the Members of the Assembly know, is in America and our officers, our delegates, our ambassadors, all have to go there. Ten to one, a provision like this will be to our advantage. There is no immediate chance of any of the officers of the U.N.O. being stationed in this country and the immunities that we are giving here may not be taken advantage of for a long time to come. It is only mutual and reciprocal and therefore there ought to be no difficulty about it at all. As a matter of fact, if I may remind such of the Honourable Members here who were in the previous legislature, we passed a similar provision regarding the International Bank. The International Bank has its branches in various countries and the Bank itself has been recognised to be a corporate body and a juridical personality with a right to own immovable property in various countries, the right to enter into contracts for purchase and sale of property and also a right to sue and be sued. Its officers and other

[Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru]

Asia or India, therefore we should not go there, I can understand that position, although I completely disagree with that. I think the United Nations as it is, is a very important organization. It is an organization which has, at any rate, some element of hope in it of pulling this world out of the morass in which it has sunk. It may fail, of course, but there is an element of hope in it and we have pinned ourselves to it and we should therefore co-operate with it and give it every possible facility. If we have any grievance against any employment or otherwise; we can take it up. If the grievances become so big that you want to come out of the United Nations you can do so, but so long as we are there we must treat it with the respect that it deserves. In fact we ourselves are members of it and if we talk in that fashion and without respect we ourselves lessen in our own respect in regard to an organization which we have joined. When we talk of the representatives of the United Nations we find that there are several Americans or Czechs or Russians; there may be Indians also going to other nations. Are you going to say that you will not treat the representatives of the United Nations in India as they should be treated as ambassadors and therefore, necessarily when your representatives go elsewhere they also cannot have their special treatment? It is an impossible position. This Bill, Sir, I submit is an obvious simple proposition which we must accept if we accept the United Nations. There may be some minor amendments which may or may not have been changed here and there. Some reference was made in the course of one or two speeches to them. But these documents are generally drafted in consultation with the United Nations Office and various countries adopt the same wording as far as possible. Two or three amendments have been suggested. May I say, Sir, that there are one or two formal amendments, just to change article 1 or 2 because the change has occurred since the Bill was introduced, a change in the whole status of India. Otherwise, I submit, Sir, that this Bill should be passed as it is.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to give effect to the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Sir, I move:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 1 of the Bill, the brackets and figures '(1)' be omitted."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 1 of the Bill, the brackets and figures '(1)' be omitted."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Sir, I move:

"That sub-clause (2) of clause 1 of the Bill be omitted."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That sub-clause (2) of clause 1 of the Bill be omitted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Shri K. Santhanam: I move:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 2 of the Bill, the word 'British' be omitted."

It is more or less consequential to the motion for deletion of sub-clause (2) of clause 1. There is no reason why in a matter concerning foreign policy we should make a law and confine it only to British India.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I accept the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 2 of the Bill, the word 'British' be omitted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in clause 3 of the Bill, for the words 'agreement or convention' in both places where they occur, the words 'agreement, convention or other instrument' be substituted."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in clause 3 of the Bill, for the words 'agreement or convention' in both places where they occur, the words 'agreement, convention or other instrument' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I move:

"That in clause 3 of the Bill the word 'British' wherever it occurs be omitted."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in clause 3 of the Bill the word 'British' wherever it occurs be omitted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

UNITED NATIONS (SECURITY COUNCIL) BILL

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (Leader of the House): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to enable effect to be given to certain provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, be taken into consideration."

This is an even shorter Bill than the previous one, and in effect it is to enable India to give effect to any general sanctions devised by the United Nations against any other country. In discussing this the only possible effect that might be considered is whether any punishment should be laid down at present or whether it should be left for future decision. It was pointed out by an Honourable Member who by mistake thought he was speaking on this Bill that normally power should not be given to Government to fix any punishment. That is perfectly correct and I have no doubt that when the time comes the legislature will do it. But for us at the present moment to fix any punishment would create difficulties. This Bill enables us to participate in economic sanctions against any particular country. It is not armed warfare; nevertheless it is an approach to warfare. At the present moment certain economic sanctions are functioning as between India and South Africa. Suppose we lay down some kind of punishment for those who offend against those sanctions, we can hardly lay down a very heavy punishment. There may be

[Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]

dignitaries have been granted similar immunities and privileges. We have passed that into law.

Article I of the United Nations Organisation says that it shall possess juridical personality. This is contained in Schedule of this Bill, Article I, Section I. Article II refers to its right to possess property, funds and assets, which follows as a natural consequence. The third Article refers to facilities in respect of communications for its Members. The fourth is in regard to the privileges of persons who can act as representatives of the members of the U.N.O. such as the right of entry into various places, the right to proceed from one place to another and so on. In Article V, the officials are allowed the same privileges as the representatives of the members in Article 4. Article VI extends the immunities to experts who come on particular missions on behalf of the United Nations. Therefore, Articles IV, V and VI relate to immunities to Members, representatives, officers and experts. They all stand on the same footing and are in the same category. Article VII refers to *Laissez-passer*, namely, *visas* on the production of which officers may move from country to country. That is only to facilitate easy passage of the officers and avoid delay. There is nothing wrong in it. Such *visas* are provided only to persons who come on business and not in their private capacity. Lastly, Sir, as regards disputes that might arise in relation to the property of the Organisation or its action in a particular country, a provision is made in Article VIII where it is laid down that such disputes might be referred to the International Court of Justice. This measure, I am sure, follows Articles 104 and 105 of the United Nations Charter which we all know is a model convention which has been adopted by various countries. It is therefore but befitting that we on our part should pass these conventions immediately. Then there is a provision which seeks to give power to the Central Government to modify these provisions in relation to similar International Organisations. Our Honourable Health Minister, Shrimati Amrit Kaur, presented to us yesterday a motion for adopting the Constitution of the World Health Organisation and circulated the same to us. Article 66 under Chapter 15 of that book relates to the legal capacity, privileges and immunities. Therefore, it is in the fitness of things that provision has been made in this Bill for extending these immunities and privileges to various other International Organisations. We are a member of the United Nations and what is expected of us is that we adopt the conventions laid down by the U.N.O. Therefore, the sooner we pass this Bill the better it will be for us, our officers and others who have to go to the U.N.O. and various other organisations.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Madras: General): Sir, I wish the speech which has just come from my friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar had come from the Leader of the House, because the convention has been till now for the mover of the Bill to state the general scope and objects of the Bill, so that the House would be helped to have a proper appreciation of the subject and then proceed to discuss the particular question before it. Secondly, Sir, I know that whatever we may say here today, we cannot freely move any amendments affecting any material portion or section of this Bill, because it is a Bill which is based on an agreement reached by the representatives of all nations at the United Nations level. Therefore, we are generally expected to pass it as it is. At the same time, it is relevant to make our observations in the hope that they will be taken into consideration by the U.N.O. at the proper time either at the initiative of our own delegates or the delegates of any other nation. I wish to make only one suggestion and that is in relation to part (b) of Section 5 in Article II which reads thus:

"The United Nations shall be free to transfer its funds, gold or currency from one country to another or within any country and to convert any currency held by it into any other currency."

I take it, Sir,—and I am speaking subject to correction—that these various monetary institutions that have been brought into existence by the United Nations Organisations will also be able to come under the provisions of this particular Bill and therefore would be entitled to all these various immunities and privileges. Therefore it will be possible for them to move their head office from one country to another. If the news of the movements of these funds were to be made public at any time, it is likely to upset the internal financial economy of that country and its credit also. Supposing some millions of pounds were to be deposited in our bank and it is published, then immediately it is quite possible that our credit goes up in the eyes of the other nations, but supposing for their own reasons they withdraw these funds and that news is also published, it is quite possible that some other nations might begin to think that there must be something wrong with the credit of our country. Therefore, Sir, I suggest that the news of such transfers of funds from one country to another belonging to the United Nations and on the initiative of the United Nations should not be published and should be known only to the Governments concerned and in regard to all other provisions I am in general agreement and I do feel that my Honourable friend Mr. B. Das if he were to take into consideration all the facts relevant to this matter will come to the conclusion that on the whole India stands to gain rather than would lose by passing this Bill.

Shri B. Das: I did not oppose it.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Sir, I am more or less a new-comer to this House and I am not used perhaps to talking on every possible occasion. I hope, Sir, that under your guidance and guidance of the House, I will improve in course of time. But I had always thought when anybody talked that there should be something worth talking about. On the other hand some of my Honourable colleagues think otherwise. I have just put forward a Bill which is essentially simple, everything that can be said about it has been said in the drafting of that which has been circulated. It is an obvious thing. Indeed it is inconceivable to me how anybody could not accept it *in toto* and yet I am reminded that I should repeat these clauses to this House and waste the very valuable time of this House. Well, if the House so desires, of course we can do that. But I do not think it will be advantageous to this House or the country to speak when it is not necessary to speak.

I listened with great interest to the speech which my Honourable friend Mr. B. Das delivered. My interest was heightened at every stage and into every expression he used. I could not connect it with the previous words. It became a jig-saw puzzle of ideas and words thrown about without any connection and without any relevance to the subject under debate. It is our business to see how many Indians are appointed to the United Nations and of Mr. Pillai who is representing India. Mr. Das referred to the nonsense that is talked by Members of the League of Nations or the United Nations. It was very interesting to have a glimpse into Mr. Das's mind and his opinions on the subject, but I should like to know what it had to do with this Bill in regard to the Immunities and Privileges to be granted to the Members of the United Nations. Either the United Nations are good enough for us to join them or they are not. If they are not good enough we should go out of it. If they are good enough then the inevitable consequences that must follow must be accepted. They are an International Organization and we must give them the same rank as we give normally to the representatives of nations, that is we consider them a juridical personality with all rights and privileges pertaining thereto. That means that any representative of theirs has a certain Ambassadorial status in regard to searches and other customs. It inevitably follows that the question is not whether an Indian should be appointed there or an Englishman or a Frenchman or anybody else. If it is said that the United Nations is not a worth-while organization, that it does not play fair towards

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Sir, I move:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 1 of the Bill, the brackets and figure '(1)' be omitted."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 1 of the Bill, the brackets and figure '(1)' be omitted."
The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Sir, I move:

"That sub-clause (2) of clause 1 of the Bill, be omitted."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That sub-clause (2) of clause 1 of the Bill, be omitted."
The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Sir, I move:

"That in clause 2 of the Bill, after the words 'make such provisions', the brackets and words '(including provisions having extra-territorial operation)' be inserted."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in clause 2 of the Bill, after the words 'make such provisions', the brackets and words '(including provisions having extra-territorial operation)' be inserted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The title and the preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

1 P.M. May I say in answer to what Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar said about an assurance to the Assembly that it will be consulted before decisions on matters like this are taken, that so far as I am concerned and also so far as the Government is concerned we gladly give the assurance that every matter will be brought before the Assembly at the earliest possible moment. In fact I can hardly conceive of such important matters being dealt with by the Government without frequent and constant reference to the Assembly and I hope that the convention may grow up that at least once in every session the Assembly will discuss foreign affairs in all their aspects. Sir, I move.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

INDIAN TRADE UNIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram (Minister for Labour): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration."

At this stage I do not propose to make any long speech. The present Bill provides that where the trade unions are registered and fulfil certain

conditions they should be recognised. If we were to analyse the number of strikes that we have had we will find that many of the disputes arose out of this question. When the workers organise themselves and present their grievances or demands to the employers, many of the employers are not in a mood to recognise the unions with the result that the relation between the employers and the employees start with some bitterness from the very beginning. The Bill provides that where the unions fulfil certain conditions, the unions should be given recognition by the employers and in case the employers fail to recognise the unions, the unions will have a right to represent their case to the labour courts and the labour courts will force the employers to recognise the unions. No doubt there is some element of compulsion in it but in the interest of the trade union movement in this country it is necessary that the workers are given some protection and that protection is there. viz., that the workers will get an opportunity to conduct negotiations with the employers and settle their differences as far as possible by mutual understanding. The Bill as it stands is no doubt in favour of the working classes to a greater extent but at the same time, we cannot say that it goes against the employers or the industry, because a contented labour force is in the interest of industry as well. So the Bill is not only in the interest of the working classes but it is also in the interest of industry and the employers as well. With these words I commend that the Bill be taken into consideration.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in part (b) of clause 3 of the Bill, in the proposed clause (b)(i) to section 2, in the proposed definition of 'employer', for the words 'a Government in British India', the following be substituted, namely:

"The Central Government or a Provincial Government'."

The amendment is consequential to the constitutional changes in the country.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in part (b) of clause 3 of the Bill, in the proposed clause (b)(i) to section 2, in the proposed definition of 'employer', for the words 'a Government in British India', the following be substituted, namely:

"The Central Government or a Provincial Government'."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Sir, I move:

"That for part (d) of clause 3 of the Bill, the following be substituted, namely:

"(d) after clause (k) as re-lettered by this section, the following clause shall be inserted, namely:

"(1) 'strike' has the meaning assigned to it in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 (XIV of 1947), 'illegal strike' means a strike which by virtue of any law for the time being in force is illegal, and 'irregular strike' means an illegal strike or a strike declared by a Trade Union in contravention of its rules referred to in clause (d) of section 23D,"."

[Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru]

a fine or a month's imprisonment; I can very well conceive of offences which are very grave even in regard to sanctions as between India and South Africa. There may be black marketing; some Indian or other person may try to make money by sending gunny-bags from India to South Africa. I consider that a very serious offence against the nation's policy and liable to heavy punishment. How are you going to deal with such a thing, if you put it in, without knowing what the situation will be? Any punishment laid down in this Bill, as is suggested in one of the amendments, would I think be unfortunate. It is of course true that it is not desirable that Government should be given a free hand; that depends entirely on the Government, i.e., on the responsible character of Government. If an occasion arises when sanctions are to be enforced against a country it is obvious that this will be a very important matter nationally and internationally. The matter will have to come up before the Assembly and will be discussed in connection with foreign affairs, international relations, etc. It is hardly likely that this kind of thing can be done quickly and speedily and in secret. The ultimate decision may perhaps however have to be very speedy. When the United Nations begin to function it means that a large number of nations have to agree, and that takes time. But the final decision may be very speedy; the legislature may not be sitting and Government may have to take action. As soon as the legislature meets obviously it discusses the situation and lays down any further policy to be pursued and punishments to be inflicted, etc. I would submit that in a short Bill of this kind we should not limit the Government's power to lay down punishments, etc. Also in such matters, normally speaking, we are following a draft which is an agreed draft among other countries. Sir, I move.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to enable effect to be given to certain provisions of the Charter of the United Nations be taken into consideration."

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): Sir, all Honourable Members will remember that Italy made war on Ethiopia. At that time India was a member of the League of Nations. A similar provision was there for economic sanctions in the League of Nations Charter against an aggressive party to be applied by the other members; the League Council passed such a Resolution. A similar enactment was not in the statute-book at that time but I remember that the then Finance Member Sir James Grigg brought forward a measure for imposing economic sanctions against Italy as both parties—Italy and Ethiopia were members of the League of Nations, and the former had started on an aggressive warfare. But things have so changed that in India today, after the 15th August, we have a responsible Government of the people. Under the League of Nations there is a similar provision for economic sanctions, it being obligatory on members to apply them as soon as the League Council passes such a resolution. But there is no such statute authorising it to impose economic sanctions like the present Bill. Previously there was a foreign Government in charge of the administration. We need not hesitate now to empower the present Government with powers to apply economic sanctions as and when necessary. We have heard the Leader of the House tell us how occasions might arise, when it may not be possible to approach the Assembly and introduce a particular Bill asking for permission to impose a particular kind of economic sanction. That must be left to the Government for the time being inasmuch as it is open to the House in an open session to take the Government to task if necessary. I am sure the Government will consult the Assembly before economic sanctions are applied. If it is not in session, I am sure the Government will place the matter before this Assembly when it meets for ratification. Whether the Government brings it forward for ratification or not, it is open to the Assembly to express its approval or displeasure and call upon the Government to withdraw these sanctions. It is

in the nature of things that the Government will of its own accord come to the Assembly and explain its attitude when a matter of such serious consequence comes up for a decision and it takes the decision without consulting the Assembly.

Therefore, I thought these safeguards might be introduced, though if the Assembly is in session, the Government will not impose sanctions unless the Assembly is consulted and the vote of the Assembly is taken. If the Assembly is not in session, then immediately on a session being called, the matter must be placed before the Assembly for approval. Unless this is done it will lapse on the expiry of six months. These are the ways in which I wish to restrict the powers of the Government for the good of the country and to see that the vote of the Legislature is taken. Even without such formal amendments to this Bill and directions to the Government, the Government will I hope take steps to consult this House and carry this House from time to time along with it. Therefore, it seems that particular clause for ratification is unnecessary. Mr. Thakurdas Bhargava has given an amendment that this matter should be placed before the Assembly for ratification. I would appeal to him not to press this amendment at this stage.

As regards the last portion of Clause 2 for empowering the Central Government to make provision for the punishment of persons offending against the order, no doubt as the Honourable the Premier in his opening remarks suggested it is normally not a power vested in the Executive. If any particular sanctions are applied, the citizens of India or any other persons may act, in which case, a deterrent punishment may be called for. When we are not having the facts before us it may not be possible to adjudicate what kind of sanctions may have to be applied. Some matters may not require such serious sanctions. Therefore, I consider it would be safer to leave this power in the hands of the Executive to find out and prescribe sanctions in a general way. I am sure the Executive will not abuse its power and would not differentiate between man and man. General orders would be issued about the nature of the sanctions. Such a power was suggested to the Executive under the Defence of India Rules. It may be said that under the Defence of India Act, it was a black Act. Under the Defence of India Rules they were able to prescribe punishments. It might be said we are not in the same situation as when it was necessary to pass the Defence of India Rules or Act. It is not so. This Act will come into operation at such time and circumstances when normally one would expect the Defence of India Rules to come into operation. The Defence of India Rules are usually under contemplation on the eve of war. This will be provided in an emergency. On the other hand in the Articles of the United Nations Charter, Article 41 seeks to apply economic sanctions. If those sanctions do not apply, it will not be a sufficient deterrent. Articles 42, 43 and the following insist upon armed force being supplied by the particular nation. Therefore, as soon as the Government is called upon to take action with regard to the imposition of these sanctions, we must assume that a state of war practically arose, and therefore it is nothing normal. We are accustomed to such rules and such power being vested in the Executive under the Defence of India Act and Rules. When an emergency arises this will take its place. Therefore there is nothing objectionable in the Bill. I commend it to the acceptance of the House.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I have nothing further to say.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to enable effect to be given to certain provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That for part (d) of clause 3 of the Bill, the following be substituted; namely:

(d) after clause (k) as re-lettered by this section, the following clause shall be inserted, namely:

"(1) 'strike' has the meaning assigned to it in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 (XIV of 1947), 'illegal strike' means a strike which by virtue of any law for the time being in force is illegal, and 'irregular strike' means an illegal strike or a strike declared by a Trade Union in contravention of its rules referred to in clause (d) of section 23D," "

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 3 as amended stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 as amended was added to the Bill.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Sir, I move:

"That in clause 4 of the Bill, in the proposed Chapter IIIA, in the heading of the proposed section 23B, for the words 'Industrial Courts', the words 'Labour Courts' be substituted."

In the Industrial Disputes Act we have got Labour Courts instead of Industrial Courts. This amendment is necessary to be in conformity with that Act.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in clause 4 of the Bill, in the proposed Chapter IIIA, in the heading of the proposed section 23B, for the words 'Industrial Courts', the words 'Labour Courts' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): Sir, I beg to move:

"That in clause 4 of the Bill, in the proposed Chapter IIIA, in the proviso to sub-clause (1) of the proposed clause 23B, for the words 'with the High Court' the words 'the Chief Justice of the High Court' be substituted."

Sir, my reason for the amendment is that consultation with the High Court is a thing to be elaborated upon and defined, whether it is to be a majority of the Judges or otherwise. I don't think such elaborate procedure is necessary. Consultation with the Chief Justice should suffice for the purpose. Sir, I move.

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That in clause 4 of the Bill, in the proposed Chapter IIIA, in the proviso to sub-clause (1) of the proposed clause 23B, for the words 'with the High Court' the words 'the Chief Justice of the High Court' be substituted."

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): I am surprised at the amendment moved by my friend Mr. Santhanam. I thought he was a greater democrat than any person professing himself to be so. It is unfortunate, I think, that our experience has not been so good as that of Mr. Santhanam. High Court means Judges of the High Court by majority. With regard to the Agricultural Relief Act passed in Madras, due to the whims and fancies of the presiding officer, judgments were coloured in favour of the lenders and the Act which was intended to benefit the borrower was stifled. I am not however casting any reflection against any judge. The Chief Justice might be a gentleman, but he will always choose a man according to his liking. I am not therefore in favour of giving absolute power in the hands of one Judge. After all he cannot escape human nature and his own associations. I think it is better to leave the clause as it stands without any particular amendment.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I am not pressing the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: Has the Honourable Member leave of the House to withdraw the amendment.

The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Shri K. Santhanam: I move:

"That in clause 4 of the Bill, in the proposed Chapter IIIA, for part (d) of the proposed clause 23D, the following be substituted, namely:

(d) that its rules provide for the procedure for ascertaining the opinion of the majority of the members of the Trade Union before declaring a strike;."

Sir, the clause as it stands says that the rules provide for the procedure for declaring a strike. This may mean that the Chairman or the President of the executive may declare a strike. So a mere declaration of procedure has no meaning. I have tried to give substance to this clause by saying that the procedure should be for ascertaining the majority opinion of the members. A strike should be declared after ascertaining the opinion of the majority of the members. I hope this amendment will be acceptable to the House.

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That in clause 4 of the Bill, in the proposed Chapter IIIA, for part (d) of the proposed clause 23D, the following be substituted, namely:

(d) that its rules provide for the procedure for ascertaining the opinion of the majority of the members of the Trade Union before declaring a strike;."

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U. P.: General): Sir, I am surprised at this amendment by my friend Mr. Santhanam. The reason is probably that he has not been in active labour work. Otherwise he would not probably have put in the amendment. In fact all Labour Unions, when they declare a general strike, have got elaborate methods for ascertaining the will of the members. But if this sort of provision is put into this Bill, for every small strike a referendum will have to be taken. Then probably all trade union activity will come to an end. Most strikes never take place. When the notice of a strike is given, the machinery of conciliation is put into operation, or the dispute is referred to some tribunal by the Government, and the strike never comes off. Lawful and regular strikes, if they are made so difficult as Mr. Santhanam wants them, will become almost impossible. I think the general clause as laid down here is quite good and it does give discretion to the unions to lay down their detailed method of ascertaining the opinion of the members. I do not think any very elaborate declaration should be necessary or will be helpful.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now adjourn for Lunch. Discussion will proceed at 2-30 p.m.

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

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half past Two of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

Shri H. V. Kamath (C. P. and Berar: General): May I request you, Sir, to extend the Lunch recess from 1½ hours to 1¾ hours?

Mr. Speaker: The original practice here has been to have an hour and a quarter for Lunch, and I think we better work longer hours. Further it would become too late in the afternoon to carry on after 5 p.m. The Honourable Minister for Labour is not here. The House was proceeding with the Bill further to amend the Indian Trade Unions Act as reported by the Select Committee. Clause 4 was under consideration and the amendment of Mr. Santhanam was under discussion. I believe Professor Ranga wanted to speak before the House rose for Lunch.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am inclined to support Mr. Santhanam's amendment, but that is because I am anxious that no union which is interested in deciding upon a strike should be able to do so unless it has the consent of at least a majority of its own members for that strike. Otherwise Sir, it may so happen that a union may be representing only 20 or 50 per cent of all the labour employed in any one concern or industry,

[Prof. N. G. Ranga]

and if you do not provide at least for a majority of its own members to decide in favour of a strike, it would mean that the decision in favour of a strike can only represent a tiny minority of the total number of the workers employed in the concern or industry. We want to safeguard ourselves against such a contingency, but at the same time some of my friends brought to my notice one other difficulty and that is a union may not be representing the labour in any particular concern but in a number of concerns for a particular industry and if you were going to insist that all its members who are employed not in any particular concern where there is going to be a dispute, but in all other concerns where there is no difficulty at all and no dispute at all, then it may mean that an unnecessary amount of trouble may be caused to all those other people who are not interested in it at all. I do not think it is such a very relevant or insuperable difficulty because any strike, if it is to be a success, should first of all evoke the sympathy and support of the general body of the workers employed in any one industry, and if those people employed in other concerns where there is no difficulty at all are also of the opinion that in the particular concern under question there are such troubles caused to the workers that they should be helped to go on strike, then such a strike is sure to be a success because it is sure of the sympathy and support of all the workers in the other concerns.

An Honourable Member: Sir, the Government is not represented in this House and I rise to a point of order whether we can in such circumstances proceed with the present discussion.

Mr. Speaker: There is somebody on behalf of Government taking notes and the Honourable Rajkumari is here. The Honourable Member may proceed.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Therefore I do not think it is such an insuperable difficulty. I find this particular amendment has a special virtue of its own. Supposing a union which represents only 5 per cent or 10 per cent. of all the workers employed in any one industry—and that is so in the case of a large number of unions in our country—has this in one of its rules that if a majority of its working committee were to decide in favour of a strike, it should be empowered to go on strike, then I am afraid it is going to be an untenable position. Therefore, it is most essential that Government should stipulate the rules subject to which alone any union should be empowered to go on strike. Now it may be argued why not leave it to the Government then to make rules? Why stipulate this condition here alone? My answer to that question is this: that it is better to place on the statute the provision that until and unless the majority of the members of any particular union which wants to go on strike agree to that strike and to that decision, there should not be any strike, so that that strike can be sure of success. I do not think it needs very much argument. The only thing I wish to assure my friend who was opposing it in the morning is that some of us also have had some experience in organizing and running these unions and we know only too well that no decision is so popular with many unions—not with all, I do not even mean to say with a majority of the unions—as to go on strike because there are so many difficulties at any time that the workers are suffering from that if only their leaders could agree among themselves to advise the workers to go on strike, there will always be a certain amount of support for that suggestion to go on strike. We want to guard ourselves against such snap decisions. It is for this reason, Sir, that I am more in favour of this amendment than in favour of the points raised by my honourable friend this morning.

Shri Khandubhai K. Desai (Bombay: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the amendment just moved by my honourable friend Mr. Santhanam I would like to offer a few observations. The amendment appears to have been moved through some misapprehension. The Select Committee's Report is very clear on the point. The condition precedent to the granting of recognition is that it provides for the procedure for declaring a strike. I think that should be enough. A union can only be recognised if it has got in its rules certain procedure for

the procedure for declaring a strike: I think that should be enough. A union can only be recognised if it has got in its rules certain procedure for declaring a strike. Let that be left to the union and if in the course of working, it is found that the rules are abused, or the right that has been given is abused, then it may be a matter for amending the legislation in future.

Assuming the amendment is accepted, what will be the result? Say in a City like Bombay or Ahmedabad, there are very large industrial unions with membership ranging from forty to fifty thousand. Suppose there is a dispute in a particular mill on which the union decides—or the workers of that particular mill decide—that there should be a strike, to go and get the opinion of the majority of the members means that out of 50,000 members at least more than 25,000 should vote for the strike. I think instead of preventing a strike this procedure might mean that you might give a handle to foment a general strike. So I would very strongly urge my friend on this side to withdraw his amendment and not press for it.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I for one am with Mr. Ranga on this question. Sir, the immediate past has shown us that strikes are resorted to for reasons and for no reasons. Any personal misunderstanding brings out a strike and there are such a large number of strikes that one does not know what the position of Industry is going to be in the future. Production has gone down very low and the situation is very critical. So it is up to everybody, Sir, who feels any responsibility about the future of our country to see not only that the labourers get their due but also that they realise their responsibility and they do their duty. What now happens is a Secretary or a President of a Union, when he has got a quarrel with the management, at once calls off and there is a strike; it goes on sometimes to the benefit of the labourers and very often to their detriment. Without any sense of responsibility this sort of thing is going on. So, Sir, if there is a ballot taken among all the persons who are likely to be affected and if there is a clear majority for a strike nobody objects that there may be a strike. But without it, to commit the labourers who are mostly ignorant and who are easily taken in by scheming men who force them into a strike, seems to me to be not doing any kindness to labour at all. If we are going to help labour, it should only be by adequate legislation which will really give power to labourers themselves and not to one or two people who may have their own axe to grind. So it is in that sense and in the interests of the country that we should avoid very hasty strikes and the resultant economic dislocation. Sir, I support the amendment moved by Mr. Santhanam.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain (United Provinces: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I listened to the speeches made in favour of the amendment, I felt that most of the speakers have hit beyond the mark. An examination of this Bill will show that a trade union can be recognised by the employer irrespective of the fact whether it lays down any procedure for going on a strike or not. So the main argument that the strike should not be resorted to in an irresponsible manner falls to the ground. It means that if a trade union is recognised by an employer of his own accord then the rules may or may not contain any condition prescribing the procedure for going on a strike. But if on the contrary, out of cussedness or for any other reason, the employer refuses to recognise the union by private negotiation and a trade union has to take the assistance of a court, then in that case clause 28D lays down that one of the conditions of the recognition would be that the rules must provide for the procedure for declaring a strike. A look at the heading of Section 28 D clearly indicates that this clause lays down conditions for the recognition by order of a labour court. Thus general and sweeping criticism that the amendment of Mr. K. Santhanam will provide against hasty strikes does not hold water.

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[Shri Ajit Prasad Jain]

Then, Sir, a look at clause 28F will show that the executive of the trade union has been vested with considerable powers. It can enter into negotiations about conditions of employment or non-employment or the terms of employment or conditions of labour of all or any of its members. India is a vast country. Labour conditions vary from place to place. In certain places the executive may be a very fully representative body and it should be very hard that we should be laying down any hard and fast majority rule by an enactment. I have known of some of the trade unions which lay down that a strike would be resorted to only when three-fourths of the members of the trade unions poll for a strike. Now an amendment of that nature rules out even a condition like that. I think that in a vast country like ours there must be considerable flexibility. We should not lay down any hard and fast condition. The clause as it stands, namely that the rules must provide a procedure for declaring a strike before a trade union could be recognised through a labour court is, I think, a sufficient safeguard and any more tampering with or narrowing down the liberty of the labourers would hamper the growth of trade union movement. I wish, Sir, that we should not behave in the manner of the old mother-in-law who lays down too many "Do this, Don't do that". It is a question which deals with the welfare of labour and since we want a strong and healthy labour movement to grow in this country I think it would be inappropriate to lay down too many conditions which may hamper the growth of a free and healthy trade union movement. With these few remarks I oppose the amendment of Mr. K. Santhanam.

Diwan Chaman Lall (East Punjab: General): Sir, the time of the House is precious and I do not want to waste much of it. The amendment which has been moved by my Honourable friend has apparently been conceived in a mood of thoughtlessness. The objections to this particular amendment are not only based on principle but also on procedure. I would like, first of all, my Honourable friend to look at the terms of his amendment. It says that "the rules of a trade union, before the trade union can seek and obtain recognition through a labour court, shall provide for the procedure for ascertaining the opinion of the majority of the members of the trade union before declaring a strike". Now, I want my Honourable friend to regard the words that he has used and to analyse them. As it is, a trade union declares a strike after wanting to obtain the opinion of its members. According to my Honourable friend's amendment, it must obtain the opinion of the majority of the members. Suppose only 30 per cent. of the union members vote in a strike ballot and 70 per cent. do not vote, then what happens? According to my Honourable friend, although there may be unanimity of opinion regarding the 30 per cent. who have actually participated in the voting, yet the strike cannot take place. You must compel, according to this amendment, the majority of the members to declare their opinion. Therefore 51 per cent. must declare their opinion before you are able to declare a strike. If I call for a strike ballot and only 80 per cent. of members participate in that ballot and all the 80 per cent. are in favour of the strike, even that verdict will not be accepted if this amendment is adopted.

Shri K. Santhanam: On a point of explanation, Sir. The words are: "the procedure for ascertaining". Whether they vote or not is not mentioned there.

Diwan Chaman Lall: "Procedure for ascertaining the view"—How are you going to ascertain the view or opinion except by getting 51 per cent. to declare it? I would like to know how otherwise it is possible to get them to declare their opinion. As I said, my Honourable friend has not really thought carefully over this particular matter. What he has really thought about is that he wants—and quite rightly in a democratic age,—that the majority should be allowed to declare their view, but this amendment does not cover that. Nor does it cover another important point.

Here we are dealing, as one Honourable Member has stated, with recognition not between a union seeking recognition from an employer of its own

but with one where a dispute has arisen and the employer refuses to grant recognition to its union. My Honourable friend ought to remember that many a strike has taken place in this country on this very basis of the employer refusing to grant recognition to a particular union, and it is for the purpose of facilitating the grant of that recognition that the Honourable the Labour Minister has provided for a particular procedure for going before the law court. All that is needed is that the union that seeks recognition must be a registered union. It must have its own executive properly elected and it must have a particular procedure laid down according to the exigencies of the situation regarding the ascertaining of the opinion of its members in the case of the declaration of a strike. That is all that is necessary. My Honourable friend speaking on behalf of the employers found himself in the circumstances of adversity in company with my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga and went beyond the point in trying to emphasise the necessity of preventing strikes. He has used certain expressions which, I am quite certain, that in sober moments when he thinks about this proposition and regards the dignity of labour, the great necessity of organising labour, he would not employ. One of the expressions was "labourers led by scheming men who force them to a strike". Now, may I ask my Honourable friend when he expatiated on the evils of a strike 'led by scheming men' and when he said that it caused great hardship, did he not realise that no scheming man can keep men out of work and out of food and out of shelter not only for themselves but for their families, their wives and their children unless the men themselves are so hard hit that they must necessarily back the strike men? (An Honourable Member: They can do so by going on strike). Going on strike is not such an easy matter as my Honourable friend considers. Even last year when we were faced with a general communication strike it was the general body of the workers which prevented the strike. There were leaders who believe, not because they were scheming men but because they honestly believed it that it was right for them at that particular moment to go out on strike and yet the general body of the workers stood firm and did not go out on strike. My Honourable friend must consider that these judicial things are not going to prevent strikes.

But there is another aspect of this subject. It was referred to in general terms by another speaker. If we are going to deal with this matter in a proper manner, we must understand the particular structure of a trade union today. Trade unions in India are of various kinds. There are the particular occupational unions engaged in one particular industry or one particular factory. There are Federations of unions and combinations of unions. Now it is obvious that these little unions may form themselves into Federations as they have done in India in many places. According to this amendment if it is passed, it will be essential and necessary for the entire Federation to be involved in a particular local strike. A group of machine-men in the Government of India Press got out on strike over an absolutely local grievance, but if you accept this amendment, you will be compelling the entire Federation to go into action and instead of localising that particular strike to the machine-men, you will be involving every Government of India Press in that particular strike. I submit, first of all, that this amendment should not have been placed in this clause which seeks to obtain recognition through the agency of the Labour Court for the unions which are denied recognition by my Honourable friend's colleagues—the employers, and secondly, that it is a very dangerous principle to import into the recognition of a particular trade union. It may have most exceedingly adverse effects instead of the beneficial effects which my Honourable friend the Mover of the amendment contemplates. Therefore, Sir, I vehemently oppose the amendment both on principle and on matters of procedure.

करके अपने बच्चों को सूखा मारना बहुत मुश्किल है। ऐसी परिस्थिति में हमको यहां इस अमेंडमेंट को कभी मंजूर नहीं करना चाहिये और इसका हर एक मेम्बर को विरोध करना चाहिये।

(English translation of the above speech.)

Shri Gopikrishna Vijayavargiya (Gwalior State): Mr. President, I rise to oppose this amendment. We in the Indian States apprehend that the mill-owners generally create many obstacles in the formation of labour union organisations. Now when the country has achieved its independence there should be a government of labourers and agricultural workers—there being a great majority of people in this country who are labourers. At the present moment it would be quite improper to pass any legislation or amendment which may tend to impose more restrictions on the labour organisations. I think that time has come now when we should move day-to-day towards Socialism and thus add to the strength of the labourers. It is a matter of deep regret that such a law should be made by this Assembly which would be misused by the employers. And this would result in the passing of legislation imposing restrictions on the workers with the consent of the members of this House. Therefore then it is very imperative that the amendment should be opposed. It is said that there are frequent "lightening strikes" and labourers resort to strikes very easily. Dewan Chaman Lall has stated that it is not an easy job to go on strike. On the contrary it is a difficult task. It is very difficult to starve one's children by proceeding on strikes. Under these circumstances we should not approve this amendment here and every member should oppose it.

Shri H. V. Pataskar (Bombay: General): I have listened to the debate which have gone on in respect of the simple provision which is proposed to be introduced. I may first of all point out that if we went through the report of the Select Committee, then it is clear that this provision does not affect the question of recognition by mutual agreement. Therefore, as recognition could be had by mutual agreement between the parties the point would only arise when the matter comes to the labour court as a result of no agreement between the employers and employees regarding such recognition. The provision in this Act is that "Before a trade union shall be entitled to demand recognition by order of the labour court under section 28C, it must fulfill certain conditions" and one of the conditions is that it must make rules providing for the procedure for declaring a strike and I think that this is good enough in itself. For instance, whenever the rules are going to be framed by any union normally they would make a provision that its decision was arrived at not by the Chairman or by anybody else but by a majority of the members. What procedure in this connection should be followed and how it should be arrived at are matters of detail which need not be gone into at the time when such a provision is being made in the Act itself. The principal idea and motive underlying Mr. Santhanam's amendment is probably this that strikes may not take place unnecessarily. But I think his amendment goes into needless details which might create unnecessary complications. The provision as it stands is simple enough. What is to be seen is whether there is proper provision for declaring a strike; and we would normally expect that any trade union in making provision for such procedure would make rules which are sound and good. It may be another thing when the matter goes to court, but before that we expect that the pro-

cedure provided for will be for the good of all parties. The whole trouble is due to the fact that there is a good deal of mutual distrust between the employers and the works, and therefore the discussion has taken two extreme forms. So far as the object of this legislation is concerned I think the provision is quite simple and I think it only means that there should be some procedure for declaring a strike. We should presume that the procedure for declaring a strike would be a normal procedure, and it would prescribe that only if the majority of the members of the union wishes to go on strike then alone a strike can be brought about. Whether the authority in this regard should be with the Chairman or there should be some other method of ascertaining the wishes of the members of the trade union is a matter of detail in which I think we need not go. I therefore, think that the provision is quite good for the purpose for which it is intended, and the more we go into greater details, the more trouble we are likely to create and there will be greater misunderstanding between the two parties.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Sir, I sympathise with my Honourable friend Mr. Santhanam and I have every sympathy with the object with which he has moved this amendment. But I am afraid the purpose which he has in view will not be served if his amendment is accepted. I quite appreciate his anxiety that whenever any strike is to be started the majority of workers in the factory or industry should support the strike. But I am afraid that by making this provision that purpose is not going to be served. Suppose in a union the membership consists of 15 per cent. of the workers employed in the factory or industry; if a majority of this 15 per cent. has to decide whether a strike is to be declared or not, it will mean that if only eight per cent. decide to start a strike it will be started. That will defeat the very purpose that Mr. Santhanam has in view. There will be other complications as well which have been elaborately discussed by so many speakers. The provision is very simple; it provides that in the constitution of the union a provision is to be made as to how a strike has to be declared. And I think the labour court while granting recognition to the union will take into consideration all these factors. I may point out to Mr. Santhanam that this is only for such cases as are referred to the labour courts; it does not come in where there is voluntary recognition by the employers. And I think in this view of the matter he will withdraw his amendment.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: Has the Honourable Member leave of the House to withdraw his amendment?

The amendment was by leave of the Assembly withdrawn.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I move:

"That in clause 4 of the Bill, in the proposed Chapter IIIA, in part (f) of the proposed clause 28D, the words 'and has been for at least six months prior to the date of the application to the Labour Court for recognition' be omitted."

Sir, I am afraid many of my Honourable friends have got a notion that I am against the trade union movement or that I want to make things harder for the workers. But it is just the reverse and my amendments will show that I am trying to make the Bill more consistent, precise and practical. In the report of the Select Committee the minority has rightly urged that this period of six months is wholly unnecessary and there should be recognition of trade unions already registered if they fulfil all these other conditions laid down in this clause. If the court finds that all these conditions are satisfied I do not see any necessity for insisting that it should be six months old. Sometimes in times of stress unions are properly formed and organised and to recognise them may be the best way to avoid an industrial strike, and therefore we may leave it to the court. I do not see why after registration this

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa (C.P. and Berar: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Select Committee Report on this Trade Union Bill is really very important. Unfortunately, Sir, all of us, new members, are at a disadvantage in not studying it thoroughly well and sending certain amendments, as Bills and copies of Select Committee Reports were received by us only yesterday. I do not want to make a grievance of it, but those of the Honourable Members who were old members have had the advantage of studying the Bill itself and the Select Committee Report. I do not want to say that they have not given due consideration to the conditions that exist in the country today as far as industrial labour is concerned.

Sir, let me tell you as far as the conditions of labour are concerned they are changing every day and this report which has been submitted and probably considered, a few months ago will have to be radically changed if it was to be considered to-day by the Select Committee. I am sanguine that in the next Budget I won't be surprised if some other important changes are to be brought if the Select Committee passes it as it is. Well, Sir, whatever it

3 P. M. may be the Select Committee's report is before us and we are considering this and this particular aspect of this clause which is under consideration, I am very very strongly opposing the amendment moved by Honourable Mr. Santhanam. Mr. Santhanam's amendment wants to stiffen the rights of the labourers as far as the question of strike is concerned. It is very clear from it that he wants the majority decision of the members, the total number of members, not the total number of members present at the meeting. It makes a world of difference and those who are interested in labour affairs they know that when a question of strike comes in they come in very large number. It is up to the trade unions to make what rules they like. Some I know are interested in the trade unions. Some make two-thirds majority, some three-fourths majority and some a bare majority. They are themselves very mindful of it. They are very particular that the strike weapon is not to be used lightly. Let me tell you, Sir, that there is a wrong belief that the question of strike is treated lightly. That conception is wrong. The heads of the labour unions know their responsibility and before taking a decision they thoroughly go into the matter and before they allow the labourers to take a decision on the strike they put all the *pros* and *cons*, the result of it and the consequences of that strike if it comes up and then eventually when they feel that a strike is an absolute necessity then they allow it to go on. Therefore to bring an amendment that only those unions who shall declare by a majority shall have the right of recognition is wrong. Sir, my view of recognition is absolutely different. I will come when the section B clause comes in. When the union is registered under the Trade Union Act, when all the provisions of this Act have been fully fulfilled by the labourers and is duly registered and its number is given by the Government. I see no reason why it should not be automatically recognised by the employers. That is our grievance, Sir and that would be in accordance with changed times. Sir, that will be a real and a modern measure in the interests of the labourers. I endorse what as my Honourable friend Diwan Chaman Lal stated there have been strike when employers refused to recognition. Notwithstanding every requirement being fulfilled they refuse to recognise the union and the consequence have been strikes. We want to prevent that. The Government must realize that today. Before a union is registered the Registrar scrutinises each and every clause—several clauses there are in one of the applications which is submitted to the Registrar for Trade Unions—many times he returns to the trade union officials if one mistake is made and I know in some instances these returns are returned half a dozen times to fulfil the requirements. After having done that I fail to understand why the employers should come in the way of the labourers by merely stating that they do not recognise because they consider it beyond their dignity to sit by their side and discuss labour

problems. It is the co-operation that is wanted by the labourers with the employers. Several unions are working successfully by co-operating with employers. Some of the employers are very good and the recognition of the trade unions is done in an automatic way. But there are yet many who do not show these views. Those people should be taught a lesson. They are responsible for the breakdown of the social structure and not only that particular union and that particular factory suffers but it has an adverse effect upon other allied industries. Government, therefore, should see to it that they are automatically recognised after the registration, if they want to avoid such strikes. I am clamouring for this right of recognition for the last nine years whenever I had an occasion to do so, but in vain. Sir, therefore, I do submit that the Honourable Minister in charge of this Bill shall have to reconsider this matter if he really wants to avoid strikes. If the strike is to be avoided then the real method is the recognition of the union after it is duly registered. There should be no kind of interference by the employers and there should be no quibbling on this matter by the employers. They must see that the process goes through and therefore, Sir, I strongly oppose the amendment. I am rather surprised that Mr. Ranga who professes to be a champion of the labourers and agriculturists—he represents labour and presides over all India functions of the industrialists and he goes to the International Labour Conference—and he wants to curb the rights of the labourers.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Certainly not.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: What is it then. You want them to do certain things which is certainly against their right and their privileges. Show me any rule which is extravagant or rules which are going quite contrary to the provisions of the ordinary strikes. You have the experience in this matter. Can you show me any union where such a rule exists. You will not, I am sure. I can show you a number of such unions which have got two-thirds majority. Therefore, Sir, with these words, I strongly oppose the amendment.

श्री गोपीकृष्ण विजयवर्गीय : श्रीमान सभापति जी, मैं इस अमेन्डमेंट का विरोध करने के लिये खड़ा हुआ हूँ। देशी रियासतों में हम इसका अनुभव करते हैं कि मिल मालिक लोग अकसर मजदूरों का संगठन बनाने के काम में बहुत अड़गं लगाया करते हैं। आज कल जब कि देश स्वतंत्र हो गया है और अब मजदूर किसानों का राज्य होना चाहिये जब कि इस देश में अधिकांश लोग श्रमजीवी हैं। ऐसे समय में किसी ऐसे अमेन्डमेंट या कानून का पास होना जिससे कि मजदूरों पर ज्यादा बंधन लगाये जाय, बहुत ही अनुचित है। मैं समझता हूँ कि दिन प्रति दिन अब ऐसा समय आगया है कि हमको समाजवाद की तरफ जाना चाहिये और श्रमजीवियों को ज्यादा ताकत देनी चाहिये। यह बड़े अफसोस की बात होगी कि इस असेम्बली के द्वारा एक ऐसा कानून बनाया जाय और मालिक लोग उसका बेजा फायदा उठायें और इस असेम्बली के मेम्बरान की राय से मजदूरों पर बंधन लगाने वाले कानून बनें। इसलिये इस अमेन्डमेंट का विरोध करना बहुत जरूरी है। यह कहा जाता है कि बार बार Lightning strikes होजाती है और मजदूर बहुत आसानी से (strikes) कर डालते हैं। दोबान चमनलाल ने बतलाया कि हड़ताल करना बहुत मुश्किल होता है आसान काम नहीं है। हड़ताल

[Shri K. Santhanam]

long delay is insisted upon. I hope these amendments of mine will convince my Honourable friends that my intention is to help the workers against their own minority who want to drag them into strikes, and in other cases against employers who deny them their rightful privileges. Sir, I move.

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That in clause 4 of the Bill, in the proposed Chapter IIIA, in part (f) of the proposed clause 28D, the words 'and has been for at least six months prior to the date of the application to the Labour Court for recognition' be omitted."

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Sir, I congratulate my Honourable friend Mr. Santhanam on having brought forward this amendment. Unfortunately, as has been pointed out, we received copies of the Bill and the Select Committee report only this morning and we have had no time to give notice of amendments and we are thankful to Mr. Santhanam for giving this amendment. He has pointed out that after all the conditions are fulfilled there is no sense in giving six months' time to the employer to recognise a union. As one with experience I may say that if this condition is there the whole purpose of this Bill will be frustrated. This Bill relates to recognition to trade unions. If we read the whole Bill we will find it difficult to say whether labour has gained by it more rights or has incurred greater liabilities. Mr. N. M. Joshi who was a member of the Select Committee has observed that perhaps the advantages to labour accruing out of this Bill do not outweigh the disadvantages. If this provision about six months' time is insisted upon and the only right which a union gets after recognition is the right to receive replies to its letters from the employers, I do not see any use in the time of this House being taken up over this discussion. At present when no such Bill is in existence, the unions which are not recognised carry on negotiations with the employers; they make settlements and bargain with the employers. If the Bill is passed, the employers will stop taking any notice of the unions and they will stop replying to them; they will only say that you must get recognition first. If a union is registered say, for one month and satisfies all these conditions for recognition and still has to wait for five months more, the result will be that in spite of the fact that it represents 90 per cent. of the workers they will neither deal with it nor correspond with it. Thus the whole purpose of the Bill will be frustrated if this condition is imposed. Mr. Joshi has suggested that once a union is registered it should be entitled to be recognised and the other conditions which are being imposed should not be there. But if they are retained that is sufficient reason that no further delay should be caused in the recognition of a trade union after a trade union is registered and satisfies these conditions. Then there is the Labour Court. It is supposed to be composed of eminent persons. If in their collective wisdom they decide that a union satisfies all the conditions laid down by law and will genuinely serve the workers, then there is no sense in delaying its recognition. I hope, therefore, that the Honourable Minister will consider seriously whether by insisting on the retention of these words which Mr. Santhanam has asked to be deleted, he will not be frustrating the whole purpose of the Bill. I therefore request the House not to agree to the retention of these words. You have said that the unions will be recognised if they are representative of all the workers, if they have a procedure for declaring strikes and if they have an executive committee which meets at least every six months. I do not see then why further six months must pass after registration for the recognition of such a union. It is only when every condition is satisfied and when the inspectors have inspected all the registers that unions can get registration. If this Bill is passed today, all the unions which are functioning and which are responsible for much of the industrial peace in the country, will become useless. The employers will say, "We will not deal with you until you get recognition" and

the whole of the present machinery will be upset. Labour will take the law into their own hands and they will go on strikes for the continuation of their existing privileges. If the Honourable Member is really in earnest that there should be industrial peace and that unions should be recognised, he should accept this amendment of my friend, the Honourable Mr. Santhanam.

Shri Jagat Narain Lal (Bihar: General): Unfortunately I do not see eye to eye with the Honourable Member Mr. Saksena who has just supported the amendment. I stand for the sub-clause as it is. As the Bill has emerged from the Select Committee, they have been well advised in putting this condition. The reason is that a trade union should be of some standing before it can claim recognition. Any trade union worth its salt, any trade union which has strength behind it, is bound to be recognised by an employer. Mr. Saksena evidently is wrong when he says that if this clause is accepted, all trade unions which are in existence will be defunct because employers will refuse to recognise them and they will have to wait for six months. I hope he knows that any labour union which has strength behind it is bound to be and already stands recognised by an employer. In any field where factories exist and labour work, often more than one labour union comes into existence. Several labour unions established by different organisations can come into existence at one and the same time and it is very necessary that labour unions should be allowed to develop strength to a certain extent. Any trade union which has become registered will require some time before it can send its application. It will naturally ask the employer for recognition. There may be correspondence. All that is bound to take a month or two and then there will be time for it to approach the labour court. Therefore, Government in putting this condition that a trade union should be registered six months before it makes that application have acted rightly and this condition ought to be insisted upon by Government before it can ask any employer to give due recognition to a trade union. Therefore, I support the sub-clause.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa (C. P. and Berar: General): I would be inconsistent if I opposed the amendment of my friend, Mr. Santhanam. It is a well-thought out amendment and it should be supported by the House. My Honourable friend, Mr. Saksena, has made out a very good case in support of this amendment. After all, the union having been duly registered, why should it be held over for six months? Therefore, as we are aspiring at a future date by another amendment to be brought by the Honourable the Minister to amend this clause automatical recognition after registration—I feel that this is a very happy amendment and it must be accepted. I do not want to say anything more on this matter because the amendment itself is very self-explanatory and I see no reason why it should not be supported by the Government. The Honourable the last speaker's argument did not appeal to me. It may be advantageous to the employer as he rightly remarked for waiting for six months, but what is the advantage to the employer by allowing the union to wait for six months. That he has not narrated. On the contrary the irritation between the employer and employee will increase within that period and the justification for a strike will grow and they will affect very many other institutions. Therefore, as it is stated in the amendment, it is very necessary that this sentence should be removed from the original draft. I therefore support the amendment.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): I am in entire agreement with my honourable friend and the mover of the amendment that these labour unions must be recognised as early as possible. But they have ignored the later provision in 28(E) "Where a registered Trade Union having applied for recognition to an employer has failed to obtain recognition within a period of three months from the date of making such application....."

[Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]

After its registration, three months are allowed for an employer to find out whether it is a union which has to be recognised. Thereafter there are only three months more and the union can apply to a court for recognition. Do my friends want that no time should be allowed to the employer and that as soon as it is registered the employer must recognise the union? On the other hand, they are agreed as set out in 28E that some time must be left for the employer to recognise a union. If those three months are left, as we contemplated, we have got three months more after the refusal by an employer and before an application is made. Does my honourable friend say that the latter three months period is too long and therefore ought to be curtailed? Or, the moment some rejection letter is received from the employer immediately they must rush to a Court? Though there must be sympathy for the labour union, it is really out-doing its local conceptions. I am afraid there is no benefit to labour at all. If my honourable friend thinks that six months is too long, should that be reduced to four months? I do not agree with this on principle, but there must be some time lapsing between one application and another. Therefore, Mr. Santhanam should consider whether it is worth while pressing the amendment.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: Sir, from the trend of the speeches opposing the amendment it appears that some of the Honourable Members think that the strength of a union arises from the duration that it has been in existence and not from its membership. Clause 28E lays down that one of the conditions for recognition of a union by an order of the Court is that it should be representative of all workmen employed by the employers. That makes it abundantly clear that no trade union which does not enjoy representative character and the confidence of the employees can be recognised by a court of labour. If you look at the opening paragraph of section 28E you will see that first the trade union has to apply to the employer for recognition and if for three months the employer does not give the recognition to the union, the union gets the right to apply to the court of labour for recognition, that is for compulsory recognition on the fulfilment of the conditions laid down under section 28D. The clause under discussion, viz., sub-clause (f) of clause 28D prescribes a further period of apprenticeship of six months after which a trade union can be recognised by a court of labour. I fail to see any reason why this double period should be laid down. It stands to reason that an employer should be given a reasonable time during which he may decide whether or not he should voluntarily recognise the union but then to lay down a second period of apprenticeship appears to be an anomaly. It is open to the employer to recognise the trade union on the first day of its inception. As for the status and position of the trade union sufficient provision has been made in clause 28D before it can be recognised through a labour court and as such I do not see any force in the argument that clause (f) should be retained in this Bill.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Sir, I feel inclined to accept the amendment and therefore I do not propose to make any speech.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in clause 4 of the Bill, in the proposed Chapter IIIA, in part (f) of the proposed clause 28D, the words 'and has been for at least six months prior to the date of the application to the Labour Court for recognition' be omitted."

The motion was adopted.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I move:

"That in clause 4 of the Bill, in the proposed Chapter IIIA, in sub-clause (3) of the proposed clause 28E, for the words 'is entitled to recognition by the employer under this section', the following be substituted, namely:

'has fulfilled all the conditions for recognition set out in section 28D'."

This is only to clarify section 28E, sub-clause (3). The words "entitled to recognition by the employer" involves not only the satisfaction of the conditions of section 28D but the court will be free to insist on other conditions not mentioned. I do not think it was the intention of the Select Committee that further conditions should be insisted upon and therefore the minority report have suggested that this might be clarified. I am doing so accordingly.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Sir, I do not accept the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in clause 4 of the Bill, in the proposed Chapter IIIA, in sub-clause (3) of the proposed clause 28E, for the words 'is entitled to recognition by the employer under this section', the following be substituted, namely:

'has fulfilled all the conditions for recognition set out in section 28D'."

The motion was negatived.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I move:

"That in clause 4 of the Bill, in the proposed Chapter IIIA, in sub-clause (2) of the proposed clause 28F, for the words 'arrived at' where they occur for the second time, the words 'intimated to the executive' be substituted."

The time between intimation and when the conclusion is arrived at is rather indefinite and there may be a long interval between the arrival of a conclusion and the intimation to the executive of the trade union. Therefore the proper time must be only the time when it is intimated. So I move the amendment.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Sir, I accept the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in clause 4 of the Bill, in the proposed Chapter IIIA, in sub-clause (2) of the proposed clause 28F, for the words 'arrived at' where they occur for the second time, the words 'intimated to the executive' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I move:

"That in clause 4 of the Bill, in the proposed Chapter IIIA, after the proposed clause 28F, the following new clause be inserted, namely:

'28F (A). The executive of a recognised Union shall be entitled to—

- (i) display notices of the Union within the premises where its members are employed;
- (ii) collect subscriptions from its members within such premises; and
- (iii) make through Union representatives personal investigation regarding complaints of its members by going within the premises of the establishment;

and the employer shall make reasonable arrangements for all these purposes'."

The reasons for this amendment are given in the minority report of the Select Committee. I understand that there is some opposition to this amendment. I suggest that each of the clauses may be put separately, so that those clauses which are practically non-controversial, as for instance clause (1) may be adopted. I do not think there can be any objection for the employers being asked to allow the union executive to display its notices within the premises: otherwise how are members to know what the union has decided? It is the most convenient way. I think it is quite necessary and is a reasonable thing.

[Shri K. Santhanam]

As for collecting subscriptions, there may be difficulties. If the general opinion is that it is not desirable, I should not like to press it.

As for the third clause, I think it is quite necessary, because if there is no such provision for investigation within the premises any allegation by the worker will be believed by the trade union and it may become the beginning of a strike. Therefore it is good in the interest of the employer to allow the accredited representatives of the trade union within the premises of the establishment and investigate. If that is done, I am sure in 99 cases out of 100 they will find that the mistake was with the complaining labourer and thus many causes of misunderstanding between the employer and the workers will be removed. I think this is as much in the interest of the employer as of the worker and I hope sub-clauses (i) and (iii) will be accepted and if there is any difficulty about sub-clause (ii) I am quite willing to drop it.

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That in clause 4 of the Bill, in the proposed Chapter IIIA, after the proposed clause 28F, the following new clause be inserted, namely:

28F (A). The executive of a recognised Union shall be entitled to—

- (i) display notices of the Union within the premises where its members are employed;
- (ii) collect subscriptions from its members within such premises; and
- (iii) make through Union representatives personal investigation regarding complaints of its members by going within the premises of the establishment;

and the employer shall make reasonable arrangements for all these purposes."

Shrimati Renuka Ray (West Bengal: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fully support this amendment. I should first like to say that the Members experience a little difficulty because these Bills were only sent to us this morning and unless my honourable friend Mr. Santhanam had brought these amendments and thereby helped many of the Members, these matters may have gone by default.

I think that the purpose of this Bill, which is the growth of healthy trade unionism in this country, will to a large extent be lost if these provisions are not there. I do not think I need recapitulate the fact that trade unionism in this country is not only weak but is hardly existent in many types of employment. It is true that in recent months there has been an increase in the tendency for strikes amongst labour which is well organised. But we should not forget that so far as the vast number of labourers are concerned they are extremely ignorant, unorganised and fully exploited by the employers. Take for instance the employment in tea plantations. Tea plantation labour, as the House knows is one of the most exploited types of labour. In such cases it is not possible to start trade unionism at all unless some such provision is put into the Bill. From my own experience I should like to say that about a year ago I went down with some other members on an investigation of tea plantation labour in Assam. Before we went into this area we had first to ask the tea planters Association for permission to go to these gardens and we were asked whether we had come on behalf of the Trade Union Congress. As we were going as social reformers we were given permission without any difficulty into these tea gardens in Assam. But the point remains that had we been going for the purpose of starting trade unions, however good they might have been from the point of view of the employees, and employers and the country in general we should have failed to obtain permission. Of course when we went there we tackled the tea plantation garden managers about this and we were put off with the excuse that irresponsible persons not really interested in the healthy growth of trade unionism who came were not really interested in the welfare of the tea plantation labour, and so they had to be careful. This is merely one example and the same thing is true of many other types of employment. We should bear in mind when we think of a Bill like this coming into effect,

that it is not only the case of the labour where it is fairly well organised but the case of labour where it is still unorganised, to which we must direct our attention. In the later case it will just not be possible to have trade unions at all unless these provisions allowing facilities to trade union workers to enter premises and post notices and investigate conditions are embodied in this Bill, it will not be possible for trade unionism to grow properly in this Country. There is no point in a lengthy speech, as I feel that such a provision will and must be accepted even by such employers who desire the welfare of their labour. Organised and better informed labour will also lead to more efficient labour, and ultimately help national development in its many and varied aspects. These provisions are in keeping with the spirit of the objects and reasons of this Bill. I particularly wish to support the amendment and I hope the House will also support it.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Sir, I again wish to thank my Honourable friend, Mr. Santhanam for having brought this amendment. In fact in their Minute of Dissent to the Select Committee Report, the three members, Mr. N. M. Joshi, Miss Maniben Kara and Mr. S. Guruswami, wanted five conditions to be included. They say:

"We are of the opinion that the Bill even as it emerges out of the Select Committee places heavy restrictions on the Trade Unions seeking recognition and provides only a few advantages."

This Bill is putting some obligations on the Trade Unions. Henceforth Trade Unions will not be able to go on strike merely on their liking, but they will have to go through several formalities. I desire that labour should feel that while their freedom is being somewhat restricted, they are being given some rights without which trade unionism cannot spread rapidly. As these three experienced labour leaders have said, 'the only privilege allowed by the Bill to a recognised Trade Union is to receive replies to its letters and have interviews with management'. They say 'We feel that in addition to the above, facilities to enable it to do its work effectively should be provided by the employer to a recognised Trade Union. Some of the facilities we would like to be provided are given below; etc.' Of these five facilities, three are given in this amendment and two have been omitted, which I would have liked to be included. The two items omitted are:

- (c) Leave of absence to members of the executive for attending meetings and for negotiating with the employer; and
- (d) Consultation with representatives of the Union before making any change in the working conditions, particularly when the change happens to be to the disadvantage of the workers.

My Honourable friend Mr. Santhanam has taken only three out of the five conditions. I would request the Labour Member to extend the scope of Mr. Santhanam's amendment and to include in it all the five facilities which have been suggested.

My reason is simple. I know the Labour Member represents a class which is the labour class and I can certainly say that he has the welfare of labour genuinely at heart. But as one who has been devoting much time to this work for many years past I wish to say that so far trade unionism has not made many strides. Before the Ministry took reins in April 1946 there were in the United Provinces 34 registered Trade Unions. Today their number is about 300, so that with the coming of the new times the number of Trade Unions has increased to about nine times and probably it will go on increasing at an even more rapid stride. I want this progress should be maintained. But our experience shows that the reason why Trade Unions cannot go on with more rapidity is that the employers are putting so many obstacles in the way of the growth of trade unionism. I will give some example. In U.P. there

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are seventy working sugar factories. On the seventy factories there are registered unions in sixty. These Unions have for the last one year been struggling for better wages and have also got some. But the friction is there. The strikes are due to two things. The employers will not negotiate. They will try to victimize the workers who are the officers of the Union and find faults with them. The General Secretary of the U. P. and Bihar Chini Mill Mazdoor Federation in the U.P. was dismissed for the fault of collecting subscriptions inside the factory. If you do not permit him even to collect the subscriptions due to the Union from the members in the factory, I really wonder how they can function. In the Ahmedabad Textile Labour Union which Mahatma Gandhi founded and which today is one of the strongest unions the employers deduct the subscription from the workers' wages with their consent. I do not see why the officers of the Union should not be allowed to collect the subscription inside the premises. They are simple, honest persons and will not abuse their powers. And it does not take much time to take subscription from a member. There are so many other difficulties put forward in their way. The employer will not allow them to investigate complaints by visiting the spots where the incident occurred. If you are imposing so many obligations and conditions for recognition, the Unions must also have certain rights to perform elementary functions without which they cannot breathe and live. I therefore suggest that they must have the three rights mentioned in this amendment plus the two rights which Mr. Joshi, Miss Kara and Mr. Guruswami have suggested from long experience. Our sister has also just pointed out the condition of the tea gardens. She said that it is very difficult to proceed with trade unionism unless these rights are accorded. In every field of industrial labour, the conditions are the same. If these rights are granted, this Bill will be a sort of charter of freedom to them for uninterrupted work. Otherwise there are so many restrictions imposed in this Bill that it will become very difficult for Trade Unions to function. I am sure that if these rights are accepted and incorporated in this Bill, then by the end of the next year we shall have a much larger number of Unions registered and recognised, and labour will become much more organised. At present it is very difficult to organise it. Any worker who is a member of the union is victimized. Among the strikes in the sugar industry last year, at least 75 per cent. were caused on account of victimisation of active workers of the Trade Unions.

I have been connected with the O. and T. Railwaymen's Union and I know that there was recently a strike in Gorakhpur district for twelve hours. The whole machinery was upset because the representatives of the Union had not the right to go and inquire the complaints of the workers. As soon as the strike was there, in twelve hours the whole thing was put right. So what I say is that all these strikes which really occur on account of some small thing happening somewhere can be remedied if these facilities are given to the registered Trade Unions and unions which have gone through all the elaborate tests which have been put forward in this Bill. If you give these rights I can assure you the unions would welcome this Bill; otherwise this Bill would curtail their power of bargaining. I wish that this amendment of Mr. Santhanam should be accepted and I would request the Honourable Labour Minister to include the two other rights suggested by Mr. N. M. Joshi in his dissenting note. I think that in some places the leave demanded is already given. In the Railways, and the Postal Department for example, I know that whenever meetings of the recognised unions, are held the members are given leave, but I know that it is not given in other places. There is a Government Labour Committee holding enquiry in Cawnpore. Labourers come and attend meetings to give evidence; but they do not get leave with pay. I think, they must not lose wages for such days. I think it is very important in

the interests of organising labour on a proper footing that the members should be given leave with pay for attending important meetings. These are the elementary rights which experienced labour representatives have asked for in the Select Committee. Probably the Committee is overweighted with persons who have no sympathy for the workers, but I know that our Honourable Minister has the welfare of labour at heart. On so many occasions he has given his own views about the welfare of labour and I am sure his heart beats in unison with us. I am sure the Labour Minister, by giving these rights, will earn the eternal gratitude of the labourers of this country and will promote the welfare and organisation of labour. I am also sure that at present organized labour is comparatively very small. The total number of unorganised labourers is much larger, but the reason is that it is impossible to organize unions in many places. When these rights are given, I am sure much of the labour will become organized and illegal strikes will become things of the past. I hope that the Honourable the Labour Minister will accept the amendment and in this way earn the gratitude of labour as a whole.

Shri Jadubans Sahay (Bihar: General): Sir, I join in the appeal just made to the Honourable Minister for the acceptance of the amendment moved by Mr. Santhanam. Had this amendment been moved before, I would have felt difference in lending my support to it, but after the 15th August, conditions have changed. Is it too much for us to beg of the Honourable the Minister for Labour to allow these privileges to a recognised union? I am not one of those who stand in defence of persons who have been condemned as scheming and misleading labour, but I submit, Sir, that it is not too much to ask this House and the Honourable the Minister to allow the labour union executives to display notices of the union on the premises. If you are going to give charge of the industries to labourers in the years to come, then Sir, would you not allow the executive of recognised unions to display notices over the premises of the unions; and for us to debate over this right in the year of grace 1947, Sir, rather seems ridiculous. I would also request the Honourable Minister to allow the executive of a union to collect subscriptions from its members within such premises. Is it very wrong, Sir, for us to ask that the union executives should be allowed to collect subscriptions within the premises of a union? Where should they go to collect subscriptions? There are some employers—I do not mean all, but I do say a majority of them—who are hostile to labour unions. They ask them to get out of the premises. They enunciate section 144. I shall not bother this House with the details of the sorrows which the labourers are suffering from in this country. Enough to say that this request is a very modest one, that the labour union executive should be allowed to collect subscriptions within the premises of such unions. When the entire control is to pass into the hands of labour, it is not too much to ask that they should be allowed to collect subscriptions within their premises.

Again, Sir, regarding the third amendment, it has already been said by one of the Honourable Members that if Union representatives are allowed to go into the premises and investigate into the complaints of its members, some of the strikes would not occur. It is wrong to suppose that in all cases those who work in the labour unions are always unreasonable. That is not the case, Sir. We know that these laws are not meant for the protection of those who have to work in the fields and factory. These are paper laws which are broken in a thousand ways by the employers as they have vast resources at their disposal. But so far as labourers are concerned they do not have the resources or the intellect at their disposal. Therefore it is always better that employers should know who the masters are; they should be made to know that labourers and the kisans are the real masters. And therefore, Sir, it is not too much to ask that Labour Union representatives should be allowed to go into the premises and try to investigate into the charges levelled by its

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members, certainly with the help of the employers. If this is given, if this responsibility is saddled over the shoulders of labour workers, Sir, then the labour workers will also be trained to take over the responsibility of the factory in the days to come. With these few words, Sir, I commend this amendment for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far there has been no opposition to this amendment. Of those who have spoken, nearly four Honourable Members are in complete agreement with this amendment. That shows the very reasonableness of the three suggestions that have been made in this amendment and I am sure the Honourable Minister will feel the mind of the Members and accept the suggestions because their reasonableness is not one-sided. The reasonableness and fairness in these three suggestions are in the interest of both the employers and the employees. I will cite in a moment, Sir, how they are advantageous to both of them.

The first suggestion is "to display notices of the Union within the premises where its members are employed". It is a very healthy suggestion. Formerly and even now, the notices are displayed privately; instructions are sometimes given by the labour union representatives—some members give one instruction and others give another instruction. But according to the present suggestion the notice will be displayed at the premises where they are employed—open to the public, open to the employer and open to the employees. That is a great advantage to both of them. Employers do not have any complaints to make that any underhand or secret proposals have been made by the employees or that they have been taken by surprise.

Coming to the second proposal, namely, "to collect subscriptions from its members within such premises", it is certainly an advantage to the labour unions to be given facilities for collecting subscriptions from the premises because that really gives them a little advantage of collecting subscriptions on the salary day. What happens now is that some unions collect subscriptions outside often leading to subscriptions not being properly accounted for. Now it is laid down that the facility should be given to collect them openly in the premises so that there may not be any underhand game by any of the officials of the labour union. So from that point of view it is of advantage to both the classes.

The third one is a very important suggestion and much has been said on it. It allows the union representatives to enter the premises and enquire into any grievances and make a report. Many a times one-sided complaints are made and no opportunity given to the employees' representatives, with the result that it gives a one-sided view, although an enquiry has been made afterwards. The present suggestion is a good solution. By it, when a complaint is made the labour representatives ask for authority to enter the premises, see the labour union, see the employers' representatives, exchange views, and possibly come to a settlement on the spot and avoid a strike. That is the underlying idea of this suggestion and I am very glad to notice from the dissenting note of the previous Members—Mr. Joshi and others—that they also have suggested on these lines. They have also suggested another thing: leave of absence to members of the executive to attend meetings and for negotiating with the employers. As far as the first part is concerned, namely leave for attending the meetings, I am in agreement with it. Let me tell you, Sir, that our own Railway Board have recognised leave of absence for the North-Western Railway for members of the union attending the meetings. Their leave is granted and they are treated as present and passes also are given. People coming from far off places are given passes because it is recognised and the Government—even the

bureaucratic Government of the post—have recognised this right of allowing the union members to be present at the meetings by giving due facilities, free railway passes and also marking them present.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (West Bengal: General): Any allowances?

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Why should there be any allowances? They spend from their own pockets or from the union funds. They are poor, but they spend for it. If the employer would give then any such facilities I would certainly support it. Some of the unions where the facilities are given are working very nicely. It creates a cordiality between the employer and the employee. Those days are gone when the worker had to beg for his rights.

Having explained all this, I do not know whether there may be any Member who would oppose this amendment. So far there is none but even if there are any, I hope it would be a negligible number and that the House would support it.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, I labour under the disadvantage of being quite new both to this House as well as to the labour problems. The only labour I have known is spinning 500 yards every day; but it is individual labour.

I find that the trade unions are being referred to here. Trade unions, on pondering over the subject, strike me as corresponding to the opposition parties in this House. It is a Government composed of the Party in power and the party in opposition. Really both form one composite whole. You cannot dissociate one from the other. The trade union looks after the interests of the labourers while the employers look after their own interests and also, in their view, the interests of the labourers; so that if the two form two halves of a composite whole, both must be regarded as forming one indivisible unity. Just as you provide, Sir, in this House for rooms for Parties, where Party notices are posted and where Party collections are made and where also Party investigations are made, even so it is up to the employers to give not merely these three facilities which my friend has categorized in his amendment but to give premises for the office of the trade union. Once that is given all these difficulties will disappear. The employers must look upon the Trade Union as really helping them from their own standpoint. If this organic relationship is recognised—and that is what I would understand by the recognition extended to Trade Unions by the employers of factories—then all this conflict will disappear and each will try to work in consonance with the interests of the other. Well, if they are to be given such premises, I wish the Honourable Minister in charge of Labour would rise to the occasion and incorporate some such provision and arrange for offices "at which they are able to display their notices, collect their subscriptions and even investigate". Otherwise I feel a little difficulty in accepting the third of these suggestions.

Well, my friend who has spoken just before me has suggested that there was no opposition to the amendment. I was going to ask him not to hallo till he was out of the wood. On the third point, unless the arrangements I have suggested are made, I find that as things stand, an investigation in the premises is likely to disorganise the work of the factory. What is meant by "within the premises of the establishment"? I think it is the place where the work of the factory is going on. If I am right, it may be the office of the factory; at any rate it may not be the actual place where the machinery is located for then it will certainly disorganise the work of the machinery were any person who claims to be an officer of the Trade Union, to go with his entourage, his typists and his writers and office machinery in order to hold an

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investigation in the midst of the work of the factory. He will be attracting the attention of all the workers and the work will be disorganised and it will be very demoralizing. But if the "premises of the establishment" mean the out skirts of the outer compound, then of course I would support the suggestion. If the Honourable Minister in charge would not accept my suggestion, I would like to cut out the third and request him to accept the first two.

Shri V. I. Munishwami Pillai (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, coming as I do from a plantation area and knowing the difficulties of the plantation labourers, I can safely represent to the Honourable Minister for Labour that the amendment of my friend Mr. Santhanam is quite fitting with the conditions of the labourers in the plantations. During the past several decades, the European planters who owned the tea estates did not allow the representatives of the labourers even to approach their premises not to talk of representing their difficulties regarding habitation, facilities for drinking water, etc. When the Honourable Labour Minister paid a visit to the south, he was good enough to come to the plantations and he saw for himself the condition in which the labourers were living. I know as a matter of fact that he was flooded with representations not only from the plantation areas, but from other labour areas as well.

Sir, the very labour agents who are working for the betterment of the labourers are considered to be untouchables and the managements in the past did not, as I said, even allow them to enter their premises to know what difficulties the labourers were having. It was not possible for the labourers to come together and discuss their difficulties and to present a united case. Even in the matter of collection of subscriptions, the managements always stood against them and would not allow the subscriptions to be collected when their payments were made. Therefore, I entirely agree with the three points which my friend's amendment clearly lays down. Particularly, the third point about access to their very premises, I think is highly necessary. I feel, Sir, on the whole that this amendment is quite fitting and would request the Honourable Labour Minister to accept it.

श्री आर. वी. धुलेकर : स्पीकर महोदय, मुझे आश्चर्य मालूम पड़ता है कि आनरेबिल मिनिस्टर आफ लेबर अभी तक क्यों चुप है, उन्होंने इस संशोधन को अभी तक क्यों नहीं मंजूर किया। कभी कभी ऐसा जरूर होता है कि मिनिस्टर के पास कोई ऐसी आखिरी बंदूक होती है जिससे बहुत से लोग जो बोल चुके हैं उसको निशाना बनाकर सारी बहस को खत्म कर देती है। ऐसा भी जरूर असेम्बलियों में हुआ करता है कि सरकार की ओर से कोई न कोई ऐसे मेम्बर कुछ न कुछ ऐसा कहते हैं जिससे यह मालूम पड़े कि गवर्नमेंट इस तरह कि जो ३ बातें यहां उपस्थित की गई उनको मंजूर करने में क्यों हिचकिचा रही है। इस हाउस के चारों ओर से संशोधन के पक्ष में लोग बोल रहे हैं और अभी तक गवर्नमेंट की ओर से यह नहीं जाहिर होता कि आखिर उनको क्यों हिचकिचाहट है। मैं तो यह समझता हूं कदाचित कोई ऐसी बात छिपी हुई है। किंतु जो दो-तीन सुझाव किये गये हैं उनमें कोई बात नहीं पाई जाती। डाक्टर पट्टाभी ने यह कहा कि नोटिस रखने के लिये और यहां मासिक चंदा उगाहने के लिए एक दफ्तर होना चाहिये मैं समझता हूं वह बात ठीक है। इसलिये जब हाउस के हर तरफ से यह बात कही जा रही है तो मैं समझता हूं कि आनरेबिल मिनिस्टर साहब को तुरंत इस सुझाव को मंजूर कर लेना चाहिये।

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri R. V. Dhulekar (U. P.: General): Mr. Speaker, I am surprised to see why the Honourable Minister for Labour has been silent all along. Why has he not accepted this amendment until now? Sometime it does happen that the Minister has some bombshell to throw as a last thing which makes the people who have spoken its target and finishes the debate. It is also noticed in assemblies that some of the Government members say on behalf of the Government some such things that go a long way to suggest why the Government is hesitating in accepting the proposals that have been put forward. The members are speaking in favour of the amendment from all sides but it is not yet clear from the Government side what hesitation they have. As far as I can understand there is something mysterious about it. But whatever two or three suggestions have been put forward do not indicate any thing in this respect. Dr. Pattabhai said that there should be an office for keeping the notices and collecting the monthly subscription. I think he is right. Therefore when from every side of the house this is being said I think the Honourable Minister should accept the suggestion at once.

Shri Jaipal Singh (Bihar: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have great pleasure in supporting the amendment that has been moved by Mr. Santhanam. In a way, the amendment removes the odour of untouchability from Trade Unions. There have been very few employers indeed who have permitted Trade Union activities to take place within their premises. I know in Jamshedpur, for example, there is one steel company which, recently, has been permitting Trade Union executive to collect all their subscriptions and also do other work within their premises, but that may be the only exception I can cite. In the vast majority of cases, Trade Union workers are considered as dangerous and they are not permitted to come within the premises. Whenever there have been Tri-partite Conferences convened by the Government of India, employers have never lost an opportunity to say that they were in favour of encouraging a healthy growth of Trade Unionism. To my mind, here is a way of their doing it. If the Honourable Minister will accept this amendment and if the House will accept it, it simply means this, that the Trade Union workers, without interfering with production, will be enabled by law to come into direct contact with employers. That is the value of the amendment. That part of it which concerns the collection of subscriptions, to my mind, is the least important aspect. 28F (a) (i) and (iii) are very important because, whatever may be done within the premises, has to be done in conjunction and in close co-operation with the employers. The phrase here used as "reasonable arrangements". I think that should dispel the fear of Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya that the activities of Trade Union executives would detract from production. "Reasonable arrangements" does not mean that the Trade Union executive will be sitting outside the premises like untouchable pariahs. The employers and workers representatives will be in a position to go right inside and see things for themselves. By an examination of facts on the spot everyone can be convinced. I think that is the method which is going to promote better industrial relationships between the employers and the employed and I feel that the House would be doing a great service to the labourers in this age of effective collective bargaining. After all, trade unionism stands for that, namely, to enable the unions to function more easily and with greater facility.

I have great pleasure in supporting the amendment.

Mr. Hussain Imam (Bihar: Muslim): Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to intervene in the debate or to talk much on the merits, because on that point much has been said in favour of it and I have not heard any serious opposition to these proposals. I am more concerned with the procedural aspect of the matter. I think, Sir, that it will shorten the labour of the Assembly if the Government could indicate what it proposes to do in connection with amendments by some

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method so that where the Government is prepared to accept an amendment, we may have a shorter debate, but if the Government is not willing to accept it, it need not stifle the debate by making a prominent announcement of its position because it will act as a party discipline to stifle the debate. I do not want to stifle the debate but where it is a useless debate it should be shortened. When the Government is prepared to accept it—Government and its members have much important work to do, it is no use to anybody if a thing which is already accepted should take up the time of the House. The Government should indicate its right and the present-day Government should behave in a manner, not the same as the former Government which had points of prestige and which had certain interests to serve. The National Government is supposed to look after the interests of the people and the use of the party machinery to defeat amendments is a wrong method. What I appeal, Sir, is that if the suggestion is reasonable, fair and justified, it should be accepted and the party machinery should not be used to defeat the Motion. You may accept or may not do so, but fact remains that there is a party discipline. There ought to be. I say it ought to be, but what I am saying is that the Government should not use that machinery. It should be amenable to reason and accept the suggestions which on the face appears to be reasonable and in the interests of the people.

Diwan Chaman Lall: The only reason why I rise to support my Honourable friend's amendment is because of the serious opposition raised by Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya. I do not think the fears which he expressed are really genuine fears. If he listened carefully to the speech of the Lady Member, who gave a history of her experiences in the tea plantations he would see the urgency for investigation of complaints made by union officials under reasonable conditions, so that those complaints may be properly investigated.

In 1929, when I was the President of the All India Trade Union Congress, I made it a point to devote my energies towards the organization of plantation labour in Assam and for that purpose we sent an organiser to examine the conditions but, unfortunately, he was not able to get inside the tea plantations. Evidently he was got hold of by the Employers' Association, given some sort of drug and the next morning found himself on the steamer on his way to Burma, where we rescued him in due course.

In 1930 on the Labour Commission we went to Assam and investigated tea conditions on the spot and you will find the investigation in 17 volumes of evidence that have been collected on various topics connected with labour in India, but I can say with confidence that in no part of India did I find such horrible conditions verging upon semi-slavery, almost slavery, as I have found in the tea plantations of Assam. There was a man, the Sardar, in charge of cooly labour in the plantations. Invariable he was armed with a whip and if any organiser dared to go into these plantations, he was arrested for criminal trespass and the man was tried by the managers themselves of these tea estates, who had magisterial powers, which they utilised in order to prevent any outsider going into these plantations. Knowing all that I think my Honourable friend Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya will agree that there is an urgent necessity for a direction being given so that a legal right accrues to the working classes to obtain permission to go into these premises and estates and investigate labour conditions. Then again, as my Honourable friend has pointed out very ably, there is no permission being given for anybody to go in at any time and make an investigation but it is only under reasonable conditions. There is a story that when "Man and Superman" was first performed on the London stage, a play by Mr. Bernard Shaw, the whole audience after the third act applauded, but there was one man sitting up in the gallery who hissed and shouted when Shaw came on to the stage to receive the applause. Bernard Shaw addressed himself to that one man in the gallery. He said, "My friend I may agree with you" (Dr. Sitaramayya

in this case). But what we are two against all these others with their plaudits. May I suggest to my Honourable friend that he may accept this amendment?

Dr. V. Subrahmanyam (Madras: General): I support this amendment of Mr. Santhanam. If this amendment is accepted it will really help the employers, because the Managers of the Associations bring grave allegations against labourers. Once I was taken to a cement factory, near Trichinopoly and asked to interfere in a matter. I was not a labourer nor a member of that Association, but still I was refused admission and after all with great difficulty I managed to meet the Manager and he brought out grave allegations that such and such machinery were broken and certain other tools were thrown away. They gave reports of the happenings to their head offices. As regards the breaking of the machinery and other things, I think they are having some registers where they record that such and such a machine was repaired in such and such a year and some other things. If this amendment is approved and the Honourable the Minister accepts it, much misunderstanding can be removed and much help will be done to the labourers. So this will be very helpful matter for the labourers.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Sir, I have listened to the debate with all the attention that it deserves. It sometimes so happens Sir, that in our anxiety to do some good to the cause which is dear to us we lose sight of the dangers involved in the proposals. I for one, and more so when an appeal has been made from certain quarters to my class instinct, am one with the object of the amendment. Not only because I come from a class which is primarily the most exploited, but also I being to a party whose objective has always been to raise the common man to a higher level. As I have said I am one with the object of this amendment, but we have also to consider whether there is some danger in this proposal or not, and whether the proposal will work to the disadvantage of the working-classes. If after that through examination you find that it is only in the interest of the working classes, then I will not have the least objection in accepting the amendment.

I will take the amendments item by item and will take them in the reverse order in order to facilitate the argument.

"(iii) To make through Union representatives personal investigation regarding complaints of its members by going within the premises of the establishment and the employer shall make reasonable arrangements for all these purposes."

I find that Diwan Chaman Lall has left. But I am not in the position of Mr. Bernard Shaw and I do not take Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya to be the man in the gallery. If I am opposed to this amendment, Sir, I am not opposed on the ground on which Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya will oppose it. I do not oppose it. Rather I feel that it is superfluous. In view of the fact that in the Trade Dispute Act which the Legislative Assembly passed recently provision has been made for the constitution of works committees in every factory and industry, with a view that the day to day problems which may arise in the factory or in the industry may be smoothened by mutual discussion and negotiation between the employers and the employees. When a provision like that is already there on the statute book, I do not find any utility of this provision and I am sure the Mover of this amendment will withdraw it. The second item relates to the collection of subscriptions from the members within the premises. On the face of it this appears to be useful from the point of view of growth of Trade Unions. I am one of those who believe that the healthy growth of Trade Unionism is not only imperative but absolutely necessary in the interests of the industry of this country. But this Bill is not for organised labour; organised labour is in a position to take care of itself and will

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not wait for an Act like this where compulsory recognition is forced on the employers. Organised labour will fight out its own battles and settle with the employers; this Bill is primarily meant for disorganised labour which is not in a position to organise itself and face the employers or—if I may say so, coerce them to accept their reasonable demands. I know the condition of plantation labourers; I know that even if this provision is made in this Bill it will not help plantation labourers. Criminal trespass, for instance, will be there. In the tea plantation area the roads belong to the planters and I was told in Assam that people are not allowed to enter not merely the tea estate premises but even to use the roads; that would be criminal trespass.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Provision should be made to remove that disability.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I am coming to that, if my Honourable friend will have patience. It is not for the Trade Unions Act to remove that disability. But I may inform my Honourable friend that soon after I assumed office as Minister I convened a tripartite conference for plantation labour. I brought the facts to the notice of the planters and I may inform the House that I had reasonable success in persuading the planters not to behave as they had been behaving in the past; and I think the political change in the country is in itself a great change in the attitude of the planters and there will be no restrictions as used to be there in the past. There are other labourers; we have to think of labourers who are disorganised and whose condition is even worse than that of plantation labour. It may not be quite palatable to many labour leaders and workers when I say that very few labour leaders have given any attention to that section of labour which requires their attention the most, and that is agricultural labour. Nobody has taken the trouble to go to them because they are scattered; they are not so easy to organise and it is no easy to make collections from them. It may be, as I said, unpalatable to some sections but that is a fact. This Bill is primarily meant for that section of the working classes which are the most exploited and the most disorganised. You conceive only of factories and you then think of entering those premises. I conceive also of places where there are no factories and no premises.

The second thing is that if provision is made for collection of subscription from members within the premises, what will be the result? The result will be that the membership of the union may increase very soon, but there is another danger as well; and I want to point it out not only to the Mover of this amendment but to the supporters also. If even after that the House feels that this provision is necessary I as one representing a popular Government will have to mend before it. But I see a real danger in this, the development of yellow unions which will go against the working classes, the formation of unions which may be to the liking of the employers themselves, and the employers will have every advantage for the collection of subscriptions from the workers through their own agents who may be elected with their connivance to offices in the union. We have to guard against that. I as one who has the interests of the working classes at heart feel that that danger is there and that the employers will be in a better position to utilise the provision to their own advantage as against the interest of the workers. If I oppose this I do it on that consideration, that the interests of the working classes will not be promoted by this.

Then I come to the first item. There are some persons who may take undue advantage of this but I shall not have any serious objection to this clause being accepted.

There has been some talk about obligations being put upon unions in this Bill. I do not find that there is any serious obligation put on the unions; and if any conditions have been laid down I personally feel very strongly that

[Shri Jagjivan Ram]

are in the best interest of the working classes and of the growth of trade unionism itself. If I have put in these provisions I have not done so in order to safeguard the interest of the employers or of industry but to safeguard the interest of the workers and the trade unions. Any one who feels that these obligations have been put on the trade unions in order to prevent the growth of trade unionism, has not understood the spirit of trade unionism at all. There are obligations on the employers as well which will be found in clause 28-K and to which I will draw attention. If my Honourable friend Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena had taken care to go through this clause he would not have raised all those points about the executives being coerced, prosecuted, discharged, dismissed and fined, etc. All these provisions are there. I not only come from the working classes but I have also some experience of working among the working classes; and if Mr. Saksena speaks from experience I also speak from experience. So I say that if he had taken care to go through this clause he would not have raised all those points.

Sir, I do not propose to reply to all the points that have been raised. I have placed my views on these amendments before the House; if the House feels that the amendment as it stands should be accepted I will have some real difficulty.

I strongly feel that clause (ii) will go against the interests and the healthy growth of trade unionism and clause (iii) is unnecessary in view of the provisions of the Trades Disputes Act. I am prepared to accept clause 1.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Minister appoint a sub-committee to go into this sector again and to amend it by providing safeguards against the points he made out?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I have given my view. I accept clause (i) and not (ii) and (iii).

Mr. Speaker: I should like to have one point clarified. In case the Honourable Member is prepared to accept (i), does he accept it as it stands?

Shri K. Santhanam: The language has to be changed.

Mr. Speaker: I am asking the Honourable the Minister that when he accepts the amendment, he will have to see how it fits in with the other parts of the legislation. Therefore it will be a question of language also.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: I will put the amendment to the House. I shall now divide it into two parts: No. (i) to be taken first and Nos. (ii) and (iii) will then be taken together.

Shri K. Santhanam: I wish to ask leave of the House to withdraw parts (ii) and (iii).

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Leave is not granted, Sir!

Mr. Speaker: Even when clause (i) is accepted, so far as the language is concerned, the words "and the employer shall make reasonable arrangements for all these purposes" will have to undergo a change.

Shri K. Santhanam: "For this purpose," and '(i)' will go.

Mr. Speaker: We will accept the language as it comes. I therefore wish to split the amendment into three parts, but meanwhile the Honourable Member wishes leave to withdraw parts (ii) and (iii).

Shri M. S. Aney (Deccan and Madras States Group): Is it permissible for a Member to withdraw parts of an amendment? If he must, he either withdraws the whole or none.

Mr. Speaker: I was considering that difficulty. But I made the suggestion because I thought that if an amendment could be put to the House in parts there is no reason why the Chair could not allow him to withdraw any part.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): The whole thing depends upon whether the amendment is divisible. The amendment in question is clearly divisible and can be withdrawn in part.

Mr. Speaker: Has he got leave of the House to withdraw parts (ii) and (iii)?

Some Honourable Members: No.

The Assembly refused leave to withdraw.

Mr. Speaker: I am putting the amendment to the vote in three parts. We will take the first part.

The question is:

"That in clause 4 of the Bill, in the proposed Chapter IIIA, after the proposed section 28F, the following new section be inserted, namely:

"28F (A). The executive of a recognised Union shall be entitled to display notices of the Union within the premises where its members are employed and the employer shall make reasonable arrangements for the purpose."

This is subject to the understanding that the language will be revised and that the revised language will come in as an amendment in the proper form in the third reading.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: I will take the remaining two together.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Does the House give permission to do so.

Mr. Speaker: The permission to withdraw must be unanimous. If any one opposes it, I must put it to the House.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Put clauses (ii) and (iii) Separately, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in clause 4 of the Bill, in the proposed Chapter IIIA, after the proposed section 28F, the following new section be inserted, namely:

"28F (A) (ii) The executive of a recognised Union shall be entitled to collect subscriptions from its members within such premises, and the employer shall make reasonable arrangements for this purpose'."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in clause 4 of the Bill, in the proposed Chapter IIIA, after the proposed section 28F, the following new section be inserted, namely:

"28F (A)(ii) The Executive of a recognised Union shall be entitled to make through Union representatives personal investigation regarding complaints of its members by going within the premises of the establishment, and the employer shall make reasonable arrangements for this purpose'."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Speaker: The question is;

"That clause 4, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4 as amended was added to the Bill.

Clause 5 was added to the Bill.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Sir, I move:

"That for part (b) of clause 6 of the Bill, the following be substituted, namely:

'(b) in sub-section (2), after the words "that section" the words and figures "or in or from any return referred to in section 28I" shall be inserted'."

This is a formal amendment. Instead of 28K it should be 28 l.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That for part (b) of clause 6 of the Bill, the following be substituted, namely:

'(b) in sub-section (2), after the words "that section" the words and figures "or in or from any return referred to in section 28I" shall be inserted'."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 6, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 6 as amended was added to the Bill.

Mr. Speaker: Clause 7

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Sir, I have not tabled an amendment to this clause, as I got the Bill only this morning. The Honourable Minister said just now while he was replying to the debate on another amendment that he had provided certain obligations on the part of employers also. He has provided a penalty for unfair practices and here it is mentioned that unfair practices will be punishable with a fine to the extent of Rs. 1000. I should point out that this is an illusory provision, because for an employer the paying of a fine of Rs. 1,000 is nothing, the corresponding obligation upon the workers is that they cannot go on strike except under very stringent conditions and if they resort to an irregular strike the recognition of the union itself can be taken away. I should therefore think that some punishment of imprisonment should be provided as a penalty, for unfair practices by proprietors because that would be really effective and would act as some sort of deterrent to make them carry out their obligations. I would suggest that the Honourable Minister should provide the punishment of imprisonment up to one month to the proprietors if any unfair practices are found to have occurred in their concerns.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I have nothing to say except that the provision here is sufficient to meet the purpose. I do not think that for all employers the sum of Rs. 1,000 is nothing. My Honourable friend himself knows that there are many employers for whom Rs. 1,000 is quite a sufficient amount. Let this provision be given a trial.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 7 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 7 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

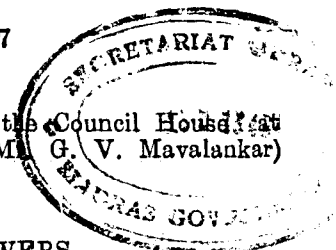
Mr. Speaker: The further motion, I believe, will have to be taken up tomorrow. Meanwhile the Honourable Member will have the language of the amendment settled.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 19th November, 1947.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Wednesday, 19th November, 1947

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.



STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

DIVISION OF ASSETS BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

58. *Shri Biswanath Das: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement embodying the principles on which division of assets including those of the Defence Department are made between India and Pakistan?

(b) What is the basis underlying such principles, viz., population or mutual contribution of taxation or any other basis in deciding such principles?

(c) Do Government propose to place in the Library of the House a detailed account of population, area and also map or maps showing the respective Railway lines, canals and river courses etc., in the respective areas of India and Pakistan?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b). I lay on the table the terms of reference of the Expert Committee on the division of assets and liabilities which sets out the general principles. It is obviously impossible to have an uniform basis for all assets and liabilities as account has to be taken of all circumstances such as physical location, territorial distribution, and the requirements of the Dominions. I may however mention that the division of the assets and liabilities is not yet completed and as some of the outstanding issues are likely to be referred to the Arbitral Tribunal I am unable to give any further information at this stage.

(c) A statement and maps are placed in the library of the House.

Terms of reference of Expert Committee No. II.—Assets and Liabilities

- (1) To compile lists of assets by broad categories showing value and present location.
- (2) To make recommendations as to the division of assets between the two successor Governments. The general principle should be to secure the greatest good of the two States, but if there are disputed claims for fixed assets, like plant and machinery, the removal of which might be detrimental to the interests of the other Government, the facts of each case should be reported for consideration by the Partition Council.
- (3) When division is impracticable, to make recommendation either for mutual assistance or for joint administration or for any other arrangement for such period as may be necessary.
- (4) To make recommendations in regard to the financial settlement between the two Governments arising from the above as well as from an allocation of the public debt, pensions and other liabilities.
- (5) To recommend measures for giving effect to any transfer of assets after the recommendations have been accepted by the Partition Council.

I.—Statement showing area and population of India and Pakistan (Provinces only) according to the Boundary Commission's award based on 1941 census

(For details please see enclosed statements)

	India	Pakistan	Total
Area (Sq. miles) (Includes Chief Commissioner's Province)	631,603	233,843	865,446
Population			
Hindus—			
Scheduled Castes	35,123,197	4,797,610	39,920,807
Others	135,966,223	8,028,506	143,994,729
Caste not returned or Adi Dharmis	4,722,457	2,516,645	7,239,102
Muslims	31,793,226	47,605,277	79,398,503
Indian Christians	2,801,105	444,601	3,245,706
Anglo-Indians	102,593	11,343	113,936
Parsees	97,382	4,586	101,968
Sikhs	2,641,550	1,523,547	4,165,097
Jains	563,619	14,753	578,372
Buddhists	67,133	100,280	167,413
Tribes	16,079,283	633,973	16,713,256
Others	146,304	23,529	169,833
TOTAL	230,104,072	65,704,650	295,808,722

II.—Population according to Communities with percentage of the Dominion of India (Provinces)

Name of Province	Area in sq. miles	Hindus			Caste not returned or returned or Adi-Dharmis	Percentage	Muslims	Percentage	(10)
		(1)	(2)	(3)					
Madras	126,166			8,068,492	16.3	34,731,330	70.3	..	7.8
Bombay	76,443			1,855,148	8.9	14,700,242	70.5	..	9.2
West Bengal*	27,140			3,311,241	14.8	6,555,973	30.9	21.2	25.2
United Provinces	106,247			11,717,158	21.3	34,094,511	62.0	..	15.3
East Punjab*	37,058			1,014,756	8.1	4,436,242	35.2	2.1	35.0
Bihar	69,745			4,340,379	12.0	22,173,890	61.0	..	13.0
C. P. & Berar	98,575			3,051,413	19.1	9,880,583	58.7	..	4.6
Assam	50,296			377,025	5.0	2,860,719	36.9	..	23.4
Orissa	32,198			1,238,171	14.1	5,594,535	64.2	..	1.7
Ajmer-Merwara	2,400			..	..	376,481	64.4	..	15.4
Andamans and Nicobars	3,143			..	..	8,427	24.9	..	23.7
Coorg	1,593			25,740	15.2	105,013	62.2	..	8.7
Delhi	574			122,693	13.3	444,532	48.4	..	33.2
Panth Piploda	25			981	18.6	3,745	71.1	..	4.7
Total	631,603			35,123,197	15.2	135,966,223	59.8	..	13.8

NOTE.—“Caste not returned” refers to Bengal and “Adi-Dharmis” refer to the Punjab.

*Figures are approximate as divided population and area of Police Stations and Tehsils which have been partitioned between India and Pakistan are not available and hence half the figures of such Tehsils and Police Stations have been taken into the Dominion of India.

Name of Province	Indian Christians	Percentage	Anglo- Indians	Percentage	Parsees	Percentage	Sikhs	Percentage	Jains	Percentage
(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	
Madras	2,001,082	4.24	28,661	.05	369	.0007	418	..	30,136	.061
Bombay	338,812	1.63	14,034	.07	86,270	.4133	8,011	.03	266,231	1.277
West Bengal	60,222	.29	29,002	.14	2,188	.0103	15,069	.08	9,031	.044
United Provinces	131,327	.24	13,383	.02	1,375	.0024	232,445	.42	102,768	.183
East Punjab	115,696	.92	1,205	.01	4,009	.0347	2,335,957	18.51	29,469	.233
Bihar	24,693	.07	5,963	.02	547	.0014	13,213	.04	4,602	.012
C. P. & Berar	48,260	.29	4,538	.03	2,014	.0119	14,996	.09	84,593	.503
Assam	35,483	.47	425	.01	2	..	3,441	.04	6,440	.082
Orissa	26,584	.30	789	.01	13	.0001	232	..	139	.002
Ajmer-Merwara	3,895	.67	1,005	.17	299	.0512	867	.02	18,827	3.228
Andamans and Nicobars	1,032	3.05	100	.29	..	..	744	2.20	..	..
Coorg	3,309	1.96	80	..	12	.0071	..	..	34	.020
Delhi	10,494	1.14	3,408	.37	284	.0309	16,157	1.76	11,287	1.229
Panth Piploda	216	4.10	..	..	..	..	..	..	62	1.177
Total	2,801,105	1.22	102,593	.04	97,382	.0423	2,641,550	1.15	563,619	.245

Name of Province	Buddhists	Percentage	Tribes	Percentage	Others	Percentage	Total population
	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)
Madras	1,072	.002	562,029	1.1	21,769	.044	49,341,810
Bombay	1,433	.006	1,614,298	7.7	44,903	.216	20,849,840
West Bengal	46,569	.260	1,356,268	6.4	32,951	.155	21,211,427
United Provinces	5,478	.009	289,422	.5	16,442	.029	55,020,617
East Punjab	160	.001	..	..	5,924	.047	12,617,175
Bihar	684	.002	5,055,647	13.0	4,219	.011	36,340,151
C.P. & Berar	70	.001	2,937,364	17.5	6,056	.030	16,813,584
Assam	8,121	.109	2,420,966*	32.5	7,192	.096	7,471,531
Orissa	454	.005	1,721,006	19.6	320	.004	8,728,544
Ajmer-Merwara	...	...	91,472	15.6	942	.162	583,693
Andamans and Nicobars	2,903	8.601	11,076	32.8	1,481	4.418	33,768
Coorg	33.0	.020	19,723	11.6	52	.038	168,726
Delhi	150	.016	...	...	3,963	.432	917,939
Panth Piploda	...	...	12	.2	...	...	5,267
Total	67,133	.029	16,079,283	7.0	146,304	.064	230,104,072

*Includes Aborigines or Tribal population of 863,248 for Excluded and Partially Excluded Areas.

III.—Population according to Communities with percentage of the Dominion of Pakistan (Provinces) based on 1941 Census

Name of Province	Area in sq. miles	Hindus			Caste not returned or Adi-Dharmis	Percentage	Muslims	Percentage	
		Scheduled Castes	Percentage	Others					
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
East Pakistan	54,957	4,366,995	10.440	4,904,877	11.733	...	...	29,364,397	70.202
East Bengal*	50,302	4,067,729	10.405	4,228,664	10.816	2,434,303	6.227	27,073,635	70.785
Sylhet	4,655	299,266	10.949	676,213	24.747	...	...	1,690,762	61.860
West Pakistan	178,886	430,615	1.804	3,123,629	13.108	...	...	18,240,880	76.439
West Punjab*	62,031	233,879	1.481	1,865,495	11.806	82,342	.521	11,804,828	74.706
N. W. F. P.	14,263	...	...	180,321	5.935	...	...	2,788,797	91.795
Sind	48,136	191,634	4.226	1,038,292	22.895	...	...	3,208,325	70.746
Baluchistan	54,456	5,102	1.017	39,521	7.879	...	...	438,930	87.501
Total Pakistan	233,843	4,797,610	7.302	8,028,506	12.219	...	...	47,605,277	72.454

NOTE.—“Caste not returned” refers to East Bengal and “Adi-Dharmis” refer to the West Punjab.

*Figures are approximate as divided population and area of Police Stations and Tehsils which have been partitioned between India and Pakistan are not available and hence half the figures of such Tehsils and Police Stations have been taken into the Pakistan.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Name of Province	Indian Christians (11)	%	Anglo- Indians (12)	%	Parsees (15)	%	Sikhs (16)	%	Jains (18)	%	(19)	%	(20)
East Pakistan	52,968	.127	2,826	.007	331	.001	1,235	.003	2,294	.005	...	...	...
East Bengal	50,701	.129	2,617	.007	331	.001	1,212	.003	2,095	.005	...	...	...
Sylhet	2,267	.083	209	.008	...	...	23	.001	199	.007	...	...	...
West Pakistan	391,633	1.640	8,517	.034	4,180	.018	1,522,312	6.376	12,459	.052	...	...	...
West Punjab	370,342	2.344	4,686	.030	318	.002	1,421,444	8.996	8,764	.055	...	...	...
N. W. F. P.*	5,426	.179	837	.028	24	.001	57,939	1.907	1	...	...	...	...
Sind	13,232	.292	2,731	.062	3,838	.085	31,011	.684	3,687	.081	...	...	...
Baluchistan	2,633	.527	263	.052	75	.015	11,918	2.376	7	.001	...	...	...
Total Pakistan	444,601	.677	11,343	.017	4,586	.007	1,523,547	2.319	14,753	.002	...	...	...

Name of Province	Buddhists (21)	% (22)	Tribes (23)	% (24)	Others (25)	% (26)	Total Population (27)
East Pakistan	100,014	.239	597,151	1.429	909	.002	41,828,300
East Bengal	99,991	.257	533,121	1.364	699	.002	39,095,098
Sylhet	23	.001	64,030	2.343	210	.008	2,733,202
West Pakistan	266	.001	36,822	.105	22,620	.095	23,876,350
West Punjab	87	.001	...	...	9,459	.060	15,801,844
N. W. F. P.*	25	.001	...	...	4,697	.155	3,038,067
Sind	111	.002	36,819	.812	5,328	.117	4,535,008
Baluchistan	43	.008	3	.001	3,136	.625	501,631
Total Pakistan	100,280	.153	633,973	.965	23,529	.035	65,704,650

* The 1941 Census saw a considerable extension of actual enumeration in the North-West Agency and tribal areas beyond the administered border. The simplified questions put did not cover community as such, only tribe, but it may be taken that the number of persons affected viz. 706,994 is Muslim.

* A population figure for the remainder was, as at past censuses, reached by estimate. No specific community information is therefore available. Here too however the conditions of the region indicate that the whole number, viz., 1,624,338 can be regarded as Muslim.

The N. W. F. P. figures does not include these.

Mr. B. Poker Sahib Bahadur: In view of the long statement that has been placed on the table of the House which does not enable Members to scrutinize it at this stage, may I suggest that an opportunity to put supplementary questions on this question may be afforded to the House tomorrow?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid it is not possible to do so. In fact, I was thinking of requesting Honourable Members that in cases where they want information of this type, it is better that they put in unstarred questions. Starred questions always create a difficulty of this nature. Further, I felt from the answer given by the Honourable Home Minister that, any question on this matter would necessarily be relating to a matter which in the nature of *sub judice*. As the matter is referred to arbitration it is desirable that no further questions are put.

FIXATION OF BASIC VALUE OF CURRENCY

59. *Shri S. Nagappa: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether there is any scheme or proposal under contemplation of Government for fixing the basic value of the currency?

(b) What portion of the Indian Union finance is in the shape of paper currency and in coin?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of changing the design of the present currency to suit the Indian Union Government?

(d) What percentage of inflation were the Government able to check by withdrawal of Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 500 notes?

(e) What portion of the basic value of the currency is in Gold Reserves?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) I regret I do not follow the question.

(b) Presumably the Honourable Member wants to know the total notes and coins in circulation. The total notes in circulation on 7th November, 1947 amounted to Rs. 1,200.75 crores. As regards coins, the exact amount is not known but the value of coins put into circulation since 1914-15 to the end of 1946-47 amounted to Rs. 243.32 crores.

The detailed information about notes is contained in the Weekly Accounts of the Reserve Bank which are published in the *Gazette of India* that as regards coins is contained in the Reserve Bank's Report on Currency and Finance for 1946-47.

(c) Yes. The matter will certainly be taken into consideration.

(d) The object of the demonetisation of high denomination notes was not to check inflation but, as explained in the Press Communique issued on the 12th January 1946, to bring the black market operations within the knowledge of the Government and the taxing authorities in particular.

(e) The value of the gold holding of the Reserve Bank, as given in its weekly Accounts, is Rs. 44.41 crores.

Shri S. Nagappa: Arising out of the answer to part (d) of the question may I ask the Finance Minister whether there is any scheme under the contemplation of Government to check inflation?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: With regard to this matter a complete answer cannot be given in the course of an answer to a question. But I may tell the Honourable Member that the problem of inflation today can be checked only by increasing the volume of production in the country. The Government is taking every possible step in that direction.

Shri B. Das: Is the Honourable the Finance Minister aware that one of his predecessors, Sir Jeremy Raisman, passed an ordinance withdrawing all the silver coins that were in circulation? Will the Finance Minister tell the House.

how much of the coins, valued Rs. 243 crores, were withdrawn from circulation? As far as I know, all the silver coins were withdrawn.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: If the Honourable Member wants to have information as to the amount of silver coins withdrawn from circulation, I would like to have notice of that question.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: Will the Honourable the Finance Minister inform the House what was the total value of the Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 500 notes which were cancelled in 1946?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The total value of high denomination notes in circulation on 11th January, 1946 was Rs. 143.97 crores and the total value of notes exchanged up to 10th October, 1947 is Rs. 134.94 crores.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Will the Honourable Minister tell the House as to what is the value of the paper currency in circulation?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The gold that we have in the currency reserve is valued at Rs. 44.41 crores.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: What about silver?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: With regard to the holdings of silver, Government do not generally publish any information on that point, and I regret I am not in a position to give the information.

Mr. B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur: Will the Honourable the Finance Minister be pleased to state how far the object of bringing to book black-marketeers, which is said to be the object of withdrawing high denomination notes, has been achieved by the order issued by the Government?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: At any rate a very fruitful avenue for black-marketing has been closed by the withdrawal of these high denomination notes. With regard to the examination of the notes surrendered and exchanged, the matter is still under the examination of the Central Board of Revenue and some of this will come out during the Tax Investigation Commission's work.

Shri M. Ananthasaynam Ayyangar: May I ask when the last valuation was made? The Honourable Minister said that the backing for this currency is in the form of gold of the value of Rs. 44.41 crores. May I ask when the last valuation was made, whether it is being made from year to year, or whether it has been made recently on the bloated prices that rule the market at present?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: No, Sir. Our gold in the currency reserve is very much under-valued. In fact we have not revalued the gold at all after the rise in the price of gold. As Honourable Members must be aware, the internal price of gold in India is very much more than the world price of gold. At the rate of the world price the gold as reserve for our currency will be worth Rs. 90.80 crores.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: When was this valuation—Rs. 44.41 crores—made?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: That was made years ago when the price of gold was stable.

Shri S. Nagappa: In view of the fact that black-marketing is still rampant, what further steps do Government propose to take?

Mr. Speaker: How does it arise out of the question?

Shri S. Nagappa: Sir, it arises out of the answer to part (d) of the question where the Honourable Minister has stated that the object was to check black-marketing. I wish to know what further steps Government propose to take as still there is black-marketing?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid it does not arise out of the question. Next question.

DISHONOURING THE INDIAN UNION FLAG

60. *Shri S. Nagappa: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of any incident of dishonouring the Indian Union Flag anywhere in India;

(b) if so, where;

(c) what action Government have taken so far; and

(d) if no action has been taken yet, what action Government propose to take?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b). A few cases of disrespect to the Flag have been reported from Madras, Bombay, West Bengal, the United Provinces, Ajmer-Merwara and Delhi.

(c) and (d). In some cases, where Government servants were involved, suitable disciplinary action has been taken. In other cases action has been taken under the law.

Seth Govinddas: Is it not a fact Sir, that in several Indian States, on the 15th of August the Indian flag was dishonoured and one of those States is Mailhar in Central India?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: On enquiry made from the State concerned, the reply has been received that they hoisted the National flag and took part in the ceremony.

Seth Govinddas: Are there any other Indian States where the Indian flag was dishonoured?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: A reference was made to Hyderabad and they also denied the allegation.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: During the last session of the Constituent Assembly I brought to the notice of the Honourable the Leader of the House as also the Honourable the Home Minister that in my province the Army Command had issued a notice that on the 15th August if orders were to be received replacing the Union Jack by any other flag, no ceremony will take place. Is the Government aware that such an order was issued by the U. P. Command and that as the result of that order, no flag hoisting ceremony was performed in any Military Cantonment or establishment in the United Provinces? May I know if the Government are aware of these facts and whether any notice has been taken by the Government of these facts and whether the military officers have been proceeded against?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I have got a report giving information so far as the United Provinces are concerned. One officer failed to hoist the national flag and he was dismissed. The Principal of a European School failed to hoist the flag on Independence Day. The grant to the school was suspended, as also in some cases where sufficient enthusiasm was not shown. There is no other case so far as the U. P. is concerned.

An Honourable Member: Does the Honourable Minister know that the R. S. S. and Hindu Mahasabha bodies are often maligning and staging against the National flag and delivering lectures? Is he aware of any such facts?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

An Honourable Member: May I know if the Honourable Minister is aware of the fact that exception was taken by a very high military official of Indian Forces to the wearing of National flag badges at a dinner given in honour of the Pakistan military personnel in Delhi?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Government have no knowledge. In fact if any proof is given, enquiry will be made.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know whether Government has received any representation from people of the Hyderabad State as regards the dishonouring of the National flag?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: As I have already stated, a reference was made to the State concerned and a denial was issued publicly by the Hyderabad Government.

Shri S. Nagappa: In practice if a particular State dishonours the National Flag and on enquiry if it denies the fact, what do the Government propose to do to investigate into the matter and see that proper honour is given to the flag?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The denial is accepted.

NUMBER OF RADIOS IMPORTED AND BROADCASTING STATIONS IN INDIA

61. *Shri S. Nagappa: Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of broadcasting stations in India province wise;
- (b) the total number of radios imported during the last 3 years—year wise; and
- (c) whether Government propose to provide the rural areas with more radio sets?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Six; 2 in Madras, 1 each in Bombay, West Bengal, United Provinces and Delhi.

(b) 1944-45—895.

1945-46—5,982.

1946-47—1,07,114.

(c) Provision of community sets for rural areas is undertaken by Provincial Governments and the basic plan of development covers this item.

Seth Govinddas: Are the Government aware that in the Central Provinces there is no broadcasting station and the Government several times promised that in Nagpur they are going to have one. May I know by what date the Nagpur broadcasting station will be established?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Nagpur is included in the 5-year Plan, and steps are being taken to start broadcasting stations in all the five provinces covered by the new Development Programme, by the beginning of the next year.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: When is the promised broadcasting station for the Andhra area going to be started?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Just about the same time as in Nagpur.

Shri Jadubans Sahay: In view of the fact that there is no broadcasting station in the province of Bihar, do the Government propose to take immediate steps for having such a station?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The first broadcasting station that begins to function hereafter will be at Patna.

Shri S. Nagappa: Is it a fact that the Honourable Minister for Public Information in Madras has made a representation to the Central Government as regards the great importance of having a Broadcasting Centre at Bezwada for the Andhra public?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: It has been announced already that Bezwada is to be one of the stations under the new programme.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: Is it contemplated to open a broadcasting station very soon in the province of Orissa?

(No reply)

NUMBER OF STATES ACCEDED TO THE INDIAN UNION

62. *Shri S. Nagappa: Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of States that have so far acceded to the Indian Union;
- (b) the number of their representatives in the Constituent Assembly;
- (c) the total population of the States that have come under the Indian Union;
- (d) the number of States that are still neutral; and
- (e) the number of States that have joined Pakistan?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) I refer the Honourable Member to the statement which I shall be laying on the table of the House in regard to the Instrument of Accession executed by States.

(b) 63.

(c) 72,000,000 (nearly).

(d) One (i.e., Hyderabad).

(e) We have no official information.

Shri S. Nagappa: Arising out of the answer to part (b), may I ask, Sir, out of the 63 representatives, how many of them are Harijans and why the States have ignored the Harijan representation?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The Honourable Member can ascertain himself.

Shri H. V. Kamath: How many of these representatives are elected and how many nominated?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: 50 per cent. are elected, according to the settlement made between the two negotiating Committees.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: Is the Honourable Minister aware that eight villages of the Hyderabad State have declared independence, and how do the Government propose to deal with those villages?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I do not think the question arises.

Shri Vishwambhar Dayal Tripathi: Is Junagadh now included in the States that have joined the Indian Union?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Junagadh State acceded to Pakistan and for that all this trouble arose. I thought the Honourable Member knew about this.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not proposed to fix any time limit for these negotiations with Hyderabad in regard to the question of accession?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Well, the date given this time, that is about the 25th of November, is probably the last.

Shri Jai Sukh Lal Hathi: Is the Honourable Minister aware that the Talukdars in the Thanas of Dabhoda and Nirmali in Western India and Gujerat States are not allowed to accede and have been kept attached to Baroda State?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I promise to make enquiries. I have no information on the subject.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that seven or eight villages of Hyderabad State, which have declared themselves independent of the Nizam's control, have asked the Government of India to let them come into the Indian Union?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: We have received no application for accession from any of the villages referred to.

FINANCIAL STABILITY OF INDIA

63. *Shri Biswanath Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the statement made by him at a reception accorded to him by the Indian Merchants' Chamber of Commerce at Bombay, as reported by the Associated Press of India from Bombay on the 29th September, 1947 that "in a war-torn world where financial foundations of many countries have been shattered, those of our country are very sound. Our capacity to borrow is as sound as that of the United States of America. We stand on firm foundations" represents the correct version;

(b) the extent and amount of money (in terms of rupees) for which currency notes were issued till the date of declaration of World War No. II in 1939 and the bullion backing which the currency note issue had for itself in India;

(c) the extent and amount of money (in terms of rupees) for which currency notes issue stand upto the end of June 1947 and also the bullion backing which the currency notes issue had in India upto the end of June 1947; and

(d) the respective silver and gold reserves of the Government of India and those of the Government of the United States of America on the 30th June, 1947?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) Yes.

(b) Rs. 216.78 crores and Rs. 44.41 crores respectively.

(c) Rs. 1,265.17 crores and Rs. 44.41 crores respectively.

(d) Presumably the Honourable Member is referring to the reserves of the Central Banks. I would refer him to the statistics contained in the Reserve Bank of India Report on Currency and Finance for 1946-47 and Reserve Bank of India Bulletins which are published every month.

Shri Biswanath Das: Since the statistics for Provinces are not known and since it is not readily available to the Members of this House, will the Honourable Minister be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the reference he has just referred to?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: My Honourable friend is confusing the statistical publications. It is not the statistical Abstract of India. The Reserve Bank of India publishes a monthly bulletin which contains these statistics, which is easily available; and they publish an annual report on Currency and Finance, copies of which are available in the Library of the House and if they are not, I will see that copies are kept there.

Shri Biswanath Das: Sir, arising out of the reply the Honourable the Finance Minister has given in respect of (b), I should like to know the value of the silver and gold reserves that we have against our paper currency.

Mr. Speaker: That has already been answered in the first question.

Mr. Biswanath Das: I am sorry I could not hear it, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member may refer to the proceedings.

SALARIES TO STAFF OF FOOD, TEXTILES AND INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENTS

64. *Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Will the Honourable Minister of Finance please state the total amount of salaries paid to the entire staff for each of the years 1944, 1945 and 1946 under the heads 'Food, Textile and Industries', articles of which are under the control of the Government of India?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The expenditure in each of the three financial years ending with 1946-47 was as follows:

1944-45	1945-46	1946-47
Rs. 1,04,70,935	1,44,61,679	1,39,31,263

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Sir, will the Honourable Minister also indicate what is the expenditure on the control of petrol, if he has figures?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I want notice.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is any effort being made, Sir, to cut down the expenditure under this heading?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: As controls are relaxed the expenditure will automatically go down.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the Honourable Minister quite satisfied that the expenditure that is now being incurred has got to be incurred and there is no possibility at all of its being reduced even under the present circumstances?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Government always keep in view of the possibilities of retrenchment in every Department.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, that does not quite meet my point at all. Is any serious effort being made to keep a close watch on this expenditure and is there any machinery whose business it is to review this expenditure from time to time and see that it is cut down?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Sir, every proposal for new expenditure which is put up by a Department of Government is very carefully scrutinised by the Ministry of Finance. Only then the establishment comes into force, and thereafter it is the duty of the Departmental Heads to see that no surplus staff is retained when there is no need. That is the general principle governing all establishments of Government Departments.

Shri M. S. Aney: May I ask the Honourable Member whether he contemplates the possibility of the reduction of expenditure under this heading, and also the possibility of the de-control of these things in the near future?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Sir, as the Finance Minister, I am always interested in reducing expenditure in every Department. Therefore, I am on the Honourable Member's side so far as that point is concerned. With regard to the possibility of decontrol, I am afraid a subject like that cannot be dealt with during question time.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know, Sir, if the figures given by the Honourable the Finance Minister include the cost of the salaries of the staffs maintained by Provincial Governments for the same purposes?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: No, no. These are the expenses of the Central Government.

Shri K. Santhanam: Will the Finance Minister let the Members know the total expenditure incurred on this by the Central Government as well as the Provincial Governments?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The figures regarding the provinces are not available.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: May I know, Sir, the expenditure of the Textile Commissioner's Office in Bombay as far as the Central Government is concerned?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Expenditure on textile control as a whole was Rs. 46,59,679 in 1946-47. This includes the expenditure on the Textile Commissioner's Office.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: Will the Honourable Minister please state what was the total expenditure on control of food only for the year 1946-47?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The expenditure for the control on foodstuffs for 1946-47 was Rs. 35,38,887.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: A request was made by this House to the previous Government to appoint a Committee to investigate the possibilities of retrenchment in the staff of the Government of India. Is the Honourable Minister continuing the proposal?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Sir, it was my intention soon after I assumed office to appoint an economy committee but we got such a shock on account of these communal disturbances that I thought I must wait for some time before I set up any machinery of economy for the purpose.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Will not the appointment of an economy committee add to the expenditure still further?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The immediate effect will be an increase of expenditure.

LOAN BY INDIA TO PAKISTAN .

65. *Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Will the Honourable Minister of Finance please state:

(a) the amount given on loan by the Government of India to the Government of Pakistan, after the division of India i.e., after the 15th August, 1947; and

(b) the conditions under which this loan is given and when it is repayable?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) The Government of India have not given any loan to the Government of Pakistan.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has the Pakistan Government asked for any loan from the Government of India?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: No, they have not asked me and they would not get it even if they asked for it.

Shri R. K. Sidhwa: May I know what amount was given to the Pakistan Government on the day when they separated and what amount out of it is to be repaid to the Government of India?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: From the cash balance, an amount of Rs. 20 crores was given to the Pakistan Government at the time of Partition for them to start the new concern.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Is the Honourable the Finance Minister aware of the fact that it was said in the Press sometime ago that the Imperial Bank made a loan of Rs. 10 crores to the Government of Pakistan?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I have no information as to whether the Imperial Bank has made any loan to the Pakistan Government. I do not think that they have. But this Rs. 20 crores is the amount which was placed at their disposal when the partition was actually effected because the Pakistan Government must necessarily have a cash working balance to start its business.

Shri K. Santhanam: Was this amount of Rs. 20 crores given on loan or as advance, and to what account was it to be debited?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The exact proportion in which the cash balance of the Government of India on the 15th August 1947 is to be divided is a matter which will come before the Arbitral Tribunal and if these Rs. 20 crores come within that limit, that means Pakistan gets these Rs. 20 crores.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Or otherwise?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: They may get more or they may get less. It all depends on the decision of the Arbitration Tribunal.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: May I know if these Rs. 20 crores is Pakistan's due share?

Mr. Speaker: It is obvious from the answer that it is only an estimate.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Their share of the cash balance is a matter which is to be decided by the Arbitral Tribunal.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES OPTING TO SERVE INDIA

66. *Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs please state the total number of Government employees serving in various departments in Pakistan Government, who have desired to opt out and serve in the Government of India Departments?

(b) How many have actually been transferred and how many still require to be transferred?

(c) If the transfer is not complete, what steps do Government propose to take to send for them and within what period?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b). On the basis of available information the number of Central Government servants who were employed in the offices located in Pakistan areas and opted for service in the Dominion of India is 1,39,703; the number of such Government servants who have so far been transferred is 1,19,223; and the number of Government servants who are yet to be transferred is 20,480.

(c) The Government of India are trying their best to get the transfers completed as early as possible.

Seth Govinddas: Is it a fact that those Government servants who, in the beginning, desired to go to Pakistan now do not wish to go there and want that they should be retained where they are?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Those who have opted for Pakistan will ordinarily be sent there or have gone there, but in some cases a person is entitled to finalise his option within a period of six months. If within the period of six months they do not change their mind, then the option stands, but if within those six months they change their option and want to go to the other Dominion then the question will be decided on their revised option.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Out of the figure of 1,39,703 who have opted for service in the Dominion of India, may I know how many are in the Railways, how many in the Posts and Telegraphs and how many in the Customs?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I am not in a position to give the figures per Department, but I will make enquiries and supply the information if so desired.

Shri M. S. Aney: Can this option be exercised by them after their going to Pakistan?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Option is generally exercised in the initial instance before going. It is exercised by each individual officer or employee, but some did not make final choice. They gave an option subject to the condition that if within the period of six months any of them want to return, then they have a right to return.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Have any instance already occurred of officers who left India for service in Pakistan, and after disillusionment re-offered their services to India?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Some of the officers thought that there was Heaven in Pakistan; they have later found that it was not so and wanted to come back and make declarations of their loyalty to India. I may make it clear that those who could change in this manner had only made a provisional decision initially.

BANNING OF INDIAN UNION FLAG BY HYDERABAD STATE

67. *Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Will the Honourable Minister of States please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hyderabad State authorities have banned the hoisting of the Union of India Flag by citizens on their buildings;

(b) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons why the State authorities pull down such flags and arrest persons;

(c) whether the Government of India have addressed the State authorities in this respect; if so with what result; and

(d) whether Government propose to place on the table of the House the correspondence exchanged between the Government of India and the Hyderabad State authorities in this matter?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) According to the information given to us by the State, there is no ban on individual citizens flying the Union Flag on their houses.

(b) The State denies such allegations; if individual officers commit such acts, it is obviously in excess of their authority.

(c) and (d). The Government of India have enquired of H.E.H. the Nizam's Government regarding the incidents and have received the reply from Nawab of Chhatari, which I shall read for the information of the House. This is the text of the Telegram.

"Your telegram seventeenth. Reports that Indian Union Flag was pulled down by the State authorities or political workers were arrested on Friday for hoisting and saluting it absolutely baseless. Despite State's jurisdiction Indian Union flag was allowed to be flown on fifteenth August side by side with State flag on post offices and other Indian institutions continuing under standstill arrangements. Individuals were at liberty and actually displayed Indian Union flag on private buildings and otherwise without any let or hindrance. *Hindustan Times* report is being officially contradicted by us through the press."

Shri Basanta Kumar Das: May I know whether the Government are aware of the fact that a National Flag of our High Commissioner was insulted by the Pakistan Government or Pakistan people?

Mr. Speaker: It does not arise.

NAMES OF STATES ACCEDED TO THE INDIAN DOMINION

68. *Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Will the Honourable Minister of States please state:

(a) the names of the States which have signed the Instrument of Accession and acceded to the Dominion of India; and

(b) whether Hyderabad and Kashmir States have acceded; if not, whether any correspondence has passed between them and the Government of India; if so, whether Government propose to place it on the table of the House?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) I refer the Honourable Member to the statement which I shall be laying on the table of the House in regard to the Instrument of Accession executed by States.

(b) Kashmir has acceded to the Dominion of India. As regards Hyderabad, the matter is under negotiation and it will not be in public interest to place copies of the correspondence on the table of the House.

Mr. Speaker: Next question No. 69, Mr. Khaitan.

Shri B. Das: Might I be permitted to put this question, Sir? This and question No. 68 are both very interesting.

Mr. Speaker: There is no authority given by Mr. Khaitan. Even if there were, according to the usual procedure, these questions should come after the

whole list is exhausted. So there is no chance of the Honourable Member putting these questions in place of Mr. Khaitan.

SETTLEMENT OF BURMA'S DEBT TO INDIA

†69. *Shri Uebi Prosad Khaitan: Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of the original debt which Burma owed to India before Burma's separation;

(b) the amount of debt settled by agreement at the time of Burma's separation; and

(c) the amount of the present debt owed by Burma to India showing how much was against the old debt and how much against the new debt incurred after the separation of Burma?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) At the time of the separation, the Provincial Government of Burma owed Rs. 6,74,94,285 and the Shan States Federation Rs. 13,42,627 to the Central Government.

(b) Burma's debt to India on separation exclusive of the liability for Central Pensions and the assets and liabilities arising out of the currency system for both of which separate arrangements were made, was fixed at Rs. 50,79,81,000 repayable over a period of forty-five years.

(c) The repayment of this debt and the payment of Burma's share of pensions were suspended in 1942 when Burma was overrun by the Japanese and has not been resumed since. A sum of Rs. 48,14,55,147 is outstanding out of the original debt and Rs. 2,99,35,151 on account of pensions, the latter for the period ending the 31st March 1946 the accounts of which have been closed. No loan was given to Burma after separation.

PRODUCTION OF QUININE

†70. *Shri Debi Prosad Khaitan: Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of quinine produced at present in the country and the quantity required to meet its needs; and

(b) whether any new drug has been found to be more efficacious than quinine for the prevention and cure of malaria, and if so, what steps Government have taken for the production thereof in this country?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) The average annual production of quinine in India, in the last three years, was about 85,000 lbs. In pre-war years when quinine supplies were freely available the average annual consumption of quinine in India was about 210,000 lbs.

(b) A new synthetic drug called "Paludrine" is reported to be more effective than quinine in some respects in the treatment of malaria. The question of the production of synthetic anti-malarial drugs is under examination.

SANCTION FOR CAPITAL ISSUES

†71. *Shri Debi Prosad Khaitan: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state for how many companies and for what amount sanction for capital issues was given in 1946, and in 1947 (for as many months of the latter year as it is possible to give figures of), what amount of shares have actually been subscribed and what amount has been paid up?

(b) How many companies, and for what amount, have failed to secure the proper amount of subscription to start business for which sanction was granted?

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

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) and (b) I place a statement on the table of the House.

Statement

Year	No. of companies for which sanction given	Amount for which sanction given (Rs. crores.)	Amount subscribed (Rs. crores.)	Amount paid-up
1946	682	240.49	18.241	Not known
1947 (till 30th September 1947.)	390	171.64	Not known.	Not known

1. Companies are required to report action taken regarding issue of capital only 12 months after the issue of consent orders. The figures for 1946 therefore relate only to the companies sanction for which was given between January and September 1946 and which have submitted a report (81 in number).

2. It has been made obligatory only since May 1947 for companies to report paid-up Capital. No figures are therefore available in respect of companies for which consent was given prior to that date.

LOYALTY OF OFFICERS AND RANKS IN DEFENCE FORCE AND POLICE TO GOVERNMENT

†72. ***Shri Debi Prosad Khaitan:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state what steps have Government taken to ascertain as to which officers and ranks in Defence Forces and the Police of the country are loyal to the Governments in India?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: All officers and other ranks in the Defence Forces have voluntarily opted to serve the Government of India. They took the usual oath, including allegiance and loyalty to Government. Officers and other ranks in the Police Forces also took an oath of allegiance to their respective governments after the 15th August. Disciplinary action has been taken against the few who declined to take such oath of allegiance. Government have no reason to doubt the loyalty of those who are now in service and it is not considered necessary to take any special steps to ascertain the loyalty of individual officers. Specific cases of disloyalty can be always dealt with under the disciplinary regulations.

NAMES OF STATES ACCEDED TO THE DOMINION OF INDIA

†73. ***R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States, the Rulers of which have acceded to the Dominion of India according to the standard form of the Instrument of Accession supplied to the members of this Assembly at its last session;

(b) whether it is a fact that the standard form of the Instrument of Accession has since been modified in the case of certain States; and if so, in what manner and for what reasons;

(c) whether the proposed modifications, if any, are based on understandings previously reached with the States during negotiations with their representatives;

(d) whether the proposed modifications, if any, are in consonance with the provisions of clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 7 of the Indian Independence Act, 1947 and with the statement of policy in regard to Indian States issued by the Honourable Minister of States on the 5th July, 1947;

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

(e) the names of the States to which the modified draft Instrument of Accession has been sent for signature of their Rulers and the date of its transmission; and

(f) whether the Rulers referred to in part (e) above have raised any objection to the proposed modifications, and if so, on what grounds?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The standard form of Instrument of Accession was signed by all Rulers who enjoyed full powers before the 15th August 1947 and whose accession was accepted by the Indian Dominion. Those States which did not enjoy full powers before the 15th August 1947 were given the alternative Instrument of Accession under which they ceded to the Government of India residuary criminal and civil jurisdiction. These States are mainly to be found in Kathiawar, Central India, Eastern States and Simla Hills. If all these small States were recognised as sovereign States with full powers the resultant position would be utter chaos. The Government of India adhere to the policy that these States should sign the alternative form of instrument of Accession and in fact practically all of them have done so.

COMMITTEE ON INDIGENOUS SYSTEM OF MEDICINE

74. ***Dr. V. Subrahmanyam:** Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, in pursuance of the resolutions adopted by the Health Ministers' Conference held at New Delhi on October 12th and 13th, 1946, the Government of India appointed a Committee called "The Committee on the Indigenous Systems of Medicine, for the encouragement of Indigenous medicine";

(b) whether Government propose to re-constitute the Committee on Indigenous System of Medicine, in view of the fact that there is only one Vaidya and seven Allopathic Doctors on the Committee and that some of the members are now nationals of Pakistan; and

(c) whether Government now propose to appoint only Vaidyas on the Committee relating only to the Indian systems of Medicine?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) Yes.

(b) There are on the Committee four Vaidas, four Hakims and two Allopaths excluding the Chairman. The number of members who belong to Pakistan on the Committee is only two. The question of their replacement is under consideration.

(c) The Committee is meant to investigate the usefulness of indigenous systems of medicine such as Ayurveda and Unani (Tibbi) and it is not possible to confine the membership to Vaidyas.

श्री आर० वी० धुलेकर : क्या गवर्नमेंट को मालूम है कि जो वैद्य इसमें मेम्बर रखे गये हैं वह सब एम० वी० बी० एस० हैं और वह अपने को वैद्य कहलाने से इन्कार करते हैं ।

Shri R. V. Dhulekar: Are Government aware that all the Vaidyas, who have been appointed members, are M.B.B.S. and they refuse to be called Vaidyas?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The Government is aware that the members of the Committee are not only Vaidas but Allopaths also. Government is not aware that they decline to call themselves Vaidas. As a matter of fact originally there were three Vaidas and three Hakims appointed but as a result of representations from important bodies like the All India Ayurvedic

Congress and individuals the number of Vaid and Hakims was increased to four each. In addition, the Committee has been empowered, if necessary, when it tours, to ask to co-opt local Vaid or Hakims during their visits to the Provinces, so that the views of prominent persons in the field of indigenous medicines may be given due weight.

An Honourable Member: Will the Government take the opinion of the All India, Ayurvedic Sammelan as far as the personnel of the members of this Committee is concerned?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Government is always willing to give weight to the opinions of anybody, but I submit that the Committee that has been formed is a representative one.

Shri Mohan Lal Saxena: I understand that there is no Ayurvedic practitioner, that is none of the members of the Committee is out and out an Ayurvedic practitioner?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I do not think that this information is correct.

Dr. V. Subrahmanyam: Will the Honourable Minister be pleased to state whether Government will consider the question of earmarking a substantial amount in the annual budget for Ayurvedic teaching and Research and spending the same on distributing grants recurring and non-recurring to teaching institutions in the country and also for establishing Ayurvedic Research Department of its own?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: In view of the fact that Government has appointed a Committee to report on indigenous systems of medicine all these things will be taken into consideration when the report of the Committee is available to the Government.

Dr. V. Subrahmanyam: Will the Honourable Minister be pleased to state the amount the Central Government is now spending over the encouragement of Ayurvedic system of medicine and Ayurvedic Medical relief and research?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The answer is in the negative.

An Honourable Member: Will the Honourable Minister be pleased to state whether the Central Government is spending any money in regard for the purchase of Ayurvedic medicines or encouraging the Ayurvedic system in all manner possible?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The appointment of a Committee is indicative of the interest which Government bestows on Ayurveda.

K. T. M. Ahmed Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur: May I know whether there are any representatives of Unani and Siddha systems of medicine on the Committee?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I have already said there are four Hakims on the Committee.

श्री० आर० वी० धुलेकर : क्या गवर्नमेंट इसका कोई कारण बतला सकती है कि देशी चिकित्सा कमेटी के ऊपर एक एलोपैथिक डाक्टर क्यों चेयरमैन बनाया गया ।

Shri R. V. Dhulekar: Will the Government please state why an Allopathic Doctor was appointed as a Chairman of the Committee on the indigenous systems of medicine?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The Chairman was appointed because of the very valuable work that he had done in the matter of research in indigenous drugs.

ARRIVAL OF PAKISTAN MILITARY COMMISSION IN ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY

†75. ***Shri Debi Prosad Khaitan:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a Military commission from Pakistan arrived in Aligarh Muslim University on 21st October, 1947 or any other date, or is likely to arrive there with a view to recruiting Commissioned Officers for the Pakistan Army from among the University teaching staff and students?

(b) If so, was the consent of the Government of India obtained for the purpose and under what circumstances was such consent given?

(c) What is the attitude of the authorities of the Aligarh Muslim University about allowing the Pakistan Government to recruit officers for the Pakistan Army from amongst the University Teaching Staff and students?

(d) Is it permissible or desirable that citizens of India become Officers of an army in a foreign Government?

(e) Is it a fact that the authorities of the Aligarh Muslim University have actively helped or connived at the recruitment of commissioned officers for the Pakistan Army? If so, do the Government of India propose to consider the desirability of stopping all grants and contributions to the Aligarh Muslim University?

(f) What steps do the Government of India propose to take to ensure that the teaching staff and the students of the Aligarh Muslim University be, and remain, loyal citizens of India?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The authorities of the Aligarh Muslim University do not intend to assist the Pakistan Government to recruit officers for the Pakistan Army from amongst the University Teaching Staff and students.

(d) At present there is no ban on nationals of India accepting service under another Government.

(e) and (f). Do not arise, in view of the answer to part (c).

SEIZURE OF UNAUTHORISED AMMUNITION IN JUBBULPUR

76. ***Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether Government are aware that on or about the 17th October, 1947 a huge quantity of unauthorised ammunition was seized from a godown in Jubbulpur in the occupation of Md. Ismail Cutchchi a wholesale Cloth Merchant?

(b) Is it a fact that these were being removed under cover of darkness from the Dixitpura Godown to some other place within cloth pieces in a hand-cart in the course of which, some Cartridge boxes burst and others got scattered on the streets?

(c) Is it a fact that Cartridges, empty and live, weighing over 2 tons packed in Gunny Bags and quantities of lead pellets and Gun-powder have been seized by the Jubbulpur City Police?

(d) Is it a fact that the person from whose godown these were recovered is a prominent member of the Local Muslim League and also an office-bearer of the Peace Committee?

(e) Have any arrests been made in this connection, if so, how many?

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

(f) Has any enquiry been made by Government as to the source of supply of these? If so, with what result? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The matter is under investigation and any statement at this stage will be premature and is likely to prejudice the investigation.

RECOVERY OF UNAUTHORISED AMMUNITION FROM MUSLIM HOUSES

†77. ***Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs please state whether Government are aware, that as a result of Police raid on some Muslim houses at Burgi, 16 miles from Jubbulpur, Cartridge filling machines, Fire-arms, live Bombs and a huge quantity of ammunition, all unauthorized, were seized by the Police?

(b) Has any effort been made by Government to trace the source of supply? If so, with what result?

(c) What action has been taken by Government against the owners of the premises from which they have been recovered?

DECAMPING OF AN ARMED GANG FROM THE GENERAL HEADQUARTERS HUTMENTS WITH AMMUNITION.

78. ***Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that on the morning of Thursday the 16th October, 1947 a Gang of about 9 armed men came up to 'Q' Block of the Secretariat hutments in Delhi, walked into the General Headquarters Stores and holding up the sentry at the point of a pistol picked up the key, opened the Armoury and decamped with large quantities of arms and ammunition?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what were the categories and quantities of arms and ammunition thus removed?

(c) Is any register of stocks and stores of arms and ammunition maintained in the General Headquarters?

(d) What was the number of sentries or soldiers that were stationed at the depot to guard it?

(e) Have the miscreants been captured or arrested, or have any portions of the looted arms and ammunition been recovered so far? If so, how much?

(f) What precautionary measures, if any, have been taken by Government to prevent a recurrence of such raids in future?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) At about 3-40 a.m. on the 16th October 1947, 12 armed men came up to Plot No. 30 adjacent to "Q" Block held up the sentry at the barbed wire entrance, walked into the building in Plot No. 30 and held up the men working inside at the point of a pistol. Inside the building, a small quantity of arms and ammunition had been held as an immediate reserve in case of an emergency. The rifles were locked in a rifle rack and the revolvers and ammunition were locked in an ammunition box. The building is not an armoury but a Signal Office.

(b) 10 rifles with bayonets, 17 revolvers, 170 rounds of .38 ammunition and 200 rounds of .303 ammunition.

(c) Yes.

(d) One sentry was stationed at the entrance and two operators were on duty inside the building.

(e) The matter is still under police investigation and four persons have been arrested in this connection. No portion of the looted arms and ammunition has so far been recovered.

(f) The area is now patrolled by armed sentries. Arms are no longer kept in the Signal Office. They are all stored in a well-guarded armoury.

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 76.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: In regard to the answer just given relating to the number of arrests, will the Honourable Member kindly inform the House if the persons arrested are civilian or military people?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Sir, I have no information on the matter. They are in police custody.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: There was one sentry placed in regard to the Store House?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: That is the normal guard.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: What is the number of sentries at present?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: At present as I have stated the place is guarded by a fully armed patrol.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Do I take it that absolutely no resistance was offered to the raiders?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Sir, I have already stated that the sentry on duty was pushed aside.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it a fact that one of the raiders helped himself with the key as he knew where the key on the board was of the two vaults where these rifles were kept in custody? Is it true that some of the arrested men belong to the staff?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: It is just possible, Sir.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: The question was pertinent whether some of the men who were arrested belong to the staff.

Mr. Speaker: He says he has no information.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Sir, it is a very important matter and the Honourable Member in charge ought to know who were arrested.

Mr. Speaker: The point is he says that he has no information at this time.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: How is it that the Honourable the Defence Member has been so careful as not even to enquire whether the members of the staff are among those who were arrested.

(No reply.)

AMOUNT COLLECTED UNDER THE BUSINESS PROFITS TAX

79. ***Shri K. Santhanam:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of collections made up to the end of October 1947 under the Business Profits Tax;

(b) the total number of assesseees under this tax; and

(c) the special staff engaged for the collection of this tax?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) None.

(b) About two thousand.

(c) No special staff is engaged for this purpose.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know, Sir why no steps have been taken so far and why there is so much negligence.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Sir, on account of a drafting defect of the Business Profits Tax Act, the rules could not be issued in time and steps are now being taken to effect the necessary amendment during the session and as soon as that is done the assessment will go on.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know, Sir, why no notice of the amendment has so far been given if the matter has been so urgent?

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The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I do not exactly understand what the Honourable Member means.

Shri K. Santhanam: As no bill is introduced to amend the Act, I want to know whether the Finance Member is earnest about the collection of this tax.

Mr. Speaker: I think the Honourable Member referred to the rules under the Act. He said there was some defect in the Act which prevented the rules being made properly.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: On account of a defect in the Act as I said the rules under the Act could not be issued, so that the officers might proceed with the assessment. Steps are now being taken to amend the Act and rules and in fact in the current Budget Estimate we are providing for a substantial collection under this head.

Shri K. Santhanam: My point is that as it was passed in March, why the Bill to remove the defect of the Act has not been introduced so far?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I do not quite remember whether that amending Bill has been put down for this session or not. But my Honourable friend knows that after this Act was passed in March this is the first session of the legislature and so we could not have done it earlier.

Shri K. Santhanam: Could we not expect it to be introduced on the first day of the session?

Mr. Speaker: That is a matter of argument.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I understand that amendment is going to be introduced this session.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know how in spite of the defect in the Act and the rules not having been promulgated the figure of two thousand has been arrived at? Have the assessments gone on still?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: No, the assessments have not gone on, but the Income-tax Department has sufficient information to know how many assesseees are likely to come under the provisions of this Act. That means that we have all the information ready for the assessment.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Although it was not possible to introduce legislation what was the difficulty about issuing an Ordinance if there was any seriousness about collecting this money?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: We want to respect the legislature as far as possible

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: What is the loss that the Indian revenues will sustain on account of this neglect?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: There will be no loss at all. Even if the assessment is not made now it will be made next year. No one will be left free.

Shri B. M. Gupte: Can the Honourable Minister say which is the province from which the largest amount is collected?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: No amount has yet been collected.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it a fact that under this Act assessment can be made only for the past four years and if the assessment takes place for the next year, one year during the war period is lost to Government?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: No, Sir, that is not so.

COLLECTION OF BUSINESS PROFITS TAX IN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

80. *Shri K. Santhanam: Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of arrears of Excess Profits Tax on the 1st April, 1947 and on the 1st November, 1947;

(b) whether it is a fact that the collections of arrears in India and Pakistan are made on an agreed basis and are brought into a common account; and

(c) whether there is any agreed basis for the division of the proceeds between India and Pakistan?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) Presumably the Honourable Member has in mind the demand involved in the assessments awaiting disposal on the dates given. On a rough computation, the relevant amount as on 1-4-47, less amount already collected under provisional assessment, probable refunds, relief for double taxation and reduction in appeal, is about Rs. 10 crores. This figure does not include the tax assessable in respect of the last chargeable accounting period in cases in which the previous year for income-tax purposes ended after the 31st March 1946, as these cases would normally be assessable in 1947-48. The figure as on 1st November 1947 is not available but on 1st September 1947, including the tax on the last chargeable accounting period, it comes to roughly Rs. 12 crores.

(b) and (c). The amount collected or refunded during the period 15-8-47 to 31-3-48 in respect of chargeable accounting periods corresponding to previous years for income-tax assessments for 1946-47 and earlier years, will be divided between the two Dominions. The basis on which the division is to be made has not yet been decided.

INCOME TAX AND SUPER TAX PAYABLE IN THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1946-47

81. *Shri K. Santhanam: Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the amounts of arrears of Income-Tax and Super-Tax payable in the financial year 1946-47;

(b) whether any of the assesseees have migrated to Pakistan; and

(c) the measures which are being taken by Government to prevent loss of revenues by such a migration?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) The total demand estimated in respect of uncompleted assessments for 1946-47 and earlier years is Rs. 22 crores.

(b) Yes.

(c) In cases where it is possible to effect recovery of the tax due by attachment and sale of property left behind in India this will be done. Where it is necessary to invoke the assistance of the Pakistan Government for the attachment and sale of property located in Pakistan that Government has to co-operate with us under the decision reached by the Partition Council.

Shri K. Santhanam: What steps is the Honourable Minister taking to collect these arrears as quickly as possible?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: All possible steps.

Shri K. Santhanam: Is he contemplating the engagement of further staff?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I should like to make the present staff itself collect the amount, but if necessary I shall engage additional staff.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know if he is succeeding in his attempts to make the present staff collect quickly?

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: With reference to part (c) of the question, is the Honourable Minister aware of the fact that big properties are changing hands

every day under the very nose of the Government of India? Many of these people must be assesseees liable to pay income-tax and to my knowledge no attachment notices have been issued against these properties.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Of course a considerable amount of confusion is likely to arise as a result of the extraordinarily disturbed conditions, but we will do all that is possible and all that lies in our power to protect our revenues.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Has the suggestion to freeze some of these properties been considered by the Government of India as a precautionary measure so that they could not be sold or at least the sale profits can be paid by these people who are likely to be assesseees?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Now that the Honourable Member makes the suggestion, I will consider it.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: In view of the information given to the Honourable Minister will he take care to see that assesseees are not allowed to sell their properties in future until all dues are realised from them?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: We will examine that question.

CURRENCY ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

82. *Shri K. Santhanam: Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the present currency arrangements between India and Pakistan will terminate on the 31st March, 1948; and

(b) the steps that are taken or are proposed to be taken for the complete separation of the two currencies?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) and (b). I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the Pakistan (Monetary System and Reserve Bank) Order, 1947.

DIVISION OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

83. *Shri K. Santhanam: Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the total estimated assets and liabilities of India (including Pakistan) on August 14, 1947;

(b) the total assets and liabilities transferred to Pakistan up to the 1st November, 1947; and

(c) the respective claims of the Governments of India and Pakistan regarding the remaining assets and liabilities?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) On a very rough estimate the total liabilities of the undivided Government on the date of partition are expected to be of the order of Rs. 3,200 crores and the total assets of the order of Rs. 2,800 crores. It is not possible to give a precise figure till the accounts of the undivided Government are finally closed and the basis on which certain liabilities like the outstanding debt and pensions should be valued is determined.

(b) I regret the information is not readily available and any computation at this stage would involve disproportionate time and labour.

(c) As the outstanding points are still under consideration and some of them may be referred to the Arbitral Tribunal it is not considered desirable in the public interest to disclose the claims of the respective Governments.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact that as part of the assets even precious historical records and documents and also tables, chairs and other furniture had to be sliced up and divided for this partition?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Precious records can have no comparison with chairs and tables.

Shri K. Santhanam: With reference to part (b) of the question, may I know what are the total assets, apart from liabilities, specially major assets like the railways, which have been transferred, as far as information is available?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: It is difficult to give the information because it is not readily available. Unless major and minor assets are defined it is not possible to answer that question.

DEVELOPMENT OF AYURVEDIC SCIENCE, LITERATURE AND INSTITUTIONS

84. *Shri R. V. Dhulekar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the Ayurvedic system of Medicine prevails in India under various names—Kaviraji, Siddhi, Unani etc.,—throughout the various provinces and that a very large section of the population both in towns and villages get medical relief from Vaidyas and Kavirajes and Hakims?

(b) Are Government aware that the Ayurvedic science has a very large literature in Sanskrit and other Provincial languages and that there are several lakhs of Ayurvedic practitioners practising throughout the country successfully?

(c) Are Government aware that there is a large number of Ayurvedic teaching schools and colleges in the country and many of them have also been recognised and aided by Provincial Governments?

(d) Are Government aware that an Ayurvedic University has been established at Jhansi for higher studies in Ayurved and Research in Ayurvedic Science?

(e) What steps are Government taking to help and develop (1) Ayurvedic science and literature (2) Ayurvedic Schools, Colleges and University (3) the preparation of standard Ayurvedic Medicines and drugs and also (4) the spread of medical relief in the country on Ayurvedic lines?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) Government have no precise information regarding the number of Ayurvedic teaching institutions in the country recognised by Provincial Governments.

(d) Government understand that an institution for the teaching of Ayurveda called the Ayurvedic University has been established at Jhansi.

(e) The question will be considered after the report of the Committee on indigenous Systems of Medicine is received.

COMMITTEE FOR DEVELOPING AYURVEDIC SYSTEM

85. *Shri R. V. Dhulekar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether Government are aware that they appointed some months back a Committee on indigenous system of medicines to go into the question of developing Ayurvedic system and other allied questions?

(b) Are Government aware that almost all the representatives of the Vaidyas on the Committee are Doctors, that even the Chairman is an Allopathic doctor, that the whole work of the Committee was placed in the hands of a doctor who has now gone to Pakistan and that therefore great discontent exists among Vaidyas throughout India?

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(c) Are Government aware that the All India Vaidya Sammelan (All India Ayurvedic Congress) have objected to the personnel of the Committee on indigenous systems and that several prominent persons interested in Ayurveda and also Vaidyas have personally approached the Government to change the personnel?

(d) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of re-constituting the Committee composed of prominent Vaidyas alone and some members of the Dominion Legislature who are working for the uplift of Ayurvedic science?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) Yes.

(b) The four Vaidas included in the Committee are well known persons in the field of Ayurveda though one of them has also allopathic qualifications. The Committee asked one of its members, an allopathic doctor, to investigate a particular problem but the work of the Committee was not relegated to any particular individual.

(c) The wishes of the All India Ayurvedic Congress and other persons interested in the work of the Committee were given full consideration when the Committee was constituted. The Committee was constituted in consultation with Provincial Governments.

(d) The Committee is meant to investigate the usefulness of indigenous systems of medicine such as Ayurveda and Unani and it is not possible to confine the membership to Vaidyas only.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

GRANT OF FUNDS FOR AYURVEDIC TEACHING AND RESEARCH

86. ***Shri R. V. Dhulekar:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether Government will consider the question of earmarking a substantial amount in the annual budget for Ayurvedic Teaching and Research and spend the same on distributing grants recurring and non-recurring to teaching institutions in the country and also for establishing Ayurvedic Research Department of its own?

(b) Do Government propose to establish a Department of Ayurveda as a section of the Health Department with a view to employing qualified Vaidyas Health and Medical Officers for running Ayurvedic hospitals and doing other medical relief work which the allopathic doctors do? If so, when? If not, why not?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) The establishment of Ayurvedic Teaching Institutions is primarily the concern of Provincial Governments. The question as to how far the Central Government can help to further research in indigenous systems of medicine will be considered after the Committee on Indigenous Systems of Medicine has submitted its Report.

(b) There is no such proposal at present. The question to what extent the indigenous systems of medicine can be utilised as part of the Medical Services of the country will be considered after the report of the Committee I have mentioned is received.

APPOINTMENT OF ORIYA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IN THE CENTRAL EXCISE

87. ***Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether there is any Oriya administrative officer in the Central Excise in Orissa Division?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above is in the negative, are there no qualified candidates for it in Orissa?

(c) Did any one apply for it?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) Yes: an officer in the grade of Assistant Collector.

(b) and (c). Does not arise, but it may be added that the province of domicile is not the main criterion adopted for judging a candidate's fitness for appointment as the charge of the Calcutta Central Excise Collectorate embraces more than one Province.

SEPARATE RADIO STATION FOR ORISSA

88. ***Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting please state when will there be a separate Radio Station for the Province of Orissa?

(b) Are Government aware that at present the Province of Orissa gets only half an hour at the Calcutta Radio Station every day for relaying news and music and that too at 9-30 P.M. which is a very inconvenient hour?

(c) Do Government propose to see that the Oriya programme is relayed from the Calcutta Radio Station at least twice a day, one in the day time and the other in the night?

(d) Are Government aware that there is no Oriya Assistant at the All India Radio Station at New Delhi?

(e) If so, do Government propose to appoint an Oriya Assistant so that news from Delhi in Oriya may be relayed independently of the Calcutta Station?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) A broadcasting station at Cuttack has been included in All India Radio's Development Plan; it is expected to be installed by the middle of 1948.

(b) Yes, Sir. The present time was fixed with the concurrence of the Provincial Government.

(c) With the existing transmitting facilities at Calcutta it is regretted that it is not possible to give more time for programmes in Oriya.

(d) No, Sir; but a post of Programme Assistant for Oriya Programmes has already been sanctioned at the Calcutta Station and steps are being taken to appoint a suitable candidate.

(e) No, Sir. It is not possible at present to arrange for the broadcast of a news bulletin in Oriya from Delhi.

TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION FOR FORCES DURING WAR

89. ***Shri M. S. Aney:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state what is the total area of the land vested in the Crown in different provinces, for the purpose of providing temporary accommodation for the Army, Navy and Air Force during the War?

(b) How many of these temporary camps have been deserted and the temporary structures standing thereon dismantled since the end of the War?

(c) How much of the land which is no longer needed for defence purposes is capable of being brought under cultivation?

(d) What efforts, if any, have been made by Government to use it or allow it to be used for agricultural purposes, particularly for growing food-crops thereon?

(e) Have the Government of India prepared any scheme to utilise these deserted areas for cultivation and turn them into fields growing food-crops?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) The total area of land hired and requisitioned outside cantonments for the purpose of providing temporary accommodation. Field Firing Ranges, and other needs of the expanded war-time army was approximately 9,09,504 acres. The classification of this area into land earmarked for temporary accommodation for the Armed Forces and that reserved for other requirements is not readily available.

(b) The total area of land released by Defence Services by 30th September 1947, is 4,25,483 acres. Information regarding the area under abandoned camps and structures is not readily available.

(c) The information is not readily available. The Ministry of Agriculture has asked the Provincial Governments to carry out detailed surveys of such areas.

(d) and (e). A scheme for bringing 6,00,000 acres of cultivable waste under cultivation has been drawn up in consultation with the U. P., C. P., Bihar, Orissa and Madras Governments. This programme is to be implemented over the next five years.

UTILIZATION OF DESERTED ARMY CAMP HOUSES AND SHEDS

90. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in many places of India there are big and small Army Camp houses and sheds which have not been in use for the last 2 or 3 years and which are no longer intended to be used by the Army;

(b) whether it is a fact that some of them are falling into bad repairs and are even collapsing;

(c) what objection Government have to give these houses to local Governments for being repaired and allotted for occupation by the very large number of poor people who are suffering from lack of even huts and sites for hovels; and

(d) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of having inter-departmental and inter-provincial conferences to save these properties and to arrange for their full utilisation by the local poor and houseless people through the Provincial Governments?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (b). I do not think, Sir, it is correct to say that these buildings have been allowed to remain vacant for as long as two or three years. As soon as it is known that a building or a number of buildings are likely to become surplus to military requirements action is taken to dispose of them without avoidable delay. Some of the buildings have fallen into disrepair while awaiting disposal mainly because most of them are temporary buildings which were constructed during the war and which have considerably outlived their scheduled life.

(c) These war-time assets are normally offered to Provincial Governments before they are disposed of by sale. The Central Government have already placed at the disposal of various Provincial Governments and Indian States accommodation capable of housing approximately 2 lakhs of refugees.

(d) Does not arise in view of my answer to part (c).

GRANT OF SUBSIDIES TO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF HOUSING

91. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 1946-47 Budget provided an allotment for giving subsidies to Provincial Governments for the development of housing;

(b) if so, how much;

(c) how that subsidy was utilised as between different provinces;

(d) how many houses have come to be built with it;

(e) their number in rural and urban areas; and

(f) whether any funds are still outstanding and if so, how Government expect to utilise them in the light of their experience of the utilisation of such funds in the past?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) Yes.

(b) Rs. 2 crores.

(c), (d) and (e). Owing to the continuance of very high building costs there was little response to Central Government's offer of assistance to pay 12½ per cent. of the total cost of approved schemes and no subsidies were paid under the terms of that offer.

(f) There is no cumulative fund for this purpose. The provision in 1946-47 was made in the usual manner and it has lapsed. Fresh provision of Rs. 50 lacs was made for the year 1947-48 but no expenditure has so far been incurred on this account.

PREVENTION OF AN ECONOMIC CRISIS IN INDIA

92. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that several economists in England and America are expressing their fears of the early approach of an economic crisis all the world over;

(b) whether such a crisis is not likely to occur in India; and

(c) the steps that are being taken by Government either to step up production or to limit the creation of credit by Banks and in other ways to prevent the possibility of an economic crisis?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) I have noted that some economists have given expression to this fear.

(b) and (c). Government are fully aware of the need for increasing production and for checking the inflationary tendency. Steps are being taken to bring about an increase in production of essential commodities. In close consultation with the Reserve Bank, all possible steps in the monetary field will also be taken if and when the necessity arises.

IMPLEMENTATION OF PAY COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS

93. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) when the resolution of Government on the Pay Commission's recommendations will be published; and

(b) whether necessary provision will be made in the next Budget for the implementation of its recommendations?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) Government have already given publicity to their decisions regarding the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission relating to pay and allowances by Press communiques and gazette notifications from time to time. They do not, therefore, propose to issue any resolution in the matter. The Commission's recommendations relating to leave, retirement benefits etc. are still under consideration and decisions thereon will be published in due course. Copies of the orders and Press communiques so far issued are placed on the table of the house†.

(b) Yes.

EMPLOYMENT OF BIHARIS IN ACCOUNTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE, BIHAR

94. *Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

† Not printed in these Debates. A copy placed in the Library of the House.—Ed. of D.

- (a) the year in which the office of the Accountant-General was created in the province of Bihar;
- (b) the total number of ministerial staff in the above office, and the number of Biharis, Bengalis and the members of other communities holding appointments at present in each cadre separately;
- (c) the number of Bihari and Bengali Assistant Accounts Officers and the permanent Superintendents employed at present in that office;
- (d) the number of Bihari, Bengali and other communities appointed to the clerical posts of that office since April, 1946;
- (e) the number of Bihari Superintendents and Assistants posted in the Office Establishment Section since the creation of the office and the period for which each worked in that section;
- (f) the number of Bihari Ministerial Officers at present working in the Office Establishment Section;
- (g) the number of Bihari Superintendents posted to the important sections, e.g., Budget, Appropriation Audit, Treasury Miscellaneous, Book, and the three Gazetted Audit Sections, since the creation of the office, and the period for which each worked in the particular sections;
- (h) the number of Bihari Superintendents at present working in the above sections; and
- (i) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news and comments that have appeared in the Provincial Papers (*viz.*, the *Searchlight*, dated the 30th August 1947, the 1st October 1947, the 6th October 1947 and the 12th October 1947, *Dak* editions, and the *Sentinel*, dated the 31st August 1947 and the 7th September 1947) regarding that office, and if so, what action Government have taken to ameliorate the grievances of the Biharis of that office?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

COLLECTION OF ARMS AND MOBILISATION OF MILITARY FORCES BY THE NIZAM

95. *Shri Jagat Narain Lal: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether Government are aware of (i) the huge manufacture and collection of Arms (ii) the recruitment and mobilisation of military forces, which are going on in different areas of Pakistan and in the Nizam's State in Hyderabad?

(b) If so, what steps do Government propose to take to cope with the imminent danger to the safety of the territories of India?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (b). Government do not consider it to be in the public interest to discuss on the floor of the House alleged war-like preparations in neighbouring States or areas and the steps taken to meet a threat to the safety of India.

ADVERTISEMENT OF IMPORTANT POSTS IN INDIAN UNION IN ORISSA GAZETTE

96. *Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether Government propose to arrange that all important posts that are advertised in the Gazette of the Government of India are also advertised in the Gazette of Orissa so far as the services in the Union are concerned?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The procedure suggested by the Honourable Member is already being followed.

APPOINTMENT OF ORIYAS TO CENTRAL SERVICES

97. *Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state how many persons from the Province of Orissa have been appointed in the following Central Services:

- (i) Accounts and Audit Department,
- (ii) Federal Secretariat,
- (iii) Survey of India Office, and
- (iv) Customs Department and other Departments under the Union Government?

(b) Do Government propose to see that sufficient number of persons from the Province of Orissa are appointed to these Services?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b). The information asked for is not readily available and its collection would involve an expenditure of time and labour out of proportion to its utility. The general policy of Government in the matter of recruitment is to make appointments as far as possible on the basis of merit. Where recruitment to any service is not by open competition, the vacancies are distributed among the different communities on a population basis. Government do not propose to complicate further the process of recruitment by engrafting the principles of territorial representation on that of communal representation.

GRANTS GIVEN BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA FOR PUBLIC HEALTH SCHEMES

98. *Shri B. A. Mandloi: Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of grant given by the Government of India to the various provinces including the Chief Commissioner's Provinces and to the States for carrying out schemes of public health in the years 1945-46 and 1946-47; and

(b) the amount Government propose to give in the year 1947-48?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) and (b). Development grants to Provinces, including Chief Commissioner's Provinces, are not allotted separately for each subject, but for each Provincial programme as a whole. Full information is not available, as to how much was actually spent by Provincial Governments during this period on schemes relating to public Health. No grants were made to Indian States.

MONEY GIVEN TO GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN

99. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state how much money has been given to the Government of Pakistan and on what conditions?

(b) Do the Government of India propose to continue to give money piecemeal to the Government of Pakistan without settling the final accounts?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) In accordance with the decision of the Partition Council a sum of Rs. 20 crores was allocated to Pakistan as a working balance from the cash balance of the undivided India.

(b) No piecemeal payments have been made and the question therefore does not arise.

DIVISION OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

100. *Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the division of assets and liabilities is completed between the Governments of India and Pakistan;

(b) on what basis the division of assets and liabilities between the Governments of India and Pakistan has been made; and

(c) whether the same ratio is being followed for division of both assets and liabilities?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) No Sir.

(b) The terms of reference of the Expert Committee which dealt with the division of assets and liabilities is laid on the table.

(c) It is obviously impossible to have a uniform ratio for all assets and liabilities but as the total liabilities of the undivided Government are likely to exceed the total assets each Dominion will take over a debt equal to the assets taken by it plus its share of the uncovered debt.

Terms of reference of Expert committee No. II. Assets and liabilities

(1) To compile lists of assets by broad categories showing value and present location.

(2) To make recommendations as to the division of assets between the two successor governments. The general principle should be to secure the greatest good of the two states, but if there are disputed claims for fixed assets, like plant and machinery, the removal of which might be detrimental to the interests of the other Government, the facts of each case should be reported for consideration by the Partition Council.

(3) When division is impracticable, to make recommendation either for mutual assistance or for joint administration or for any other arrangement for such period as may be necessary.

(4) To make recommendations in regard to the financial settlement between the two Governments arising from the above as well as from an allocation of the public debt, pensions and other liabilities.

(5) To recommend measures for giving effect to any transfer of assets after the recommendations have been accepted by the Partition Council.

THEFTS FROM JUBBULPORE AND OTHER ORDNANCE DEPOTS

101. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether Government are aware of a number of thefts from Jubbulpore Central Ordnance Depot and various other Ordnance Depots in India after the end of the war?

(b) If so, how many cases are so far reported to Government and what action have they taken?

(c) What action do Government propose to take to stop recurrence of such thefts?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Three cases, in all of which suitable police and other action was taken. Petty cases of theft in Ordnance Depots occur not infrequently and are dealt with by the Security Staff. They are not normally reported to the Government of India but details have been asked for.

(c) Regulations exist to prevent all conceivable opportunities for theft and Ordnance Establishments have been enjoined to observe them strictly. Disciplinary action is taken in cases where laxity of security measures is

APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL POLICE OFFICERS IN DELHI

102. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state how many Special Police Officers are appointed in Delhi to meet the riot situation?

(b) Is there any proposal to make this arrangement a permanent one?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Two thousand of all ranks.

(b) No.

CASUALTIES AND LOSS OF PROPERTY SINCE PARTITION OF INDIA

103. *R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons murdered or killed as a result of communal disturbances, province-wise and community-wise, since the partition of India into two Dominions;

(b) how many of them were men, women and children respectively;

(c) the number of buildings destroyed by fire or otherwise as a result of riots and communal disturbances during the same period;

(d) the approximate value of the property destroyed or looted during the same period; and

(e) the number of forcible conversions of (i) men, (ii) women and (iii) children, during the same period?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The question covers a very wide and all India field of information. It is impossible to furnish a correct answer without detailed and elaborate enquiry through Special Staff. On the whole I consider that the time and labour involved would not be commensurate with the utility of the special effort involved.

POPULATION FIGURES OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN

104. *R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement giving the population figures of the two Dominions—India and Pakistan—province-wise and community-wise, according to the Census of 1941?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Statements giving the population figures of the two Dominions—province-wise and community-wise, are placed on the table of the House.

Statement showing the population figures of the Dominion of India

India less States	Total Population	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Indian Christians	Anglo-Indians	Others *
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Madras	49,341,810	42,799,822	3,896,452	418	2,001,082	28,661	615,375
Bombay	20,849,840	16,555,390	1,920,398	8,011	338,812	14,034	2,013,225
U. P.	55,020,617	45,811,869	8,416,308	232,445	131,327	13,383	415,485
Bihar	36,340,151	26,514,269	4,716,314	13,213	24,692	5,963	5,065,999
C. P. & Berar	16,313,594	12,931,996	783,697	14,996	48,260	4,538	3,030,970
Orissa	8,728,544	6,832,706	146,301	232	26,584	789	1,721,932
Ajmer-Merwara	583,693	376,481	89,899	867	5,387	1,005	110,054
A. & N. Islands	33,768	8,427	8,005	744	1,032	100	16,460
Delhi	917,939	587,225	304,971	16,157	10,494	3,408	16,684
Coorg	168,726	130,753	14,730	..	3,309	80	19,854
East Punjab	12,771,323	5,457,610	4,491,637	2,395,046	124,380	1,205	300,845
West Bengal	21,371,046	14,371,987	5,317,623	10,075	60,284	29,106	1,481,971
Assam	7,607,564	3,255,295	1,866,715	3,444	35,552	450	2,447,058
Panth-Piploda	5,267	4,726	251	..	216	..	74
Total	230,453,872	175,618,356	31,972,271	2,696,248	2,811,452	102,732	17,252,813
States in Indian Union	72,469,900	50,563,623	8,841,295	1,467,861	2,675,334	22,732	8,998,855
Grand Total of Indian Union	302,923,772	226,182,179	40,813,566	4,164,109	5,386,786	125,464	26,251,668

Statement showing the population figures of the Dominion of Pakistan

Province	Total Population	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Indian Christians	Anglo-Indians	Other
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
North-West Frontier Province	3,038,067	180,321	2,788,797	57,939	5,426	837	4,747
Sind	4,535,008	1,229,926	3,208,325	31,011	13,235	2,731	49,780
West Punjab	15,647,496	2,106,762	11,725,605	1,361,755	361,658	4,886	87,030
Baluchistan	501,631	44,623	438,930	11,918	2,633	263	3,264
East Bengal	41,632,948	11,644,965	29,264,575	1,226	52,797	2,687	666,398
Total	65,354,850	15,206,597	47,426,232	1,463,849	423,749	11,204	811,219
States and Agencies which have acceded to Pakistan Dominion							
State	Total Population	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Indian Christians	Anglo-Indians	Others *
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Baluchistan	356,204	9,771	346,251	126	40	Nil	16
N.-W. F. P.	46,267	17,310	22,068	4,472	571	13	1,833
Bahawalpur	1,341,209	169,002	1,098,814	46,945	2,942	57	23,449
Khairpur	305,787	49,602	253,690	1,616	92	2	785
Total	2,049,467	245,685	1,720,823	53,159	3,645	72	26,083
Grand Total	67,404,317	15,452,282	49,147,055	1,517,008	439,394	11,276	837,302
Statement showing the population figures of the States which have not yet acceded to any Dominion							
State	Total Population	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Indian Christians	Anglo-Indians	Others
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Hyderabad	16,338,534	13,310,045	2,097,475	5,330	215,980	3,660	706,044

NUMBER OF I.C.S., I.P., AND I.P.S. OFFICERS SERVING IN INDIA

105. *R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state province-wise and community-wise—

- the number of I. C. S. Officers;
- the number of Indian Police (I. P.) Officers; and
- the number of Officers of the Indian Political Service, still serving in India?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: A statement containing the information is placed on the table.

Statement showing province-wise and community-wise the number of officers of the Indian Civil Service, the Indian Police and the Indian Political Service who are still serving in India

Province	Service	Europeans	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Indian Christians	Domiciled Europeans & Anglo-Indians	Parsis	Other Communities	Remarks
Madras	. . . I. C. S. .	16	66	...	...	6	...	...	1 (Ceylonese).	
Madras	. . . I. P. .	8	16	2	...	2	2	...	...	
Bombay	. . . I. C. S. .	*8	52	2	...	...	1	4	...	*Includes 5 officers re-tained for short periods.
Bombay	. . . I. P. .	†5	14	...	...	1	...	5	...	†Includes 4 officers re-tained for short periods.
West Bengal	. . . I. C. S. .	††1	55	1	...	1	1	...	...	††Includes 3 officers re-tained for short periods and one officer of mixed descent.
West Bengal	. . . I. P. .	§4	19	3	...	...	...	...	...	§Includes 1 officer re-tained for short period.
U. P. .	. . . I. C. S. .	||6	64	5	1	4	1	2	1 (Armenian)	||Includes 3 officers re-tained for short periods.
U. P. .	. . . I. P. .	¶16	20	2	4	...	2	...	...	¶Includes 9 officers re-tained for short periods.
East Punjab	. . . I. C. S. .	...	19	2	10	3	...	...	...	...
East Punjab	. . . I. P. .	**3	4	...	6	1	...	...	...	**Includes 1 officer re-tained for short period.
C. P. & Berar	. . . I. C. S. .	††4	30	...	...	...	3	1	1 (Ceylonese).	††Includes 1 officer re-tained for short period.
C. P. & Berar	. . . I. P. .	...	9	...	...	...	1	1	...	††Includes 1 officer re-tained for short period.
Bihar & Orissa	. . . I. C. S. .	††4	41	...	...	1	...	...	1 (Jew)	††Includes 1 officer re-tained for short period.
Bihar & Orissa	. . . I. P. .	§§4	24	2	...	...	...	...	...	§§Includes 1 officer re-tained for short period.
Assam	. . . I. C. S. .	|||5	12	2	...	...	...	2	...	|||All the 5 officers re-tained for short periods.
Assam	. . . I. P. .	¶¶4	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	¶¶Retained for short periods.
Central Government	. . . I. P. S. .	3	6	1	1	...	...	...	...	All I. P. S. officers are borne on the Central Cadre.

EUROPEAN OFFICERS OF IMPERIAL SERVICES RETIRED AFTER POLITICAL CHANGES IN INDIA

106. *R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state, Province-wise, the number of European Officers belonging to the various Imperial Services in India, who have retired as a result of the recent political and administrative changes in the country?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: A statement containing the information is placed on the table.

Statement showing the number of European officers belonging to the Secretary of State's Services in India, who have retired as a result of the recent Political changes in the country

Province	Indian Civil Service	Indian Police Service	Indian Political Service	Indian Educational Service	Indian Service of Engineers	Indian Forest Service	Indian Veterinary Service	Indian Agricultural Service	Indian Medical Service (Civil)
Madras	33	16	..	..	4	5	..	..	13
Bombay & Sind	25	20	..	..	4*	6	..	..	9
Bengal	38	37	..	..	7*	5	..	..	11
United Provinces	48	30	..	..	4	5	..	..	7
Punjab & N. W.F.P.	51	45	..	..	19*	5	..	..	13
C. P. & Berar	22	17	..	..	..	3	..	1	5
Bihar & Orissa	28	17	..	..	3	4	..	..	8
Assam	9	11	..	..	1	1	..	..	7
Central Government	..	..	101	..	4	..	..	..	27

*These figures are approximate. Exact figures are awaited.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

DISTURBANCES IN DELHI

107. *Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to lay on the table of the House a detailed statement of the disturbances that took place in the city of Delhi in the early part of September last?

(b) Is it a fact that a very large number of Muslims armed with cannons, machine guns, rifles and various other automatic weapons made a desperate bid to capture the city of Delhi by force?

(c) Is it a fact that the situation became so serious that the Military had to be called in, to cope with it and that tanks and armoured cars had to be used?

(d) Is it a fact that there had been pitched battles in several parts of the city for hours, between the Indian troops and the armed insurgents?

(e) What was the duration of these disturbances?

(f) Is it a fact that machine guns and other automatic weapons used by the rebels could not all be seized or traced?

(g) What steps have been taken by Government to prevent recurrence of such happenings in future?

(h) What were the casualties sustained on either side?

(i) How many of the insurgents have been taken into custody and how are they being dealt with?

(j) What categories and quantities of arms and ammunition have been so far secured from them?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(b) and (d). A large quantity of arms of various descriptions and ammunition have been recovered from Muslims. On several occasions Muslims in certain pre-dominantly Muslim localities aggressively used their fire-arms against the military, police and the non-Muslims of the locality. The military returned the fire and in certain instances owing to the difficulty in locating the sources of fire it took some time before the fire was silenced. This, however, cannot be said to be a desperate bid or pitched battle to capture the City of Delhi by force.

(c) Troops were called out in aid of the police but tanks and armoured cars were used for purpose of flag marches and patrolling only.

(e) The peak period was from the 6th to 15th September.

(f) Every effort was made to trace and seize the weapons and two sten-guns were actually seized.

(g) (i) Public Safety Act and the Punjab Disturbed Areas Act have been extended to the Delhi Province.

- (ii) Reorganisation of the Delhi Police Force and increase in its strength.
- (iii) Enrolment of Special Police Officers.
- (iv) Arrest and detention of miscreants and prosecution of culprits.
- (v) Holding of peace meetings and propaganda for communal harmony.
- (h) The Police casualties were 2 killed and 7 injured while official figures of other known casualties during the disturbances are 583 killed and 394 wounded.
- (i) The total number of persons arrested in connection with the disturbances is about 4,000. They are being dealt with under the law.
- (j) A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in reply to Part (a) of the question No. 107.

Prolonged disturbances in the Punjab particularly in Lahore and Amritsar and the influx of refugees had their inevitable reaction on the city of Delhi and tension developed. This tension was accentuated by the activities of the Khaksars who professed it as their aim that they would extend the boundaries of Pakistan to the Delhi and would prevent the flying of National Flag on the Red Fort. In August large-scale disturbances broke out in the Punjab and Delhi received an abnormal influx of refugees whose stories of atrocities created even more tension. Attacks then occurred on Muslims in neighbouring villages and in trains causing considerable loss of life. On the 25th August four Muslim employees of a Cotton Mill were killed following an alleged altercation between a Hindu and a Muslim in which the latter was alleged to have slapped the former. On the night of the 3rd September a bomb was thrown in a Hindu quarter in Karol Bagh; a Muslim was suspected to be the culprit. Serious rioting broke out in Karol Bagh involving loot, murder and arson including the death of an eminent surgeon. The trouble then spread to other localities, particularly Subzimandi, Turkman Gate, Pharagunj and Phatak Habash Khan. The peak period of the disturbances was roughly from the 6th to the 15th September when attacks on Muslims and looting of their property took place in many localities of the Capital including Connaught Place at New Delhi. On the 7th September troops had to be called out in substantial number. In several localities also attacks on Muslims occurred and prolonged firing from Muslim houses in Pahargunj, Subzimandi and Turkman Gate localities at the troops and Police and the inhabitants of the adjoining localities. The Police force became depleted as a result of desertions and resignations by Muslim members of the staff. Besides calling in the Military, Special Police Officers were enrolled. Carrying of weapons and assembly of five or more persons in public were banned and for several weeks curfew was imposed. The police and military fired on numerous occasions to disperse riotous crowds and looters. House to house searches were also undertaken to recover looted property. During the peak period of the disturbances steps were taken to search persons, vehicles and houses for illicit arms.

Statement referred to in Part (j) of the question No. 107.

Description.	Quantity.	
	Licensed.	Unlicensed
Guns D. B. B. L.	45	41
Shotguns	3	10
Rifles	71	21
Pistols or revolvers	7	32
Cartridges rifles	3,803	1,950
Stengun cartridges	...	243
Ammunition	...	3 boxes.
Sword and Kirpans	...	63
Daggers	...	46
Chhuras	...	116
Guptis (sword sticks and gun sticks)	...	14
Mortars etc.	...	46
Bombs	...	154
Hand grenades	...	4
Khukharis	...	8
Chhavis	...	6
Dao	...	1

ACCESSION OF JUNAGADH STATE

108. *Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to lay on the table of the House a detailed statement about the situation created by the action of the Junagadh State against the neighbouring States acceding to the Indian Dominion?

(b) Has the Junagadh State agreed to the proposed referendum with regard to the question of accession?

(c) If the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, what action is proposed to be taken by the Government of India for safeguarding the interests of the Kathiawar States acceding to the Indian Dominion?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a), (b) and (c). The Government of India's stand on the issue of the accession of Junagadh to Pakistan has been made public in the press communiques issued on the 25th September, 5th October and 1st November 1947. The matter is under consideration at Dominion level and I do not think it would be in the public interest to make a detailed statement at this stage. The Junagadh Ruler has not agreed to a referendum on the question of accession.

TRAINING OF YOUNGMEN IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DEPARTMENTS

109. *Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the scarcity of efficient trained young men is a serious problem?

(b) Have Government considered the problem and if so, what steps they propose to take in the matter?

(c) Have Government evolved any plan for the intensive training of young men in the various Departments of the Government of India?

(d) If the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, what are the plans?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The Government of India appointed a Committee early in September this year to examine and make recommendations regarding the recruitment of administrative officers and to give them intensive training so as to overcome the existing shortage of trained man-power. The Committee has submitted its report on the 4th November. The report is under examination.

(d) A copy of the report is laid on the table of the House.*

EDUCATION IN ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCES

110. *Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state what steps Government are proposing to take for making available education in the Army, Navy and Air Forces in the country?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: It is not clear what exactly the Honourable Member has in mind, but on the assumption that he wishes to know what steps Government propose to take to provide military training to the public, I would reply that the Government are at present actively considering the recommendations of the National Cadet Corps Committee which would cover the youth of the country. Government consider that this is the first step to be taken.

If, however, the Honourable Member wants information about the facilities which at present exist for providing general education to the rank and file in the Armed Forces, it will be found in the statement which I lay on the Table of the House.

(i) *Education in the Navy.*—In the Navy it is proposed to maintain the same extensive educational facilities which have been built up in the past three years.

*Not printed in these Debates. A copy placed in the Library of the House.—Ed. of D.

In future boy entry will be the main source of recruitment to the Navy and educational subjects occupy about 50 per cent. of the time-table in the training programme of the Boy's Training Establishment.

All ratings afloat and ashore are encouraged to prepare for the Naval Educational Test One (short title E. T. 1) examination which is held three times a year.

This is a written examination and the subjects are :—

(a) Language and General Knowledge ; and

(b) Elementary Mathematics.

Either of these may be written in Hindustani (Roman Character) or English. This examination is roughly equivalent to the two years pre-matric standard.

Ratings who have passed this examination are encouraged to take the Naval Higher Educational Test (short title H. E. T.) examination which is also held three times a year. The subjects are :—

(a) Arithmetic and Mensuration.

(b) English and General Knowledge.

(c) History.

(d) Geography.

(e) Algebra, Geometry and Trigonometry.

(f) Mechanics.

(g) Magnetism and Electricity.

(h) Navigation.

According to Branch, candidates must qualify in five or six subjects to pass. This examination has been recognised as being equivalent to Matriculation by the Government of India for employment purposes and for purposes of admission by most of the Universities.

It is pointed out that a comparatively higher standard of educational attainment is necessary for advancement in most branches of the Navy. English continues to be the medium of instruction for the Naval Higher Educational Test, as this language is essential for the training of higher rates in the various Naval Technical Branches of the Navy.

School classes in preparation for these examinations are held in all ships and establishment carrying Schoolmasters, R.N. In the case of those smaller ships in which a Schoolmaster is not borne, educational facilities for the ship's Company are always made available in the various bases at which these ships call.

In addition to the above, Information Rooms, Fiction, General and Reference Libraries are maintained out of the Naval Educational Training Grant

Every opportunity is given to all ratings to utilise these facilities.

In addition to purely educational training, professional instruction is given in technical subjects such as Gunnery, Torpedo, Anti-Submarine, Visual Signalling and Wireless Telegraphy in specialist training establishments.

The knowledge so acquired is of considerable general educational value.

(ii) *Army*.—Educational training is an integral part of the soldier's training. The object of Indian Army Education is to educate the individual throughout his service as a man, as a soldier and as a citizen. This training will be carried out as a continuous process throughout the whole of a man's service.

Indian Troops are prepared for the following examinations :

Recruits Test;

Indian Army 3rd, 2nd and 1st Class Certificates of Education ; and

Indian Army Special Certificate of Education.

Besides these, there are the Indian Army 3rd, 2nd and 1st Class English Certificates examinations. The Indian Army Special Certificate of Education has been recognised by most universities as equivalent to their Matriculation certificates.

Syllabus for the various examinations cover the following subjects:—

Hindustani in Roman Script.

Mathematics.

Various Vernaculars.

Geography.

History.

Citizenship and General Knowledge.

Physiology and Hygiene.

Everyday Science ; and

General and Commercial Geography.

It is compulsory for trained soldiers to carry out educational training for 5 periods per week. At present special emphasis is being laid on instruction for the Recruits Test and the Indian Army 3rd Class Certificate of Education specially with recruits, as these examinations are designed to enable the soldier to read and write in Roman Urdu, learn elementary arithmetic and read and write in his own vernacular. Indian Army Educational Corps officers provide instructions up to the soldier standard and the IMA, Dehra Dun, for Cadets. Officers and VCO's of the Indian army are attached to Headquarters of Formations and major units for the training of Indian Troops.

(iii) *Royal Indian Air Force*.—This falls under two distinct headings:—

(a) *Technical Education*.—Imparted to officers and airmen and trainees to make them proficient in their trades. The major part of this work is carried out at the following Training Schools.

1. No. 1 Ground Training School.

2. No. 2 Ground Training School.

3. No. 3 Ground Training School.

4. Elementary Flying Training School.

5. Advanced Flying School.

6. Initial Training Wing.

7. Medical Training Centre.

8. Royal Indian Air Force Depot.

(b) *General Education*.—For the purpose of improving the general educational standard and providing a broad outlook and intelligent appreciation of current affairs, and creating interest in the cultural, scientific and political development of the present day civilisation. This is carried out at all units.

(i) Promotion of airmen is subject to attainment of minimum of general educational standard in addition to proficiency in their trades and administrative ability and for this purpose two Service Educational Tests are held every year. The lower of the two tests has received the sanction of the Home Department (Government of India) for recognition as equivalent to Matriculation examination for the purpose of employment for war-service candidates.

(ii) Besides, facilities exist for officers and airmen to take external examinations covering a wide variety of subjects, technical and non-technical, with a number of Institutes and Universities in this country and abroad.

EVASION OF PAYMENT OF INCOME TAX

111. *Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether Government are aware that a number of big financiers in the country dodge the income-tax Department?

(b) Have Government taken any steps to stop this?

(c) Are any further steps under contemplation?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) The Government have reason to believe that there has been evasion of income-tax by big financiers, among others; it is possible that each of them has his own system.

(b) Yes; all possible steps permissible under the Income-tax Act have been taken to detect evasion.

(c) Yes; an Income-tax Investigation Commission has been set up to investigate specific cases of suspected evasion, and also to suggest amendments to the existing taxation laws in order to facilitate further the detection of tax evasion in future.

ANNUAL GRANT TO ALIGARH UNIVERSITY

112. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state as to how much annual grant is being given to the Aligarh University?

(b) Are Government aware of the political activities of the students of Aligarh Muslim University, particularly the part taken by them in the last general elections and in the referendum in the North West Frontier Province and Sylhet?

(c) Are Government aware that most of the members of its Executive Council and Syndicate have been advocates of Pakistan and the two-nation theory and that some of them are holding high positions in the Government of Pakistan?

(d) If so, what steps are being taken to eliminate the anti-national tendencies before giving any additional or existing grants to the University?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) The Aligarh Muslim University receives an annual grant of Rs. 3,00,000. A sum of Rs. 1,05,265 was given to the University during 1946-47 as a dearness allowance grant. The University Grants Committee recommended an interim recurring grant of Rs. 2,50,000 in a full financial year to enable the University to adopt the scales of pay approved by the Government of India for the teachers of the Central Universities. The amount of actual grant is to be determined after the receipt of details from the University. An advance grant of Rs. 2,25,000 was paid to the University for this purpose in 1946-47. This amount has yet to be adjusted. The grant for the current financial year has not yet been paid.

(b), (c) and (d). Beyond what has appeared in the press, the Government has no information regarding the political activities of the students of the University, the members of its Executive Council or staff of the University. Government are, however, of the opinion that an institution should not be judged by the activities of any particular group of its members in a particular time for it has often happened that members of a different group of the same institution at a different time have acted differently in a different situation. It is, however, self-evident that any institution which receives or expects help from the public revenues cannot carry on any activity which is against the education policy of the Government.

PROTECTION OF PROPERTY AND FUNDS OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN LAHORE

113. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state what steps, if any, were taken for the protection of the property and funds of various educational institutions at Lahore founded and maintained by Indians who have been forced to evacuate to India?

(b) Have Government considered the advisability of arranging for their being shifted to India till existing conditions improve?

(c) Have Government any information regarding the funds of such institutions?

(d) Have the buildings of any of the educational institutions been requisitioned by the Government of Pakistan? If so, whether they are paying any rent for the same and to whom?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation. It has accordingly been transferred to the list of questions for the 27th November 1947, when it will be answered by the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation.

WORKING OF BOARD OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION

114. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Minister of Education please lay on the table of the House a statement about the working of the Board of Technical Education?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: It is presumed that the Honourable Member is asking for information in regard to the All India Council for Technical Education. As desired a statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement regarding the working of the All India Council for Technical Education

On the advice of the Central Advisory Board of Education, the All India Council for Technical Education has been set up, in the first instance with advisory functions only and without prejudice or commitment to the full implementation of the Central Advisory Board's recommendations, i.e., the establishment of a National Council for Technical Education for the control of policy in technical education generally and for dealing with all technical institutions above the high school stage except the Technological Departments of Universities.

The immediate task assigned to the Council is—

- (a) to survey the whole field of technical education,
- (b) to consider all immediate projects for the development of technical education, and
- (c) to conduct preliminary investigation with a view to ascertain the conditions on which the authorities in control of existing institutions would be prepared to co-operate in an all India scheme.

The Council consists of 66 members representing the Central Legislature, the Ministries of the Government of India, Provincial and State Governments, National Planning Committee, Commerce and Industry, Labour, Professional Associations, Educational Interests, etc., and two Government nominees. Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarkar is its Chairman.

At the inaugural meeting of the Council held in April/May 1946, it was decided that for the proper discharge of the functions assigned to it, three types of Committees should be set up under the aegis of the Council :—

- (i) All India Boards of Technical Studies (in six different branches of Technology).
- (ii) Regional Committees (four—one for each region).
- (iii) Co-ordinating Committee (one).

All India Boards of Technical Studies.—Six Boards have been set up in the following branches of Technology :—

- (i) Engineering and Metallurgy.
- (ii) Architecture and Regional Planning.
- (iii) Commerce and Business Administration.
- (iv) Chemical Engineering and Chemical Technology.
- (v) Textile Technology.
- (vi) Applied Art.

Each Board has a membership of fifteen and is fully representative of the various interests concerned. Four specialists are nominated on each Board by the Coordinating Committee of the Council.

The functions assigned to the Boards are :—

- (1) To examine the existing regulations and syllabuses for certificates and diplomas in the different provinces and to frame definite regulations governing the grant of—
 - (a) All India Certificates,
 - (b) All India Diplomas,
 - (c) Higher Diploma of the Higher Technical Institutions.
- (2) To recommend what conditions should be prescribed for recognition of the different types of technical institutions taking into consideration—
 - (a) qualification, nature and number of teaching staff required and conditions of service,
 - (b) accommodation needed for teaching purposes and for staff and students,
 - (c) the nature and extent of the equipment required,
 - (d) facilities for practical training, and
 - (e) such other conditions as may be required for the recognition of the institutions

- (3) To recommend persons who should be appointed as inspectors and visitors to report on the conditions of the institutes with a view to the grant of initial recognition or continuation of recognition.
- (4) To recommend the names of persons who may be appointed as external examiners ;
- (5) To suggest names of assessors who will visit the centre, report on the soundness and standard of examinations.
- (6) To perform such other duties as may be necessary for the fulfilment of the above purpose or as may be prescribed by the Coordinating Committee.

Regional Committees.—Due to various reasons there has been delay in setting up these Committees. They are however, expected to come into existence in the near future. The functions proposed to be assigned to the Committees are :

- (i) To supervise the work of the technical institutions within the area.
- (ii) To appoint Boards of Examiners, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Boards of Technical Studies concerned and to arrange for the proper conduct of examinations.
- (iii) To publish the results of the examinations.
- (iv) To send reports to the Coordinating Committee about the conduct of examinations periodically.
- (v) To make preliminary examination of any institution seeking recognition and to forward recommendations to the Coordinating Committee.
- (vi) To survey the facilities for technical education and to make recommendation thereon to Coordinating Committee.

For the present some of the above functions are being performed by the Boards of Technical Studies and the rest by the Coordinating Committee of the Council.

Coordinating Committee.—This Committee is the executive organ of the All India Council for Technical Education. The Committee consists of twelve members who are elected by representatives of all interests represented on the All India Council for Technical Education. The Chairman of the Council is *ex-officio* the Chairman of the Coordinating Committee and the Educational Adviser to the Government of India is an *ex-officio* member. The Chairmen of the six All India Boards of Technical Studies are also *ex-officio* members of the Committee.

The functions assigned to the Committee are :—

- (i) to consider all recommendations made by the Boards of Technical Studies concerned and subject to the nature of the subject—
 - (a) place them before All India Council for Technical Education with its recommendations,
- or
- (b) pass its decision thereon,
- (ii) to nominate where necessary members to the respective Boards of Technical Studies,
- (iii) to grant, on the recommendations of the Regional Committees and the Boards of Technical Studies concerned, recognition to such institutions as have been inspected and reported on,
- (iv) to authorise the grant of certificates and diplomas on the results of examinations conducted by duly constituted examining Boards, such certificates being signed by the Chairman of the Council, the Secretary of the Council and the Chairman of the Board of Technical Studies concerned.
- (v) to approve the recommendations of the Board of Technical Studies concerned.
- (vi) to correspond with and receive reports from the Regional Committees and to co-ordinate the work of the Regional Committees where necessary, and
- (vii) take such other measures as may be necessary for the proper fulfilment of the duties of the Council.

REVIVAL OF INDIA TEA RESTRICTION ACT

115. *Shri V. I. Munishwami Pillai: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state what was the total output of tea in the several tea producing provinces in the Indian Dominion during the years 1936-37 and 1945-46 and how much was consumed locally and how much was exported?

(b) Is it a fact that due to the operation of the Indian Tea Restriction Act, small growers are working at a loss?

(c) Do Government contemplate not to revive the Tea Restriction Act after 31st. March, 1948?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable the Minister for Commerce. It will, therefore, be replied by him in due course.

PRODUCTION OF QUININE

116. *Shri V. I. Munishwami Pillai: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state the total quantity of quinine produced in the provinces having cinchona plantations during the years 1936-37 and 1945-46?

(b) What is the quantity used in the Indian Dominion and what is the quantity exported to outside countries?

(c) Is it a fact that synthetic quinine has been produced and that the price of and demand for quinine are going down?

(d) What are the provinces in which free quinine is being doled out to people living in malaria affected areas especially plantation areas?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) In 1936-37—77,953 lbs. In 1945-46—85,632 lbs.

(b) In pre-war years when supplies of quinine were readily available the annual consumption in India was about 210,000 lbs. No quinine is exported from India.

(c) Quinine as such has not been synthesised but other synthetic anti-malarial drugs have been produced. It is not yet possible to estimate the effects of the synthetic anti-malarial drugs on the demand for quinine or its price.

(d) All Provincial Governments distribute certain quantities of quinine free of charge through their Public Health Departments. Particulars are available in the Statistical Appendices attached to the Annual Reports of the Public Health Commissioner which are available in the library of the House.

STOCK OF AMMUNITION, ETC. IN CENTRAL ORDNANCE DEPOT, JUBBULPORE

117. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state the amount of (i) Ammunition, (ii) Guns, and (iii) other arms which were in store in C.O.D., Jubbulpore on the 1st October, 1945, 1st October 1946 and 1st October 1947?

(b) Has there been a shortage in the quantity of stores, and if so, why?

(c) Where have the stores been sent to?

(d) Is it a fact that a large quantity of stores and ammunition of the said Depot have been dumped in the sea?

(e) If so, do Government propose to give details of the stores and ammunition sunk in the sea?

(f) Do Government propose to make a statement on the loss of military stores from various ordnance depots and their smuggling out into private hands?

(g) What steps do Government propose to take to prevent smuggling out of ammunition in future?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) It is not in the public interest to disclose this information.

(b) The term 'shortage' is capable of several interpretations. If by 'shortage' is meant a difference between the ground and book balances as available to-day the answer is in the negative.

(c) Apart from issues to troops surplus and non-postwar types of stores and ammunition have partly been broken up or dumped at sea. Stores earmarked for His Majesty's Government in the U. K. have been shipped as directed by that Government to destinations outside India and Pakistan.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Details are not available but the tonnage of stores and ammunition dumped at sea is being ascertained.

(f) and (g). The position has already been explained in my answer to parts (b) and (c) of Question No. 101 to-day.

CATEGORIES OF MENIAL GOVERNMENT SERVANTS

118. *Shrimati D. Velayudhan: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state the categories of menial servants of Government?

(b) Are the watchmen and sweepers regular servants of Government?

(c) If not, are they paid the regular dearness allowance?

(d) Is there any grade in the salary of the sweepers and the watchmen?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) The term "menial" went out of use in 1930 when it was replaced by the term "Inferior". The proper nomenclature now is "Central Service—Class IV", which includes peons, daffries, sweepers, watchmen etc. They are of three categories

(1) Those borne on regular establishment;

(2) Whole-time employees paid out of contingencies;

(3) Part-time employees paid out of contingencies.

(b) Yes; provided such employees belong to the first two categories.

(c) Dearness allowance is admissible to the first two categories but not to the third.

(d) The sweepers and watchmen borne on regular establishment are eligible for the scale of pay meant for the unskilled employees of Government namely Rs. 30— $\frac{1}{2}$ —35. Wholetime employees paid from contingencies can be allowed pay upto this scale.

MOVEMENT OF UNITS OF INDIAN ARMY IN PAKISTAN

119. *Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state what was the number of Units of the Indian Army in Pakistan on the 15th August?

(b) How many of them have been moved back to India and when will the remaining Units be brought back?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (b). I lay a statement on the table of the House.

Statement showing the number of Indian Union units in Pakistan on the 15th August 1947, the number that have been moved back and the balance still in Pakistan

	In Pakistan on 15th Aug. 47	Moved back to India	Balance to be moved back
H. Q. formations	3	3	...
Armoured Corps Units	3	3	...
Artillery Regiments	11	8	3*
Engineer Units	15	11	4
Signal Units	13	10	3
Infantry Battalions	20	15	5
RIASC Units	10	5	5
Medical Units	6	5	1
IEME Units	26	20	6
Ordnance Units	2	1	1
Intelligence Units	3	3	...
Provost Units	1	1	...
Air Liaison Unit	1	...	1

Every effort is being made to bring out the remaining units as early as possible. A firm date cannot be given but it is hoped that all units, except those protecting non-Muslim evacuees, will have been moved into India by the end of November 1947.

*Two artillery regiments and five infantry battalions have been specifically retained in Pakistan for the protection of non-Muslim evacuees.

EMPLOYMENT OF BRITISH OFFICERS IN INDIAN DEFENCE FORCES

120. *Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether Government have decided to continue to employ British Officers in the Indian Defence Forces after the 1st January, 1948?

(b) If so, what will be their number in the Navy, Army and Air Force respectively and in what capacities will they be employed?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) The exact number has not yet been worked out but it will be less than the existing number.

(ii) They will generally be employed in non-operational commands, certain specified advisory appointments, in the technical Arms and in training establishments including the Staff College and in junior and middle rank staff appointments. Only in the RIN, it may be necessary to employ some officers in operational command and in executive capacity.

INDIAN TECHNICAL OFFICERS IN DEFENCE FORCES

121. *Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether there is a shortage of Indian technical officers in the Indian Defence Forces?

(b) If so, what steps have Government taken to increase the number of such officers?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) Grant of Commissions to suitable technical personnel from the ranks.

(ii) Transfer and training of officers with civil technical qualification who are employed in non-technical branches.

(iii) Recall of suitable technical Indian officers.

(iv) Recruitment to commissioned ranks of civilians with requisite technical qualifications.

DEFENCE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF INDIAN LEGISLATURE

122. *Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether Government propose to take steps during this session of the Constituent Assembly to revive the Defence Consultative Committee of the Indian Legislature which ceased to function on the 15th August?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: It is proposed to have a Standing Committee of the Legislature for the Ministry of Defence in place of the Defence Consultative Committee which ceased to function on the 15th of August.

REPORT OF NATIONAL CADET CORPS COMMITTEE

123. *Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether Government propose to publish the Report of the National Cadet Corps Committee?

(b) Have Government taken any action on its recommendations?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (b). The Report of the National Cadet Corps Committee is under consideration by the Defence Committee of the Cabinet. As soon as Government takes a decision, both the Report and Government's orders thereon will be published.

MEASURES FOR RELIEF OF LEPROSY

124. *Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state what the percentage of lepers is with respect to the population in India and in what Province the disease is most prominent?

(b) What steps have been taken so far to implement the recommendations of the Bhore Committee in this regard?

(c) Do the Government of India give any special grants-in-aid to the Provinces for leper relief work; and, if so, what is the amount allotted to the Madras Province this year?

(d) Do Government propose to establish at least one hospital for lepers in each district and offer facilities in every hospital and dispensary for treatment of out-patients?

(e) Do Government propose to have co-ordination of relief work along with the Kasturi Bai Memorial Trusts and other organisations?

(f) If so, in what manner; if not, why not?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to pages 186—188 of the Health Survey and Development Committee's Report, Vol. II, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

(b) The recommendations of the Bhore Committee have been taken into consideration by Provincial Governments while preparing their Five Year Plans. Most of the Provinces have included Anti-Leprosy Schemes in their plans. The implementation of the schemes rests with Provinces.

(c) The Central Government allots funds to provinces for development schemes in general and expenditure for approved Leprosy relief schemes can be met from the development grant. No grants are made specifically for Leprosy relief.

(d) to (f). This is the concern of Provincial Governments.

PRODUCTION AND IMPORT OF DRUG FOR LEPROSY

125. *Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether Government are aware that in Russia a

specific for leprosy has been discovered by name "Oxydi Phthoric Acid" which has been successfully tried in Prof. Torsu Yev's clinic in Russia; and, if so, are any steps being taken to produce the drug in India or import the same?

(b) What are the results of the injections of oils hitherto used in leper clinics?

(c) How many clinics are there in India and in particular in the Madras Province, the number of hospitals and the number of in-patients therein?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) Government have seen reports of the use of Oxydiphthoric Acid in the treatment of leprosy by Russian workers. Definite information is however, not available at present regarding the specific value of this treatment. The matter will be investigated.

(b) In suitably selected patients treatment with oils, when supplemented with other measures such as control of diet, adoption of strict regime and eradication of other concomitant diseases, is of definite value.

(c) There were about 1,000 leprosy clinics in the whole of India before the partition. Detailed information is not available regarding the number now falling within the Dominion of India or about the number situated in Madras. There are about 92 leprosy in-patients hospitals in the Indian Dominion with a total accommodation for about 13,500 patients. Twelve of these are situated in Madras Province and have a bed strength of 2,900.

STRENGTH AND COMPOSITION OF BOUNDARY FORCE

126. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence please state the strength of the Boundary Force, the various regiments represented therein and the composition of the Force according to communities and the name of the Commander?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I lay a statement on the table of the House.

Statement showing the strength of the Punjab Boundary Force.

The strength of this Force was approximately 25,818 all ranks; this includes all units fighting and administrative. The figures below give the strength of each major community in this Force:—

Hindus	13,638
Muslims	9,777
Sikhs	1,900
Others	196
British Element	307
	25,818

Name of the Force Commander—

Major-General T. W. Rees, C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O., M.C.

Composition of the Force and Regiments represented—

The Force consisted of a Force Headquarters, Force troops (similar to Divisional troops) and six Infantry Brigades. The table attached gives the units comprising the Force, with the class composition of each unit where such units were so organised. Other units were of mixed composition.

PUNJAB BOUNDARY FORCE.
CLASS COMPOSITION BY SONS/COYS.

Arm/Service	Total No.	Hindus				Muslims				Sikhs				Others				Total Strength			
		(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)	(k)	(l)	(m)	(n)	(o)	(p)				
H. Q. Formations—																					
H. Q. P. B. P.	1																				
H. Q. Inf Bdes	6				Mixed																
	7				Mixed																
I. A. C.																					
18 Cavalry	3				1																
One Composite Sqn. CIH	1				Mixed																
	4																				
R. I. A.—																					
One Bty 4 S. P. Fd. Regt.	1				1																
R. I. E.—																					
H. Q. Div. Engr. Gp.	2				1																
Field Coys.	5				2																
Field Pl Coys.	2				1½																
Rly Constr Coy.	1				1																
Rly Opg. Coy.	1				Mixed (Majority Muslims)																
	11																				
I. S. C. Units																					
	9				Mixed																

Imp. Infantry—

3/1st Punjab	4	1	1	3	167	333	166	669
1/2nd Punjab	4	1	2	1	173	345	173	692
1st Ind Grenadiers	4	3	1	5	604	202	..	811
2nd Maharattas	4	4	..	5	803	..	..	808
5 Raj Rifles	4	3	1	5	561	187	..	753
2 Raj Regt.	4	2	2	2	358	359	..	719
3 Raj Regt.	4	2	2	7	325	325	..	657
1st Baluch Regt.	4	1	3	1	179	536	..	716
3 Baluch Regt.	4	1	3	7	198	596	..	801
4 Baluch Regt.	4	1	3	6	151	456	..	612
5 Baluch Regt.	4	1	3	3	184	552	..	739
1. F. F. Regt..	4	1	2	6	193	387	193	779
3 F. F. Regt.	4	1	2	1	169	338	169	677
4 F. F. Regt.	4	1	2	4	206	414	206	830
5 F. F. Rifles	4	1	1	1	200	400	200	801
3/16th Punjab Regt.	4	1	2	3	168	338	168	675
2nd Dogras	4	4	..	3	776	..	..	779
3rd Dogras	4	4	..	4	771	..	..	775
8 Mahar MG	4	4	..	2	622	..	..	624
2 Bihar	4	4	1	1	617	206	..	824
1 Coy 1 Sikh L. I.	1	..	1	..	..	..	226	226
2/8 G. R.	4	4	..	12	784	..	..	796
1/9 G. R.	4	4	..	17	775	..	..	792
2/10 G. R.	4	4	..	19	714	..	..	733
Total	93	118	9,698	5,971	1,501	..	..	17,288

Arm/Service	Total No.	Total Strength			Br. Element	Total		
		Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs		Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)
HQ Div Column	1	1	..	..	..	5	..	5
Tpt Coy RIASC	8	3	5	..	..	782	1,381	8
Comp. pls.	4	..	Mixed Classes	..	..	86	62	17
1 Pl Para Coy RIASC	1	..	Mixed Classes	..	..	34	42	8
TOTAL RIASC	14	..	..	..	..	907	1,485	33
Medical Services	12	..	Mixed Classes	..	..	491	264	52
Ind Elect & Mech Engs	25	..	Mixed Classes	..	..	562	362	97
Corps of Ind Mily	3	..	Mixed Classes	..	..	68	39	36
Intelligence Unit	1	..	Mixed Classes	..	..	7	3	2
GRAND TOTAL	179	..	..	..	..	13,638	9,777	1,900
								196
								25,819

R. Y. A. S. C.—

RESPONSIBILITY OF MUSLIM PERSONNEL OF BOUNDARY FORCE FOR WEST PUNJAB ATROCITIES

127. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the members of the Boundary Force stationed in West Punjab belonging to the Muslim community actually took part in murders, arson and looting in various districts of the West Punjab such as Lahore and Sheikhupura after the 15th August 1947?

(b) If so, do Government propose to lay on the table of the House the names of the regiments whose personnel participated in such atrocities?

(c) Are Government aware if any member of the Baloch regiment or any member of the Boundary Force who participated in such atrocities was put under close or open arrest, any inquiry started under the Army Regulations or anyone court-martialled?

(d) If the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, whose responsibility was it to maintain the discipline of the troops?

(e) What steps did the Government take against the Commander who failed to maintain discipline in his troops or order inquiry into their conduct?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) No official reports have been received by Army Headquarters, India, or the Government of India on these incidents.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government of India have no information.

(d) That of the Supreme Commander.

(e) Does not arise, in view of the answers to parts (a) and (d) above.

DISTURBANCES IN PUNJAB AND OTHER PARTS OF INDIA

128. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs please state what steps Government had taken when disturbances broke out during the period from March 1947 to 15th August 1947, at several places throughout India, viz., Calcutta, Noakhali, Bihar, Multan, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Amritsar and other places in the Punjab?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The information asked for by the Honourable Member relates to a subject which is the responsibility of Provincial Governments. I should like to point out however, that there were no disturbances in Noakhali and Bihar during the period covered by the question.

THE COMPOSITION OF INDIAN ARMY AND NUMBER OF BRITISH OFFICERS

129. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence please state:

(a) the total strength of the Indian Army on the 3rd June 1947;

(b) the number that went to Pakistan administration and the number left with the Indian Union after the division of the Army;

(c) the total number of British Officers serving in the Indian Army on the 3rd June 1947;

(d) the number of British Officers who opted for service in Pakistan and the Indian Union respectively;

(e) the number of British Officers who decided to retire; and

(f) the number of British Officers serving under the Government of India on the 7th November 1947?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) 4,47,000.

(b) After division is complete Pakistan will have roughly 1,50,000 and India 2,60,000.

(c) 10,184.

(d) British Officers were not required to elect service between India and Pakistan. The total number of British officers of the Indian Army who volunteered for service after 15th August 1947, is 2,714 out of a total of 8,480 on that date.

(e) 5,716, including officers who have been absorbed by the British Army. Separate figure of those who decided to retire is not readily available.

(f) 1,204.

DISPOSITION OF INDIAN ARMY IN INDIAN DOMINION ON THE 15TH AUGUST 1947

130. *Giani Gurumukh Singh Musafar: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence please state:

(a) the disposition of the Indian Army in the Indian Dominion on the 15th August 1947;

(b) whether such disposition was done by the Supreme Command or British Officers; and

(c) if so, on what grounds, military or political, such dispositions were made?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) I lay a statement on the table of the House.

(b) It was done by the Commander-in-Chief, India, before partition.

(c) In determining the disposition of troops the following factors are generally taken into account:—

(i) that troops are suitably located to render aid to the civil power and to resist any possible foreign aggression,

(ii) that troops are so disposed to enable training to progress efficiently, and

(iii) availability of accommodation.

Government have no reason to believe that the disposition of troops on 15th August, 1947 was based on any other ground.

Statement

On the 15th August 1947 major units of the Indian Army (including Gurkhas in the Indian Dominion were disposed as follows:—

Area	Armoured Regiments	Artillery Regiments	Infantry Battalions
Delhi and East Punjab	..	..	14
United Provinces	1½	..	6
West Bengal and Assam	1	..	11
Bihar and Orissa	1	1	8
Madras Area	..	..	5
Bombay Area	3	4	8
Deccan Area	1½	3	6

POSITION OF NATIONAL FLAGS vis-a-vis FLAGS OF THE RULERS

131. *Shri Ram Sahai: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state what is the position in respect of the National Flag of the Rulers of those States that have their own separate Flags?

(b) In which of the State functions will it be necessary for the Rulers to use the National Flag?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b). All acceding States have accepted the National Flag and are flying it on appropriate occasions along with their own flags.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

PUBLICATION OF LISTS OF INSCRIPTIONS DYNASTY-WISE.

1. Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister of Education please state if Government propose to consider the advisability of compiling and publishing, at an early date, lists of inscriptions, Dynasty-wise, for the convenience of writing history of this country? If not, why not?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Inscriptions in the *Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum* are always published Dynasty unwise as in the case of the recent volumes of the *South Indian Inscription (Texts)* Series.

REPRINTING OF EPIGRAPHIA INDICA AND SOUTH INDIAN INSCRIPTIONS

2. Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister of Education please state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that some of the Government publications containing inscriptions have long since gone out of print and the consequent hardship which those busy on research in Indian History feel; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to consider the advisability of reprinting Government publications like the earlier volumes of *Epigraphia Indica* and *South Indian Inscriptions*?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) Yes.

(b) Volumes of the *Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum* are reprinted but the volumes of *Epigraphia Indica* and *South Indian Inscriptions* are not reprinted when they go out of print. The whole question will be considered when the accumulated arrears have been dealt with.

INSCRIPTIONS DISCOVERED BY THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

3. Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister of Education please state:

(a) the total number of inscriptions on stone and copper plates so far discovered and their impressions taken by the Archaeological Department;

(b) how many of these inscriptions have so far been published;

(c) what steps Government are taking to arrange for the publication of remaining number of inscriptions;

(d) what arrangements Government are making to get these inscriptions, particularly those in the South Indian languages translated into Hindi and English; and

(e) the reasons for publishing *South Indian Inscriptions* in texts only from Volume IV onwards?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) The total number of Inscriptions copied by the Archaeological Department is—

Stone inscriptions—31,047,

Copper Plates—681.

(b) The total number of inscriptions so far published are—

Stone inscriptions—7,925,

Copper Plates—447.

(c) Whenever the members of the Epigraphical Branch of the Archaeological Department are not engaged in field work, they are busily engaged in transliterating the inscriptions already copied and getting them ready for the press.

(d) English translations are published in *Epigraphia Indica* and the *Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum*, in which inscriptions of all India importance are edited. There is at present, no arrangement for having them translated into Hindi. The Government of India, however, understands that the Nagri Pracharni Sabha, Benares, is considering a proposal to get the important inscriptions translated into Hindi.

(e) Prior to 1921 only the texts were published in the *South Indian Inscriptions* Series from Volume IV onwards, with a view to expediting the publication of texts. The inscriptions published in this series are mainly in South Indian Languages and are of local importance only.

SUPPLY OF ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ADVANCE:

Shri Biswanath Das (Orissa: General): Before you go on to the other items in the agenda, I wish to make a submission.

In the few days of experience that I have had, I see that we members are put to great inconvenience in putting supplementary questions in respect of the replies we want. This is because answers are not on the table and sometimes we are not able to hear the Honourable Ministers in full. Therefore to avoid these difficulties, I submit that typed copies of replies may be laid on the table of the House at least fifteen minutes before the question hour. If that is not possible, I would further suggest that at least copies of replies may be given to questioners themselves, so that they will be in a position to put supplementaries.

In this connection, I submit, Sir, that we under the old dispensation were having this course of action, namely that the replies were placed in the Assembly Chambers of the Provincial Legislatures. These replies were placed fifteen minutes before the question hour so that the Honourable Members were in a position to know the replies and frame their supplementary questions. Having enquired of the practice from my Honourable friends who have something to do with other Legislatures, I find that in the United Provinces this practice has been adopted in a modified form, namely that one copy is being supplied to the Honourable Speaker and another copy is supplied to the questioner himself. I therefore submit that this wholesome practice may be followed in this Legislature and this will be very convenient from all points of view namely that it will give us more time to go through all the questions, because reading of the replies take a lot of time; secondly, it will be a convenience for members and there will be no difficulty of inaudibility. In these circumstances, I submit that you may please advise Government to follow this practice.

Mr. Speaker: I may state to the Honourable Member the difficulties which I have been feeling.

We have got a large list of questions and I have noticed that it does not become possible to go through more than 20/25 questions, and all others go in as unstarred questions. So far as possible, it is my desire to give the person who

puts the question—as presumably he has studied the subject—the first chance to put supplementaries. I would, therefore, request Honourable Members, so far as possible to restrain themselves and not put a supplementary on each and every question which they have not tabled themselves. That would curtail a good deal of our time and will give a better opportunity of thrashing out the subject if the questioner is allowed to put supplementary questions first.

Then there is another point, and that is as regards supplying these answers. Whatever practice formerly existed in certain Legislatures—such a practice did exist in Bombay when I was there—we have to consider whether that practice has to be taken into account in the new set-up of things now, when this House will have to deal with a large number of questions which will involve questions of world importance. We will have to see whether it is desirable to have all and sundry questions as are at present being put, on the smallest and biggest matters, and see whether that procedure can be followed now.

In the House of Commons, no written replies are supplied and the questions are disposed of very quickly. There are just a supplementary or two on points of importance and the matter proceeds. Here I am trying to give about three to four minutes to each question. That is too long a time, if the House wishes to function as a sovereign body and wishes to cover all fields on which information may be required. This is another consideration which has to be borne in mind.

However, I will consider the proposal which the Honourable Member has made and see what is possible. I have just stated my own reaction in the matter; and proceedings in the House to be really realistic should, as far as possible, be oral. I would therefore not, as I said before, commit myself to any decision. Yesterday Prof. Ranga referred to an agreement and then I said that there is no agreement. Even if there were, it is not binding.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

INSTRUMENTS OF ACCESSION BY INDIAN STATES AND GOVERNOR GENERAL'S ACCEPTANCE THEREOF AND OF STANDSTILL AGREEMENT BY THE STATES

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Minister for Home, Information and Broadcasting and States): In accordance with Sub-section (6) of section (6) of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted by the India (Provisional Constitution) Order, 1947, I place on the table of the House a copy of the Instruments of Accession executed by the Rulers of Indian States and of the Governor General's acceptance thereof and of the Standstill Agreement executed by the States.

FORM 1

INSTRUMENT OF ACCESSION OF (STATES INCLUDED IN PART A OF THE SCHEDULE ATTACHED)

WHEREAS the Indian Independence Act, 1947, provides that as from the 15th day of August, 1947, there shall be set up an independent Dominion known as INDIA, and that the Government of India Act, 1935, shall, with such omissions, additions-adaptations, and modification as the Governor-General may by order specify be applicable to the Dominion of India;

AND WHEREAS the Government of India Act, 1935, as so adapted by the Governor-General provides that an Indian State may accede to the Dominion of India by an Instrument of Accession executed by the Ruler thereof:

NOW THEREFORE

I
Ruler of
in the exercise of my sovereignty in and over my said State do hereby execute this my Instrument of Accession and

1. I hereby declare that I accede to the Dominion of India with the intent that the Governor General of India, the Dominion Legislature, the Federal Court and any other Dominion authority

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established for the purposes of the Dominion shall, by virtue of this my Instrument of Accession, but subject always to the terms thereof, and for the purposes only of the Dominion, exercise in relation to the State of (hereinafter referred to as "this State") such functions as may be vested in them by or under the Government of India Act, 1935, as in force in the Dominion of India on the 15th day of August 1947 (which Act as so in force is hereinafter referred to as "the Act").

2. I hereby assume the obligation of ensuring that due effect is given to the provisions of the Act within this State so far as they are applicable therein by virtue of this my Instrument of Accession.

3. I accept the matters specified in the Schedule hereto as the matters with respect to which the Dominion Legislature may make laws for this State.

4. I hereby declare that I accede to the Dominion of India on the assurance that if an agreement is made between the Governor-General and the Ruler of this State whereby any functions in relation to the administration in this State of any law of the Dominion Legislature shall be exercised by the Ruler of this State, then any such agreement shall be deemed to form part of this Instrument and shall be construed and have effect accordingly.

5. The terms of this my Instrument of Accession shall not be varied by any amendment of the Act or of the Indian Independence Act, 1947, unless such amendment is accepted by one by an Instrument supplementary to this Instrument.

6. Nothing in this Instrument shall empower the Dominion Legislature to make any law for this State authorising the compulsory acquisition of land for any purpose but I hereby undertake that should the Dominion for the purposes of a Dominion law which applies in this State deem it necessary to acquire any land I will at their request acquire the land at their expenses or if the land belongs to me transfer it to them on such terms as may be agreed, or in default of agreement determined by an arbitrator to be appointed by the Chief Justice of India.

7. Nothing in this Instrument shall be deemed to commit me in any way to acceptance of any future constitution of India or to fetter my discretion to enter into arrangements with the Government of India under any such future constitution.

8. Nothing in this Instrument affects the continuance of my sovereignty in and over this State, or save as provided by or under this Instrument, the exercise of any powers authority and rights now enjoyed by me as Ruler of this State or the validity of any law at present in force in this State.

9. I hereby declare that I execute this Instrument on behalf of this State and that any reference in this Instrument to me or to the Ruler of the State is to be construed as including a reference to my heirs and successors.

"Given under my hand this day of August, Nineteen hundred and forty-seven.

(Signed by the Rulers of States
in Part A of the Schedule)

I do hereby accept this Instrument of Accession.

Dated this day of August, Nineteen hundred and forty seven.

*Dates given in the Schedule.

(Sd.) MOUNTBATTEN OF BURMA
Governor-General of India

SCHEDULE

THE MATTERS WITH RESPECT TO WHICH THE DOMINION LEGISLATURE MAY MAKE LAWS FOR THIS STATE

A. Defence

1. The naval, military and air forces of the Dominion and any other armed force raised or maintained by the Dominion; any armed forces including forces raised or maintained by and Acceding State, which are attached to or operating with, any of the armed forces of the Dominion.

2. Naval, military and air force works, administration of cantonment areas.

3. Arms; fire-arms; ammunition.

4. Explosives.

B. External Affairs

1. External affairs; the implementing of treaties and agreements with other countries; extradition, including the surrender of criminals and accused persons to parts of His Majesty's dominions outside India.

2. Admission into, and emigration and expulsion from India, including in relation thereto the regulation of the movements in India of persons who are not British subjects domiciled in India or subjects of any acceding State; pilgrimages to places beyond India.

3. Naturalisation.

C. Communications

1. Posts and telegraphs, including telephones, wireless, broadcasting, and other like forms of communication.

2. Federal railways; the regulation of all railways other than minor railways in respect of safety, maximum and minimum rates and fares, station and service terminal charges, interchange of traffic and the responsibility of railway administrations as carriers of goods and passengers; the regulation of minor railways in respect of safety and the responsibility of the administrations of such railways as carriers of goods and passengers.

3. Maritime shipping and navigation, including shipping and navigation on tidal waters; Admiralty jurisdiction.

4. Port quarantine.

5. Major ports, that is to say, the declaration and delimitation of such ports, and the constitution and powers of Port Authorities therein.

6. Aircraft and air navigation; the provision of aerodromes; regulation and organisation of air traffic and of aerodromes.

7. Lighthouses, including lightships, beacons and other provisions for the safety of shipping and aircrafts.

8. Carriage of passengers and goods by sea or by air.

9. Extension of the powers and jurisdiction of members of the police force belonging to any unit to railway area outside that unit.

D. Ancillary

1. Elections to the Dominion Legislature, subject to the provisions of the Act and of any Order made thereunder.

2. Offences against laws with respect to any of the aforesaid matters.

3. Inquiries and statistics for the purposes of any of the aforesaid matters.

4. Jurisdiction and powers of all courts with respect to any of the aforesaid matters but except with the consent of the Ruler of the Acceding State, not so as to confer any jurisdiction or powers upon any courts other than courts ordinarily exercising jurisdiction in or in relation to that State.

FORM II

INSTRUMENT OF ACCESSION OF (STATES IN PART B OF THE SCHEDULE ATTACHED)

WHEREAS the Indian Independence Act, 1947, provides that as from the fifteenth day of August, 1947, there shall be set up an independent Dominion known as INDIA, and that the Government of India Act, 1935, shall, with such omissions, additions, adaptations and modifications as the Governor-General may by order specify be applicable to the Dominion of India;

AND WHEREAS the Government of India Act, 1935, as so adapted by the Governor-General provides that an Indian State may accede to the Dominion of India by an Instrument of accession executed by the Ruler thereof:

NOW THEREFORE

I
Ruler of
in the exercise of my sovereignty in and over my said State Do hereby execute this my Instrument of Accession and

1. I hereby declare that I accede to the Dominion of India with the intent that the Governor-General of India, the Dominion Legislature, the Federal Court and any other Dominion authority established for the purposes of the Dominion shall, by virtue of this my Instrument of Accession but subject always to the terms thereof, and for the purposes only of the Dominion, exercise in relation to the State of (hereinafter referred to as "this State") such functions as may be vested in them by or under the Government of India Act, 1935, as in force in the Dominion of India on the 15th day of August 1947 (which Act as so in force is hereinafter referred to as "the Act"); and I further

declare that the Dominion of India may, through such agency or agencies, and in such manner as it thinks fit, exercise in relation to the administration of civil and criminal justice in this State all such powers, authority and jurisdiction as were at any time exercisable by His Majesty's representative for the exercise of the functions of the Crown in its relations with Indian States.

2. I hereby assume the obligation of ensuring that due effect is given to the provision of the Act within this State so far as they are applicable therein by virtue of this my Instrument of Accession.

3. Without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph 1, I accept the matters specified in the Schedule hereto as the matters with respect to which the Dominion Legislature may make laws for this State.

4. I hereby declare that I accede to the Dominion of India on the assurance that if an agreement is made between the Governor-General and the Ruler of this State whereby any functions in relation to the administration in this State of any law of the Dominion Legislature shall be exercised by the Ruler of this State, then any such agreement shall be deemed to form part of this Instrument and shall be construed and have effect accordingly.

5. The terms of this my Instrument of Accession shall not be varied by any amendment of the Act or of the Indian Independence Act, 1947, unless such amendment is accepted by me by an Instrument supplementary to this Instrument.

6. Nothing in this Instrument shall empower the Dominion Legislature to make any law or this State authorising the compulsory acquisition of land for any purpose, but I hereby undertake that should the Dominion for the purposes of a Dominion law which applies in this State deem it necessary to acquire any land, I will at their request acquire the land at their expense or if the land belongs to me transfer it to them on such terms as may be agreed, or in default of agreement, determined by an arbitrator to be appointed by the Chief Justice of India.

7. Nothing in this Instrument shall be deemed to commit me in any way to acceptance of any future constitution of India or to fetter my discretion to enter into arrangements with the Government of India under any such future constitution.

8. Nothing in this Instrument affects the continuance of my sovereignty in and over this State, or, save as provided by or under this Instrument, the exercise of any powers, authority and rights now enjoyed by me as Ruler of this State or the validity of any law at present in force in this State.

9. I hereby declare that I execute this Instrument on behalf of this State and that any reference in this Instrument to me or to the Ruler of the State is to be construed as including a reference to my heirs and successors.

Given under my hand this.....day of August, Nineteen hundred and forty-seven.

(Signed by the Rulers of States in Part B of this Schedule).

I do hereby accept this Instrument of Accession.

Dated this*.....day of August, Nineteen hundred and forty-seven.

(Sd.) MOUNTBATTEN OF BURMA.
(Governor-General of India).

SCHEDULE

THE MATTERS WITH RESPECT TO WHICH THE DOMINION LEGISLATURE MAY MAKE LAWS FOR THIS STATE

A. Defence

1. The naval, military and air forces of the Dominion and any other armed force raised or maintained by the Dominion: any armed forces, including forces raised or maintained by an Acceding State, which are attached to, or operating with, any of the armed forces of the Dominion.

2. Naval, military and air force works, administration of cantonment areas.

3. Arms; fire-arms; ammunition.

4. Explosives.

B. External Affairs

1. External affairs; the implementing of treaties and agreements with other countries extradition, including the surrender of criminals and accused persons to parts of His Majesty's dominions outside India.

2. Admission into, and emigration and expulsion from India, including in relation thereto the regulation of the movements in India of persons who are not British subjects domiciled in India or subjects of any acceding State; pilgrimages to places beyond India.

3. Naturalisation.

C. Communications

1. Posts and telegraphs, including telephones, wireless, broadcasting, and other like forms of communication.

*Dates given in the Schedule.

2. Federal railways; the regulation of all railways other than minor railways in respect of safety, maximum and minimum rates and fares, station and service tuminal charges, interchange of traffic and the responsibility of railway administrations as carriers of goods and passengers; the regulation of minor railways in respect of safety and the responsibility of the administrations of such railways as carriers of goods and passengers.

3. Maritime shipping and navigation, including shipping and navigation on tidal waters; Admiralty jurisdiction.

4. Port quarantine.

5. Major ports, that is to say, the declaration and delimitation of such ports, and the constitution and powers of Port Authorities therein.

6. Aircraft and air navigation; the provision of aerodromes; regulation and organisation of air traffic and of aerodromes.

7. Lighthouses, including lightships, beacons and other provisions for the safety of shipping and aircraft.

8. Carriage of passengers and goods by sea or by air.

9. Extension of the powers and jurisdiction of members of the police force belonging to any unit to railway area outside that unit.

D. Ancillary

1. Elections to the Dominion Legislature, subject to the provisions of the Act and of any Order made thereunder.

2. Offences against laws with respect to any of the aforesaid matters.

3. Inquiries and statistics for the purposes of any of the aforesaid matters.

4. Jurisdiction and powers of all courts with respect to any of the aforesaid matters but, except with the consent of the Ruler of the Acceding State, not so as to confer any jurisdiction or powers upon any courts other than courts ordinarily exercising jurisdiction in or in relation to that State.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE STATE OF AND THE DOMINION OF INDIA

WHEREAS it is to the benefit and advantage of the Dominion of India as well as of the Indian States that existing agreements and administrative arrangements in the matters of common concern, should continue for the time being, between the Dominion of India or any part thereof and the Indian States:

Now therefore it is agreed between the

State and the Dominion of India that :-

1. (1) Until new agreements in this behalf are made, all agreements and administrative arrangements as to matters of common concern now existing between the Crown and any Indian State shall, in so far as may be appropriate, continue as between the Dominion of India or, as the case may be, the part thereof and the State.

(2) In particular, and without derogation from the generality of sub-clause (1) of this clause the matters referred to above shall include the matters specified in the Schedule to this Agreement.

2. Any dispute arising out of this Agreement, or out of the agreements or arrangements hereby continued shall unless any provision is made therein for arbitration by an authority other than the Governor-General or Governor, be settled by arbitration according, as far as may be, to the procedure of the Indian Arbitration Act, 1899.

3. Nothing in this Agreement includes the exercise of any paramountcy functions.

.....State

Secretary to the Government of India.

SCHEDULE

1. Air Communications.
2. Arms and equipment.
3. Control of commodities.
4. Currency and coinage.
5. Customs.
6. Indian States Forces.
7. External Affairs.
8. Extradition.
9. Import and Export Control.
10. Irrigation and Electric Power.
11. Motor vehicles.
12. National Highways.
13. Opium.
14. Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones.
15. Railways (including police and other arrangements in Railway lands)
16. Salt.
17. Central Excises, relief from double income-tax and other arrangements relating to taxation.
18. Wireless.

NOTE

States included in Part A of the Schedule have signed the Instrument of Accession in Form I. States included in Part B of the Schedule have signed the Instrument of Accession in Form II. The Governor-General's Acceptance is the same for all States.

SCHEDULE I

PART A

Name of State	Date of signing the Instrument of Accession	Date of acceptance of the Instrument of Accession
1. Ajaigarh	9th August 1947	16th August 1947
2. Akalkot	11th August 1947	Do.
3. Alirajpur	8th August 1947	Do.
4. Alwar	5th August 1947	Do.
5. Aundh	10th August 1947	Do.
6. Balasinor	20th September 1947	4th November 1947
7. Bamra	9th August 1947	16th August 1947
8. Banganapalle	11th August 1947	Do.
9. Bansda	12th August 1947	Do.
10. Bauswara	10th August 1947	Do.
11. Baoni	Do.	Do.
12. Baroda	Do.	Do.
13. Barwani	11th August 1947	Do.
14. Barundha	14th August 1947	Do.
15. Baria	8th August 1947	Do.
16. Bastar	5th August 1947	Do.
17. Baudh	14th August 1947	Do.
18. Benares	10th August 1947	Do.
19. Bhavnagar	5th August 1947	Do.
20. Bharatpur	3rd August 1947	Do.
21. Bhopal	15th August 1947	Do.
22. Bhor	9th August 1947	Do.
23. Bilaspur	10th August 1947	Do.
24. Bijawar	20th August 1947	4th November 1947
25. Bikaner	7th August 1947	16th August 1947
26. Bundi	Do.	Do.
27. Cambay	Do.	Do.
28. Chamba	30th September 1947	4th November 1947
29. Charkhari	8th August 1947	16th August 1947
30. Chhatarpur	11th August 1947	Do.
31. Chhota Udepur	12th August 1947	Do.
32. Cochin	9th August 1947	Do.
33. Cooch-Behar	Do.	Do.
34. Danta	14th August 1947	Do.
35. Datia	5th August 1947	Do.
36. Dewas (Junior)	12th August 1947	Do.
37. Dewas (Senior)	Do.	Do.
38. Dhar	Do.	Do.
39. Dharampur	8th August 1947	Do.
40. Dhenkanal	9th August 1947	Do.
41. Dholpur	14th August 1947	Do.
42. Dharangadhra	9th August 1947	Do.
43. Dhrol	15th August 1947	Do.
44. Dungarpur	12th August 1947	Do.
45. Faridkot	6th August 1947	Do.
46. Gangpur	11th August 1947	Do.
47. Gondal	15th August 1947	Do.
48. Gwalior	Do.	Do.
49. Idar	12th August 1947	Do.
50. Indore	14th August 1947	Do.
51. Jaipur	12th August 1947	Do.
52. Jaisalmer	Do.	Do.
53. Jambughoda	10th August 1947	Do.
54. Jamkhandi	Do.	Do.

Name of State	Date of signing the Instrument of Accession	Date of acceptance of the Instrument of Accession
55. Janjira	14th August 1947	16th August 1947
56. Jaora	8th August 1947	Do.
57. Jashpur	28th August 1947	4th November 1947
58. Jawhar	15th August 1947	16th August 1947
59. Jath	13th August 1947	Do.
60. Jhabua	15th August 1947	Do.
61. Jhalawar	10th August 1947	Do.
62. Jind	7th August 1947	Do.
63. Jodhpur	11th August 1947	Do.
64. Kalahandi	10th August 1947	Do.
65. Kanker	Do.	Do.
66. Kapurthala	14th August 1947	Do.
67. Karauli	4th August 1947	Do.
68. Kashmir	26th October 1947	27th October 1947
69. Keonjhar	11th August 1947	16th August 1947
70. Khairagarh	5th August 1947	Do.
71. Khilchipur	11th August 1947	Do.
72. Kishengarh	5th August 1947	Do.
73. Kolhapur	11th August 1947	Do.
74. Kotah	6th August 1947	Do.
75. Korea	7th August 1947	Do.
76. Kurundwad (Junior)	12th August 1947	Do.
77. Kurundwad (Senior)	11th August 1947	Do.
78. Kutch	Do.	Do.
79. Limbdi	15th August 1947	Do.
80. Loharu	11th August 1947	Do.
81. Lunavada	5th August 1947	Do.
82. Mandi	10th Sept. 1947	4th November 1947
83. Mangrol	20th Sept. 1947	28th Sept. 1947
84. Manipur	11th August 1947	16th August 1947
85. Maihar	14th August 1947	Do.
86. Malerkotla	10th August 1947	Do.
87. Mayurbhanj	5th August 1947	Do.
88. Miraj (Junior)	12th August 1947	Do.
89. Miraj (Senior)	10th August 1947	Do.
90. Mudhol	17th August 1947	4th November 1947
91. Morvi	15th August 1947	6th August 1947
92. Mysore	9th August 1947	Do.
93. Nabha	14th August 1947	Do.
94. Nagod	3th August 1947	Do.
95. Nandgaon	13th August 1947	Do.
96. Narsingarh	12th August 1947	Do.
97. Nawanagar	15th August 1947	Do.
98. Nayagarh	13th August 1947	Do.
99. Orchha	Do.	Do.
100. Palanpur	7th August 1947	Do.
101. Palitana	15th August 1947	Do.
102. Panna	6th August 1947	Do.
103. Patiala	11th August 1947	Do.
104. Partabgarh	14th August 1947	Do.
105. Patna	28th August 1947	4th November 1947
106. Phaltan	5th August 1947	16th August 1947
107. Porbandur	15th August 1947	Do.
108. Pudukkottai	8th August 1947	Do.
109. Radhanpur	2nd September 1947	4th November 1947
110. Raigarh	10th August 1947	16th August 1947
111. Rajkot	7th August 1947	Do.
112. Rajpipla	9th August 1947	Do.
113. Ramdurg	2nd August 1947	Do.
114. Ratlam	9th August 1947	Do.
115. Rampur	7th August 1947	Do.
116. Rewa	8th August 1947	Do.
117. Sachin	9th August 1947	Do.

Name of State	Date of signing the Instrument of Accession	Date of acceptance of the Instrument of Accession
118. Sandur	10th August 1947	16th August 1947
119. Samthar	6th August 1947	Do.
120. Sangli	2nd August 1947	Do.
121. Sant	13th August 1947	Do.
122. Sailana	14th August 1947	Do.
123. Savanur	15th August 1947	Do.
124. Savantwadi	14th August 1947	Do.
125. Sarangarh	13th August 1947	Do.
126. Saraikela	12th August 1947	Do.
127. Sirohi	15th August 1947	Do.
128. Shahpura	4th August 1947	Do.
129. Sitamau	Do.	Do.
130. Sonapur	11th August 1947	Do.
131. Suket	5th August 1947	Do.
132. Surgana	24th August 1947	4th November 1947
133. Sirmur	5th September 1947	Do.
134. Surguja	14th August 1947	16th August 1947
135. Tehri-Garhwal	8th August 1947	Do.
136. Tonk	Do.	Do.
137. Travancore	12th August 1947	Do.
138. Tripura	13th August 1947	Do.
139. Udaipur (Mewar)	7th August 1947	Do.
140. Vijayanagar	8th August 1947	Do.
141. Wadhwan	15th August 1947	Do.
142. Wankaner	Do.	Do.

PART B

1. Amar Nagar	27th August 1947	5th November 1947
2. Ambaliara	3rd September 1947	Do.
3. Athgarh	14th August 1947	Do.
4. Athmalik	3rd November 1947	Do.
5. Bajana	20th September 1947	Do.
6. Balsan	10th October 1947	Do.
7. Baghat	26th September 1947	Do.
8. Baghal	Do.	Do.
9. Banka Pahari	17th September 1947	Do.
10. Beri	15th August 1947	Do.
11. Beja	4th October 1947	Do.
12. Bihat	17th September 1947	Do.
13. Bijna	12th August 1947	Do.
14. Bhajji	26th September 1947	Do.
15. Bilkha	27th August 1947	Do.
16. Bhaderwa	29th August 1947	Do.
17. Chuda	28th August 1947	Do.
18. Chhuikhadan	21st October 1947	Do.
19. Dhami	9th October 1947	Do.
20. Dhurwai	31st August 1947	Do.
21. Dujana	9th October 1947	Do.
22. Gaurihar	30th August 1947	Do.
23. Garraulli	15th August 1947	Do.
24. Ghodasar	8th September 1947	Do.
25. Jaso	25th September 1947	Do.
26. Jasdan	27th August 1947	Do.
27. Jobat	...	Do.
28. Jubbil	8th October 1947	Do.
29. Jetpur	27th August 1947	Do.
30. Kamta Rajaula	30th September 1947	Do.
31. Kathiawara	...	Do.

Name of State	Date of signing the Instrument of Accession	Date of acceptance of the Instrument of Accession
32. Kaniadhana	25th August 1947	5th November 1947
33. Kawardha	9th August 1947	Do.
34. Katosan	11th September 1947	Do.
35. Khandpara	22nd October 1947	Do.
36. Kharsawan	15th August 1947	Do.
37. Khirasra	27th August 1947	Do.
38. Khadal	15th August 1947	Do.
39. Kumarsain	26th September 1947	Do.
40. Kunihar	7th October 1947	Do.
41. Kutharie	26th September 1947	Do.
42. Keontal	27th September 1947	Do.
43. Kotda Sangani	27th August 1947	Do.
44. Lakhtar	28th August 1947	Do.
45. Lathi	31st August 1947	Do.
46. Lugasi	29th October 1947	Do.
47. Maliya	29th August 1947	Do.
48. Mansa	27th August 1947	Do.
49. Muli	Do.	Do.
50. Mohanpur	1st September 1947	Do.
51. Naigawan Rebai	26th October 1947	Do.
52. Narsinghpur	11th November 1947	12th November 1947
53. Nimkhara	26th August 1947	5th November 1947
54. Paldeo	8th October 1947	Do.
55. Patdi	31st August 1947	Do.
56. Pathari	30th August 1947	Do.
57. Punadra	11th September 1947	Do.
58. Makrai	15th August 1947	Do.
59. Ranasan	1st September 1947	Do.
60. Ranpur	17th October 1947	Do.
61. Sarila	14th August 1947	Do.
62. Sakti	21st October 1947	Do.
63. Sanjeli	15th September 1947	Do.
64. Sayla	27th August 1947	Do.
65. Sudasna	3rd August 1947	Do.
66. Malpur	29th August 1947	Do.
67. Tharad	15th August 1947	Do.
68. Tharoch	26th September 1947	Do.
69. Taraon	14th August 1947	Do.
70. Tigiria	15th August 1947	Do.
71. Tori-Fatehpur	14th August 1947	Do.
72. Udaipur	4th November 1947	Do.
73. Vala	27th August 1947	Do.
74. Valasna	30th August 1947	Do.
75. Varsoda	1st September 1947	Do.
76. Vasia	18th September 1947	Do.
77. Vadia	27th August 1947	Do.
78. Virpur	Do.	Do.
79. Vanod	30th August 1947	Do.
80. Wav	31st August 1947	Do.

(iv) pensions paid outside India by or on behalf of the Government of India or any Provincial Government in respect of which an eventual capitalisation scheme is contemplated;

(v) such other items as the two Governments may agree.

3. There shall be transferred from the No. 1 Account to the No. 2 Account the equivalent of any sums paid into the No. 1 Account after the 15th July 1947, in respect of:—

(i) the settlement of any matters outstanding under the Defence Expenditure Plan and of any other accounts relating to transactions which were connected with the War and took place prior to the 15th July, 1947;

(ii) such other items as the two Governments may agree.

ARTICLE V

1. In addition to the transfer provided in paragraph 1 of Article IV of this Agreement there shall also be transferred forthwith from the No. 2 Account to the No. 1 Account a sum of £30 million as a working balance which may be drawn upon from time to time to meet any temporary shortage in India's available means of payment abroad.

2. The level at which the working balance provided for in this Article has been maintained during the currency of this Agreement shall be taken into consideration in the consultations referred to in Article XI of this Agreement in the light of such data as may then be provided.

ARTICLE VI

(a) The No. 2 Account referred to in Article II of this Agreement shall be credited with—

(i) the assets referred to in Article II of this Agreement, including the proceeds thereof at maturity or on realisation;

(ii) the proceeds at maturity or on realisation of any investments purchased in accordance with established custom with funds standing to the credit of the No. 2 Account;

(iii) transfers from the No. 1 Account, being transfers provided for in paragraph 3 of Article IV and paragraph 2 of Article VIII of this Agreement;

(iv) such other transfers as may be agreed between the two Governments.

(b) The No. 2 Account shall be debited with—

(i) transfers in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article IV paragraph 1 of Article V and paragraph 2 of Article VIII of this Agreement;

(ii) payments in respect of investments made in accordance with established custom;

(iii) such other transfers as may be agreed between the two Governments.

ARTICLE VII

The Government of India shall not restrict—

(a) the acceptance by residents of India, in settlement of payments for current transactions, of sterling at the disposal of residents outside India;

(b) the availability of any Indian rupees arising from permitted current transactions and accruing to residents of the sterling area for any payments inside India or for the purchase of sterling.

ARTICLE VIII

1. Such transfers of capital from India to the rest of the sterling area and *vice versa* as may be agreed between the Reserve Bank of India and the Bank of England shall be subject to the provisions of paragraph 2 of this Article.

2. The Reserve Bank of India and the Bank of England shall consult together at agreed intervals in order to establish by reference to the best statistical data available to them the net capital movement from India to the other countries of the sterling area or *vice versa* as the case may be, resulting from the agreed transfers of capital. Thereafter an amount equal to the net capital movement so established shall be transferred from the No. 2 Account to the No. 1 Account if the movement is one from India to the other countries of the sterling area or from the No. 1 Account to the No. 2 Account if the movement is in the reverse direction.

3. Notwithstanding anything in this Article the two Governments shall not restrict transfers of capital from India to the United Kingdom representing—

(a) remittances of savings belonging to persons of United Kingdom origin leaving India in order to take up permanent residence in the United Kingdom; and

(b) the voluntary repatriation of investments by persons regarded as resident in the United Kingdom for purposes of exchange control in the United Kingdom.

4. Transfers of capital falling within the description in sections (a) and (b) of the preceding paragraph shall be included in the computations for which paragraph 2 provides.

ARTICLE IX

1. The two Governments shall as often as may be necessary consult together with a view to ensuring the smooth working of the present Agreement.

2. The Reserve Bank of India and the Bank of England shall be entrusted with the technical execution of this Agreement and shall consult together as often as may be necessary in order to ensure its smooth working.

ARTICLE X

For the purpose of the present Agreement—

(a) in relation to events happening on or after the 15th August, 1947, references to the Government of India shall be construed as references to the Governments of both the new Dominions set up by the Indian Independence Act, 1947 or to the Government of either of them, as the circumstances require and the expression "India" shall continue to denote the territories included in that expression immediately prior to the 15th August 1947;

(b) the expression "sterling area" shall have the meaning from time to time assigned to it by the Exchange Control Regulations in force in the United Kingdom. After the coming into force in the United Kingdom of the Exchange Control Act, 1947, the expression "sterling area" wherever it occurs in the present Agreement shall be deemed to have been replaced by the expression "scheduled territories", which shall have the meaning from time to time assigned to it in the aforesaid Exchange Control Act, 1947;

(c) the expression "payments for current transactions" shall have the same meaning as in Article XIX (i) of the Articles of Agreement of the International Monetary Fund;

(d) in paragraph 2 of Article IV the expression "pensions" shall have the meaning assigned to it in the Indian Independence Act, 1947.

ARTICLE XI

The present Agreement shall come into force on the 14th August, 1947. It shall terminate on the 31st December 1947. Further consultations shall be held before the termination of this Agreement with a view to extending it or replacing it by another Agreement or other Agreements.

In witness whereof the undersigned being duly authorised thereto by their respective Governments, have signed the present Agreement.

Done at London this fourteenth day of August, 1947, in duplicate.

For the Government of the United Kingdom:

WILFRID EADY.

For the Government of India:

V. NARAHARI RAO.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT,

NEW DELHI;

The 30th August 1947.

SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE RESERVE BANK OF INDIA AND THE IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA AND THE FINANCIAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF U. K. AND THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Minister for Finance):
Sir, I lay on the table a copy of each of the following papers, namely:

- (a) the Second Supplemental Agreement between the Reserve Bank of India and the Imperial Bank of India, and
- (b) the Financial Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom and the Government of India, and correspondence connected therewith.

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

(INCORPORATED UNDER THE RESERVE BANK OF INDIA ACT 1934 (II OF 1934))

Second Supplemental Agreement between the Reserve Bank of India and The Imperial Bank of India

AN AGREEMENT made in the ninth day of April 1947 between the RESERVE BANK OF INDIA (hereinafter called "the Reserve Bank") of the one part and the IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA (hereinafter called "the Imperial Bank") of the other part.

WHEREAS by an agreement (hereinafter referred to as "the Principal Agreement") made on the fifth day of April 1935 between the parties hereto the Imperial Bank was appointed as on and from the first day of April 1935 as the sole agent of the Reserve Bank upon and subject to the terms set out in the Principal Agreement.

AND WHEREAS on account of the passing of the Government of India Act 1935 and the India and Burma (Burma Monetary Arrangements) Order 1937 the Principal Agreement was modified by a supplemental agreement (hereinafter referred to as "the Supplemental Agreement") made on the twelfth day of July 1937 between the parties hereto.

AND WHEREAS the India and Burma (Burma Monetary Arrangements) Order 1937 was varied by the India and Burma (Burma Monetary Arrangements) (Amendment) Order, 1946 and the India and Burma (Burma Monetary Arrangements) (Second Amendment) Order 1946.

AND WHEREAS pursuant to the provisions contained in the India and Burma (Burma Monetary Arrangements) Order 1937 as so varied the Governor of Burma has given notice to the Governor General in Council determining the operation of part II of the India and Burma (Burma Monetary Arrangements) Order 1937 as and from the first day of April 1947.

NOW IT IS HEREBY MUTUALLY AGREED AND DECLARED by and between the parties hereto as follows :

On and after the first day of April 1947 the Principal Agreement shall be construed as if

- (1) Clauses (i) and (v) of the Supplemental Agreement were omitted
- (2) For the words "the Central Government, the Provincial Governments, the Federal Railway Authority, the Governor of Burma (both in his dealings with the revenue of Burma and in his dealings with the Federal Fund of the Federated Shan States) and the Burma Railway Board?" occurring in clause (iii) of the Supplemental Agreement the words "the Central Government, the Provincial Governments and the Federal Railway Authority" were substituted.

IN WITNESS whereof the Common Seals of the Reserve Bank of India and the Imperial Bank of India have been hereunto affixed in the presence of their respective subscribing officials the day and year first above written.

THE COMMON SEAL of the Reserve Bank of India was hereunto affixed pursuant to a resolution of its Central Board in the presence of Sir Chintaman D. Deshmukh C.I.E., Governor and Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, K.B.E., C.I.E. and Sir Homi Mehta, K.C.I.E., K.B.E. two of the Directors of the Reserve Bank of India who in token of their presence have hereupon signed their names.

COMMON SEAL OF THE
RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

(Sd) C. D. DESHMUKH
Governor.
(Sd) PURSHOTAMDAS
THAKUR DAS
(Sd) HOMI MEHTA, Directors

COMMON SEAL OF THE
RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

THE COMMON SEAL of the Imperial Bank of India was hereunto affixed in the presence of Albert Rodrick Chisholm, the Managing Director and Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar and Archibald Leslie Hutson two of the Directors of the Imperial Bank of India who in token of their presence have hereupon signed their names.

(Sd) A.R. CHISHOLM,
Managing Director.
(Sd) V.N. CHANDAVARKAR
(Sd) A.L. HUTSON, Directors.

FINANCIAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

London, 14th August, 1947

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (hereinafter referred to as "the Government of the United Kingdom") and the Government of India.

Being desirous of making a temporary arrangement for dealing with the sterling balances of India.

Have agreed as follows :—

ARTICLE I

For the purposes of this Agreement the sterling assets of the Reserve Bank of India shall be taken at the figure of £1,160 million.

ARTICLE II

1. The Reserve Bank of India shall open with the Bank of England a new account (hereinafter referred to as the "No. 2 Account"), to which the balance of the total assets referred to in Article I above, remaining at the close of business on the date of the signature of this Agreement, shall be transferred.

2. The No. 2 Account of the Reserve Bank of India shall be operated upon in accordance with the provisions of Article VI of this Agreement and any sums standing to the credit of the said Account shall be available only for the purposes prescribed in that Article.

ARTICLE III

1. There shall also be established at the Bank of England in the name of the Reserve Bank of India a new account (hereinafter referred to as the "No. 1 Account") to which any sterling received after the date of this Agreement by the Reserve Bank of India in respect of current transactions and any sums transferred from the No. 2 Account shall be credited.

2. The Government of the United Kingdom shall not restrict the availability of sterling standing to the credit of the No. 1 Account for payments for current transactions in any currency area or for the purpose of any payment to residents of the sterling area.

ARTICLE IV

1. There shall be transferred forthwith from the No. 2 Account to the No. 1 Account £35 million less the amount by which the total of the Reserve Bank of India's sterling assets, as established by Article I of this Agreement, exceeds the amount transferred to the No. 2 Account in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article II of this Agreement.

2. There shall also be transferred from the No. 2 Account to the No. 1 Account the equivalent of any sums paid from the No. 1 Account after the 15th July, 1947, in respect of :—

- (i) the transfer of ownership of military stores, equipment and fixed assets in India from the Government of the United Kingdom to the Government of India on the 1st April, 1947.
- (ii) the settlement of any matters outstanding under the Defence Expenditure Plan and of any other accounts relating to transactions which were connected with the War and took place prior to the 15th July, 1947;
- (iii) payments outside India, as a result of Agreements for the release of assets which were vested in the Indian Custodian of Enemy Property;

LETTERS EXCHANGED BETWEEN THE LEADERS OF THE INDIAN AND THE
U. K. DELEGATION ON STERLING BALANCES AGREEMENT

LONDON;

Dated the 14th August, 1947.

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA,

LONDON,

14th August, 1947.

PRIVATE BALANCES

DEAR SIR WILFRID EADY,

With reference to the Financial Agreement between our two Governments, which we have signed today it is necessary to record our understanding that Indian private sterling balances will not be subject, as the result of this Agreement, to any restrictions under Exchange Control Regulations in force in the United Kingdom which did not apply to them before the signature of the Agreement.

For the purposes of this letter, the expression "Indian private balances" refers to the sterling balances with banks in the United Kingdom owned by residents of India other than the Reserve Bank of India and the Authorised Dealers in Foreign Exchange in India; the balances of the Reserve Bank are dealt with by the Agreement itself and those of the Authorised Dealers in Foreign Exchange in India are covered by an understanding which has been reached between the Bank of England and the Reserve Bank of India.

I should be grateful if you would confirm that this correctly sets out the position.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) V. NARAHARI RAO.

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA,

LONDON,

14th August, 1947.

DEAR SIR WILFRID EADY,

I have to acknowledge your letter of today's date reading as follows:—

"On the conclusion of the discussions leading to the Financial Agreement which you and I have signed today on behalf of our respective Governments, I wish to express my appreciation of the spirit of cordiality and understanding which has been a feature of the negotiations.

"It is understood on the part of His Majesty's Government that the Agreement is of an interim nature to cover the period up to the end of the present calendar year and that it is without prejudice to any subsequent discussions regarding India's sterling balances.

"I should be grateful to have your confirmation that this is also the understanding of your Government."

I have pleasure in confirming that the understanding of your Government, as set out in that letter, is accepted by my Government.

May I on my part say how much we have appreciated the spirit of mutual sympathy and understanding which has pervaded the discussions between the two delegations?

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) V. NARAHARI RAO.

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA,

LONDON,

14th August, 1947.

DEAR SIR WILFRID EADY,

I have to acknowledge your letter of today's date, reading as follows:—

"In the Interim Agreement which we have signed today neither Government has made any reference to the rate of interest to be earned on the sterling balances.

"His Majesty's Government understands that the Government of India have agreed with the Reserve Bank of India that during the currency of the Agreement the Bank will not alter the disposition of its sterling assets in such a manner as to increase appreciably the overall rate of interest which such assets are at present earning. Subject to this understanding the Reserve Bank will be free to alter its investments in accordance with normal central banking practice.

"I should be grateful to have your confirmation of this understanding on behalf of the Government of India."

I have pleasure in confirming that the understanding of your Government, as set out in that letter, is accepted by my Government.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) V. NARAHARI RAO.

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA,

LONDON,

14th August, 1947.

DEAR SIR WILFRID EADY,

I have to acknowledge your letter of today's date reading as follows:—

"With reference to the Financial Agreement between our two Governments, signed today, it is necessary to record our understanding regarding the sterling assets in the Silver Redemption Reserve which has been maintained hitherto for the purpose of enabling the Government of India to fulfil its obligation under Section 36 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

"So long as it remains undisturbed His Majesty's Government will regard this Reserve as a capital asset of the Government of India and excluded from the scope of the present Agreement. In the event, however of the liquidation of this Reserve, in whole or in part, during the currency of the Agreement, the resultant proceeds should, as we see it, be credited to the No. 2 Account of the Reserve Bank of India; similarly any payments to the Silver Redemption Reserve in pursuance of the practice of maintaining the value of the assets therein shall be charged to the No. 2 Account.

"I should be grateful to have your confirmation that this is in accordance with the understanding of the Government of India."

I have pleasure in confirming that the understanding of your Government, as set out in that letter, is accepted by my Government.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) V. NARAHARI RAO.

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA,

LONDON,

14th August, 1947.

DEAR SIR WILFRID EADY,

I have to acknowledge your letter of today's date, reading as follows:—

"With reference to the Financial Agreement between our two Governments, signed today, I wish to record the understanding of His Majesty's Government regarding the treatment of the sum of United States dollars which has been allocated to India and which is known as India's "Post-War Dollar Fund". To the extent that any drawings on the unexpended balance of this Fund have been or are made during the period 15th July to 31st December, 1947 and equivalent amount in sterling shall be transferred from the No. 2 Account to the No. 1 Account of the Reserve Bank of India.

"I should be grateful to have your confirmation of this understanding on behalf of the Government of India."

I have pleasure in confirming that the understanding of your Government, as set out in that letter, is accepted by my Government.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) V. NARAHARI RAO.

TREASURY CHAMBERS,
GREAT GEORGE STREET,
S.W.I.,
14th August, 1947.

DEAR MR. NARAHARI RAO,

In the interim Agreement which we have signed today neither Government has made any reference to the rate of interest to be earned on the sterling balances.

His Majesty's Government understands that the Government of India have agreed with the Reserve Bank of India that during the currency of the Agreement the Bank will not alter the disposition of its sterling assets in such a manner as to increase appreciably the overall rate of interest which such assets are at present earning. Subject to this understanding the Reserve Bank will be free to alter its investments in accordance with normal central banking practice.

I should be grateful to have your confirmation of this understanding on behalf of the Government of India.

Yours sincerely,
(Sd.) WILFRID EADY.

THE HON. MR. V. NARAHARI RAO, C.S.I., C.I.E.

TREASURY CHAMBERS,
GREAT GEORGE STREET,
S.W.I.,
14th August, 1947.

DEAR MR. NARAHARI RAO,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of today's date reading as follows :—

"With reference to the Financial Agreement between our two Governments which we have signed today, it is necessary to record our understanding that Indian private sterling balances will not be subject, as the result of this Agreement, to any restrictions under Exchange Control Regulations in force in the United Kingdom which did not apply to them before the signature of the Agreement.

"For the purposes of this letter, the expression 'Indian private balances' refers to sterling balances with banks in the United Kingdom owned by residents of India other than the Reserve Bank of India and the Authorised Dealers in Foreign Exchange in India; the balances of the Reserve Bank are dealt with by the Agreement itself and those of the Authorised Dealers in Foreign Exchange in India are covered by an understanding which has been reached between the Bank of England and the Reserve Bank of India.

"I should be grateful if you would confirm that this correctly sets out the position."

I have pleasure in confirming that your letter correctly sets out the position with regard to these private balances.

Yours sincerely,
(Sd.) WILFRID EADY.

THE HON. MR. V. NARAHARI RAO, C.S.I., C.I.E.

TREASURY CHAMBERS,
GREAT GEORGE STREET,
S.W.I.,
14th August, 1947.

DEAR MR. NARAHARI RAO,

With reference to the Financial Agreement between our two Governments, signed today, it is necessary to record our understanding regarding the sterling assets in the Silver Redemption Reserve which has been maintained hitherto for the purpose of enabling the Government of India to fulfil its obligation under Section 36 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

So long as it remains undisturbed His Majesty's Government will regard this Reserve as a capital asset of the Government of India and excluded from the scope of the present Agreement. In the event, however, of the liquidation of this Reserve, in whole or in part, during the currency of the Agreement, the resultant proceeds should, as we see it, be credited to the No. 2 Account of the Reserve Bank of India; similarly any payments to the Silver Redemption Reserve in pursuance of the practice of maintaining the value of the assets therein shall be charged to the No. 2 Account.

I should be grateful to have your confirmation that this is in accordance with the understanding of the Government of India.

Yours sincerely,
(Sd.) WILFRID EADY.

THE HON. MR. V. NARAHARI RAO, C.S.I., C.I.E.

TREASURY CHAMBERS,
GREAT GEORGE STREET,
S.W.I.,
14th August, 1947.

DEAR MR. NARAHARI RAO,

With reference to the Financial Agreement between our two Governments, signed today, I wish to record the understanding of His Majesty's Government regarding the treatment of the sum of United States dollars which has been allocated to India and which is known as India's "Post-War Dollar Fund". To the extent that any drawings on the unexpended balance of this Fund have been or are made during the period 15th July to 31st December, 1947 an equivalent amount in sterling shall be transferred from the No. 2 Account to the No. 1 Account of the Reserve Bank of India.

I should be grateful to have your confirmation of this understanding on behalf of the Government of India.

Yours sincerely,
(Sd.) WILFRID EADY.

THE HON. MR. V. NARAHARI RAO, C.S.I., C.I.E.

TREASURY CHAMBERS,
GREAT GEORGE STREET,
S.W.I.,
14th August, 1947.

DEAR MR. NARAHARI RAO,

On the conclusion of the discussions leading to the Financial Agreement which you and I have signed today on behalf of our respective Governments, I wish to express my appreciation of the spirit of cordiality and understanding which has been a feature of the negotiations.

It is understood on the part of His Majesty's Government that the Agreement is of an interim nature to cover the period up to the end of the present calendar year and that it is without prejudice to any subsequent discussions regarding India's sterling balances.

I should be grateful to have your confirmation that this is also the understanding of your Government.

Yours sincerely,
(Sd.) WILFRID EADY.

THE HON. MR. V. NARAHARI RAO, C.S.I., C.I.E.

MOTION RE ELECTION OF STANDING COMMITTEES TO ADVISE MINISTRIES

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (Leader of the House): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly—

(a) do proceed to elect in such manner as the Honourable the Speaker may direct, members to serve until the end of the next financial year on Standing Committees to advise on subjects concerning the undermentioned Ministries of the Government of India the number to be so elected in respect of each Ministry, excluding the Chairman, being as follows:

Ministry of Agriculture	10
Ministry of Commerce	10
Ministry of Communications	10
Ministry of Defence	10
Ministry of Education	10
Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations	10
Ministry of Food	10
Ministry of Health	10
Ministry of Home Affairs	10
Ministry of Industry and Supply	10
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	10
Ministry of Labour	10
Ministry of Law	5
Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation	10
Ministry of States	10
Ministry of Transport (other than Roads)	10
Ministry of Works, Mines and Power	10

(b) do adopt the annexed Rules* to regulate the constitution and procedure of the said Standing Committees."

I might add that in view of there being such a large number of committees to be appointed consisting of most members of this House it is desirable not to

ANNEXURE.

* Rules.

1. The Chairman of each Committee shall be the Minister in charge of the Ministry to which the Committee is attached or any officer deputed by him to act as Chairman when he is unable to be present, and an officer in that Ministry designated by the Chairman shall be Secretary to the Committee.

2. A member of a Committee who ceases to be a member of the Constituent Assembly shall cease to be a member of the Committee, and if a vacancy occurs in a Committee for this or any other reason during the course of the period for which the Committee was constituted a motion shall be made as soon as may be in the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) for the election of a member to fill the vacancy.

3. The following subjects shall be laid before the Standing Committee:

(1) All non-official Bills introduced or proposed to be introduced in the Assembly, and legislative proposals which the Ministry concerned intends to undertake and on which the Minister in charge desires the advice of the Committee.

(2) Reports of Committees and Commissions (not including unpublished reports of departmental committees) on which the Assembly is not adequately represented.

(3) Major questions of general policy on which the Minister in charge desires the advice of the Committee.

(4) Annual Reports.

(5) With the approval of the Minister in charge, any topic of public importance within the field of the Committee which a member of the Committee may propose for discussion:

Provided that—

(i) in cases of urgency a reference to the Committee may be dispensed with by the Minister concerned,

increase the number of each committee. I have suggested 10 for almost all the committees. Therefore it is desirable not to increase the number; otherwise there may be a good deal of overlapping. As it is it would probably be desirable that a member should not join more than two committees as far as possible.

There are a number of amendments to the annexed Rules and some of those amendments certainly improve the procedure which we have to follow and when the time comes I shall accept some of them.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That this Assembly—

(a) do proceed to elect in such manner as the Honourable the Speaker may direct, members to serve until the end of the next financial year on Standing Committees to advise on subjects concerning the undermentioned Ministries of the Government of India the number to be so elected in respect of each Ministry, excluding the Chairman, being as follows:

Ministry of Agriculture	10
Ministry of Commerce	10
Ministry of Communications	10
Ministry of Defence	10
Ministry of Education	10
Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations	10
Ministry of Food	10
Ministry of Health	10
Ministry of Home Affairs	10
Ministry of Industry and Supply	10
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	10
Ministry of Labour	10
Ministry of Law	5
Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation	10
Ministry of States	10
Ministry of Transport (other than Roads)	10
Ministry of Works, Mines and Power	10

(ii) the following cases shall be excluded from the purview of the Committee:

(a) cases concerning appointments,

(b) all cases which the Minister in charge considers cannot be placed before the Committee consistently with the public interest.

4. The functions of Standing Committees will be purely advisory and their proceedings will be strictly confidential. No press representatives will be allowed to attend any meeting of a committee. Brief reports of the activities of each Committee mentioning the subjects discussed and the conclusions reached by the Committee but not the tenor of the discussions will be circulated to all members of the Assembly.

5. Meetings of the Standing Committees will be summoned by the Secretary not less than twice a year at such times as may be decided by the Minister in charge. The agenda of the meeting will be drawn up and circulated by the Secretary, together with a memorandum explaining the nature of each item of business and copies of such papers as the Minister in charge directs to be furnished to the Committee. Such papers will be returned by members to the Secretary at the close of each meeting. The proceedings of the Committee will be confined to items of business entered in the agenda, and any requests for further information will be dealt with under the orders of the Minister in charge.

6. At a meeting of a Standing Committee, the Secretary may be requested by the Minister to explain each item of business. The Chairman will then invite a discussion and the Secretary will note on the departmental file the general opinion of the Committee.

[Mr. Speaker]

(b) do adopt the annexed Rules* to regulate the constitution and procedure of the said Standing Committees".

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): Sir, may I suggest that this motion be put to the House in two parts—(a) the substantive portion and (b) the annexed Rules. There does not seem to be any amendment so far as part (a) is concerned and therefore it will be adopted unanimously. After that we will go on to part (b).

ANNEXURE.

*Rules.

1 The Chairman of each Committee shall be the Minister in charge of the Ministry to which the Committee is attached or any officer deputed by him to act as Chairman when he is unable to be present, and an officer in that Ministry designated by the Chairman shall be Secretary to the Committee.

2. A member of a Committee who ceases to be a member of the Constituent Assembly shall cease to be a member of the Committee, and if a vacancy occurs in a Committee for this or any other reason during the course of the period for which the Committee was constituted, a motion shall be made as soon as may be in the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) for the election of a member to fill the vacancy.

3. The following subjects shall be laid before the Standing Committee :

(1) All non-official Bills introduced or proposed to be introduced in the Assembly, and legislative proposals which the Ministry concerned intends to undertake and on which the Minister in charge desires the advice of the Committee.

(2) Reports of Committees and Commissions (not including unpublished reports of departmental committees) on which the Assembly is not adequately represented.

(3) Major questions of general policy on which the Minister in charge desires the advice of the committee.

(4) Annual Reports.

(5) With the approval of the Minister in charge, any topic of public importance within the field of the Committee which a member of the Committee may propose for discussion :

Provided that

(i) in cases of urgency a reference to the Committee may be dispensed with by the Minister concerned,

(ii) the following cases shall be excluded from the purview of the Committee :

(a) cases concerning appointments,

(b) all cases which the Minister in charge considers cannot be placed before the Committee consistently with the public interest.

4. The function of Standing Committees will be purely advisory and their proceedings will be strictly confidential. No press representatives will be allowed to attend any meeting of a Committee. Brief reports of the activities of each Committee mentioning the subjects discussed and the conclusions reached by the Committee but not the tenor of the discussions will be circulated to all members of the Assembly.

5. Meetings of the Standing Committees will be summoned by the Secretary not less than twice a year at such times as may be decided by the Minister in charge. The agenda of the meeting will be drawn up and circulated by the Secretary, together with a memorandum explaining the nature of each item of business and copies of such papers as the Minister in charge directs to be furnished to the Committee. Such papers will be returned by members to the Secretary at the close of each meeting. The proceedings of the Committee will be confined to items of business entered in the agenda, and any requests for further information will be dealt with under the orders of the Minister in charge.

6. At a meeting of a Standing Committee, the Secretary may be requested by the Minister to explain each item of business. The Chairman will then invite a discussion and the Secretary will note on the departmental file the general opinion of the Committee.

ELECTION OF STANDING COMMITTEES TO ADVISE MINISTRIES

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Mr. Speaker: I have no objection to adopt the suggestion. I will put the first part (a) to the House.

The question is:

"(a) That this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as the Honourable the Speaker may direct, members to serve until the end of the next financial year on Standing Committees to advise on subjects concerning the under-mentioned Ministries of the Government of India the number to be so elected in respect of each Ministry, excluding the Chairman, being as follows:

Ministry of Agriculture	10
Ministry of Commerce	10
Ministry of Communications	10
Ministry of Defence	10
Ministry of Education	10
Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations	10
Ministry of Food	10
Ministry of Health	10
Ministry of Home Affairs	10
Ministry of Industry and Supply	10
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	10
Ministry of Labour	10
Ministry of Law	5
Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation	10
Ministry of States	10
Ministry of Transport (other than Roads)	10
Ministry of Works, Mines and Power	10

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: I will now take part (b) and the amendments to the Rules.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I beg to move:

(i) "That in part (b) of the motion, in Rule 1 for the words 'any officer deputed by him the words 'any member elected by the Committee', be substituted."

With your permission, Sir, I shall move the other amendments also, viz., Nos. 2, 3 and 4 relating to the same rule, so that Honourable Members may have a comprehensive idea as to what my intention is.

I move:

(ii) "That in part (b) of the motion, in Rule 1 after the word 'Chairman' where it occurs for the second time the words 'for that meeting' be inserted";

(iii) "That in part (b) of the motion, in Rule 1 for the word 'he' the words 'the Minister' be substituted "and

(iv) "That in part (b) of the motion, in Rule 1 for the word 'Chairman' where it occurs for the third time, the words 'the Minister' be substituted."

My object in making these motions is this. As Honourable Members will find, the rule as it stands makes the Minister the Chairman of each Committee and if he is absent on any particular occasion, the rule provides that an officer deputed by him may officiate as the Chairman for that meeting. My amendment is that instead of an officer, any member of the committee (the committees consist of members of the House) may elect one from among themselves as Chairman for that meeting. We have passed the earlier part of this motion according to which ten members of the Assembly will be elected as members of each committee. My proposal is that instead of any officer deputed by the Chairman any member elected by the committee from among themselves may act as Chairman for that meeting, in the absence of the Minister concerned. Such a Chairman will not be the Chairman for all meetings that may be held from time to time but only for that meeting, when the Minister is unable to be present. For the word "he" I want the word "Minister" to be substituted so as to make it clear. The rule as amended with these four amendments which are of a formal nature consequent on the first amendment, will read as follows:

"The Chairman of each Committee shall be the Minister in charge of the Ministry to which the Committee is attached or any member elected by the Committee to act as Chairman for that meeting when the Minister is unable to be present, and an officer in that Ministry designated by the Minister shall be the Secretary to the Committee."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

- (i) "That in part (b) of the motion, in Rule 1 for the words 'any officer deputed by him' the words 'any member elected by the Committee' be substituted ;"
- (ii) "That in part (b) of the motion, in Rule 1 after the word 'Chairman' where it occurs for the second time the words 'for that meeting' be inserted ;"
- (iii) "That in part (b) of the motion, in Rule 1 for the word 'he' the words 'the Minister' be substituted ;" and
- (iv) "That in part (b) of the motion, in Rule 1 for the word 'Chairman' where it occurs for the third time, the words 'the Minister' be substituted.,"

The motion was adopted.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I move the next amendment:

- (i) "That in part (b) of the motion, in sub-rule (1) of Rule 3, the following be omitted, namely :

'and on which the Minister in charge desires the advice of the Committee'."

The other amendment of mine relating to the same rule may also be taken together with this. I move:

- (ii) "That in part (b) of the motion, in sub-rule (3) of Rule 3, the following be omitted, namely :

'on which the Minister in charge desires the advice of the Committee'."

The object of these amendments is this. The rule says "The following subjects shall be laid before the Standing Committee" and then at the end of sub-rule No. (1) Honourable Members will find that there is a limitation to the subjects that may be placed before the Committee,—all non-official Bills, legislative proposals either in the form of bills or resolutions and memoranda "on which the Minister in charge desires the advice of the Committee." I do not want this limitation on the subjects that have to be placed before the Committee. The same thing is repeated in sub-rule (3) which says "Major questions of general policy on which the Minister in charge desires the advice of the Committee." Those words also may be omitted. With your permission, Sir, and with the leave of the House I would add at the end of Rule 3 the words "and financial proposals", i.e., major questions of general policy and financial proposals. I want that each committee should have the opportunity of looking into the budget relating to that Ministry, and giving priorities and they should also be able to suggest retrenchment or additions relating to the general policies which are placed before the committee. All general policies will have to be implemented by financial commitments and therefore I feel that there is a lacuna. I would, with your permission, like to add the words "and financial proposals".

Mr. Speaker: Is it necessary to add those words? Every general policy will include financial considerations.

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): But it will not be the case *vice versa*.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Financial proposals will always involve scrutiny of the policy, whereas the converse need not be true. You know very well that we are in the habit of scanning them too closely.

Mr. Speaker: I was feeling another difficulty. There is also a Standing Committee for the Ministry of Finance. What will happen in case there is a conflict of views between that committee and the other committees so far as financial proposals are concerned.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I respectfully submit to you and the House that instead of there being a conflict, it will facilitate the work of the Standing Finance Committee? The Standing Finance Committee consists of fifteen members and subjects relating to all the Ministries come up for

consideration before the Standing Finance Committee. They would certainly like to have the opinion of the Members of the House on the various Standing Committees with reference to each one of those Ministries. However clever the Members of the Standing Finance Committee may be they cannot be omniscient and it will be open to them to accept or reject the advice given.

Mr. Speaker: The only question is whether it is permissible at this stage to make an addition to the amendment.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (Madras: Muslim): On the observation from the Chair that these rules will govern the conduct of the Standing Finance Committee also, I find some difficulty. The motion of the Honourable Member is that these Rules will regulate "the constitution and procedure of the said Standing Committees". And, in the said Standing Committees the Finance Committee is not mentioned. I do not think these Rules will govern the conduct of the Standing Finance Committee.

Mr. Speaker: Any way, it will be a matter for the decision of the House on merits. What I am at present considering is whether I should permit the Honourable Member to add to his amendment, though he has not given previous notice of the addition. I think that the matter is of some importance and that I should not bar it by refusing to give my leave.

Amendments moved:

- "(i) That in part (b) of the motion, in sub-rule(1) of the Rule 3, the following be omitted, namely :

'and on which the Minister in charge desires the advice of the Committee';

- (ii) That in part (b) of the motion, in sub-rule(3) of Rule 3, the following be omitted namely :

'on which the Minister in charge desires the advice of the Committee';

and the words 'and financial proposals' be added after the words 'general policy'."

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Minister for Finance): With regard to the financial proposals being placed before these Advisory Committees, there is a possibility of very serious conflict, because every proposal for expenditure which comes before the Standing Finance Committee must necessarily relate to some Ministry or other. If, for instance, a number of items of expenditure are considered necessary by the Standing Committee of that Ministry, then the hands of the Standing Finance Committee are practically tied and the Standing Finance Committee cannot examine whether it is wise or necessary to include certain items of expenditure passed by the Standing Committees, and very serious conflicts will arise. In the alternative, the Standing Finance Committee will become absolutely of no use.

Mr. Speaker: I myself pointed out the difficulty. But I am putting the amendment just for the consideration of the House.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Sir, there is this difficulty which you were good enough to point out and which the Honourable Finance Minister has also drawn attention to. I think the difficulty, however, need not frighten us. Ultimately in regard to these financial proposals it is the Standing Finance Committee that will have the final word. As such I see no reason why it should be intimidated by any suggestion on financial proposals coming through any other Committee. No doubt the Standing Finance Committee will look into it, and if it does not fit in with the financial programme, it will negative the suggestion. In any event, whether you put those words or not, I have no doubt that any proposals which are to be examined by any of these Standing Committees will have to be examined in relation to their financial aspect. The whole picture has got to be considered by the Standing Committees.

[Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru]

The Standing Committees of the past have met normally twice a year and their meetings have often been formal meetings, restricted to problems placed before them. I am not myself conversant with these meetings—I have attended only one or two—and the meetings did not strike me as being very helpful. I hope in future the Standing Committees would perform much more important functions. We have said that they should meet at least twice a year, and I do not wish to change that wording in the Rules. But I hope that they will be able to meet oftener. I hope also that they will not only meet oftener but meet really to survey the whole scene of their activities and not merely confine themselves to the problem before them. I should certainly like to put the whole picture before them and take their help in the matter. There are, however, some exceptions to this. Obviously, sometimes something has to be done urgently, and the Standing Committee cannot meet. We must also have authority to do some things which cannot easily be placed before them for reasons of State policy or secrecy. Those things cannot be placed before them. Subject to that, I hope each Standing Committee will be given the fullest co-operation and information by the Minister concerned.

I am prepared to accept the amendment moved by Mr. Ayyangar. But there is one small matter to which I should like to draw the attention of the House. At the end of Rule 3 there is the Proviso "Provided that (i) in cases of urgency a reference to the Committee may be dispensed with by the Ministry concerned and (ii) the following cases shall be excluded etc." The second proviso is all right. It gives the protection I ask. But I am not quite clear, from the way it is printed, whether the first Proviso applies to the whole Rule or not. The way it is printed with the colon makes rather confusing. I hope it refers to the whole Rule. If so, I accept the amendment moved by Mr. Ayyangar.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"(i) That in part (b) of the motion, in sub-rule (1) of Rule 3, the following be omitted, namely:

'and on which the Minister in charge desires the advice of the Committee';

(ii) "That in part (b) of the motion, in sub-rule (3) of Rule 3, the following be omitted, namely:

'on which the Minister in charge desires the advice of the Committee';

and the words 'and financial proposals' be added after the words 'general policy'."

The motion was adopted.

Shri H. V. Kamath (C. P. and Berar: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move:

"That in part (b) of the motion, in Rule 5, for the words 'twice a year' the words 'four times a year' be substituted."

My amendment is an extremely simple one. If the amendment be accepted, the Rule will read as follows:

"Meetings of the Standing Committees will be summoned by the secretary not less than four times a year.....etc."

The amendment speaks for itself and it is hardly necessary for me to expatiate on it. It may be argued of course, I realize, against this amendment that the practice so far has been to have meetings not less than twice a year. But I would submit that this practice, along with so many others, represents to my mind a hangover from the days of bureaucratic imperialism which it is high time we discarded, at any rate after the new set up since 15th August. I submit that my amendment has been tabled with a view to facilitating the work of the various Ministries. As Members of a sovereign Dominion Parliament I think we should work on these Committees earnestly, effectively and efficiently. I would therefore commend this amendment for the acceptance of the Honourable the Mover as well as of the House.

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That in part (b) of the motion, in Rule 5, for the words 'twice a year', the words 'four times a year' be substituted."

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I have just stated that I look forward to the Standing Committees meeting pretty frequently. But it will not be desirable to fix a number like four in these Rules. What the Rule says is they should meet *at least* twice a year. They may meet many more times. I think, however, that to lay down a statutory rule that every Committee should meet at least four times a year will perhaps be undesirable and might place some difficulty. As a matter of fact, apart from the administrative matters, if the Members of the Committee themselves want to meet at any time I am quite sure that they can meet. They will have the fullest co-operation of the Ministry.

I hope that the committees will work smoothly and frequently, but I would request the Mover of this to leave it at that and not have a hard and fast rule about every committee meeting at least four times a year.

Shri H. V. Kamath: In view of the assurance given by the Honourable the Leader of the House, I do not wish to press my amendment. I beg leave of the House to withdraw the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: Has the Honourable Member the permission of the House to withdraw his amendment?

The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker: I put the second part of the Motion, as amended, before the House.

The question is:

"(b) That this Assembly do adopt the annexed rules * to regulate the constitution and procedure of the said Standing Committees."

The motion was adopted.

ANNEXURE

Rules*

1. The Chairman of each Committee shall be the Minister in charge of the Ministry to which the Committee is attached or any member elected by the Committee to act as Chairman for that meeting when the Minister is unable to be present, and an officer in that Ministry designated by the Minister shall be Secretary to the Committee.

2. A member of a Committee who ceases to be a member of the Constituent Assembly shall cease to be a member of the Committee, and if a vacancy occurs in a Committee for this or any other reason during the course of the period for which the Committee was constituted, a motion shall be made as soon as may be in the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) for the election of a member to fill the vacancy.

3. The following subjects shall be laid before the Standing Committee:

(1) All non-official Bills introduced or proposed to be introduced in the Assembly, and legislative proposals which the Ministry concerned intends to undertake.

(2) Reports of Committees and Commissions (not including unpublished reports of departmental committees) on which the Assembly is not adequately represented.

(3) Major questions of general policy and financial proposals.

(4) Annual Reports.

(5) With the approval of the Minister in charge, any topic of public importance within the field of the Committee which a member of the Committee may propose for discussion:

Provided that—

(i) in cases of urgency a reference to the Committee may be dispensed with by the Ministry concerned,

(ii) the following cases shall be excluded from the purview of the Committee:

(a) cases concerning appointments,

(b) all cases which the Minister in charge considers cannot be placed before the Committee consistently with the public interest.

ELECTION TO COUNCIL OF INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE, BANGALORE

آزید مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : جناب ! میں یہ تجویز پیش کرتا ہوں "کہ ایسے طریقہ سے جو آئریبل اسپیکر منظور کریں ایک ممبر کے چلنے کی کاروائی اختیار کی جائے جو انڈین سائنس انسٹیٹیوٹ بنگلور کی کونسل میں اس اسمبلی کی نمائندگی کریگا یہ چناؤ اس غرض سے ہوگا کہ ۱۹۴۷ء سے ۱۹۴۹ء تک کی مدت کا چناؤ وقت باقی رہ گیا ہے اسکی کمی پوری کی جائے۔ یہ کاروائی ان قواعد کی دفعہ ۱۱ کے ماتحت ضروری ہے جو بنگلور انسٹیٹیوٹ کے فلڈ اور جائیداد کے انتظام کے لئے قرار دئے گئے ہیں اور جو ۲ دسمبر ۱۹۳۷ء کو پچھلے ڈیپارٹمنٹ ایجوکیشن - ہیلتھ اینڈ لینڈز کے نوٹی فیکیشن سے گزرتا آف انڈیا میں شائع ہو چکا ہے۔ جو ممبر اب چنا جائیگا وہ دراصل پلڈت لکشمی کانت میترا کی خالی جگہ بھرنے کے لئے ہوگا چلوں اس غرض سے پچھلی اسمبلی نے چناؤ چونکہ وہ اسمبلی جسے انہوں نے چنا تھا ۱۵ اگست ۱۹۴۷ء کو ختم ہو گئی اس لئے ان کی کونسل کی ممبری بھی ختم ہو گئی۔"

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. (Minister for Education): Sir I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the Speaker, a member to represent this Assembly on the Council of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, for the residue of the triennium 1947—49 (both years inclusive in pursuance of the provisions of clause 11 (Secondly) of the Scheme for the Administration and management of the Properties and Funds of the said Institute (which was published in the Gazette of India with the Notification of the late Department of Education, Health and Land No. F. 53-1/37, dated the 2nd December, 1937, and which as subsequently amended, is in force with the substitution of a reference to this Assembly for the reference to the Indian Legislative Assembly in the said clause), in place of Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra who was elected to represent the Indian Legislative Assembly on the said Council and who consequent on the Assembly ceasing to function, ceased to be a member of the Council on the 15th August, 1947.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the Speaker, a member to represent this Assembly on the Council of the Indian

4. The functions of Standing Committees will be purely advisory and their proceedings will be strictly confidential. No press representatives will be allowed to attend any meeting of a Committee. Brief reports of the activities of each Committee mentioning the subjects discussed and the conclusions reached by the Committee but not the tenor of the discussions will be circulated to all members of the Assembly.

5. Meetings of the Standing Committees will be summoned by the Secretary not less than twice a year at such times as may be decided by the Minister in charge. The agenda of the meeting will be drawn up and circulated by the Secretary, together with a memorandum explaining the nature of each item of business and copies of such papers as the Minister in charge directs to be furnished to the Committee. Such papers will be returned by members to the Secretary at the close of each meeting. The proceedings of the Committee will be confined to items of business entered in the agenda, and any requests for further information will be dealt with under the orders of the Minister in charge.

6. At a meeting of a Standing Committee, the Secretary may be requested by the Minister to explain each item of business. The Chairman will then invite a discussion and the Secretary will note on the departmental file the general opinion of the Committee.

ELECTION TO GOVERNING BODY OF INDIAN RESEARCH FUND ASSOCIATION 235

Institution of Science, Bangalore, for the residue of the triennium 1947—49 (both years inclusive) in pursuance of the provisions of clause 11 (Secondly) of the Scheme for Administration and Management of the Properties and Funds of the said Institute (which was published in the Gazette of India with the Notification of the late Department of Education, Health and Lands No. F. 53-1/37, dated the 2nd December, 1937, and which as subsequently amended, is in force with the substitution of a reference to this Assembly for the reference to the Indian Legislative Assembly in the said clause), in place of Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra who was elected to represent the Indian Legislative Assembly on the said Council and who consequent on that Assembly ceasing to function, ceased to be a member of the Council on the 15th August, 1947.

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION TO GOVERNING BODY OF INDIAN RESEARCH FUND ASSOCIATION

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur. (Minister for Health): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the Speaker, three persons from among their number to sit on the Governing body of the Indian Research Fund Association."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the Speaker, three persons from among their number to sit on the Governing body of the Indian Research Fund Association."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform Honourable Members that the following dates have been fixed for receiving nominations and holding elections, if necessary, in connection with the following Committees, namely:

	Date for nomination	Date for election
1 Ministry of Agriculture	21—11—47	26—11—47
2 Ministry of Communications		
3 Ministry of Commerce		
4 Ministry of Defence	22—11—47	27—11—47
5 Ministry of Education		
6 Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations		
7 Ministry of Food	25—11—47	29—11—47
8 Ministry of Health		
9 Ministry of Home Affairs		
10 Ministry of Industry and Supply	26—11—47	1—12—47
11 Ministry of Information and Broadcasting		
12 Ministry of Labour		
13 Ministry of Law	27—11—47	2—12—47
14 Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation		
15 Ministry of States		
16 Ministry of Transport (other than Roads)	29—11—47	3—12—47
17 Ministry of Works, Mines and Power		
18 Council of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore	1—12—47	4—12—47
19 Governing Body of the Indian Research Fund Association		

The nominations for these Committees will be received in the Notice Office upto 12 Noon on the dates mentioned for the purpose. The elections, which will be conducted in accordance with the Regulations for the holding of elections by means of the single transferable vote, will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room (No. 21) in the Council House between the hours 10-30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

[Dr. John Matthai]

in this resolution, and that is as regards the allocations from this Fund to States. As Honourable Members will have noticed, the Resolution proposes that allocations to States will be confined to States which have acceded to the Union or to States which are eligible for these grants under existing agreements. With the exception of that, Sir, the resolution follows the policy which has been in force during the past seventeen years. The policy outlined in this resolution goes back to the time when a Committee was appointed by the old legislature to examine problems relating to the development of roads over which our distinguished countryman Dr. Jayakar presided. The old Government's policy based on those recommendations was announced in 1930, and ever since then, this particular policy has been in operation.

I will briefly sum up, Sir, the main features of the Resolution. First of all, there is to be a Road Fund which is to be fed by revenues derived from a duty of not less than 2 annas per gallon levied on petrol. I want to make it clear that the way in which para. 1 of the Resolution is stated does not authorise Government to levy this duty. The duty will be levied in accordance with the procedure followed in regard to finance bills. All that this Resolution does is to authorise the Government to earmark the funds derived from this duty for the purpose of road development.

The second feature of the proposals embodied in the Resolution is that out of the funds so derived, fifteen per cent. would be allocated to the Central Government for the formation of a Central Reserve. The purpose of the Central Reserve is to finance specified major projects in which two or more Provinces or States may be interested, or it may be used for purposes of experiment and research in regard to road construction and development.

The third feature is that funds will be allocated to Provinces and States from this Fund on the basis of the petrol consumption in the areas concerned.

The fourth feature is that the administration of this Fund and expenditure from it would be subject to the control of the Standing Committee.

Sir, I want to make it perfectly clear before I sit down that the object of this Resolution is simply to continue for the time being the policy which has been in force all these years. The Resolution does not commit the House to any permanent arrangements regarding the Road Fund or the Road Committee. My own intention is that as soon as the Committee has been appointed under this Resolution, they should take up the question of the lines on which the basis and the composition of the Fund and the Committee should be determined for the future. Therefore, I would suggest with regard to the amendments of which notice has been given that it would probably be a more satisfactory arrangement if the issues raised in these amendments were brought up before the Committee after it has been appointed. Sir, I beg to move.

Mr. Speaker: I also do not propose to read the motion. I take it that the motion is there before the Honourable Members and therefore put it to the House. Resolution moved:

"This Assembly hereby resolves that:

1. There shall continue to be levied on motor spirit an extra duty of customs and of excise of not less than 2 annas per gallon, and the proceeds thereof shall be applied for the purposes of road development.

2. (1) From the proceeds of such extra duty in any financial year there shall be deducted a sum as near as may be equivalent to the share in such proceeds arising from taxed motor spirit used in aviation during the calendar year ending in the financial year concerned, and such shall be at the disposal of the Central Government for allotment as grants-in-aid of civil aviation.

(2) The balance of the proceeds shall be credited as a block grant to a separate Road Fund.

(3) For the purposes of this resolution 'taxed motor spirit' shall mean motor spirit upon which the duty of customs or excise shall have been paid and in respect of which no rebate of such duty shall have been given.

RESOLUTION re CENTRAL ROAD FUND & STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ROADS

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3. (1) The Road Fund shall be allocated as follows:

- (a) a portion equal to fifteen per cent. shall be retained by the Central Government as a central reserve;
- (b) out of the remainder there shall be allocated by the Central Government—
 - (i) a portion for expenditure in each Governor's Province,
 - (ii) a portion for expenditure in the Chief Commissioner's Provinces,
 - (iii) a portion for expenditure in the Acceding States, and
 - (iv) a portion for expenditure in such non-acceding Indian States as may be eligible thereto, under any agreement for the time being in force,

as near as may be in the ratio which the consumption of taxed motor spirit other than motor spirit used in aviation, in each area for which an allocation is to be made shall bear to the total consumption in India and the States referred to in sub-clause (iv) above, of taxed motor spirit, other than motor spirit used in aviation during the calendar year ending during the financial year concerned.

(2) The portions allocated for expenditure in Governors' Provinces shall be retained by the Central Government until they are actually required for expenditure in the manner herein after specified.

(3) If in the opinion of the Central Government, the Government of any Governor's province has at any time—

- (a) failed to take such steps as the Central Government may recommend for the regulation and control of motor vehicles within the province, or
- (b) delayed without reasonable cause the application of any portion of the Road Fund allocated or re-allocated as the case may be for expenditure within the province,

the Central Government may resume the whole or part of any sums which it may at that time hold for expenditure in that province.

(4) All sums resumed by the Central Government from the account of any Provincial Government as aforesaid shall be re-allocated between the credit accounts of Provincial Governments and the reserve with the Central Government in the ratio of the main allocation for the financial year preceding the year in which the re-allocation is made:

Provided that the sum so calculated as the share of the province from whose account the resumption has been made shall also be credited to the reserve with the Central Government.

4. The balance to the credit of the Road Fund or of any allocation thereof shall not lapse at the end of the financial year.

5. No expenditure shall be incurred from any portion of the Road Fund save as herein after provided.

6. The Central reserve with the Central Government shall be applied first to defraying the cost of administering the Road Fund and thereafter upon such schemes for research and intelligence and upon such special enquiries connected with roads and upon special grants-in-aid for such objects connected with roads as the Central Government may approve.

7. The sums allocated for expenditure in the Provinces may, subject to the previous approval of the Central Government to each proposal made, be expended upon any of the following objects, namely:

- (i) on the construction of new roads and bridges of any sort;
- (ii) on the reconstruction or substantial improvement of existing roads and bridges;
- (iii) in special cases, on the maintenance of roads and bridges, constructed, reconstructed or substantially improved from the Road Fund or from loans approved or sanctioned by the Central Government;
- (iv) to meet charges, including the cost of establishment, connected with the preparation of schemes of road development or with the administration of provincial Boards of Communications;
- (v) to meet charges including the cost of establishment connected with the control of motor transport; and
- (vi) on the interest and amortization of loans approved or sanctioned before the date of this Resolution by the Central Government, and spent or to be spent on the construction, reconstruction or substantial improvement of roads and bridges.

8. In considering proposals for the construction, reconstruction or improvements of roads and bridges from the Road Fund, the Central Government shall have regard to the present urgent need for improving the efficiency and reducing the cost of transport by road of agricultural produce to markets and railways.

RESOLUTION RE CENTRAL ROAD FUND AND STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ROADS

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Minister for Railways and Transport): May I ask you, Sir, whether you will be good enough to suspend the rule which requires a Member who moves a resolution to begin by stating the motion as set out in the List of Business? As you will see, it covers 3 foolscap pages and I think it would be a waste of time of the House to read it since copies of this resolution have already been circulated. I may say, Sir, that ten years ago when a resolution in these identical terms was moved in the old Legislature, the President extended a similar indulgence to my predecessor then in office.

Mr. Speaker: The resolution will be taken as read.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I beg to move the resolution standing in my name:

"This Assembly hereby resolves that:

1. There shall continue to be levied on motor spirit an extra duty of customs and of excise of not less than 2 annas per gallon, and the proceeds thereof shall be applied for the purposes of road development.

2. (1) From the proceeds of such extra duty in any financial year there shall be deducted a sum as near as may be equivalent to the share in such proceeds arising from taxed motor spirit used in aviation during the calendar year ending in the financial year concerned, and such sum shall be at the disposal of the Central Government for allotment as grants-in-aid of civil aviation.

(2) The balance of the proceeds shall be credited as a block grant to a separate Road Fund.

(3) For the purposes of this resolution 'taxed motor spirit' shall mean motor spirit upon which the duty of customs or excise shall have been paid and in respect of which no rebate of such duty shall have been given.

3. (1) The Road Fund shall be allocated as follows:

(a) a portion equal to fifteen per cent., shall be retained by the Central Government as a Central reserve;

(b) out of the remainder there shall be allocated by the Central Government—

(i) a portion for expenditure in each Governor's Province,

(ii) a portion for expenditure in the Chief Commissioner's Provinces,

(iii) a portion for expenditure in the Acceding States and

(iv) a portion for expenditure in such non-acceding Indian States as may be eligible thereto under any agreement for the time being in force,

as near as may be in the ratio which the consumption of taxed motor spirit, other than motor spirit used in aviation, in each area for which an allocation is to be made shall bear to the total consumption in India and the States referred to in sub-clause (iv) above, of taxed motor spirit, other than motor spirit used in aviation during the calendar year ending during the financial year concerned.

(2) The portions allocated for expenditure in Governors' Provinces shall be retained by the Central Government until they are actually required for expenditure in the manner herein-after specified.

(3) If in the opinion of the Central Government, the Government of any Governor's province has at any time—

(a) failed to take such steps as the Central Government may recommend for the regulation and control of motor vehicles within the province, or

(b) delayed without reasonable cause the application of any portion of the Road Fund allocated or re-allocated as the case may be for expenditure within the province,

the Central Government may resume the whole or part of any sums which it may at that time hold for expenditure in that province.

(4) All sums resumed by the Central Government from the account of any Provincial Government as aforesaid shall be re-allocated between the credit accounts of Provincial Governments and the reserve with the Central Government in the ratio of the main allocation for the financial year preceding the year in which the re-allocation is made:

Provided that the sum so calculated as the share of the province from whose account the resumption has been made shall also be credited to the reserve with the Central Government.

4. The balance to the credit of the Road Fund or of any allocation thereof shall not lapse at the end of the financial year.

5. No expenditure shall be incurred from any portion of the Road Fund save as herein-after provided.

6. The Central reserve with the Central Government shall be applied first to defraying the cost of administering the Road Fund and thereafter upon such schemes for research and intelligence and upon such special enquiries connected with roads and upon special grants-in-aid for such objects connected with roads as the Central Government may approve.

7. The sums allocated for expenditure in the Provinces may, subject to the previous approval of the Central Government to each proposal made, be expended upon any of the following objects, namely:

(i) on the construction of new roads and bridges of any sort;

(ii) on the reconstruction or substantial improvement of existing roads and bridges;

(iii) in special cases, on the maintenance of roads and bridges, constructed, reconstructed or substantially improved from the Road Fund, or from loans approved or sanctioned by the Central Government;

(iv) to meet charges, including the cost of establishment, connected with the preparation of schemes of road development or with the administration of provincial Boards of Communications;

(v) to meet charges including the cost of establishment connected with the control of motor transport; and

(vi) on the interest and amortization of loans approved or sanctioned before the date of this Resolution by the Central Government, and spent or to be spent on the construction, reconstruction or substantial improvement of roads and bridges.

8. In considering proposals for the construction, reconstruction or improvements of roads and bridges from the Road Fund, the Central Government shall have regard to the present urgent need for improving the efficiency and reducing the cost of transport by road of agricultural produce to markets and railways.

9. (1) A Standing Committee for Roads shall be constituted each financial year consisting of—

(a) the Minister in charge of the relevant portfolio, provided that should the said Minister be unable to be present at any meeting he shall nominate a person to deputise for him;

(b) twelve members elected by the members of the Constituent Assembly from amongst themselves; and

(c) the Chief Commissioner of Railways.

(2) The said Minister shall be the Chairman of the Committee: Provided that should he be unable to be present at any meeting, the person nominated to deputise for him under subparagraph (1) shall act as the Chairman of the meeting.

(3) No approval to any proposal for expenditure from the Road Fund shall be given by the Committee unless it is supported by a majority of the members present and voting.

(4) All proposals for expenditure from the Central reserve and all other proposals for expenditure from the Road Fund to be made in the Provinces shall be referred by the Central Government to the Standing Committee before the proposals are approved.

10. The functions of the Standing Committee shall be:

(a) to consider the annual budget and accounts of the Road Fund;

(b) to advise upon all proposals for expenditure from the Central reserve;

(c) to advise upon the desirability of all other proposals involving expenditure from the Road Fund in the Provinces;

(d) to advise upon proposals for the resumption of monies held by the Central Government as provided for in sub-paragraph (3) of paragraph 3 of this Resolution; and

(e) to advise the Central Government generally on all questions relating to roads and road traffic which the Central Government may refer to the Committee."

This resolution relates to two matters the constitution of a Road Fund and the constitution of a Standing Committee for the administration of the Road Fund. I may say, Sir, at the beginning that all that this resolution seeks to do is to continue a policy which has been in existence for the past seventeen years. The only changes which are made in this resolution are changes mainly of a verbal character arising from the constitutional changes which have taken place. There is one point of substance regarding which a change is indicated

[Mr. Speaker]

9. (1) A Standing Committee for Roads shall be constituted each financial year consisting of—
- (a) the Minister in charge of the relevant portfolio, provided that should the said Minister be unable to be present at any meeting he shall nominate a person to deputise for him;
 - (b) twelve members elected by the members of the Constituent Assembly from amongst themselves; and
 - (c) the Chief Commissioner of Railways.
- (2) The said Minister shall be the Chairman of the Committee: Provided that should he be unable to be present at any meeting, the person nominated to deputise for him under sub-paragraph (1) shall act as the Chairman of the meeting.
- (3) No approval to any proposal for expenditure from the Road Fund shall be given by the Committee unless it is supported by a majority of the members present and voting.
- (4) All proposals for expenditure from the Central reserve and all other proposals for expenditure from the Road Fund to be made in the Provinces shall be referred by the Central Government to the Standing Committee before the proposals are approved.

10. The functions of the Standing Committee shall be:

- (a) to consider the annual budget and accounts of the Road Fund;
- (b) to advise upon all proposals for expenditure from the Central reserve;
- (c) to advise upon the desirability of all other proposals involving expenditure from the Road Fund in the Provinces;
- (d) to advise upon proposals for the resumption of monies held by the Central Government as provided for in sub-paragraph (3) of paragraph 3 of this Resolution; and
- (e) to advise the Central Government generally on all questions relating to roads and road traffic which the Central Government may refer to the Committee."

Shri Biswanath Das (Orissa: General): Sir, I had given notice of three amendments but after hearing my Honourable Friend, I do not propose to move those amendments but it is fair that I should place on record that we do not like that petrol should go so lightly taxed. Time has come when the scale of taxation should be graduated equitably and in such a manner that the people who could pay more should be ready and willing to take their due burden of taxation. Looked from this point of view, there is no reason and much less justification why petrol should go with so light a duty and especially why aviation petrol should go with a very small duty. A duty on petrol has very little justification unless it is meant and utilised to develop the roads—in constructing new ones or maintaining existing roads.

Mr. Speaker: May I point out to the Honourable Member that the substance of the motion is really the constitution of the Committee, and that the point that he is making out now and which he included in his amendment, is really one which is not admissible at the present stage? I thought he would just invite attention to his point but then it seems he is trying to go into the merits of the whole case. I am afraid it is not permissible on this motion to do so. The proper place will be when the Finance Bill or the Budget comes up, when the Honourable Member will have ample opportunities of putting forward his views. If he has to say anything about the constitution of the Committee or the distribution of the Fund collected—as one of his amendment shows—it is perfectly all right. But I do not propose to allow discussion as to what the petrol duty should be or what the general structure of taxation in the country should be.

Shri Biswanath Das: Sir, I am highly thankful for your suggestion but I have to submit that I am only stating certain facts with a view that the Honourable Members of this House will be able to apprise properly the other points that I have placed before them. It is in this view of the question that I have to state these facts. I may also invite your attention to the fact that the Resolution moved by my Honourable friend includes the levy of a petrol cess. Considered from that point of view, the facts I have stated are not irrelevant.

Sir, my submission was that the time has come when we have to change the existing conditions and the system and method of taxation. Sir, if the petrol cess is intended to be utilised for the development and construction of roads, I wish to say that more money on this account is necessary to be utilised than the 15 per cent. allotted for the Central Reserve. My submission is that the Fund may be so adjusted that the Government of India may have more reserve with them so that the Central Government could go to the aid of Provinces and States to provide facilities of roads and communications in undeveloped areas.

Sir, in this connection I may bring to the notice of the Honourable Members of this House that the Provinces of Assam, Orissa and C.P. and Berar are the worst sufferers. Of course, there are other provinces, but of all the provinces in India the provinces I have mentioned are the ones having vast areas undeveloped. That is why I submit that this petrol cess should be considerably increased, so that the Government may get more money out of this proportion of 85 per cent. and 15 per cent. and the Committee that we are constituting may be able to devote more money to go to the aid of these undeveloped areas. With these words, I appeal to the Government to look to this aspect of this question before they bring forward their budget proposals and make up their mind to allocate more funds for being devoted for this purpose.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): Sir, in view of the statement made by the Honourable the Mover, I do not propose to move the amendments to the various rules standing in my name, but I would like that a small amendment should be made. In clause 9 regarding the Standing Committee, it says:

"A Standing Committee for Roads shall be constituted each financial year".

Sir, you remember that the various committees for the constitution of which the Honourable the Premier moved today and which was accepted by the House just now, were constituted for the remaining period of the present financial year and till the end of the next financial year. Therefore, I would suggest that the words "each financial year" in clause 9 (1) may be omitted.

Then in the Resolution that was moved relating to the constitution of the Standing Committee for Roads. . . .

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I have not moved it yet.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: If perchance that Committee which is to be constituted is to continue till the end of the next financial year, i.e. till the end of 31st March, 1949, then, if these rules stand in the present form, namely, that each financial year a fresh election shall take place, these two will conflict. Therefore I suggest the omission of the words "each financial year" in clause 9.

Mr. Speaker: The point is not clear to me. The Honourable Member refers to some kind of conflict between a motion that has come before the House and the words "each financial year". What I understand is that this Resolution refers to the constitution of that Committee and that Constitution will go on. This Resolution is not coming before the House from year to year. I understand it defines the constitution. Am I right?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That is so, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: If that is so, why should it not provide that a Committee shall be constituted each financial year?

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Because we are going by another Resolution. There are two Resolutions standing in the name of the Honourable Mover. He moved the first one relating to the constitution and set-up of the Committee with which we are dealing. The next Resolution, which he has not moved, says that "a Committee for Roads shall be constituted consisting of 12

[Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar] members in the manner prescribed by the Speaker" and so on. You will kindly see, Sir, that the period of tenure of that Committee has been limited under the terms of this Resolution to March 31st, 1948. That read with this, will mean that at the end of 31st March, 1948, for the next financial year there will have to be a fresh Committee brought into existence. There is no conflict between the rules as they stand, but I would urge upon him that in view of the fact that we have appointed various Committees moved by the Honourable the Prime Minister till the end of the next financial year, namely, till the end of March, 1949, the Committee for Roads may also be allowed to continue till that period and if that is so, this will militate against that, I mean if the words "each financial year" in the present rules are retained. If they are omitted, these rules may be applied to any Committee which is brought into existence at any time, whatever might be the period, and therefore I believe this amendment will be acceptable to the Mover himself.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I may perhaps, with your permission, Sir, say that this matter was discussed by my Honourable friend and me and I quite understand the position that he has explained. I agree with him in what he has said. If this Resolution is passed in the terms in which I have moved it, there would certainly be a conflict between the clause 9 of this Resolution and certain amendments which have been under discussion between me and the Honourable Member in regard to the next Resolution which is coming up for consideration before the House. In any case, Sir, the Resolution that I have moved sets out the basis and composition of this Road Funds Committee and it deals only with a temporary period. It is meant to be simply an arrangement for the provisional continuation of the existing system. It is quite likely that within the next few months, as soon as this Committee is appointed, the procedure set out in this Resolution would have to be altered fundamentally, so that the present Resolution deals only with a temporary situation. Thereafter, it may be possible for the Committee to go into the whole matter and discuss the lines on which a permanent constitution can be drawn up.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Does the Honourable the Mover then suggest that he would bring up these rules for the Road Funds Committee before the next Budget session?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes, that is what I told the House.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Even then, the omission of the words "each financial year" here may not stand in the way of any Committee being appointed during the interim period.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am sorry I was not clear. I am agreeing with the Honourable Member to the omission of the words "each financial year" and shall accept his amendment.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Then, Sir, I may be permitted to make a few observations on the rules as they stand.

Mr. Speaker: First of all, the Honourable Member may move his amendment.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in sub-clause (1) of Clause 9 of the Resolution, the words 'each financial year' be omitted."

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That in sub-clause (1) of Clause 9 of the Resolution, the words 'each financial year' be omitted."

The Honourable Member may now proceed.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In sub-clause (1) of clause 2, it is stated:

"From the proceeds of such extra duty in any financial year there shall be deducted as near a sum as may be equivalent to the share in such proceeds arising from taxed motor spirit used in aviation during the calendar year ending in the financial year concerned."

I do not know, why, Sir, a difference has been made between the financial year and the calendar year.

Then, Sir, I would like to know from the Honourable the Mover whether it is from this Road Fund that highways are going to be put up or are going to be maintained or whether there is a separate fund or whether this expenditure will be met from general revenues.

Then, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Member to Rule 3 sub clauses (3) and (4). There is a heavy penalty that is imposed on

1 P.M. Governors' Provinces which do not utilise for any reason the allocation of the Road Fund during that particular year. The provision that now stands is that those monies may be re-allocated at the end of the year to various Provinces including this province. I suggested that these might also be added to the reserve. There may be various undertakings which may be completed within two or more years or, a period of three years. Therefore provision must be made for accumulating this on behalf of any particular province as a reserve and kept as a Central reserve so that it may be utilised at the end of three years or any period by that particular Government.

I would like to know, Sir, from the Honourable Member if in the administration of this Road fund which has been constituted a long time ago there has been any default and there have been occasions for the Central Government to withdraw the contributions that have been made to any particular Government for not having expended those amounts within that period and if so whether they have tried to accumulate this reserve and what the attitude of the Central Government has been in that regard.

Then, Sir, in clause 7 it is stated that 'the sums allocated for expenditure in the Provinces may, subject to the previous approval of the Central Governmentto each proposal made, be expended upon any of the following objects'. I would like to know, Sir, if the Central Government has got any agency by which the allocation may be made. The Central Government must certainly have an agency by which it can go into individual matters. For instance my Honourable friend Dr. Subrahmanyam who hails from Trichinopoly just told me that there is a proposal to construct a bridge on the Cauvery at a cost of nearly 20 or 30 lakhs if not more. But the situation is such that the ordinary traffic is all one way and there is heavy traffic. The place that has been chosen is not a place over which the traffic would be ordinarily diverted. I would like to know what agency is consulted in a matter like this.

Then, Sir, in paragraph 8 so far as the transport of agricultural produce is concerned it appears to be the policy of the framers of this Constitution to help in facilitating the transport of agricultural produce from place to place. What are the rules which have been till now laid down for facilitating the transport of agricultural produce? Has there been a scheme evolved? The House will kindly refer to the last few lines in clause 8:

"The Central Government shall have regard to the present urgent need for improving the efficiency and reducing the cost of transport by road of agricultural produce to markets and railways."

I do not know, Sir, how the Honourable the Mover proposed to reduce the cost of transport of agricultural produce by road.

Then as regards the constitution I would urge that if the Honourable Member is not able to preside over this Standing Committee for any reason, it is not any officer of his Department that should be allowed to preside, but a member of the Committee who is a member of the Legislature.

Lastly, Sir, I would urge upon him that not only the matters that are brought up by the Honourable Member or the Department before the Committee should be considered, but any member must be allowed an opportunity to place all relevant matters relating to his Department before the Committee for consideration.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Well, Sir, most matters that my Honourable friend has referred are matters which, as I said before, would come before this committee that we are appointing and I do not think that it is necessary that I should take up the time of the House by discussing them on the merits. There are certain points of information which the Honourable Member has raised. As far as I am able to tell at present, Sir, the question of reducing the cost of transport of agricultural produce has been actively engaging the consideration of the Central Government. Of course it is not a matter in regard to which it is possible to lay down a principle which would be capable of universal application. It is a matter that would have to be discussed with reference to the circumstances of each case. Then my Honourable friend asked me what the position of the National Highways was. Now the expenditure incurred by the Central Government in respect of national highways is an entirely separate matter, which is not covered by the provision which is set out in this Resolution. I am not in a position at present to state whether in the past there have been cases where the Central Government was called upon to resume grants once made, but I am prepared to have the matter looked into. As regards the minor point raised as to the basis of the year which is taken into account in regard to the allocation of funds for development of Aviation that is a matter also that I would like to look into. Generally, Sir, I am in agreement with the suggestions which my Honourable friend has made.

With regard to what Mr. Biswanath Das said regarding the financial part of the Resolution, the point has been covered by what you have said. I entirely agree with you, if I may say so. As regards the other matters I think they would come up for consideration before the Committee very shortly.

Mr. Speaker : The question is.

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Resolution, the 'words each financial year' be omitted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker : The question is :

"This Assembly hereby resolves that :

1. There shall continue to be levied on motor spirit an extra duty of customs and of excise of not less than 2 annas per gallon, and the proceeds thereof shall be applied for the purposes of road development.

2. (1) From the proceeds of such extra duty in any financial year there shall be deducted a sum as near as may be equivalent to the share in such proceeds arising from taxed motor spirit used in aviation during the calendar year ending in the financial year concerned, and such sum shall be at the disposal of the Central Government for allotment as grants-in-aid of civil aviation.

(2) The balance of the proceeds shall be credited as a block grant to a separate Road Fund.

(3) For the purposes of this resolution 'taxed motor spirit' shall mean motor spirit upon which the duty of customs or excise shall have been paid and in respect of which no rebate of such duty shall have been given.

3. (1) The Road Fund shall be allocated as follows :

(a) a portion equal to fifteen per cent., shall be retained by the Central Government as a central reserve ;

(b) out of the remainder there shall be allocated by the Central Government—

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- (i) a portion for expenditure in each Governor's Province,
- (ii) a portion for expenditure in the Chief Commissioners' Provinces,
- (iii) a portion for expenditure in the Acceding States, and
- (iv) a portion for expenditure in such non-acceding Indian States as may be eligible thereto under any agreement for the time being in force,

as near as may in the ratio which the consumption of taxed motor spirit, other than motor spirit used in aviation, in each area for which an allocation is to be made shall bear to the total consumption in India and the States referred to in sub-clause (iv) above, of taxed motor spirit, other than motor spirit used in aviation during the calendar year ending during the financial year concerned.

(2) The portions allocated for expenditure in Governor's Provinces shall be retained by the Central Government until they are actually required for expenditure in the manner hereinafter specified.

(3) If in the opinion of the Central Government, the Government of any Governor's province has at any time—

(a) failed to take such steps as the Central Government may recommend for the regulation and control of motor vehicles within the province : or

(b) delayed without reasonable cause the application of any portion of the Road Fund allocated or re-allocated as the case may be for expenditure within the province,

the Central Government may resume the whole or part of any sums which it may at that time hold for expenditure in that province.

(4) All sums resumed by the Central Government from the account of any Provincial Government as aforesaid shall be re-allocated between the credit accounts of Provincial Government and the reserve with the Central Government in the ratio of the main allocation for the financial year preceding the year in which the re-allocation is made :

Provided that the sum so calculated as the share of the province from whose account the resumption has been made shall also be credited to the reserve with the Central Government.

4. The balance to the credit of the Road Fund or of any allocation thereof shall not lapse at the end of the financial year.

5. No expenditure shall be incurred from any portion of the Road Fund save as hereinafter provided.

6. The Central reserve with the Central Government shall be applied first to defraying the cost of administering the Road Fund and thereafter upon such schemes for research and intelligence and upon such special enquiries connected with roads and upon special grant-in-aid for such objects connected with roads as the Central Government may approve.

7. The sums allocated for expenditure in the Provinces may, subject to the previous approval of the Central Government to each proposal made, be expended upon any of the following objects, namely :

- (i) on the construction of new roads and bridges of any sort ;
- (ii) on the reconstruction or substantial improvement of existing roads and bridges ;
- (iii) in special cases, on the maintenance of roads and bridges, constructed, reconstructed or substantially improved from the Road Fund or from loans approved or sanctioned by the Central Government ;
- (iv) to meet charges, including the cost of establishment, connected with the preparation of schemes of road development or with the administration of provincial Boards of Communications ;
- (v) to meet charges including the cost of establishment connected with the control of motor transport ; and
- (vi) on the interest and amortization of loans approved or sanctioned before the date of this Resolution by the Central Government, and spent or to be spent on the construction, reconstruction or substantial improvement of roads and bridges.

8. In considering proposals for the construction, reconstruction or improvements of roads and bridges from the Road Fund, the Central Government shall have regard to the present urgent need for improving the efficiency and reducing the cost of transport by road of agricultural produce to markets and railways.

[Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru]

the Finance Minister regarding the financial agreement arrived at between the United Kingdom and the Government of India be supplied to every Member? They are such important documents that I am sure every member would like to have them. I do not know what the practice here is, but so far as I remember, in the Council of State, every such document was circulated to every member without any request on the part of any member.

Mr. Speaker: I do not know what the practice in the Council of State was but it was a much smaller House and it was easier to distribute copies. In a big House like this, it becomes a problem. However, these are important documents no doubt. They shall be printed in the reports. But if Members are anxious to have them much earlier, I will ask that they be printed.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa (C. P. and Berar: General): It is advisable to send them in advance. Reports sometimes take two to three months to print.

Mr. Speaker: Ordinarily it does not take as much as that. But it takes a sufficiently long time.

INDIAN TRADE UNIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U. P.: General): I wish to say how I feel about this Bill which we are going to pass into an Act. The purpose of this Bill is obvious and I think everybody will agree with the Honourable the Minister for Labour that the purpose is a laudable one. Strikes should be reduced to the minimum especially now when we are a free country. When we have to catch up with other countries far advanced of us, surely our industries must run smoothly. The only question is whether this Bill achieves the object for which it has been designed. I personally think that this Bill falls very far short of the purpose for which it has been designed. There are two ways to stop strikes. One is by muzzling labour, by repression as was done during the years 1942 to 1946; the other is by removing the causes of the strikes, and I think the National Government of free India must resort to the latter method. I therefore tried to go through this Bill and see whether it helps to remove the causes of strikes. I have studied the *Labour Gazette* for several months and tried to see the working of the Trade Union Act for the last three or four years and I have found that the main cause of strikes, besides wages, is victimisation of the personnel. From my own experience, in fact in the last one year I have had personally to represent labour in about 30 adjudications, I have found invariably that the main dispute was about victimization and that too merely for being office-bearers of trade unions. It was the same in railways, in the posts and telegraphs, in the sugar industry, in the jute industry. Whether they are the officers of the Government or the authorities of a factory, they all dislike the workers forming themselves into trade unions and they neither want them nor their office-bearers to take a prominent part in trade union work. I, therefore, wish to see in this Act some provision to safeguard the rights of the office-bearers in order to give these workers facilities to organise unions freely. I thank the Honourable Minister for the provision against some malpractices by the mill-owners. But I think that a fine of Rs. 1,000 for infringement of these regulations is nothing. I have known factories which have spent lakhs of rupees to win adjudications with a view to get active trade union workers expelled from their service. Even though the adjudication proceedings are costly still in most cases even after the award being in favour of workers the mill-owners would simply not have them back at their jobs. Until there is some stricter penalty for these malpractices by millowners, the thing will simply not work. The present provision in the Bill

made in that respect is quite illusory. In the U. P. we have an ordinance to maintain industrial peace and in it the Government has provided three years' imprisonment as the penalty for not carrying out the awards of the Arbitration Courts or Adjudicators. This Bill in effect does not put on the employers any real obligation to permit the office-bearers of trade unions to carry on their work properly. Therefore, I think the real purpose of this Act, which should have been to enable the office bearers of the unions to organise themselves freely into strong, powerful, disciplined unions, will not be served. They have not been given even the very elementary rights for organising themselves into trade unions. Yesterday we requested the Honourable Minister to give these rights. He gave three reasons for refusal to incorporate these rights in this Bill. He said first of all that the Works Committees which have been formed under the Industrial Disputes Act will serve to investigate the complaints, but I have an experience of the working of that Act for the last two years.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram (Minister for Labour): The Act has not yet worked for two years!

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: It is more than a year that it has been working. During the last one year I have felt that the Works Committees have not been and will not be able to perform the functions which the amendment of Mr. Santhanam was intended to enable the Trade Unions to perform by enabling them to investigate complaints on the spot of occurrence. In fact the Works Committees have not been authorised to do any such thing. I will read out the clause about the formation of Works Committees in the Industrial Disputes Act. It runs as follows:—

"In the case of any industrial establishment in which one hundred or more workmen are employed or have been employed on any day in the preceding twelve months, the appropriate Government may by general or special order require the employer to constitute in the prescribed manner a Works Committee consisting of representatives of employers and workmen engaged in the establishment, so however that the number of representatives of workmen on the Committee shall not be less than the number of representatives of the employer. The representatives of the workmen shall be chosen in the prescribed manner from among the workmen engaged in the establishment and in consultation with their trade union, if any, registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926."

"(2) It shall be the duty of the Works Committee to promote measures for securing and preserving amity and good relations between the employer and workmen and, to that end to comment upon matters of their common interest or concern and endeavour to compose any material difference of opinion in respect of such matters."

These committees were formed of an equal number of millowners' and labourers' representatives. The purpose of these committees is to promote goodwill and to try to secure amity. What happens is that there are two parties in every committee and the committee as such has no powers to make investigations on the spot of occurrence of a dispute. When there is a dispute there are always two equal sections in the committee—the labourers want something and the industrialist or the employer does not want to grant it. The result is that there is a deadlock and there is no power vested in the Works Committees to investigate the causes of the dispute and to remedy them. If they had such a power they might be able to find out the cause of dispute and try to serve some useful purpose. The present Works Committees will not serve such a purpose. There are sixty unions in the U. P. sugar industry and in spite of the existence of Works Committees it has not been

[Mr. Speaker]

9. (1) A Standing Committee for Roads shall be constituted consisting of—

- (a) the Minister in charge of the relevant portfolio, provided that should the said Minister be unable to be present at any meeting he shall nominate a person to deputise for him;
- (b) twelve members elected by the members of the Constituent Assembly from amongst themselves; and
- (c) the Chief Commissioner of Railways.

(2) The said Minister shall be the Chairman of the Committee: Provided that should he be unable to be present at any meeting, the person nominated to deputise for him under sub-paragraph (1) shall act as the Chairman of the meeting.

(3) No approval to any proposal for expenditure from the Road Fund shall be given by the Committee unless it is supported by a majority of the members present and voting.

(4) All proposals for expenditure from the Central reserve and all other proposals for expenditure from the Road Fund to be made in the Provinces shall be referred by the Central Government to the Standing Committee before the proposals are approved.

10. The functions of the Standing Committee shall be:

- (a) to consider the annual budget and accounts of the Road Fund;
- (b) to advise upon all proposals for expenditure from the Central reserve;
- (c) to advise upon the desirability of all other proposals involving expenditure from the Road Fund in the Provinces;
- (d) to advise upon proposals for the resumption of monies held by the Central Government as provided for in sub-paragraph (3) of paragraph 3 of this Resolution; and
- (e) to advise the Central Government generally on all questions relating to roads and road traffic which the Central Government may refer to the Committee.

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ROADS

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Minister for Railways and Transport):

I beg to move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the Speaker may direct, twelve members to serve until the end of the next financial year on the Standing Committee for Roads which will be constituted to advise the Central Government in the administration of the Central Road Fund and such other questions relating to roads and road traffic which the Central Government may refer to the Committee."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the Speaker may direct, twelve members to serve until the end of the next financial year on the Standing Committee for Roads which will be constituted to advise the Central Government in the administration of the Central Road Fund and such other questions relating to roads and road traffic which the Central Government may refer to the Committee."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform Honourable Members that for the purpose of election by means of the single transferable vote of members to the Standing Committee for Roads the programme of dates will be as follows:

1. Nominations to be filed in the Notice Office upto 12 Noon on Monday, the 1st December.
2. Election, if necessary, will be held on Thursday, the 4th December in the Assistant Secretary's room (No. 21) in the Council House between the hours of 10-30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

INDIAN TRADE UNIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram (Minister for Labour): Sir I beg to move:

"That the Bill as amended be passed."

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill as amended be passed."

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Sir, I move:

"That in clause 4 of the Bill, in place of the amendment adopted by the House yesterday introducing a new section 28 F. (A), the following amendments be made in the proposed Section 28 F as permitted by you, Sir—

(a) in sub-section (2) for the words 'in this section' the words 'in sub-section (1)' shall be substituted;

(b) after sub-section (3), the following sub-section shall be added, namely:

'(4) The executive of a recognised Trade Union shall be entitled to display notices of the Trade Union in any premises where its members are employed, and the employer shall afford the executive reasonable facilities for that purpose.'

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in clause 4 of the Bill, in place of the amendment adopted by the House yesterday introducing a new section 28 F. (A), the following amendments be made in the proposed section 28 F as permitted by you, Sir—

(a) In sub-section (2), for the words 'in this section' the words 'in sub-section (1)' shall be substituted;

(b) after sub-section (3), the following sub-section shall be added, namely:

'(4) The executive of a recognised Trade Union shall be entitled to display notices of the Trade Union in any premises where its members are employed, and the employer shall afford the executive reasonable facilities for that purpose.'

The motion was adopted.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U. P.: General): Sir, as I said yesterday, it is rather strange that this Bill originated in the last Assembly, the Select Committee on the Bill was also formed in the last Assembly and now we are called upon to pass the Bill as it has emerged from the Select Committee. Also, as I said yesterday, we got the papers in the morning only and could not go through the amendments. But after going through the Bill carefully and considering all that the Honourable Minister has said, I think I should state what I feel about it.

Mr. Speaker: I think the Honourable Member can continue after Lunch.

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the House that under sub-rule (1) of rule 3 of the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) Rules, I nominate Mr. Hussain Imam, Pandit Thakurdas Bhargava and Shri V. I. Munishwami Pillai on the Panel of Chairmen for the current session.

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

The Assembly reassembled after Lunch at Half-Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

PRINTING OF DOCUMENTS AND STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya (Madras: General): Being new to the House, I do not know what is the position in respect of documents laid on the table. There are important documents like the Instrument of Accession of States, of which we should like to have copies in our hands.

Mr. Speaker: The usual practice is that copies are laid on the table: ordinarily they are printed in the reports. If a request is made, copies can be had but not necessarily of all the documents. And, in the case of very important documents which a large number of Members wish to have I can order them to be printed and distributed. There are a number of papers laid on the table and it is not always possible to distribute them all.

Pandit Hriday Nath Kunzru (U. P.: General): Will you please direct in this case that copies of the papers laid on the table today by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel with regard to the accession of the States and those laid on the table by

[Prof. S. L. Saksena]

possible for them to resolve their disputes. I said yesterday that the mill-owners are chary of the union officials going into the mill premises to investigate complaints. After the rejection of Mr. Santhanam's amendment by the legislature, the millowners will become still more hostile. They will think that the legislature has refused to concede this right to trade unions. In fact this Bill should have been an advance on the prevailing practice. The present position is that in most of the sugar factories, unions have been given offices in the premises. This Bill has refused to give them that right which our friend Dr. Pattabhi wanted to give them, *viz.*, to give them offices inside the factory premises.

In his minutes of dissent to the Select Committee Report, Mr. N. M. Joshi has suggested that reasonable leave should be granted to workers when they attend functions of their unions. In the Postal as well as in the Railway Departments when workers go to attend the meetings of their unions special casual leave is granted to them. When the Government itself has granted such a right to its employees, why should such a right not be granted under the Bill to workers of *bona fide* unions to enable them to attend the union meetings on special casual leave. I therefore feel that this Bill falls short of the accepted practice prevailing in Government Departments. The result will be that industrialists who are not so enlightened will take advantage of this Bill and say that the legislature itself has refused to allow the workers this right and therefore they would not give them that right. This will result in deadlocks and friction between the employers and workmen.

I was surprised by the observation of the Honourable Member that this Bill was really meant for agricultural labourers. I would have been glad if this Bill really applied to them and would have welcomed such a thing but I do not know how the Bill can apply to them. The preamble of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926 as amended by the Bill will read as follows:—

"Whereas it is expedient to provide for the registration and recognition of Trade Unions and in certain respects to define the law relating to registered and recognised Trade Unions and to certain unfair practices in *industrial or trade employment*; it is hereby enacted as follows:—"

So the scope of the Bill is limited to "industrial or trade employment". The definition of "workmen" in Section 2g of the Trade Union Act runs as follows:—

"And workmen means all persons employed in trade or industry". So "trade or industry" are the things that come under the purview of the Bill, and I do not think agriculture can be covered by these words, unless "trade" is interpreted so widely as to include agriculture or is defined in the Act to include agriculture also. I do not think unions of agricultural labourers can be registered under this Act. I know of one union whose registration has been hanging on for more than one year, because the Registrar objected that it did not come under the words "trade or industry". It is a union of farm labourers in a sugarcane plantation of a sugar factory. I do not know whether agriculture can be covered by the word trade. I would have wished that the matter be clarified, and the word "trade" should be defined to include agriculture, or in the preamble and in the definition of workmen, the word "agriculture" should also be included with trade and industry. I know that the Honourable Minister is anxious to give the benefits of this Bill to agricultural labourers but to do this he should widen the scope of this Bill to apply it also to unions of labourers who are working in the fields or in agriculture. That would very greatly extend the usefulness of the Bill by covering the agricultural labourers as well. I have studied the Bill and I know that at present it does not

apply to them and therefore the argument that this is really intended for those labourers also is something which does not hold good. I would therefore suggest to the Honourable Minister that he should himself amend the Bill or bring another Bill to extend the scope of this Bill to include those workers who are not industrial workers but work in fields or farms or plantations.

My fear is that this Bill will encourage the formation of yellow unions, because under this Bill the millowners have been given the option to recognise the unions themselves voluntarily. What would happen is that the millowners will form yellow unions in their factories and they would give them voluntary recognition. There is no provision that they must satisfy certain conditions before they can recognise the unions voluntarily. In such cases the genuine unions will have to wait for three months to get a reply from the millowners in which they will invariably trot out some reason why they do not consider the genuine union to be more representative. The matter will then go before the labour court and there will be investigation as to the merits of the two rival labour unions. There is no provision in the Bill to decide the rival claims of the two unions. Only recently the Allahabad High Court gave a ruling that where there are two unions in a factory there should be a referendum. There is no such provision in this Bill before us here. So the yellow unions will be at a much greater advantage in the matter of recognition under this Bill than the genuine unions which will get involved in financial difficulties in contesting matters in labour courts.

As regards collection of subscriptions inside the premises it does not mean collection at the machine. I know many cases where workmen who live in quarters near the factories are not allowed to be approached by union officials. If the officials of registered unions are not permitted to go and collect subscriptions in their quarters, the work of the unions will become very difficult. When the employer wishes to have a yellow union, the officers of the yellow union would be allowed to collect subscriptions inside the factory or deductions will be made from the wages of workmen, whereas to the genuine unions this Bill does not give the right to collect subscriptions inside the factory premises. I therefore feel that the apprehension of the Honourable Minister that yellow unions will be encouraged by permitting collection of subscriptions inside the factory premises has really no valid foundation.

Then I feel that the adoption of this Bill will put upon the unions very big responsibilities which at the present stage they might not be able easily to fulfil. I know from experience of trade unions for the last so many years that about 66 per cent. of the unions are not able to submit their returns properly. In fact they do not know all the intricacies of law and therefore in spite of their best will they are not able to do so. Under this Bill so many further obligations have been put upon them that they will not be able to fulfil their requirements.

Secondly, the employer has been given the right under section 28G to apply to the Labour Court for withdrawal of recognition of the Union on any of the three conditions mentioned in section 28J. What will happen will be that any employer who is opposed to trade unions will always apply under this section for withdrawal of recognition, simply to harass the workers. There will be the application, and even if it is a false one, the workers will have to defend themselves against it. They do not have the resources and the money and they will be at a great disadvantage, with the application hanging over them. This power should not have been given to the employer but to the Registrar who, after due investigation, should have been empowered to move the machinery against the Unions. If the employers are allowed to do it, they will worry the unions who will then find great difficulty in carrying on their normal work under such conditions.

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Again, the period of six months which has to elapse before a union can again apply for recognition is too long a period, as it will create a big gap. Our experience in the U. P. has been that the cause of many of the industrial disturbances has been delay in settling disputes. Things do not move quickly enough, in spite of the fact that in our province there is an ordinance more effective and efficient than the Industrial Disputes Act. If the views of our Ministry had been invited in this matter they would have also pointed out that the delay caused in disposing of disputes is one of the causes of the disturbances and it must be eliminated. The period of six months is too long. It should not be more than one month in any case. That itself is long because labour has not got the patience to wait. To my mind the periods of six months and three months appear very leisurely and they do not take account of the present conditions of industrial labour. Labour wants, and I hope that Government also wants, things to be done quickly. In other countries the position is quite different. In Australia which is a very new Commonwealth things are very different. I studied the Arbitration Act of New South Wales. I was arguing in an arbitration case, and there it was a question of the employers wanting to victimize the general secretary of the Federation. I found that our country has got no labour laws to guide us in defending such cases whereas other countries have got elaborate laws in this respect. I want that our Minister should supplement these Acts by elaborate legislation as regards the rights of members and office bearers of trade unions. In New South Wales the office-bearers of the unions have got many immunities. In fact there are provisions for severe and effective penalties to the industrialists if they victimized genuine trade union workers and they have got elaborate provisions for all contingencies. Although the purpose behind this Bill is very genuine and very sincere, that it must promote the welfare of labour and industry in this country, I do feel that this Bill may not be able to achieve its purpose because it falls short of the requirements of the situation. I hope that the Honourable Minister will invite the opinions of the various Governments who have been dealing with his problem, especially of our Government in the U. P. and also other Governments about this matter. I hope that the reports from them will convince the Honourable Minister that an elaborate piece of legislation by the Central Government to cover all these things is urgently needed. I hope this small Bill which has been introduced will be supplemented by that legislation very soon.

Shri Harihar Nath Shastri (U. P. : General): Sir, I rise to support the notion for the passage of this Bill and to congratulate the Honourable Minister for the same. I regret it was not possible for me to make my humble contribution to the discussion that took place yesterday on this Bill due to the fact that it was only when I came to the House that a copy of the Bill was handed over to me, and as such there was hardly any time for me to study the Bill or to propose any amendments. Now, at this stage when the Bill is passing through its final phase, it is hardly an appropriate moment to subject the Bill to any detailed criticism. All the same I shall crave your indulgence to permit me to make a few observations even though it may not be ordinarily permissible at this stage.

The reason for a measure of this kind has since long been felt by the working classes of this country. In fact in the year 1929 when the Royal Commission on Labour in India was set up the demand for compulsory recognition was pressed before it by Indian labour. But the Commission at that time shelved the issue. All the same, due to obvious difficulties and handicaps that the trade unions in this country have been experiencing, the demand for compulsory recognition, on their part has been persistent. For the first time any

serious notice to this problem was taken by the Government of Bombay which in the year 1938 introduced the Bombay Industrial Disputes Bill and incorporated provisions regarding compulsory recognition in that Bill. That gave great impetus to the Indian working classes to agitate on an all-India basis for a measure of this kind. In the year 1942 the Tripartite Labour Organization was set up by the Government of India, and since then the question of compulsory recognition has been cropping up from time to time before that conference, with the result that in the beginning of the year 1946 the Labour Department of the Government of India produced a Bill which was later on referred to a Select Committee and that Report was considered by this House yesterday. I am glad to note, Sir, that the Bill, as it emerged from the Select Committee and as it was finally adopted by the House yesterday, does register a distinct improvement in the old Bill.

It confers rights of recognition to trade unions though in a restricted sense.

It makes the Bill still more effective by declaring certain actions or 3 P.M. certain steps on the part of the employers as unfair practices and by restricting the so called right of the employers to victimize workers at their sweet discretion. So, Sir, I feel that the Bill does afford an opportunity to the Indian working class to develop the trade union movement on sound and right lines though of course it is only a beginning. Now, Sir, I would be failing in my duty if while supporting this measure I do not say that this Bill does not adequately fulfil the expectations of the working class in this respect. I find that the Bill is vague and incomplete in certain respects. I shall here, instead of going into details, just point out one glaring defect that seems to have escaped the attention of the Select Committee. The Bill lays down certain conditions by fulfilling which a trade union can be entitled to secure recognition from the employers and from the Government. Now the defect is that according to this Bill, if in a particular industry there are more unions than one, even if there are half a dozen unions and all those unions fulfil the conditions for recognition as laid down in this Bill, all of them are at one and the same time entitled to be recognised by the employers under this Act. Now this, Sir, in my humble opinion, instead of stimulating the growth of a sound trade union movement in the country, will stand in the way of its healthy growth, and will be a great impediment. In the 1926 Act, Sir, which is sought to be amended by this amending Bill, there was provision for the registration of trade unions. Now in that Act, too, as many as 3, or in cities like Bombay and Calcutta, as many as half a dozen unions in one particular industry, were registered without any restrictions being placed on them. Now, instead of that defect being removed under this amending Bill, consciously or unconsciously, or for reasons best known to the Government, that evil has been further extended by this omission which entitles, two unions and more than two unions even, to be recognised under this Bill. All that I can say at this moment in this regard Sir, is that in due course of time the Government will scrutinize the Bill and will bring an amending Bill to do away with this evil.

Now coming to the privileges as conferred under this Bill, certain amendments were proposed yesterday. I was inclined to support one of the amendments that was proposed by my Honourable friend, Mr. Santhanam, and I thought it was only proper that facilities of that nature should be conferred on trade unions. All the same I did not support it for the simple reason that I felt that as long as this evil of dual unionism as introduced in this Bill is not done away with, any conferment of additional rights to trade unions in this country will, instead of stimulating their growth, add to further confusion. I would, therefore, suggest that, after that defect is removed, trade unions

[Shri Harihar Nath Shastri]

should be conferred additional rights as suggested in the Minority Report of the Select Committee. In fact such privileges are being enjoyed in certain provinces in this country—for instance in the province of Bombay where the Industrial Relations Act has been passed, almost similar provisions do exist with regard to compulsory recognition of trade unions and there is no reason why such provisions should not be introduced in the Central legislation.

Sir, as I said in the beginning, I do not propose to make any detailed observations on this Bill, and in conclusion I should only like to submit that the sole motive that has actuated me to support this Bill, to congratulate the Government, and also to offer certain suggestions or criticisms is that I stand for building up a strong and disciplined trade union movement in this country. Yesterday, in the course of speeches that were made on the floor of this House, references were made to unauthorized strikes or uncalled for strikes. I do admit, Sir,—I should be frank enough to admit—that there are disruptive tendencies in the trade union movement in this country and there are groups and parties that are exploiting the trade union movement for their party aggrandizement, and accentuating the situation for their selfish ends. But I might just submit, Sir, that I stand for a trade union movement which on the one hand should secure to labour their rightful place in the new set-up of our country, and at the same time which should make them realise their responsibilities to the country which is passing through an unprecedented crisis at the present moment. It is in fact the realisation of this very fact that has prompted genuine trade unionists in this country to take steps to form an independent, genuine trade union organisation only recently under the name of the Indian National Trade Union Congress and I am sure, Sir, that very shortly—in the course of a few months—that organisation will become the only representative organisation of labour that will promote the tasks that the working class of this country is faced with.

With these few remarks, Sir, I support the passage of the Bill and commend it for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa (C. P. and Berar: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, while supporting this motion, I congratulate the Honourable Member in charge of this Bill for having suggested so many improvements in the old Trade Unions Act. The many sound provisions which are included in this Bill undoubtedly go to prove that he is very sincere towards improving and ameliorating the conditions of the workmen. This is more or less due also, Sir, to his personal knowledge of the working of this class and as he rightly stated yesterday it is not that he has knowledge but he comes from that class. That is really the beauty of it that the Member is in a position to place a Bill which would be really a popular one.

With all that, Sir, I do feel that there are not in this Bill some provisions which are, considering the present conditions of the working class, ought to have been included and some of the provisions are still retrograde. I am sure while the portfolio is in charge of such an able and enthusiastic Member who takes interest in the labour class, he will himself in a very short time bring in a further amending Bill. And considering the present conditions, I do believe that he will give this matter his utmost and immediate consideration. Times, Sir, are changing so fast that in the olden days probably we thought a Bill or an Act that was passed a year ago could not be worthy of consideration for amendment even after a year or so. But today conditions as we know in India are so rapidly going ahead that that consideration has to be set aside.

One of the provisions over which there has always been conflict between the employer and the employee, has been provided for in Chapter III under unfair practices of both the union and the employer and I really give him a compliment

for the courage that he has shown in adding this clause for telling employers as to what they should not do.

“The following shall be deemed to be unfair practices on the part of an employer, namely :—
To interfere with, restrain, or coerce his workmen in the exercise of their rights to organise form, join or assist a Trade Union and to engage in concerted activities for the purpose of mutual aid or protection.....”

There are some other clauses which I need not read, but this clause, Sir, has really been the main contention in the struggle that existed and exists between the employer and the employee and I should say between the trade union and the employer. I wish, Sir, that while this provision has been made, it will be made very effective. The Honourable Minister has also told the trade unions that they should not support any irregular strikes or submit false returns and I do feel from my own experience that there are some trade unions who really submit false and bogus reports and he has warned them that that also is to be desisted.

Sir, I have to make an observation, as I stated yesterday, about the recognition of the unions. This is a burning question for the labouring class and I do not understand why that has escaped the notice of the Honourable Member. This question is not of yesterday but is there for the last ten years. In the Provincial legislatures and even in this House, Sir, it has been stated times out of number that the union having been registered under the provisions of this Act, having complied with all the provisions, the Government having gone into the details of that union, it was most unfair on the part of the employer to find fault and not to recognise it. Employers do not recognise it not because there is any fault in the trade union but because they feel that if they recognise then they will have to submit to the other provisions of the State laws. From that point of view, Sir, there has been always a great deal of conflict between an employer and the trade unions. I know of instances where there have been strikes on this issue of non-recognition. We are all anxious to avoid strikes, we do not want strikes—we want more production today. I am not in favour of strikes for minor matters. So we do feel that if you really want to avoid the strikes this is one of the measures: that a trade union once registered must automatically be recognised by the employer. I have listened to the answers given yesterday as to why it should not be recognised automatically. I have yet to know why any period has to be given or even why any additional provisions have to be followed when the Government have seen that the provisions have been fully complied with. Under these circumstances I am not merely stating this view point on behalf of the labourers of the trade union but I am mentioning it in the interests both of the employers and the employees that this part of the question has to be tackled very soon if the strikes are to be avoided. From my personal experience I have seen, Sir, that wherever the employers recognise the union, there have been more or less no strikes. With common consent the initial stage, the initial path, has been made so smooth that a strike never arises over a minor matter. But fundamentally, if at the time of the recognition of a union a struggle arises, then you can very well appreciate what the position would be on other major questions of wages, etc. As I am sure the Honourable Member in charge will be very keen himself to avoid a strike—we all are interested—we want more production—I want to bring this matter to the notice of this Honourable House.

Sir, I would not take long on this matter because as I stated I was also under a disadvantage in not sending any amendment because the Bill was presented to us all abruptly, but I do not lose any faith; I shall have certainly another opportunity to bring in proposals if I feel necessary—I do feel I would not be given an opportunity—because the Honourable Minister himself will consider this question in passing the Bill.

[Mr. R. K. Sidhwa]

But what I would like to point out is that only the day before yesterday, the All-India Congress Committee met in Delhi and passed a Resolution setting out the objectives to be followed by the Congress after August 15. There is a paragraph in that Resolution which is worthy of consideration here, and I expect the Honourable Minister would follow it minutely and see whether he does not realise that the time has come when the workers' interests are to be safeguarded. The paragraph relating to industrial labourers runs thus:

"In the case of industries which in the nature of things must be run on a large scale and on Centralised basis, they should belong to the community and they should be so organised that workers become not only co-sharers in the profits but are also increasingly associated with the management and administration of the industry"

This, Sir, comes from an organisation like the A.I.C.C. to whom we have the honour to belong and to whom this Government has the honour to belong and most of the members of this House have the honour to belong. I am sanguine that this Resolution which was passed only the day before yesterday by the Congress would not be overlooked. The time has come when you cannot ignore the labourers and merely concentrate attention in paying them increased wages and a few small concessions. The employers have in their own time made enough money and they are making enough money today also. What does it matter to them if they share a little of this profit with the labourers. In whose interests would it be, if they share it? I say, it would be in the interests of the employers themselves. The Government nowadays realise that whenever they give a licence for opening a new factory or a new industry in some of the provinces—and I do hope they will do it in the Centre also—the workers' residential quarters must be provided in the factories and unless that is done, the licence would not be granted. They now realise this. I know that in the absence of these residential quarters the workmen who are living two miles or three miles from the factory have to leave their houses an hour or so before the factory opens, which adds to their working hours. Wherever the labourers' quarters have been provided, it has brought about happy results and I would therefore contend that this should be insisted upon. Of course, the paragraph that I have read out to you goes far far ahead, and we are merely asking for recognition here. I was mentioning the other day the illustration of the N.W.R. Union where the Railway Board of the previous regime have provided second class passes for the members to attend meetings and given leave as present in the service register. It is nothing new that they have done, but the result of it is there is a harmonious working between the railway employers and employees. The latter, though there is not complete unanimity between the two, surely feel that their employers are looking to their interests. When I was making this remark yesterday, somebody behind me remarked "They want also some allowances to be paid." That is the mentality of some of our friends who do not see eye to eye with the welfare of labourers. I ask if we could get allowances for attending meetings, I do not see any reason why those labourers attending meetings should not also receive allowances. However, I definitely feel, Sir, that facilities should be given to the trade union members and I do repeat that if these facilities are provided it would be in the interests of the employers themselves. I humbly request the Honourable Minister for Labour to bear this point also in mind and incorporate some of the facilities which I have mentioned in the Bills which he may bring hereafter.

Unfortunately, yesterday we had a little difference of opinion on this matter, but I am not very much worried about it. Fighting, we get our rights and we shall have to fight for the rights of the labourers also. I am confident that, having as we do an able Minister in charge of this Bill who is himself taking very keen interest in labour, he will in a very short time bring in another amending Bill giving facilities to the workers. Let me say, again, Sir, that while I

advocate the cause of the labourers—and I have always advocated it in the Labour Unions—I have not ignored the other side *viz.*, the view point of the employers because I feel that unless both go together the result will not be good and therefore the Congress has very wisely stated that time has come when the employers should share a little money with the labourers, they should also be urged to give them a right in the administration. With these words, I support the motion.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): Sir, I move:

"That the question be now put".

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the question be now put".

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Sir, at the very outset I want to make it clear, as I did when referring this Bill to the Select Committee, that I do not take the credit for this Bill to myself. This Bill was introduced with the labours of my predecessor, the Honourable Dr. Ambedkar. As I made clear when this Bill was referred to the Select Committee, it requires improvement in several respects. Some improvements were effected in the Select Committee, but the whole Trade Unions Act requires a very thorough overhauling. If I have not been able to do this as yet, it is because the Department was engaged in rather more important and urgent Bills, some of which are still pending before the Assembly. However, I may assure my Honourable friends that the amendment of the Trade Unions Act is under my active consideration and I shall bear all the suggestions that have been made in mind when I bring a fresh amending Bill.

Certain points have been raised which I want to clear here. Mr. Saksena has raised the question of victimisation of personnel—especially office-bearers of the unions. I will again refer him to the section in this Bill and you will find as has been rightly pointed out by my Honourable friends Shri Harihar Nath Shastri and Mr. Sidhwa as well that the Bill does provide ample safeguards against the victimization of trade union officials and also the workers.

As regards the works committees which have been provided under the Trade Disputes Act, trial has not been given to the working of the works committees, I am afraid, in most of the sugar mills there are no works committees. The Act was passed only last year. Rules were framed and published and three months' time was given to the trade unions and other interests to suggest amendments to the rules. The rules have recently been finalized and in many of the factories and mills works committees have not been established as yet. So we have not given sufficient trial to the working of the works committees and it will be rather premature to pronounce any judgment over that. I believe, Sir, that mutual discussion and negotiation between the employers and the employees opportunity for which has been offered by the works committees is a thing which will avoid a lot of friction between them. Mr. Saksena has pointed out to me that I should see some of the labour legislations in other countries and try to adopt them according to the conditions in this country. I am thankful to him. But at the same time I may point out to him that in no other country there is any legislation providing compulsory recognition. It is the first Bill of this kind, but I feel, in this country there is a necessity for such a legislation. In other countries the workers are organised and enlightened enough to take care of themselves. But here we cannot leave this thing to the working classes themselves and therefore we had to come in. In other countries Governments have not come in to force the employers to recognise the trade unions of the workers.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: What about the United States?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: No compulsory recognition.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: As far as my knowledge goes it is compulsory. However, we are not for recognition.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: As Pandit Harihar Nath Shastri has rightly pointed out the Royal Commission suggested that the recognition of trade unions could be left to the employers and as far as possible there should be voluntary recognition by the employers. That has been given a fair trial and we found that the employers have not risen equal to the occasion and they have been creating all sorts of difficulties in the way of the recognition of a trade union. The one difficulty, as has been pointed out directly by Pandit Harihar Nath Shastri and my friend, Mr. Saksena, while giving a sort of reply to my speech yesterday, that the Bill may encourage the formation of various unions in a single concern, does not hold good. The Trade Unions Act, no doubt, gives ample scope for the formation of a number of unions in one factory or in one concern and if one were to accept the suggestion of Mr. Sidhwa which he has very vehemently urged that as soon as a union is registered it should be recognised, it will mean the recognition of a number of trade unions in a single concern or in a single factory.

I may point out to remove the misapprehension of Mr. Shastri that here the Labour Courts will see if the trade unions which apply for recognition is representative of workmen or not. I will refer him to sub-clause (b) of Clause 28(d) which reads "it is representative of all the workmen employed by the employer in the industry or those industries". It is my handicap, Sir, that I am not a lawyer and I cannot give a legal interpretation. But I think that the court while deciding whether a trade union should be recognised or not will take this matter into consideration and will see whether this particular trade union is really a representative one of the workmen in that factory or industry or not and if 'representative' has got any meaning it will certainly have the meaning as to what percentage of the workers in that concern are members of that trade union. Obviously there will not be more than one trade union which will be representative of all the workmen in that factory or that concern and naturally only one trade union will get recognition. I hold the opposite view that these will discourage the formation of more than one union in one industry or in one concern and I stand for that. I am one of those who always feel that in one concern or industry or factory there should not be more than one union. Unfortunately, Sir, under the Trade Unions Act there is scope for the formation of more than one trade union. Much can be said for and against that provision. I will not on this occasion go into the details of fact. That will be on some occasion when the amendment is brought to the main Act.

I wanted to have some further provisions in the Bill, but the difficulty was that according to the Legislative Department and according to the rules, no further section which was not concerned in this Bill could be amended by any fresh proposals. So I could not do what I wanted to do. But I will certainly bear in mind all the suggestions that have been made here in the next amending Bill, but I do certainly feel, Sir, that this Bill does go a long way in giving some rights to the working classes and if anyone feels here that it does not confer any right, I think he is not correct. There are provisions which confer certain rights on them.

Mr. Sidhwa has pointed out a paragraph from the Congress Resolution. I may point out to my friend, Mr. Sidhwa, that the present Government is always alive to the objective before it. I personally look up to that date when the workers will not be mere partners in the industry but when the distinction of the employer and the employee will be totally eliminated. Not only in the industry, I may inform my friend Mr. Saksena that not from today but for the last 12 years I have been striving for the principle that land belongs only to those who can work on land. Sir, I commend the Bill be passed.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill as amended be passed".

The motion was adopted.

PRESS (SPECIAL POWERS) BILL.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Minister for Home, Information and Broadcasting and States): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to continue certain special powers conferred on the administration in Chief Commissioners' Provinces for the better control of the dissemination of undesirable matter be taken into consideration".

In placing this Motion before the House, I wish to assure the House that we are conscious of the value and the importance of the sacred privilege of the liberty of the press which is one of the four freedoms which have been so much spoken of in international circles. But I must also inform you that since the time that I have been in charge of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the press in this country has enjoyed the widest possible freedom that it had ever enjoyed in the past and it is my desire that it should continue to do so and to enjoy even wider freedom than they are enjoying at present. Unfortunately the circumstances that have forced me to come to this House with this Bill are such that there is considerable justification for it. I will give a short background of the origin of this legislation. Sir, you are aware that the Interim Government came into existence at a time when the country was involved in a serious communal conflict resulting from the fixing or announcement of a "Direct Action Day" by the then Muslim League of India which pressed for partition of the country. A fortnight after the great Calcutta Killing we assumed office and subsequent events are an unfortunate history of reaction and retaliation from one stage and one place to another stage and another place; we have not yet seen the end of it. In consequence of these occurrences almost all the Governments were compelled in one form or another to adopt measures restricting the freedom of the press. The first province which was compelled to take action was the one in which the "Direct Action Day" was celebrated. After that its sparks flew rapidly from place to place; and then almost all provinces passed Ordinances or were compelled to pass Ordinances in one form or another to restrict the liberty of the press in this connection. Delhi was the only place where the mouthpiece of the protagonists of the "Direct Action Day" flourished. We were then accused of allowing the spread of violent propaganda of communal hatred and bitterness and of allowing this place to be used as a place for dissemination of undesirable information and literature. Then I was compelled to place an Ordinance before the Interim Government, but before I took that step I invited the editors of newspapers to a conference. That conference almost unanimously realised and recognised the necessity of controlling the liberty, which had become almost synonymous with license, in the matter of publication of undesirable news and undesirable criticism. In that conference even the editor of the *Dawn* had to agree that some sort of control was necessary. I felt it to the Editors' Conference to impose restrictions on themselves instead of forcing the Government to take action, because I considered it very undesirable for a popular Government to be compelled to take action to curb the liberty of the press. They themselves formed a committee in which Government had no hand and formulated a code of conduct which they undertook to obey. To my regret I found that the code was not honoured; they themselves in several cases agreed that several of them had been guilty of violating the code or the self-imposed restrictions which they themselves had accepted. When that situation arose I tried to negotiate with and influence those who were responsible for the violation of those restrictions which they themselves had formulated through the leading members of the community who had influence on them.

[Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel]

But I did not succeed. Eventually I got instructions or advice from several provincial Governments to take immediate action in the matter of putting restrictions on the press in Delhi. The first to come forward with this suggestion was the Governor of the Punjab who approached the then Viceroy and through him asked the Central Government to take some action in this matter. Then I took a copy of the Ordinance which was in existence in the U. P. and on the model of that Ordinance I formulated an Ordinance which was placed before the then interim Government. This Ordinance was passed by the Cabinet; and I thought that after it was passed it would not be necessary to renew it. Unfortunately that hope also was not realised. We were overtaken by the Punjab holocaust whose sparks flew rapidly all round and there was an influx of refugees from the Punjab into Delhi. We had to renew the Ordinance. I had very reluctantly to get this Ordinance through the new Government, and now that the legislature is sitting it is necessary to bring this piece of legislation forward for the approval of the House. Several papers have sprung up anew who hardly realise any responsibility as to the consequences of the matter that they publish. Apart from the scurrilous and scandalous attacks that are made against the head of the Government and the members of Government, the people who are in charge of publishing these pamphlets and newspapers are full of anger because of the sufferings that they have gone through in the part of the country from which they come. These are not people in whose hands a pen can be safely given. They are not in a fit state to handle a pen. Therefore, with all my sympathy for these people who want to ventilate their anger and ask their sympathisers to take to retaliatory measures, I as representative of a popular Government cannot help coming to you to utilise this opportunity of helping the Government in recognising the necessity of getting through this emergency legislation.

It is an emergency legislation, to meet with an emergency the like of which India has not seen in the past. You will all recognise that and you are aware of it. It is not necessary for me to dilate upon it. Let us hope that we shall get through this crisis much earlier than the period that might be fixed in this legislation. It is my hope and wish, and I hope it is the hope of all of you that we may not have to put into effect any section of this legislation.

I may tell you that when I assumed office I called a conference of the newspaper editors in India and put before them a proposal for a committee to frame proposals to bring in the existing legislation on a par, so far as freedom of the press is concerned, with the freedom of the press enjoyed in the most progressive countries in the world. That Committee is still sitting. But unfortunately, simultaneously, I have to come here for a piece of legislation which is intended to meet with a particular emergency.

There are undoubtedly some provisions in the existing legislation, which is called an emergency legislation also. But when that legislation was passed, the Legislature never contemplated that a catastrophe of this kind would overtake India and therefore the existing legislation is not enough to meet the requirements of the present situation. In fact the very evil which we want to prevent, that is the publication of undesirable news and comments, exaggerated and false news, if we have to take action under the ordinary existing legislation, the publicity gets much wider than the publicity by the newspapers. The offender is entitled to have recourse to courts, the Government has to file its case, and then the publicity that the proceedings get in a court of law is well known to all. Therefore we cannot evade the necessity of having legislation which avoids the procedure by which publicity becomes widened.

In this country where we have a secular State where different communities with different religions, different sects, have been residing for centuries and who we wish should reside in future, we have a responsibility to see that the

gulf between the communities is not widened and nothing which is preventible or which can be prevented without violating the principles of justice and fairplay is done. Therefore, the purpose of this Bill is simply to prevent improper distribution of news which is undesirable, improper circulation of news and comments, exaggerated and false news which tend to create disturbances and violence: that is the only purpose of this Bill. I do not think there is anybody in this House who will challenge the necessity of this Bill or the recognition of the emergency that faces us.

We have with great difficulty been able to prevent a great catastrophe in Delhi. Remember that this legislation is meant for the provinces governed by the Chief Commissioners, that is the province of Delhi and the province of Ajmer-Merwara and some one or two other provinces. But really it is intended for these two small areas of Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara. In both these areas there is considerable communal tension and I must say that in both these areas there is the existence of a group of people who hardly realise their responsibility and who have started the profession of editors for which they are not fit. In Delhi there is a great number of responsible papers. Some of them also have erred but we have taken no action against them. But in both Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara considerable literature has come out recently because of the communal disturbances and because of communal tension existing in both these areas. Therefore, we have to be wide awake and I hope that in the consideration of this small piece of legislation, you will view its provisions in the light of the existing circumstances that surround us. You may be aware that there is no province in India where today a legislation of this kind is not in existence. We have put in a milder piece of legislation. A more drastic piece of legislation has been passed by the United Provinces, Bihar, Bengal, East Punjab and other provinces. Therefore, we cannot when we are surrounded by this atmosphere evade our responsibility. Provinces governed by Chief Commissioners are the special responsibility of the Central Government because they are centrally administered areas. Therefore, I move:

"That the Bill to continue certain special powers conferred on the administration in Chief Commissioners' Provinces for the better control of the dissemination of undesirable matter, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

شری دیس بندھو گپتا : سبھا پتی جی ! آنریبل ہوم منسٹر صاحب نے جو بل ہاؤس کے سامنے پیش کیا ہے مجھے افسوس ہے کہ ایک پریس مین کی حیثیت سے میرے لئے اس بل کا स्वागत کرنا باوجود اسکے کہ اس کے پکھ میں جو باتیں کہی گئی ہیں وہ کافی وزن رکھتی ہیں اور اس ہاؤس کی توجہ کی مستحق ہیں مشکل ہے - اس میں شک نہیں کہ آنریبل ہوم منسٹر صاحب نے اپنے عہدہ کا چارج لیتے ہی پریس لاز کمیٹی (Press Laws Committee) مقرر کر کے پریس کو موقع دیا کہ وہ آزاد ملکوں کی طرح آزاد ہندوستان کے لئے پریس لاز (Press Laws) تجویز کریں اس لئے ملک میں حالات کا پیدا ہونا جنکی وجہ سے اس طرح کا بل پیش کرنے کی ضرورت پڑی ہوئی دکھ کی بات ہے - بل ہذا سے میرا کتنا ہی اختلاف ہو میں یہ کہوں گا جو باتیں ہمارے ہوم منسٹر صاحب نے اس کی تائید میں کہی ہیں انہیں نظر انداز نہیں کیا جا سکتا - یہ حقیقت ہے کہ پچھلے ایک سال کے عرصہ میں سنٹرل پریس ایڈوائزری کمیٹی (Central Press Advisory Committee)

شری دیھس بندھو گپتا]

کے سامنے جسکا ایک ممبر میں بھی ہوں کئی اخبارات کی ایسی قابل اعتراض تحریریں آئیں جنکی بنا پر خود سنٹرل ایڈوائزری کمیٹی (Central Advisory Committee) نے گورنمنٹ سے سفارش کی کہ انکے خلاف کوئی کارروائی کی جائے۔ ایسے بھی موقعے آئے جبکہ گورنمنٹ نے باوجود سنٹرل ایڈوائزری کمیٹی (C. A. C.) کی سفارش کے بعض اخبارات کے خلاف کوئی کارروائی نہیں کی۔ سچ تو یہ ہے کہ دہلی پریس کا ایک سیکشن (section) متواتر ایسے اشتعال انگیز آرٹیکل (article) لکھتا رہا کہ ہم یہ نہیں کہہ سکتے کہ پچھلے چند مہینوں میں ملک میں جو کچھ ہوا اس کی ایک بڑی بھاری ذمہ داری پریس پر نہیں ہے۔ اسکے بارچرڈ اچھا ہوتا کہ اس طرح کا بل ہاؤس کے سامنے پیش کرنے سے پہلے پریس کو اس پر پوری طرح غور کرنے کا موقعہ دیا جاتا۔ آج جو بل ہمارے سامنے لایا گیا ہے وہ پہلے ایک Ordinance کی شکل میں جاری کیا گیا تھا۔ آرڈیننس (Ordinance) کے بارے میں یہ خیال ہوتا ہے کہ وہ ایک عارضی چیز ہے اسلئے اُسکی دفعات پر زیادہ دھیان نہیں دیا جاتا۔ لیکن جب آرڈیننس (Ordinance) کو قانون کی شکل دی جائے تو ضروری ہوجاتا ہے کہ اُسکی ہر دفعہ پر پوری طرح غور و خوض کیا جائے اور وچار کیا جائے کہ اُس میں پولیس کی آزادی کا کھانک لکھا رکھا گیا ہے۔ پریس کی آزادی کے نقطہ نگاہ سے غور کیا جائے تو مجھے یہ کہنے میں ذرا بھی تامل نہیں ہے کہ اگر یہ بل کوئی دوسری حکومت ہمارے سامنے لاتی تو ملک کا پریس اُسے ہرگز منظور نہ کرتا۔ اس بل میں سب سے بڑی قابل اعتراض بات یہ ہے کہ اخبارات اسکی زد میں آئے بغیر صحیح خبروں کو بھی نہیں چھاپ سکتے۔ آج ملک ایسے خراب حالات سے گذر رہا ہے اور ملک کے ہر ایک حصہ میں کچھ نہ کچھ ایسے شرمناک واقعات رونما ہو رہے ہیں جنکی صحیح رپورٹ شائع کی جائے تو فرقہ دارانہ منافرت پھیلے بغیر نہیں رہ سکتی۔

صورت حالات ایسی افسوسناک ہے کہ اخبارات اگر نمک مرچ نہ لگائیں اور محض صحیح صحیح حالات چھاپ دیں تو بدامنی ملک میں پھیلے بغیر نہیں رہ سکتی۔ اسلئے اخبارات کی اس مشکل کا احتیاط رکھنا ضروری تھا۔ دوسری قابل اعتراض بات بل میں یہ ہے کہ لکھنے اور چھاپنے والے کی نیت نہیں دیکھی جاتی حالانکہ تعزیرات ہند کی دفعات ۱۲۳ الف اور ۱۵۳ میں بھی نیت کی ثابت کیا جانا ضروری ہے۔ علاوہ بریں حکام کو اتنے وسیع اختیارات دئے گئے ہیں کہ وہ جس اخبار کو چاہیں اور جتنے عرصہ کے لئے چاہیں بند کر سکتے ہیں۔ پھر اُن کے حکم کی کوئی اپیل نہیں۔ اس لحاظ سے اس بل کی تائید کرنا کسی بھی جرنلسٹ (journalist) کے لئے مشکل ہے۔ لیکن میں یہ محسوس کرتا ہوں اور اس سے مجھکو انکار

نہیں ہے کہ ہم جس نازک دور میں سے گزر رہے ہیں اُسکو سامنے رکھتے ہوئے administration کے ہاتھ مضبوط کرنا بھی ہمارا فرض ہے۔ اسلئے میں اس بل کی مخالفت بھی نہیں کر سکتا۔ مجھے بھروسہ ہے کہ دیھس کی بھلائی اور پریس کی آزادی کا خیال جناب ہوم ممبر صاحب کو ہم سے کم نہیں اور وہ آج اس بل کی ضرورت محسوس کرتے ہیں تو ہمیں اُنکی بات ماننی چاہیئے۔ مجھے خوشی ہے کہ انہوں نے یہ اطمینان دلا دیا ہے کہ اُس کا منشا پریس کی آزادی کو طلب کرنا نہیں ہے بلکہ اخبارات کو اس امر کا احساس کرانا ہے کہ اُن کے سر پر بھی ملک کے امن وامان کی ذمہ داری ہے اور ضرورت ہے کہ وہ سنبھل کر چلیں۔ میں نے ہوم منسٹر صاحب سے دریافت کیا تھا کہ کیا اسکے بعد بھی press advising کا طریقہ جاری رکھنا۔ جسکے جواب میں انہوں نے فرمایا کہ دھانے۔ اسکے معنی یہ ہیں کہ اخبارات کو خود اپنے ہی نمائندوں پر مشتمل کمیٹی کے سامنے اپیل کرنے کا حق ہوگا۔ اور اگر کوئی اخبار اس بل کی زد میں آتا ہے تو اُسکے لئے یہ گنجائش ہے کہ وہ سنٹرل ایڈوائزری کمیٹی کے سامنے اپنا case پیش کر سکے۔ یہ assurance ایک بہت بڑی assurance ہے اور اسکی موجودگی میں۔ میں بھی اسکی مخالفت نہیں کر سکتا۔ البتہ یہ بات میں آدریبل ہوم منسٹر صاحب سے ضرور کہونتا کہ پریس آفیسر (Press Officer) جو مقرر کئے جاتے ہیں عام طور پر ایسے ہوتے ہیں کہ انہیں پریس کا کوئی تجربہ نہیں ہوتا۔ اسلئے ضرورت ہے کہ ایسا انتظام کیا جائے کہ آئندہ تجربہ کار آفیسرز (officers) رکھے جائیں۔ میں اُمید کرتا ہوں کہ ایسا کوئی موقعہ نہیں آئیگا کہ اس بل کے ماتحت کسی اخبار کے خلاف حکومت کو کارروائی کرنی پڑے۔ میں ایک بات دو ایک شبدوں میں عرض کرنا چاہتا ہوں۔ بعض اخباروں کو یہ شکایت ہے کہ انکے خلاف ان دو مہینوں میں بہت سے مقدمات سنٹرل ایڈوائزری کمیٹی (Central Advisory Committee) کی رپورٹ پر ہوئے ہیں جو کانگریس (Congress) گورنمنٹ کی طرف سے مقرر کی گئی ہے۔ میں اس بات کی پر زور مخالفت کرتا ہوں اس لئے کہ سنٹرل ایڈوائزری کمیٹی (Central Advisory Committee) کے ممبر ملک کے سارے اخبارات جو آل انڈیا ایڈیٹرز کانفرنس (All-India Editors' Conference) کے ممبر ہیں منتخب کرتے ہیں۔ حقیقت یہ ہے کہ سنٹرل ایڈوائزری کمیٹی (Central Advisory Committee) کانگریس کے اخبارات کی نمائندہ نہیں ہے۔ وہ تمام اخبارات کی نمائندہ ہے۔ اس میں ہر خیال کے اور ہر وچار کے لوگ ہیں۔ اس میں مسلمان بھی ہیں اس میں ہندو بھی ہیں۔ کانگریس والے بھی ہیں اور non-Congress والے بھی ہیں۔ اس لئے یہ خیال کرنا کہ سنٹرل ایڈوائزری کمیٹی (Central Advisory Committee) پارشل (partial) ہے بالکل غلط ہے۔ سنٹرل ایڈوائزری کمیٹی (Central Advisory Committee) کی ہمیشہ یہ کوشش

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[श्री देशबन्धु गुप्ता]
 رہی ہے کہ وہ پریس کی آزادی کو جہاں تک ہو سکے برقرار رکھے اور اُس کی حفاظت کرے۔ میں اس اُمید کے ساتھ بل ہذا کی مخالفت کرنے سے اعتراض کرتا ہوں کہ حکومت کے لئے اس کے استعمال کا موقع نہیں آئیگا اور جس طریق پر پریس آرڈیننس (Press Ordinance) ایک مردہ آرڈیننس (Ordinance) رہا تھا۔ یہ بھی ایک مردہ قانون رہیگا۔

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta (Delhi): Mr. Speaker, as a journalist, I am sorry to say, it is difficult for me to welcome the Bill presented by the Honourable the Home Minister before the House, though the arguments put forward in its favour have sufficient weight and deserve the attention of this House. There is no doubt that the Honourable the Home Minister, as soon as he assumed the charge of his office, by convening the Press Laws Committee, gave opportunity to the press of suggesting Press Laws like other independent countries, for Free India. But, in the country, arising of such a situation, which necessitated the presentation of such a Bill, is a matter of regret. However much I may disagree with the above Bill, I will say that I cannot overlook the facts which our Honourable Minister has said in its support.

It is a fact, that in the course of the last one year, before the Central Press Advisory Committee of which I am also a member, there came such objectionable writings from several newspapers on the basis of which the Central Advisory Committee itself recommended to the Government that some action should be taken against them. There were some cases also where the Government did not take any action against some of the newspapers inspite of the advice given by the Central Advisory Committee to do so. The truth is that a section of the Delhi Press went on writing continuously such inflammatory articles that we cannot, today, say that a very heavy responsibility does not fall upon the press for what happened during the last few months. It would have been better, had the press been consulted, before it was presented to the House.

The Bill brought today before us, was previously promulgated in the shape of an Ordinance, and the Ordinance is supposed to be a temporary measure, and therefore, its sections are not much considered; but when it is given the shape of a Law, each article of it is carefully examined and fully considered, to ensure the freedom of the press. If this Bill is considered from the point of view of the freedom of the press, then I have not the least hesitation to say that had it been brought forward before us by the alien Government, the press of the country would never have accepted it. The first great objectionable point of this Bill is that the newspapers cannot publish even correct news without being hit by it. Today, the country is passing through such bad times, and in every part of it some such shameful events are taking place which, if correctly reported, would certainly spread communal hatred. The present circumstances are so sad that even if the papers publish merely correct events and do not exaggerate and embellish them, peace of the country is bound to be disturbed. The second objectionable point in this Bill is that the writer's and the printer's intentions are not taken into consideration, though to prove the intention of the accused is compulsory, even under Sections 124A and 153 of the Indian Penal Code.

Moreover, the magistrates have been given such wide powers that they can stop the publication of any paper they like, and for whatever period they desire, and no appeal lies against their verdict. So, with these ends in view it is hard for any journalist to support this Bill. But, I feel and cannot deny the

fact that keeping in view the critical circumstances through which we are passing, it is also our duty to strengthen the hands of our administration. Therefore, I cannot, even oppose this Bill. I am confident that the Honourable the Home Minister cherishes the country's welfare and the freedom of the press no less than us, and as, today, he feels the necessity of this Bill we ought to support him.

I am glad that he has assured us that the object of the Bill is not to nullify the freedom of the press, but it is to make the newspapers feel that they have also on their heads the responsibility to keep peace and tranquillity in the country, and they should therefore necessarily act warily.

I had inquired of the Honourable the Home Minister, as to whether the Press Advising system will also continue after this Bill, in reply he said yes. It means that the newspapers will have the right to appeal to the Committee comprised of their own representatives, and if any newspaper comes into the striking range of this Bill, it is free to represent its case before the Central Advisory Committee. Really, it is a very great assurance, and while it is there, I, also, cannot oppose the Bill.

However, I must point out to the Honourable the Home Minister, that the Press Officers are usually of a type who have no experience of the press at all. It is, therefore necessary that in future such arrangements should be made as to appoint officers who have experience of the press. I hope that under this Bill no chance would arise when the Government will have to take action against any newspaper.

I should like to say one thing in a word or two, that is, some of the papers complain that in the course of the last two months a number of cases have been filed against them on the reports of the Central Advisory Committee, which has been appointed by the Congress Government. I strongly oppose this view, as the members of the Central Advisory Committee are selected by all of the papers which are members of the All-India Newspapers Editors' Conference. The fact is that the Central Advisory Committee is not at all the representative of the Congress papers, but it is the representative of all the newspapers. As it has members of every shade of opinion: there are Muslims as well as Hindus, Congressmen and non-Congressmen, therefore, to say that the Central Advisory Committee is partial is absolutely incorrect. The Central Advisory Committee has always been endeavouring to maintain and safeguard the freedom of the press. I abstain from opposing the above Bill, with the hope that the Government will have no occasion of using it; and in the same manner in which the Press Ordinance remained a dead Ordinance, this may also, remain a dead law.

[At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Hossain Imam (one of the Panel of Chairmen)].

पण्डित बालकृष्ण शर्मा: अध्यक्ष महोदय, आज माननीय गृह मंत्री ने हमारे सामने जो प्रस्ताव उपस्थित किया है, और जो कानून पास करने के लिए हमसे कहा है, उसकी मैं पूर्ण रूप से प्रशंसा करता हूं और उसका समर्थन करता हूं।

मेरे भाई, पूर्व वक्ता ने यह कहा कि पत्रकार की स्थिति में वह इस प्रकार के प्रस्ताव का समर्थन नहीं कर सकेंगे कम से कम उन्होंने यह कहा था कि उनके लिए इसका समर्थन करना कठिन है। मैं भी एक पत्रकार हूं और अपने जीवन का बहुत सा भाग पत्रकार कला की साधना में ही बिताया है, किंतु मैं साहसपूर्वक आपसे कहता हूं, सभापति महाशय, कि एक पत्रकार की स्थिति में मैं पूर्ण रूप से अक्षरशः इस बिल को समर्थन करता हूं !

[पण्डित बालकृष्ण शर्मा]

वास्तव में हमने कुछ विचारों को उधार लेकर के, और कुछ विचारों से बंध करके एक अपनी धारणा बना ली है, और हम यह समझने लगे हैं कि प्रत्येक अवस्था में स्वतंत्र भाषण की और अन्य प्रकार की स्वतंत्रता बहुत अच्छी वस्तु है। किंतु मैं बहुत नम्रतापूर्वक सभापति महाशय आपके द्वारा, इस सभा की सेवा में यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि यह एक तमाशा है जो हम बहुत ऊंची ऊंची बातें करते हैं, फ्रीडम आफ प्रेस, फ्रीडम आफ स्पीच और फ्रीडम आफ एसोसियेशन की। आज मैं देख रहा हूं कि हमारे देश की जैसी परिस्थिति होती जा रही है उसमें यह तीनों चीजें हमारे देश के लिए एक दावानल हैं।

आज यदि हम सभा सोसाइटियों की स्वतंत्रता के नाम पर षडयंत्रकारिणी संस्थाएँ प्रस्तुत करते चले जायं, आज यदि छापे की स्वतंत्रता के नाम पर अनर्गल बातें बकने वालों को प्रोत्साहन देते चले जायं और उनके प्रति कुछ न कहें, आज यदि हम भाषण की स्वतंत्रता के नाम पर विद्वेष और घृणा का राग अलापने का अवसर लोगों को दें तो मैं विश्वास दिलाता हूं कि हमारा सारे का सारा समाज, और हमारा सारे का सारा राष्ट्र एक दिवा स्वप्न भी नहीं होगा। और हमें बहुत सजगता पूर्वक यह बात देखनी है कि क्या वास्तव में इसी को हमें फ्रीडम आफ प्रेस, वास्तव में हम इसी को फ्रीडम आफ एसोसियेशन कहते हैं? वह कहीं एक ऐसी भयंकर वस्तु तो नहीं है कि हमें और समाज को नाश की ओर ले जा रही हो; और आज वह ले जा रही हो हमारे देश को विश्रृंखलता की तरफ, घृणा और विद्वेष की तरफ पतन की तरफ? और इसलिए मैं तो विनयपूर्वक निवेदन करूंगा आपसे कि यह जो आज माननीय गृह मंत्री ने हमारे सामने एक बिल उपस्थित किया है वह अत्यन्त आवश्यक है और उसके बिना हम अपने समाज में किसी भी प्रकार का कोई नियंत्रण रख नहीं सकते।

इसमें कोई संदेह नहीं है कि विचार की स्वतंत्रता एक अच्छी स्वतंत्रता है, भाषण की स्वतंत्रता एक अच्छी स्वतंत्रता है, और आप जानते हैं कि हमारे देश में, हमारी परिपाटी में, हमारी संस्कृति में, हमारी सभ्यता में, हमने विचारों के और उनके प्रकट करने के ऊपर कभी कोई बंधन नहीं लगाया। आप तमाम की तमाम 'हिंदू सिस्टम आफ फिलास्फी' देख लीजिये। हमारे यहां जो भिन्न भिन्न विचार धाराएँ बही हैं, आप उन्हें देखें, हमने किसी पर कोई बाधा नहीं लगाई। क्यों? क्योंकि ऐसा करके हमने समझा और ठीक ही समझा कि "वादे वादे जायते तत्व बोधः"।

इस बात को हम मानते हैं, इस बात को स्वीकार करते हैं कि भिन्न २ प्रकार के सत्य से मनुष्य एक तत्व तक पहुंचता है। लेकिन जहां हम देख रहे हैं कि विचारों के

प्रदर्शन करने का एक मात्र उद्देश्य मनुष्य की बुद्धि को नीचा गिराना है, जहां प्रदर्शन का एक मात्र उद्देश्य आपस में लड़ाना है, खंड-खंड करना है, रक्त शोषण की वृत्ति है, वहां किसी अवस्था में हम इस विचार स्वातंत्र्य को, इस भाषण स्वातंत्र्य को, इस छापे की स्वतंत्रता को प्रोत्साहित नहीं कर सकते। ऐसी स्थिति में हमें उसके ऊपर बंधन लगाना पड़ेगा और मैं समझता हूं कि जो हाथ हमारे ऊपर, या समाज के ऊपर यह बंधन लगा रहे हैं वे हाथ इतने पवित्र हैं, वे इतना सन्मानित हैं और वे इतने संवेदनशील तथा इतने सजग हैं कि उनके द्वारा कभी भी मुझे अन्याय की आशंका नहीं है। इसलिए मैं इसका समर्थन करता हूं। निस्संदेह यदि आज इस प्रस्ताव को कोई दूसरी सत्ता हमारे ऊपर इस कानून को लादती, इस प्रकार की कोई विजातीय सरकार, जो हमारी सरकार नहीं होती, हमारे सामने ऐसा विधान उपस्थित करती तो, निस्संदेह हमें उसका विरोध करना पड़ता और हम उसको कभी स्वीकार न कर सकते। कारण कि सदुद्देश्य की जिस भावना से प्रेरित हो कर हमारे पिता और हमारी माता हमको चांटे लगाती है उस भावना से, सभापति महाशय, एक डाकू तथा चोर हमें चांटे नहीं लगा सकता। और जो बंधन हमें अपनी सरकार से स्वीकार्य हो सकते हैं, वे बंधन निश्चित रूप से पराई सरकार से हमको स्वीकृत नहीं हो सकते। किंतु आज इस प्रकार के कानून की, इस प्रकार के विधान की आवश्यकता है, यह तो इसी से स्पष्ट है कि यदि इस प्रकार के विधान का भय हमारे देश के पत्रकारों को न होता तो मैं आपको विश्वास दिला सकता हूं, सभापति महोदय, कि समाचार पत्रों द्वारा ऐसी-ऐसी बातों का प्रचार होता कि जो हमने यहां पर खून खराबी दिल्ली में देखी, कदाचित् उससे कई गुनी अधिक हो जाती। और इसीलिये मैं समझता हूं कि आज हमको संयम की आवश्यकता है, आज हमको नियमन की, बंधन की आवश्यकता है और यह वर्तमान विधान जो सरदार साहब ने हमारे सामने उपस्थित किया है, हमको एक नियमन की ओर, ऐसे स्वस्थ बंधन की ओर अग्रसर करता है, उसमें बंधने के लिए हमें प्रोत्साहित करता है।

निस्संदेह कभी कभी एक यह प्रश्न उठ जाता है कि जिन दिनों में मुकदमे चला करते थे, हमारे देश में, दफा १२४ के अंतर्गत तो हम लोग सब इस बात को कहते थे "कि भाई हमने एक सच्ची बात कही है, सही बात कही है तुम उसके ऊपर क्यों एतराज करते हो?" तो उस समय कहा जाता था "ट्रुथ इज़ नो प्ली फार सेडिशन" कोई सेडिशन बात कहे, कोई राज द्रोहात्मक बात कहे, और वह सत्य हो तो कोई बात नहीं है, लेकिन उसके लिए दंड भोगना पड़ेगा। आज, हमारे भाई, पूर्व वक्ता ने यह कहा कि इसमें, इस विधान में जो हमारे सामने है, इस बात की गुंजाइश है कि यदि हम सत्य बात भी कोई लिखेंगे तो हमारे ऊपर मुकदमा चल सकता है। मैं पूछता हूं कि क्या सर्वदा ऐसा अवसर होता ही है कि हम सत्य बात को कहें और बिना उसके हमें रोटी न पचे? बहुत से ऐसे अवसर होते हैं कि जिसमें हमें सत्य बातों को छिपाना पड़ता है, सार्वजनिक

[पण्डित बालकृष्ण शर्मा]

हित में छिपाना पड़ता है। हम जानते हैं कि सत्य कभी कभी इतना प्रबल, इतना उद्दिग्नकारी होता है कि उसे सर्व साधारण सहन नहीं कर सकते। आज यदि हम मारकाट की, खून खराबी की सच्ची घटनायें भी छापें तो सर्व साधारण हमारे इस सत्य को ग्रहण करने के लिए उद्यत नहीं हैं। महात्मा गांधी के से लोग आज इस प्रकार के सत्य को अनुद्दिग्न भाव से स्वीकार कर लेंगे, हमारे गृह मंत्री को सद्दृश्य लोग उसे स्वीकार कर लेंगे, लेकिन सर्व साधारण जन इस रूप में सत्य वृत्तांत को ग्रहण करनेमें असमर्थ हैं। और इस कारण इस बिल के विरोध में यह तर्क उठाना कि इसमें सत्य बात नहीं छप सकती एक अशुद्ध तर्क है, “ए रांग लोजिक” (a wrong logic) है, क्योंकि हम जानते हैं कि इस समय जो हमारी अवस्था है उस में सत्य बात को कहकर अपने समाज की रक्षा हम नहीं कर सकते, और इसलिये सत्य बात के ऊपर भी हमें बंधन लगाना पड़ेगा। यह बात हमें समझ लेनी चाहिये कि जहां तक कि हम ‘फ्रीडम आफ प्रेस’ (freedom of press) की बात कहते हैं, इंग्लैंड (England) की ‘फ्रीडम आफ प्रेस’ (freedom of press) की, रूस की ‘फ्रीडम आफ प्रेस’ (freedom of press) की, फ्रांस की ‘फ्रीडम आफ प्रेस’ (freedom of press) की, तो मैं, सभापति महाशय, आप के द्वारा यह प्रश्न करूंगा कि ‘फ्रीडम आफ प्रेस’ (freedom of press) या छापे की स्वतंत्रता है कहां? यह एक हू-हू-चिड़िया है जिसके दर्शन नहीं हो सकते। क्या विलायत में ‘फ्रीडम आफ प्रेस’ (freedom of press) है? कोई समाचार पत्र आपकी बात को छाप नहीं सकते। कहीं है ‘फ्रीडम आफ प्रेस’ (freedom of press)? अमेरिका में है? ऐसी परिस्थिति में किसका साहस है कि ‘फ्रीडम आफ प्रेस’ का नाम ले? मैं कहता हूँ ऐसा अवसर राष्ट्र के निर्माण काल में आता है जब हमें ‘फ्रीडम आफ प्रेस’ को समाप्त करना पड़ता है; और आज वह अवसर है। और अवसर पड़ेगा तो सरदार वल्लभ भाई पटेल निर्ममता पूर्वक उसे समाप्त करेंगे यदि उनकी समझ में आ जायगा कि इस स्वतंत्रता से हम देश की क्षति कर रहे हैं और उसे हम नष्ट कर रहे हैं।

इसलिये मैं निवेदन करूंगा कि हम इन शब्द जंजालों में फंसकर बिल्कुल विचलित नहीं। हम निर्भयता पूर्वक और शांति पूर्वक अपना कर्तव्य करते रहेंगे। सभापति महोदय मैं समझता हूँ इस सम्बंध में बहुत कुछ कहना आवश्यक नहीं है। आज देश में कुछ ऐसे विशेष लोग हैं कि जो कुछ भी सार्वजनिक सरकार करती है उसका वे विरोध करते हैं और वह हू-हा मचाते हैं। वे हू-हा मचाएँ, किंतु हम जानते हैं कि हम जो जनता के प्रतिनिधि हैं, उनकी हू-हा से नहीं डरेंगे और हर चीज का मुकाबला करने को हम तैयार रहेंगे।

(English translation of the above speech)

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma (U.P.: General): Mr. Chairman, I approve and fully support the resolution and the Bill presented by the Honourable the Home Minister in the House today and which we have been asked to pass.

My friend, who has just preceded me has said, that as a journalist he will not be able to support this Bill. He has said, at least, that it would be difficult for him to support the Bill. I am also a journalist and have spent a considerable time of my life in the accomplishment of journalism, but I can say, Mr. Chairman, with confidence, that in the capacity of a journalist I support this Bill in every respect and every word of it.

In fact, on borrowing a few ideas and influenced by other views we are holding that the freedom of speech and other kinds of freedom are good at all stages. But I most humbly through you, Mr. Chairman submit before the House, that it is all a show when we loftily speak of the freedom of press, freedom of speech, and the freedom of associations. Today, I find that in the present state of affairs in our country, these three will act like a wild fire.

If today, in the name of freedom of associations and societies we go on forming conspiring bodies, in the name of freedom of the press we go on encouraging those who utter poisonous speeches and we do not check them, and if in the name of freedom of speech we give an opportunity to the masses to sing their songs of hatred and enmity, then I can assure you that the whole of our society and our entire administration shall not last for a day. We have therefore got to judge it whether this was what we called the freedom of press, and the freedom of association, or it was something very dangerous that was drifting us away and our country towards bondage and hatred, enmity and downfall. I, therefore, submit that the Bill presented by the Honourable the Home Minister is very essential as without this Bill we cannot exercise any kind of control over our society.

There is no doubt that the freedom of thought is good, that the freedom of speech is good. In our country, in our civilisation and in our culture we never imposed any restriction on thought or its expression. If you examine the entire system of Hindu philosophy, if you study the different schools of thought that prevailed in our country, you will find that we never imposed any restriction on anything. Why? Because by doing so we understood and rightly understood, “The knowledge of reality dawns as you discuss more”. We acknowledge and we admit that man has to adopt different modes of truth to attain the ultimate truth. But when we see that the sole object of expressing the views is to debase the mind of the people; when we see that the sole purpose of demonstration is to bring the people into conflict with one another, have them cut into pieces, and there is a tendency towards bloodshed, then we cannot, in any circumstances, encourage the freedom of thought, freedom of speech and the freedom of the press. In that condition, we shall have to impose restrictions. And I know that the authority that is putting this restriction on us or on the society, is so pious, so highly respected, so experienced and so alert that I never expect any injustice from it. I, therefore, support the Bill. Undoubtedly if any other power had today, thrust this resolution on our shoulders—any other foreign Government—that had not been our Government, a Bill like ours, then we would have certainly opposed it and had not passed it. The reason being Mr. Chairman, just as our parents slap us with the feeling of doing good to us, a thief or a dacoit could not slap us with that feeling. The restrictions that would be acceptable to us from our Government could not be acceptable from an alien Government. That there is a need for this Bill today—this legislation today, is evident from the fact that if there were no fear of this legislation for our journalists, I can assure you, there would have been such a propaganda by the press that the incidents of bloodshed witnessed by us in Delhi had been given many times their proportions.

[Pandit Balkrishna Sharma]

For this reason, I say, we need restraint, we need discipline, we need a binding. The present Bill presented by Sardar Sahib prompts us to take steps towards that healthy legislation and encourages us to brace that binding. Certainly, sometimes, this question arises that the time when, in our country, cases were being tried under Section 124, we used to say, "We have said something that was true, that was correct. Why do you have an objection to it?" And then it was said, "Truth is no plea for sedition". If there is anything seditious, if there is anything revolting punishment will have to be suffered on that account while it did not matter if that was a fact. Today my friend who has just preceded me, has said that by this Bill which is before us it is possible that if we write even the truth it is quite likely that we may be sued in a court of Law. I may ask you, "Is it always necessary that we must tell the truth, as if we could not do without it"? On many occasions we have to conceal the facts, we have to conceal them, in the interest of the people. We also see that a fact is so potent sometimes, so agitating that a common man cannot bear it. Today if we publish the actual incidents of murder and blood-shed the public is not prepared to accept them. Men like Mahatma Gandhi will have them without any excitement, men like our Home Member will have them, but a common man is incapable of taking such a truth in this form. To raise an objection to the Bill on the ground that correct events cannot be published, is a wrong argument: it is a wrong logic. We know that in the present state of affairs we cannot protect our society by telling the truth. We will, therefore, have to censor even the truth. When we talk of the freedom of press—the freedom of press in England, the freedom of press in Russia, the freedom of press in America, I have to ask this question, through you, Mr. Chairman, where this freedom of press exists? It is something which exists only in name. It is something which you cannot see. Does the press enjoy any freedom in the foreign countries? You cannot have anything published in the papers there. Do you find the freedom of press in America? Who dares talk of the freedom of press in the present circumstances? Let me tell you that such occasions arise only during the period of formation of a Government when we have to finish the freedom of press. This is therefore the time for it. And if there be need, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel will put an end to it quite dispassionately, provided that he thinks that this freedom is proving injurious to the country. I have, therefore, to request you that we should not be misguided by this propaganda. We should do our duty peacefully and fearlessly. I think, Mr. Chairman, I need not say anything more on the point. There are certain people in the country today who oppose and raise a hue and cry what the Government does. Let them do it—but we, who are the representatives of the people shall not be effected by their cries and shall always be ready to face everything.

Begum Aizaz Rasul (U. P.: Muslim): Sir, the very able and persuasive manner in which the Honourable the Home Minister has moved this Bill would ordinarily have left very little scope for any Member of this Honourable House to oppose this motion. But, Sir, the fact is that circumstances are such that we sitting in this House cannot forget our responsibilities and oppose this measure that the Honourable the Home Minister has brought forward.

It is indeed a sad thing that one of the first measures of legislation to be brought up by a popular Ministry after the advent of freedom for our country should have been a measure that suppresses the freedom of the press. But, Sir, we have to realise that the necessity for such a measure must indeed be so great that a responsible Minister of a popular Government is obliged to bring such legislation before this House. Sir, no one can deny that the responsibilities of the press are indeed great. They are always great, they will

always be great but in the conditions that are prevailing in the country today and especially after the attainment of freedom when every individual has to weigh his actions and his words before uttering them, a great measure of responsibility falls upon the press which brings to the world news, good and bad, which shapes the policies of Governments and which holds in its hands the fate not only of individuals but of nations. Therefore, Sir, I say that the press should have been the first to have realised its great responsibilities after India had become a free country. It is a matter of great regret that such a necessity should have arisen which should have obliged the Honourable the Home Minister to have brought this measure before this House.

But we cannot in this House forget our responsibilities either and I feel that though reluctantly, though feeling that for a free country it is indeed a sad thing to have to pass such legislation, which curtails the liberties of the people we are obliged to give our wholehearted and full support to this measure. It is only to be hoped that no necessity would arise for this legislation to be put into effect and that saner counsels will certainly prevail amongst those individuals and proprietors and editors of papers not to disseminate matter which does not service to the country but only poisons public mind and worsens the conditions already prevalent. Therefore, Sir, it is right and proper that such legislation should be introduced. Drastic situations require drastic measures and no one can deny the fact that the conditions prevailing in our country today are such as require very careful handling and as little publicity as possible should be given to undesirable news.

One Honourable speaker remarked that it is a matter for regret that even the dissemination of correct news comes under the jurisdiction of this measure. I would remind him or a small Persian couplet which says:—

دروغ مصلحت آمیز به از راستی فتنه انگیز

(*Darogh maslahat amez beh az راستی fitna angez*)

Sir, it means that it is sometimes better to indulge in a little falsehood, in order to avoid mischief than to tell the truth which may be harmful. Today we are confronted with such a situation when even the dissemination of correct news will be harmful from the public point of view and if the Government consider it desirable that a particular piece of news should not be published then certainly it should come under this legislation. I would like to go a step further, Sir, and say that statements by individuals or by Members of Government either here or in the other Dominion, should certainly come under great control of the Government. We have found during these last two and a half unhappy months that statements coming from leaders of different Parties have unfortunately done more harm in spreading the unrest and contributed to the prolonging of the very unfortunate state of affairs that is at present prevailing in our country. Therefore those of us who are connected with public life and have some experience of the working of the minds of the people have to realise our responsibilities in that respect because we know how easily feelings can be inflamed and how a big conflagration can result from a small spark. But, Sir, if there are such amongst us who do not realise the responsibilities that today confront us and that today are laid upon our shoulders, and control our speeches and statements. Keeping in view primarily the necessity of creating peaceful conditions then it is certainly the duty of Government to see that our actions and our speeches and our statements are rigorously censored.

Sir, I should have thought that the press would have been the first to realise its responsibilities. The Honourable the Minister has told us that he gave every opportunity to the press not to oblige him to bring forward such legislation and it would have been in the fitness of things if this legislation should not have been brought here. This would have been so if responsible persons had realised their responsibilities and framed their actions accordingly,

[Shri R. V. Dhulekar]

friend. Therefore I hope that the Bill which has been brought before the House should be rigidly enforced. My Honourable friend has stated here that probably such an opportunity may not come. I wish that such an opportunity must be brought about. Uptil now such matters are being published in the papers in a tacit manner in order to render every possible assistance to those portions of the country which have been partitioned and the portion which has been cut off. Such conditions are being created as may give rise to the apprehension that the people here are committing atrocities. I may be permitted to say that in my place, Jhansi, where a boy was stabbed and after that a girl killed, the very people who perpetrated this murder managed to publish in the papers that they were being subjected to grave injustice at the hands of the people of the majority community of that place. They gathered people from the surrounding areas and went on emphatically saying that they were being compelled to leave the place. A gathering of about two to three thousand persons was arranged and then it was declared that the local people were forcing them to migrate to Pakistan and creating such conditions which would render it impossible for them to live there. Such matters are published in the papers and it produces a very bad effect. These are published alike in the papers in the Province of U.P. and elsewhere. Many representations are made to the Government that there were certain members who wished that some of the people from this country should leave for Pakistan. I want to say that this measure which is being brought before the House should be passed and I would request the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs to prohibit publication of such papers in India as publish scurrilous headlines or headings and contain such matters inside which may bring slur on India before the world.

I feel that this Bill is quite inadequate to meet this necessity and a more rigid measure should be introduced, if possible. With these words, I wish that everyone should support this Bill and that it should be strictly enforced.

श्री जय नारायण व्यास : महोदय, जो बिल होम मिनिस्टर साहब ने हमारे सामने उपस्थित किया है उससे ऐसा मालूम होता है कि इस बिल के जरिये वह प्रेस की आजादी छीन रहे हैं। लेकिन दरअसल वह प्रेस की आजादी नहीं छीन रहे हैं बल्कि प्रेस का लाइसेंस छीन रहे हैं। प्रेस के लाइसेंस की वजह से आज हिन्दुस्तान में खास तौर से चीफ कमिश्नर के प्राविंस के आसपास आग लगाई जा रही है और खूनी कार्य किया जा रहा है जिससे कि इस सरकार को उलटकर एक सामन्ती सरकार कायम कर दी जाय। यह षडयंत्र मैं देख रहा हूँ और मैं समझता हूँ कि इस बिल की यहां बहुत सख्त जरूरत है।

मैं एक चीफ कमिश्नर प्राविंस (Chief Commissioner's Province) के नजदीक रहने वाला हूँ। मेरा मतलब अजमेर मेरवाड़ा से है जिसके चारों तरफ देशी राज्य फैले हुए हैं। इसमें जोधपुर, मेवाड़ वगैरह दूसरी रियासतें भी आ जाती हैं। उस अजमेर मेरवाड़ा का इलाका भी बहुत छोटा है और इस अजमेर मेरवाड़ा को इस तरह सामन्ती राज्य बनाने का एक खास अड्डा बनाया जा रहा है और वहां से इतने गंदे और भद्दे अखबारात निकलते हैं और गंदा प्रचार किया जाता है और मेरी समझ में नहीं आता और मुझे तो होम मिनिस्टर साहब से शिकायत है कि उन्होंने अब तक इस तरह तबज्जह क्यों नहीं दी।

मैं ज्यादा वक्त नहीं लेना चाहता हूँ लेकिन थोड़े से अखबारात का एक आध नमूना मैं आपके सामने पेश करना चाहता हूँ, जिससे मालूम हो जाय कि इस तरह के बिल की जरूरत क्यों है। 'क्षत्री वीर', 'हिंदू संदेश', 'राष्ट्रीय पताका' जोधपुर से, 'छात्रधर्म' जयपुर से निकलता है। 'वीर भूमि' उदयपुर से निकलता है। 'तेज प्रताप' अलवर से निकलता है। और इन सब अखबारात के अंदर बहुत ही गंदे प्रचार हमारी सरकार के खिलाफ होते हैं। मैं एक दो नमूने आपके सामने रखूँ जिससे आपको मालूम हो जाय कि इस बिल की क्यों जरूरत है।

'हिंदू संदेश' ५ नवम्बर का जो कि जोधपुर से निकलता है ऐसा लिखता है :

"कहीं जाने वाली भारत सरकार केवल यह कहने के सिवाय कि 'यह कैसे हो गया, हमें तो इसका अन्दाज ही नहीं था', कुछ भी इन अत्याचारों के विरुद्ध ठोस कदम उठाने का साहस न कर सकी, आगे की रोक थाम का प्रबंध न कर सकी। अपनी आजाद सरकार को नपुंसक समझकर हिंदू जनता ने आक्रमणकर्ताओं का सामना किया, उन्हें मार कर भगाया ही नहीं बल्कि उनके दिलों में ग्रह भाव, कि हम ही सब में श्रेष्ठ हैं हमें सब तरह से काफिरों को प्रयोग में लाने का अधिकार है मिटा कर अपनी वीरता धीरता की धाक उन दुश्मनों पर जमाही नहीं दी अपितु वर्षों से घुसे, वे हमारे घरों को छोड़कर भाग निकले। आक्रमणकर्ताओं के समक्ष बनी वही सरकार, नपुंसक सरकार, अपने आकाओं को, जिनके वोटों पर वह बनी थी अपना तीसमारखांपन दिखाते हुए गोलीयों से भुनवाने लगी, जेलों के सीकचों में कस दिया, करोड़ों रुपया जुर्माने के नाम पर चूसकर पंगु बना दिया।"

इस तरह की और न जाने कितनी बातें लिखी जा रही हैं। ऐसा सब लिखने का कोई कारण है। ऐसा न समझ लिया जाय कि यह कोई बिना मकसद के है। हमारे होम मिनिस्टर साहब ने यह फरमाया कि यह अखबार-नवीस बहुत इरिस्पोंसिबिल (irresponsible) हैं और वह अपनी रिस्पोंसिबिलिटी (responsibility) को नहीं समझते हैं। मैं उन से इस बात में सहमत नहीं हूँ, और मैं समझता हूँ कि वह जो कुछ करते हैं वह एक दूसरी रिस्पोंसिबिलिटी (responsibility) को पूरा करने के लिये करते हैं। और वह दूसरी जिम्मेदारी यह है कि आज जो नेशनल गवर्नमेंट है, उसको उलट दिया जाय और उसके बदले में एक फासिस्ट तरीके की सरकार कायम की जाय। इन्हीं अखबारों के जरिये से प्रचार किया जा रहा है कि हमारी सरकार नपुंसक है, वह किसी काम की नहीं है और वह मुस्लिम परस्त है। और वह हिन्दुओं को कुचलती है। और न मालूम क्या क्या लिखा जाता है। यह कहा जाता है कि इस सरकार ने कभी शासन नहीं किया है। यह सरकार कभी शासन नहीं कर सकती है, और यह गिरनेवाली है, और अंगरेजी सरकार फिरवापिस आने वाली है। इसलिये यहां पर देशी सरकार कायम करने के लिये जमींदारों, जागीरदारों और राजाओं की

[Begum Aizaz Rasul]

but if that is not so, the Government cannot give up its responsibilities. As the Honourable the Home Minister has very rightly remarked, it is one of the sacred and fundamental responsibilities of Government to protect the rights of the people and see that every section of the people is well treated. Sir, it is also the duty of Government to see that no community gets the upper hand in disseminating news harmful to the public and make unjustifiable and unfair attacks in the press on any certain community. Therefore, this measure that has been brought forward today, sad though we may feel that necessity for it should have arisen, is a very important and urgent one and should have the wholehearted support of the House.

With these few words, Sir, I support the motion before the House.

श्री आर० वी० धुलेकर : सभापति जी, मुझे बड़ी प्रसन्नता है कि आज हमारे इस भवन की एक बहुत पुरानी मशहूर कार्यकर्त्री श्रीमती एजाज रसूल बेगम साहबा ने यह समझा कि इस तरह का बिल यहां पर पेश होना चाहिये। मुझे बड़ी प्रसन्नता हुई कि उन्होंने यहां पर खुले तौर से इस बात का इकबाल किया कि उन्होंने और उनकी पार्टी ने १५ अगस्त के पहले और कई साल तक बराबर यह बीज बोया था जिसके कारण इस भारतवर्ष में बहुतसी गड़बड़ पैदा हो गई। आज जब कि हमारी स्वतंत्रता आई है इस समय भी कुछ पहले जैसे बिल पेश करने पड़ते थे वैसे ही अब भी पेश करने पड़ते हैं जिनसे हमारे छापेखानों पर और कुछ हमारे अखबारों पर कुछ बंधन लगाये जायें। यह नतीजा इस तरह निकला कि आप खुद देखते हैं कि तमाम पाकिस्तान में लाखों आदमी मारे गये, बच्चे मारे गये, औरतें मारी गईं और लाखों की जायदाद का नुकसान हुआ। वह अखबार जिसने यह आग फैलाई वह देहली से ही निकलता था इसलिए मैं समझता हूं और उम्मीद करता हूं कि जो श्रीमती जी ने अभी कहा वह उसको आयन्दा भी याद रखेंगी और मैं समझता हूं कि वह इस बात का ख्याल रखेंगी कि आयन्दा कोई ऐसा मौका उनकी पार्टी की तरफ से न आने पावे जिससे कि हिंदुस्तान को नुकसान हो।

मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि यह बिल बहुत ठीक मौके पर पेश किया गया है। मेरे एक दोस्त यहां पर भी गड़बड़ पैदा करना चाहते हैं और मैं उम्मीद करता हूं कि शायद ऐसा कोई मौका न आये कि इस बिल को इस हाउस के अन्दर भी काम में लाना पड़े। क्योंकि इस भवन में हर शख्स को आजादी है। दिल्ली में जो आग फैलाई है वह आपको मालूम है और आप यह चाहते हैं कि यहां पर भी वही किया जाय। इसलिए मैं कहता हूं कि हमारे दोस्त की हरकत से हमारे जो कुछ भी प्रिविलेज हैं जिससे हम सब कुछ आजादी से कर सकते हैं वह भी छीन लिये जायेंगे। इसलिये मैं उम्मीद करता हूं कि जो बिल सामने लाया गया है वह बहुत सख्ती के साथ बरता जाय। मेरे लायक दोस्त ने यहां पर इस बात को कहा है कि शायद ऐसा मौका न आये। मैं तो यह कहना हूं कि मौका जरूर लाया जाय। अभी तक कुछ अखबारों में छिपी जवान से और दूरी तौर से इस तरह की चीजें शायद हो रही हैं जिससे जो मुल्क के टुकड़े हो रहे हैं वे बचकर बचे हुए हो गया है उसको हर किस्म की इमदाद दी जाय। इस तरह की

जिससे यह मालूम हो कि यहां लोग जुल्म कर रहे हैं। मैं आपकी इजाजत चाहूंगा और इस बात को बतलाऊंगा कि हमारे शहर झांसी में जहां पर कि एक लड़के को छूरा भोंक दिया गया था और उसके बाद एक लड़की को मार दिया गया था वहां जिन लोगों ने लड़के और लड़की को मारा उन्होंने ही अखबार में यह छपवाया कि हमारे ऊपर यहां के जो अक्सरियत वाले लोग हैं अर्थात् बहुमत वाले हैं, बड़ा भारी अन्याय कर रहे हैं और लोगों को इधर उधर से इकट्ठा करके जोरों से कहने लगते हैं कि हमको यहां से जाने को मजबूर किया जा रहा है। दो तीन हजार का मजमा इकट्ठा कर लिया गया और फिर कहने लगे कि हमको तो पाकिस्तान जाने को यहां के लोग मजबूर करते हैं और ऐसी हालत पैदा कर रहे हैं जिससे कि हम न रह सकें। इस तरह की चीजें अखबारों में छपती हैं और उसका असर बहुत बुरा होता है। बराबर हमारे यू० पी० के प्रांत में और दूसरी जगह अखबारों में छपी जाती हैं। बहुत सी दरखास्तें गवर्नमेंट के पास भेजी जाती हैं कि कुछ ऐसे मेम्बर हैं जो इस बात को चाहते हैं कि इस मुल्क से यहां के कुछ लोग पाकिस्तान चले जायें। मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि यहां पर जो बिल लाया जा रहा है वह जरूर पास किया जाय और होम मेम्बर साहब से इस बात की प्रार्थना करूंगा कि इस किस्म के जितने अखबार जो यहां हिन्दुस्तान में हैं जिन में हैड लाइन्स या सुर्खी दूसरी किस्म की दी जाती है और अन्दर ऐसी बातें लिखी जाती हैं जिससे कि हिंदुस्तान की दुनिया में बदनामी हो बंद किये जावें। मैं समझता हूं कि इस किस्म की चीज को रोकने के लिये यह बिल नाकाफी है और इससे भी सख्त अगर हो सके तो लाना चाहिये। इतना कहकर मैं चाहता हूं कि हर शख्स को इसका समर्थन करना चाहिये और इसको सख्ती से बरता जाय।

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri R. V. Dhulekar (U. P.: General): Mr. Chairman, it gives me great pleasure to have to say that one of our old well-known members of this House, Begum Aizaz Rasul, has thought that such a Bill should be presented here. I have been very much pleased that she has frankly admitted here that she and her party had sown seeds prior to 15th August and many years before which have resulted in creating large-scale disturbances in India. To-day when we have achieved our independence we had to present some Bills—as we had been doing before—which tend to impose certain restrictions on some of our papers and presses. You will yourself observe that this is the obvious result of the orgy of murder of lakhs of men, women and small children and loss of property worth several lakhs which took place in the whole Pakistan. The paper that indulged in inflammatory writings was being published from Delhi. Therefore, I think and hope that my Honourable Lady friend will remember for future also what she has stated now. And I further hope that she will bear this in mind that there will not arise any opportunity in the future when her party may act prejudicially to the interests of India.

I may say that this Bill has been presented at the most opportune moment. One of my friends wanted to create disturbance here as well and I hope that there will not arise any contingency to bring into operation the provisions of this Bill in this House. Because everyone in this House has got liberty. You are aware of the sparks of trouble that have flown over Delhi and you want that the same thing should be repeated here. This is what I say that we will be deprived of all of our privileges with which we can act freely by the action of our

[श्री जय नारायण व्यास]

सरकार कायम की जानी चाहिये। ऐसा अखबारों में प्रचार किया जा रहा है। अजमेर-मेरवाड़ा जो कि आपका एक प्राविंस है, उसको राजपूताने के साथ मिला देना चाहिये। यह प्रचार भी उसी के साथसाथ किया जा रहा है। उसको मिलाने के लिये स्कीम (Schemes) बनी हुई हैं। एक अखबार 'राष्ट्र पताका' कहता है कि अजमेर मेरवाड़ा का वह हिस्सा जो देवली के पास है, उसको मेवाड में मिला देना चाहिये। और ऐसे अखबारों को बदकिस्मती से ऐसे २ लेखक भी मिल जाते हैं जो अपने को सोशलिस्ट कहते हैं और सामन्त शाही के साथ उनको मिलाने में अपनी मदद देते हैं। ऐसे-ऐसे प्रचारक भी आज अजमेर-मेरवाड़ा में भेजे गये हैं, स्वामी, सन्यासी न मालूम कितने। एक स्वामी माधवानन्द हैं जो अपने को जोधपुर महाराज का गुरु कहते हैं। वह कहते हैं कि मैं तो राजपूतों और क्षत्रियों का संगठन करता हूँ और मैं देश की रक्षा करने के लिये यह कर रहा हूँ। महाराज जोधपुर भी कहते हैं कि हमें सिर्फ राजपूताना ही नहीं, बल्कि सारे देश भर के हिंदुओं की रक्षा करना है और उसके लिये मैं आपका सहयोग चाहता हूँ। इसी तरह का अलवर, उदयपुर और दूसरी रियासतों में प्रचार किया जा रहा है। इस तरह के परचों से देश भर में प्रचार कर रहे हैं कि कांग्रेस खूनी है और इसको मिटा देना चाहिये और उसके बदले में दूसरे तरह की सरकार कायम करनी चाहिये। खुले तौर पर यह कहा जा रहा है कि क्षत्री लोग ही राज्य कर सकते हैं और उन्हीं का राज्य कायम करना चाहिये। यह मौजूदा सरकार राज्य करने के लायक नहीं है। मैं कोई क्षत्रियों से नफरत नहीं करता, लेकिन कोई यह चाहे कि मौजूदा सरकार को हटाकर, क्षत्री राज्य कायम करे, तो मैं अपना खून बहाकर उस राज्य को मिटाने की कोशिश करूंगा। सच्ची बात यह है कि जो प्रचार हो रहा है, वह प्रचार हम लोगों को, हमारी डेमोक्रेसी को, हम लोगों की आपस में मिलजुल कर रहने की जो प्रवृत्ति चल रही है, इन सब को खत्म करने के लिये हो रहा है और ऐसी बातों को रोकना, प्रेस की आजादी को रोकना नहीं है। मैं श्री देशबंधु जी को आपकी मारफत बतला दूँ कि मैं भी एक छोटा सा पत्रकार हूँ। पत्रकारों की जायज आजादी के लिये लड़ने के लिये मैं सदा तैयार रहूंगा। लेकिन यह आजादी नहीं है। यह तो गुन्डापन है। कोई अखबार गुन्डेपन का प्रचार करे तो मैं समझता हूँ कि हमें उसको रोकना चाहिये और अगर हम नहीं रोकेंगे तो हम अपने आपको रोक देंगे, अपनी आजादी को रोक देंगे और इन्सानियत, राष्ट्रीयता और अपनी डेमोक्रेसी और जनतंत्रवाद को खत्म कर देंगे। इन शब्दों के साथ मिनिस्टर साहब ने जो बिल पेश किया है, उस बिल की मैं पुरजोर तार्किक करता हूँ। -

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri Jainarain Vyas (Jodhpur State): Sir, from the Bill introduced by the Honourable Minister for Home Affairs it appears that through this Bill he is trying to curtail the liberties of the press. As a matter of fact it is not the freedom of the press which he intends to restrict, but it is the licence of the press which he wants to limit. It is this licence of the press which is being

used to inflame the feelings of the masses in India, particularly in the Chief Commissioners' provinces. It is this licence of the press which is responsible for the sanguinary happenings that are taking place these days. Its object is to overthrow the present Government and put a feudal government in its place. I am alive to this sinister design and I realise what grave necessity is there for this Bill.

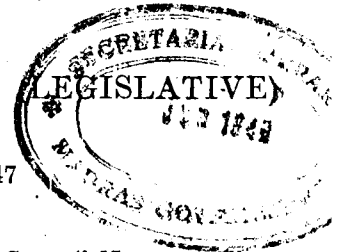
I come from a place which is close to a Chief Commissioner's Province, I mean the province of Ajmer-Marwara which is surrounded on all sides by native States of Jodhpur, Mewar, etc. This province of Ajmer and Merwara is very small, and efforts are being made to convert it into a base for establishing a feudal government. Filthy and rotten papers are published in these states and evil propaganda is made. I am at a loss to understand, in fact, I have a complaint to make to the Hon'ble Home Minister, why he has not paid his attention to it so far. I do not want to take much time, but I do want to place before you a specimen or so from a few of such papers so that the Honourable Members may have an idea as to why this Bill is needed. *The Khshatri Vir*, *The Hindu Sandesh*, and *The Rashtraya Pataka* are published in Jodhpur; *The Chhatra Dharm* is issued from Jaipur, *The Vir Bhumi* comes out from Udaipur, and *The Tej Partap* has its offices at Alwar. Vicious propaganda is made against our Government by these papers. Let me give you a few quotations from these so that you may appreciate why we need this Bill.

The Hindu Sandesh of the 5th November which is issued from Jodhpur writes as follows:

"The so called Indian Government has only said that it was surprised to find how all this had happened. It has further said that it never could imagine that things would take such a turn. This Government could not dare take any strong step to suppress these atrocities. It failed to prevent further deterioration. Finding their independent government quite incompetent, the Hindu masses faced the attackers, and not only did they rout them but also made them realise that it was not Muslims alone who were the most powerful, and that they were mistaken in cherishing the idea that the Muslims have the right to treat the non-Muslims in whatever way they liked. These raiders were not only impressed by the valour and bravery of the Hindus, but they even fled from the houses they had been living in for years. The very government which had failed to suppress the raiders, started firing wantonly on the very people who had voted for its very formation; and it took pride in it. It put them behind bars; extracted crores of rupees as fines and reduced them to a state of utter helplessness."

Who knows how many more such things are being published. There is a motive behind all this. It should not be taken as something without an aim. The Honourable Minister for Home Affairs said that these pressmen are very irresponsible, and that they do not realise their responsibility. I do not agree with him there. I think that whatever these pressmen are doing, is being done to discharge another responsibility; and this another responsibility is to replace the present national government by a fascist government. The columns of these very papers are utilised for propagating to the public that our present government is impotent; that it is useless, and that it favours the Muslims and crushes the Hindus. Many such things are being written. It is said that this government has no experience of administration. It can never rule; it is bound to collapse and the British Government is sure to return. To establish an Indian Government, therefore, it is imperative that we should have a government comprising of landlords, jagirdars and princes. This sort of propaganda is being made by these papers. Propaganda is also being made for amalgamating with Rajputana States our province of Ajmer-Marwara. Schemes have been made for attaching this territory to the *Rashtra Pataka* suggests that the part of Ajmer and Marwara joins Devli should be annexed to Mewar.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA



Thursday, the 20th November 1947

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN

132. *Shri Biswanath Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the amounts budgetted and disbursed under the 'Grow More Food' activities for the past 5 years, ending March, 1948, for each Province separately;

(b) the general details of distribution to each of the Provinces under important sub-heads of Grow More Food Campaign;

(c) the additional acreage of lands brought under cultivation as reported by each Province for the past 4 years ending March 1947 and what proportion such additional lands bear to the total cultivated area each year; and

(d) the additional quantity of cereals (in tons) produced as a result of the above campaign as also the total cereal yield including the said additional quantity now grown?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) No separate budget provision was made for each province. A statement (No. I) showing the amounts disbursed to each province is laid on the table.

(b) A statement (No. II), giving the required information is placed on the table.

(c) and (d). Two statements (No. III & IV) giving necessary information are placed on the table.

[Shri Jainarain Vyas]

Unfortunately, such papers get writers too of this type. These writers style themselves as socialists but in reality they contribute towards efforts for attaching these areas to the States. Many such propagandists have been sent to Ajmer-Marwara. Many Swamis and Sanyasis have visited this province. One such man is Swami Madhwa Nand who calls himself the Guru of the Maharaja of Jodhpur. He professes to bring together the Rajputs and the Khshatriyas, and he says that he is doing so in the interest of the defence of the country. The Maharaja of Jodhpur also puts in a few words saying that it is not Rajputana alone which he has to protect, but all the Hindus of this country; and for that he seeks this Swami's help.

Similar propaganda is being made in Alwar, Udaipur and other States. Newspapers of this kind are being used to propagate all over the Country that the Congress is stained with blood; it should be annihilated, and its Government should be replaced by a different kind of Government. It is being said openly that only the Khashtryias are entitled to govern and that only they should run the Government. This present Government is unfit for ruling the public. I do not hate the Khshtryias; but if it is desired to overthrow the present Government and boost up a Government by the Khshtryias, then I do not refrain from saying that I will not spare the last drop of my blood for putting it to an end. The fact is that all this propaganda is directed against us, against our democratic Government, against our desire to live united. To stem such evils is not to take away the liberty of the press. Let me, Sir, through you tell Mr. Deshbandhu that I am also a small journalist. I shall always be prepared to fight for the legitimate freedom of the journalist. But this is no freedom. This is goondaism. And if any paper preaches goondaism, I think, we must check it. If we don't do so, we shall be annihilating ourselves and losing our freedom. It will mean the death of humanity, nationality, our democracy and our socialism. With these words, I strongly support the Bill introduced by the Honourable Minister.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Sir, I have no doubt in my mind that the House is fully aware of the situation in the country and the necessity of having a legislation of this kind. I am glad the various speakers have spoken in an emphatic tone about the necessity of the measure. Now I wish to say a few words by way of digression and I hope with your permission the House will appreciate and tolerate it. I have the experience of this House for a short period only but outside the House also I have taken some interest in the proceedings of this House. I have no doubt that the proceedings of this House in the past have been utilised to serve the end which is the object of this legislation to prevent. In the past it has been so. This House has been used for the purpose of creating communal tension inside and outside, both in the matter of interpellations, speeches and often in the matter of Bills also. We have put in questions deliberately with the object of creating the situation for the purpose of canvassing the support of particular sections of communities. I appeal to the House also to take this matter into consideration that in a new India, in the new Parliament, this House is not the forum to be utilised for the purpose of creating any such situation or any such atmosphere. I appeal to all Members not to give interpellations in the manner in which they were giving in the past. I have seen some questions that have been received. I only appeal because all these questions and answers and all these proceedings that are taking place here are published in the Press and the Press will take advantage of the attitude we take here. Then they will be justified in saying that 'what we are doing is not worse than what you are doing. You are enjoying certain privileges. We are also enjoying certain privileges.' That is a digression by way of precaution. Now with the partition of the country the atmosphere of this House and the tone of the debate

must have a different tune. We must be helpful in establishing traditions and creating conditions, an atmosphere in the country for harmony, unity and peace in the land, which is the greater responsibility of the members of this House.

Now so far as the Bill is concerned, I do not think that I can say more than those friends who themselves are editors and who know where the shoe pinches. As has been rightly said this Bill is a check not against the liberty of the Press, but against the liberty which has been turned into a worse form of licence. As has also been acknowledged that although this Ordinance has been in force for more than a year we have held our hands and rarely exercised the powers that are given by it.

Our friend from Ajmer-Merwara read out a passage from a newspaper. Even in an advanced province like Bombay the newspapers are carrying on in such a manner that an old liberal friend of mine sent me a cutting in which it was stated that as this Government had been bitterly criticized in the foreign press,

particularly in England, the representative of the Home Department of Government has selected forty beautiful Sikh girls to send them to England and give one to each of the editors in Fleet Street. When that cutting was sent to the Home Minister of Bombay he said he could do nothing because there is no section of the law under which he could take action. Is the Home Member to go and file a suit of defamation for the publication of these scurrilous and malicious libels? You will see that there are many papers of this kind who realise that freedom has come and freedom can be used in this manner. If you do not teach people how to enjoy freedom you will lose that freedom because, as has been said, there are many people who have dreams that as the British power which was an established power and used to protect everybody has disappeared, the place of that power will be taken by anybody who can organise a few goondas. This Government is strong enough to resist any pressure from any quarter of that type. But in this House we must see that we protect every legitimate right and interest which must be protected in a free country. But we must not allow either the press or public assembly meetings or public platforms or privileged places like the Assembly to be used for the purpose of destroying freedom which is won after hard struggle and considerable sacrifice.

Sir, I am grateful for the support that has been given to this measure.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the Bill to continue certain special powers conferred on the administration in Chief Commissioners' Provinces for the better control of the dissemination of undesirable matter, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 20th November, 1947.

STATEMENT I

Showing the amounts disbursed to each province from the 1st March 1943 to 1st November 1947 for grow More Food Campaign

Name of the Province	1943-44	1944-45	1945-46 (Up to 1st Nov. 1947)	1947-48	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Assam	4,02,585	4,83,731	12,37,616	7,92,230	29,62,749
2. Bengal	12,84,184	14,74,313	23,72,909	62,82,004	1,15,82,860
3. Bihar	9,67,152	14,37,970	16,55,889	18,73,137	61,19,846
4. Bombay	8,61,771	40,46,028	47,01,176	36,14,95	1,66,93,507
5. C. P. & Berar	17,20,000	6,70,826	8,74,592	13,39,516	56,48,740
6. Madras	4,13,666	35,75,406	17,52,988	2,42,95,702	3,05,45,356
7. N. W. F. P.	1,07,500	11,12,342	3,83,079	4,16,299	21,19,861
8. Orissa	1,73,650	9,56,241	13,20,680	23,87,408	53,00,665
9. Punjab	3,00,000	15,70,860	4,32,025	6,45,270	83,36,810
10. Sind	4,85,335	78,000	2,32,775	4,55,997	12,52,107
11. U. P.	9,37,200	27,57,290	13,32,190	18,03,240	68,84,920
12. Ajmer-Merwara	99,185	92,012	2,60,900	9,17,265	15,23,627
13. Baluchistan	10,376	1,81,879	7,24,135	18,63,474	28,59,985
14. Coorg	48,450	65,930	1,46,555	2,43,169	6,77,377
15. Delhi	...	...	1,95,223	8,300	2,03,523
Total	78,10,054	1,85,02,828	1,76,52,732	4,79,37,961	10,27,01,733

STATEMENT II

Showing the details of grants and loans sanctioned to provinces for G. M. F. Campaign from 1943-44—1st November, * 1947

Province	Irrigation Facilities			Land clearance and improve- ment			Manure distribution		
	Loans	Grant	Rs.	Loans	Grant	Rs.	Loans	Grant	Rs.
Assam	2,35,200	9,88,174	...	...	...	...	2,10,300	1,70,621	...
Bengal	2,35,200	48,34,967	...	...	33,515	36,01,500	19,99,178	...	...
Bihar	2,35,200	25,91,413	...	...	6,00,791	1,92,800	8,18,008	...	...
Bombay	9,22,500	18,09,472	3,00,000	41,60,560	...	44,04,011	...	...	...
C. P. & Berar	48,23,257	13,80,888	14,12,343	1,53,080	57,87,349	18,97,069	...	...	...
Madras	48,23,257	1,38,07,245	21,87,500	3,18,816	59,00,000	51,74,151	...	...	...
N. W. F. P.	...	14,45,029	...	19,750	...	32,100	...	...	...
Punjab	...	59,83,085	...	9,17,013	...	11,94,166	...	...	...
Orissa	11,54,330	14,06,395	16,32,458	3,55,349	5,33,067	5,99,297	...	...	...
Sind	...	...	...	5,360	...	2,17,200	...	...	...
U. P.	...	40,80,814	...	2,29,550	...	10,56,265	...	...	...
Ajmer	6,33,520	3,16,864	...	13,530	42,950	1,64,801	...	...	...
Baluchistan	...	12,46,470	...	...	...	99,635	...	...	...
Coorg	...	80,000	...	57,893	...	96,399	...	...	...
Delhi	40,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	78,08,807	3,99,70,816	55,32,301	68,65,157	1,62,67,966	1,79,22,901	...	...	...

STATEMENT II—contd.
Showing the details of grants and loans sanctioned to provinces for G.M.F. Campaign from 1943-44—1st November, 1947

Province	Seeds Multiplications and distribution			Protective foods			Miscellaneous			Total	
	Loans	Grant	Rs.	Loans	Grant	Rs.	Loans	Grant	Rs.	Loans	Grant
Assam	29,68,523	7,84,303	...	...	4,12,452	32,100	...	6,07,199	34,47,122	29,62,749	...
Bengal	1,32,15,700	23,39,153	...	...	7,03,877	...	...	16,71,970	1,68,17,200	1,15,82,960	...
Bihar	7,71,200	9,13,869	...	...	1,94,193	...	...	10,01,572	9,84,000	61,19,846	...
Bombay	...	27,79,514	...	...	28,14,839	...	...	17,25,111	12,22,500	1,66,93,507	...
C. P. & Berar	46,10,161	15,69,889	1,00,000	...	51,147	2,00,000	...	5,96,687	1,69,33,110	56,48,740	...
Madras	26,00,000	82,42,903	...	...	12,13,531	85,00,000	...	17,88,710	1,91,87,500	3,05,453	...
N.W.F.P.	26,90,300	5,32,481	...	...	...	...	...	90,501	26,90,300	21,19,861	...
Panjab	...	...	...	...	76,909	...	...	1,65,637	...	83,36,810	...
Orissa	16,71,977	4,34,816	...	...	1,76,440	3,78,000	...	23,28,568	53,69,832	53,00,665	...
Sind	...	3,40,500	...	...	4,28,502	...	...	2,60,545	...	12,52,107	...
U. P.	...	9,68,041	...	...	4,26,105	...	...	1,24,145	...	68,84,920	...
Ajmer	8,86,200	5,05,042	...	...	4,40,152	...	...	83,238	15,62,670	15,23,627	...
Baluchistan	22,45,400	11,17,741	...	...	1,88,700	...	...	2,07,439	22,45,400	28,59,985	...
Coorg	...	1,26,275	2,73,250	...	2,47,705	...	...	69,135	3,73,250	6,77,377	...
Delhi	1,69,000	10,223	...	...	1,93,300	...	...	...	2,09,000	2,03,523	...
Total..	31,82,846	2,06,64,550	4,73,250	75,67,852	91,11,00	97,20,457	7,10,21,884	10,27,01,733			

STATEMENT III

Showing area under principal foodgrains (rice, wheat, jowar, bajra, maize, ragi, barley and gram) in each Province of India (before partition) and increase or decrease during 1943-44, 1944-45, 1945-46 and 1946-47 as compared with normal period (Average 1936-37 to 1938-39).

Province	Normal Average 1936-37 to 1938-39	Increase (+) or decrease (—) as compared with the normal during							
		1943-44		1944-45		1945-46		1946-47	
		Actual	Per cent.	Actual	Per cent.	Actual	Per cent.	Actual	Per cent.
Ajmer-Merwara	232	(—) 60	(+) 25.9	(+) 121	(+) 52.2	(+) 76	(+) 32.8	(+) 96	(+) 41.4
Assam	5,290	(+) 348	(+) 6.6	(+) 228	(+) 4.3	(+) 360	(+) 6.8	(—) 127	(—) 2.4
Bengal	22,086	(+) 4,838	(+) 21.3	(+) 7,917	(+) 34.9	(+) 4,989	(+) 22.0	(+) 5,664	(+) 25.0
Bihar	15,760	(+) 374	(+) 2.4	(+) 64	(+) 0.4	(+) 24	(+) 0.2	(+) 186	(+) 1.2
Bombay	17,412	(+) 66	(+) 0.4	(+) 866	(+) 5.0	(+) 363	(+) 2.1	(+) 498	(+) 2.9
C. P. & Berar	14,880	(+) 879	(+) 5.9	(+) 705	(+) 5.3	(+) 499	(+) 3.4	(+) 398	(+) 2.7
Coorg	85	(+) 3	(+) 3.5	(+) 2	(+) 2.4	(+) 2	(+) 2.4	(+) 2	(+) 2.4
Delhi	178	(+) 7	(+) 3.9	(+) 61	(+) 34.3	(+) 62	(+) 34.8	(—) 10	(—) 5.6
Madras	19,342	(+) 1,136	(+) 5.9	(+) 886	(+) 8.0	(—) 978	(—) 5.1	(—) 401	(—) 2.1
N. W. F. P.	2,004	(—) 46	(—) 2.3	(+) 315	(+) 1.5	(+) 115	(+) 5.7	(—) 53	(—) 2.6
Orissa	5,454	(+) 28	(+) 0.5	(+) 66	(+) 1.2	(+) 57	(+) 1.0	(+) 167	(+) 3.1
Punjab	19,709	(+) 2,241	(+) 11.4	(+) 3,589	(+) 18.3	(+) 4,410	(+) 22.4	(+) 2,382	(+) 12.0
Sind	3,397	(+) 721	(+) 18.5	(+) 598	(+) 15.3	(+) 474	(+) 12.2	(+) 395	(+) 10.1
United Provinces	31,106	(+) 1,754	(+) 5.6	(+) 1,580	(+) 5.1	(+) 2,374	(+) 7.6	(+) 1,532	(+) 4.9
Total	1,58,085	1,70,494	(+) 12.409	(+) 16,797	(+) 10.6	(+) 12,827	(+) 8.1	(+) 10,709	(+) 6.8

STATEMENT IV

Showing production of principal foodgrains (rice, wheat, jowar, bajra, maize, ragi, barley and gram) in each Province of India (before partition) and increase or decrease during 1943-44, 1944-45, 1945-46 and 1946-47 as compared with normal period (Average 1936-37 to 1938-39).

Province	Normal Average 1936-37 to 1938-39	(Thousands tons)							
		1943-44				1944-45			
		Increase (+) or decrease (—) as compared with the normal during							
		Actual	Per cent.	Actual	Per cent.	Actual	Per cent.	Actual	Per cent.
Almer-Merwara	34	(+) 17	(+) 50.0	(+) 22	(+) 64.7	(+) 1	(+) 2.9	(+) 16	(+) 47.1
Assam	1,797	(+) 497	(+) 27.7	(+) 86	(+) 4.8	(+) 347	(+) 19.3	(+) 104	(+) 5.8
Bengal	8,982	(+) 3,091	(+) 34.4	(+) 1,790	(+) 19.9	(+) 842	(+) 9.4	(+) 1,909	(+) 21.3
Bihar	5,002	(—) 127	(+) 2.5	(—) 437	(—) 8.7	(—) 878	(—) 17.6	(—) 612	(—) 12.3
Bombay	3,254	(+) 177	(+) 5.4	(—) 138	(—) 4.2	(—) 593	(—) 18.2	(—) 618	(—) 19.0
C. P. & Berar	3,635	(+) 159	(+) 4.4	(—) 46	(—) 1.3	(—) 278	(—) 7.6	(—) 1,061	(—) 29.0
Coorg	55	(+) 14	(+) 25.5	(+) 7	(+) 12.7	(—) 12	(—) 21.8	(—) 15	(—) 27.3
Delhi	47	(+) 7	(+) 14.9	(+) 13	(+) 27.7	(+) 15	(+) 31.9	(—) 9	(—) 19.1
Madras	7,304	(+) 238	(+) 3.3	(+) 27	(+) 0.4	(—) 1,334	(—) 18.3	(—) 575	(—) 7.9
N. W. F. P.	582	(—) 59	(—) 10.1	(—) 12	(—) 2.1	(—) 24	(—) 4.1	(—) 30	(—) 5.2
Orissa	1,613	(—) 186	(—) 11.5	(—) 201	(—) 12.4	(—) 244	(—) 15.1	(—) 136	(—) 8.4
Punjab	5,403	(+) 599	(+) 11.1	(+) 1,431	(+) 26.5	(+) 766	(+) 14.2	(+) 604	(+) 11.2
Sind	1,075	(+) 540	(+) 50.2	(+) 192	(+) 17.9	(+) 277	(+) 25.8	(+) 285	(+) 26.5
United Provinces	9,063	(+) 160	(+) 1.8	(+) 351	(+) 3.9	(+) 111	(+) 1.2	(—) 165	(—) 1.8
Total	47,871	(+) 5,127	(+) 10.7	(+) 3,085	(+) 6.4	(—) 1,004	(—) 2.1	(—) 304	(—) 0.6

Shri Biswanath Das: Will the Government be pleased to state the present normal shortage of foodgrains and cereals in India?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: That question comes up in another question. I will answer it at that time.

Shri Biswanath Das: Do they realise that the present method of Grow More Food campaign has not been effective nor have the results been encouraging?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: That is a matter of opinion. But I am inclined to share the view that it has not been as successful as we all wished it to be.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I know whether the Government are aware of the fact that the essential necessities of agriculture and agriculturists, such as rims and agricultural implements are not being supplied to agriculturists at controlled prices, though each of these things is amply available in the black-market? Under the circumstances, would Government feel justified to expect that agriculturists could make an effective contribution to the Grow More Food campaign or to agriculture?

Mr. Speaker: What is the information that the Honourable Member wants? It seems that what he is asking for is either an opinion or an argument.

Shri Biswanath Das: Have they considered the question whether agriculturists can make an effective contribution to the Grow More Food campaign or to agriculture?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: We are aware of the fact that these things are required for helping the production of food and we are trying our best to supply them.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Does the Honourable Minister know that in the Gorakhpur district about two lakh acres of prepared land have remained unsown because seed was not available, even though wires were sent to the Honourable Minister?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I am not aware of the fact that so much land has remained unsown for want of seed. As a matter of fact, the United Provinces supplied seed to other provinces.

K. T. M. Ahmad Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur: In view of the fact that effective results are not obtained on account of the haphazard distribution of these amounts, will the Government evolve a scheme for making a survey of the uncultivated arable lands and bringing them under cultivation as soon as possible?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: A survey has been made and a scheme prepared on the basis of that survey.

Shri M. S. Aney: May I know, Sir, whether the Government has thought proper to bring under cultivation large tracts of land which were hitherto occupied by military camps now deserted?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: They have not yet come under my Department and I am not in a position to answer that.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: Will the Honourable Minister state in what shape or form was subsidy or assistance given under the Grow More Food campaign?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: The scheme has been to give subsidy in respect of three or four matters and the Government of India contributes four annas out of one rupee spent on a scheme. Another four annas is borne by the province and the remaining eight annas has to be contributed by the particular cultivator. This has been scheme for irrigation projects, for improvement of seeds and for manures.

Shri B. A. Mandloi: Will the Government say whether these schemes are on a population basis or under the area under cultivation?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: The position of the province is taken into consideration. It will not do to divide on a population basis. So it is on the capacity of the province to absorb.

श्री आर० वी० धुलेकर : क्या सरकार को यह मालूम है कि 'ग्रो मोर फूड कैम्पेन' के जरिये से हजारों एकड़ जमीन सरकारी अफसरों ने अपने बंगलों की जमीनों में, सरकारी बागीचों में, और यहाँ तक कि इन्डिया गेट की जो टहलने की जमीनें हैं उसमें थोड़ी बहुत खेती करा कर यह सारी जमीन 'ग्रो मोर फूड कैम्पेन' में दिखला दी, लेकिन उसका कोई फायदा सरकार को नहीं हुआ और न पब्लिक को हुआ ?

Shri R. V. Dhulekar: Are Government aware of the fact that by means of "Grow More Food Campaign", the Government Officers have after bringing a portion of the land under cultivation, shown thousands of acres of land—viz., land attached to their bungalows, Government gardens and so much so even the walking grounds of India Gate—under the "Grow More Food Campaign". But neither the Government nor the public has derived any benefit from this.

आनरेबिल डाक्टर राजेन्द्रप्रसाद : मुझे इसका पता नहीं है कि इस प्रकार के से हजारों एकड़ जमीन 'ग्रो मोर फूड कैम्पेन' में दिखलाई गई है, लेकिन यह बात सही है कि बहुत जमीन 'ग्रो मोर फूड कैम्पेन' की स्कीम के अन्दर आई है और इसमें मुमकिन है यह जमीन आई होगी।

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I do not know whether in this way thousands of acres of land have been shown under the "Grow More Food Campaign"; but it is true that large areas have been brought under the "Grow More Food Campaign". It is possible that such areas also have been included.

Shri S. Nagappa: Will the Government consider the desirability of forming collective farms on a co-operative basis in order to grow more food?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: That is a matter which has been under consideration. But we have not yet reached a stage of the work being undertaken by the Government in that respect.

Dr. B. Pattabhai Sitaramayya: May I add that the progress of the 'Grow More Food Campaign' has been impeded especially in Deltaic and irrigated lands on account of tyranny of the experts and the engineers who are not willing to relax their time-honoured and traditional rules, and if so, or if not, will the Government kindly give instructions that they should relax such rules consistently with efficiency?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: It is difficult for me to answer that. I do not know what is meant by the "tyranny of experts".

Mr. B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur: Have the Government considered the advisability of associating non-officials, preferably Members of the Legislature, in giving effect to the schemes for Grow More Food?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How about the peasants' organisations?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I understand that in some provinces they have got organisations on which non-officials are represented.

Seth Govinddas: Besides collective farming, have the Government thought and prepared any scheme of co-operative farming, which is much more easy than collective farming?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I know that nothing has been taken up by the Government of India on that line. It may be that some provincial governments have done something in the direction but I am not aware of that.

SUBVENTION TO PROVINCES FOR MANURE-SUPPLY

133. *Shri R. R. Diwakar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture please state the subventions granted to different provinces for the supply of various kinds of manures to agriculturists at rates lower than those ruling in the markets and the number of provinces which used the amounts for the purpose for which it was given?

(b) Do Government propose to place in the Library of the House copies of the Reports received from Provincial Governments with regard to the utilization of these amounts for the last six years?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) A statement showing the subventions given to the Provincial Governments for the supply of various kinds of manures at subsidised rates to the agriculturists is placed on the table. The amounts sanctioned are not utilised for purposes other than those for which they are given.

(b) The Government of India have been sanctioning grants to the Provinces under 'Grow More Food Campaign' since 1943-44. Copies of the reports received from the Provincial Governments will be placed in the library of the House.

Statement showing the subventions granted to different provinces for the supply of various kinds of manures to Agriculturists

Name of the province	1943-44	1944-45	1945-46	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Ajmer-Merwara	.	6,900	54,742	65,559	37,600	1,94,801
2. Assam	13,417	35,250	58,500	23,000	40,454	1,70,621
3. Baluchistan	.	17,938	30,234	51,463	..	99,635
4. Bengal	88,700	2,47,512	5,81,029	9,66,937	1,15,000	19,99,178
5. Bihar	.	93,600	3,88,915	2,90,043	45,450	8,18,008
6. Bombay	2,26,927	6,56,000	12,16,142	17,95,233	5,09,709	44,04,411
7. C. P. and Berar	4,70,000	3,38,000	3,60,739	4,30,937	2,97,393	18,97,069
8. Coorg	.	35,300	32,505	28,594	..	96,399
9. Delhi	.	..	..	..	..	..
10. Madras	24,000	13,47,333	8,19,635	28,92,850	90,283	51,74,151
11. N. W. F. P.	.	..	..	32,100	..	32,100
12. Orissa	29,250	92,000	2,14,517	2,63,530	..	5,99,297
13. Punjab	.	2,58,860	2,16,175	4,71,296	2,47,835	11,94,166
14. Sind	.	..	35,950	1,81,250	..	2,17,200
15. U. P.	1,25,000	2,57,140	2,65,534	4,08,591	..	10,56,265
Total	9,77,294	33,85,833	42,74,667	79,01,383	13,83,724	1,79,22,901

Shri R. R. Diwakar: May I know why some of the Provinces have not used all the subventions made to them in this behalf?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: It is not possible for me to say: the provinces will be in a better position to answer the question. One thing that has been brought to my notice is that some of the provinces were not able to get steel, coal and cement and that was responsible to some extent for holding up some of the schemes.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the advisability of publishing at least annual reports of the distribution of the grants under the Grow More Food Campaign, the results achieved in different provinces and also whether Government have got any machinery to see that these difficulties experienced by provincial governments in utilising the grants are removed and to what extent the Grow More Food Campaign is being developed in different provinces?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: We shall try to get a report of the kind suggested, prepared and circulated. As regards the question of having some officers for the purpose of helping the provinces, we have already got such officers who are in touch with them. It is a matter really for the provinces to suggest and it may be that some of the provinces may not like too much interference from the Centre.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that some of the provinces are not able to get their due quotas of iron and steel and other materials from the Supply Department and would it not be better for the Government to use their good offices in helping the provincial governments in their dealings with the Supply Department?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: We in the Centre have been doing our best to get the supplies for the provinces. The system so far has been that the Government of India allocated the steel and other materials to the provinces and it was left to the provincial government to allocate out of the total quantity allocated to them to various items such as buildings, bridges, agricultural purposes, etc. A short time ago we arranged to allocate separately for agricultural purposes, so that what is allocated for agricultural purposes may not be used for other purposes.

SUPPLY OF FERTILISING MATERIAL

134. *Shri R. R. Diwakar: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our manure requirements fall short of the total quantity necessary for the area under the plough;

(b) if the answer to (a) above be in the affirmative, the steps taken by Government for making use of every source of fertilising material; and

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a ban on the export of oil cakes, oil-seeds, bones either raw or crushed or material, which can be directly turned into manure here?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) Government of India have been encouraging the development and utilisation of all local resources for preparing manure in the following manner:—

(1) Schemes have been initiated for increasing the quantity of Compost prepared in villages, in certain areas by the award of prizes and subsidies. 8,000 villages are at present operating this scheme, and their total production is about 12 lakhs tons of manure per year.

(2) Schemes have been started in some towns for converting urban refuse into manure. About 600 municipalities are at present preparing about 500,000 tons of Compost per year.

(3) A factory producing 7,500 tons of Sulphate of Ammonia is already operating in Mysore State. Another factory for producing 50,000 tons of Sulphate of Ammonia has recently gone into operation in Travancore State. The Government of India is establishing a factory at Sindhri with a capacity to manufacture 3,50,000 tons of Sulphate of Ammonia and this is under construction. Imported and indigenous supplies have been organised into a fertilizer pool to ensure equitable distribution of the available supplies among different areas.

(4) The Government of India are importing maximum possible quantities of chemical fertilizers allotted to us by the I. E. F. C. and available from other sources.

(5) The Government of India have banned the export of uncrushed bones and bone-meal and are encouraging the production and distribution of bone-meal and super-phosphates in the country. Rock-Phosphate is also being imported for conversion into super-phosphate.

(c) Only a limited quantity of oil-cakes, oilseeds and crushed bones and bone-grist is exported from India.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: Do I understand that the quantities of manure that were mentioned by the Minister are in addition to what was already being produced?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: These figures relate to what is being done under our auspices.

Seth Govinddas: Will Government consider the question whether it would not be better to have one factory for each province for producing Sulphate of Ammonia?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: The factory for producing Sulphate of Ammonia is a complicated kind of factory. Government has in hand the establishment of one factory at Sindhri and I do not know what time it will take to get it ready but I am told that it is not easy to start a factory.

Mr. Speaker: Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru wanted to ask a supplementary question.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Sir, my question has been anticipated and answered by the Honourable the Minister.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I know from the Honourable Minister if the Government of India has deputed a Bombay merchant to Soviet Russia for the purpose of securing supplies of Sulphate of Ammonia? If so, with what result?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: We have not heard anything in reply as yet.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it a fact that one company called Messrs. Parry and Co., in Madras has been given more or less a monopoly in the distribution of the manures got from the I. E. F. C. and as a result the price of chemical manure to the growers has been artificially inflated?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I should like to have notice of that question.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I know from the Honourable Minister whether it is a fact that special machinery was going to be imported from abroad for the Sindhri factory for the purpose of converting gypsum from the Khewra salt mines? Now that the mine has gone out of our hands, what is the state of affairs in regard to the machinery that is being imported for the Sindhri factory?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I am not in a position to answer that question. It is a question which should properly be addressed to the Minister in charge of Industries and Supplies.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know whether any steps are being taken to relate the prices of grains with the prices of manure, so that the manure may be used by the agriculturists?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I may say that no particular step has been taken in the direction but I take it that the price of manure is such as to make it profitable for the cultivator to use it.

Shri K. Santhanam: Is the Honourable Minister aware that the prices of manure today are comparatively much higher than the prices of grain in relation to pre-war prices?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: That may be so. I am not in a position to answer the question off hand.

EDIBLE AND NON-EDIBLE OIL CAKES

135. *Shri R. R. Diwakar: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture please state:

(a) the total quantity of different kinds of oil-cake produced by—(i) expellers, (ii) rotaries, and (iii) country ghanies;

(b) the manurial value of non-edible cakes; and

(c) whether major portion of edible cakes could be spared for cattle-feeding in view of the fact that the area under cotton is decreasing with the consequence that there is great scarcity of cotton seed?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) A statement giving such information as is available, is placed on the table of the House.

(b) The manurial value of oilcakes is generally proportionate to their Nitrogen content. The Nitrogen contents of non-edible oilcakes are:

Castor cake	..	4.37%
Neem cake	..	5.22%
Mahua cake	..	2.51%
Dhupak cake	..	1.13%
Karanj cake	..	3.97%
Undi cake	..	3.63%

(c) Extract statistics showing the proportion of oilcakes used as cattle-feeds and manure are not available. The distribution of oilcake is controlled by the Provincial Governments who no doubt take into consideration local factors such as urgency of the need of manure, alternative sources of cattle-feeds etc.

Statement showing the production of oilcakes by Expellers, Rotaries and Country Ghanies
Method of Extraction per annum

Serial No.	Kinds of oilcakes	* Expellers and Rotaries	Country Ghanies	Total per annum
		(tons)	(tons)	(tons)
1	Rape & Mustard	270,000	270,000	540,000
2	Ground-nut	638,000	189,000	827,000
3	Linseed	93,000	49,500	142,500
4	Cocoanut	65,000	14,000	79,000
5	Sesamum	50,000	150,000	200,000
6	Cottonseed	175,000	†	175,000
	Total	12,91,000	6,72,500	19,63,500

* Separate figures for expellers and rotaries are not available.

† Production figure is not available. The annual production by village Ghanies is however negligible.

USE OF OIL CAKES AND BONE-MEAL AS MANURE

136. *Shri R. R. Diwakar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government are aware that there is deficiency of nitrogen in the soil of many provinces and of phosphates in the tracts of Peninsular India?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above is in the affirmative do Government propose to take steps so that—(i) oil-cakes containing high percentage of nitrogen, and (ii) bone-meal containing high percentage of phosphates, are fully utilized for manuring the different areas and various crops for which they are suitable?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) Oilcake is used both for cattle-feed and manurial purposes and is not allowed to be exported except for small quantities to Ceylon. The export of bone-meal is also prohibited and all the available bone-meal is used for making manurial mixtures.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government ever examined the possibilities of raising green manure on the railway linings and the road linings, as was done in certain parts of the Punjab on District Board roads?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: As I understand, green manuring cannot be raised in one place and transported to another place. It has to be raised on the plot where it has to be used. So, any green manuring raised on railway sidings will not be of use elsewhere.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are not Government aware of the fact that in Southern India in very many areas green manure is being grown as a special thing for manurial purposes alone and it is cut and taken over to the fields where it is being used as manure?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I shall have that matter investigated.

Shri A. P. Pattani: Is the Government aware that there are bone-meal factories in some states who are not receiving any quota from the Government for exporting the produce outside India and who are consequently not finding a market for their accumulated produce either in India or out of India?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: As I have said, our policy has been to ban the export of bone or bone-meal. We have allowed export only of a small quantity of about 40,000 tons and no more than that. If the factories that are in the country can utilise the bone available in the States I am sure they will take advantage of it. But I would request the Honourable Member to communicate this information to us so that we may take up the matter.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: How many factories are there in the country for the production of bone-meal and what is the total amount of production?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I would like to have notice of that question.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: Do Government intend to make a general survey and examination of the different soils in India with a view to finding out what are the deficiencies, as was suggested by the Royal Commission on Agriculture?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: We are trying to have some kind of survey made, but it is a very big question to survey the entire country for quality of the land. An attempt is however being made in that direction.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is the Honourable Minister aware that there is no effective machinery of Government in the country—either Provincial or Central—to disseminate the right type of information and knowledge about the utility of particular types of manure for particular plots of land?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: It is difficult for me to answer that because it is a matter of opinion whether the machinery is effective or not.

STATEMENT I

Showing Imports of Cotton Textiles during the period April—June 1947

Cotton twist and yarn	330,048 lbs.
Canvas	15,857 yds.
Handkerchiefs and shawls	347,107 nos.
Stockings and socks	30,863 lbs.
Underwear	3,997 lbs.
Lace and net	362,636 yds.
Cotton piecegoods	8,408,366 yds.
Fents	2,969,254 yds.
Cotton ropes	90,770 lbs.
Cotton thread	507,266 lbs.
Cotton blankets	352 lbs.
Cotton goods mixed with other materials	2,009 yds.
Cotton manufactures, other sorts	21,063 lbs.

STATEMENT II

Showing allocation of cloth to each province or zone during 1947 referred to in reply to part (c) of Starred Question No. 139
(Figures in Bales)

Name of province or zone	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November
1. Bombay	16,784	6,595	7,794	10,585	9,127	9,334	9,462	8,914	9,090	9,328	9,713
2. Western India States	2,099½	2,221	2,100	2,263	2,193	2,188	2,150	2,150	2,150	2,150	2,150
3. Central India States	6,622	5,298	5,265	5,688	5,374	5,584	5,505	5,534	5,888	5,989	5,969
4. Assam	4,820	5,110	4,937	4,802	5,043	4,730	4,669	4,761	3,503	3,575	3,458
5. West Bengal	20,373	17,310	17,770	19,249	19,157	20,654	18,655	15,854	5,091	3,946	5,043
6. Bihar	19,475	20,252	20,036	20,102	19,906	25,182	20,466	22,167	20,723	19,635	19,854
7. C. P. & Berar	962	1,025	971	1,249	531	4,660	2,073	1,365	1,327	1,227	2,421
8. Orissa	6,357	5,547	6,372	6,310	6,009	6,022	5,569	5,489	5,412	5,542	5,786
9. East Punjab	28,095	16,533	16,864	19,730	22,188	25,908	19,867	19,978	8,548	9,182	9,659
10. Ajmer-Merwara	257	345	389	389	389	278	389	381	388	389	433
11. Rajputana	5,411	4,149	5,202	6,141	5,542	4,997	5,760	5,428	6,222	6,206	6,448
12. Madras	11,705	9,309	5,818	7,440	8,802	10,310	11,725	11,499	7,893	14,157	7,077
13. U. P.	21,257	11,382	11,714	16,445	16,667	15,840	15,816	14,690	17,101	15,192	14,499
14. Baroda	2,536	1,133	1,826	1,940	2,364	1,468	1,757	1,818	1,872	1,897	2,067
15. Mysore	202	172	120	407	543	843	539	736½	1,342	358	1,371
16. Hyderabad (Dn')	3,466	2,151	3,418	3,251	3,629	3,940	4,280	3,978	4,039	4,064	4,216

Not t — Figures up to August are for the Provinces of Bengal and Punjab as they existed prior to partition.

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NATIONALISATION OF RAILWAYS

137. *Shri S. Nagappa: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal or scheme under the contemplation of Government to nationalise the railways;

(b) if so, what are the railways that are already nationalised and what are those which will be nationalised shortly; and

(c) whether Government propose to consider the desirability of increasing the number of III class compartments in view of the fact that they are more paying than the other classes and thus avoid congestion also?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) It is the policy of Government to purchase Company-owned Railways, where contracts with Companies authorize Government to do so, provided their purchase is justified on both administrative and financial grounds.

(b) Barring certain small Narrow Gauge and Metre Gauge Company-owned branch lines, all the major Railways are already owned and managed by Government. Government have decided to purchase the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway Extensions, a part of which will be converted to Metre Gauge for providing a through rail link between Assam and the rest of India.

The question of purchase of the following branch lines is under the consideration of Government:

1. Barsi Light Railway.
2. Pachora Jamner Railway.
3. Matheran Light Railway.
4. Darjeeling Himalayan Railway.

(c) It is the Government's policy to increase the accommodation provided for III Class passengers to the extent justified by public requirements. With this end in view, since the termination of the war, 173 Broad Gauge and 118 Metre Gauge coaches (in terms of 4-wheeled units) have been built. Over 600 III Class coaches, also in terms of 4-wheeled units, are under construction.

275 III Class coaches are with the Ministry of Defence yet in use on military movements. Their being returned and repaired will add to the accommodation available.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are these figures of construction of new coaches, in addition to the coaches to be constructed and placed on the line to make up for wastage?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: These are coaches which have been ordered for the purpose of meeting the increased traffic requirements. The question of providing new types of coaches—that I think is what the Honourable Member is raising—is a different matter which comes up in connection with another question of which my honourable friend has given notice.

Shri S. Nagappa: In view of the fact that most of the third class coaches are packed to the maximum, will the Government consider the desirability of providing third class coaches with electric fans?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: There is a question on that point later, to which I propose to give a reply.

K. T. M. Ahmed Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur: Is the Government aware that many of these coaches, including even the upper class compartments, are very leaky and are in a state of disrepair, and will Government take steps to repair these coaches and compartments?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As much repair work on coaches as our workshops are in a position to tackle is at present being done. Whether it would be possible for us to do the repair work more speedily is a matter which will depend on the extent to which we can increase workshop capacity, which raises a rather big issue.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: At what point the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway is to be bifurcated to link up Assam?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That proposal has been accepted by Government and I have already appointed a senior Engineering officer to make the necessary survey. I expect that in the course of two working seasons, that is to say within a period of three years, we should be able to complete the project.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Are the Government aware that on the O. T. Railway there are half a dozen casualties daily on account of congestion?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The question of the O. T. Railway is one which is a chronic headache to me as Minister for Railways. I am aware of the difficulties experienced by passengers. The question of remedying the present state of things on the O. T. Railway is a matter which is receiving my very anxious attention.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know whether the Government propose to take the Tezpur Bal Para Railway under their management?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That is a different question.

Begum Aizaz Rasul: Is the Honourable Minister aware that the engines of the O. T. Railway are so old that the trains never reach in time and are sometimes ten to twelve hours late in reaching their destination?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The senility of engines is a consideration that applies not merely to the O. T. Railway but to other Railways also.

RICE DEFICIT IN MADRAS PROVINCE

138. *Shri S. Nagappa: Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) whether Madras is a deficit province so far as rice is concerned; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to relieve the shortage of rice in view of the fact that South India is a predominantly rice consuming area?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) Yes.

(b) Attention is invited to the Memorandum on the Food Position circulated to the members.

PRODUCTION, IMPORT AND ALLOTMENT OF MILL CLOTH

139. *Shri S. Nagappa: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of mill cloth produced in the Indian Union;

(b) the total quantity imported from outside the Indian Union;

(c) the quantity allotted to each province; and

(d) the basis on which the allotment is made?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) The total quantity of mill cloth produced in the Indian Union averages 302 million yards a month.

(b), (c) and (d). Statements giving the required information are placed on the table of the House.

STATEMENT III

Alotments are made on the basis of the following per capita quotas, which are based on pre-war consumption. They make allowance for handloom production in each area

Assam	10
Baroda	13
West Bengal	10
Bihar	11
Bombay	13
Central Provinces	10
Central India	10
Orissa	10
East Punjab & Delhi	13
Rajputana	10
South	10
United Provinces	11
W. I. States	11

K. T. M. Ahmad Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur: Is it not a fact that the quota of cloth allotted to Madras is comparatively lower than that allotted to other provinces like Bombay, and in view of the fact that Madras is a comparatively poor Province and that the people wear only cotton cloth throughout the year while Provinces like Bombay and the Punjab . . .

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I find that Honourable Members when seeking information are advancing arguments. That is not permissible during Question Hour. They should seek information without advancing arguments for or against the proposition. The Honourable Member may please put the question.

K. T. M. Ahmad Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur: Is it not a fact that the quota of mill cloth allotted per head to Madras is less than that allotted per head to provinces like Bombay and the Punjab?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The total quota allotted to Madras is on the average all-India basis, namely 10 yards per head. Of course the handloom cloth in Madras is taken into account, and therefore mill made cloth is proportionately less.

K. T. M. Ahmad Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur: In view of the fact that the people are comparatively poor, will the Government consider the desirability of reducing the quota of handloom cloth and increase proportionately the quota of mill cloth per head to Madras?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That depends on whether the handloom cloth can go from Madras to other provinces at the prices offered. In fact I discussed this question with the Madras Ministers about a week ago and certain alternative proposals have been made which are now under examination.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Is it not a fact that the policy of distributing cloth to provinces is fundamentally defective and therefore are Government considering the question of removing control on cloth?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The fundamental defect is shortage of cloth. So far as re-examination of the question of distribution is concerned, that also has been taken up and is under consideration.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Are Government not aware that there have been complaints made that there have been a number of bales lying in some of the mills and the millowners are responsible for holding them?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask what the total quantity of cloth imported from outside the Indian Union is and whether the quantity comes from Japan or from anywhere else?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The total quantity imported in 1945 was 3 million yards: In 1946, it has been 14 million yards.

Shri Rameshwar Prasad Sinha: Are Government aware that out of the total quantity of cloth allotted to each of the provinces, the proportion of non-utility cloth is greater than the actual requirements, and if so, do Government propose to rectify this defect?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It has been difficult to find a definition of the expression 'non-utility cloth'. What is 'utility cloth' in one province becomes 'non-utility' in another province, but I admit there has been some difficulty due to the allotment of particular kinds of cloth which are disliked by particular provinces; that matter also is under consideration.

QUANTITY OF IRON, STEEL AND CEMENT IN INDIAN UNION

140. *Shri S. Nagappa: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of iron, steel and cement that was at the disposal of the Indian Union for the previous year and the current year; and

(b) the quantity of allotments made to each province and state?

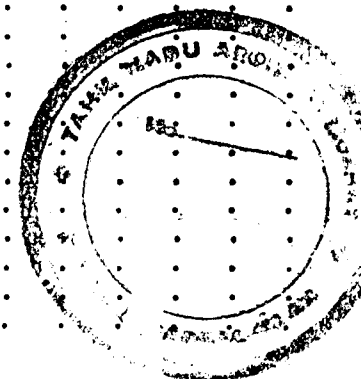
The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a)

	1946	1947 (Up to September)
Iron and Steel for India and Pakistan	9,24,058 tons	7,81,210 tons
Cement (For India)	16,10,374 tons	10,95,789 tons.

(b) A statement showing allotment of steel for the year 1947 to Provinces and States for distribution to the general public, including small scale manufacturers of consumer goods, is laid on the table of the House. No Steel allotments were made Province or Statewise during 1946. Regarding Cement, allotments are made to areas which are not divided according to Provinces or States, each area being under the control of a Regional Honorary Cement Adviser.

Statement showing Allotment of Steel for the year 1947 to Provinces and States

Name of Province or State	Allotment in Tons
PROVINCES—	
1. Bombay	16,750
2. Assam	4,890
3. Madras	24,750
4. Bengal	31,250
East Bengal (including Sylhet in Pd. IV/47)	2,000
5. U. P.	30,300
6. Bihar	17,600
7. Punjab	16,750
West Punjab (only in Pd. IV/47)	1,000
8. Baluchistan	1,600
9. N. W. F. P.	1,700
10. C. P. and Berar	6,775
11. Orissa	3,675
12. Delhi	375
13. Panth Piploda	75
14. Coorg	125
15. Andaman Islands	175
16. Sind	4,050



(Name of Province or State)	Allotment in Tons
MAJOR STATES—	
1. Hyderabad	6,850
2. Mysore	2,250
3. Kashmir	1,550
4. Gwalior	425
5. Rewa	585
6. Indore	399
7. Bhopal	399
8. Jaipur	1,341
9. Jodhpur	1,155
10. Udaipur	405
11. Baroda	1,371
12. Kolhapur	350
13. Patiala	611
14. Cooch Bihar	170
15. Mayurbhanj	170
16. Tripura	167
17. Travancore	2,310
18. Cochin	425
19. Pudukottah	116
SMALL STATES—	
Through Residents	3,666
Total	1,88,465

N. B.—These figures include only allotments made to the Provinces and States for distribution to the general public including small-scale manufacturers on consumer goods. Besides this, steel is also distributed to Provincial Governments for their development schemes and to private industries in the Provinces and States for steel processing, industrial development and maintenance requirements. No figures are readily available for these, Province or Statewise.

Seth Govinddas: Are Government thinking of removing all control from cement and iron?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: There is no control under law with regard to cement now. So far as iron and steel are concerned, the question has not been examined. It will be examined when production increases.

Shri S. Nagappa: Is the quantity of allotment made to each province handed over to the provincial government concerned or is it distributed through some agency of the Central Government?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Certain proportion is allotted to the provinces, and so far as that proportion is concerned, the provinces are entitled to do whatever they like. Other allotments are made through the Centre and distribution is made through the Iron and Steel Controller in Calcutta.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know, Sir, whether in making iron and steel allotment, Government give preference to industrial or agricultural purposes?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Both.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I ask, Sir, in view of the fact that there is food scarcity, whether Government will at least consider in future to give priority for agricultural purposes rather than for industrial purposes?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: As has been explained by the Food Minister in answer to another question this morning, we have made a separate arrangement with regard to the distribution of iron and steel for agricultural purposes for period I, 1948. The whole difficulty arises on account of non-availability of iron and steel. What we have done this year is this. We are going to fix a certain quota for agricultural purposes, and even though on account of non-availability the provinces may get less than what is allotted to them, they must spend the allotted quota for agriculture. That is being done from 1948.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know what is the estimate of steel and iron required for the country to satisfy its full needs?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Unfortunately our production has gone down in 1947. We are now short by about 29,000 tons per month so far as 1947 production is concerned. So we require at least that much in order to meet the minimum requirements of the country.

Shri S. Nagappa: In view of the fact that the Honourable Minister will allot quotas for both, may I ask Sir, what percentage of quota will he be pleased to allot for food purposes as it is more important than industry?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: In this matter we shall be guided by the advice which we shall get from the Ministry of Agriculture, and we shall make every effort to give priority to food and agricultural products.

Begum Aizaz Rasul: May I know, whether out of the quota allotted to provinces, the Government earmarks a certain percentage for government requirements and for the use of the public?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: What is done is this. There are certain quotas allotted to the provinces. In addition to that, there are quotas allotted for government purposes, and also separate quotas allotted for private industrial purposes.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know, Sir, if the production is increased by 29,000 tons, there will be no need for control?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: There may be, because this quantity is required just for our minimum requirements.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: Sir, may I know if the Government are aware that there are only 14 concerns in the country which produce iron and steel goods, and that in order to take advantage of various control rules they produce defective more than perfect goods so that the defective ones may not strictly come under the control regulations and they might reap profits to their advantage?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Well, I have no information on that. If the Honourable Member will supply me with details, and particularly the names of the factories which are doing this sort of thing, we shall take speedy action.

ALLOTMENT OF PETROL TO COORG

141. *Shri C. M. Poonacha: Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the petrol allotment made to Coorg during the years 1942-43, 1943-44, 1944-45, 1945-46, 1946-47, and 1947-48;

(b) the actual consumption of petrol in Coorg during these years; and

(c) whether any quantity was surrendered out of the allotted quantity during these years; if so, how much and when?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The quarterly petrol quotas allotted to Coorg during the six rationing quarters ending January, 1948, are as follows:—

Quarter Ending.	Gallons (Quantities are in thousand gallons)
October 9	72
January 1947	76
April 1947	82
July 1947	82
October 1947	88
January 1948	62

For the February-April, 1942, rationing quarter, a quota of approximately 23,000 gallons was allotted. During the intervening period no specific quotas were allocated to any of the Provinces or States but an over all direction was given to all of them to achieve the maximum possible economy so as to result in a saving of 50 per cent.

(b) I lay on the table a statement showing the actual consumption of motor spirit in Coorg from the 1st February, 1942, to the 31st July, 1947. For the subsequent period figures of actual consumption are not available.

(c) Out of the allocation of 88,000 gallons, for the August-October, 1947, rationing quarter, 10,000 gallons were surrendered by Coorg. There were no surrenders in any of the other rationing quarters.

Statement showing actual quarterly consumption of motor spirit in Coorg commencing from the quarter February-April 1942

	Gallons
February—April 1942	20,870
May—July 1942	21,004
August—October 1942	16,440
November 1942—January 1943	19,011
February—April 1943	26,455
May—July 1943	18,217
August—October 1943	17,241
November 1943—January 1944	20,756
February—April 1944	22,154
May—July 1944	22,458
August—October 1944	21,984
November 1944—January 1945	25,996
February—April 1945	29,096
May—July 1945	25,423
August—October 1945	24,559
November 1945—January 1946	33,330
February—April 1946	40,271
May—July 1946	34,786
August—October 1946	35,264
November 1946—January 1947	45,022
February—April 1947	57,468
May—July 1947	53,481

ELECTRIC FANS IN THIRD AND INTER CLASS COMPARTMENTS

142. *Shri Ram Chandra Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways please state whether it is a fact that Government have decided to provide electric fans in the third and inter class compartments of passenger trains on the State Railways?

(b) If so, when do Government expect to do it?

(c) If not, will Government do so now?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) It has been decided to provide electric fans in compartments of all new third class coaches, subject to the availability of electrical equipment.

Electric fans will also be provided in any new Inter Class stock which is built.

(b) The provision of electric fans will be carried out as new coaches are built.

(c) Does not arise.

Seth Govinddas: By what time do the Government think, Sir, that they will be able to replace these old coaches by new ones?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am afraid, Sir, that is rather a difficult question but it is a matter which is receiving our attention. The position is that as regards the greater part of our existing coaches the generating capacity of the electrical equipment which is set up in these coaches, is not sufficient for the provision of electric lights in all the coaches. Therefore, if we want to equip the existing coaches it will be necessary to indent for a very large supply of electrical equipment in the shape of dynamos and batteries. But with the present limited availability of these materials the possibility of Government doing anything on the lines suggested by the Honourable Member is restricted.

Shri Ram Chandra Gupta: Will the Government be able to fit these third-class and inter-class compartments with electric fans by the next summer?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: All the third-class and inter-class coaches which are now being built will be equipped as far as possible with electric fans.

Shri K. Santhanam: Will the Honourable Minister consider the establishment of a factory under Railway Management for the manufacture of these electric fans?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That, Sir, raises a very big issue on which it is impossible for me to give a reply.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, it is in the experience of many that passengers are allowed to hang to door handles and windows. Will the Honourable Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of putting fans on the doors and windows for these hanging passengers?

Mr. Speaker: The question does not arise.

Shri Ram Chandra Gupta: Do Government propose to provide electric fans in the existing third and inter class carriages?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sir, that is a question that I have already answered.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Does the Honourable Minister know, Sir, what percentage of the existing fans are in working order?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: A very substantial percentage.

Some Honourable Members: No, no.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: What steps are Government taking to prevent the pilferage of electrical equipment in compartments?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Every possible step is being taken.

Shri M. S. Aney: Are Government aware that some of the existing fans have no switches at all?

(No reply).

SUPPLY OF DRINKING WATER ON G. I. P. AND E. I. RAILWAYS

143. *Shri Ram Chandra Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways please state whether Government are aware that there is no adequate arrangement for the supply of water to passengers on the Great Indian Peninsula and East Indian Railways?

(b) Do Government propose to take steps to make adequate provision for drinking water on all stations throughout the day?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) and (b). Government understand that existing arrangements for the supply of drinking water to passengers travelling on the Great Indian Peninsula and East Indian Railways are not inadequate. The Great Indian Peninsula Railway employ a permanent complement of 319 watermen at 208 of their 546 passenger stations. During the hot weather, over 700 watermen are employed at 346 stations. Arrangements for providing more taps on passenger platforms at stations where a pipe-water supply is available, are under examination.

On the East Indian Railway, permanent watermen are provided, except at very small stations at some of which, however, water can be obtained by passengers from water-stands; During the hot weather, the East Indian Railway also increase the number of watermen employed.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Is it not a fact, Sir, that these employees who are employed for supplying water in the hot season are sometimes permanently attached to Railway employees and therefore do not get the advantage of serving water on the platform?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: In some cases, Sir, that sort of thing probably happens, but it is inevitable under the existing arrangements.

Shri Ram Chandra Gupta: Are not Government aware that at practically no station water is supplied to the passengers?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As a matter of fact this question has been receiving a great deal of attention at our hands. (*An Honourable Member:* For years and years). There are two directions in which we propose to move: first of all, we want to provide more hydrants on station platforms; the other is that on long distance trains where the problem is particularly acute, we want to provide third class compartments entirely devoted to the provision of drinking water as well as travelling watermen. I hope, Sir, to get a definite move on with these proposals.

Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Do Government think it proper to allow the water suppliers to shout "Hindu water, Muslim water"?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That, Sir, is a long standing trouble. The arrangement still exists but I think what has been altered is the label under which the water is distributed.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: Is there any 'Scheduled Castes Water'?

श्री० आर० वी० धुलेकर: क्या सरकार ने इस बात पर विचार किया है कि वजाय इसके कि नौकर रखे जायें और वह पानी ढ़िलायें हर ट्रेन में या जो हर गाडी में नल लगा दिये जायें या ट्रेन की केवल एक गाडी में एक स्थान पर नल लगा दिया जाय तो सरकार का खर्च कम होगा।

Shri R. V. Dhulekar: Have Government considered over this question that instead of employing watermen for supplying drinking water, water taps be installed either in each compartment of every train or a tap be fixed at one place in a particular compartment of the train? This would reduce Government's expense.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Interesting suggestion, which I would like to consider.

IMPORT OF FOODSTUFFS

144. *Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Will the Honourable Minister of Food please state the total amount of loss sustained by the Government of India during the year ending March 1947 on account of import of wheat and other food articles from foreign countries and also the purchases of foodstuffs made so far from the Government of Pakistan?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: Rs. 20.59 crores. This represents the loss resulting from the decision to subsidize imported foodgrains so as not to increase the prices paid by the consumer in April 1946. About Rs. 8 Lakhs loss is expected from imports of condensed milk from U. S. A. as a consignment of 500 tons was received in a deteriorated condition.

Shri B. Das: In view of the heavy losses to the Government on account of the importation of foodstuffs from foreign countries and in view of the heavy expenditure incurred in importing foodstuffs from abroad, have Government considered the advice of Mahatma Gandhi that every citizen of India should fast one day in every fortnight and what steps have they taken to enforce this suggestion?

Mr. Speaker: The question does not arise. The Honourable Minister need not answer.

Mr. B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur: Will the Honourable Minister for Food please state whether the Government have considered the advisability of increasing the price of rice, so that agriculturists who produce rice may find it worthwhile to do so?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: The matter is under consideration at the present moment.

Shri S. Nagappa: In view of the fact that the imported wheat and other foodstuffs are very far from satisfactory from the point of view of quality, what steps have Government taken to ensure that before these are imported into India the quality is one fit to be consumed by the human beings in this country?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: We have got a staff which inspects the foodstuffs before they are imported and also after they are landed here, but such vast quantities are being imported that it is possible that in some cases, the consignments may not be satisfactory.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Is the Government aware that the District Magistrate of Gorakhpur asked for 2,50,000 maunds of wheat seed but that he was not given a single maund of wheat seed, with the result that one lac of acres of wheat land in the district have remained uncultivated, and a very large area of wheat land had to be sown with other crops.

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I have answered that question already. I am not aware of this, but as a matter of fact I know this, that we have got some seed from the U. P. which was supplied to other Provinces.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Will the Government kindly make enquiries?

(No reply).

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BOOKING OF DOGS IN PASSENGER COMPARTMENTS

145. *Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways please state whether it is a fact that Railway authorities have made rules allowing passengers to carry dogs in the compartments in which they travel?

(b) Are Government aware that several complaints have been made that this causes great nuisance to passengers and that the system should therefore be stopped?

(c) Are Government aware that prior to this rule being made, no passenger was allowed to carry dogs in compartments?

(d) Do the Government of India propose to take steps to amend this rule so that no passenger is allowed to carry dogs with him in the compartment in which he travels?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes, rules and conditions have been in existence for years permitting dogs being carried in compartments (except Air Conditioned) provided other passengers in the compartment do not object.

(b) Government have no reason to think that present rules cause inconvenience to the travelling public particularly as one of the conditions for allowing dogs in compartments is that other passengers do not object; if they do, the dogs have to be removed to the brake van.

(c) The present practice has been in force for many years and Government are not aware of any specific prohibition (except in Air Conditioned) of dogs being carried in compartments prior to a certain date as stated in the question.

(d) Government do not think that there is a case for modification of the rules.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Is it not a fact that one of the members of the Railway Advisory Committee, on a specific grievance from the passengers that these dogs were not removed notwithstanding the passengers having objected to their presence, resolved representing to the Railway Board to remove the dogs?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I remember that case very well, and, it was in connection with it that I went personally into this question. The conclusion that I arrived at was this: There are at present at least four safeguards in this matter. First of all, they have to get the permission of the Station Master at the starting station. Secondly, they have to get the concurrence of the passengers who are travelling in the compartment. Thirdly, a person who takes a dog in the compartment has to pay double fare. Fourthly, if the passenger objects and the dog is removed to the brake van, then he forfeits the excess fare. It seems to me that these safeguards are adequate and there is not at present an urgent case for modification of the rules. I would like to suggest to Mr. Sidhwa who is a very kind-hearted person judging from the efforts that he has been making on behalf of passengers, that he should not insist, if he knows the conditions under which these dogs have to travel, especially in hot weather in brake vans, on a proposal which would mean inflicting intolerable cruelty on these poor dumb creatures?

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: I would like to ask the Honourable Minister whether he is himself satisfied that the Station Master from where the dogs are embarked and the passengers get in insists upon these conditions, and whether the concurrence of the passengers is taken?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: If it is a question of one or two safeguards alone, I can quite understand the Honourable Member, but since there is a multiplicity of safeguards, I expect that at some point they must be effective.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Is it not a fact that there are dangerous dogs also?

Mr. Speaker: Next question. Enough of these dogs.

RETURN OF ROLLING STOCK LENT TO MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

146. *Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways please state:

(a) the number of rolling stock, both coaches and wagons for passengers and goods still remaining with the Military authorities;

(b) the names of the Railways to whom these belong and when they are likely to be released for public use;

(c) whether Government are aware that due to shortage of passenger coaches, great deal of hardship is caused to passengers at present;

(d) the number of new coaches under construction in various Railway workshops and the time when they are likely to be placed on the rails for the use of passengers;

(e) the number of coaches belonging to each Railway which have been returned to the Railway authorities by the Military after war upto the end of July 1947, and whether all the coaches so returned were in the same perfect order as on the date when they were requisitioned; and

(f) if not, the steps that Government have taken to recover the damages?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) 524 Broad Gauge coaches are still with the Ministry of Defence. This figure includes some stock belonging to the former N. W. and B. A. Railways.

No wagons are on loan to that Ministry.

(b) All the Broad Gauge Indian Government Railways have lent stock to the Ministry of Defence.

It is not possible to state with any certainty when all these coaches will be returned to the owning Railways. The Ministry of Defence are endeavouring to release these coaches as early as possible.

(c) Yes.

(d) 134 Broad Gauge and 97 Meter Gauge coaches are under construction in Indian Government Railways' Workshops for Indian Railways. These are expected to be put into traffic before the end of 1948. There are, in addition, about 300 Broad Gauge coaches expected from indigenous industry by the same time.

(e) The Ministry of Defence have released 977 of the 1,458 coaches placed at their disposal during the war. Information relating to the number of coaches returned to individual Railways is not readily available.

Few of the coaches returned by the Ministry of Defence showed undue deterioration having regard to wear and tear consequent on intensive use.

(f) Appropriate debits are raised against the Ministry of Defence for damages or deficiencies in the stock returned.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Out of these 524 coaches which are still with the military authorities, may I know how many of these are for the transport of British troops to be removed from India or whether these are for some other military purpose?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is for troop movements of all kinds.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Has the Government made any estimate of the total number of coaches they will require to accommodate passengers comfortably and what arrangements they are making for them?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is very difficult to give an answer to this question, but we have got a very large number of coaches on order. I have given only the number of coaches in respect of which I expect deliveries within a short period. The whole question boils down to this. If we are in a position to get fabricating and manufacturing capacity in the country to deal with all

the orders that we are prepared to place, we should certainly put in for a larger number. We are limited by this consideration.

Seth Govinddas: May I know how many coaches the military authorities have returned to the railways since the last three months?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: During the last three months I regret to say the position in that respect has deteriorated because, as Honourable Members are aware, we have had emergency conditions to face which required more movements of troops than before and therefore the rate at which the Defence Ministry has been releasing these coaches has slowed down. I think they are at present making further efforts to release.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: Will the Honourable Minister please state with reference to answer to question (b) which of the workshops are engaged in the new constructions?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: They are distributed over all Indian Railways.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

INSTALLATION OF LIGHTS IN RAILWAY CARRIAGES

147. *Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways please state:

(a) whether Government are aware that several of the lower and upper class passenger coaches on Railways are run without any light;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and why no steps have been taken so far to instal lights in all carriages;

(c) whether Government are aware that public have made representations to various Railways in regard to this matter;

(d) if so, the steps Government intend to take to instal lights; and

(e) whether Government have any plan to overhaul several carriages, fittings of which are either missing or not working?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Government understand that every compartment is provided with one light as a minimum.

(b) and (d). Government are informed that occasional absence of any light in a compartment is due usually to vandalism or theft. The importance of ensuring that compartments are adequately illuminated is fully realised by railways, and there are indications that improvements are being effected in this respect. Unfortunately, wastage from theft and vandalism continues to impose a heavy demand, particularly as the supply position is not yet normal. The total bulb requirements of Indian Government Railways for 1946 had been met to the extent of only 89 per cent. by the middle of June, 1947.

(c) Yes. Members of the public have represented to railways the absence or inadequacy of lighting in compartments.

(e) Carriages are periodically overhauled on all railways, and when coaches leave the shops, they are reasonably well equipped, but sometimes within a few weeks they are found stripped of essential fittings. Difficulty in obtaining parts makes the replacement of these items a continuous struggle.

TRANSPORT SERVICE IN NEW DELHI AND OLD DELHI

148. *Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Will the Honourable Minister of Transport please state:

(a) whether it is the intention of Government to purchase the G. N. I. T. Companys' bus service and the Tramways now plying in Old and New Delhi;

(b) if the answer to part (a) be in the negative, whether Government propose to take steps to see that the number of buses and trams are increased to meet the demand of the population of these two areas;

(c) whether Government have given monopoly to the present Companies, if so, the period of its expiry; and

(d) whether Government have received applications from any transport concern to run additional transport service in New Delhi and Old Delhi; if not, whether Government propose to consider such an application?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The matter is under consideration at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No monopoly has been given to the G. N. I. T. Company. Majority of the permits for various routes, held by that company are temporary.

As regards Tramways, the Delhi Central Electric Power Authority is running the tramways by virtue of the terms of their electric licence granted under the Indian Electricity Act, 1910.

(d) Answer to both the parts of the question is in the negative.

GOVERNMENT METALLURGICAL INSPECTORATE

149. *Shri Dabi Prosad Khaitan: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is, in important cities and centres of steel production, a Government examining and testing body called either the Government Metallurgical Inspectorate or by any other name;

(b) whether the said Inspectorate charge certain fees for inspection;

(c) what is the annual amount of fees, received by the Government Metallurgical Inspectorate and their annual expenditure; and

(d) whether there is any surplus over expenditure; if so, where it is credited?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Yes, the Government Metallurgical Inspectorate of the Directorate General of Industry and Supply.

(b) Yes.

(c) The annual amount of fees for the two financial years 1945-46 and 1946-47 are given below:—

1945-46	...	Rs. 12,54,099
1946-47	...	Rs. 6,26,919

It is difficult to give corresponding figures of expenditure as besides recurring expenditure pertaining to the Inspectorate, there is other expenditure of a general or non-recurring nature which has either to be averaged out over a period of years or to be distributed among various sections of the Inspection Wing of the Directorate General.

(d) For the reasons given under (c) above, it cannot be stated whether there is any surplus of fees earned over expenditure.

MANUFACTURE OF TELEPHONE PARTS IN INDIA

150. *Shri Debi Prasad Khaitan: Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) what parts of telephones used in India are manufactured in India and where;

(b) what is the difficulty in manufacturing in India those parts which are at present imported from abroad;

(c) what steps are being taken to manufacture in India the parts now imported from abroad; and

(d) whether Government could give some idea as to the period in which manufacture of the parts mentioned in part (b) above will be undertaken in India?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: (a) I presume that the question refers both to telephone exchange equipment and to subscribers' telephone apparatus. The following equipment and apparatus is manufactured in India at Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department Workshops at Jubbulpore, Calcutta and Bombay:—

(i) Manual exchange equipment, and

(ii) all parts, except dials and inset transmitters, of subscribers' telephone apparatus.

(b) The technique of manufacture of certain vital parts is a monopoly of certain foreign firms from whom patent rights must be acquired and technical and other assistance sought if manufacture is to be established in India.

(c) With the formation of the National Government, this question has been receiving the active consideration and has also been discussed with some of the leading industrialists in India who have taken some initiative in this respect.

(d) If the negotiations prove successful, it is expected that the manufacture of the parts mentioned in part (b) will be started within three years.

MANUFACTURE OF TELEGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT IN INDIA

151. *Shri Debi Prasad Khaitan: Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) what parts of telegraphic equipment required in India are manufactured within the country;

(b) how much telegraphic equipment has to be imported; and

(c) the steps which are being taken for manufacturing within the country all such telegraphic equipment as has to be imported from abroad at present?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: (a) The principal items of telegraph equipment manufactured in India are Baudot equipment, Morse sounders and keys. A large variety of small miscellaneous telegraph stores such as Switches, Irrestor and Heat Coil Strips, bells, Fuse Strips, Lightning Dischargers, Galvanometers, Cords and Plugs, Resistances are also manufactured.

(b) About 70 lakhs worth within the next five years.

(c) The question of making India self-sufficient in the matter of telegraph equipment will receive attention shortly.

PRODUCTION OF CONSUMER'S GOODS IN INDIA

152. *Shri Debi Prasad Khaitan: (a) Will the Honourable the Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state what are the general causes for reduced production or production not being increased of consumer's goods in the country?

(b) What steps are being taken by Government to obtain the maximum production of consumer goods to meet the needs of the country?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) The recent decline in the production of consumer as of other foods, and the inability to create new capacity are principally due to un-settled labour conditions, civil disturbances in certain parts of the country, and shortages of transport to meet the present enlarged demands of the country, of coal and of certain essential raw materials.

(b) The aforesaid causes themselves suggest the remedial action necessary. New transport facilities must be created, existing ones must be geared up to maximum effort and an era of co-operation between labour and employers must be ushered. Government are giving earnest consideration to all these questions. Communal disturbances seem now happily to be receding to the background. Shortages of certain raw materials, mainly of imported origin, are inevitable owing to world shortages but Government are examining the possibility of utilising available supplies to maximum advantage by a rationalisation of production, wherever possible.

PRODUCTION OF CEMENT IN INDIA

153. *Shri Debi Prasad Khaitan: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state what is the present annual production of cement in India, and what is the estimated production of cement in 1947?

(b) What is the maximum annual production capacity of the present factories?

(c) Is it a fact that cement is not available in the market due to transport difficulty, and production is not being increased for the same reason?

(d) What steps are being taken by Government to have the maximum production?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) The production of cement during 1946 in factories in the Indian Union was 15,42,326 tons. The production in these factories for the nine months ending 30th September, 1947 has been 10,29,812 tons. The estimated production for 1947 will, on this basis, be about 13,75,000 tons.

(b) 20,75,000 tons.

(c) Yes, Sir. Production has also been affected by inadequate supplies of coal and by labour troubles.

(d) In April of this year arrangements were made with the railway authorities to provide better transport facilities to cement factories. The cement industry was also asked to apply its organization to the study of transport conditions in the various Provinces and States and to closer co-ordination with the Railways. The cement industry responded well to the Government's request, and had it not been for their co-operation and the help rendered by the Railway authorities conditions would have been worse than they are now. These efforts, however, have been seriously impaired by the recent disturbances.

154. *Shri Dip Narayan Sinha: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that foot-passengers crossing Sonepur Bridge on the Oudh Tirhut Railway have to pay a toll?

(b) If so, what is the amount of toll which the passengers have to pay?

(c) Are Government aware that the Sonepur Bridge connects the rural parts of Tirhut and generally Kisans cross over the Bridge?

(d) Do Government propose to abolish the toll? If not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes.

(b) The toll is—

(i) Adult passengers 0-1-0 per trip.

(ii) Children under 12 years 0-0-6 per trip.

(c) Yes.

(d) Under the India (Provincial Constitution) Order, 1947 the responsibility for roads including footway over bridges is that of the Provincial Government, and "tolls" are also source of Provincial Revenue. The toll collected from this bridge is in lieu of the maintenance charges which the Provincial Government would otherwise have to pay, and was levied with the concurrence of the Bihar Government. If that Government decides to meet the maintenance expenditure from the Provincial Revenues the Central Government will have no objection to its abolition.

PROVISION OF LADIES' WAITING ROOM AND WATER AT HAJIPUR STATION

155. *Shri Dip Narayan Sinha: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that Hajipur is an important Junction Station on the Oudh Tirhut Railway, where passengers have generally to wait for about three hours for change of trains?

(b) Are Government aware that there is no waiting room for high class female passengers?

(c) Do Government propose to construct a waiting room for high class female passengers there?

(d) Are Government aware that there is no adequate arrangement for water supply at the Hajipur Station?

(e) If so, do Government propose to provide a few tube wells there for the present to increase the water supply?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Hajipur is an important station but not an important junction. Passengers generally do not have to wait for about three hours for change of trains. Passengers normally change trains at Sonapore, the station next to Hajipur.

(b) Government are aware that there is no upper class waiting room for ladies at Hajipur.

(c) Yes. Separate upper and inter class waiting rooms for ladies are to be constructed at Hajipur in 1949-50.

(d) Government are aware that existing arrangements are not altogether adequate, but watermen are constantly on duty to supply water to passengers.

(e) Orders have been issued to sink 3 tube-wells and on the platform one has already been sunk.

LATE DELIVERY OF POSTAL LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS

156. *Shri Gopal Narain: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications please state if it is a fact that postal letters and telegrams reach their destination very late?

(b) If so, what are the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: (a) There has been some deterioration in the Post and Telegraph services.

(b) The reasons for this are briefly as follows:—

(1) There is at present a large number of temporary employees some of whom do not even possess the minimum prescribed educational qualifications. These employees were recruited during the war when there was acute shortage of qualified men and the normal rules of recruitment had to be relaxed. It was not possible to give them adequate training prior to employment on operational duties owing to considerable increase in the volume of Post and Telegraph traffic and pressure of work. The work in some branches of the Posts and Telegraphs being of a specialized character, it takes a new entrant in those branches three or four years to acquire the necessary knowledge and experience. The inexperience of these temporary men has contributed largely to postal delays and missendings. Some of these temporary men are to be replaced by war service candidates, for whom Government have reserved 70 per cent. of the vacancies occurring between 29th June 1942 and 31st December 1945. Only about half of the reserved vacancies have so far been filled and it is expected that the balance will be filled by war service candidates within the next six months. The delay in recruiting war service candidates has been primarily due to the slow organisation of the Employment Exchanges.

(2) There has been a shortage of accommodation both for offices and residential purposes as also for mails in running trains, and it has been most difficult to secure adequate accommodation.

(3) The Indian Post and Telegraph Department have released nearly 9,000 employees who have opted for Pakistan. There has been considerable delay on account of disturbances in the arrival of staff from Pakistan who have opted for India, and even now many employees of the Department have not reported for duty. Further, employees coming from Pakistan are unfamiliar with the localities in which they are expected to serve. Postmen and telegraph messengers are not acquainted with the residents and beats of particular localities and sorters have to acquire familiarity with the new sorting lists. In the East Punjab Province and Delhi, the disturbances and floods leading to the suspension of train services and general dislocation of urban and rural life and certain difficulties experienced in maintaining telegraph lines have contributed to a large extent to the deterioration of the Postal and Telegraph services.

(4) Supervision has of late not been as effective as it should be. A concerted drive to improve matters has now been organised. A conference of Postmasters-General was convened recently and the decisions taken at this conference are being quickly implemented. Heads of Circles have been instructed to organise supervise visits to Post and Telegraph offices and check delivery and despatch of mails and telegrams and a Complaints Organisation has also been set up. It is hoped that as a result of the steps taken, there will be a marked improvement in the Post and Telegraph services within the next 2 or 3 months.

BRIDGE ACROSS CAUVERY RIVER AT PUGALUR

157. *Dr. V. Subrahmanyam: Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that plans and estimates have been prepared for constructing an entirely new bridge across Cauvery River at Pugalur in Trichinopoly District at a cost of over 20 lakhs of rupees;

(b) whether Government are aware that there is at present no regular river-crossing at Pugalur and the prospect of new traffic therein is not likely to be over 200 tons per day;

(c) whether Government are aware that the existing bridges across the Cauvery at Trichinopoly and across Vaigai at Madura (Madras Province), both on National Highways, are quite inadequate to tackle the very large volume of traffic thereon, viz., over 5,000 and 10,000 tons per day respectively; and

(d) whether it is a fact that high priority has been given to Pugalur Bridge and a low priority to the construction of an additional bridge at Trichinopoly, if so, why?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes, but proposals are still under consideration.

(b) So far as Government are aware, there is a ferry crossing near Pugalur at present. No information is readily available regarding the volume of traffic likely to use the proposed bridge.

(c) Government are aware that the bridges named are inadequate to meet the needs of traffic. The exact volume of the traffic is not known.

(d) The Government of India are awaiting the Provincial Government's proposals concerning the priorities they would like to be given to road works and bridge works on National Highways in Madras which reference to the resources available with the Provincial Government administrative convenience and other factors. After their proposals convenience and other factors. After their proposals have been received and considered by the Government of India, a decision will be arrived at regarding the relative priorities to be given to the three bridges in question.

MAINTENANCE OF NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

158. *Dr. V. Subrahmanyam: Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that ever since the Government of India resolved to maintain certain roads described as 'National Highways', the condition of such roads is steadily deteriorating;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, their causes;

(c) whether Government are aware that the cost of materials and labour for road construction have gone up by 200 per cent. in rural areas and 300 per cent. in urban areas over pre-war levels;

(d) whether Government are aware that the speed and weight of vehicles using all highways have increased appreciably in the last 10 years, resulting in excessive wear and tear to road surfaces and that the traffic intensities on highways have increased by 200 to 300 per cent. in rural areas and 300 to 400 per cent. in urban areas over pre-war figures; and

(e) if so, whether Government propose to take into consideration the facts enumerated above in allotting grants for the maintenance of Highways?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government are well aware that the cost of labour and materials has increased considerably since 1939 and that the percentage rate of increase has been different in different localities.

(d) Government are aware that there has been generally speaking development in road vehicle design and increased traffic on and wear of roads in recent years. It is, however, not possible to assess these changes in the form of percentages.

(e) Government have taken all relevant factors into account and have made necessary provision in their Budget for the proper maintenance of National Highways.

GRANTS FOR MAINTENANCE OF NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

159. *Dr. V. Subrahmanyam: Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that portions of National Highways passing through big Municipalities are in a grave state of disrepair;

(b) whether Government are further aware that this is due to the Government of India refusing to accept responsibility for maintaining these portions and withholding allotments therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to take up this question and make suitable allotments in order that maintenance works may go on as usual without interruption; and

(d) whether Government propose to declare their policy in the matter of cement concreting the surfaces of National Highways in reaches where the traffic intensity is over 1,000 tons per day predominantly iron-tired?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The main roads passing through some urban areas may be in the condition described but no road passing through a large town or city is at present included in the National Highway system.

(b) The responsibility for the proper maintenance of any road lies with the Authority in whom the road vests: deterioration in the condition of any such road cannot be ascribed to the fact that the road is not being maintained by some other authority.

(c) The Provincial Governments were informed more than eighteen months ago that it was not proposed to include urban roads in the National Highway system. Urban areas would generally be by-passed. While I am prepared to re-examine this policy, I would observe that the provinces have been relieved of considerable financial liability for roads in that the Centre has already taken over responsibility for several thousands of miles of National Highways; and for this reason greater resources than would otherwise be the case are now available for roads not taken over by the Centre.

(d) The policy of the Central Government in the matter referred to in this part of the question is to provide road crusts, as far as funds will permit, to suit the traffic the road will be called upon to carry.

PERMISSION TO MADRAS GOVERNMENT TO RAISE PRICE OF PADDY

160. *Shri O. V. Alagesan: Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Madras made repeated representations and appeals to the Government of India to permit them to raise the price of paddy;

(b) whether it is a fact that they were invariably turned down;

(c) whether Government are aware that the present prices are such as to hamper the production of more food crops and the progress of the "Grow More Food Campaign";

(d) whether it is a fact that the Provincial Governments of the United Provinces and Bihar were permitted to raise the prices of food grains and sugar-cane to meet the increased cost of cultivation; and

(e) if the answers to (b), (c) and (d) above are in the affirmative, whether Government propose to reconsider their position and permit the Government of Madras to raise the prices of paddy in view of the fact that the cost of cultivation has doubled and even trebled in many places?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) and (b). Yes Sir.

(c) Representations to this effect were received by the Government of India.

(d) As far as foodgrains are concerned the reply is in the negative. Regarding sugarcane it is in the affirmative.

(e) The matter is under consideration of the Government of India.

'GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN' BY THE RAILWAY ADMINISTRATION

161. ***Shri O. V. Alagesan:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the various Railway Administrations were asked to grow food crops in all cultivable lands in their possession;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by the Railway Administrations in accordance with those instructions; and

(c) how much was produced and at what cost?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The Railway Board have instructed the various Railway Administrations to take necessary steps to bring under cultivation all suitable land by encouraging Railway staff to grow vegetables and seasonal fruits on small plots and to arrange the leasing of other arable land for the production of food crops through the respective Provincial Governments.

(b) The Railway Administrations have given assurances that all possible steps are being taken by them in accordance with these instructions.

(c) Leasing of surplus land is within the competence of the various Railway Administrations and the Government have no detailed information on the extra quantities of crops thus produced and the cost involved.

RAIL ROAD BRIDGE OVER GANGA IN PATNA

162. ***Shri Phulan Prasad Varma:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government have abandoned the plan to build a rail-road bridge over the Ganga in Patna?

(b) If so, what are the reasons therefor?

(c) Are Government aware that the public in Bihar as well as the Provincial Government are strongly of opinion that the bridge should be built over the Ganga in Patna rather than at any other place?

(d) If the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, why have Government decided to ignore the public opinion as well as the opinion of the Provincial Government in this matter?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) No, the matter is still under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes.

(d) The matter is still under consideration as stated under (a) above.

EFFECT OF PARTITION BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN ON RAILWAY

163. ***Shri K. Santhanam:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total railway mileage in India after the separation of Pakistan; and

(b) the respective shares of India and Pakistan of (i) broad-gauge and metre-gauge locomotives, (ii) passenger coaches, (iii) wagons, and (iv) the railway stores?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The total route mileage in India after the separation of Pakistan is 24,565 miles.

(b) The award of the boundary Commission has necessitated re-calculation of the respective shares of India and Pakistan of Locomotives, Carriage and Wagon stock and other stores. This re-calculation is in hand and the information will be laid on the table in due course.

LOSS OF RAILWAY REVENUES DUE TO PUNJAB DISTURBANCES

164. ***Shri K. Santhanam:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated loss of railway revenue due to communal disturbances in the Punjab;

(b) the number of refugees who have been carried by train to and from Pakistan between August 15 and October 31, 1947; and

(c) whether the expenses incurred in the running of refugee trains are debited to the railway expenditure or to the account of the Government of India?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Rs. 2,33,37,000 for the period 15th August 1947 to 31st October 1947.

(b) The movement of refugees by rail started from the 27th August 1947. Between that date and 31st October, a total number of 12,56,000 refugees were carried between Pakistan and India in trains which actually crossed the border. In addition, 8,83,000 refugees were transported in trains within India, the majority of whom were either non-Muslims who had crossed the border into India on foot or Muslims who subsequently crossed the border into Pakistan, also on foot.

(c) To the General Revenues of the Government of India.

FOOD RATIONING IN INDIA

165. ***Shri K. Santhanam:** Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons in India under food rationing on October 31, 1947:

(b) the number of persons in India estimated to be under semi-rationing on the same date; and

(c) the quantities of wheat, rice and millets supplied for: (a) areas under full rationing, and (b) areas under semi-rationing?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) and (b). The total number of persons under rationing of all kinds is 148 million. Of these 54 million are under full rationing and depend for their total requirements on Government ration shops. The balance 94 million consists of three categories of consumers;

(1) nonproducers including agricultural labour;

(2) partial producers, who produce only part of their requirements; and

(3) surplus producers, whose produce is equal to or in excess of their requirements.

The third category is included under "rationed population" (i) in areas where individual assessment of surpluses is made and arrangements exist for ensuring that the surplus left after calculating their requirement on a specified ration basis is collected by a Government agency and (ii) in areas where assessment is on a group or area basis and such surpluses are taken into account in calculating the overall deficit of the group or area concerned.

(c) The average weekly offtake of the 54 million people fully rationed is 94,000 tons. The offtake of the rest varies at different times of the year. Variations are considerable. The offtake from Government shops of this class of population has been 2,614,000 tons during the year ending September, 1947.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF FOOD-GRAINS COMMITTEE

166. *Shri K. Santhanam: Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) whether the last Foodgrains Committee have submitted their recommendations; and

(b) if so, whether Government have come to any decision thereon?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) A Summary only of the interim recommendations has been received.

(b) The matter is still under consideration.

RESUMPTION OF RAILWAY SERVICE BETWEEN MORAPURI AND HOSUR

167. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madras have recommended the resumption of the Railway service between Morapuri and Hosur in Salem District, after this question was raised in the Assembly in March last; and

(b) if so, whether the Government of India have considered this question and if so, with what results?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes.

(b) The Government of India have given due consideration to the question, but in view of the line having been unremunerative throughout its existence, they do not find sufficient justification for its restoration.

MANUFACTURE OF NEW MODEL THIRD CLASS CARRIAGES

168. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any efforts are being made to manufacture new model 3rd class carriages;

(b) if so, in what work-shops;

(c) how many of them have been so far put on the line and on what Railways; and

(d) for how many orders have been given?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Prof. Ranga is presumably referring to the new third class coaches exhibited on the 'Silver Arrow' train. The manufacture of the new design of 11 feet 8 inches wide coaches has not yet started as there still remains a considerable amount of design work to be finalized in the building of these coach bodies.

The 'Silver Arrow' exhibition train served the useful purposes of eliciting public reaction in regard to the various layouts. The coach bodies of the 'Silver Arrow' train were mounted on present standard underframes which involve unnecessary weight. The new design eliminates the use of underframes. Prototypes will be manufactured by indigenous firms and it is anticipated that they will be ready for testing in August 1948. After the tests have been completed and designs finalized, the Railway Ministry will place bulk orders for the new design carriages on indigenous firms.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

LACK OF ADEQUATE TRANSPORT FOR COAL

169. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mine owners are complaining of over-production of coal and its non-transport to the consuming centres owing to transport bottleneck;

(b) whether any immediate steps are taken by Government to remove this bottleneck, and if so, with what results; and

(c) by what date Government expect to cope with this serious situation of coal shortage in consuming centres and over-production at the mines?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Complaints have been received from collieries in the Bengal-Bihar coalfields about the shortage of rail transport for lifting current production. In this sense only, but not in relation to the coal requirements of the country, there is at present a state of over-production in the coal industry.

(b) Every effort is being made to step up despatches from the Bengal-Bihar coalfields. Loading from the 1st November are showing a gradual improvement over the average for the preceding three months. Possibilities of coal transport by-road and river are also being considered.

(c) It is difficult to make predictions in this matter but the problems raised by the temporary over-production of coal are now under Government's examination.

CONSTITUTION OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR F. A. O.

170. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) why the National Committee for F. A. O. has not so far been constituted;

(b) whether the F. A. O. has sent any reminders about it and if so, when.

(c) when the Committee will be constituted; and

(d) whether Government intend inviting World F. A. O. to hold a Regional Conference in India in the same way as the I. L. O. is holding its own?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) It has not yet been possible to set up this committee in view of the Constitutional changes. The proposal to form one is now under active consideration.

(b) Yes. A reminder was received in July 1947.

(c) The Committee will be constituted shortly.

(d) The F. A. O. are considering the question of setting up regional offices. After such an office for Asia is set up the question of holding a regional conference in India will be considered.

STATE INSURANCE OF CROP AND CATTLE

171. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given any consideration to the resolution passed by the Assembly in April last in favour of the State Organising Crop and Cattle insurances and to the promise made by the Honourable Minister to get the feasibility of the schemes examined by an expert;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what action has so far been taken by Government; and

(c) whether Government propose to get the schemes studied, which have so far been developed in Canada, Denmark, and certain states of America?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) Yes.

(b) The matter has been examined in consultation with experts, and the Government of India have under consideration the appointment of an Officer on Special Duty for having a pilot scheme prepared for trying it out in certain selected areas.

(c) Yes.

DETERIORATION OF MANAGEMENT OF O. T. AND E. I. RAILWAYS

172. *Shri Jagat Narain Lal: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the management of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway has deteriorated since they took charge of it and that frequent complaints have appeared in the press and were also expressed in the Bihar Legislative Assembly?

(b) Are Government aware of the growing deterioration in the management of the East Indian Railway as well?

(c) If the answers to parts (a) and (b) above are in the affirmative, what steps are Government taking to improve the management of both the Railways?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Government have been concerned for some time with the inadequacy of public service provided by the O. T. Railway and are aware of many of the complaints made in the press and in the Bihar Legislature, in this connection.

(b) General conditions in the country have resulted in the E. I. Railway, as well as most others, also deteriorating in operating efficiency.

(c) The improvement of service to the public on Government railways is closely connected with problems of general administration, the labour situation, output from workshops, and procurement of essential stores, and Government are taking all possible steps, including an appeal to the All-India Railwaymen's Federation to assist in every way in the economic interest of the country to improve railway services.

LIST OF RAILWAY CATERERS ON E. I., O. T. AND B. N. RAILWAYS

173. *Shri Jagat Narain Lal: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state the number and names of Railway Caterers on East Indian Railway, Oudh and Tirhut Railway and Bengal Nagpur Railway?

(b) Do Government propose to take steps to appoint more and better types of caterers and see that catering is satisfactorily carried on?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) A statement furnishing the number and names of railway caterers employed by the East Indian, Oudh Tirhut and Bengal Nagpur Railways is laid on the table of the House.

(b) Existing catering arrangements are, on the whole, considered satisfactory having regard to the difficult food position. Additional caterers are not required by the East Indian and Bengal Nagpur Railways, but in this respect the position on the Oudh Tirhut Railway is still under examination.

Catering arrangements are under constant review by railways who are empowered to terminate existing contracts where this course is justified by substantiated complaints.

Statement showing the Railway Caterers Employed by the East Indian, Oudh Tirhut and Bengal Nagpur Railways

	No.	Names
East Indian Railway	11	1. Messrs. G. F. Kellner & Co.
		2. " D. Sorabji & Co.
		3. " Ballabhdas Agarwal.
		4. " Eshwardas & Son.
		5. " Suchet Singh.
		6. " B. L. Meetal & Co.
		7. " H. P. Nag & Bros.
		8. " Indian Ry. Catering Service.
		9. " Isa Bros.
		10. " A. H. Khan.
		11. " Hazir & Co.
O. T. Railway	10	1. " Razzak Md. Jan & Sons.
		2. " G. F. Kellner & Co. Ltd.
		3. " Ganesh Lal & Co.
		4. " Kadir Bux & Son.
		5. " Singh & Sons.
		6. " Rai Sahib Ram Saran Lal & Sons.
		7. " D. Sorabjee & Co.
		8. " Sawalram Marwari & Co.
		9. " J. C. Majumdar.
		10. " Mohd. Zahoor.
B. N. Railway	4	1. " Ballabhdas Eshwar Das.
		2. " The Indian Ry. Catering Co.
		3. " B. K. Dubay.
		4. " A. H. Khan & Co.

VALUE OF EXPORTED AND IMPORTED FOOD-GRAINS

174. *Shri B. A. Mandloi: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state the total quantity of import of food grains and its total value in the years 1945-46 and 1946-47?

(b) Have any food grains been exported to any country outside India?

(c) If so, what is the total quantity and value of exported food grain in the years 1945-46, 1946-47?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) During 1945-46, 9 lakhs and 31 thousand tons of foodgrains of the total value of 26 crores of rupees, were imported. During 1946-47, 26 lakhs and 58 thousand tons of foodgrains of the total value of 88 crores and 70 lakhs of rupees, were imported.

(b) Yes.

(c) During 1945-46, 76 thousand tons of the total value of 2 crores and 74 lakhs of rupees, were exported. This included 43 thousand tons of the total value of 1 crore and 73 lakhs of rupees, exported to Ceylon during a temporary emergency, the whole of which was subsequently made good by imports. During 1946-47, exports were completely stopped, but small quantities were allowed to go out of the country, in order to provide supplies for Indian seamen of the Merchant Navy in Indian Ocean Ports, for Indian personnel along the Air Line Routes, and for Indian Pilgrims going to the Hedjaz. The total quantity involved was about 600 tons of the value of 41 thousand rupees.

PAUCITY OF SALT IN PROVINCES

175. *Shri B. A. Mandloi: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the reasons for the great paucity of salt in a number of Provinces and for the price of salt having gone high in spite of the abolition of the salt tax?

(b) What steps have Government taken to increase the production of salt within the last two years so that it may be had in sufficient quantity and at cheap rates?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) The reasons for the paucity of salt in certain Provinces are:

East Punjab	Stoppage of supplies from Khewra.
U. P.	Stoppage of supplies from Khewra and transport difficulties due to shortage of wagons and locos.
Bihar	Stoppage of supplies from Khewra and insufficiency of imports due to shipping difficulties.
South C. P. and Bombay	Failure of Bombay factories this year due to cyclones, unseasonal rains, labour and communal troubles.

The price of salt has gone high in these areas owing to the shortage in supplies.

(b) To increase production of salt, the Government deputed an expert officer in June, 1946 to study the whole question of the salt-supply and demand in India and suggest the changes in the administrative machinery necessary to make India self-sufficient, to improve the quality of Indian salt and to lower its price. A complete survey of salt production, consumption, distribution, quality, imports and prices has been undertaken and a necessity for fostering and directing the salt industry having been established, the outlines of the methods of control have been drawn up. A committee of experts is being set up to advise on the potentialities for development of various sources, and the schemes of development which may be undertaken there as well as to recommend sites where new factories should be established.

The main sources of production in India are at Sambhar Lake and in Bombay and Madras. The factories at Sambhar are managed by Government. As a result of certain new schemes undertaken in Rajputana like utilisation of waste brine from the East Lake and of subterranean brine, production in these sources has been raised during this year from one crore and eight lakh maunds to one crore and forty lakh maunds. Similarly in Madras action taken to encourage production by private manufacturers has resulted in stepping up production from the average of 1 crore 33 lakhs maunds to 1 crore 65 lakh maunds.

PROVISION OF COLD STORAGE WAGONS ON B. N. RAILWAY

176. *Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the East Indian Railway has provided cold storage wagons for fish transport; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to provide cold storage wagons in the Bengal Nagpur Railway also?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) No.

(b) There is no immediate proposal for the provision of cold storage wagons on the B. N. Railway. The whole question of refrigerated rail transport is, however, under active examination.

ORIYAS IN HIGHER SERVICE ON B. N. RAILWAY

177. *Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state the number of Oriyas in the higher services of the Bengal Nagpur Railway?

(b) What is the total number of Station Masters in the Bengal Nagpur Railway giving separately the number according to different nationalities?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) As particulars of staff according to their provincial or linguistic denominations are not recorded it is not possible to give the exact number of Oriyas employed in higher appointments on the Bengal Nagpur Railway, but it is understood that the figure is in the neighbourhood of 10. I would, however, state that promotions to higher posts on Railways are made on considerations other than the Province of origin.

(b) There are 540 posts of Station Masters on the Bengal Nagpur Railway.

By 'nationalities' the Honourable Member is presumably referring to linguistic or provincial groups. As has been stated in my reply to part (a), particulars of staff according to their linguistic or provincial denominations have not been recorded, and it is not therefore possible readily to furnish the information asked for in the latter part of the question.

SOURCES FOR MANUFACTURE OF SALT IN INDIA

178. *Shri B. A. Mandloi: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the sources and the places at which salt is manufactured in India;

(b) the total quantity of salt manufactured or prepared in India from all the sources, in the years 1945-46 and 1946-47;

(c) whether any salt was imported in India during the said two years;

(d) if so, what was the quantity of salt imported in the years 1945-46 and 1946-47;

(e) whether any salt was exported outside India in the above two years;

(f) whether the salt produced or manufactured in India is sufficient to meet the ordinary needs of the people; and

(g) the loss caused to Government on account of the abolition of the salt tax?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) The sources and the places at which salt is manufactured in the Indian dominion are—

(i) Sambhar Lake, Pachbadra and Didwana in Rajputana.

These sources are Government managed.

(ii) Kharagoda in the run of Cutch which is also a Government managed source.

(iii) Nearly 400 privately worked factories within a radius of 40 miles of the city of Bombay.

(iv) 52 privately worked factories strung along the east coast from Tuticorin to Naupada.

(v) Two private factories in Ganjam district in Orissa.

(b) The total quantity of salt manufactured in the Indian Dominion and Pakistan from all sources, in the year 1945-46, was 5 crore 46 lakhs maunds and in the year 1946-47, 4 crore 92 lakhs maunds. The quantity manufactured in Pakistan was about one crore maunds leaving 4 crore and 46 lakhs maunds as the share of the Indian dominion in 1945-46 and 3 crore 92 lakhs maunds in 1946-47. These figures do not include production in Kathiawar and Travancore.

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(c) Salt was imported into India including Pakistan during the said two years

(d) The quantities imported in the years 1945-46 and 1946-47 were 85 and 40 lakh maunds respectively.

(e) Salt was not exported outside India in any appreciable quantity during the above two years.

(f) No.

(g) About 9½ crores of rupees.

SUBSIDY TO THE PROVINCES TOWARDS THE COST OF FOODGRAINS

179. *Shri P. Govinda Menon: Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India are giving any subsidy to the Provinces towards the cost of the food grains supplied to them; if so, the amount of subsidy;

(b) whether any request has been received from the States to extend the above concession to them also; if so, what is the decision taken by the Government of India; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, whether the Government of India propose to consider the question of giving such subsidy to the States who have acceded to the Indian Union?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) Yes.

Rupees 20.59 crores were paid as subsidy during the period 1-4-46 to 31-3-47 and rupees 17.35 crores are estimated as likely to be paid during the period 1-4-47 to 31-12-47.

(b) and (c). The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, the Government of India have not extended to the States the same concession as in the case of Provinces. They do not consider this to be appropriate as a general rule, having regard to the distinction between Provinces and States, in their relation to the Centre. But they have been and are prepared to consider cases of exceptional hardship individually on their merits. Assistance has been given in certain cases, where the losses sustained on sale of imported grains are so large and the financial resources so small as to make it impossible for the State concerned to incur such losses without assistance from the Centre.

RATIONING OF RICE IN COCHIN STATE

180. *Shri P. Govinda Menon: Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the staple food of the people of Cochin is rice only;

(b) whether Government are aware that Cochin is a deficit area in regard to her rice requirements;

(c) whether Government are aware that the present scale of ration in Cochin is very meagre, viz., 6 ozs. rice and 2 ozs. wheat per adult per day;

(d) whether the local procurement of paddy in Cochin has not attained a high standard of efficiency compared to the other Provinces and States; and

(e) whether Government propose to increase the quota of rice to the State to enable it to give a higher scale of ration?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) Government of India are aware of the present scale of ration in Cochin.

(d) The procurement in Cochin is satisfactory.

(e) The Government of India have been allotting maximum possible quantities of rice to Cochin.

INCREASE IN SUGAR QUOTA OF COCHIN STATE

181. *Shri P. Govinda Menon: Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the people of Cochin are accustomed to use sugar on a larger scale than the other regions of South India;

(b) whether Government are aware that Mr. Kirby, Rationing Adviser, recommended a minimum quota of 9000 tons per year to Cochin;

(c) the total allotment of sugar quota to Cochin State; and

(d) whether Government propose to consider the question of an increased quota for the coming year?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) 4,230 tons.

(d) The question will be considered keeping in view the available supplies and requirements of other areas.

FOOD POSITION IN INDIAN DOMINION

182. *Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to lay on the table of the House a detailed statement on the present food position on the Indian Dominion?

(b) What is the extent of deficit in the current year and how it is proposed to be met?

(c) What are the Provinces worst affected?

(d) Are Government aware of the alarming food scarcity in the newly formed province of West Bengal due to the exclusion from West Bengal, by Radcliffe award, of the non-Muslim majority district of Khulna and the non-Muslim majority areas of Jessore, Backerganj, Nadia and Dinajpur which are surplus cereal producing areas?

(e) Are Government aware that there has been a large influx of people into the West Bengal Province from East Bengal involving additional strain on the food resources of West Bengal?

(f) If so, what special allocation, if any, has been made by Government to meet the increased requirements of the Province of West Bengal?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) and (b). Attention is invited to the memorandum on the Food Position circulated to the Members.

(c) The deficit Provinces are Madras, Bombay, East Punjab, West Bengal, Bihar and U.P.

(d) The Government of West Bengal have supplied to the Government of India figures relating to the foodgrains deficits of the Province of West Bengal.

(e) The figures referred to in (d) above take into account the over use in population as far as it can be assessed.

(f) Allocations are made monthly after taking into account the opening stocks, the estimated local procurement and the offtakes.

RESEARCH IN SCIENTIFIC AGRICULTURE

183. *Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government propose to intensify Research in Scientific Agriculture?

(b) If so, what steps do Government propose to take in the matter in the immediate future?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) Yes.

(b) To intensify research in scientific agriculture, Government have already taken steps (i) to increase the supply of technical personnel trained in agricultural sciences by the grant of over-seas scholarships and other measures, and (ii) to increase the facilities available for the prosecution of agricultural research, and they have laid down an over-all policy for agricultural research and development.

IRRIGATION IN BERAR AND MARATHI CENTRAL PROVINCES

184. *Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what possibilities there exist for the extension of irrigation in Berar and Marathi Central Provinces?

(b) Have any projects been considered? If so, with what results? If not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) Possibilities for extension of irrigation facilities in Berar and the Central Provinces lie in the direction of extension of surface storage by means of tanks and reservoirs, flood irrigation, field embankments and river pumping schemes.

(b) There has been an increase of 1.6 lacs of acres in the irrigated area in the Central Provinces and Berar between 1938-39 and 1946-47. One project in Balaghat for irrigating 5,000 acres was sanctioned for which a subsidy of 5.5 lakhs was given by the Government of India. The work is nearing completion. Two other projects are being prepared by the Central Provinces and will be considered when received.

NEED OF AERODROMES AT AMRAOTI OR AKOLA IN BERAR

185. *Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether it is under contemplation to have an aerodrome either at Amraoti or Akola in Berar?

(b) Are Government aware that such an aerodrome is a great necessity?

(c) Do Government propose to examine the possibility and the necessity of connecting by air Khandwa and Indore with Amraoti, the capital of Berar?

(d) Are Government aware that there are great possibilities of organizing regular air service between Indore and Hyderabad via Amraoti?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: (a) An aerodrome is being developed at Akola to the standard of a minor aerodrome. The Government of India do not propose to develop an aerodrome at Amraoti.

(b) Does not arise in view of the reply to (a).

(c) and (d) Government will explore the possibilities of these two routes. If enquiries show that there is likely to be sufficient traffic on these routes, the various Air Companies will be invited to submit applications for a licence to operate an air service on each route.

BRIDGE BETWEEN KHANDWA AND INDORE ON NERBUDDA RIVER

186. *Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state when a bridge between Khandwa and Indore on the Nerbudda river would be constructed?

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(b) What are the difficulties in the way of re-opening the existing bridge under the railway line on the Nerbudda river between Khandwa and Indore?

(c) Are Government aware that want of facilities for crossing the river is holding up the development of northern Central Provinces and causing inconvenience to the people?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) I am not in a position to say when the bridge referred to will be constructed as it does not lie on a National Highway. Under the Constitution it is for the Provincial and State Administrations concerned to move in the matter of providing a road bridge at this site.

(b) This proposal will be considered by me if the Administrations concerned move in the matter.

(c) I have no information on the subject. Constitutionally this is a matter of primary concern to the Central Provinces Government who must be aware of the facts.

BUILDING OF NATIONAL HIGHWAYS CONNECTING NAGPUR WITH BOMBAY

187. *Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state the steps to be taken for building the National Highways connecting Nagpur with Bombay on the National Highway standard?

(b) Have Government made any provision for this construction in the next budget? If so, what is the amount provided for this, and if not, do Government propose to make a provision for the same?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The road connecting Bombay and Nagpur has been included in the National Highway system. The executive agency for carrying out works on this road will ordinarily be the Provincial Governments' concern; and these Governments are expected to make proposals concerning the priority of the works to be executed on the road with reference to the resources available with them, administrative convenience, etc. So far no proposals for large scale improvements have been received.

(b) Government's proposals for the next budget (1948-49) have not yet been finalized, as a number of provinces, including Bombay and the Central Provinces and Berar, have not yet intimated what they will be able to spend with the resources available with them.

GRANT OF SUBSIDY FOR IMPORT OF GRAINS

188. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state the quantity of food grains imported from abroad during the last three years and the total amount of subsidy given by Government in financing the operations?

(b) What was the amount of money spent during this period in financing the agriculturists in India with a view to inducing them to grow more food?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a)

(In thousand tons)

1944-45	...	726
1945-46	...	931
1946-47	...	2,658

Government of India commenced to subsidise the price of imported food grains supplied to deficit Provinces from the 1st April, 1946 and the amount of subsidy given during 1946-47 is Rs. 20.59 crores.

(b) A statement showing the loans and grants sanctioned to the Provinces, Local Administrations and Indian States for the "Grow More Food" campaign during the last three years is laid on the table of the House.

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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) [20TH Nov. 1947]

AGRICULTURAL INSURANCE IN INDIA

189. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken by Government to examine the feasibility of introducing Agricultural Insurance in India?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: The attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to the reply to the Starred Question No. 171 by Prof. N. G. Ranga.

FORMATION OF INDIAN PEOPLE'S FAMINE TRUST

190. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement regarding the Indian People's Famine Trust, giving full information regarding its formation, working and present position?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: A statement is placed on the table.

Statement giving particulars regarding the formation, working and present position of the Indian People's Famine Trust.

The Indian People's Famine Trust was created under the charitable Endowment Act of 1890 by an endowment of Rs. 15 lakhs donated by His Highness the Maharaja of Jaipur in 1900. The Maharaja while making this offer wished that the interest which would accrue on this amount might be utilised for the following purposes:—

1. In supplementing the subsistence ration of the Famine Codes by the addition of small comforts, whether of food or of clothing, for the aged or infirm, for patients in hospitals, for children and the like.
2. In providing for the maintenance of orphans.
3. In relieving pardah nashin women and persons in distressed circumstances who by social or caste conditions are debarred from applying for State relief and from submitting to the ordinary tests of distress prescribed in the Famine Codes.
4. In helping to re-establish impoverished agriculturists and others who have lost their entire capital in the period of distress, and thereby giving them a fresh start in life.

To manage this fund the Government of India constituted a Trust consisting of the following persons:—

- (a) Five persons appointed by the Governor-General-in-Council of whom three shall be in the executive Service of the Government.
- (b) Five persons appointed, respectively, by the local Governments of Madras, Bombay, Bengal, the North West Provinces and Oudh (now U. P.) and the Punjab.
- (c) Two persons appointed, respectively by the Agents to the Governor General in Rajputana and Central India.
- (d) One person appointed by His Highness the Maharaja of Jaipur for the time being.
- (e) Any persons becoming life-members by subscribing a sum not less than rupees 3 lakhs.

The Endowment Fund of the Trust as per report for the year 1946 amounted to Rs. 33,65,350-11-11, out of which Rs. 32,78,400 were invested in 3 per cent. conversion loan for 1946. The balance was with the Imperial Bank of India either in current account or fixed deposit. During the year 1946 a sum of Rs. one lakh to the Government of Madras and Rupees fifty thousand to the Government of Bengal were paid out of the Fund for flood and famine relief. The following are the names of the persons who were serving on the Board of Management of the Indian People's Trust till the 15th August 1947:—

1. The Member Incharge of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Honourable Sri Rajendra Prasad, *Chairman*.
2. The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, Finance Member.
3. The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar, President, Indian Legislative Assembly.
4. The Honourable Mr. Abu Abdullah Syed Hossain Imam, President, Council of State, (Hassain Manzil, Gaya).
5. Sir Bertie Staig, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S., Auditor General of India, *Honorary Secretary*.
6. The Honourable Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar (The Palace Chettined, Madras).
7. Mr. N. V. Gadgil, M.L.A. (419, Shanwar Path, Poona 2).

8. Mr. J. N. Talukdar, I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Department of Co-operation, Credit and Relief.
9. Mr. Khurshed Ahmad Khan, C.I.E., I.C.S., Commissioner, Jhansi Division, Jhansi.
10. Mr. Ram Chandra, C.I.E., M.B.E., I.C.S., Financial Commissioner, Revenue, Punjab.
11. Mr. L. C. L. Griffin, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., Secretary to H. E., the Crown Representative.
12. Diwan Bahadur Sir Khanderao Hadkar, Diwan and President of the Council Administration (Retired), Dhar State, Central India.
13. Rai Bahadur Pt. Amar Nath Atal, Finance Minister, Jaipur.

The question of reconstituting the Board is under consideration. The present position of the Trust is that under Section 9(1) of the India (Adaptation of the Existing Indian Laws) Order of 1947 the jurisdiction of the Trust is confined only to the Dominion of India. The question whether the funds of the Trust are divisible between the two Dominions is being examined.

DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION IN INDIA

191. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state what steps, if any, Government have taken or propose to take to encourage flying in India?

(b) Have Government considered the desirability of giving facilities for learning to fly in the Universities and Colleges throughout India?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: (a) The Government of India's plans for the development of Civil Aviation include the establishment of a Civil Aviation Training Centre for training in all branches of Civil Aviation. It is proposed to open shortly a Flying Training School as part of the Centre. In addition to this, Government is also giving assistance to the Flying Clubs by loaning to them aircraft and by cash grants-in-aid, bonuses, etc.

(b) Yes, Sir, Government has come to the conclusion that initial training in flying can best be given in Flying Clubs. Government, therefore, proposes to encourage the establishment of such clubs in all cities which are important educational centres.

LICENCES TO AIR TRANSPORT COMPANIES IN INDIA

192. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to lay a statement on the table of the House giving information regarding the various Air Transport Companies in India and the licenses granted so far?

(b) What is the personnel of the present Air Licensing Board and what is the expenditure that Government incur for their maintenance?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: (a) I lay on the table two Statements (Nos. I and II) giving the information asked for by the Honourable Member.

(b) A statement (No. III) showing the personnel of the Air Transport Licensing Board is laid on the table. The expenditure on the maintenance of the Board is approximately Rs. 1,14,000 per annum.

STATEMENT I

Showing the various Air Transport Companies registered in India.

1. Air India Ltd., Bombay.
2. Indian National Airways Ltd., New Delhi.
3. Air Services of India, Ltd., Bombay.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE TOTAL AMOUNTS SANCTIONED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO PROVINCES
FOR G.M.F. CAMPAIGN IN THE YEARS 1944-45, 1945-46 and 1946-47.

Name of Province	1944-45		1945-46		1946-47	
	Loan	Grant	Loan	Grant	Loan	Grant
1. Ajmer-Merwara	2,34,250	92,312	3,66,700	2,60,900	7,91,220	9,17,265
2. Assam	10,86,100	4,83,731	13,08,455	12,37,616	1,50,700	7,92,230
3. Baluchistan	1,66,400	1,81,879	10,54,700	7,24,135	10,25,000	18,03,474
4. Bengal	23,15,000	14,74,313	41,40,500	23,72,909	41,66,700	62,82,004
5. Bihar	9,64,000	14,37,970	..	16,85,889	..	18,73,137
6. Bombay	6,00,000	40,46,028	8,22,500	47,01,176	..	36,14,950
7. C. P. & Berar	31,68,970	6,70,826	41,35,782	8,74,592	40,10,108	13,38,516
8. Coorg	..	65,930	..	1,48,555	..	2,43,169
9. Delhi	54,000	..	60,000	1,95,223	45,000	8,300
10. Madras	16,25,000	35,75,406	45,62,500	17,52,988	85,00,000	2,42,95,702
11. N. W. F. P.	12,59,300	11,12,342	14,31,000	3,83,079	16,54,785	4,16,299
12. Orissa	14,67,600	9,56,241	21,70,147	13,20,680	..	23,87,408
13. Punjab	..	15,70,880	..	4,32,025	..	6,45,270
14. Sind	..	78,000	..	2,32,775	..	4,55,997
15. U. P.	..	27,57,290	..	13,32,190	..	18,03,240
16. I. C. of A. R.	3,02,826	..	..	3,99,840	..	3,24,918

Total amount sanctioned by the Government of India in the year

17. I. D. R. I.	..	..	..	1,88,000	..	1,03,000
18. I. A. R. I.	..	..	..	17,740	..	40,000
19. I. V. R. I.	..	..	..	1,59,000	..	..
20. Baroda State	7,19,220	4,300	..	1,444	..	..
21. Charkhari Stato	2,000	..	..	..	..	..
22. Rampur State	8,698	1,600	..	..	..	..
23. Faridkot State	..	..	..	1,00,000	..	..
24. Kashmir State	..	..	..	17,025	..	..
25. Jasdorn State	..	..	..	7,954	..	..
26. Joorā State	..	..	..	33,708	..	..
27. Ratlam State	..	..	..	3,331	..	..
28. Sirmur State	..	..	..	500	..	755
29. Travancore State	..	..	..	65,715	..	80,584
30. Gwalior State	..	..	..	3,952	..	..
31. Wadnanai State	..	..	..	50,000	..	..
32. Mysore Stato	..	..	..	..	..	10,112
33. Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	20,41,200
Total	1,29,40,620	1,95,35,602	2,00,62,284	1,86,90,981	2,03,43,513	4,95,38,534

4. Deccan Airways Ltd., Hyderabad (Deccan).
5. Mistri Airways Ltd., Bombay.
6. Airways (India) Ltd., Calcutta.
7. Dalmia Jain Airways Ltd., Calcutta.
8. Bharat Airways Ltd., Calcutta.
9. Ambica Air Lines Ltd. Bombay.
10. Jupiter Airways, Ltd., Bombay.
11. Bengal & Assam Airways Ltd., Calcutta.
12. Madras Presidency Airways Ltd., Trichinopoly.
13. Indian Air Survey & Transport Ltd., Dum Dum.
14. Nalanda Airways Ltd., Patna.
15. Varadaraja Airways Ltd., Coimbatore.
16. Segal Air Transport Ltd., New Delhi.
17. Kalinga Air Lines Ltd., Cuttack.
18. Aryan Airways Ltd., Bombay.
19. Eastern Skyways, Calcutta.
20. Rainbow Air Utilities, Ltd., New Delhi.

STATEMENT II
Showing the Licences granted so far for operating regular Air Services

S. No.	Route	Frequency of Services	Company
1	*Bombay—Madras Karachi—Bombay Bombay—Delhi (non-stop) *Karachi—Ahmedabad—Bombay—Hyderabad—Madras—Colombo *Bombay—Ahmedabad—Jaipur—Delhi Bombay—Calcutta *Madras—Bangalore—Coimbatore—Cochin—Trivandrum	5 times a week. 7 times a week. 7 times a week. 7 times a week. 7 times a week. 7 times a week. 6 times a week.	Air India Ltd., Bombay.
2	*Delhi—Jodhpur—Karachi Lahore—Bikaner—Jodhpur—Ahmedabad. (Under suspension) Calcutta—Delhi—Lahore Delhi—Amritsar Calcutta—Rangoon	7 times a week. 2 times a week. 7 times a week. 7 times a week. 6 times a week.	Indian National Airways Ltd., New Delhi.
3	*Bombay—Junagadh (Keshod)—Jamnagar—Bhuj—Karachi Bombay—Bhopal—Cawnpore—Lucknow. (Under suspension) Jamnagar—Wadhwan—Wankaner—Ahmedabad *Bombay—Gwalior—Delhi *Bombay—Bhavnagar *Bombay—Porbandar—Jamnagar—Bhuj	7 times a week. 1 time a week. 1 time a week. 6 times a week. 3 times a week. 2 times a week.	Air Services of India Ltd., Bombay.
4	Delhi—Gwalior—Bhopal—Nagpur—Hyderabad—Madras Hyderabad—Bangalore Hyderabad—Bombay	7 times a week. 4 times a week. 7 times a week.	Deccan Airways Ltd., Begumpet.
5	*Bombay—Nagpur—Calcutta	7 times a week.	Mistri Airways Ltd., Bombay.
6	*Bombay—Baroda—Ahmedabad *Bombay—Rajkot—Morvi	2 times a week. 7 times a week.	Ambica Air Lines Ltd., Bombay.
7	*Calcutta—Vizagapatam—Madras—Bangalore.	3 times a week.	Airways (India) Ltd., Calcutta.
8	*Delhi—Lucknow—Gaya—Calcutta Calcutta—Cawnpore—Allahabad—Delhi *Delhi—Amritsar Delhi—Lucknow	3 times a week. 4 times a week. 4 times a week. 3 times a week.	Bharat Airways Ltd., Calcutta.

*Suspended temporarily due to the diversion of aircraft to evacuation and Kashmir Operations

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) A statement is laid on the table giving the estimated consumption of potatoes in different provinces during 1936-37. These figures include quantities utilised for seed as well. The quantity retained for seed varies from province to province but for India as a whole the percentage of total production utilized for seed purposes comes to 16.1.

Similar figures for 1945-46 are not available owing to restrictions imposed by a number of Provincial Governments on the movement of potatoes.

(b) and (c) Statements are laid on the table giving the information required.

(d) No.

(e) Yes.

(f) No.

(g) The volume of imports is comparatively too small to have any appreciable effect on the price of potatoes produced in different parts of India. Further, having regard to the shortage of food in the country it would be inadvisable to take measures to discourage the imports of potatoes.

(a) Statement estimated consumption of potatoes in different provinces during 1936-37.

	(tons)
United Provinces	646,000
Bihar	245,000
Bengal	296,000
Assam	50,000
Bombay	69,000
Madras	42,000
Punjab	58,000
C. P. and Berar	14,000
Orissa	34,000

(b) Statement of production of potatoes in 1936-37 and 1945-46 in different provinces.

Name of Province	1936-37 (tons)	1945-46 (tons)
United Provinces	792,000	900,000
Bihar	347,000	392,000
Bengal	261,000	838,500
Assam	77,000	182,900
Bombay	58,000	15,100
Madras	49,000	81,400
Punjab	57,000	74,500
C. P. and Berar	12,000	10,600
Orissa	7,000	9,600

(c) Quantities of potatoes imported into India during 1936-37 and 1945-46 from different countries

Name of country	1936-37 (tons)	1945-46 (tons)
Kenya Colony	2,249	1,020
U. K.	23	..
Burma	33,970	..
Netherlands	25	..
Italy	4,934	..
Others	508	..
Total	41,709	1,020

DAMAGE CAUSED TO CROPS IN EAST PUNJAB BY DISORDERS

197. *Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of damage caused to the *Kharif* crop and *Rabi* sowings on account of the large scale disorder and vast movements of population in the East Punjab; and

(b) the effect of this loss on the food situation in the country?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) and (b) The disorder and large scale movements of population in East Punjab has inevitably caused substantial damage to the standing *Kharif* crops; the *Rabi* sowings are also expected to be below normal. The extent of damage and the shortfall cannot however be estimated at this stage.

SUPPLY OF FOODGRAINS BY THE PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT

198. *Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Pakistan have carried out their export obligations to the Indian Union with regard to food grains under the existing Basic Plan;

(b) whether it is a fact that the surplus grain which the West Punjab usually supplied to the East Punjab and which was not included in the quota of the Basic Plan, is not being supplied now and the supplies have been restricted to the quota previously fixed for the areas excluding the East Punjab;

(c) the reduction that will thus be made in the export quotas meant for the rest of the country; and

(d) whether there is any likelihood of making good this reduction by concluding barter agreements with the Government of Pakistan?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) A statement showing the unfulfilled export commitments of Pakistan as well as of quantities loaned by Pakistan to India is placed on the table.

Out of these, India has recently sent 8,500 tons of imported wheat to Pakistan and Pakistan is supplying 6,000 tons rice to India from Sind.

(b) The statement also shows quantities of foodgrains which West Punjab had to supply to East Punjab and *vice versa* according to the recommendations of the Punjab Partition Committee. No despatches have taken place in either direction.

(c) The question of fulfilment of Pakistan's obligations as well as of the return of the loan by India is under discussion.

(d) According to the existing arrangements, *status quo* is to be maintained as far as possible in the matter of supply of foodgrains as well as other commodities up to 31st March, 1948.

Statement showing quantities which Pakistan owes to India, according to the Kharif and Rabi Plan commitments, and the quantities of wheat that India owes to Pakistan out of the loan received from Sind and Punjab.

	Rice	Wheat	Gram
Sind	—7,533	30,000	—21,000
*Punjab	—10,628	1,500	—4,49
Bahawalpur	..	—12,266	—4,778
N. W. F. P.	..	..	2,000
Baluchistan	..	..	1,000
Total	—18,161	19,234	—27,698

*The entry against Punjab shows the position of the combined Provinces, *vis-a-vis* the rest of India.

STATEMENT III

Showing Personnel of the Air Transport Licensing Board

1. Dewan Bahadur K. S. Menon Chairman.
2. Mr. M. K. Sen Gupta, C.I.E., Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance Member.
3. Mr. V. P. Bhandarker, O.B.E., Member, Transportation, Railway Board Member.
4. Mr. N. N. Mitra Secretary to the Board.

PROGRAMME FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SALT INDUSTRY

193. *Shri Biswanath Das: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether Government are aware that after the remission of salt tax prices of salt have shot up and that the consumers are left in the hands of black-marketeers?

(b) Do Government propose to lay on the table of the House a copy of the programme of Government for the development of the salt industry, if any?

(c) Have Government considered the question of taking up salt manufacture as the first national industry to develop its manufacture and its side industries and bi-products?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) There has been an increase in the price of salt in certain areas. But this is not the result of the remission of the Salt Tax. The main reasons are shortage of salt in certain areas resulting from low production in Bombay, the stoppage during the last three months of despatch of salt from Pakistan areas from which 35 lakhs maunds of rock salt per annum used to come, inadequate imports from overseas in the first half of the year, and transport difficulties. Since September, however, increased transport has been provided and imports from overseas are arriving in larger quantities.

(b) A tentative programme for the increase of salt production has been prepared and a technical committee is being appointed to examine it in detail.

(c) The Government are considering plans for the development of the manufacture of salt and allied products.

FLUCTUATIONS IN PRICES OF SALT

194. *Shri O. V. Alagesan: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether it is a fact that salt sells at much the same price now as it was selling before the abolition of the Salt Tax?

(b) Are Government aware that the benefits of the abolition of Salt Tax have gone solely to the producers and middle-men and not to the consumers, the majority of whom are poor?

(c) What action has been taken to bring down the price of salt?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) The prices of salt are now less in Bengal, Assam, Orissa, Madras, Eastern and Southern parts of Bihar, Northern C. P., Gujrat in Bombay, Ajmer Merwara and Delhi than they were before the abolition of salt duty. In Western Bihar, some parts of U. P., East Punjab, Bombay and Southern C. P., the prices are higher.

(b) Yes, where supplies were deficient; but the reply is in the negative for the greater part of the country.

(c) Action has been taken to supply East Punjab and the deficiency caused in U. P. by the stoppage of imports from Pakistan, from Sambhar and to move the required quantity of salt to these markets. The requirements of Bihar and the shortage in C. P. and Bombay market is being met by importing the required quantity of salt by sea into Calcutta and Bombay. It is expected that these measures would soon result in lowering the prices of salt in these areas, so that the consumer would obtain the benefit of the remission of the Salt Tax.

ISSUE OF LICENSES FOR PRODUCTION OF SALT

195. *Shri O. V. Alagesan: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state what measures have been taken by Government to increase the production of salt?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the question of issuing licenses to persons to manufacture salt in all suitable places on the coast line?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) To increase the production of salt in India, Government deputed an expert officer in June, 1946, to study the whole question of the salt supply and demand in India and suggest the changes in the administrative machinery necessary to make India self sufficient in the matter of salt. A complete survey of salt production, consumption, distribution, quality, imports and prices has been undertaken and a necessity for fostering and directing the salt industry having been established, outlines of the method of control have been drawn up. A committee of technical experts is being set up to advise on the potentialities for development of the various sources and the schemes of development which may be undertaken immediately and as part of a long term plan as well as to recommend sites where new factories should be established.

The main sources of production in India are in Sambhar Lake, Bombay and Madras. Factories in Rajputana are managed by Government. As a result of certain new schemes undertaken at Sambhar Lake like utilisation of waste brine from the East Lake at Sambhar and of subterranean brine, production at this source has been raised to one hundred and forty lakh maunds against the average of one hundred and eight lakh maunds. Similarly in Madras action taken to encourage production by private manufacturers has resulted in stepping up production from the average of 1 crore 33 lakh maunds to 1 crore 65 lakh maunds.

(b) Government propose to freely issue licences for salt manufacture in suitable places on the coast in the future and a Press note to this effect is being issued.

PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION OF POTATOES

196. *Shri V. I. Munishwami Pillai: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state what has been the consumption of potatoes in the whole of India, provincewise, during the years 1936-37 and 1945-46?

(b) What was the production of potatoes in such of the provinces where it grows during the period referred to in part (a) above?

(c) What is the total quantity imported from outside countries such as Burma, Italy, and Kenya?

(d) Is it a fact that the Madras Presidency supplied potatoes to all the provinces in India from July to November in each year?

(e) Are Government aware that due to the high cost of fertilizers and cooly wages the cost of production of potatoes has proportionately increased?

(f) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of imposing a duty on all imported potatoes to avoid loss to the local growers?

(g) If the answer to part (f) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

Minus sign represents what Pakistan owes to India and plus sign represents, in the case of wheat, the actual loan taken from Pakistan and in the case of gram, the supplies that would have been made to Pakistan Provinces.

Subsequently, India has supplied Pakistan approximately 8,500 tons of imported wheat and Pakistan is supplying approximately 6,000 tons of rice from Sind to India.

	Rice	Wheat	Gram
*West Punjab	—21,000	—43,439	..
*East Punjab	..	..	25,000

GOVERNMENT PLAN FOR INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION

199. *Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: (a) Will Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government propose to lay on the table of the House a statement giving details of their 5 year plan for increasing the production of food by 4 million tons in respect of each province with special reference to irrigation facilities and the supply of artificial fertilizers?

(b) What steps have been taken to implement the plan?

(c) How much cultivable waste (i) has been brought under the plough during the last two years and (ii) is proposed to be cultivated in the next five years, in each province?

(d) Do Government propose to encourage large scale farming, state, co-operative or capitalist, in connection with their five year plan in order to make it easier to meet the needs of the towns for food?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) Two statements showing (i) the targets fixed for each Province before partition together with their break-up, and (ii) the targets fixed for each province after partition are placed on the table of the House. A copy of the note on the ways and means of increasing the production of foodgrains in all the Provinces by 3.0 million tons within five years is also laid on the table. A target of one million tons has been fixed for the States, details of which have yet to be settled in consultation with the States authorities.

(b) The Provincial Governments have prepared their five year G.M.F. plans on the basis of the targets fixed for them. These plans are in the course of execution. No progress reports have so far been received. The Government of India watches and looks after the general co-ordination of the Provincial Schemes. An important side of its work is the assistance given to enable them to obtain materials on priority basis.

(c) (i) A statement showing the area under culturable waste in each province before partition and the increase or decrease during 1944-45 and 1945-46 as compared with normal period is laid on the table. Similar information for 1946-47 is not yet available. (ii) Under the G.M.F. programme of the Provincial Governments, it is proposed to reclaim about 7 lakh acres of land during the next five years. This area is divided amongst the various provinces as follows:—

Province	Thousand Acres
Bengal	50
Bihar	200
Bombay	30
C. P. and Berar	100
Orissa	60
U. P.	250
Total	690
	700,000 roughly.

*The entries represent the position as accepted by the Provincial Partition Committee.

†Not printed in these debates. A copy placed in the library of the House.

(d) This question is largely for the provinces to decide in the light of local conditions. They have, however, been advised to encourage large scale farming.

REORGANISATION COMMITTEE FOR DEPARTMENTS OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

200. *Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state whether Governments are aware that the Reorganisation Committee for the Departments of Agriculture and Food has reported that there is considerable duplication of work in personnel in regard to statistics, marketing, inspection, storage, publicity and work relating to International Liaison Bodies and Advisory Bodies such as the Central Food Advisory Council?

(b) If so, has the Committee made any proposals for the reorganisation of the Departments of Agriculture and Food in order to increase their efficiency and eliminate the duplication referred to above?

(c) What action have Government taken on these recommendations?

(d) Have Government accepted the recommendation of the Committee that the Regional Food Commissioners' Organisation should be reduced and that the reduced organisation should continue in its present form for twelve months only?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Government have generally accepted the recommendations of the Reorganisation Committee and to implement them they have in the first instance appointed a Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture to organise a common Services Division to deal with matters referred to the first part of part (a) of the question. The proposals submitted by the Joint Secretary are under consideration of Government.

In the Ministry of Food the recommendations of the Committee have been given effect to and organisation of the Common Services Division in consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture referred to in the previous para. is the only item to be seen through.

(d) It has not been found possible to carry out the recommendation of the Reorganisation Committee in regard to the Regional Food Commissioners' Organisation so far, firstly on account of the fact that there is no margin of officers at the Centre as contemplated in paragraphs 88 and 89 of the Committee's Report, who can be available for touring and thus help Government to do without the Regional Food Commissioners; secondly as a result of partition of India work in the Bombay Port for receipt, clearance and despatch of imported foodgrains has very largely increased which has rendered it impossible to reduce the Office of the Regional Food Commissioner at Bombay.

ALLOTMENT OF FOODGRAINS BY F. A. O. AND INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY FOOD COUNCIL

201. *Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state what allotments of food grains have been made to India by the Food and Agriculture Organisation and the International Emergency Food Council and the quantity expected to be received during the current year?

(b) What will be the effect of the partition of the country on India's food resources?

(c) What is the normal deficiency of food grains in the country?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) Three statements showing allocated quotas and actual imports of rice and other grains are placed on the table.

- (b) The effect of the partition of the country on India's food resources will be to increase the net annual deficit by about 8 lakhs of tons of foodgrains.
- (c) In pre-war years, India used to import on an average 1.5 million tons.

Statement showing quotas of rice allotted by I. E. F. C. for 1947 and actual and expected shipments during the year.

(Figures in Metric tons.)				
Exporting country	Quota allotted	Actual shipments during Jan.—Oct. 1947	Expected shipments during Nov.—Dec. 1947	Total actual and expected shipments in 1947
1. Burma	371,800	336,774	35,026	371,800
2. Siam	26,919*	20,057	6,862	26,919
3. French Indo China	14,100	4,133†	..	4,133†
4. Egypt	29,300	30,127	..	30,127
5. Ecuador	17,000	8,603	8,500	17,103
6. Brazil	50,400	11,142	17,000†	28,142
7. Mexico	9,150	9,000	..	9,000
	518,669	419,836	67,388	487,224

Quota of cereals other than rice allotted by I. E. F. C. for 1946-47 (July—June) and shipments against this quota

		Tons	
1. Quota		23,00,000	
2. Shipments—			
(a) Wheat	U. S. A.	4,97,546	
	Australia	1,79,268	
	Canada	53,229	
	Turkey	96,952	
	East Africa	13,188	8,40,183
(b) Flour	Australia	49,714	
	U. S. A.	65,839	
	Canada	19,681	1,35,234
(c) Maize	U. S. A.	34,803	
	Argentina	2,95,212	
	Burma	7,230	
	Abyssinia	55	3,37,300
(d) Millets	Egypt	39,811	
	Iraq	9,712	
	Australia	1,100	
	Abyssinia	2,805	
	Argentina	20,033	
	East Africa	738	74,190
(e) Barley	Australia	17,554	
	Egypt	6,866	
	Turkey	99,658	
	Iraq	1,32,276	
	Argentina	26,447	2,82,801
(f) Milo	U. S. A.	3,88,871	3,88,871
(g) Oats	Canada	32,327	
	Argentina	357	32,684
	Grand Total		20,91,272

*Including 4,519 lost in steamer M XYLAS.

†Rough Estimate. Shipment from Brazil depends on satisfactory settlement of price etc. and nothing definite can, therefore be said about quantity that may be shipped in Novr. and December, 1947.

‡Excluding back-log of 1946 viz. 5,153 tons, received in 1947.

Quotas of cereals other than rice allotted by I. E. F. C. for six months July to December 1947 and actual and expected shipments against these quotas

(Figures in tons.)

Exporting country		Quota		Shipments		
		Foodgrains	Quantity	July-Oct. 1947 (Actuals)	Novr.-Decr. 1947 (Expected)	Total July-Decr. 1947
1. U. S. A.	Wheat	.	277,000	154,731	117,337	272,068
	Coarse grains.	.	200,000	149,782	51,000	200,782
2. Other countries	Wheat	.	369,000	251,324	116,145	367,469
	Coarse grains.	.	504,000	115,892	260,798	376,690
Total			13,50,000	6,71,729	545,280	12,17,009

PURCHASE OF FOODGRAINS FROM ABROAD

202. *Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state what is the total amount of food grains purchased from (i) all countries and from (ii) hard currency countries only last year?

(b) What is the estimated amount of the purchases to be made this year?

(c) What is the amount spent on subsidising food last year and how much is expected to be spent on it this year?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a)

		Quantity in thousands of tons	Amount in lakhs of rupees
(a) 1946—47	(i) All countries	2658	8870
	(ii) Hard currency countries	1433	5268
(b) 1947—48	(i) All countries	2573	10,788
	(ii) Hard currency countries	1362	5739

(c) The total amount spent on subsidising imported foodgrains supplied to Provinces during 1946-47 was Rs. 20.59 crores. The amount estimated to be spent upto the 31st December, 1947, to which date the scheme of subsidising foodgrains has been sanctioned, works out to Rs. 17.35 crores. The policy to be adopted in regard to subsidy on supplies to be made on or after the 1st January, 1948, is under the consideration of the Government of India.

DISCONTENTMENT AMONG JODHPUR RAILWAY STAFF

203. *Shri Jainarain Vyas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether, in view of the fact that Jodhpur Railway runs both through Indian Union and Pakistan territories, Government consider that Railway as one of strategic importance?

(b) Are Government aware that there is discontentment among the staff of that Railway on account of the recommendations of the Pay Commission not having been applied to them and the suspension of staff that left Pakistan territories after the disturbances created by the Muslim Guards and others on

Jodhpur Railway stations in Pakistan areas and in territories surrounding them?

(c) Have Government taken or propose to take any steps to allay the discontentment?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The Jodhpur Railway consists of two sections—the Indian State Section and the Section which was formerly owned by the Government of India but now owned by the Pakistan Government. The latter is being worked under a contract with H. H. the Maharaja of Jodhpur, but consequent on the partition of the country, a notice has been served that the contract would terminate from June 1948 after which the Pakistan Government will arrange for its working. The Jodhpur Railway will then cease to run through the Pakistan territory and will not be considered as of strategic importance on the grounds mentioned by the Honourable Member.

(b) and (c) The administration of staff matters on the Jodhpur Railway rests entirely with the Jodhpur Durbar and the Dominion Government have to control in such matters.

INSTALLATION OF RADIO SETS IN VILLAGES

204. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether any, and if so, what steps are being taken for the production of cheap Radio sets for installation in villages;

(b) what would be their approximate prices; and

(c) whether all the machinery needed for the production will also be manufactured in India?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) and (b) There are at present two firms in India which assemble electric mains operated radio sets. One of them is manufacturing what is popularly called the "People's Set", the price of which is Rs. 95/-.

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research have financed several schemes of research in connection with the manufacture of cheap Radio sets in India. Research work on schemes relating to "manufacture of Condensers and Resistances" and "manufacture of Loud-speakers" has been completed, and non-technical notes have been prepared for the commercial utilisation of the results obtained. Research on the "design of cheap radio sets" has also been completed, and the question of commercial utilisation of the results obtained is being taken up by the Council. In addition, a fourth research scheme is being financed by the Council at the University College of Science at Calcutta on "the manufacture of Radio Valves". A pilot plant has been imported from America for this purpose and the experiments are still in progress.

The Panel on Electrical Machinery and Equipment has made recommendations with regard to the manufacture of cheap radio sets in India, which are now under the consideration of Government.

(c) At present, only assembly of radio sets from imported radio components possible. Attempts are, however, being made to manufacture as many radio components as possible, and it is hoped that in the next five years India will be well on her way to self-sufficiency in this regard. No highly specialised machinery is required for the manufacture of the majority of the radio components needed, and this machinery can be manufactured in India.

DISPOSAL OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS IN THE ASSEMBLY

Mr. Speaker: I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Members again to the very unsatisfactory manner, to my mind, in which we have been disposing all these questions and answers. Out of a list of 72 questions today we have been able to go through only 15. There are a large number of questions left over every day and the only alternative, for giving time to other questions, at least those which ask for some important information, is for us to proceed quickly with these questions and supplementaries. I find that a large number of Honourable Members are either proceeding by way of argument or asking for opinions or making suggestions for actions. Strictly speaking, under Parliamentary practice all this is prohibited. Therefore, if they put their questions very shortly without a long preamble involving arguments or opinions, we shall be able to make much better progress, and if the Honourable Members restrain themselves from putting questions on comparatively small matters, we shall be able to make much better progress. That is all I have to say about these questions.

Mr. B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur (Madras: Muslim): In arranging the agenda of questions, the Speaker may exercise his discretion and allow more important questions of priority over the others.

Mr. Speaker: I myself will not be in agreement with that. It is the member's responsibility which no Speaker can ever shoulder. The importance is known to the Questioner and he is the best judge about it. Therefore even in supplementaries, I am leaving it to the Members themselves, not to put in questions at all unless some important information is really required. That is the only way of bringing before the House a larger number of questions which are perhaps more important. I really can not know myself which question is important and which is not.

Shri H. V. Kamath (C. P. & Berar: General): Before we proceed to formal legislative business, may I suggest that the walls of this Chamber which look so nude and bare, as well as your own chair and dais, be adorned and embellished with our National Flag in consonance with the grace and dignity of this Parliament on the same lines as has been done in the Constitution Hall?

Mr. Speaker: We will consider the question. But I will suggest that all questions of this type may rather be discussed with me in the Chamber rather than in the House.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

NOTIFICATIONS *re* RULES FRAMED UNDER THE MOTOR VEHICLES ACT.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (Minister for Railways and Transport): Sir, I lay on the table a copy of each of the following notifications relating to rules framed under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, namely:—

(a) Coorg Notification No. 144/R. Dis. 95/45, dated the 7th June, 1947 as amended by Notification No. 195/R. Dis. 95/45, dated the 4th September, 1947;

(b) Delhi Notification No. F. 12(61)/46 H. P. W., dated the 25th June, 1947;

(c) Delhi Notification No. F. 12(38)/47 H. P. W., dated the 5th July, 1947;

(d) Delhi Notification No. F. 12(100)/46 H. P. W., dated the 7th July, 1947; and

(e) Delhi Notification No. F. 12 (56)/46 H. P. W., dated the 19th July, 1947.

THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF COORG.

NOTIFICATION

No. 144/R. Dis. 95/45, dated Mercara, the 7th June 1947.

In exercise of the powers conferred by sections 70 and 91 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 (Act IV of 1939), the Chief Commissioner is hereby pleased to make the following amendments to the Coorg Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, issued with his notification No. R.F. 43/131/39, dated the 26th March 1940, as subsequently amended:—

Amendments.

1. Rule 123—

After rule 123(c) add the following:—

(f) The Provincial Transport Authority may, by order in writing, direct that until the first day of January 1948, nothing in this rule in regard to and consequent upon the provision requiring that the vehicle shall be driven from the right-hand side shall apply to a public service vehicle or a specified class of public service vehicles fitted with left-hand steering control and obtained through the Disposals Organisation of the Central Government.

(g) Where a registering authority registers a public service vehicle in respect of which, or belonging to a class in respect of which, an order under sub-rule (f) has been made, he shall note in the certificate of registration the fact that nothing in rule 123 in regard to and consequent upon the provision requiring that the vehicle shall be driven from the right-hand side shall apply to the vehicle.

2. Rule 143—

“(1) The existing rule 143 shall be numbered as sub-rule (1) and the following sub-rules be added, namely:—

(2) The Provincial Transport Authority may, by order in writing, direct that until the 1st day of January 1948, nothing in rule 123 in regard to and consequent upon the provision that the vehicle shall be driven from the right-hand side shall apply to a goods vehicle fitted with left-hand steering control and obtained through the Disposals Organisation of the Central Government.

(3) Where a registering authority registers a goods vehicle in respect of which, or belonging to a class in respect of which, an order under sub-rule (2) has been made, he shall note in the certificate of registration the fact that nothing in rule 143 in regard to and consequent upon the provision requiring that the vehicle shall be driven from the right-hand side shall apply to the vehicle”.

3. Rule 107—

The existing rule shall be numbered as sub-rule (a) and the following sub-rule shall be added, namely:—

(b) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-rule (a) the Regional Transport Authority may authorise the use of a transport vehicle obtained through the Disposals Organisation of the Central Government and having an overall width exceeding, but not exceeding 8'1" on a specified route or routes, or in a specified area, within the Province. Where a Regional Transport Authority takes action under the sub-rule it shall enter in the certificate of registration of the vehicle, particulars of the route or routes on which, or the area in which, the vehicle may be used.

4. For rule 149 of the said rules the following rule shall be substituted, namely:—

(a) The signalling device with which a motor vehicle with a left-hand steering control is required to be equipped shall be a direction indicator as prescribed in rule 112 (b), (c), (d), (f) and (j) and shall be fitted to both sides of the vehicle.

(b) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-rule (a) until the first day of January 1946, a vehicle other than a transport vehicle, obtained through the Disposals Organisation of the Central Government equipped with electric lighting may be fitted with a mechanical direction indicator complying with requirements of rule 112 (c) on the right-hand side of the vehicle only. The words “Caution left hand drive”, shall be painted on the right-hand rear of every such vehicle near the number plate.

(c) The Provincial Transport Authority may, by order in writing, direct that the provisions of sub-rule (b) shall apply to any transport vehicle or class of transport vehicles equipped with electric lighting specified in the order.

(d) Where a Registering Authority registers a transport vehicle in respect of which or belonging to a class in respect of which, an order under sub-rule (c) has been made, he shall note in the certificate of registration the fact that the vehicle may be fitted with a mechanical direction indicator on the right hand side only.

K. CHENGAPPA,
Chief Commissioner.

CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF COORG

NOTIFICATION

No. 195/R. Dis. 95/45, dated Mercara, the 4th September 1947.

CORRIGENDA.

In the Chief Commissioner's notification No. 144/R. Dis. 95/45, dated the 7th June 1947, making certain amendments to the Coorg Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940:

- (i) in rule 107(b) of item 3 of the amendments, insert the figures 7'6" after the words “overall width exceeding”;
- (ii) in the revised rule 149(b) of item 4 of the amendments for the figure “1946” insert “1948”.

K. CHENGAPPA,
Chief Commissioner.

CHIEF COMMISSIONER, DELHI PROVINCE, DELHI
NOTIFICATION

Delhi, the 25th June, 1947

No. F. 12 (61)/46-HPW.—In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (c) of section 21 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, read with the notification of the Government of India in the Department of Communications No. R-60, dated the 28th June, 1939, the Chief Commissioner of Delhi is pleased to make the following rules, the same having been previously published with his notification No. F.12(61)/46-HPW, dated the 1st April, 1947.

Rules

To the existing Rules in Chapter II add the following as rules 2.19, 2.20, 2.21 and 2.22.

2.19. *Exemption of ex-servicemen from test of competence to drive.*—Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (6) of section 7 of the Act, any person who proves to the satisfaction of the licensing authority that he was discharged or released from the Armed Forces of the Crown as a Grade I or Grade II driver of a motor vehicle or a service Tradesman of any equivalent grade as hereinafter described and who applies within two years of his discharge or release as the case may be for a licence to drive any class of motor vehicle, other than a motor cycle in the case of a Grade II driver, shall not be required to undergo part I of the test of competence to drive as set forth in the Third Schedule to the Act.

Driver, Grade I.

Driver Mechanic.

Motor Mechanic.

Crew Driver Mechanic—Grade II.

Crew Motor Mechanic—Grade I.

Driver M. T. (Leading Aircraftsman).

2.20. *Exemption of ex-servicemen from test fee.*—Notwithstanding anything contained in Rule 8 a person who should otherwise be required to pay a fee for a test of competence to drive, but who proves to the satisfaction of the licensing authority that he served for not less than six months in any of the Armed Forces of the Crown between the 3rd day of September, 1939 and the 1st day of April, 1946 and that he was honourably released or discharged from such service and that either he qualified as a Grade I, II or III driver or as a Service Tradesman of an equivalent grade as hereinafter described during the service as aforesaid, or that at the commencement of the Act he was the holder of a current licence issued under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1914 authorising him to drive the class of vehicle mentioned in his application shall, if he applies for a licence within two years of the date of his discharge or release, be entitled to undergo not more than one test of competence to drive without the payment of any fee.

Driver, Grade I.

Driver Mechanic.

Motor Mechanic.

Crew Driver Mechanic—Grade II.

Crew Motor Mechanic—Grade I.

Driver M. T. (Leading Aircraftsman).

Driver, Grade II.

Driver Mechanic (Cinema)—Grade I.

Driver, M. T. (A.C.I.).

M. T. Mechanic.

Driver, Grade III.

Driver Operator, Grade II.

Driver M. T. (A. C. 2).

2.21. *Fees payable by ex-servicemen for the issue of licences.*—Notwithstanding anything contained in section 7 of the Act a person who proves to the satisfaction of the licensing authority that at the commencement of the Act he held a current licence granted under the provision of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1914 and that by reasons of service of not less than six months in any of the Armed Forces of the Crown between the 3rd day of September, 1939 and the 1st day of April, 1946 being service from which he was honourably released or discharged, he failed to apply for a new licence under the Act within twelve months of its commencement, and who applies within one year of his discharge or release for the issue of a new licence to drive any of the classes of vehicle covered by the original licence shall if the licensing authority decides to issue the licence, be entitled to receive it on payment of a fee of Rs. 3.

2.22. *Fees payable by ex-servicemen for the renewal of licence.*—Notwithstanding anything contained in section II of the Act a person who proves to the satisfaction of the Licensing authority that he was granted a licence under Act and that by reason of service of not less than six months in any of the Armed Forces of the Crown between the 1st day of April, 1939 and the 1st day of April, 1946 being service from which he was honourably released or discharged he failed to renew the licence within 15 days of its expiry, and who applies for renewal within one year of his discharge or release shall if the licensing authority decides to renew the licence, be entitled to have it renewed on payment of a fee of Rs. 3.

By order,

RATAN LAL,

*Secretary (Local Self Government)
to the Chief Commissioner, Delhi.*

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, DELHI

NOTIFICATION

Delhi, the 5th July 1947

No. F. 12(38)/47-HPW.—In exercise of the powers conferred by sections 21 and 41 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, read with the notification of the Government of India in the Department of Communications No. R-60, dated the 28th June 1939 the Chief Commissioner of Delhi is pleased to make the following rules the same having been previously published with his notification No. F. 12(38)/47-HPW, dated the 27th May 1947.

Rules

Notwithstanding anything contained in the Delhi Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940 no fee shall be charged for the issue or alteration of certificates of registration relating to Motor Vehicles which are the property of the Canadian High Commissioner in India and other Officers of the Canadian Mission.

2. If the Canadian High Commissioner in India or the officers of his staff or the drivers employed by the Canadian High Commissioner in India or employed by the officers of his staff have paid or shall hereafter pay a fee for the issue or renewal of a license to drive a motor vehicle or for undergoing a test of competency to drive the fee shall on the application of the payer be refunded to him.

By order,

RATAN LAL,

*Secretary (Local Self Government)
to the Chief Commissioner, Delhi.*

CHIEF COMMISSIONER, DELHI PROVINCE, DELHI.

NOTIFICATION

Delhi, the 7th July 1947

No. F. 12(100)/46 HPW.—In exercise of the powers conferred by sections 21 and 41 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, read with the notification of the Government of India in the Department of Communications No. R-60, dated the 28th June 1939 the Chief Commissioner of Delhi is pleased to make the following rules, the same having been previously published, dated the 13th February 1947.

Rules

Notwithstanding anything contained in the Delhi Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940 no fee shall be charged for the issue or alteration of certificates of registration relating to motor vehicles which are the property of the High Commissioner for the United Kingdom in India and officers on his staff.

If the High Commissioner for the United Kingdom in India or the officers on his staff or the drivers employed by the High Commissioner for the United Kingdom in India or employed by the officers on his staff have paid or shall hereafter pay a fee for the issue or renewal of a license to drive a motor vehicle or for undergoing a test of competency to drive, the fee shall on the application of the payer be refunded to him.

By order,

RATAN LAL,

*Secretary (Local Self Government)
to the Chief Commissioner, Delhi.*

CHIEF COMMISSIONER, DELHI PROVINCE, DELHI.

NOTIFICATION

Delhi, the 19th July 1947

No. F. 12 (56)/46 HPW.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 41 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, read with the notification of the Government of India in the Department of Communications No. R-60, dated the 28th June, 1939, the Chief Commissioner of Delhi is pleased to make the following amendment in the Delhi Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940 the same having been previously published with his notification No. F. 12(56)/46-H.P.W., dated the 27th May, 1947.

Amendment

For Clause (a) of sub-rule (1) of rule 3.10 the following shall be substituted.

(a) An officer deputed for the purpose by the District Magistrate, and

By order,

RATAN LAL,

*Secretary (Local Self Government)
to the Chief Commissioner, Delhi.*

STATEMENT re TENDERS NOT ACCEPTED BY THE INDIA STORE DEPARTMENT, LONDON.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee (Minister for Industry and Supply): Sir, I lay on the table a copy of each of the half-yearly statements* of cases in which the lowest tenders have not been accepted by the India Store Department, London.

*Not printed in these Debates. Copy placed in the Library of the House.—(Ed. of D.).

NOTIFICATION *re* RULES FRAMED UNDER THE INDIAN AIRCRAFT ACT, 1934.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai (Minister for Communications): Sir, I lay on the table a copy of each of the following notifications relating to the rules framed under the Indian Aircraft Act, 1934, namely:—

(a) Department of Communications notification No. 10-M(A)/44-46, dated the 25th June 1947; and

(b) Ministry of Communications notification No. 10/A/18-47, dated the 7th October, 1947.

Department of Communication Notification No. 10-M(A)/44-46, dated the 25th June 1947

No. 10-M(A)44-46.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 5 of the Indian Aircraft Act, 1934 (XXII of 1934), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following further amendment shall be made in the Indian Aircraft Rules, 1937, the same having been previously published as required by section 14 of the said Act, namely:—

In sub-rule (1) of the rule 3 of the said Rules, for the definition of "Contracting State", the following definition shall be substituted, namely:—

"'Contracting State' means any state which is for the time being a party to the Convention on International Civil Aviation concluded at Chicago on December 7, 1944, and any amendment which may be made thereto under the provisions of Article 94 thereof."

Ministry of Communications, Notification No. 10-A/18-47, dated the 7th October, 1947.

No. 10-A/18-47.—In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 5 of the Indian Aircraft Act, 1934 (XXII of 1934), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following further amendment shall be made in the Indian Aircraft Rules, 1937, the same having been published as required by Section 14 of the said Act, namely:—

For sub-rule (4) of rule 135 of the said Rules, the following sub-rule shall be substituted, namely:—

"(4) when a vacancy occurs in the office of Chairman or other Member of the Board or when the Chairman or any other Member is temporarily absent, the Central Government may, if it thinks fit, notwithstanding anything contained in the preceding sub-rules, by order appoint any person to be temporarily Chairman or Member of the Board, as the case may be, during such period as may be specified in the order, and any Chairman or Member so appointed shall exercise or perform all the powers and functions of a Chairman or Member of the Board under these Rules."

APPOINTMENT OF THE HONOURABLE DR. JOHN MATTHAI TO PERFORM FUNCTIONS OF FINANCE MINISTER DURING GENERAL DISCUSSION OF RAILWAY BUDGET.

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform Honourable Members that His Excellency the Governor General has, under rule 2 of the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) Rules been pleased to appoint the Honourable Dr. John Matthai to perform the functions assigned to the Finance Minister under rule 46 of the said Rules on the occasion of the general discussion appointed for Tuesday the 25th November, 1947, of the statement of the estimated Receipts and Expenditure of the Dominion in respect of Railways.

ELECTION TO STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the Assembly that upto 12 noon on Wednesday, the 19th November, 1947, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Finance Committee, fifteen nominations were received. Subsequently one member withdrew his candidature. As the number of the

remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare the following members to be duly elected:—

- (1) Shri Surendra Mohan Ghosh,
- (2) Shri M. S. Aney,
- (3) Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava,
- (4) Pandit Govind Malaviya,
- (5) Shri U. Srinivasa Mallayya,
- (6) Shri Bikramlal Sondhi,
- (7) Prof. K. T. Shah,
- (8) Shri T. T. Krishnamachari,
- (9) Shri Banarsi Prasad Jhunjunwala,
- (10) Diwan Chaman Lall,
- (11) Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar,
- (12) Shri K. M. Munshi,
- (13) Shri Biswanath Das, and
- (14) Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth.

ELECTION TO STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYS.

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the Assembly that upto 12 noon on Wednesday, the 19th November, 1947, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Finance Committee for Railways, thirteen nominations were received. Subsequently two members withdrew their candidature. As the number of the remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare the following members to be duly elected:—

- (1) Shri Khandubhai K. Desai,
- (2) Shri L. S. Bhatkar,
- (3) Shri Jainarain Vyas,
- (4) Shri Satyanarayan Sinha,
- (5) Sjt. Rohini Kumar Choudhuri,
- (6) Mr. Frank R. Anthony,
- (7) Shri Debi Prosad Khaitan,
- (8) Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra,
- (9) Pandit Balkrishna Sharma,
- (10) Shri K. Santhanam, and
- (11) Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad.

ELECTION TO CENTRAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RAILWAYS

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the Assembly that upto 12 noon on Wednesday, the 19th November, 1947, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Central Advisory Council for Railways, nine nominations were received. Subsequently one member withdrew his candidature. As the number of the remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare the following members to be duly elected:—

- (1) Mr. R. K. Sidhwa,
- (2) Shri Deshbandhu Gupta,
- (3) Shri R. R. Diwakar,
- (4) Shri Arun Chandra Guha,
- (5) Shrimati Amu Swaminadhan,
- (6) Shrimati Renuka Ray,
- (7) Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor, and
- (8) Shri Ppendra Nath Barman.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed to the consideration of the Press (Special Powers) Bill, 1947.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): Sir, on clause 4 I have put in a short notice amendment of a drafting nature.

Mr. Speaker: I generally do not allow last minute amendments unless they are substantially agreed to by all the parties. I should like to know if the Honourable Home Minister agrees to accept this amendment, in which case I will give permission to move it. The amendment is that in part (a) of the clause for the words "His Majesty's subjects" the words "subjects of the Dominion" be substituted.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Minister for Home, Information and Broadcasting and States): Sir, I have no objection to the amendment being moved.

Mr. Speaker: Although as a general rule no leave is granted by me to move amendments of which due notice has not been given, I do not want to exclude any important amendment or an amendment which the House would like to discuss. So the Honourable Member may move his amendment.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I am grateful for the permission. The delay was due to the fact that I did not get a copy of the Bill in time.

I beg to move:

"That in part (a) of clause 4 of the Bill, for the words 'His Majesty's subjects' the words 'subjects of the Dominion' be substituted."

I think that after the 15th August last it is more appropriate in the new set-up of things that we should be described as subjects of the Dominion Government. There appears to be something of an anomaly which I want to remove by this amendment. I submit that by the Independence of India Act His Majesty's Government have given up all responsibility for Indian affairs or to pass or take part in any future legislation. So the amendment should be accepted or at least the matter should be clarified. Sir, I move.

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That in part (a) of clause 4 of the Bill, for the words 'His Majesty's subjects' the words 'subjects of the Dominion' be substituted."

I should like to make one little observation with a view to curtail, as far as possible, these debates on different motions. If possible, I should like Government to state their case on any amendment or motion that comes before the House. The advantage, to my mind, would be that, if the amendment is acceptable it will save time; even if it is not acceptable to certain sections of the House, it will give Honourable Members the grounds on which Government are not accepting it, and the debate in that case will be conducted better and not in the rambling form that it sometimes takes. This does not mean that the Government Member will not have a right of reply; he will have a chance at the end of replying in full. This suggestion of mine does not mean that, if the Honourable Member of Government does not choose to speak in the beginning he must still do so. In this case, I should like the Honourable Home Minister to say what he has got to say, if he has no objection.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Sir, with regard to this proposed amendment I have to say that the Act under which we are governed today is the Adaptation of the 1935 Act, and there the words "His Majesty" occur in various places. Besides we know that the appointment of the Governor-General is also made by His Majesty; the Government of India is carried on in the name of His Majesty. This is a formality with which we need not quarrel, and I do not think there is much substance in the amendment. So long as we are a Dominion this formality may be there.

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): Sir, I submit that the expression "subjects of the Dominion" is very unhappy; I do not think it is ever used. We should say "citizens" and not "subjects".

Mr. Speaker: The discussion is unnecessary in view of what the Honourable Home Minister said; he is not prepared to accept the amendment.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: Has the Honourable Member leave of the House to withdraw his amendment?

The amendment was by leave of the Assembly withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 5 to 16 were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Sir, I move:

"That for clause 17 of the Bill, the following clause be substituted, namely:

Repeal of Ordinance X of 1947.	17. The Press (Special Powers) (No. 2) Ordinance, 1947, is hereby repealed."
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Mr. Speaker: The words on the left side appear to be a marginal note.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Minister for Law): Those words need not be put.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): It is the title of the Clause—the substitution of The Press (Special Powers) (No. 2) Ordinance, 1947, as against for Repeal of Ordinance X of 1947.

Mr. Speaker: That is a marginal note.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: There is no marginal note in the Bill as printed. That is a heading.

Mr. Speaker: I think that is a marginal note. It is for facility of printing that it has been done. This thick black type means a marginal note. When I put the clause, the marginal note will not be included.

The question is:

"That for clause 17 of the Bill, the following clause be substituted, namely:
17. The Press (Special Powers) (No. 2) Ordinance, 1947, is hereby repealed."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 17, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 17, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Shri C. M. Poonacha (Coorg: General): Sir, I move:

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 1 of the Bill, the words 'excepting Coorg' be added at the end."

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Mr. Speaker: These amendments are merely verbal.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill as amended, be passed."

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill as amended, be passed."

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I move:

"That in clause 2 of the Bill for the word 'something' the word 'anything' be substituted."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in clause 2 of the Bill for the word 'something' the word 'anything' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I move:

"That in clause 3, line 4, the words 'or discharged' be omitted."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in clause 3, line 4, the words 'or discharged' be omitted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE REGULATION (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Minister for Finance):
Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to amend the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947, be taken into consideration."

This Bill seeks to add the Explanation to Section 8(1) of the Foreign Exchange Act. Under that Act the Central Government is empowered to prohibit the import of bullion into India, except under a license from the Reserve Bank of India. As Honourable Members may be aware, the price of gold in India is very much higher than the world price of gold. The Indian market, therefore, has a very great attraction for the import of gold bullion. But the import of gold bullion into India creates great exchange difficulties for us, because the balance of trade on account of the large volume of import of foodstuffs is against us and all foreign exchange is valuable to us.

In March last, on account of this consideration and the need for conserving our exchange resources, the Reserve Bank completely prohibited the import of any bullion into India. Notwithstanding this ban on the import of bullion it was discovered that our purpose was defeated where an adjoining territory imported bullion. Experience has shown that any bullion imported into an adjoining territory is ultimately smuggled into India and the foreign exchange for the payment of that bullion is ultimately found by the smuggling of goods from India into the adjoining territory. Now such a state of affairs is clearly against the economic interests of India and it defeats our purpose. It is therefore necessary that we should make the ban applicable to bullion being carried into India or brought into India in any ship or other conveyance intended for an adjoining territory. Since even such an entry can be construed as bringing or sending into India, Government have actually treated such cases as imports. In order, however, to leave no room for doubt, Government thought it necessary to make this amendment to the Exchange Regulation Act.

Sir, it is intended to give retroactive effect to this amendment because we have already dealt in this manner with some consignments of bullion that came into India but was intended for an adjoining territory. We do not want that any legal complications should arise as a result of the action that we

have already taken and we want to avoid any such legal complication. That is why this amending Bill gives retroactive effect to the amendment.

I find that there is an amendment to clause 2, standing in the name of my friend Mr. K. Santhanam, to the effect that in the explanation to clause 2 of the Bill the words 'British' wherever it occurs be omitted. Well, this was exactly my reaction when the draft was submitted for my approval. I thought the use of the word 'British India' in our legislation is now out of date and incongruous and I therefore wanted that the word "British" should be omitted. But I was told by the legal experts that the term 'British India' in the Bill, under the Adaptation of Existing Indian Laws Order, means all the Provinces of India. As this Bill makes an addition with retroactive effect to the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act in which the term 'British India' has been used throughout, the draftsmen thought it necessary to keep the same terminology. But subject to what the Law Member might say, I have no objection to make any change that may be necessary. Sir, I move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to amend the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947, be taken into consideration."

What has the Law Member to say about the position regarding the expression 'British India'?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Minister for Law): I thought I would speak when the amendment was being moved, in reply to it. If you so desire, I shall explain the position.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, because it would save time.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Sir, we have got what is called an Existing Laws Adaptation Order in which certain terms are defined. In that order the term 'British India' is defined and is defined to mean 'all the Provinces of British India'. It is therefore open to the House to include in this particular Bill either of the two phrases which under the Adaptation Order mean the same thing. We could either use 'British India' or we could use 'all the Provinces of India' which would mean one and the same thing. The question of these two alternatives and as to which of them we should adopt really has to be determined by the phraseology which has been used in the main Bill to which this Bill is merely an amendment. In the original Bill dealing with foreign exchange regulation, the term used is 'British India' and my submission is that if this amendment is to be intelligible it must use common phraseology which is 'British India'. There is nothing to be lost, everything to be gained, by using the same phraseology. The amendment which is tabled is purely sentimental in my judgment and wishes to avoid the word 'British' from the text of the law.

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): Not at all.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: My submission is that in view of the necessity for uniformity between the main Act and the amending Act we should adopt the same phraseology which has been used in the main Act.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa (C. P. and Berar: General): May I know whether there is any legal difficulty if the word 'British' is omitted?

Mr. Speaker: That is exactly what the Law Member has pointed out. Without going into the merits of the case, and looking *prima facie* into what the Law Member has said, I shall curtail the discussion by saying that I refuse to give my leave to this amendment.

[Shri C. M. Poonacha]

Sir, as we listened to the speech of the Honourable Minister for Home, Affairs and Information the House was convinced of the necessity of a Bill of the type now being moved in this House in so far as the Chief Commissioners' provinces of Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara were concerned. But I am constrained to observe whether a Bill of this type is necessary so far as Coorg is concerned. We have been given to understand by the Honourable Minister, while placing the Bill for the consideration of the House that circumstances obtaining in the provinces of Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara compelled the Government to come forward with a Bill of this type. But in respect of the other Chief Commissioners' provinces, he himself made it clear that there was no such necessity. So far as Coorg is concerned, I may point out to this House that there is no necessity for a Bill of this type at all. We have been fortunate enough to enjoy communal harmony and there is no need to call for a Bill of this type as inter-communal feelings are very satisfactory in Coorg. Therefore, I suggest that so far as Coorg is concerned it be exempted from the scope of this Bill.

Apart from that fact I may point out for the information of this House that the control of newspapers, books and printing presses come under the purview of the Coorg Legislative Council which has exclusive jurisdiction over that particular subject. In item No. 31 of the Coorg Devolution Rules of 1924, it is specifically mentioned that the control of newspapers, books and printing presses come under the purview of the Coorg Legislative Council. Therefore, I am afraid that without sufficient reason for extending a drastic Bill of this type, whether it would not be advisable on the part of this House to extend the scope of this legislation to Coorg also. I feel the Coorg Legislative Council is competent enough to deal with this matter and therefore I urge that if any circumstances do arise, in future of the nature explained by the Minister in charge, the Coorg Legislative Council could be directed to take necessary steps in the matter, and that we from this end need not attempt to force a measure of this type.

Therefore, Sir, I submit that the scope of this Bill need not be extended to the Province of Coorg and Coorg be exempted from the operations of the Bill.

Sir, I move.

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 1 of the Bill, the words 'excepting Coorg' be added at the end."

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I fully appreciate the sensitiveness of my friend the Honourable Member from Coorg, and I am glad that atmosphere of Coorg is such that he does not feel any necessity for a legislation of this nature. It is also a matter of satisfaction that there is a small spot in India where no emergency exists. But I am afraid it is difficult to conceive that a small area can permanently remain unaffected and it would be unwise for us to come up specially for a legislation of this kind if the atmosphere is vitiated a few months after in a province like Coorg. I can assure my friend from Coorg that if the atmosphere there continues as peaceful as it is, there will be no occasion for such powers to be exercised, and if there is any misuse of powers, he can always find a remedy by bringing it to the notice of Government. The matter will be set right immediately. Therefore I think the clause as it is should be retained.

Mr. Speaker: Before I put the amendment to vote, may I know what is the desire of the Honourable Member?

Shri C. M. Poonacha: Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my amendment.

Mr. Speaker: Has the Honourable Member leave of the House to withdraw this amendment?

The amendment was by leave of the Assembly withdrawn.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I move:

"That after sub-clause (2) of clause 1 of the Bill, the following new sub-clause be added, namely:

'(3) This Act shall cease to have effect after the 31st December, 1949'."

I request leave of the House to allow me to omit the latter half of the amendment, viz., the words "or after the date of commencement of the new constitution whichever is earlier."

Sir, I need not speak much over this amendment. I am not surprised that there have been no amendments at all to any of the clauses of the Bill. The Bill as a whole cannot be amended: it must continue as it is or must be ended and the sole justification for the Bill is the necessity for it. I agree with my friend Mr. Deshbandhu Gupta when he said that it is a black Bill and if conditions were normal there can be no justification for putting such a Bill on the statute book. The only thing we can do is to put a time limit and this is what I have done in my amendment. I hope by that time the necessity would have lapsed and this Bill also would lapse. Sir, I move.

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That after sub-clause (2) of clause 1 of the Bill, the following new sub-clause be added, namely:

'(3) This Act shall cease to have effect after the 31st December, 1949'."

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Sir, I accept the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That after sub-clause (2) of clause 1 of the Bill, the following new sub-clause be added, namely:

'(3) This Act shall cease to have effect after the 31st December, 1949'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Sir, may I suggest that the words "or discharged" in line 4 of clause 3 be omitted, as they do not fit in with the rest of the sentence.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I would suggest that it would read properly if after "any power which is conferred" the words "or duty which is imposed", are added. In that case the word "discharged" occurring later in the sentence would not be inappropriate.

Mr. Speaker: As was pointed out by the Honourable the Finance Minister yesterday, the power of the Government may be challenged in respect of any duties which the Government may impose upon the Provincial Governments. Therefore I would suggest the other alternative.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: In the circumstances I suggest that the words "or discharged" be omitted.

Mr. Speaker: I shall take up this amendment after the Honourable Minister has moved that the Bill as amended be passed.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Sir, may I with your permission go back to clause 2 and move that for the word "something" in the clause the word "anything" be substituted. That is the more appropriate word that should have been used. There was an amendment but unfortunately my Honourable friend did not move it.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: I was too late and that was the reason.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, my object was not to improve the phraseology at all. If that had been the only object I would not have tabled this amendment. But my object is that smuggling can be done not only from British Indian ports but from ports of Indian States which have acceded to the Indian Dominion. I wanted to prevent even that smuggling. I thought it was the duty of the Finance Minister to have gone behind the technicalities and brought out an amendment of the whole Act if necessary to see that the whole Act is applicable not only to our ports but to ports of Indian States which have acceded. But he has brought a small amendment dealing only with gold smuggling. So far as gold smuggling is concerned I would include the ports of the Indian States which have acceded to India. If you drop the word 'British' it means India i.e. the Provinces of India, the Chief Commissioners' Provinces and the States which have acceded to India. It is a vast extension of the content that I was aiming at and not mere phraseology.

If you would permit me to extend my amendment not only to the Explanation but to the particular section concerned, Section 8, then it would cover my point. There would of course be, from the legal point of view, some anomaly as the whole Act uses the term 'British India'. But when we are out for remedying a big evil we should not care for verbal anomalies and it should be open to the Legal Dept. to bring an amending Bill. But I do not think the substance should be lost by technical difficulties, and I would leave it to you, Sir, to consider whether it is worth while to pursue the point. If the Finance Minister will give us an assurance that he will bring an amendment during this session extending the scope of this Act to all the Indian States that have acceded to the Indian Dominion I would not pursue the point. My point is one of substance and not of technical phraseology.

Mr. Speaker: I propose going into the substance only to the extent of deciding as to whether it will be proper to refuse leave. I have already said that I refuse leave.

The point really is about the legal position as the Honourable Minister supposed it to be. In the first place, it will not be possible on a Bill of this type to make amendments as regards those other Sections of the particular Act which are not included in the Bill and are not before the House. Therefore there is no question of amending the other Sections of that particular legislation. That is the first point.

As regards the other point, which he suggested I do not know whether it will be proper on my part to raise any difficulties, but the competency of this House to legislate for States and territories within States is a question which is not a simple one. I would not say further than that at this stage. That question also will have to be examined by the Legal Department, and then of course the proper legislation will have to be brought. It may not be supposed that because this House is sovereign so far as certain matters are concerned, it is sovereign in respect of all matters governing the administration of Indian States. We shall have to examine the position at every time. The best course would therefore be, in the light of what the Honourable the Law Member has said, not to touch this; and his attention having been sufficiently invited by the discussion in the House, the Honourable Member who wished to move the amendment in the House should feel satisfied that the Ministry would look into the matter and do whatever is necessary to safeguard the legal interests as well as other interests. That is why, even on a *prima facie* consideration, I do not think this amendment should be permitted and any further time of the House should be taken in raising the technical question. After all, it is a question to be decided by the legal experts.

Shri C. Prakasam (Madras: General): The Law Member gave his opinion. He made his statement. Soon after that, you were good enough to say that you would not permit the amendment. What would be the position if I do not accept the correctness of the position taken by the Law Member. This is a very important point. It is a technical matter and I would like to deal with that question with your permission.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps there is some misapprehension about the facts and that is why this point of order is raised. It is not that due notice of this amendment is given and then I am preventing the Member from moving it. If due notice is given, whatever my view or the Honourable the Law Minister's view on this question, I would have permitted him to move this amendment. As a matter of fact notice of this amendment was received at 10-45 a.m. today. Therefore no amendment without sufficient notice can be moved in the House without the permission of the Chair, and considering the whole position I have come to the conclusion that leave for moving this amendment should not be given, because after all it would be dissertation of a legal argument in the House, and therefore I refuse permission, and any discussion on this question ends. Members may now address themselves on the merits of the Bill.

Shri C. Prakasam: May I say this. The Law Member in his statement referred to the reason. That is a point that has been placed before the House. The House is in possession of that matter and the House should have the opportunity to discuss whether this adaptation of the Act of 1935 enables this Government to use the words "British India" or "British Indian subjects". It is a very important matter. I leave it to you. This question has to be discussed in this House.

Mr. Speaker: As I pointed out, I requested the Honourable the Law Minister to state his case to enable me to decide as to whether I should allow the amendment or not, and though of course the House was in possession of whatever he said, it is entirely in the discretion of the Chair to hear arguments on any point of order or on any point which the Chair itself raises. I do not think the matter is before the House in the sense that every Member who wishes to speak is entitled to speak. It is enough for me to decide whether leave should or should not be granted.

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General): Sir, I support the objective of this Bill. I see the apprehension of the Minister of Finance about the smuggling of gold and the resultant less availability of foreign exchange to us. Since the last Bill was passed, things have changed. Although the objective of the Honourable the Minister of Finance will be fulfilled, smuggling of gold will not cease. Gold has been smuggled from Persia and Iraq and even from Pakistan: and a day or two ago, according to newspaper reports we could buy on the Western borders of the U. P. gold at Rs. 60 to Rs. 70 per tola. If that be so, the Honourable the Finance Minister should find other means of how best to control such gold being smuggled into India. Sir, already Indian States have been referred to. We know what happened in the past in the Indian States and how the Indian exchequer lost crores and crores of rupees in customs duty. But whatever mischief is being done today, it is being done through the Persian Gulf, and may be through Pakistan on which my Honourable Friend the Finance Minister may enlighten the House, and I think what he is aiming at will not be satisfied under the present Bill. He will have to go a little further. He may tighten his customs barrier: he may do something else. The mere passing of this Act will not help.

Shri Biswanath Das (Orissa: General): Sir, let it be clearly understood that we have absolutely no objection to the principles underlying the Bill. It is a very necessary one and I believe this should have come far earlier, even if necessary by means of an Ordinance. If we on this side of the House oppose and object to the Bill, it is not on that account. Sir, it is not legal; there is the question of sentiment. We for ourselves felt that we were free from England. No more it is British India. It is our India. I can never agree to any legislation or to anything done or stated on the floor of this House which will mean to say that it is British India. We have parted from Britain. We are friends of Britain on the same footing and with the same status and equality. That being the position, I think it will be impossible for us to agree to anything which is calculated to affect that sentiment. Looking from that point of view, I strongly protest against the use of the expression "British India".

Sir, regarding the point raised by my friend Mr. B. Das, it is not only the acceding States: there are also the French ports, the Portuguese ports from which gold could be smuggled and brought conveniently to India. Therefore a more comprehensive measure may be necessary. We have given our Ministers all our confidence. We have given them a blank cheque. Let them write anything, but expressions which will not be tolerated in the House or outside the House should not have been used, and I would appeal to the Honourable Minister to save us always from legislation and from the use of expressions such as these, expressions which would prejudice the harmony, lower our prestige and deeply affect our sentiments. Therefore I would appeal to him to withdraw this legislation and introduce another Bill in the course of a week or ten days, or have recourse to more comprehensive legislation by way of Ordinance. I am thankful to Mr. Santhanam for having drawn our attention, and I would appeal also to my Honourable friend the Finance Minister to withdraw the Bill without meaning anything. Otherwise we give our weeping support.

Prof. K. T. Shah (Bihar: General): Sir, I want to make a request for elucidation from the Honourable the Finance Minister to clear a doubt that I feel on this Bill. This amendment seems to me to be in the nature of a transit duty or restriction. If, as I read the section, gold or silver is brought into this country by some vessel, but not removed from it, and declared to be intended for some other sovereign state, would we be justified in restricting it and treating it as though it was imported into India, and apply our customs laws to it? I request the Honourable Minister to throw light on this point.

Shri M. Anathasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): So far as the question raised by the previous speaker is concerned, I have no difficulty. The Bill, Sir, is intended merely to regulate the bringing into India of various articles some of which are gold and bullion and silver. Now, all that is required under Section 8 of the Original Act is, that permission from the Reserve Bank ought to be obtained before the article is brought in. I think that it is brought under other Sections relating to the Sea Customs Act etc. though under Section 3, the restriction imposed by Sub-Sections (1) and (2) shall be deemed to have been imposed under Section 19 of the Sea Customs Act. I do not think that any import duty will be imposed upon this. This is a matter of formality to assist detection when the article though apparently brought for a foreign state or territory is actually smuggled into India.

Sir, your ruling binds us so far as this matter is concerned. Apart from the ruling, Sir, I find there is much force in the suggestion made by my Honourable Friend Mr. Santhanam when he said that the original Act itself had to be modified in view of the Independence Act. You will see, Sir, that under Section 5 of the Government of India Act as adapted by the Indian Independence Act and the Adaptation Law, "the Dominion of India established

by the Independence Act of 1947 shall, as from the 15th of August 1947, be a Union comprising of the Provinces called the Governors' Provinces, Provinces called the Chief Commissioners' Provinces and Indian States acceding to the Dominion in the manner hereafter provided". Therefore, the Dominion of India consists not only of the Governors' Provinces and the Chief Commissioners' Provinces but all those States which have acceded. Yesterday, the Honourable Minister in charge of States placed on the table a number of Instruments of Accession entered into with the States and my Honourable Friend Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya asked if copies of those instruments could be circulated to Members as they were of vital importance to the House. Sir, as soon as a State accedes it becomes a part of the Dominion. This House is the Dominion Legislature for those purposes which are contained in the Instruments of Accession—and subjects like customs are contained in the Instruments. But in so far as these matters are not regulated the Government of India should pass legislation and wherever under a particular Instrument of Accession a particular matter is not applicable to that State and jurisdiction is not conferred on the Dominion Government to that extent that law would not apply to that State.

Sir, yesterday the Honourable Prime Minister moved two Bills—one in connection with grant of certain immunities and privileges to representatives of the U.N.O. and the other authorising Government to impose restrictions in the shape of economic sanctions at a time of emergency, under direction from the U.N.O. or the Security Council. Well, these Bills were made to apply to the whole of India. The original Bills had the words "British India" but the Prime Minister himself tabled an amendment to substitute the words "British India" by "the Provinces of India". But later on he accepted the word "India" in its place and we passed the Bill. Therefore, my submission is that the original Act should be amended so as to make it applicable not only to the Provinces but to the whole of India thereby including all those States which have acceded and which by the Instruments of Accession have endowed the Dominion of India with jurisdiction over these particular matters.

Shri B. Das: But there should be an adaptation committee. All laws should be adapted.

Shri M. Anathasayanam Ayyangar: When we are on a particular Act we should deal with that Act alone.

Then, Sir, yesterday the Finance Minister told us that we had 1200 crores of currency but that we had only gold backing to the extent of 42 crores. Most of it is in the form of sterling. What proposals has he to have gold backing for the sterling that we have? May I ask him if in the near future he is going to ask Britain that so much of gold has to be given to us in place of sterling which is due to us? I believe a separate day will be allotted for discussion of the temporary arrangement which has been entered into with the British Government.

On this Bill, I would require some enlightenment on this question as to how he proposes to have sufficient backing by way of gold if he is seeking to impose all sorts of restrictions and try to extend these restrictions to the States.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U.P.: General): Sir, I suffer from a handicap. We are supplied with these amending Bills to minor Acts without the Acts themselves and it is very difficult for us to find the relevant Acts. Yesterday, I was told by the secretary to refer to the copy of the Indian Trade Unions Act in the Library but when I went there it was not available and I had to purchase it. In fact, when we are asked to amend an Act I request the Honourable Minister to supply us with copies of the Act which is sought to be amended, especially if it is a minor one.

[Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena]

In this particular case, I do not know whether the original Act makes some provision to stop the import of bullion through the Pakistan area. This amendment is being made to make it impossible for gold to be imported from neighbouring areas to India. I do not know whether any method has been devised to stop the import of gold through Pakistan. It is quite possible that gold may be smuggled through the Pakistan areas and sold at higher rates in India and the profits pocketed by the Pakistan Government. I ask, Sir, is there any provision in the original Act about it or does the Honourable Minister propose to deal with the matter separately?

Shri T. Prakasam: Sir, this amending Bill is fundamentally wrong. It starts with a Reserve Bank that came into existence before the 15th of August and has ceased to exist on the 15th of August. That Reserve Bank cannot be considered to be functioning today. A new Reserve Bank must come into existence to function since the present change of Government in the country. That is the first objection.

The second objection is the retention of the words "British India". It is wrong to go on using that term either in this Bill or any other Bill. It is now India proper belonging to the people. This is a matter which has to be considered by you, Sir, and the House. It was said by the Honourable the Law Minister that the 1935 Act had been adapted and we had therefore to let the old provisions continue. I say it is wrong to say so. Take the Indian Independence Act. It lays down that the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935, may be adapted so far as they would not be inconsistent with the new status and new position attained by this country. It is really a tragedy that this expression should continue to be used in various measures and also the words "His Majesty's Government". The Independence Act clearly said that India had attained independence. If it had really confined itself to transfer of power to the millions of this country, it would have been different, but instead of doing that, it went out of its way to lay down certain provisions which are only advisory, not mandatory. Once the power is transferred to the Indian people, there is an end of the matter and the British Parliament, the British Cabinet and the British people have nothing to do with them. If I remember aright, the essence of the Independence Act was that the British Government would not be responsible for anything that is being done in this country after the power has been transferred. We are now absolutely free people. Therefore, the expression "British India" must be taken out of this amending Bill. It is really tragic that the Government should deem it proper to use it and the Honourable the Law Minister should give an explanation for it. We can only adapt the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935, only in so far as it would not be inconsistent with the true independence that has been attained by the Indian people. Therefore, I say for more than one reason a fresh amending Bill should be brought and so far as the Reserve Bank is concerned, it is high time that the old Reserve Bank should be allowed to continue to function and become part of the law here that is passed by us.

Mr. Speaker: It is time for the House to adjourn now. I should have thought that the matter has been sufficiently discussed and I was just going to call upon the Finance Member. However, after Mr. Chaudhuri's speech the Finance Member may reply. The House shall now adjourn for Lunch.

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

The Assembly reassembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I confess I did not pay much attention to this Bill as it was purely a financial measure and I could trust our able Finance Minister to do the best for us in this matter. I must also confess, Sir, that my attention was drawn to this Bill first as I was aroused from my peaceful slumber when a reference was made to golden bullion—because however poor a man may be, he is certain to be attracted by a mention of gold bullion. But after all, Sir, it does not matter much for me whether one rolls on gold, or sleeps on it, or you bedeck yourself like our Honourable lady members of this House with any amount of gold and jewellery or you can eat, out of golden cups as some do. But I was painfully struck by the fact that although more than 3 months have elapsed since we declared our independence that we are still thinking in terms of 'British India' and 'British Indian subject'. Sir, why is it that you have not up till now been able to realize that we have achieved independence? Is it because we are having a British Governor-General to start with and to end with our Dominion Status, or is it because we have a British Supreme Commander to start with or is it because we have hosts of British officers still who hold the key positions in the administration of our country? Is that the reason why we want to retain our British Indian character? Sir, it has been said that it is merely a legal fiction. It has been said that it is a merely legal fiction when you use the word "British Indian Dominion". I am aware that in this country unfortunately or fortunately there is still a large number of people who like to dress themselves like Britishers, and who are still accustomed to the British mode of food, but that is not the reason for which anyone would like to call himself a British Indian subject. I am sure, Sir, not even a child in India would like to dub himself as a British Indian subject today, not to speak of legal fiction. I am sure that I am voicing the sentiments of this House when I say that nobody would like to think even in dream that he is a British Indian subject or that the country in which we are living is British India. Sir, my Honourable friend the legal expert Dr. Ambedkar said that there was no difficulty in using the word 'British India' in this Bill. I should have expected him to say that there is no difficulty whatsoever in taking that word out and using the word 'India' and even if there were any difficulty such difficulty could not be insurmountable. So, Sir, all I want to say is that I voice not only the sentiments of the Honourable Members of this House, but I voice also the sentiments of the country around, that it is too late in the day to think, that we make a law now where we use the words 'British India'. I would say that we should not look at this Bill even, unless the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill gives a definite assurance that he will not use this word 'British India' or 'British Indian subject' and disfigure an important statute.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Sir, I did not expect that this small amending Bill will furnish the occasion for so much debate covering such a wide variety of topics. The necessity for this Bill arose on account of the action of a company in an Indian State which attempted to import gold sometime back and evade the restriction imposed by the Reserve Bank.

A company in an Indian State imported 20,000 totals of gold and this gold was brought by a special chartered plane intended for the State. During its flight it touched Karachi, which then was a part of India. What we did was applying the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, we considered that this gold has been brought into India against the provisions of the Act and without a licence from the Reserve Bank, notwithstanding the fact that it was intended to be sent to an Indian State. So we confiscated this gold under the provisions of the Act. The State in question has challenged our authority to do so and has stated that they will take up this matter to the Supreme Court.

[Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty.]

With a view to avoid any legal complications arising out of this action of ours and with a view to prevent any such contingency happening in the future, we thought that we should amend section 8 of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, so that any gold which comes into India on its way to an adjoining territory would also be covered by the provisions of his Act. That is the genesis of the Bill.

The use of the term 'British India' in this amending Bill has been rightly questioned by certain Honourable Members. As I stated in my opening remarks I myself objected to the use of this term when the draft Bill was presented before me. But then, not being a legal authority myself, I had to submit to the opinion of our legal experts. They were of the view that since this Bill is intended to amend an original Act, in which the term 'British India' occurs, for the sake of consistency and uniformity, it will be appropriate to retain the same term in the amending Bill also. I may assure Honourable Members that it is not the intention of the Ministry of Finance by means of this Bill to make independent India once again a British dependency. I have no doubt that since this matter has been raised on the floor of the House, the Ministry of Law would examine this point and take suitable measures, so that this offending expression might be avoided in future legislation. I have been asked why I did not take this opportunity to extend the provisions of this Bill to the Indian States that have acceded to the Union. In fact here again it was my intention to see if I could apply the provisions of the Bill to such States. But then again I was told by our legal experts that we have not got the authority to do so, that this legislature in spite of its sovereign character cannot legislate for the Indian States except to the extent provided for and subject to the limitations contained in the Instruments of Accession of Indian States. I have been told that in the Instruments of Accession the Indian States have not given to the Indian Union legislature or the Dominion Government the power to enact any law applicable to the Indian States in this matter. In the absence of such power we have naturally to fall back upon the standstill agreements that we have made with the acceding States. Even in the standstill agreements I find that no provision has been made for the application of our exchange laws and import and export regulations to the acceding Indian States. We are now taking steps through the States Ministry to approach these Indian States and ask them to come in line with us with respect to all our exchange regulations and also the regulations regarding the import and export control. I have no doubt that all the acceding States will agree to this proposal and fall in line with us.

There is only one other point which my Honourable friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar raised. If I have understood him rightly, the purport of his question was, why in view of the small gold holding in our currency reserve we should discourage the import of gold. It is not possible to give an adequate and full explanation in the course of this debate, but I might tell him this that the gold which forms a part of the currency reserve and which is called monetary gold has absolutely no relation with the gold that exists in the hands of the people. There is no means by which we can add to the currency reserves and increase our monetary gold by simply allowing the free inflow of gold into this country. The only manner in which the monetary gold can be increased is by our getting a favourable balance of trade in our favour and by creating a tender of gold to our monetary authorities in exchange for our currency. Whether that situation will ever arise I am not in a position to say. But I am sure my Honourable friend Mr. Ayyangar will realise that the free import of gold into India will not in any manner increase the monetary gold in our currency reserves.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: We will purchase gold in the market.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: We cannot purchase in

INDIAN PATENTS AND DESIGNS (EXTENSION OF TIME) AMENDMENT BILL
the Indian market for the simple reason that the price of gold in the Indian market is very much more than the international price of gold.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will it not go down by a free inflow of gold if large quantities are purchased?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: There is absolutely no chance of the Indian price of gold going down because the hunger of our people for gold is so great that the more gold we get the greater is the desire of people to grab this gold even at this high price. Therefore in view of the ruling prices of gold in the Indian market it would never be possible for the Reserve Bank to add to its monetary reserve of gold by open purchases of gold in the Indian market.

Sir, I think I have covered all the points that were raised in the course of this debate, and I may assure the House that after this Bill is passed we will get into touch with the various acceding States and see that they also come into line with us in spite of all the restrictions imposed on the import of gold.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to amend the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

INDIAN PATENTS AND DESIGNS (EXTENSION OF TIME) AMENDMENT BILL

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee (Minister for Industry and Supply): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Patents and Designs (Extension of Times) Act, 1942, be taken into consideration."

This is a non-controversial measure. Its object is to extend the time for the operation of the Indian Patents and Designs (Extension of Time) Act, 1942, till 30th June, 1948. The time had expired on the 31st March, 1947. Several representations were then received by Government pointing out that in view of some international understanding it was necessary that a further extension of time should be given. Government was at first unwilling to grant any extension. Subsequently however that extension of time was given by means of an Ordinance which lapsed on the 31st Oct., 1947. It is now proposed in this Bill to extend the time to the 30th June, 1948, as has been agreed amongst 25 countries at the International Industrial Property Union Conference held in February last. Sir, I move.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Patents and Designs (Extension of Times) Act, 1942, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

[Mr. Speaker]

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

DELHI AND AJMER-MERWARA RENT CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil (Minister for Works, Mines and Power):

Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to continue in force certain amendments of the Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara Rent Control Act, 1947, be taken into consideration."

In the budget session of the year 1947 the Ajmer-Merwara Rent Control Act was passed. That Act made provision for the control of rent but exempted buildings that were under construction and which were not completed and let out before that Act was promulgated, from the provisions of the said Act. After this enactment came into force the situation in Delhi, as is well known, became very acute from the point of view of accommodation; and those few buildings which came into existence and which were not covered by the provisions of the main Act were very much in demand. Business houses which closed down in Lahore and other towns in Western Punjab were very anxious to get some accommodation in Delhi in order to restart their business.

The result was that an ordinary room, say 15×20 was rented out for a monthly rent of Rs. 600. Numerous complaints were received and some of them were very serious and found to be true. The rent charges were so excessive that they bore no relation whatsoever to the capital costs of the new constructions. It was then thought necessary that this exemption which was given to new constructions under the main Act and which was expected to encourage building activities, should cease. There was good deal of *pugree* making and excessive rents were charged. It was decided by the Government that there must be some limit on the rent charged, and an Ordinance No. 18 of 1947 was promulgated on the 20th September 1947. The only change that was made by the Ordinance in the main Act was that the exemption that was given to new constructions was taken away and a certain procedure was laid down in the said Ordinance by which what is known as standard rent should be ascertained. For that purpose a Rent Controller is visualised and the provisions of the Rent Control Order that was in existence before the main Act was passed have been adopted. I think there is nobody in this House who would like to see that there should be no control on rent as such.

The exemption was made, as I said, with a view to encourage building activities in Delhi. But there is a limit to man's greed. Scarcity, should in ordinary circumstances call forth the best of virtues in the community such as self denial and consideration for fellow beings. But it has resulted in very undesirable things. Therefore it has become necessary, both on moral grounds, if the House can take notice of them, and on economic grounds and general grounds of giving a fair deal to all concerned that such an Ordinance should be passed. This Ordinance would ordinarily expire on the 20th March 1948. Therefore it has become necessary to introduce this Bill.

I have before me certain notices for amendments. One is for postponement of the consideration of this Bill: one is for reference to a Select Committee and one more to the effect that this enactment be limited in duration till the end of 31st December 1949. Some objection has been taken about the particular form in which this Bill is embodied, though there is not much substance in it, *viz.*, the Bill does not give the provisions of the Ordinance which the Bill seeks to enact. I am however prepared to accept the motion for reference to Select Committee if it is moved on the condition that the report of the Select Committee is presented to the House before 1st December. Sir I move.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to continue in force certain amendments of the Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara Rent Control Act, 1947, be taken into consideration."

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (U.P.: General) On a point of order. I think copies of the Ordinance should have been supplied to Members instead of bringing this Bill in this form. Copies have not been supplied and they have not been available in the Library.

Mr. Speaker: Of course I cannot accept it as a principle or point of order that the moment any amendment to a Bill is circulated, the piece of legislation which it seeks to amend must also be circulated. But there is a point. . . .

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: This Bill only says that the provisions of such and such Ordinance should be enacted. It says nothing else.

Mr. Speaker: Even if it says nothing else, the Ordinance is there by reference and the book should be available to Members in the Library or otherwise. That would not be a point of order justifying the rejection of the Bill at this stage on the plea that it has not properly come forward. I can understand the ground of convenience—that members have not had the convenience of seeing the books of reference and therefore the consideration may be postponed by a few hours or by a few days. But since the Honourable the Minister in charge has stated that, if the Bill has to go to the Select Committee he has no objection, I do not think, inconvenience will be caused by the Ordinance not having been circulated to Members. Further, I am told by the Secretary that half a dozen copies were placed on the table of the Library and unfortunately Members removed those copies, and therefore they are now not available to other Members. It is difficult to ascertain who removed them. The fact is that the copies were placed on the Library table and the fact now is that they are not there. The Secretary says the copies were placed and the Honourable Member says that they are not there. So someone has removed them. I do not think that the point of order prevails.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh (C.P. and Berar: General): I support the point of order.

Mr. Speaker: That point of order has been disposed of.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I wanted to make a submission.

Mr. Speaker: That is too late.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I only wanted that the Government Member should know the views of the Members of this House that we had difficulty in going through the Bill in the form in which it is presented. This is the first time that we are having a Bill like this. I think the Honourable Member should take into consideration the convenience of Members.

Mr. Speaker: That difficulty should be taken into consideration.

Does the Honourable Member propose to move his amendments?

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta (Delhi): I am moving the second one regarding reference to Select Committee. Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil, Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava, Pundit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava, Shri K. Santhanam, Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Shri Mohan Lal Saksena, Shri S. K. Patil and the Mover, with instructions to report by the 1st December, 1947, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

(After moving the amendment in English the Honourable member continued his speech in Hindustani.)

شری دیس بندھو گپتا : ادھیکش مہودے ! اس ترمیم کو پیش کرتے ہوئے میں یہ بات صاف کر دینا چاہتا ہوں کہ جہاں تک rent control کے اصول کا تعلق ہے میں اس کا مخالف نہیں ہوں۔ میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ اب سے آٹھ مہینے پہلے ہی ہاؤس نے Rent Control Act کو پاس کر کے اس اصول کو تسلیم کر لیا تھا۔ مجھے آپ شاکرینگی اگر میں اس اوسر پر اپنے لائق دوست کو جو ابھی حال میں ملسٹر ہوئے ہیں اور اس لحاظ سے بدھائی کے مستحق ہیں اس بل کے پیش کرنے پر بدھائی نہ دوں۔ اس کی وجہ یہ ہے کہ آج جبکہ سارا دیس کنٹرولوں سے تلگ آچکا ہے اور مہاتما گاندھی کہانے اور کہتے تک پر لگائے گئے کنٹرولوں کے خلاف بہت بھاری آندوان کر رہے ہیں ہمارے سامنے مکانوں پر جو تیسرے درجہ کی چیز ہے کنٹرول زیادہ سخت کرنے کی تجویز رکھی گئی ہے۔ بجائے اسکے کہ میرے لائق دوست آج اس ہاؤس (House) کے سامنے house building کا بڑا پروگرام رکھتے اور یہ بتلاتے کہ دھلی میں جس کی آبادی پہلے ہی دو تین لکھی ہو چکی تھی اور جس میں اب دو لاکھ سے زیادہ شرنارتھی اور آکر بس گئے ہیں جس سے دھلی والوں کا کچھومر نکلا جا رہا ہے ہزاروں کی تعداد میں مکان تعمیر کئے جائیں گے۔ انہوں نے اس ہاؤس کے سامنے ایک ایسا بل رکھ دیا ہے جو کسی صورت سے house problem کو نہیں کر سکتا۔ میرے لائق دوست کو چاہئے تھا کہ آج ہاؤس کو یہ بتلاتے کہ آئندہ چھ مہینے کے اندر کتنے نئے مکان سرکاری طور پر بنوانے کا فیصلہ کیا گیا ہے اور کتنے آدمیوں کو پرائیویٹ طور پر مکانات بنوانے کی ترغیب دی گئی ہے اور گورنمنٹ house building کے کام کو کس طریقے پر encourage کر رہی ہے جس سے دھلی کا housing problem حل ہو جائیگا اور جو آجکل مکانات کی کمی کی وجہ سے لوگوں کو جن مصیبتوں کا سامنا کرنا پڑ رہا ہے وہ دور ہو جائیگی۔ لیکن بجائے اسکے ایک ایسا بل لایا جا رہا ہے جس کا لازمی نتیجہ یہ ہوگا کہ جو تھوڑے بہت لوگ آجکل private مکان بنوانے کا حوصلہ کرتے ہیں وہ بھی ہست ہار بیٹھیں گے۔

Shri M. S. Aney : The Department is unhealthy.

شری دیس بندھو گپتا : You have described it rightly : ایک مرتبہ میں پھر یہ بات صاف کر دینا چاہتا ہوں کہ مجھے ان لوگوں سے کوئی ہمدردی نہیں ہے جو ناواجب کرایہ charge کرتے ہیں۔ میرے خیال میں ہاؤس کے کسی ممبر کو ان سے کوئی ہمدردی نہیں ہوگی۔ لیکن اس

قسم کا بل پیش کرنے سے پہلے ایک دو دن لگا کر یہ معلوم کر لینا چاہئے تھا کہ آخر دھلی میں کتنے نئے مکان بنے ہیں اور ان میں سے کتنوں نے ناواجب کرایہ چارج (charge) کیا ہے۔ جناب صدر ! جیسا کہ میں نے پہلے کہا تھا حال ہی میں دھلی کی آبادی میں دو لاکھ سے زیادہ refugees اور شامل ہو گئے ہیں اور اس طریق پر دھلی کی آبادی جو جنگ کے زمانے میں ہی کافی بڑھ چکی تھی اور زیادہ بڑھ گئی ہے۔ شری ایم۔ ایس۔ ایف : دھلی کی آبادی اسوقت کتنی ہے ؟

شری دیس بندھو گپتا : اس وقت دھلی کی آبادی آٹھ یا نو لاکھ سے کم نہیں ہے۔ میرے لائق دوست کو معلوم ہونا چاہئے کہ جو کرایہ کنٹرول کا بل (Rent Control Bill) پچھلے اجلاس میں ہمارے سامنے رکھا گیا تھا اسے پیش کرتے ہوئے مسٹر گوگلے نے یہ کہا تھا کہ سرکار کا ہرگز یہ مقصد نہیں ہے کہ مکانات کی تعمیر پر اس کا برا اثر پڑے۔ چنانچہ اسی خیال سے اس بل میں سلیکٹ کمیٹی (Select Committee) نے یہ ترمیم کی تھی کہ جو نئے مکان بنیں ان مکانوں کے کرایہ پر کوئی کنٹرول (control) نہ کیا جائے تاکہ موجودہ مشکلات کے باوجود جو لوگ مکان بنواتے ہیں وہ حوصلہ شکن نہ ہوں۔ لیکن میں دیکھتا ہوں کہ چھ مہینے کے عرصہ میں ایسی تو کوئی چیز نہیں کی گئی جس سے یہ پتہ چلتا کہ گورنمنٹ نے مکان بنوانے کے سلسلے میں جو یہ یقین دلایا تھا کہ ہم اس کام میں لوگوں کو encourage کوئینگے وہ کسی درجہ پوری ہوئی۔ برخلاف اسکے ان پر کنٹرول لگانیکا بل پیش کر دیا گیا۔ میرے خیال میں مشکل سے سو دو سو یا زیادہ سے زیادہ چار سو پانچ سو مکان ایسے بنے ہونگے جن پر اس بل کا جو ہمارے سامنے لایا جا رہا ہے اطلاقی ہوگا۔ ایسی حالت میں ہاؤس کے ممبران خود فیصلہ کر سکتے ہیں کہ اس سے مکان بنانے والے حوصلہ افزا ہونگے یا حوصلہ شکن ہونگے۔ جناب والا ! میں اپنے لائق دوست کو بتلانا چاہتا ہوں کہ راستو میں اس سے ایک بڑی کٹھن سمسیا (مسئلہ) ہمارے سامنے پیش ہے۔ اور دھلی والے مکانوں کی کمی کی وجہ سے بہت پریشان ہیں۔ اور اس پریشانی کو دور کرنے کا طریقہ یا اس مسئلہ کا حل یہ نہیں ہے جو میرے لائق دوست نے پیش کیا ہے۔ جناب صدر ! میں بدقسمتی سے مہاجرین کی جائداد کا محافظ (Custodian of Evacuees' Property) کی سنگت (Central Advisory Committee) کا ایک ممبر ہوں اس حیثیت سے مجھے کو کتنے ایسے آدمیوں سے ملنے کا اتفاق ہوا ہے جو کل تک ریست پنجاب میں لکھ پتی یا کروڑ پتی سمجھے جاتے تھے اور بڑے بڑے عالیشان مکانات میں رہتے تھے اور جو بڑی بڑی عمارتوں کے مالک تھے وہ آج Custodian of Evacuees' Property اور اینڈوائزری کمیٹی (Advisory Committee) کے ممبروں کے دروازوں پر لٹائے دن میں چار چار چکر لگاتے ہیں کہ کس طرح انہیں سر چھپانے کیلئے کوئی

[شری دیس بندھو گپتا]

مکان ملجائے۔ مگر یہاں حالت یہ ہے کہ انہیں for love or for money کسی بھاڑ مکان نہیں ملتا۔ میں اُن سے ملکر بہت شرمندہ اور پریشان ہوتا ہوں اور اپنے آپکو بے بس پاتا ہوں کہ آج popular government کے ہوتے ہوئے بھی ہم اُن کی مصیبتوں کو دور کرنے کیلئے کچھ نہیں کر پاتے اور کوئی راستہ نہیں نکال سکتے۔

میں اپنے لائق دوست کی اس بات سے سہمت ہوں کہ Connaught Circus میں مکان کا کرایا سو روپیہ ہونا چاہئے تھا۔ آج کچھ مکان دار اُسکی جگہ پانچ سو کرایہ لے رہے ہیں نیز اُن پر ہزاروں روپیہ پگڑی کا بھی دیا جاتا ہے۔ ایک دوکان خود میرے notice میں ایسی آئی ہے جسکے لئے پچاس ہزار روپیہ پگڑی کے ایک refugee نے ادا کئے۔

میں گورنمنٹ سے پوچھنا چاہتا ہوں کہ اُس نے اُس قسم کی پگڑی کو روکنے کے لئے کیا اُپائے کیا؟ میں سمجھتا ہوں جب تک حکومت کی مشینری تھیک کام نہیں کرتی محض اس قسم کا قانون بنا دینے سے کوئی فائدہ نہیں ہوگا۔ آپ نے کہا ہے کہ rent control سے tenants کو فائدہ ہوگا۔ لیکن میں آپ سے پوچھتا ہوں کہ اگر پگڑی دینی بند نہ ہوئی تو محض کرایہ کنٹرول کرنے سے نئے کرائے دار کو کیا فائدہ پہنچ سکتا ہے؟ اور آپ کرایہ کنٹرول کو بند کر دینے کی رقم اور بڑھ جائیگی۔ دراصل بات یہ ہے کہ ہم کو مکان زیادہ سے زیادہ تعداد میں بنوانے چاہئیں۔ اور اس طرف انریبل ممبر صاحب کو زیادہ توجہ کرنی چاہئے۔ پچھلے دنوں گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا نے ایک کمیٹی مقرر کی تھی جس کا نام Improvement Trust Land Disposal Review Committee تھا۔ اُسکا میں بھی ایک ممبر تھا۔ اس کمیٹی نے مکانات کی تعمیر کے بارے میں کئی اہم تجویزیں کی تھیں۔ اس کی رپورٹ کئی مہینے ہوئے گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا کو بھیج دی گئی تھی۔ مگر چونکہ Improvement Trust ہیلتھ ڈیپارٹمنٹ کے نیچے ہے اسلئے مجھے شک ہے یہ رپورٹ میرے لائق دوست کے ہاتھوں میں بھی ابھی تک نہیں پہنچی ہوگی۔ جناب

صدر! اس کمیٹی کے سامنے جو اعداد شمار پیش کئے گئے اُن سے اندازہ ہوا کہ یہاں مکان بنوانے میں کتنی مشکلات پیش آتی ہیں۔ مکان بنانے کے لئے steel, timber, cement, اینتوں کو پکانے کے لئے کوئلہ کی ضرورت ہوتی ہے۔ اب سننے والوں کی یہ ضرورت کیسے پوری کی جاتی ہے۔ دلی کے لئے steel کا کوٹہ (quota) صرف ۵۰۰۰ تن ہے اور وہ بھی چار قسطوں میں آتا ہے۔ مگر جولائی کے مہینہ تک اُسکی بھی کوئی قسط نہیں پہنچی تھی۔ کوئلہ کا کوٹہ (quota) ایک season کے لئے ۲۷۰۰۰ تن مقرر ہے جو کسی لحاظ سے کافی نہیں کہا جا سکتا۔ اسلئے کہ دہلی میں ۱۵۶ بھتے

ہیں جہاں اینٹیں بنائی جاتی ہیں اور ایک بھتے کے لئے ایک ایک سو تن ماہواری کوئلہ درکار ہے۔ اس کے یہ معنی ہیں کہ کل ۲۷ بھتے ایک ماہ کام کر سکتے ہیں۔ اور وہ بھی اس حالت میں کہ سارا ۱۷۰۰۰ تن جو گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا دہلی کو دیتی ہے یہاں پہنچ جائے۔ اس میں سے پنہچتا کتنا ہے یہ کہنا مشکل ہے۔ سیمنٹ (cement) کی حالت اس سے بھی بدتر ہے۔ جو نئے مکان بن رہے ہیں اگر وہاں جاکر معلوم کیا جائے تو آپکو پتہ لگے گا کہ جو سیمنٹ دو روپیہ فی بوری کنٹرول ریت کے حساب سے ملنا چاہئے وہ ۱۱ روپیہ فی بوری دام دیکر خرید کی جا رہی ہے۔ اسی طرح مال گڑیوں کی کمی کی وجہ سے لکڑی سستے داموں پر دستیاب نہیں ہوتی۔ میں یہ جانتا ہوں کہ گورنمنٹ کے سامنے بھی بہت سی مشکلات ہیں۔ وہ کافی مقدار میں لوہا۔ سیمنٹ اور لکڑی وغیرہ مہیا نہیں کر سکتی۔ چنانچہ اس کا خیال کرتے ہوئے میں نے کمیٹی ہذا کے سامنے یہ سکیم پیش کی تھی کہ دہلی کے نزدیک ایک شہر کچی اینٹوں کے مکانات کا آباد کیا جائے۔ اندازہ کیا گیا تھا کہ فی مکان چار پانچ ہزار روپے سے زیادہ کی لاگت معہ زمین کے نہیں آئیگی۔ اور یہ مکانات دس پندرہ سال ضرور چل جائینگے۔ آخر ہندوستان کے سات لاکھ گاؤں میں بھی لوگ کچے مکانات میں ہی رہتے ہیں پھر کیوں نہ ایک شہر کچے مکانات کا بسایا جائے اور اس طریق پر شرنارتھیوں نیز گورنمنٹ سرونٹس کی بھی جو ادھر ادھر دھکے کھاتے پھرتے ہیں پریشانی دور کر دی جائے؟ خیال یہ تھا کہ ایسا کرنے سے اُن کے رہنے کا بندوبست ہو جائیگا اور پھر آہستہ آہستہ جب حالات بدلیں گے یہ مکانات پکے بنتے چلے جائینگے اور کچھ نہیں کم سے کم اسوقت سر چھپانے کے لئے تو کچھ انتظام ہو جائیگا۔ لیکن اس سکیم پر اب تک کوئی عمل درآمد نہیں کیا گیا۔

میں انریبل ممبر سے اپیل کروں گا کہ اگر وہ سچے سچے غریب طبقہ کی مدد کرنا چاہتے ہیں تو سستے داموں پر زمین دیجئے۔ سستے داموں پر اور دوسرا building material دیجئے تاکہ لوگ زیادہ سے زیادہ تعداد میں مکان بنوائیں اور اپنے سر چھپانے کو کوئی تھکانا کر سکیں۔ اس طرح سے دہلی کے گھر کی مشکلات (house problem) کا بھی حل مل جائیگا اور کرایہ داروں (tenants) کو بھی سچے معنی میں فائدہ پہنچے گا۔

اس بات کی طرف بھی میں گورنمنٹ کا دھیان کھیچنا چاہتا ہوں کہ امپروومنٹ ٹرسٹ (Improvement Trust) اول تو کوئی ترقی (development) کی سکیم بنانا نہیں۔ اگر بنانا بھی ہے تو وہ کئی کئی مہینے چیف کمشنر صاحب کے ہاں دفتر میں پڑی رہتی ہے : چنانچہ تین سالہ سکیم (Three Years' Plan) جو امپروومنٹ ٹرسٹ نے کئی مہینے ہوئے پاس کیا تھا ابھی تک وہیں دھکے کھا رہا ہے اور غالباً سرکار ہلد تک پہنچا بھی نہیں ہے۔

[شری دیش بندھو گپتا]

مکانوں کے مسئلہ کو حل کرنے کے لئے یہ بھی ضروری ہے کہ شہر میں ٹرانسپورٹ کا مناسب انتظام ہو تاکہ لوگ کافی دور تک پہنچ سکیں۔ جناب صدر! آپ کو تو شاید کبھی شہر میں جانے کا اتفاق نہیں ہوتا۔ مگر دوسرے مسبران جانتے ہیں کہ آج شہر میں ٹرانسپورٹ کا انتظام کس درجہ خراب ہے اور ایک جگہ سے دوسری جگہ جانے کے لئے بڑے بڑے شریف آدمیوں کو کتنی کتنی دیر تک لائن میں کھڑا رہنا پڑتا ہے۔ ابھی کل میرے پاس ایک پرنسپل صاحب آئے اور انہوں نے مجھ سے کہا کہ صاحب ایک کھنڈہ لائن میں کھڑے رہے تب کہیں دھکے دھکی کے بعد بس کے اندر جگہ ملی۔

میں امید کرتا ہوں کہ میرے لائق دوست اپنی پہلی توجہ ان بنیادی باتوں کی طرف دینگے اور شہر کے مکانوں کی کمی کے مسئلہ کا صحیح حل تجویز کریں گے۔ میں انہیں یقین دلانا ہوں کہ میں نے جو کچھ کہا ہے نکتہ چینی (criticism) کے خیال سے نہیں کہا بلکہ اس بات کا لحاظ رکھتے ہوئے کہ مجھے ان سے بڑی بڑی امیدیں ہیں کچھ تعمیری باتیں عرض کی ہیں۔ میں امید کرتا ہوں کہ وہ ان پر ہمدردانہ غور کریں گے اور بل ہذا کو سلیکٹ کمیٹی کے سپرد کرنے کی تجویز کو منظور کریں گے۔ اس سلسلے میں ایک بات یہ بھی کہدینا ضروری سمجھتا ہوں کہ اس قسم کے بل جو مقامی حیثیت رکھتے ہوں پہلے چیف کمشنر کی آڈائزری کونسل کے پاس بھیج دئے جائیں تو بہتر ہوگا۔ ایسا کرنے سے اس ہاؤس کا وقت بچ جائیگا اور شہر والوں کی رائے بھی ہاؤس کو آسانی سے معلوم ہو جائیگی۔

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta (Delhi): Mr. Speaker, in moving the amendment I desire to make it clear to the House that so far as the principle of the Rent Control Act is concerned I do not disagree with it. I understand 3 P.M. that only eight months ago the House accepted this principle by passing the Rent Control Act. You will excuse me if at this time I do not offer my congratulations to my able friend on his recent appointment as a Minister in this Government. It is because we find today that the whole of this country is fed up with the system of controls. Mahatma Gandhi himself is trying to foster a strong agitation against the controls even on food and cloth. In the face of this we have today a Bill proposing control over the houses, an item which comes third on the list of our necessities. My friend should have placed before this House a big programme for house building. He should have pointed out that many new houses should be constructed in this city. He should have told us that the population of Delhi had already increased to twice or thrice its normal before the refugees came in and that it has gone up by another two lakhs. He should have drawn our attention to this fact that this large number of the new comers has become a burden on the local residents. Instead of that he has introduced such a Bill which does not, in any way, solve the housing problem. He should have rather told us how many new houses the Government have decided to construct in the next six months, and how many men have been encouraged to erect their private buildings. He should have tried to bring to light in what way our Government was encouraging the programme of house building to solve the housing problem in Delhi. It would have been better if he had told us what steps are being taken to remove the difficulties which are confronting the people due to the present shortage of accommodation. But on the contrary a Bill is being presented to us, the obvious result of which would be that a wet blanket would be thrown on the aspirations of those few who intend to build new houses in these days.

Shri M. S. Aney: The department is unhealthy.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: You have described it rightly. At the same time I would like to make it clear to all that I have no sympathy whatsoever with those who charge exorbitant rents; and I am sure none of us present here has any admiration for them. Before this Bill was presented, it would have been better if data had been collected of all those houses that have been newly built and of how many of these have been let on unreasonable rents. Mr. Speaker, as I said before, the population of Delhi has recently increased by the influx of another two lakhs of refugees. This has further swollen the population of Delhi which was already overcrowded during the war days.

Shri M. S. Aney: What is the population of Delhi at this time?

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: It is not less than eight to nine lakhs.

My learned friend should know that during the last Session, when the Rent Control Bill was brought before the House Mr. Gokhale assured the Assembly that in no case did the Government intend that this Bill should have a bad effect on the construction of houses. Consequently, keeping this thing in view, the Select Committee made amendments in that Bill to the effect that all the newly constructed houses should be exempted from the rent control so that they who wanted to make new houses in those difficult times were not discouraged. But I find that during the past six months no such things have been done by the Government which could enable one to judge how far the Government have succeeded in fulfilling those assurances which it gave regarding encouragement to those enterprisers who wanted to make new houses. To the contrary, however, a Bill has been introduced which proposes that the rents of these houses may also be controlled. I think there would be hardly a hundred or two, or at the most four to five hundred such houses to which this Bill, which is being brought before us, would apply. Bearing this thing in mind, the Honourable Members of the House can judge for themselves whether this Bill would encourage or discourage those who want to build new houses.

Sir, I want to tell my able friend, that, as a matter of fact, we are, at this time, confronted with a very difficult problem. The shortage of the houses has put the residents of Delhi on the horns of a dilemma; and the way to lessen this worry or to solve this problem is not as my wise friend has suggested. Sir, unfortunately, I happen to be a member of the Advisory Committee appointed to assist the Custodian of Evacuees' Property. As such I have had the opportunity of coming across many such men who till recently were counted amongst the millionaires of the West Punjab, who lived in palatial houses, and owned big buildings. Today we find these men knocking, some times even four to five times in a day, at the doors of the Custodian of Evacuees' Property and of the members of this Advisory Committee, in the hope of getting just a roof over their heads. We are in such a position that neither for love nor for money can we give them a house. I am both ashamed and worried when I meet them. I find myself in a state of utter helplessness. In spite of the fact that we have today a popular Government at the centre we have not been able to do anything for allaying their difficulties. We have failed to find a way out of it.

I agree with my intelligent friend that the rent of a house in the Connaught Circus should not have been more than one hundred rupees per month. But we find today that some of the landlords are charging not less than five hundred rupees for a house. Moreover, thousands of rupees are spent in the black market or are paid as, what is commonly called 'pugree'. I know of a shop for the procurement of which a refugee has paid fifty thousand rupees (Rs. 50,000) as 'pugree'. I have to ask the Government what steps it has taken to check this system of 'pugree'. In my opinion merely the enactment of a law of this kind will not help us. What is required is an overhauling of the Government machinery. It has been said that this Bill will benefit the tenants.

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[Shri Deshbandhu Gupta]

But I want to ask, Sir, in what way the mere control of rents can help the new tenants if the system of 'pugree' is allowed to continue. No sooner do you try to control the rents than the landlords will demand still greater money as 'pugree'. The fact is that we should try to have as many more houses built as we possibly can; and to this the Honourable Member should pay a greater attention.

Sometime back the Government of India appointed a Committee named the "Improvement Trust Land Disposal Review Committee". I was also a member on it. This Committee made some important suggestions regarding the construction of houses. A few months back the report of this Committee was sent to the Government of India. As the Improvement Trust happens to be under the Health Department, I doubt if my wise friend has even received a copy of this report. Sir, from the figures that have been placed before this Committee one infers that there are many difficulties in the way of the construction of new houses. For building a house one requires cement, timber and steel; and for burning the bricks in the kilns one requires coal. And now just listen how the requirements of the Delhi public are met. A quota of only 500 tons of steel has been allotted to Delhi and even that is given in four instalments. Upto the month of July even this instalment had not been received. The quota of coal, as allotted to Delhi, is only 2,700 tons per season. From no point of view can we call it sufficient. There are about 156 brick burning kilns in Delhi. One kiln requires 100 tons of coal per month. This means that only twenty-seven kilns can work for a month with this coal; and that also depends upon the full delivery of 2,700 tons of coal, the quota sanctioned to Delhi by the Government of India. But how much of it does actually reach here? It is difficult to say.

The position of cement is still worse. If we go to the houses that are being built and enquire about cement, it will be found that a bag of cement is being purchased for Rs. 11 whereas the controlled price is just two rupees per bag. Similarly, the shortage of goods trains makes it difficult for us to obtain timber at cheap rates. I quite realise that the Government is also faced with many difficulties which do not enable it to procure timber, cement and coal in sufficiently large quantities. Bearing this in my mind, I had placed before the said Committee a scheme to build a new city entirely made of unburnt bricks. It was estimated that the total cost on a house of this kind would not be more than four to five thousands of rupees inclusive of the cost of land; and the house would easily last for ten to fifteen years. After all, people are living in 'katcha' houses in the seven lakhs of Indian villages. Why not, then, have a new town of 'katcha' houses and thereby lessen the worries of the refugees and of those Government servants who have to wander about for want of accommodation. The idea was that this would meet their immediate need of houses, and then by and by, when conditions improve, 'pacca' houses would spring up. This would at least provide them with a shelter. But no steps seem to have been taken to put this scheme into practice.

I have, therefore, to request the Honourable Minister that if he really wants to help the poor let him give them lands and building materials at cheap rates so that people may be encouraged to build the maximum number of houses for their own use. This would also solve the housing problem in Delhi and the tenants receive a help in the real sense of the word.

May I draw the attention of Government to this fact that in the first place the Improvement Trust does not evolve any development scheme, and if at all any such scheme is formed, it remains for months and months together in the office of the Chief Commissioner. Thus the Three Years' Plan, approved by the Improvement Trust several months ago, is still lying in that office, and I wonder if it has reached the Government of India even up to this time.

To solve the problem of housing it is also necessary to have adequate arrangements of transport in the city so that people can live even at far off places round it. Sir, you might not have had the occasion of going into the city yourself, but the other Honourable Members of this House know it well that the existing transport arrangements in the city are simply hopeless. For hours and hours together respectable citizens have to stand in queues to catch a bus. Only yesterday a principal of a college came to me and complained that he had to wait for full one hour before he could struggle his way into the bus. I hope my wise friend will attend to these fundamentals before everything else and suggest an appropriate solution for this shortage of houses in this city. Let me assure him that I have not spoken merely for the sake of criticism. It is because I have great hopes on him that I have made some constructive suggestions. I hope he will consider them sympathetically and will have no objection if the Bill be referred to a Select Committee. I must say one word more in this connection, that it would be better if such Bills as deal only with Delhi are referred to the Advisory Committee to the Chief Commissioner. This will save a lot of time of this House. Moreover, the House will also get the opinions of the local population.

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil, Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava, Pundit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava, Shri K. Santhanam, Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Shri Mohan Lal Saksena, Shri S. K. Patil and the Mover, with instructions to report by the 1st December, 1947, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa (C.P. and Berar: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the amendment moved by my friend Mr. Deshbandhu Gupta, and I strongly support the motion moved by the Honourable the Mover of this Bill. I have heard with very great patience the arguments advanced by my friend the mover of this amendment, and I must say, Sir, I am not at all convinced by the arguments that he has put before this Honourable House and that the alternative for this Bill is to build more houses. I have no objection to his argument as regards the number of houses to be increased and there could be no quarrel as regards that.

Mr. Speaker: May I suggest one thing to the Honourable Member? Just to save the time of this House, the Honourable Minister, while moving the motion for consideration, stated that he had no objection to agreeing to the Bill being taken to the Select Committee. The Select Committee is expected to report by 1st December. This House should be in session at least for a fortnight after that. So if he has to say anything now on the merits by way of opposition, if he reserves his remarks just at present and then offers them after the Bill comes to the House with the report of the Select Committee, we shall be avoiding discussion of the same subjects.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Ordinarily I would certainly not have objected if the amendment were to be brought in this very Session. But I am very much opposed to the principle of sending this Bill to the Select Committee because there is nothing in this Bill which requires consideration in the Select Committee. The Bill is quite clear. Even if the mover agrees, I have my right to oppose it because there is a danger. If the Bill is sent to the Select Committee the Honourable Members in that Committee may bring in a proposal of such a nature which will be rather detrimental for acceptance to the majority of Members and it will not be proper, therefore, Sir, that in this case I should

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: I have no objection, Sir, if the Honourable Member's name is also added to the list suggested by me.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: It is so good of him to suggest my name but I am suggesting many new names.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member is perfectly within his right in discussing the motion but even if he discusses it now the same discussion will take place again after the Bill comes into the House for reference to the Select Committee. He can give his names of the Select Committee.

An Honourable Member: Without a speech.

Mr. Speaker: I think it would be easily agreed upon between the Member who moved his motion and the Honourable Member who wishes to oppose it. My anxiety is to save time and not to curtail any Member's rights.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: I have no objection for any Member to be on the Select Committee.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Sir, I have no objection. But I do submit this is a very important Bill—it affects the people as a whole. Let me tell you, Sir, that the tenants consider the rent measure as a blessing given by the Government. Therefore, I would emphasise its importance. Hold a meeting in Delhi and see whether the public wants this rent control to be retained or not. I say that from the public point of view rent control is a blessing to the poorer section, and the lower middle class.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: I have never opposed rent control. Perhaps my friend did not follow my Hindustani speech.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: I have followed every word of his speech. Now, Sir, with due deference to your wishes I reserve my speech for the time when the Bill comes in. I move that the following names.....

Shri M. S. Aney: Sir, my contention is this. Is my friend, Mr. Sidhwa, opposed to the very principle of sending the Bill to the Select Committee? He himself is suggesting names for the Select Committee.

Mr. Speaker: There is a misapprehension on the part of the Honourable Member who has raised this point. Mr. Sidhwa is not opposed to the principle of sending this Bill to the Select Committee. Now Mr. Sidhwa may mention names.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: The Honourable Minister in charge of the Bill, Prof. K. T. Shah, Shri H. J. Khandekar, Shri Deshbandu Gupta, Shri K. Santhanam, Shri V. I. Munishwami Pillai, Shri R. V. Dhulekar, Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena, Shri Khandubhai K. Desai, Shri M. S. Aney, Begum Aizaz Rasul and the mover.

Mr. Speaker: Has the Honourable Member consulted the various Honourable Members before suggesting their names?

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: No, Sir, I have not consulted them and they are free to withdraw.

Mr. Speaker: I want to know if the various Members whose names are suggested are willing to work on the Select Committee. The Honourable Minister is there, and Prof. K. T. Shah, Shri H. J. Khandekar, Shri Deshbandhu Gupta, Shri Munishwami Pillai, and Prof. N. G. Ranga, indicate their willingness to serve.

Mr. Dhulekar is not agreeable. **Mr. Shibban Lal Saksena** and **Mr. Khandubhai Desai** are not in the House.

Shri M. S. Aney: I am prepared to serve but not in supersession of the old committee.

Mr. Speaker: No this is in addition to the old committee.

Begum Aizaz Rasul (U. P.: Muslim): Sir, I am very grateful to Mr. Sidhwa for having included my name. I did not know of it before, otherwise I would have told him that I would be going out of Delhi on the 25th. If this Committee is to report on the 1st of December I am afraid I may not be able to devote much time for it. But I am prepared to serve for such period as I would be in Delhi.

Mr. Speaker: There is a common desire to have this Bill referred to the Select Committee. I shall therefore add the new names suggested by Mr. Sidhwa, and if Mr. Gupta accepts the amendment, then it will be all right.

Mr. Speaker: I now put the amendment of Mr. Sidhwa.

Amendment to amendment moved:

"That in Lala Deshbandhu Gupta's amendment the names of Prof. N. G. Ranga, Prof. K. T. Shah, Shri H. J. Khandekar, Shri V. I. Munishwami Pillai, Shri Khandubhai K. Desai, Shri M. S. Aney, Begum Aizaz Rasul, and Mr. R. K. Sidhwa, be added to the names of Members of the Select Committee."

These are the eight names to be added. I have taken out the common names

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: So far as I am concerned, Sir, I have not the least objection in accepting the names suggested by Mr. Sidhwa, but I must make it clear that the names I suggested were not of my own selection. They were the party nominations. Probably, my friend being new to this House, did not know the procedure and did not consult the party regarding his names. In any case, I have no objection to his proposal.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Sir, on a matter of personal explanation. I do not know anything of the party. I am more loyal to the party than probably my friend is. I suggest that this matter should not be brought here. I know the party discipline and I have always followed it. I know not what party has to be consulted. Some two or three people may have formed themselves into a party and they may have taken a decision.

Mr. Speaker: There is no question of any challenge to anybody's loyalty to any party. The point is that this amendment is accepted by the mover of the first amendment and I shall now put to the House the amendment with all the 16 names.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): Sir, I desire to speak on the motion.

Mr. Speaker: Which motion?

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: On the motion for the Select Committee.

Mr. Speaker: Is the Honourable Member against reference to the Select Committee?

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: But that was what I was labouring to make clear to Honourable Members. The House is in favour of reference to the Select Committee and in order to save time, I suggested that no speeches need be made on that.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (U.P.: General): Mr. Speaker, before you put the motion to vote, I would like to suggest that we wanted the Committee to be a small Committee. Since there are now going to be other persons who are anxious to serve on the Committee, I would like to withdraw my name.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): I want also to withdraw my name, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Withdrawals may take place later on if the motion is carried. The question is:

"That the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of....."

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: May I know, Mr. Speaker, whether you are putting the motion of my friend Lala Deshbandu Gupta to vote?

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: In that case, I want to reply to some of his points. I shall be brief. Otherwise, if the motion is put to vote, I shall not have an opportunity to reply him.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: I also desire to speak before the Honourable Minister speaks.

Mr. Speaker: I am asking him to reply.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: That is why I am asking for an opportunity to speak, because after he replies I cannot speak.

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid I shall have to make the position clear again. I did not wish and do not wish to prevent anybody from having his say. I merely made an earnest request, if it was acceptable to Honourable Members, not to make speeches at this stage. Mr. Sidhwa accepted it and the position is the result of the honourable Member's own action. The object is—and I am sure even Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad will appreciate it—that we are going to have this whole Bill for a discussion and a thorough discussion, later on after it comes from the Select Committee. If speeches are made now, we shall be having two discussions. We shall be spending an hour or two now probably and more than three hours on that day. Therefore, I say: "Let us save as much time as possible". That is why I made the request to Mr. Sidhwa and he was good enough to accept it and Lala Deshbandu Gupta also was kind enough to accept the amendment of Mr. Sidhwa. Now, the only thing that remains is, the Minister will reply in short and I shall put the motion to vote. The Minister may now proceed.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, my Honourable friend, Mr. Gupta, said that this Bill was the result of some machinations of the permanent officials. I want to assure him that the initiative was taken by me on representations received from various Tenants Associations and other persons. Most of the complaints were verified by me personally by visiting the places and having talks with those persons who had to pay more than fair rent. I did not forward the matter to the police for reasons which are obvious.

Then my Honourable friend referred to Mahatma Gandhi. He is the only person who can be quoted or mis-quoted by anybody in this country. I am very sorry that my Honourable friend had not followed the Mahatma in other respects but only in the respect of decontrol. Now, I agree with my Honourable friend that rent control is not the most radical remedy to remove the housing scarcity. He also referred to the Government not doing anything in order to put up a building programme. I want to bring to his notice a few humble efforts that I have made since I joined this Government. In the very first week of my assumption of office, I called a Conference of departmental heads and after having ascertained how much I could get by way of cement, steel and timber, I drew up a programme which will be completed within a year, by which time 200 officers' quarters, 1250 servants' quarters and 2000 clerks' quarters will be built. That is the official programme.

So far as the activities of the Improvement Trust are concerned, obviously they are more known to my Honourable friend than to me. He referred to profiteering by the Improvement Trust, but may I point out to him that there has been more speculation by private persons who have purchased plots from the Improvement Trust in recent years. Those plots are still there and no buildings raised on them, for the simple reason that the persons concerned are waiting for prices to go up and then they can part with the plots at higher price.

As regards his contention that many who constructed buildings very recently had to buy building material in the black market, well, that is a factor which

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I am sure the Rent Controller will take into consideration when he fixes the rent under the relevant provision. The relevant provision is:

"If, on a consideration of all the circumstances of the case including any amount paid or to be paid by the tenant by way of premium. . . . the Controller finds that the rent of the house is excessive, he shall determine the fair rent to be charged for the house."

I do submit that the Rent Controller will take all factors into consideration including the high prices of building materials before he finally fixes what is known as the 'standard rent'.

Sir, I agreed to a reference to Select Committee for two reasons. I, being a member of this House pretty long, thought that the way in which this was put was not very fair because the copies of the Ordinance were not distributed—I quite realize the difficulty. That was one reason why I agree. The second reason was that I was told that there is an Advisory Council for Delhi Province and that that Advisory Council ought to be consulted. There is no obligation as such, but even then I thought that it would be much better if I made a reference to the Select Committee and if its report is called ten days hence it will give enough time for the Members of the Advisory Committee to formulate their views as far as this matter is concerned. There is only one point in this Bill. That is whether you want the rents of newly constructed buildings to be controlled or not. There is nothing to go to the Select Committee. But the two considerations mentioned by me weighed with me and therefore, I would request Mr. Sidhwa not to oppose the amendment at this stage.

Mr. Speaker: I will first put the amendment of Mr. Sidhwa to the House. The question is:

"That in Lala Deshbandhu Gupta's amendment the names of Prof. N. G. Ranga, Prof. K. T. Shah, Shri H. J. Khandekar, Shri V. I. Munishwami Pillai, Shri Khandubhai K. Desai, Shri M. S. Aney, Begum Aizaz Rasul, and Mr. R. K. Sidhwa, be added to the names of Members of the Select Committee."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: Now, I will put to the House the amended amendment. The question is:

"That the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava, Shri K. Santhanam, Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Shri Mohan Lal Saksena, Shri S. K. Patil, Shri Deshbandhu Gupta, Prof. N. G. Ranga, Prof. K. T. Shah, Shri H. J. Khandekar, Shri V. I. Munishwami Pillai, Shri Khandubhai K. Desai, Shri M. S. Aney, Begum Aizaz Rasul and Mr. R. K. Sidhwa, with instructions to report by the 1st December 1947, and that the number of Members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

The motion was adopted.

DELHI PREMISES (REQUISITION AND EVICTION) BILL

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil (Minister for Works, Mines and Power):
Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to confer certain powers in respect of premises in the Province of Delhi, be taken into consideration."

This is also a Bill which seeks to enact the provisions of the Ordinance which was promulgated in the month of August 1947. It seeks to give Government power in respect of requisitioning of the premises in Delhi and also power to evict those who are living unauthorizedly. This Ordinance became necessary because of certain problems arising out of partition and because of

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the large influx of refugees and the Government needs in the matter of accommodation for Government offices. With freedom came the duty to accommodate foreign embassies. All that made it necessary to have these powers. The only thing that is sought to be incorporated in the Bill over and above the provisions of the original Ordinance is that the definition of 'premises' is made wider. In the original Ordinance the definition excluded the requisitioning of any house which was required *bona fide* for the purpose of residence of the owner. We found after some experience that this was abused greatly. A person having more than one wife claimed that all the four or five places which belonged to him were places where he *bona fide* resided. Now that was too much for any Government and certainly too much for me. Then it was thought necessary that the requirements of every owner should be considered. I may tell the House that although this additional power is sought to be taken in this particular Bill, I have examined every case and I may take the House into confidence and tell that whenever any complaint was brought to me I actually visited the particular premises. Wherever it was possible I accommodated the owner. Most of the owners whose houses have been requisitioned in New Delhi are residents from West Punjab and owing to the tragedy to which I need make no further reference, most of them have come over here and their pathetic state, which has been so eloquently described by my honourable friend Mr. Deshbandhu Gupta, is amply justified. I am quite prepared as I have done in the past to examine every case on its merits and I can assure the House that this extension of power which it is sought to be taken under the Bill will not be abused in any way.

There is a motion tabled by Mr. Deshbandhu Gupta for referring this Bill to a Select Committee. As a matter of fact there is not much to be referred to a Select Committee. As I do not want to take up the time of the House and in as much as the other Bill is referred to a Select Committee, this may be appropriately referred to a Select Committee. Sir, I move.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to confer certain powers in respect of premises in the Province of Delhi, be taken into consideration."

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta (Delhi): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava, Shri K. Santhanam, Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Shri Mohan Lal Saksena, Shri S. K. Patil, Shri Deshbandhu Gupta, Prof. N. G. Ranga, Prof. K. T. Shah, Shri H. J. Khandekar, Shri V. I. Munishwami Pillai, Shri Khandubhai K. Desai, Shri M. S. Aney, Begum Aizaz Rasul, and Mr. R. K. Sidhwa, with instructions to report by the 1st December 1947, and that the number of Members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

While moving this amendment I wish to draw the attention of my honourable friend and the House to one or two aspects, of this Bill. The first objection which I think on principle is the definition of 'public purpose' which my honourable friend has put in this Bill, because this is a somewhat fundamental thing. He has defined 'public purpose'. It means any purposes connected with the shortage of accommodation in the Province of Delhi. I have not been able to understand the real import of this sentence. Anything may be connected with the shortage of houses in Delhi. That is perhaps not the right way of defining 'public purpose' because there may be people whose presence in New Delhi is not necessary and they may also claim a right to be here and on that ground may say that they are as much covered by this definition of 'public purpose' as anybody else. So 'public purpose' when it is defined like that I think, Sir, we will have to make it more definite and say really what is meant by 'public purpose'. Then again, Sir, one other objection which seems to have escaped my honourable friend's attention is that

he has made no provision in this Bill exempting at least one house—one residential house—to a man who has spent his life's labour and built a house and has been residing in that house for 20 years. This Bill makes no exemption in any case, not even one house is left to the owner of the house. I would very much like the Select Committee to consider this aspect of the Bill and make exemption in cases of those who own only one house and which is used for residential purposes. Then, Sir, there are other aspects of this Bill which I would not like to emphasise at this stage as it would take the time of the House, but there are certain other aspects. For instance it is provided that only 10 days' notice is given whereas my honourable friend is more aware than anyone else that in these few days it is not possible to get a house vacated with all the might of the coolies. I have been serving on the Custodian Committee and I may tell you and the House that we decided to get all unauthorized possessions vacated, but after 6 weeks' deliberations we had to revise our decision, and, all unauthorised possessions we decided to legalise rather than ask those people who were first in the field and had helped themselves with big palaces or buildings—to which they were not entitled—they were practically left there because we felt that perhaps it is a lesser evil than to ask them to vacate and put strain on the coolies or create good room for more bitterness or mischief by the disturbances and that sort of thing.

Then again in the Rent Control Act we provided that if a tenant is to be evicted after a long and arduous course of going through the courts or to the High Court, he gets a year's notice but in that Act it was provided that at least three months' notice would be given to the tenant after all these stages had been gone through to vacate the house. Whereas, in this Bill or the 4 P.M. Ordinance which has come in the form of a Bill my honourable friend

seeks to eject the owner of a house within ten days. I hope the House will agree that this is much too short a period. Then there is a provision here that we can require a house-owner to make alterations and carry out repairs and whatever is wanted by the Government, without any regard to the fact that building material is not available and Government have not undertaken to supply that building material. Whether building material is available or not he must fulfil that obligation. I think in these days of hardship and stringency this is very unfair. All these aspects of the question should be borne in mind by the Select Committee. The question of the Legations coming here with consequent pressure on our housing accommodation was also taken into consideration when we passed the Bill six months ago.

An Honourable Member: And then there are the refugees.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Not the refugees; they do not figure in this Bill either. It is mostly other people who have to be provided for.

All the same, Sir, I am not opposed to this measure. It is our duty as citizens of Delhi to help Government in finding more houses for their essential staff or for the diplomatic obligations which they have to shoulder. For these people we must make houses available, and I am prepared by all means to support this Government so far as billeting or rationing of houses is concerned. I should very much like my honourable friend to remember that this Bill should not work as an engine of oppression and due consideration should be given to these suggestions that I have made.

The Decontrol Board which was formed by the Government of India some time back held a meeting a week ago and these are the figures given to us:

Total houses requisitioned—366.

Houses requisitioned upto 25-1-47—35.

Houses derequisitioned from 25-1-47 to 1-11-47—22.

[Shri Deshbandhu Gupta.]

This only confirms my impression that inspite of the Ordinance which has been there it is perhaps not possible to get many houses vacated. And that brings me again to the same argument that if my honourable friend means business and wants pressure to be removed he must direct his attention to accelerating the housing programme.

Sir, with these words I move my amendment and I hope the Select Committee will take a reasonable view of things while making its recommendations.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava, Shri K. Santhanam, Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Shri Mohan Lal Saksena, Shri S. K. Patil, Shri Deshbandhu Gupta, Prof. N. G. Ranga, Prof. K. T. Shah, Shri H. J. Khandekar, Shri V. I. Munishwami Pillai, Shri Khandubhai K. Desai, Shri M. S. Aney, Begum Aizaz Rasul, and Mr. R. K. Sidhwa, with instructions to report by the 1st December 1947, and that the number of Members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

The motion was adopted.

INDUSTRIAL FINANCE CORPORATION BILL

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Minister for Finance):

Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to establish the Industrial Finance Corporation of India, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Shri K. M. Munshi, Diwan Charnan Lall, Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar, Nawab Muhammad Ismail Khan, Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani, Shri C. Subrahmanyam, Prof. K. T. Shah, Shri B. Das, Shri S. K. Patil, Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor, Shri Ram Sahai and the Mover, with instructions to report on the opening day of the next session of the Assembly and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

[At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Shri V. I. Munishwami Pillai (one of the Panel of Chairmen)].

Sir, the question of establishing an industrial bank or corporation for supplying medium term and long term financial requirements of Indian industries has exercised public opinion in this country for several years past. The Indian Industrial Commission (1916-18) had recommended the appointment of an expert committee to examine the possibilities of establishing industrial banks in India, and the Indian Central Banking Inquiry Committee (1929-31) had recommended the formation of provincial industrial corporations and an All-India Industrial Corporation. The attention of the public has again been drawn to the question since the beginning of 1945 in connection with the schemes formulated by the Government of India for the post-war industrialisation of the country. In the Statement on Industrial Policy issued by the Government of India on the 21st April, 1945 with reference to their plans for the future industrial development of the country the Government stated that the question of the promotion of an industrial investment corporation or similar institution was under examination. Subsequently in the General Purposes Committee appointed by the Planning and Development Department it was decided that the subject should be examined by the Ministry of Finance in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India. In implementation of this decision a Bill was prepared by the Reserve Bank of India for the establishment of an Industrial Finance Corporation to provide medium and long-term credit to industrial enterprises in India where recourse to commercial banks or capital issue channels is considered inappropriate. Sir Archibald Rowlands intended to introduce it in the Assembly in the budget session of 1946 but could not do so owing to the crowded legislative programme. It was introduced in the autumn session

of 1946 but could not be proceeded with both on account of the pressure of legislative business and the impending constitutional changes.

With the inauguration of the Independent Dominion of India and our anxiety to go ahead full speed with the industrial development of the country, the setting up of an industrial finance corporation has acquired a new significance and urgency which is further emphasized by the recent unfortunate occurrences which have dislocated economic life in certain parts of the country.

The financial requirements of industry may generally be classified under two heads, viz., block capital and working capital. Block capital is required by industry to finance fixed assets, such as land, buildings, machinery and other appliances of a more or less permanent character: while working capital is required for the purchase and working up of raw materials into finished products, for stores, for expenses incidental to the marketing of products, for the day to day requirements, etc. A part of the working capital is also of a permanent nature. Generally in industries, the stock of raw materials and manufactured or semi-manufactured materials never fall below a certain minimum and the capital required for these is more or less of the nature of permanent capital. Any working capital over this minimum falls within the category of short-term finance. It is also possible to distinguish in some cases capital requirements of a semi-permanent type which may be classed as medium term requirements of industry. According to orthodox British practice, commercial banks do not supply the capital required for financing fixed assets which is obtained by industries in Great Britain by public or private subscriptions. As a rule the banks there would be prepared to furnish the capital required to finance only the floating assets against the security of stock or other liquid assets after the industry concerned has established itself in a sound position. On the European Continent, however, and particularly in Germany, Italy, Belgium and in the United States, the banks generally used to engage in 'mixed' banking, combining short-term with long-term industrial financing until the great economic depression of 1929-33, which demonstrated the drawbacks and disadvantages of the mixed system. As a result of the experience gained during the course of the years of the economic depression, it has been generally agreed that long-term industrial finance should be eschewed by banks. Apart from the mixed type of banks which have declined since the depression, special industrial banks were established in some of the European countries. In France there were the '*Banques d'affaires*' which specialised in the issue of securities and the floatation of industrial and financial undertakings. In Finland an industrial mortgage bank was floated in 1924 with capital supplied mostly by the joint stock banks to meet the long-term requirements of industry. The National Hungarian Industrial Mortgage Institute Limited was founded in 1928 for granting amortisation loans to industry, the Treasury contributing 80 per cent. of the capital and the National Union of Manufacturers the balance. A Provincial Mortgage Bank was also established in Saxony in 1925 to provide credit to industry, trade and handicrafts. It worked as an annexe of the Bank of Saxony which was an institution wholly owned by the State. In Poland, the National Economic Bank was brought into existence in 1926 which was empowered among other things to make industrial loans. The capital of this bank was subsequently acquired by the State. After the great economic depression, the Reconstruction Finance Corporation was created in the United States with the object of extending financial assistance to agriculture, commerce and industry. The activities of the Corporation were considerably extended during the war to enable it to aid the defence programme. The most recent additions to the list of industrial banks are those incorporated in the British Commonwealth. In Great Britain, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in January 1945 the formation of

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two finance corporations, namely the Finance Corporation for Industry Ltd., and the Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation Ltd. The purpose of the former company in brief is to provide finance for industrial businesses with a view to their quick rehabilitation and development in the national interest, and that of the latter to supply medium and long-term capital to the small and medium sized businesses in the country. In Canada an Industrial Development Bank has been brought into existence as a subsidiary to the Bank of Canada to ensure adequate credit to industrial enterprises which may be reasonably expected to prove successful: and in Australia a separate Industrial Finance Department has been created in the Commonwealth Bank to assist in the establishment and development of industrial undertakings.

The question of establishing separate corporations in India to supplement available facilities for financing industries was exhaustively studied by the Indian Central Banking Enquiry Committee and the various provincial committees. After reviewing the facilities available in the capital market, and the working of the State Aid to Industries Act and certain Finance Corporations established by Provincial Governments, the Central Committee recommended the formation of a Provincial Industrial Corporation in each province. At the same time they stated that they did not rule out the possibility of the formation of an All-India Industrial Corporation at the Centre for the purpose of meeting the requirements of industries which may fall within the scope of the Central Government. In view of the recent constitutional developments, the scope for an All-India Corporation is greater now than was envisaged in 1930-31 by the Banking Committee. The Bill which is now before the House, however, is not intended to meet the requirements of basic and nationalised industries but only to provide finance to meet the long-term needs of private industry.

Sir, I shall now briefly explain the main provisions of the Bill which, as I have stated, was introduced by the previous Government. Besides the drafting changes necessitated by the new constitutional position, it needs in my opinion certain minor modifications. But this can be dealt with in the Select Committee and it will be enough if I merely indicate them when referring to the particular provisions.

It is proposed in Clause 4 of the Bill that the capital of the Corporation shall be Rs. 5 crores, divided into 2,000 shares of Rs. 25,000 each fully paid up. Of this the Government and the Reserve Bank will each take up 400 shares and the balance of 1,200 shares will be offered to scheduled banks, investment trusts, insurance companies and other like financial institutions on the lines indicated in sub-clause 4 of Clause 4. In the present circumstances in India, it appears that an institution controlled by Government, the Reserve Bank and institutional investors will have the best chances of success.

Sub-clause (6) of Clause 4 restricts the transferability of shares to Central Government, Reserve Bank, scheduled banks, insurance companies, investment trusts and other like financial institutions. Clause 5 provides for a guarantee by Government of dividend on shares not exceeding 2½ per cent. I think this clause is not happily worded. The guarantee must be for a fixed rate and it will be best to leave the rate to be notified at the time of the issue of shares by Government who will naturally fix it at a reasonably low level.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Madras: General): Without any maximum limit?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I said not exceeding 2½ per cent. 2½ per cent. is the maximum.

I next come to Clauses 6 and 7 dealing with management. The general superintendence and direction of the affairs of the Corporation has been entrusted to a Board of eleven Directors of whom two will be nominated by the

Central Government, three will be nominated by the Central Board of the Reserve Bank, one will be a Managing Director appointed by the Central Government after consideration of the recommendations of the Board, three will be elected by banks who are shareholders of the Corporation, and the remaining two will be elected by insurance companies, investment trusts and the other shareholders. The first Managing Director will be appointed by the Central Government after taking into consideration the recommendation of the Reserve Bank. The constitution of the first Board of Directors and the terms of office of the various classes of Directors are prescribed by Clause 7.

Clause 11 lays down an obligation on the Corporation to start four offices at Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras. Offices may be established at other places with the sanction of the Central Government.

Clause 13 is an important clause dealing with the Corporation's borrowing powers. It is provided that the Corporation may issue and sell bonds and debentures not exceeding four times the amount of the share capital. This limit seems to me to be inadequate and I propose to suggest in the Select Committee that it be raised to five times the aggregate amount of share capital and reserve fund. The principal and interest in respect of bonds and debentures is guaranteed by the Central Government, the latter at a rate not higher than 2½ per cent. Fixation of such a limit under the law seems to me inappropriate and I would suggest in the Select Committee that the rate should be fixed by Government at the same time bonds and debentures are issued. The Corporation is authorised under Clause 14 to receive fixed deposits for periods of not less than ten years, provided the total amount of such deposits does not exceed Rs. 10 crores.

The business of the Corporation is defined by Clause 15. The Corporation is authorised to grant secured loans to industrial concerns repayable within a maximum period of 25 years. It may guarantee loans raised in the market by industrial concerns for an agreed rate of commission. It has also the powers to underwrite the issue of stock, bonds, and debentures and of retaining, as part of its assets, such stock, bonds or debentures as it may have to take up in fulfilment of its underwriting obligations, but is required to dispose of any such stock, bonds and debentures within a period of seven years.

Clause 16 limits the maximum amount of accommodation it can grant to any single borrower, by way of loan, a guarantee undertaking or underwriting agreement in the aggregate to ten per cent. of its share capital.

In terms of Clause 19 of the Bill, in case of industrial concerns requiring loans in foreign currency the Corporation is authorised with the previous sanction of the Government to borrow such funds through the International Bank for reconstruction and development or otherwise.

Under Clause 21, the Corporation is empowered to recall loans within the agreed period under the circumstances defined in it. In view of its special position, the Corporation is proposed to be given, under Clause 22, certain privileges in the matter of the enforcement of its claims. In the event of a default by the borrower, the Corporation may, after due notice to the borrower, apply to the Court for attachment of property of the industrial concern, and the Court shall pass without delay an *ad interim* order attaching so much of the property of the industrial concern, as would realise an amount equivalent to the outstanding liabilities of the industrial concern to the Corporation together with the cost of the proceedings.

Clause 24 requires the Corporation to establish a reserve fund out of profits. So long as the reserve fund is less than the share capital, and so long as any amount is due to Government under a guarantee given by them under Clause 5 or Clause 13, the rate of dividend on shares shall not exceed the rate guaranteed by Government. When the reserve fund equals or exceeds the

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share capital, the rate of dividend may be raised to a maximum of 5 per cent. and the balance of profits shall be transferred to the Central Government.

Clauses 25 and 27 prescribe the period within which the annual general meeting must be held after the close of the financial year of the Corporation and prescribe the returns to be sent to Government, the Reserve Bank and other shareholders. These clauses are on the usual lines and call for no special comments. The next Clause 28 provides that the Corporation shall not be wound up without the sanction of Government.

The only other clause which requires an explanation is Clause 31, which exempts the Corporation from income-tax and super-tax. The clause is a logical sequence to Clause 24 which provides that the balance of profits, after the appropriations specified therein, shall be transferred to the Central Government.

Sir, as I have stated earlier in my speech, the object of the Bill is to supplement existing facilities available for the supply of medium and long-term capital to industry. Having regard to the inadequacy of the existing facilities in India in this regard and the necessity of rapid industrialisation to raise the standard of living of the people, I need hardly stress the importance of the present measure to the national wellbeing of the country. As I have said before, such corporations have been established in the United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia and the latest reports indicate that the two corporations started in the United Kingdom have already commenced their useful work. In view of the fact that the Bill before the House is overdue and is calculated to accelerate the progress of India towards industrialisation, I commend, Sir, the measure for the acceptance of this House.

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to establish the Industrial Finance Corporation of India, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Shri K. M. Munshi, Diwan Chaman Lall, Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar, Nawab Muhammad Ismail Khan, Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani, Shri C. Subrahmanyam, Prof. K. T. Shah, Shri R. Das, Shri S. K. Patil, Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor, Shri Ram Sahai and the Mover, with instructions to report on the opening day of the next session of the Assembly and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari (Madras: General): Sir, I would like to congratulate the Honourable Mover in bringing forward this Bill so soon after he assumed charge of his office. It seems to me, Sir, appropriate that a person like Mr. Shanmukham Chetty, with his background of industrial experience, should pilot a Bill of this nature.

At the outset, I would like to say that I am happy to find that the Mover feels that the resources of this institution which have been vouchsafed to it by this Bill are rather inadequate and he therefore proposes that in the Select Committee he would suggest an augmentation of those resources, by enlarging the scope of Clause 13. But I wonder if that would be all that has to be done. After all, in a country like ours, so big, with so many schemes awaiting financial support, I think an institution of this nature should be started in a much bigger way. It may be that the share capital need not all be taken up at one time. But would it not be necessary for this institution to be provided statutorily with facilities for expansion of the share capital? I hope the Select Committee will examine this point and, if necessary, alter the share capital structure of this institution. In fact, I am not sure that all the funds that will be available to this institution under Sections 13 and 14 would be adequate even after the proposal to alter the terms of Section 13 made by the Honourable Mover—proposal which he said he would make to the Select Committee. I think even in this matter there must be an expansion of the possible resources that this institution can command.

Another aspect of the Bill which I think had better be examined by the Select Committee is whether the institution should not be split up into two, following the British example, one institution for small industries and another for large industries, which will certainly help the concentration that will be necessary in the case of small industries.

So far as the clauses relating to the raising of shares are concerned, they have been fairly carefully drafted. Certain quantity of shares are to be given to banks and certain other to institutions like insurance companies, investment trusts, etc. But in this country we have only one class of people who serve as directors of the Reserve Bank, serve as directors of banks, serve as directors of investment trusts, serve as directors of insurance companies—the class is the same in all such institutions. And I find here no attempt made by the Government, unless perhaps they propose to nominate Directors representing other interests, to provide for people who don't fall within this category, to get into the Board of Directors of this institution. How it is to be devised is a matter for the Select Committee to consider. I do hope the honourable the Mover will bear in mind that as it is drafted—I am sure he has no hand in the drafting of it as it has been drafted by a previous administration, perhaps the Reserve Bank—the class bias is there definitely. Particularly when we want industrialisation on a large scale, industrialisation that will benefit the common man of this country, there is no use in perpetuating the domination of this class of people upon our economy by making this body more or less a monopoly of the privileged classes.

Again, Sir, we know in this country that those who control insurance companies control banks. Those who control insurance companies and banks, if they cannot themselves be directors of the Reserve Bank, have their own friends there. So, unless the classes of shares are earmarked A, B and C and transfer amongst people of the other categories banned, and a limit prescribed in respect of the maximum holding of each company, it is quite possible that ultimately the control or a large measure of control will pass into the hands of certain insurance companies and certain banks which would not be for the good for the future of this institution. I hope the Select Committee will take up this question for examination.

There is one other factor and I am rather nervous to tread on this ground particularly because of the better knowledge that the honourable the Mover has as his experience in the matter of company finance is perhaps unlimited. He has suggested, or rather the original draftsman has suggested, in Clause 24 that the dividend should not exceed 2½ per cent. until such time as the reserve fund grows up to an amount equal to the share capital and the debts to the Central Government are discharged. Considering that the capital stipulated is not very high, one might expect that the profits that will accrue and will be ultimately transferred to the reserve fund will perhaps enable a higher dividend than 2½ per cent. to be paid in a comparatively short time. (But it is quite possible that that might not happen. The Mover, the Finance Minister, has recently floated a loan at 2½ per cent. What is the object of asking insurance companies who depend entirely for their income on such investments, to invest at 2½ per cent. when they can get 2½ per cent. from the Government, other conditions being the same, because the dividends paid by this Corporation will be liable to income-tax and super-tax? It may be that big insurance companies would nevertheless come in partly for the reason that it will add prestige to their own firm and partly for the reason that they might ultimately get a voice in the distribution of patronage by this Corporation. But the smaller companies to whom even a quarter per cent. in their income would probably be a material factor would not find the investment worth while. I am not generally in favour of any large dividends and I certainly do approve of the fact that 5 per cent. has been fixed as the ceiling. But I feel that 2½ per cent.

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during a period which might be short or long will be unattractive to smaller institutions, smaller scheduled banks and smaller insurance companies.

One might very well ask at this stage whether it is at all necessary to create an institution of this nature as distinct and quite apart from the Reserve Bank. The Honourable Mover gave us a history of similar financial corporations all over the world and possibly he, or his predecessor did not feel it was worth while to start this institution as a department of the Reserve Bank. The Australian example seeks to make it more or less a department of the Commonwealth Bank in which case much of the trouble will be solved. Whether a separate entity, completely divorced from the Reserve Bank, should be maintained is a matter that will first suggest itself to any person who examines the scheme. But the position might be met by the fact that the control of the Reserve Bank on the Central Government is maintained to a degree which is perhaps as close as one can possibly make it. But, as I said before it seems to me that ultimately it will be the privileged classes who will control it. The Reserve Bank will undoubtedly have a say in the working of the institution. Whether it is at all worth while keeping it as a separate institution instead of making it something which is part of the Reserve Bank, branches to be started wherever there is a branch of the Reserve Bank, close supervision by local managers of the Reserve Bank as against the scrutiny of investments which has to be made periodically as provided in the Sections of the Bill—I think is a point that can be examined by the Select Committee.

Lastly I would like to emphasize this point, namely, in Section 15 which covers the advances to industrial concerns of capital and working capital, would it not be wiser to impose some kind of distinction in regard to financing industrial concerns so far as their working capital is concerned?—not in the same way as a normal trading bank will, but in a manner which is perhaps likely to be more generous but at the same time making a distinction between the help that the industrial corporation will give to concerns that are newly started and the help that the corporation will give by way of providing working capital repayable after a stipulated period or instalments spread over a period of time and distinct from the help which an ordinary bank will provide. This type of help seems to be fairly widely conceived inasmuch as section 19 gives power to the institution to finance even in respect of foreign currency requirements. One aspect of the work of this Industrial Corporation will be to help industries to start; another aspect will be to help them to carry on. I think these two aspects will have to be treated separately, and the Rules prescribing the Corporation's help to these two types of working of the institution must be clearly stated. An enlargement of section 15 is, in my opinion, therefore called for.

Sir, at this stage I do not think it is worthwhile labouring further about the details of this Bill which has been fairly well explained by the Mover. I draw consolation from the fact that the Mover himself feels that the Bill can be considerably improved upon, and I do hope the Select Committee will treat the opinions expressed on the floor of the House by Members asking for an examination and an enlargement of the scope of this Bill and the scope of the functions of the institution which it seeks to create as a mandate so that when the Bill comes back from the Select Committee it will be a better Bill which would be based on a broader foundation and would really contribute to the industrial prosperity of this country and the well-being of the common man. Sir, I support the motion.

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General): Sir, I agree with the Honourable the Finance Minister that the Bill is long overdue. The Honourable Finance Minister stated in a Bombay speech that the credit of India stands very high. I agree with him. I endorse his views. Time has moved fast and India is going to face an economic crisis in the very near future. I am not a prophet

but that day is drawing nigh. The point is that the Bill ought to have been brought before the House six months ago. I quite agree with the opinion that my friend will manage the finances of the country soundly if things should come to the same mess that we were in 1930 or early 1931.

Sir, I would like to make one or two observations. This Bill was drafted with the concept that India and Pakistan would be one country. So I do think now that the number of Directors should be reduced and the Reserve Bank need not have three Directors. The Reserve Bank can have two Directors and I believe there will be a similar Banking Bill in Pakistan. They can have one or two Directors from their Reserve Bank. As regards the constituent shareholders, I am not satisfied that the shareholders should be confined to investment trusts and scheduled banks. The industrial prosperity of a nation is judged by three of its activities—namely; banking, insurance, and shipping activities. Insurance companies have to keep by a certain sum with the Government, and therefore have to be shareholders. I suggest to the Honourable the Finance Minister and I hope I will be able to convince my friends in the Select Committee, that the shipping companies, however small they are now, will be one of the biggest activities in the national prosperity of India and they should be permitted to be investors in the shares of this trust.

Sir, my Honourable friend the Finance Minister said that in some other countries agriculture was being looked after by similar types of industrial financial corporations. In India our original conception was confined only to financing big industries. Cottage industries have been given the go-by by the Reserve Bank although the great party to which I belong has always held that we should develop the cottage industries in the country as much as possible. The country is still following the slow coach policy of 1934-35, but we Congressmen stand committed and we stand by our great leader Mahatma Gandhi that we must develop our cottage industries side by side with other industries. With the hostility of the U.S.A. and the U.K. to supply capital goods to India in right time—U.K. having a deliberate policy of taking out huge orders and deliberately postponing delivery of those orders—unless Russia could supply heavy machinery at an early date, we wonder if India will ever get capital goods to start new industries. I am for it, because I belong to that circle. But at the same time I am asking the Finance Minister that if the Corporation cannot think of financing the cottage industries, it must think of it as a side activity of the Reserve Bank. A few minutes ago I said that the Reserve Bank was not a national bank. I have told on the floor of the old Assembly often that it was a branch of the Bank of England, and it has served the purposes of the Bank of England. One of the main activities of the Reserve Bank was to finance agricultural activities in the country, the co-operative movement in the country, not to speak of cottage industries. It did very little. This morning I had great sympathy with my revered friend Mr. Prakasam, who stated that the Reserve Bank was not a national bank. That is the idea that is worrying me and worrying many others. That Reserve Bank is at present functioning as the bank of the Government of India. It has yet to discard all the European employees that are there. They must be dismissed and their services terminated by payment of salaries for a few years. Why should they remain and bring in foreign ideas and curb our enthusiasm for financing our national activities? My honourable friend the Finance Minister was Speaker of the House in 1934 when the Reserve Bank Bill was passed. He will remember the herculean battles that were waged on the floor of the Assembly at that time. None of us were satisfied. The whole thing was dictated to us. We were told that if we would not have a Reserve Bank for India, we would not have the 1935 Act. We had to accept the Reserve Bank Act as it was thrust down our gullets, because we expected we would get a better constitution.

[Shri B. Das]

So, Sir, the time has come—and I take this opportunity to draw the attention of the Honourable the Finance Minister—the time has come when the Reserve Bank Act should be completely changed and every foreigner in the service of the Reserve Bank should be paid off the five years salary or pension and dispensed with and the Bank should be conceived as a National Bank so that India can prosper. Without the Reserve Bank functioning as the National Bank the Honourable the Finance Minister or we on this side may dream of prosperity but that prosperity will never come.

Sir, with these few observations, I support the reference to the Select Committee.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya (Madras: General): Sir, it is a matter for rejoicing that at last from mere pious advice we have descended to the practical plan of bringing into existence an institution of this character. For decades we have been speaking of industrial revival but nothing has been done so far in order to make a practical contribution by way of financial help to the nascent institutions of the day. I therefore welcome this measure but it strikes me as particularly inadequate, considering the size of the country, the long neglect to which the country has been subjected in the matter of industries as well as the requirements of the nation. Today from morning to evening we use five hundred chemicals at least and very few of them are being manufactured in this country. Institutions have to be brought into existence to manufacture the manufacturers and to finance the financiers and all these acts must be contemplated by this institution. That is the essential part.

Considering the magnitude of the task that lies ahead before this institution, I rather think that the effort is far too humble and too inadequate. Five crores of rupees capital for the Industrial Corporation looks almost childish. But I hope that it will grow with the lapse of time. The growth should not be on the basis of the rule of three, our progress in industrial matters must be on the basis of geometrical progression and not arithmetical; even on the basis of the accelerating velocity of a falling body not at 32 feet per second—but at 32 feet per second per second. It must go on increasing every year. The borrowing capacity of this Institution appears to be far too limited, though it is well within the bounds of safety and security. Four times the paid up capital proposed for one kind of borrowings, namely, debentures, is inadequate.

I am sorry I am labouring under the difficulty of not having looked into the Bill but only followed the speech of the Honourable Mover as he was tracing the development of the various sections one after another. I have taken that Bill from a friend and looked into it briefly but I feel that in any case I am right in saying that the borrowing capacity is somewhat limited. I particularly welcome one aspect of this Institution, namely that it contemplates only long term deposits. Financial purists and banking experts have been terrorizing the institutions of the country by prohibiting the taking of deposits of more than three years duration and even that three years duration has been accepted as a kind of concession to the clamour of banking amateurs like myself.

I have always said that to determine the area of cultivation you should not depend upon the rains of each monsoon which feed the waters of the river. You must count upon the succession of monsoons that feed the waters of the Godavari and the Ganges. If you are going to regulate the extent of land that is brought under cultivation on the basis of a year's monsoon you will fail. Next year there may be no monsoon at all, argue the Engineers. That is of course a purist's argument, logical but not reasonable. Here I am glad you have taken a ten years' deposit. This reform is long overdue in the

co-operative movement but the co-operators have come to depend so much upon finance and so little upon co-operation that they would not think of financing the movement adequately and it has fairly been well-choked betimes. Now this period of ten years duration is a fairly long term though I would have preferred it to be 12 years but that is perhaps for the Select Committee to look into.

The next point is that the loan is to be of 25 years term. That is quite adequate. One cannot complain of the legislation which has given to a nascent industry financial help but the real difficulty arises in the measure of help that the legislation contemplated. It is a paltry sum, it is a trifle not worth mentioning, namely 1/10ths of the capital. If I can get ten lakhs for my business, do you mean to say I cannot manage to get another one lakh? This quantum of a tenth of the capital bears a disproportionately small ratio to the requirements of the institution and indicates the scale on which this Industrial Corporation is likely to work. Then there is the 2½ per cent. guarantee of dividend; the Honourable Mover himself has said whether it should not be a fixed figure. Well, I was thinking over the point. Perhaps a fixed figure is not so good as an elastic figure. They have made it particularly elastic in order to provide an incentive to effort and not merely to ensure a dividend. Now a word about the capital. You know that money has been going abegging for long. Zamindaries are being abolished and the security of land is being threatened; then banks have reduced their dividends from 4 to 3 and even to 2½ per cent. and only the money of Insurance Companies is waiting to be invested. There are large funds—particularly life funds available for Insurance companies have the law that 40 per cent. of the life funds must be invested in a particular manner and therefore this may come as a helpful source of investment for the insurance companies on the one hand and for the Industrial Bank on the other. But it strikes me as to why it is that the shareholdership or membership is being limited only to particular institutions, namely, banks, corporations, insurance companies and so on. Nothing would be lost by associating the common man with this new Institution. Perhaps you will get enormous amounts of money from him and that man is finding it difficult even to get a dividend of 2½ per cent. for his small savings. The Reserve Bank has not had reason to regret that it has taken money from the common man and their limitation on the individuals shares to Rs. 500 is not a bad restriction. Whatever that be, I would like you to extend the scope of the usefulness of the law not merely by way of loans but also by taking deposits from individuals. I believe I am right in saying that individuals are now excluded from the scope of this Institution.

Then I believe I have heard it stated that not more than 5 per cent dividend will be paid to the shareholders and the remaining profits will go to Government. That is a very intelligible proposal and the broad principles of the Corporation are correct. I hope that from the Select Committee the Bill will emerge much better and much bigger and more useful. I thank you, Sir, for allowing me this opportunity to speak on the Bill.

RAILWAY BUDGET

FOR

15TH AUGUST 1947 TO 31ST MARCH 1948

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Minister for Railways and Transport): Sir, my primary purpose in addressing the House this evening is to discuss the present financial position of the Railways and also to place before the House certain proposals arising therefrom. But before I do so, I know the House would like me to deal with certain current problems relating to the administration and the

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charges such as interest charges, sinking fund charges, depreciation charges and so on that each party will have to bear. Unfortunately it has not been possible for us to reach agreement on this question and the matter is going up to the Arbitral Tribunal for final decision. Since this matter is to be considered by the Arbitral Tribunal I do not want to say much about it at this stage. But I owe it to the House to state briefly what is the point at issue between us and Pakistan as regards the division of capital liabilities. We have taken the line that the correct basis for the division of capital liabilities is the book value less depreciation of the share of the assets both fixed and movable that has fallen to each side. That we consider is the correct principle to apply in this case. The representatives of Pakistan urge that it is not the book value but the earning capacity of the railway which is to be regarded as the correct basis. The two railways, substantial parts of which have gone over to Pakistan, namely, the N. W. Railway and Bengal Assam Railway have been for reasons into which I need not go probably the least profitable of our railways. If therefore the earning capacity of the railways is to be taken as the basis the capital liability that would arise in respect of these railways would be considerably less. Our contention is that in regard to public utility services like railways, the principle of earning capacity has no application, since the return on capital is fixed with reference to public interest rather than ordinary economic consideration. Pakistan has made another suggestion and that is that with regard to the strategic railways which fall mainly within their area, the liabilities should be divided between Pakistan and India and that in a proportion which would leave us with most of the liabilities in respect of these railways. If the final decision was made on the principle that we have put forward the division of capital liabilities would be somewhat as follows:—

India would have 660 crores.

Pakistan would have approximately Rs. 150 crores.

If the principle put forward by Pakistan is accepted the position will be as follows:—

India would have a capital liability of Rs. 757 crores and Pakistan would have a capital liability of 53 crores.

If the decision is made on the principle put forward by Pakistan and they get their 7,000 miles of railway on that basis, in my humble opinion, they will have got it at practically scrap value.

Thirdly I want to deal with some transportation problems which have arisen from partition. First of all, there is this question of the transfer of staff, which as the House is aware, has greatly dislocated and disorganised the railway services of the country. The approximate figures regarding the number of personnel who have been transferred are these:

Total number of persons who have opted for India from Pakistan (we have not got the final figures yet) approximately the figure is	126,000
Out of these the number of persons who have arrived in India or reported their arrival in India is	108,400
Out of these 108,400 people who have arrived, the number of people who have already received their posting orders is	104,000

These figures represent a huge problem of administration and of physical movement and the House will realize the strain that this has imposed upon the whole of our railway staff. I have no final information regarding the number of people from India who have opted for Pakistan, but from such statistics as I have seen, the number is approximately 83,000. I have no further information regarding that.

Next is the evacuation of refugees as a result of the disturbances which have occurred in Pakistan. The total number of refugees that the Indian railways have moved from and to and within East Punjab up to date is approximately 2½ millions. Now 2½ million people transported represent the normal capacity of roughly 800 passenger trains. The House will realise what an enormous diversion of railway resources that implies in rolling stock, in power and in personnel. The result of that is that a considerable number of passenger services in other parts of the country has had to be curtailed. The latest figure that I have is that the reduction of normal passenger services approximates to 3,800 train miles per day.

Then, I come to the question of goods traffic. The result of all these disturbances has been that goods traffic has been congested very severely in the Punjab area. When goods traffic is congested in that way two consequences follow. The first is that the line gets blocked because wagons are unable to move; therefore it is not possible for wagons freshly loaded to move. That is the first consequence. The second consequence is that since these wagons are standing idle and cannot be unloaded fewer empty wagons are available for fresh traffic. In both ways, therefore, traffic is seriously impeded. At the peak period of the disturbances between here and stations in the Punjab there were approximately 7,900 loaded wagons standing idle. And the result of the congestion caused by this large number of wagons on other railways was that at the same period there were on the E. I., the G. I. P. and the B. B. & C. I. Railways between four and five thousand wagons standing still. The position has considerably improved since but it still causes us considerable anxiety. What I should like to tell the House is that in view of depleted staff, lack of resources, the virtual breakdown of law and order, the large numbers of refugees—destitute and miserable but often very defiant and difficult—finally the wrath of the elements in the form of these unprecedented floods that have occurred, I suggest respectfully to the House that a word of appreciation is due to the railway staff for the valiant battle that they have waged against these terrific odds.

Lastly on the subject of partition I want to refer to certain organisation questions. In reply to certain questions addressed to me this morning in the House I referred to the question of linking up the Assam Railway with the Indian railway system. The Assam Railway is now completely isolated from the rest of the Indian railway system. Government have come to the conclusion that for administrative reasons, for business reasons and also for strategic reasons it is necessary that there should be through rail connection between Assam and the rest of the Indian railway system. We have sanctioned this project which will be taken in hand immediately. It will mean 156 miles of new work; out of that 70 miles would be conversion of the existing narrow-gauge Darjeeling Himalayan Extension Railway to metre-gauge and 86 miles new construction, the total cost of this is estimated at about 4½ crores. I have had a conference with the Ministries of West Bengal and Assam on this subject and the general alignment has been agreed to between us and the survey, as I said, will start almost immediately.

The next organisation question is the regrouping of railways affected by partition. The result of partition is that we have now five different units in the areas covered by partition. There is the East Punjab Railway which is now a separate administrative unit directly responsible to the Railway Board, the East Indian Railway, the Oudh-Tirhut Railway, the Indian portion of the old Bengal and Assam Railway and the Assam Railway. We have decided that there should be a regrouping of these railways. The question of regrouping involves three principles. First of all railways have to be arranged in such a way as to promote operational efficiency; secondly, it ought to promote administrative convenience; thirdly, it ought to effect economy in controlling and supervisory establishment.

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working of our Railways which have been matters not merely of concern but of anxiety both to the House and to the country. The first of these problems that I want to deal with is the way in which the partition of the country and certain consequences that have flowed from partition have reacted upon the Railways.

I propose to deal with the subject of partition under three heads. Firstly, certain operating arrangements which partition has rendered necessary. Secondly, the important problem of the division of assets and liabilities, and thirdly, certain concrete problems of a current nature which we are called upon to deal with as a result of partition.

I shall indicate briefly the nature of the operating arrangements we have made to reduce to a minimum the interruption of traffic. First of all, we have made arrangements regarding what are called "running powers", that is to say, when one Railway runs its trains to the border of the other Railway, it is likely that at the terminal points on the border there would not be all facilities necessary for dealing with these trains. Before these trains come back, it is necessary that there should be stabling-room for trains, running room for the staff on the trains and arrangements for the inspection of wagons and coaches. It so happens that as a result of the territorial division, it is not possible always at these border points to have these necessary arrangements made. Therefore, it becomes necessary to run the trains beyond the border into the territory of the other Railway to points where the necessary facilities are available. We have given running powers to Pakistan; Pakistan has given running powers to us.

Secondly, where there are certain sections of the Railways which are completely isolated from the parent Railway, it is necessary not merely to provide running powers, but to provide what are called "working powers", that is to say, such sections are allowed to be worked by the other Railway under agreed arrangements. It is a well-known railway practice. We have given working powers to Pakistan over some of our sections; similarly they have given us working powers over some of theirs.

Thirdly, if you want to avoid interruption of traffic, it is necessary that through-booking of wagons and coaches should be provided for which also has been made under this arrangement. The point of that is that otherwise you would put yourself to the delay and the trouble due to transshipment.

Fourthly, it has been arranged that there would be no changes in fares and freights on one Railway without notice being given to the other Railway.

Fifthly,—and this is an important point,—as a result of the territorial distribution of the country, Workshops that used to work for a particular Railway happen to fall outside its border. If that happens, the original facilities which were available are no longer so and it is necessary, therefore to make special arrangements. In regard, for example, to the Eastern Punjab Railway, the arrangement is that the Moghulpura Workshop which now falls within the Pakistan limits would do the necessary work for us. Similarly, it has been agreed that the Kanchrapara Workshop which belongs to us would do work for the Pakistan Railway and also the Saidpur Workshop which is in the Pakistan area would do work for the Assam Railway. This arrangement has, on the whole, I regret to say, worked unsatisfactorily. We have hardly been able to get any work done for the Eastern Punjab Railway at the Moghulpura Workshop. I do not want to blame anybody. There have been disturbances of a serious kind and there has been considerable depletion of staff. In any case, the result is that we have been able to get little service out of the Moghulpura Workshop. It has been, therefore, necessary for us to make demands on the other Railways in India for the necessary service for the Eastern Punjab Railway. Similar difficulty has arisen also in regard to the Assam Railway. The Saidpur Workshop has not been able to render us the service that we had expected and it is our idea at an early date to set up a separate Workshop for the

Assam Railway. That, however, is a matter that will take time. These arrangements are generally for a period of two years; in some cases there is no time-limit in others they are terminable at six months notice and so on.

Now, I come to the second problem arising out of partition, namely, the division of assets and liabilities. Assets present two problems in this connection. You have first of all to determine the shares which fall to each side. Having done that, you proceed further, and make a physical distribution of the assets on the basis of the shares. If we take the fixed assets,—the permanent way, the buildings, bridges and so on,—there should not be any great difficulty as regards the determination of shares, because that follows automatically the territorial distribution. Although that is so in principle, there has been in practice a certain amount of difficulty. One would have thought that where the determination of shares automatically followed the territorial division physical distribution would also follow automatically, but it has happened that in respect of the Bengal Railways it was not possible to effect in time the physical distribution of the fixed assets. I am referring to that point because my honourable friends from Bengal have rightly taken a keen interest in this aspect of partition. What has happened is that under the Boundary Commission's Award, certain additional sections of the Pakistan Railway have been ceded to us. But, all our running arrangements and working arrangements had been made with reference to the national division. Therefore, when the Boundary Commission's Award was given, it was necessary to revise the original arrangements and that took a certain amount of time—longer time than we had expected. The delay was regrettable. All that I can say about it is that the delay did not arise on our side. It was not till a fortnight ago, not till the 8th of November that these Sections of the Railways which ought to have come to us earlier under the Boundary Commission's Award were really handed over to us. It was a delay of somewhere about 2½ months; I know there was a great deal of anxiety about this matter in Bengal. The anxiety I think arose very largely from the fear that this delay might mean considerable financial losses to the Indian Railways. On that point I am in a position to set the minds of our friends in Bengal at rest. The financial risk involved has been nil. The position is that in regard to all through pre-paid traffic that passes from Calcutta northwards or southwards from Assam the collections are made by us out of which a considerable part naturally is due to Pakistan for the traffic that passes over their area. The share of these through collections which falls to Pakistan at present is in our hands, and as far as I am able to judge from the figures available to me, we have as much in our hands as is necessary to cover any payments due to us from them in respect of sections which have been ceded to us under the Boundary Commission's Award. It is not merely sufficient, but probably a good deal more. I want to assure my friends in Bengal, therefore, that there is no financial risk involved in it at all. That is as far as the fixed assets are concerned.

Regarding movable assets comprising generally rolling-stock and engineering stores the determination of the shares falling to each side was done under the notional division. But before we could revise that with reference to the Boundary Commission's Award the disturbances in the Punjab began and it became therefore impossible to proceed with the revision or to proceed with the necessary physical distribution. The preliminary work has now been completed and I am hoping at an early date to effect the distribution.

Then I come to the division of liabilities. I am referring to capital liabilities. The problem is this. Certain assets have come to us and certain assets to them. The problem we are faced with is what is the liability that each party is to assume for the assets it has received, that is to say, what is the capital cost that we are to incur in respect of the capital assets that we have received and vice versa. It is more than a technical or theoretical question, because on the division of these capital liabilities will depend the capital

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I have on this question also had a conference with representatives of the Governments of West Bengal and Assam and we have come provisionally to certain agreed conclusions. The question of the investigation required for this regrouping has already been taken up and a senior railway officer with a great deal of experience of railway administration is being deputed to undertake that work. I hope it will be possible as a result of this regrouping for the railways which are now working in Bengal and Assam to be administered in a manner that would serve better the interests of these areas.

Sir, that is what I have to say regarding the problems arising from partition. I now go on to an entirely different subject which is the general movement of goods traffic on our railways,—a subject which has caused a great deal of concern in the country. The first thing that I want to say is that this problem is not so much a problem of the number of wagons as a problem of what in railway parlance is called the turn-round of wagons. What this phrase "turn-round" means—if I may explain it somewhat loosely—is the time taken by a wagon to perform a round trip and return to take up fresh traffic. The amount of wagon accommodation available at any particular time in the country depends not merely on the number of wagons in service but also on the rate at which the wagons 'turn-round.' Honourable Members who are familiar with economics will know that in what they call the Quantity Theory of Money the amount of money at any particular time is determined not merely by the quantity of money but also by the velocity of circulation. That applies also to the question of goods traffic. I want to give the House certain figures. Taking the number of wagons in service, the number that we have at present represents an increase of 15 per cent. over the number we had in 1938-39. As compared with that the quantity of traffic we are carrying now represents an increase of 20 per cent. over the traffic in 1938-39. There is therefore a slight gap. But the gap is not such as to make a material difference to the position. But if you take the figures with regard to the 'turn-round' of wagons, the pace at which wagons circulate the position is different. If you take broad gauge wagons in 1938-39, the average period of turn-round was approximately nine to ten days. Today, if you exclude South India, where the problem is somewhat different—we have not the difficulties there that we have in Upper India—the broad gauge wagons have an average 'turn-round' of 14 to 15 days. What that means is that there is a decline in the total quantity of wagon accommodation available of 40 to 50 per cent as compared with pre-war. That is the problem that we are faced with and I want to tell the House as briefly as I can what are the circumstances that have led to this slower movement of our wagons.

First of all, there is this question of civil disturbances. It is interesting that, when you look at the figures regarding the movement of wagon traffic, the decline starts from August 1946. It is clearly illustrated in the case of coal traffic. In the first half of 1946 the total quantity of coal despatched from the coalfields by railways was approximately 24 lakhs of tons a month. In the second half of 1946, the period about October-November, it dropped to 20 lakhs of tons. In other words, there was a drop over a period of six months of 16 per cent, which is a very considerable figure when it comes to the question of coal traffic. This has been greatly intensified by the disturbances that have occurred in the Punjab.

A point I think to which not sufficient attention has been given in public discussions on this subject is the vast changes which have occurred in the channels of traffic since pre-war days. First of all, there are these large shipments of imported foodgrains from western countries, particularly America, to the western ports of India, a traffic which was not known before the war, and now since partition a port like Bombay has to handle in addition the traffic which was formerly handled for India from Karachi. Therefore the

pressure on Bombay in respect of import of foodgrains is at present very considerable. Secondly, since the outbreak of the war, there has been a large dispersal of industries in India. As a result of the war new industries had to be started in parts of the country where they had not been in existence before. I could illustrate it by one fact. In the days before the war, the coal that used to be despatched above Moghul Serai towards Upper India to feed industries there, was considerably less than the coal that is now going along that route. There is an increase as far as I can make out today of about 50 per cent. over the pre-war traffic in coal in that area. Another illustration is that most of the coal that used to go to Bombay and Kathiawar before the war went by sea. On account of the lack of shipping space today, by far the greater part of that traffic goes by rail.

The result of these various changes as regards the 'turn-round' of the wagons is this. The capacity of existing marshalling-yards, where as you know wagons are sorted out with respect to their ultimate destinations, was fixed with reference to the traffic that used to move over a long period along those routes before the war. Similarly also the track capacity of the railways. Now the new routes that trade is taking are routes along which the capacity of the marshalling-yards and track capacity have been fixed with reference to the thinner traffic that used to offer before the war. You may ask, why don't you improve the capacity? We would like to. But to improve the capacity of the marshalling yards and the track capacity is largely a question of building materials, and with whatever good intentions we may set about the business, the scarcity of building materials put a very severe limitation upon our resources.

There is still another cause, and that is our locomotive position which is serious. There has been a great deal of deterioration in the quality of the service rendered by our locomotives, partly as the result of the intensive wear and tear to which they have been exposed as a result of war traffic. Apart from that many of our locomotives have already survived their normal working life. The total number of locomotives we had before the partition was 8,400, both broad gauge and meter gauge. Out of that 2,900 were over-age which had done their normal period of service. If it were possible for us to replace these locomotives quickly, the problem would be eliminated. But locomotives are not made in India at present, nor even parts of locomotives and I am bound to say when I am faced with this serious problem—that the indifference which was shown to this essential requirement of the country in the old days constitutes a grave reflection on those who were responsible for the government of the country then. Then there is the question of our workshops. That again is a matter which gives us considerable anxiety. The output of our railway workshops has very perceptibly declined since the war. It is not only a question of the unrest among labour but also a question of the scarcity of essential parts of locomotives.

In 1938-39 the average number of days that a locomotive was detained in a workshop for overhaul and repair as regards broad-gauge railways was 40 days. In 1946-47 the number of days rose to 48, which shows a decline in output of 20 per cent.

If you take meter gauge locomotives in 1938-39 the number of days a locomotive was detained in a workshop was 31. In 1946-47 it was 51, a decline in output of 60 per cent.

I want to say a word with regard to coal. That problem has been causing anxiety recently. The importance of quick movement in respect of coal is twofold. First of all, unless you move the coal promptly, it reacts upon the production of the collieries, because otherwise all available stacking space is taken up. It means also so much working capital locked up. For both these reasons, therefore, it reacts upon production. It has also a great deal of importance from

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the point of view of the labour situation. If as a result of our inability to move coal promptly, production slows down, it may become necessary to discharge labour. That, under present conditions, would present a difficult social problem. All the general causes that I mentioned with regard to goods traffic apply equally in the case of coal. But recently there has been another development which has had a serious effect on coal. A large number of the engine crew, particularly on the East Indian Railway, have been for many years Muslims and when they opted for Pakistan, there was the likelihood of a considerable depletion and disorganisation of engine staff. The original arrangement which Government had made was that persons who had opted for Pakistan were to be released over a period ending about March 1948 and all the arrangements necessary for replacing them had been made on that basis. When the Punjab disturbances began the whole atmosphere altered. There was a great deal of nervousness and tension among both Muslim employees and non-Muslim employees, particularly the engine crew. Both from the point of view of the safety of Muslim employees and of increased confidence among non-Muslim employees it became necessary, therefore, for Government to alter the original arrangement and orders were issued by Government not merely in respect of railways but also of other departments that those who opted for Pakistan must be released by the end of September 1947. That meant a sudden drop in the staff available for the working of engines. On the East Indian Railway when this order came into force there was a shortage of engine staff of 47 per cent. The result of that was directly reflected in the figures of despatches of coal. On the 29th of September the East Indian and Bengal Nagpur Railways between them despatched 2,487 wagons loaded with coal in a day. On the 2nd October the number dropped to 1,410 and we were faced with what looked like a first class national crisis. Since then, the situation has improved as the result of prompt steps taken by the administrations concerned, these took three forms—the quick upgrading of lower classes of engine workers (cleaners and firemen) on a much shorter period of experience than we would have insisted on otherwise. That was one direction in which the problem was tackled. The second was a large number were diverted from other sections of these railways into the collieries. And, thirdly, we attempted a speedy recruitment from the India-opting staff. The result of all these arrangements has been so far that we have reduced the shortage on the East Indian Railway from 47 per cent to something under 25.

The result of this slow movement of coal has been an accumulation of stocks at the collieries. Today, I believe, the total stock of coal at the collieries is of the order of about 18 lakh tons. Out of that 8 to 9 lakh tons represent the normal working balance at collieries. Therefore there is a balance of about 900,000 tons of accumulated stocks which have to be moved. We have now reached a daily figure of somewhere about 2,600 to 2,700 wagons between the E.I. and B.N. Railways and my estimate is that that figure is sufficient for moving current production of coal. But if we want to move the accumulated surplus it would be necessary for us to provide about 200 wagons more. I am hopeful that the means that we are at present devising would enable us to do that in a short period.

The position that has resulted in regard to coal is accurately summed up in an extract from an article that appeared recently in a well known transport journal. I would read it to the House.

"The conclusion to be drawn from these hard facts is that unless further steps are taken to rehabilitate the railway system and particularly to improve freight locomotive and wagon capacity, it will definitely be unable to cope with the additional coal traffic, which must emanate from the collieries, if we are to achieve any sort of commercial stability. All the efforts to be expended for increasing the output of the mines will be frustrated, if the coal cannot be quickly cleared and transported. The problem therefore does not concern the mines alone but rail transport also and it is to be hoped that in tackling both these aspects, the Government will now exercise the necessary vigour and determination."

It is an accurate description of the situation. Government are prepared to exercise the necessary vigour and determination. But before I pass on, I want to tell the House that the article from which I have taken this extract is a description of railway transport conditions today in the United Kingdom and not in India! I make a present of this to the House, because I think it is important that in discussing problems of Indian railways we ought to develop a better comparative sense and a greater sense of proportion.

As regards general traffic and the prospects for the future, what we propose to do is this. There is a considerable amount of additional rolling stock which is on order for the Indian railways both here and abroad, of which however deliveries will not commence till after 1948. Secondly, we have taken in hand the expansion of marshalling yards and track capacity. But we are limited by the availability of materials. Thirdly, I hope for an improvement in workshop output due to a better and more co-operative atmosphere among our labour. And I believe also that it will be possible for us to get larger quantities of spare parts from India. Fourthly, we propose to depute a senior officer of our Railways with large experience of transportation almost immediately to proceed to the United States of America to study the latest development in the technique of railway transportation. In the United States of America, more than in any other advanced country I can think of, conditions of traffic approximate to ours. But the most important thing which will make a difference to the position is an abatement of civil strife and the maintenance of law and order in the country. My main conclusion I would put in these words: While we expect gradual improvement in the near future, the restoration of normal working conditions in India cannot be expected within a period of three years.

Now I come to the question of labour which in the Railways has always been a serious problem. Since May 1946 the All-India Railwaymen's Federation had been making demands for better wages and better living conditions. A temporary settlement was reached with them in June 1946. A certain amount of provisional relief was granted. Outstanding questions were left to be settled on the basis of the Pay Commission's Report. On the main proposals of the Pay Commission's Report a settlement has now been reached, and I am glad to be able to say that the threat of a general strike on our Railways with all its dreadful consequences to the economy of the country, has been averted. I would like to take this opportunity of expressing Government's appreciation of the co-operative spirit and the general sense of responsibility displayed by the leadership of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation in their negotiations with Government. Speaking as Minister for Railways I am encouraged by the relations which now prevail between us and our labour. We want to capitalise this good-will. We want to build on it a permanent and progressive spirit of mutual understanding and co-operation between the management and labour. To achieve this end I have already started discussions with the All-India Railwaymen's Federation which, I hope, will enable us to put behind us once and for all the ugly chapter of ill-will and misunderstanding which the recent settlement has fortunately brought to a close. In the present temper of labour throughout the country what gives me anxiety is not so much the possibility of prolonged open strikes, although that is had enough but the absence of a spirit of positive co-operation and enthusiasm for work which shows itself in such things as slow-down tactics, and sporadic stoppages of work in the form of lightning strikes. This to my mind is largely a psychological problem and it is to the solution of this problem that the Railways, like other industries, should mainly direct their attention. As far as I am concerned I regard this, so long as I hold my present office, as one of my most important responsibilities.

Next I come to the question of the superior staff. I want to refer particularly to a question in which the country has for long years taken a keen

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 interest—the Indianisation of our superior staff. There has been no recruitment of non-Indians to the railway services since 1943. And of course there will be no further recruitment hereafter, except in regard to technical jobs for which personnel with suitable experience and training does not happen to be available in the country. But where such recruitment is concerned we propose to make it as far as possible on the basis of short-term contracts so that suitable Indians may be trained up for these jobs. Regarding the existing non-Indian personnel in our services, the policy which has been announced by Government is that their existing terms and conditions would be guaranteed to them and that no distinction would be made in the matter of promotion between them and Indian officers. While in principle this is still Government's policy we cannot overlook certain developments in this matter which have occurred since the recent constitutional changes came into force, and the consequent necessity imposed upon us for some re-orientation of the policy announced by Government. What these developments are would best be indicated by the following figures:—

On the 15th August 1947 the total number of European officers in Railway Services was 338. Out of this the number who have elected for Pakistan is 98. The number who have left our service since 15th August on retirement is 49. The number who have already announced their intention to leave shortly is 19.

Altogether making a total of 166 out of 338. That is, 50 per cent of the total strength of European officers have either left or are about to leave. This raises two considerations of importance. First, a large proportion of these European officers have been holding important positions and these positions have therefore been rendered vacant. Secondly, it must be presumed from this that a further depletion will take place, in the not distant future, of European officers holding key positions. It follows from these considerations that in the public interest it is necessary now to build up as quickly as possible a reserve of Indian officers with the training and experience required for holding key positions on the railways. This cannot be done overnight. Therefore a beginning in this direction must be made immediately. We propose therefore that when vacancies arise hereafter in key positions, preference should be given definitely to Indian officers of proved ability, irrespective of considerations of seniority. This would necessarily imply that individual claims of senior non-Indian officers would in some cases be overlooked. I am aware of the hardship that would be caused in such cases. But those who are affected thereby will, I am sure, realize that this is a matter in which the country's interests must come before the interests of individual officers. The extent to which non-Indian officers have left, or are leaving our service, leaves Government no option in this matter. A beginning in this respect has already been made with the Railway Board which is the chief executive authority of our railways. Early this year the Board consisted of five Members of whom four were Europeans and one Indian. Today we have a Board of six Members, including a temporary Member appointed for dealing with refugee work. Out of these six, five are Indians and one European.

I now come, Sir, to the main subject with which I want to deal, and that is the present financial position of the Railways.

Since the last Budget was presented, several factors have come into operation which have greatly increased our working expenses. The Pay Commission's proposals, increase in the price of coal, increase in the price of foodgrains, the award of the Adjudicator regarding working hours and leave conditions for railway staff; the nett effect of all these facts on the current year's Budget may be expressed as follows:

If no partition had taken place, that is on a pre-partition basis, the increase in working expenses on account of these various factors would be as follows: Pay Commission's proposals per annum, 31.71 crores. Under the arrangement that we have made with the Railwaymen's Federation, retrospective effect has to be given from the 1st of January 1947. So there is an extra period of three months to be taken into account, which would mean 7.93 crores. The increase in the price of coal would mean 1.60 crores. On account of the increases in the price of foodgrains, the grainshop concessions would show an increase of 7.50 crores. As far as the Adjudicator's award is concerned, I expect it would be possible by keeping more or less the existing staff, to provide for the shortening of working hours and the increase in leave provision which he has suggested. Therefore I expect over the present expenses we shall not incur any additional expenditure. This total figure, under the items that I have already read out, would mean an additional expenditure on a pre-partition basis for the year 1947-48 of 48.74 crores which is an increase of 36 per cent. over the working expenses estimated in the Budget. If these figures are worked out on a post-partition basis the position would be as follows for 1947-48:

Net loss up to the 14th of August 1947, up to which we worked on a joint account is 13.69 crores.

From the 15th of August 1947 to the 31st of March 1948, the increase would be 12.38 crores.

So, altogether this year the additional expenditure we have to meet is 26.07 crores. I will presently make certain proposals which Government have adopted for meeting this loss. The additional revenue from these proposals per annum would be—

Coaching traffic	22.27 crores.
Goods traffic	10.05 crores.

Altogether an additional revenue per annum of 32.32 crores. These proposals cannot be brought into force earlier than the 1st January 1948. That is the effect of it would be confined to the last quarter of the current year. The additional revenue therefore from these proposals for 1947-48 is expected to be 9.15 crores. I estimated a net loss for the year of 26.07 crores, which leaves us with an uncovered balance of 16.92 crores. We have at present in the Railway reserve 21.61 crores. If the loss is adjusted against the Railway reserve, the balance in the reserve at the end of the year would be 4.69 crores. That is roughly the financial position as it emerges from these proposals which I am going to explain to the House. The depreciation and betterment funds would be unaffected. None of this loss in revenue would be adjusted against these funds.

I have tried to get a rough estimate made, if these proposals continued for 1948-49, of what the financial position would be at the end of 1948-49. On a very rough basis I estimate that after meeting working expenses, depreciation and interest charges, there would be a net surplus at the end of the year of approximately 4 crores. That is not good enough as a surplus; and if I am asked what is the source from which I could expect additional revenue, I will say this: First increased economies. The Railway Enquiry Committee which has been looking into this question unfortunately has had to be suspended for a period of a few months on account of the disturbances and of the adjustments following from partition: but I hope they will reassemble within a short period and give us the benefit of their proposals in this matter. The other direction in which I look for increased revenue is the reduction of ticketless travel, about which I will have to say something later on.

I now come to the actual proposals which cover increases both in passenger fares and goods freight. Details regarding the financial position

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and these proposals are set out in a memorandum, copies of which will be in the hands of Honourable Members before the House rises. I propose only to mention the more important features. Under passenger fares, our proposals are:

First class fares to be raised to 30 pies flat rate per mile, the present rate being 24 pies per mile up to 300 miles, 18 pies thereafter *plus* a surcharge of 13 per cent.

Second class fares will be raised to 16 pies flat rate per mile, the general rate today being 12 pies up to 300 miles, 9 pies thereafter, and a surcharge of 13 per cent.

Inter class: 9 pies on mail trains and 7½ pies on ordinary trains from the present average rate of 5.47 pies *plus* surcharge.

Third class: 5 pies on mail trains and 4 pies on ordinary trains. If you take the weighted average rate, taking all our railways together, the present average rate for third class traffic is 3.6 pies per mile. Against that average rate, the ordinary train rate would be 4 pies. I want to make clear why we make this distinction between mail trains and ordinary trains. We have been anxious in these proposals not to put any additional burden on the lowest class passengers in respect of journeys of an essential character, and these journeys are relatively short distance journeys, generally about 100 miles or so.

We consider that in respect of these journeys ordinary trains might equally conveniently be used. Although it is true that the average rate of third-class fare today is 3.6, if you take the rates actually prevailing on the more important of our Railways like the B. B. & C. I., or the G. I. P., E. I., M. S. M. and S. I. the rates are already 4 pies or over 4 pies so that in practice those who have to perform essential journeys would pay no more than they are paying today. In several cases, the rate will be actually less because on some of these Railways that I have mentioned, the present rates are higher.

I should like to explain to the House the increase in earnings that we expect from these various proposals. As regards first-class the expected earnings would show an increase of 4/5ths over the present earnings. The second-class would show an increase of 2/5ths over existing earnings. Inter-class also would show an increase of 2/5ths. Third-class would show an increase of 1/3rd.

As regards season tickets in urban areas, the increases proposed are:

First class	... 50 per cent.
Second class	... 25 per cent.
Inter class	... 18½ per cent.
Third class	... 12½ per cent.

Season tickets for rural areas would be based on twelve return fares per month.

As regards goods freight, the main principle on which we have based our proposals is not to make any general increase in goods freight rates but to make such adjustments in specific rates as are called for. The real reason for doing it is that it will enable us to distinguish between commodities; that is to say, if you want to make a distinction in respect of essential commodities, an arrangement of this kind enables you to do so.

The main proposals in regard to these adjustments are these. The first is regarding schedule rates which are rates below the standard rates under the classification rules. Those schedule rates which are unremunerative will be eliminated. The reasons for this proposal are that these schedule rates were fixed at a time when conditions of traffic were different from what they are now. Also the cost of transportation at that time was very considerably lower than it is today. The total working expenses in 1946-47 are

more than three times those in 1938-39. These schedule rates were fixed with reference to working expenses at an earlier period than 1938-39. The second proposal is that certain commodities would be upgraded from lower to higher classes; commodities which are of a non-essential character. Thirdly, we are going to introduce telescopic rates on the continuous mileage basis in respect of certain classes of goods, the rate beyond the first 600 miles being generally no higher than the existing rates. Fourthly, we propose to review the station-to-station rates, the minimum in such cases being generally 25 per maund per mile against the present minimum rate of somewhere about 175. Fifthly, we propose to make these adjustments in such a way that no increases are made on essential commodities such as foodgrains and relatively small increases on others such as cotton piecegoods. There are certain adjustments, we propose to make regarding coal such as the withdrawal of the rebate on coal shipped coastwise, increase in terminal charges and an increase in surcharge. The net result I expect would amount to about 4 annas per ton of coal. As regards steel, we have already issued orders raising the concession rates which have been in force for a long time on the Bengal Nagpur Railway.

All proposals for increases in fares and freights would be unpopular. I personally wish that it had been possible for me to avoid making these proposals. When I suggested a small increase during the last budget session I was so severely attacked that I had no mind to propose further increase, but circumstances have been altogether beyond my control. There is one difference between the last increase and the present increase. Last time the increase was made not in order to meet a deficit but to strengthen the surplus while this time we are making these proposals because it is the only way we can avoid a deficit.

I know it would be said against these proposals that they are of an inflationary character. I want to point out some facts with regard to that. I take the view that passenger fares, except in the case of those who travel on business and workmen who travel on suburban tickets, generally are of a deflationary character having the same effect as direct taxation. With regard to freight rates we are going to see that there is as little increase as possible—hardly any increase on essential commodities such as food grains. I have already pointed out that essential journeys made by our lowest class passengers would also bear no increase.

The problem of ticketless travel has assumed very acute proportions since the refugees traffic began. In the form in which it exists now it has not merely a Railway aspect, it has also a law and order aspect. From the purely Railway point of view, we undertook something like a sample survey a few months ago and on the results of that survey I have made a rough estimate that on the Railways situated in the Indian Dominion, the amount we are losing today on account of ticketless travel is not less than Rs. 8 crores per annum. It is possible for us to take various measures of a Railway character such as additional inspection staff, proper fencing of stations, increased facilities at booking offices and so on. But I personally think the problem has gone much beyond the limits of Railway measures and it has to be tackled now as a problem of law and order because if it is allowed to continue unchecked it is going to sap the sense of law on which alone an ordered society can function. This problem has been particularly acute in the United Provinces for various reasons and recently when I had an opportunity of visiting Lucknow, I discussed this matter with the Honourable the Premier of the U. P. and between us we are considering a proposal on the following lines. We want to start a concentrated drive against ticketless travel, with the aid of an additional police force appointed and set apart for this specific purpose and also in each of the Districts of the United Provinces we would secure the services of a Special Magistrate for dealing with this problem, who will have under him sufficient police staff for the purpose.

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The question is still under discussion between us and the Government of the United Provinces, but I hope at an early date to take necessary action.

There is one more point, Sir, that I would like to mention. There has been in recent years a strong demand for the appointment of a Railway Rates Tribunal. In view of the fact that the increases that we are proposing on goods traffic take the form not of a general increase but adjustments of the rates on particular commodities, it seems to me essential that there should be provision for an unbiased examination of the rates. Government have, therefore, under consideration the question of setting up a Railway Rates Tribunal on the lines of the Tribunal in the United Kingdom, that is to say, an independent, judicial body with a much wider scope than the present Rates Advisory Committee and having a mandatory and not merely an advisory jurisdiction. I hope to be able to put a scheme on these lines into force by the 1st of April, 1948.

Sir, that brings to a close what I want to say regarding railway matters. I must apologise for having detained the House so long, especially at the end of a heavy working day. My excuse first of all is that I assume that the House and also the country, would be anxious to know the reactions upon the Railways of the very formidable developments through which we have passed during the last few weeks and months. My second excuse is that I know I am addressing a new legislature and they would, I thought, expect me to explain at greater length the background of our Railway Administration and finance than I would if I had been addressing the old House with its long and close acquaintance with these matters. What I have tried to do, Mr. Speaker, is to give the House a clear picture of the way in which the Railways are functioning under the extremely difficult conditions which prevail today—more difficult than any that I had anticipated in my most pessimistic moments,—as clear a picture as I could make it of the struggles, the failures, the achievements such as they are, and the hopes of this great national undertaking of which, for the time being, for no fault of mine, if I may say so, I happen to be the nation's custodian. I am grateful to you, Sir, and to the House for the patience and consideration with which you have listened to me.

Mr. Speaker: I would request the Honourable Members to wait for a few minutes and get their Budget sets of papers.

Mr. Speaker: The House may now adjourn and reassemble tomorrow at 11 a.m.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday the 21st November 1947.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Friday, 21st November, 1947.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. B. V. Mavlangudi) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS.

EXPLOITATION OF MINERAL RESOURCES

205. *Shri S. Nagappa: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state the total quantity of coal, iron and other minerals that are exploited from the mineral resources in our country every year for the last 3 years?

(b) Is there any scheme under contemplation of Government to increase the exploitation?

(c) If so, what is it, and if not, why not?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) A statement, showing quantities of coal, iron-ore and other important minerals produced in the country, during the last three years, for which complete figures are available, is placed on the table.

(b) Yes.

(c) As regards coal, the Government of India, with a view to implementing the recommendation of the Indian Coal Fields Committee, 1946, for stepping up production of coal, formed an interdepartmental committee to draw up a co-ordinated plan of coal production and transport, over the next five years.

With regard to minerals generally, exploitation is mostly in the hands of private concerns except production of coal from State Railways collieries, which are run by Government.

The following schemes are under contemplation of Government, and are intended, *inter alia*, to encourage and promote the exploitation of minerals:

(i) Expansion of the Geological Survey of India, to over five times its pre-war cadre, for an extensive search for minerals, with the help of modern instruments and methods. Several Sections which have recently been created in the Geological Survey of India for that purpose, are, the Geophysical Section, the Drilling Section, the Mineral Development Section, and the Rare Minerals Section.

(ii) Creation of a Bureau of Mines, manned by experts, in an advisory capacity for the present, for production, conservation and utilisation of minerals in the country.

(iii) Increasing the technical man-power in the country by reorganisation of the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, by implementing the recommendations of the Geological Education Committee, and by sending abroad on scholarship and on deputation, officials and non-officials, for higher education and training, in mining, geology, geophysics and allied subjects.

(iv) Encouraging domestic utilisation of ores and local processing, refining and treatment of minerals.

Statement showing figures of production of coal, iron ore and other minerals produced in the country, referred to in part (a) of starred question No. 205, dated the 21st November 1947.

	1943	1944	1945	1946
Coal (Tons)	...	25,965,556	28,972,548	29,274,850
Iron Ore (Tons)	2,655,173	2,363,640	2,264,116	...
Gold (Ozs.)	255,228.4	188,205.9	168,366.3	...
Manganese-Ore (Tons)	595,347	370,980	210,230	...
Petroleum (Galls.)	95,718,986	97,453,077	82,000,022	...
Mica (Cwts.)	159,581	139,392	128,306	...
Copper-ore (Tons)	359,789	326,017	329,325	...
Limenite (Tons)	37,440	100,794	172,086	...
Chromite (Tons)	33,255	39,555	31,142	...
Kyanite (Tons)	12,513	13,099	13,497	...
Salt (Tons)	1,926,893	1,864,725	1,943,593	...
Steatite (Tons)	15,869	21,392	22,345	...
Bauxite (Tons)	24,160	12,135	13,893	...
Monazite (Tons)	1,908	2,016	1,567	...
Gypsum (Tons)	82,267	83,706	90,772	...
Magnesite (Tons)	49,070	41,936	28,333	...
Barytes (Tons)	8,860	15,299	24,655	...

Shri S. Nagappa: Sir, may I ask, what sort of encouragement in the way of State aid Government will give to private agencies who will be responsible for exploiting these resources?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Such advice as can be given by the contemplated Bureau of Mines.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I ask only advice will be given or any financial aid will be given?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: For the present the help is limited to advice, but in suitable cases where Government is convinced that by giving some financial help considerable result will accrue, that will be considered.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I ask, Sir, whether the Government is aware there was some investigation so far in Andhra Desa is concerned and it has been stopped now? May I know the reason for such stopping?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: One reason may be that they did not have enough staff to continue quantitative surveys of certain areas, but if the demand comes from the Local Government concerned, some assistance may be made available.

K. T. M. Ahmed Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur: Sir, is it a fact that certain coal deposits were found in the districts of South Arcot and Tanjore and may I know whether any attempts have been made to exploit these coal deposits?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I require notice.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Will the Honourable Minister be pleased to enlighten the House if the Advisory Body of Experts has already been established and where it is functioning?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The Bureau of Mines is not yet established but the proposal for the constitution of the Bureau of Mines is before the Finance Ministry and in a few days' time it will come into existence.

Shri M. S. Aney: May I know, Sir, whether in pursuance of the scheme that have been read out to us, any students have been already sent to foreign countries for education?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I require notice for this.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state if this Advisory Board will be part of the Annexe of the Geological Survey of India or an independent body?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: It will be a different body altogether.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: Is there any scheme for the Expansion of the Indian School of Mines in Dhanbad under the consideration of Government?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Yes; and the recommendations of the Committee will be implemented as far as possible.

MAJOR IRRIGATION PROJECTS

205. *Shri S. Nagappa: Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state province-wise the names of major irrigation projects:

(i) in regard to which investigation has been completed;

(ii) which are under investigation; and

(iii) which will be taken up for investigation?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (i) Investigations have not been completed on any of the major irrigation projects. In the case of the Damodar Scheme in Bengal and Bihar, the Mahanadi Scheme in Orissa and the Bhakra Dam in Punjab investigations have reached a stage when construction work could be started in the very near future. In the case of the Tungabhadra Project in Madras and the Mor Project in Bengal construction is already in progress.

(ii) The following are under investigation:

(a) *The Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission.*—(1) Mahanadi Valley Scheme in Orissa, (2) Kosi Dam Project in Nepal and Bihar, (3) Narbada, Tapti and Sabarmati projects in Bombay, Central Provinces, Baroda, and Central India and Kathiawar States, (4) Indravati and Sabri Scheme in Bastar State, (5) Brahmaputra, Barak and Someshwari rivers valley development schemes in Assam, (6) Sone Valley scheme in Bihar, United Provinces and Rewa State.

(b) *The Central Technical Power Board.*—(1) The Damodar Valley Scheme.

(c) *The East Punjab Government.*—Bhakra Dam Scheme in East Punjab.

(d) *United Provinces Government.*—(1) Rihand Dam Scheme, (2) Nayar Dam Scheme, (3) Ramganga Dam Project.

(e) *The West Bengal Government.*—Mor Project.

(f) *The Madras Government.*—(1) Tungabhadra Project, (2) Ramapadsagar Project.

(g) *The Coorg Administration.*—(1) Lakshmanteertha Project, (2) Harangi Project, (3) Barapole Schemes.

(h) *The Patiala State.*—Dochi Dam Scheme.

(i) *Kotak, Indore and Merwar States.*—Chambal Scheme.

(iii) None else in view at present.

Shri S. Nagappa: Is it a fact that the Minister for Public Works in Madras has represented to the Central Government that the Krishnapennar project

is more feasible and cheap and has more utility value than other projects that are now under investigation?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the latter part, it is a matter of opinion and is still under investigation.

Shri S. Nagappa: In that case will the Honourable Minister be pleased to state whether he will sanction loans applied for by the Madras Government in order to execute these projects that have been already investigated and are ready for execution?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Each case will be judged relatively on its own merits and as part of the overhaul scheme for the whole of this country.

Shri S. Nagappa: In view of the food scarcity, specially in Madras, will Government consider schemes of that province and give them preference so that they may be executed at an early date and save the people from the food scarcity?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I only want to repeat what I said in answer to the question that was asked before this.

Shri Ram Chandra Gupta: What is the total cost of the projects that have been enumerated?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That has been laid on the table.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: With the exception of the Damodar Valley scheme have all these other projects also been investigated with regard to the generation of hydro-electric power?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Yes, Sir.

Shri Rameshwar Prasad Sinha: Are Government in a position to state as to how long it would take to finish up the investigation of the Kosi Dam project?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I cannot give the time off-hand but all attempts will be made to complete the preliminary survey as early as possible.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government trying to give preference or priority to those projects which are expected to give protection from famine in addition to being useful in regard to the Grow More Food Scheme? If so, do Government propose to give any preference to the Sangameswar project in the south?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That is the most important factor that has weighed with Government. As regards the particular project it will be governed by the same consideration.

Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: May I know the difference between "scheme" and "project"?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: "Scheme" is the first step; "project" is the second.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: Has any time schedule been fixed for the completion of the Mahanadi Valley project of Orissa.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: No time limit as such is fixed but our engineers generally think that the project can be completed within a period of seven years.

Shri M. S. Aney: May I ask what progress has been made as regards the investigation of the Tapti and Nermudda schemes?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: As my Honourable friend is very much interested in it I should like to tell him that the first preliminary survey has been sanctioned at a cost of 1 crore and 20 lakhs.

Seth Govinddas: Is it a fact that as far as the Nermudda project is concerned, the C. P. Government has written to the Government of India that it should now be taken in hand immediately as the whole scheme is ready?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The C. P. Government as well as the Bombay Government and many other people have pressed us to expedite the scheme. I should like to state that just like a popular song the river valley projects have caught the imagination of the people but there are other limiting factors which have got to be taken into consideration, such as adequacy of technical man-power and finances.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I know what time limit has been fixed for the Ramapadasagar project and when it is to be completed?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: As already stated, it is under consideration. Once it is approved the time limit will come automatically.

HELP GIVEN TO REFUGEES BY GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE BODIES

207. *Shri S. Nagappa: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state;

(a) the total number of refugees that are given shelter and protection by the Indian Government;

(b) the various places where they have been sheltered;

(c) the nature of shelter and protection given to them;

(d) the cost of shelter so given;

(e) the amount of voluntary contributions collected by public organisations and their names;

(f) the number of women and children among refugees;

(g) the number of deserters; and

(h) the nature of shelter or protection given to each category?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) to (h). Detailed information is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course. Meanwhile, I am confining my reply to the Kurukshetra camp which is under the direct control of the Central Government.

On the 16th November the population of the camp was 2,46,000. For the most part the population of the Camp is given shelter in over 12,000 tents and a few cottages. The tents were supplied by the Army authorities and the cost cannot be determined yet. A great many voluntary organisations have been working to ameliorate the conditions of the refugees. Among them are the Ramakrishna Mission, the Marwari Relief Society and the Delhi Central Relief Committee.

The census of the Camp is being taken roughly, half the population of the Camp are women and children. Residence in the Camp is not obligatory and there is complete freedom of movement. It is therefore difficult to give an estimate of the number of deserters.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: What special steps are Government taking to recover abducted women and children?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am afraid this question does not arise. There is a question on this subject later on.

Shri S. Nagappa: Have Government taken adequate steps to see that medical help is given to these refugees, in addition to the proper sanitary conditions that are made to prevail there?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Yes, Sir.

Seth Govinddas: Is it a fact that the Central Government has written to the various provincial Governments to take a certain number of refugees in their provinces? Is it also a fact that the C. P. Government has agreed to take 10,000 refugees and has created the Mehgaon Camp? Why are not the refugees sent out to these different provinces?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: As a matter of fact the movement of refugees from Kurukshetra and other transit Camps is expected to start within a week. I may remind my Honourable friend that due to limitations on the transport capacity of the railways, the places nearest to these Camps will be first of all tackled for the purpose of sending these refugees. The C. P. Camp, as the Honourable Member will realise, are stationed at a greater distance than many other places.

Shri Santanu Kumar Das: What is the number of refugees residing in India who are not getting shelter or help from Government?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: It is difficult to give a definite reply to this question because the number and location of the camps vary from time to time, and I might attempt an answer if my Honourable friend would give me written notice.

Begum Aizaz Rasul: May I know the number of refugees that the U. P. Government have agreed to take in their province?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: So far as the U. P. is concerned, the actual number of refugees there is approximately $3\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs already. I do not know whether this particular number was agreed to by the U. P. Government at any stage.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: Are there any people in Pakistan and the Bahawalpur State who are ready to be evacuated and have any arrangements been made by this Government to bring them to India?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: That question, I am afraid, does not arise.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: In regard to the voluntary organisations referred to in the reply who are working at Kurukshetra, are they subsidised by Government? If so, under what conditions?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: It is not a question of voluntary organisations being subsidised. The entire financial responsibility for running the Kurukshetra Camp has been undertaken by the Central Government. These organisations render help of various kinds in running the Camp.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Have they got any initiative in the matter of policy or otherwise?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: They have to act in close co-operation with the Camp authorities. I do not suppose they have any direct initiative in regard to policies about the administration of the Camp.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: Apart from giving shelter and protection, what steps have Government taken to rehabilitate and absorb the trained personnel among the refugees in new projects for nation-building services, such as having training centers for teachers, nurses, etc?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: All that is under active consideration and some projects are about to be started.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: May I know if Government intend to provide shelters for the very large numbers of refugees in the Kurukshetra camp who are living under the sky?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The capacity of the Kurukshetra Camp is two lakhs and it is on the basis of this estimate that covered accommodation has been provided for. Unfortunately, however, streams of refugees continue to come to Kurukshetra, making it difficult not merely for Government to provide covered accommodation for them but even to organise the camp properly.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: Is the Honourable Member aware that apart from the Kurukshetra Camp, in other places a very large number of refugees are lying under the sky without shelter and what do the Government propose to do about their shelter?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: As I said in a reply to another question, the refugees who have to live under the sky do not, I imagine, have to live under such conditions for a very long time. They are in the nature of transit camps mostly and the refugee population is a kind of a transitory population. But I regretfully admit that there have been instances in which refugees have had to live under the sky for a fairly considerable period. But my Honourable friend would realize that it is difficult, having regard to the limitations on our resources, to provide roof accommodation to consider all the refugees who are coming in very large numbers.

Diwan Chaman Lal: Has the Honourable Member considered the possibility of the Government of India taking over all the reception, transit and refugee camps?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I do not think the question has yet come up for consideration, because the points of entry are in East Punjab and the responsibility of running the transit and reception camps primarily rests upon the East Punjab Government.

Diwan Chaman Lal: Does the financial responsibility rest with the Government of India?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: So far as the financial responsibility goes, the East Punjab Government has been given an assurance that financial help will be rendered by the Central Government. It does not necessarily indicate a direct financial responsibility in regard to every scheme that the East Punjab Government may adopt.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Has the attention of the Honourable Member been drawn to the statement made by Mahatma Gandhi on the refugees lying on Panipat railway station after his visit there, and the fact that the trains are received at Panipat station without any previous intimation, with the result that refugees have to lie there in thousands without shelter under the sky?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I have seen that report and as a matter of fact I had an enquiry made into the state of things in Panipat, the day before yesterday by deputing a responsible officer from our Ministry. His report indicated that there were about 10,000 persons who were actually living on the station platform in Panipat, but on the day that he visited Panipat he found 5,000 or thereabout left, the others having been removed to Jind State by train. Actually this is what happens. When people come and are deposited at a particular railway station, they have to wait

for arrangements for their dispersal. In some cases these arrangements take rather long, as I regretfully admit. As regards the question of trains coming to different stations, like Panipat, without any previous notice, this is a fact and this is due to the arrangements that operate in regard to the transport of refugees from Pakistan to India. As a matter of fact, the destinations are agreed upon at Lahore, and they are communicated to us rather late, so that it becomes difficult for the local authorities to be promptly informed about the time-table. Besides, the time-table itself is very uncertain. In some cases the same distance has been covered in two days, and in other cases in four or five days. This question was taken up in a discussion with the East Punjab Government and the representatives of various departments recently, and now we hope to be able to make adequate arrangements for the reception of refugees at railway stations and we are hoping to get intimation about the time-table of these trains more promptly.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: May I add a word to what my colleague, the Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation has said in answer to Diwan Chaman Lal's question? The Government of India is prepared to take up every responsibility in East Punjab not only for the camps and other accessory issues but with regard to all other things which are the results of this catastrophe. We have, in fact, practically speaking taken full responsibility for the financial consequences of everything done in East Punjab, and we are even prepared to take executive or other responsibility. The difficulty has been that we do not wish to come in the way of the East Punjab Government from functioning as it wants to function. We do not wish to limit their provincial autonomy under the Constitution. But if the East Punjab Government is willing, we are prepared to take up every responsibility.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: Has the Government any information regarding the discrimination made between caste and caste of the refugees in giving shelter, clothings and food, etc.?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I never heard about any such complaints.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: Has the Government passed an order that no refugee from the East Punjab will enter the United Provinces except under a permit. But in spite of that order any amount of refugees are infiltrating irregularly by rail and road from East Punjab into the U. P.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: No such order has been passed at all.

208* and 209* [WITHDRAWN]

CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS OF INDIANS IN BRITISH COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS

210. *Shri Biswanath Das: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians living in other States and Colonies included in the British Commonwealth of Nations—(number in each case to be given separately);

(b) the States that have conferred citizenship rights on Indians;

(c) the disabilities that are still attached to Indians in each of the States constituting the British Commonwealth of Nations as also the British Colonies; and

(d) the action taken, in each case, by the Government of India with the concerned States and Colonies to confer citizenship rights on Indians since September 1946?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a), (b), (c) and (d). A statement giving the information available is laid on the table of the House.

No.	Name of country	Indian population (latest available figures)	Citizenship rights	Disabilities of Indians	Action taken by Government with the concerned states to confer citizenship rights on Indians since September 1946
1	Australia	4,544	Indians who are permanently settled in that country do not suffer from any disability in respect of the Commonwealth franchise.	There are a few disabilities in some of the States. E.g., certain sections of Widow's Pensions Acts, Family Endowment Act and Rural Workers' Accommodation Acts of New South Wales discriminate against British Indians as such. In Western Australia there are legal discriminations against British Indians along with other Asiatics and Africans with respect to Crown land, mining, certain occupations and employment. The Government of India instructed their High Commissioner to initiate negotiations with the Authorities concerned for the removal of these disabilities. The High Commissioner discussed the question of disabilities with the Premier of Western Australia and as a result of this discussion the Government of Western Australia have decided to take steps to remove the disabilities which attach to British Indians in that State.	No action was called for.

No.	Name of country	Indian population (latest available figures).	Citizenship rights	Disabilities of Indians	Action taken by Govern- ment with the concerned states to confer citizenship rights on Indians since September 1946
1	2	3	4	5	6
2	Canada . . .	1,500	There is no restriction against Indians who are already in Canada qualifying for citizenship.	The only disability which Indians suffer from is in respect of municipal franchise in the Province of British Columbia. Recently the Union of British Columbia Municipalities passed a resolution in favour of municipal franchise for Indians in British Columbia. Legislation on the subject will, it is hoped, be introduced shortly.	No action was called for.
3	New Zealand . . .	1,200	Indians who are domiciled enjoy complete equality of citizenship with other classes of His Majesty's subjects.	Indians do not suffer from any disability.	Ditto.
4	Ceylon . . .	7,32,258	Full citizenship rights have not been conferred on Indians in Ceylon.	Indians do not enjoy equal rights of citizenship with the indigenous population. Discrimination is exercised in all important legislative and administrative measures by restricting benefits under them only to the "Ceylonese" who are defined as "persons of either sex domiciled in Ceylon and possessing a domicile of origin". Thus, the right to obtain Crown lands under the Land Development Ordinance, fishing rights under the	The Government of India propose to take up the question of citizenship rights for Indians in Ceylon during the forthcoming negotiations by the Ceylon Government.

Fisheries Ordinance, licences for plying of omnibuses under the Omnibus Services Licensing Ordinance, etc., are denied to Indians. Very few Indians can enter public service in Ceylon under the present administrative orders of that Government. Even in regard to the right of franchise, while the Ceylonese enjoy adult suffrage, Indian franchise is based on the difficult concept of domicile, or alternatively on property *cum* literacy qualification or the holding of a "certificate of permanent settlement".

5 United Kingdom Figures of the total Indian population are not available, but the total number of Indians who fall under certain well defined categories, like students, pedlars, seamen, professional men, business men, retired persons, persons on the High Commissioner's staff, persons in domestic, catering and industrial services, is estimated to be between 5,000 and 6,000. Nil Does not arise.

6 Pakistan In the prevailing conditions in India and Pakistan it is not possible to give any precise information.

[21st Nov. 1947]

No.	Name of country	Indian Population (latest available figures)	Citizenship rights	Disabilities of Indians	Action taken by Govern- ment with the concerned states to confer citizenship rights on Indians since September 1946
1	2	3	4	5	6
7	Burma	1,017,825 (pre-1942)— (1) This included ap- proximately 400,000 persons belonging to areas which now form part of Pakis- tan. (2) In 1942 nearly 400,000 persons evacuated from Burma to India. In the post-war period the number of evacuees who have returned to Burma is about the same as the number of persons who have returned to India from Burma.	Indians so far enjoy full citizenship rights in Burma and Malaya. Under the new consti- tutions which are shortly to be introduced in the two countries, Indians will be able to acquire citizenship rights only if they fulfil certain con- ditions.	None.	It is expected that Negotia- tions with the Government of Burma will commence at an early date.
8	Malaya	748,829	...	None	The Government of India have addressed His Majes- ty's Government in the United Kingdom regard- ing qualifications for the acquisition of Malayan citizenship under the Revised Constitutional proposals.
9	Union of South Africa.	282,539 (Asiatics).	In the Cape Province Indians enjoy political and municipal franchise along with the Europeans, the only discrimination	Indians are subject to various disabilities in the matter of franchise, immigration, and inter-provincial migration, acquisition and occupation of land, facilities for trade,	The Government of India have referred the treat- ments of Indians in South Africa to the United Nations General Assembly.

against Indians being that while political franchise for Europeans is based on adult suffrage and is enjoyed by both men and women, it is based on education and property or income qualification in the case of the Indians and is enjoyed only by males possessing the requisite qualifications. Under the Asiatic Land Tenure and Indian Representation Act 1946, Indians in Natal and the Transvaal provinces have been given communal franchise based on education and income or property qualifications, the right of franchise being extended only to males. The same Act provides that Indians in Natal and the Transvaal will jointly be represented by 3 members in the House of Assembly and by 2 in the Senate; the representatives must, however, be Europeans. Indians have also been given representation in the Natal Provincial Council by 2 members. Indians in the Transvaal have not been given representation in the Transvaal Provincial Council. The Act does not confer any municipal franchise on Indians in these two provinces.

education, marriage, travel, industries and professions, employment in public services, pensions, local Government, arms and ammunition and various other matters. For details of these disabilities attention is invited to Part III of the Memorandum of the Government of India submitted to the United Nations in 1946, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

Action taken by Govt with the concerned states to confer citizenship rights on Indians since September 1946

Disabilities of Indians

Citizenship rights

Indian Population
(latest available
figures)

No. Name of country

1 2 3 4 5 6

(5) Many of the Indian sugar cane farmers are tenants under the Sugar Refining Company and the agreement executed by them for the cultivation of the Company's land is for 10 years, but the right of termination of the tenancy is retained by the Company. This insecurity of tenure is resented by the tenants who demand what the same rules of tenancy which the Government give to its tenants should be made applicable to the Company's tenants.

(6) It is understood that Indian residents are not allowed admission in European-managed hotels and clubs or public playgrounds.

Indians enjoy the same citizenship rights as any other resident of the Colony.

1,68,921
1,70,896

18 British Guiana
19 Trinidad

20 Jamaica 26,507

(1) The percentage of literacy among the Indian community is very low.

(2) Compared to the percentage of Indian population in these colonies there are very few Indians holding posts in the public services.

Indians who have been born in the Colony or who have completed 10 years of residence possess the same political rights as the native population.

21 Mauritius

2,71,636

Indians enjoy the same citizenship rights as any other resident of the Colony.

22 Hong Kong

1,900

23 Seychelles

503

24 British Somaliland

520

25 British Honduras

8,000

26 Gibraltar

41

27 British North Borneo

1,298

28 Aden

9,456

29 Malta

41

30 Grenada

5,000

31 St. Lucia

2,189

32 Sierra Leone

52

(3) Hindus are not allowed to cremate their dead by the pyre system which has prevailed in India since times immemorial.

Government have no exact information regarding the citizenship rights of Indians in these Colonies but so far as the Government are aware Indians do not suffer from any disabilities.

No.	Name of Country	Indian Population latest available figures)	Citizenship rights	Disabilities of Indians	Action taken by Govt. with the concerned states to confer citizenship rights on Indians since September 1946
1	2	3	4	5	6
10	Kenya	47,000 (Asiatics).	Indians possess political and municipal franchise on a communal roll.	In practice Indians are not allowed to own or lease land in the Kenya Highlands for agricultural purposes. Anti-Asiatic clauses prevent purchase or occupation by Indians of a number of residential sites in Nairobi and Mombasa.	
11	Tanganyika	38,500	There is no elective system. Indians are, as a matter of practice, nominated to the Legislative Councils of these territories.]	Indians do not suffer from any statutory disabilities.	
12	Uganda	26,972 (Asiatics).			
13	Zanzibar	16,000			
14	Southern Rhodesia	2,547 (Asiatics)	Indians enjoy political and municipal franchise on common electoral rolls.	Ditto.	
15	Northern Rhodesia	1,125 (Asiatics)			
16	Nyasaland	1,251 (Asiatics)	There is no elective system for membership of the legislative Council.	Ditto.	
17	Fiji	1,30,000	As far as the Government of India are aware, Indians enjoy the same rights of citizenship as any other residents of the colony.	(1) Under the Native Land Ordinance No. 1 of 1905 and the rules made thereunder, Indians and other non-natives are prohibited from buying land outright from natives.	Does not arise.

(2) The Residential Tax which was first levied in 1923 with the object of raising additional income to effect improvements in the colony has in practice proved to be discriminatory in nature and the Indian Community is affected by it most.

(3) Indian children lack adequate educational facilities compared to European and Fijian children. The Government of India, however, understand that the Board of Education which was set up by the Colonial Government to consider the report of Mr. F. R. Stephens on educational development plan in Fiji has recommended the introduction of compulsory education in the island.

(4) The bulk of the Indian population in Fiji depends on the sugar industry and the price of sugar cane. This was painfully brought home to them during the strike of 1943. The whole trouble at the time arose as a result of the sugar cane farmers' demand for a higher price which the Colonial Sugar Refining Company was not prepared to concede. An enquiry by Dr. Shephard was ordered by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. Most of the recommendations made by Dr. Shephard in his report have not been finally implemented by the Colonial Government and are understood to be still under consideration.

GOVERNMENT'S PLAN TO ENCOURAGE INDIAN SHIPPING TRADE

211. *Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce please state:

(a) whether the Government of India propose to enter the Shipping Trade in view of the break-down of conversation with the London Shipping Companies;

(b) what steps Government propose to take in view of the reluctance of the Shipping Companies in England to part with their tonnage to Indian Shipping Companies; and

(c) whether Government propose to purchase ships for plying on the Indian coasts; and if not, what are the plans of Government for encouraging Indian Shipping on Indian coasts?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) to (c). Government have evolved a scheme of joint State-cum-private enterprise for the rapid acquisition of additional Indian owned tonnage and for the increased participation of Indian shipping in the various trades. These proposals have been placed before Indian ship-owners for their views and it is proposed to work out details in consultation with the interests concerned after the shipowners' views are communicated to Government.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is there a proposal that the Government should hold more than 50 per cent. of the shares of the Corporation?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The policy of the Government has been issued in a press communique which is already placed in the Library.

Shri K. Santhanam: In such matters will the Honourable Minister place a resolution before the House and take the permission of the House before they are committed to any large expenditure?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: It is perfectly open to any non-official Member to move a resolution on that matter. However, I shall bear in mind the suggestion made by the Honourable Member.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is the Honourable Member aware that on a previous occasion when the last Government was in office, a similar proposal was put up for a corporation to operate road-rail transport was placed before the Government and we had discussions on it; and in view of that will the Honourable Member please bring forward the matter for the consideration of the House?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: As I said, I will bear in mind the suggestion made.

FUTURE OF ALL INDIA CONCERN IN VIEW OF INDIA'S DIVISION

212. *Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state what measures Government propose to take, in view of the division of India, regarding those Corporations and Limited companies and other All-India concerns, which have their Head Offices in one of these two Dominions?

(b) If so, what is the plan of Government in this respect?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) None, Sir, the partition of the country has had the result of making a company with its head office in a Province of Pakistan a foreign company so far as the Dominion of India is concerned, and *vice versa*. This is legally unavoidable.

(b) Does not arise.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: May I know what will happen in case the head office of a company happens to be in Bombay and its branches in Pakistan. Will the Branches in Pakistan have to open a head office in Pakistan as well?

Mr. Speaker: The question is not admissible. It is problematical and involves a matter of opinion.

IMMIGRATION OF INDIANS INTO BURMA

213. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been reached with the Government of Burma in regard to the Indian immigration into Burma;

(b) whether any unilateral or bi-lateral immigration law or convention has been promulgated in Burma for the regulation of Indian immigration into Burma; and

(c) the facilities that are available for Indians, skilled and unskilled, to go to Burma and obtain employment and also civic rights?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b). On the 13th June, 1947, the Government of Burma promulgated the Burma Immigration (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1947. This is an emergency measure intended to check the unrestricted flow of immigrants into Burma. The Government of Burma have assured the Government of India that it will be replaced immediately an Immigration Agreement is concluded between the two Governments or when the emergency disappears. It is hoped to start negotiations with the Government of Burma in regard to the Immigration Agreement in the near future.

(c) The departure of unskilled workers from India for Burma was banned by the Government of India in July, 1941. Emigration of skilled workers is governed by Chapter IV of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922. Those Indian skilled workers whose emigration is permitted under this Act can enter Burma if they are in possession of immigration permits issued in accordance with the provisions of the Burma Immigration (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1947. There is no statutory restriction on Indians obtaining employment in Burma at present, nor do they suffer from any civic disabilities.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the Government of India is already taking steps to prevent unskilled workers from going over to Burma and also to discourage as many people as possible from going over there at all, how is it that this emergency is supposed to have arisen, as a result of which the Government of Burma had to promulgate the ordinance?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: It is for the Government of Burma to answer the question. The ordinance is not restricted to Indians alone, it applies to all.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What steps are being taken by the Government to see that the Indians who are already there are being adequately protected from being molested or driven out of their homes as also the various other disabilities that are being imposed on them with or without the consent of the Government of Burma?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: We are taking every step that we can possibly take. There can be only two kinds of steps that the Government of India can take. Our High Commissioner there should protect the interests of Indians, which he is doing. He is fully reporting to us and is continually approaching the Government of Burma. The second step is for us to conclude some kind of agreement with the Government of Burma, which we propose to consider soon. I may mention for the information of the House that the Prime Minister of Burma Mr. Thakin Nu, at our invitation, is coming to New Delhi within a few days, early in December.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I know whether the Government would consider the question of convening a conference of the representatives of Madras, Orissa

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and Bengal, from which provinces people go to Burma, to know the actual conditions now prevailing in Burma, because people in these areas get letters from their friends and relations who are in Burma and the information they receive is fairly horrible?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not see what such a conference would do. We receive much more accurate and precise information from day to day from Burma through our High Commissioner than what we can get from odd letters from people in Burma to their friends and relatives in various parts of the country.

Mr. B. Paker Sahib Bahadur: May I know whether Government is aware that there are many thousands of Indians who had their business and other concerns in Burma and who had to run away from there on account of the war and who are now desirous of going back but that they do not get facilities to go back? What steps are Government taking either to enable them to go back to Burma or to protect their properties and business concerns there?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: During postwar years many steps have been taken to send back people to Burma after finding out that they had properties or business concerns there and a very large number of them have returned to Burma. But we have not encouraged others to return to Burma, because generally the Government are not in favour of sending a large number of Indians abroad unless they have definite occupations there because if it happened that people had to return, it does not redound to our credit there.

POSITION OF INDIANS IN INDEPENDENT CEYLON

214. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position, civic and otherwise, of Indians in the new set up of Independent Ceylon; and

(b) whether Indians are assured of equal citizenship rights along with all other peoples of Ceylon?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b). The new Constitution of Ceylon promulgated by the Ceylon (Constitution) Order in Council, 1946, has made no difference to the position of Indians in regard to franchise and other citizenship rights from what it was under the 1931 Donoughmore Constitution. Under the latter Indians were eligible for franchise on the basis either of domicile or of the possession of a certificate of permanent settlement, apart from property cum literacy qualification. In accordance with the Soulbury Commission's Report, His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom left the question of Indian franchise to be discussed between the Governments of India and Ceylon, and we hope to start negotiations on this subject very early.

Shri M. S. Aney: May I know whether there was any assurance given by the Honourable gentleman who is now Prime Minister in Ceylon that immediately after the new constitution comes into force, attempts will be made by him to revive negotiations, with a view to come to a settlement with regard to Indo-Ceylon matters?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The Honourable Member should be able to answer that question even better than I can, because he has been our distinguished representative in Ceylon. I do not know about any assurance but repeatedly statements have been made that as soon as the elections were over they would like to raise this question. In fact, they are desirous of doing so and so are we.

Shri M. S. Aney: Will the Honourable Prime Minister tell us whether he has received any communication that the Prime Minister of Ceylon is going to come here shortly for the negotiations?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: So far as I can remember we have received no official communication direct but our representative in Ceylon has been approached by the Government of Ceylon and has been informed to that effect.

FORMATION OF INDIAN NATIONAL TRADE UNION CONGRESS

215. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the formation of the Indian National Trade Union Congress and also of the fact that some of the biggest Trade Unions are affiliated to it; and

(b) whether Government propose to recognise it as a nationally representative labour organisation; if so, when?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, Government have no precise information about the Unions affiliated to the Indian National Trade Union Congress.

(b) I presume by the term 'nationally' is meant the most representative organisation of workers in the country. If so, the Indian National Trade Union Congress have not so far made any claim to be recognised as a 'nationally' representative labour organisation. The Ministry of Labour has however, been consulting the Indian National Trade Union Congress along with all-India Organisations of workers on labour questions coming before the Indian Labour Conferences and Committees and the International Labour Conferences.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that this organisation was not asked to send its representatives to the Asian Regional Labour Conference of the I.L.O. which was held in Delhi recently?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Under the conventions of the I.L.O. the most representative workers' organisation in a country is allowed to send its representatives. At present the Indian Trade Union Congress stands as the most representative organisation, and as such it was invited to send its representatives.

Shri Harihar Nath Shastri: In view of the fact that most of the genuine trade unions in this country particularly those run by Congressmen, have seceded from the All-India Trade Union Congress are the Government aware that the All-India Trade Union Congress is reduced to the status of a mouth-piece of the Indian Communist Party?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Obviously the strength of the All-India Trade Union Congress has suffered a reduction due to the secession of a number of trade unions which were affiliated to it but we are not yet in a position to state precisely whether the All-India National Trade Union Congress is the most representative organisation. However, we will take up an enquiry as we did in the case of the All-India Trade Union Congress and the Indian Federation of Labour to ascertain the relative strength of the all-India organisations and it is only after such enquiry that we will be in a position to say which of the organisations is the most representative.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I ask whether Government will be pleased to consult the Depressed Class League so far as agricultural labour problems are concerned?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: In the tripartite organisation the Government nominates some independent persons to represent unorganized labour, and since I have been in office here I have been inviting some persons to represent agricultural labourers as well.

Shri S. Nagappa: If that is the case may I ask whom the Government has consulted from the Depressed Class League so far as agricultural labour problems are concerned?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: The Depressed Class League as such was not consulted.

REMOVAL OF CONTROLS

216. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given any consideration to the Cut Motion passed by the last Assembly on de-controlling all commodities excepting food;

(b) if so, what controls have been so far removed; and

(c) what are the plans of Government to de-control other commodities, and how long do Government propose to take before de-controlling the internal production and trade of essential commodities of daily consumption?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a), (b) and (c). The question should have been addressed to the Honourable the Minister of Industry and Supply. It has accordingly been transferred to the list of questions for the 26th November 1947 when it will be answered by the Honourable the Minister of Industry and Supply.

IMPOSITION OF CONTROL OVER IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

217. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have imposed a strict control over exports and imports, and if so, for what purpose;

(b) whose advice Government seek in deciding how these controls are to be imposed, relaxed, removed or worked;

(c) whether it is a fact that there used to be Imports and Exports Advisory Committees; and

(d) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of reconstituting these committees and providing thereon, representation of the organisations of rural people, Kisan and Mazdoor masses?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Yes, Sir, Control over exports is retained in order to conserve commodities in short supply in the country and to ensure equitable distribution among the importing countries of Indian goods, in the long term interests of India's export trade. Import control is being strictly enforced with a view to making the best possible use of India's limited foreign exchange resources.

(b) These questions are generally decided at high level Inter-Departmental Conferences and in the case of export control in consultation also with the Export Advisory Council which has recently been reconstituted.

(c) There is an Exports Advisory Council with Port Committees also at Bombay, Madras and Calcutta. There is also a Cotton Piecegoods and Yarn Advisory Committee at Bombay. There are no Import Advisory Committees, except the Cotton Import Advisory Committee at Bombay.

(d) The Export Advisory Council has recently been reconstituted. The question of setting up an Import Advisory Council is under consideration. Government do not consider it necessary to include on these Councils representatives of the organisations mentioned by the Honourable Member, as they have no special interests which are not already represented on them.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that in regard to imports, for instance in helping Government to decide which imports are to be given high priority and which discouraged, and also in regard to exports, the agricultural masses and the rural people have a special interest, and therefore they ought to be taken into special consultation by Government?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: There is no need because this Government feels that it adequately represents both the Kisan and Mazdoor masses.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The Honourable Member has raised a very important question over which I do not wish to argue. But in view of the fact that Government, in spite of their claim that they represent Kisans and Mazdoors, have thought it fit to constitute these Advisory Councils, would it not be more equitable that these Councils should not be packed by merchants and industrialists alone but representatives of.....

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid it is an argument.

Mr. B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur: May I know whether Government is aware that there is a great deal of discontent in the mercantile community about the manner in which these export licences are distributed, and whether Government will institute an enquiry into the matter?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The discontent is the legacy of the previous Government. So far as the present Government is concerned, all efforts are made to reduce discontent to a minimum.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I know what the Honourable Minister considers himself to be, whether a Kisan or a Mazdoor?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Neither.

APPOINTMENTS IN FOREIGN SERVICES OF INDIA

218. *Shri B. A. Mandloi: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing:

(a) the different grades of foreign service;

(b) the strength of the present personnel in different grades with the scales of pay of each grade and the number of non-Indians, if any; and

(c) the qualifications required for this service and the method of selection of candidates?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: A statement has been laid on the table of the House.

Statement relating to the Indian Foreign Service

Grades of the Service.

The proposed grades of the Indian Foreign Service, which have not yet been finalised, are as follows:—

Grade 1 will consist of the Foreign Secretary and heads of certain major Missions.

Grade 2 will consist of Heads of other major Missions and Additional Secretaries in the Foreign Office.

Grade 3 will consist of Heads of certain Missions.

Grade 4 will consist of Heads of other Missions and Joint Secretaries in the Foreign Office.

Grade 5 will consist of Heads of Minor Missions, Senior Consuls General, and Selection grade Trade Commissioners.

Grade 6 will consist of Consuls General Counsellors, Trade Commissioners, and Deputy Secretaries in the Foreign Office.

Grade 7 will consist of First Secretaries, Consuls, Assistant Trade Commissioners and Under Secretaries in the Foreign Office.

Grade 8 will consist of Second Secretaries and Senior Vice Consuls.

Grade 9 will consist of Junior Vice Consuls, Third Secretaries, and Paid Attaches.

Present strength and Scales of Pay.

The scales of pay for the members of the Indian Foreign Service are still under consideration. It is intended that the basic scale of pay of the Indian Foreign Service will be on a par with that of the Indian Administrative Service and that in addition the officers of the Indian Foreign Service should be granted representation and other allowances when serving in posts outside India.

So far, only ten officers have been appointed to the Indian Foreign Service as probationers and their pay has been tentatively fixed in the scale of Rs. 300—350—400—450—500 (for the first six years of service) pending final decision of Government in the matter. They are all Indians.

Qualifications and method of selection.

The normal method of recruitment to the Indian Foreign Service is through a competitive examination to be held by the Federal Public Service Commission. The candidates should possess a degree of a recognised University or its equivalent and should satisfy the conditions in regard to age limits, usually prescribed for such competitive examinations.

The age-limit prescribed for the last examination held in July 1947 was 21—25, as will be seen from the attached copy of the advertisement (enclosure I) issued by the Federal Public Service Commission.

It must be recognised, however, that the new Service cannot be built up entirely by direct recruitment of young men from the Universities and that at the beginning at any rate it will be necessary to provide for an intake of candidates of higher age-groups from different walks of life. The method of selection being adopted for this intake are as follows :—

- (1) selection from amongst Emergency Commissioned Officers who had been recommended by the Federal Public Service Commission for appointment to the I. C. S. and I. P. S.
- (2) selection by the Federal Public Service Commission from candidates from the general public, between the ages 26 and 45 whose applications have been received in response to the attached copy of their advertisement (Enclosure II).
- (3) selection by the Federal Public Service Commission from persons belonging to the Provincial Services and those holding temporarily posts on or equivalent to posts borne on the cadres of Central Services Class I.
- (4) selection by the Board of Departmental Representatives, constituted for the purpose, from officers who belonged to the Secretary of State's Services and from officers of the Central Services Class I.

Since recruitment from the above sources is not likely to prove adequate to the needs of the Service, Government have also recently decided to set up a special Board consisting of the Secretary General, Ministry of External Affairs, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, a representative of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the President of the Inter University Board and a member of the Federal Public Service Commission to tap fresh sources, especially in the business community and the liberal professions.

Encl. I.

FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

The Federal Public Service Commission will hold at Allahabad, Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Lahore and Madras a combined competitive examination on the 1st July, 1947 and subsequent

days for recruitment to the All-India Administrative Service, the Indian Foreign Service, the All-India Police Service, the Indian Audit and Accounts Service, the Indian Railway Accounts Service, the Military Accounts Department, the Income Tax Officers (Class I, Grade II) Service, the Imperial Customs Service, the Postal Superintendents (Class II) Service, Transportation (Traffic) and Commercial Departments of the Superior Revenue Establishment of State Railways and the Establishment Department of State Railways. Age :—Candidates must have attained the age of 21 and must not have attained the age of 26 (30 in the case of Scheduled Castes) on the 1st August, 1947. Educational qualifications :—A degree of a recognised University or its equivalent. Full particulars and application form may be obtained from Provincial Governments (Joint Public Service Commission, Punjab and N.-W. F. P., Lahore, in the case of Punjab), Administrations (Deputy Commissioner, Delhi, in the case of Delhi Province) Political Officers and Durbars after the 22nd March 1947. Closing date for applications with a Treasury Receipt for the combined application and examination fee of Rs. 82-8-0 (Rs. 20-10-0 for Scheduled Caste candidates) 15th May 1947.

Encl. II.

FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

Applications are invited from British subjects of Indian domicile or descent and subjects of Indian States for vacancies in the new Indian Foreign Service. Recruitment is open to all those who will have attained the age of 26 years but will not have attained the age of 45 years on the 1st August 1947.

Qualifications.—Candidates (i) must possess a first class degree of a recognised university, and should preferably (ii) have a working knowledge of one or more foreign languages, (iii) have some acquaintance with international affairs and (iv) have travelled outside India and Burma.

2. E. C. Os. who hold or have held Commissions which were granted to them before the 15th August 1945, who have not been considered for a war reserved vacancy to the I. C. S., I. P. or the Central Services under the Government of India and who had not attained the age of 30 years by 1st January 1947 are also eligible to apply for the Indian Foreign Service. They must possess a degree of a recognised university but candidates who have passed the Intermediate Examination in the first or second division and were prevented from obtaining a degree by joining the armed forces will also be eligible.

3. Closing date for applications 8th May 1947.

4. E. C. Os. will not be required to pay any fee. Other candidates must send with their application form Treasury Receipt for Rs. 25 (Rs. 6-4-0 in the case of a Scheduled Castes candidates).

5. All those who have already submitted applications to the External Affairs Department for appointment to the Indian Foreign Service are informed that fresh applications should be forwarded in accordance with the procedure prescribed above.

6. This notice does not apply to persons in civil employ under the Central or Provincial Governments, and belonging permanently to the Secretary of State's Services, Central Services Class I or the Provincial Civil Services from whom applications have been invited separately.

7. E. C. Os. who had attained the age of 30 years on 1st January 1947 and who possess the qualifications described in paragraph 1 above are also eligible to apply.

8. The basic pay scales for the All Indian Administrative and Indian Foreign Services will be the same and will shortly be fixed on the basis of the recommendations made by the Central Pay Commission. In addition officers of the Indian Foreign Service will get cost of living and other allowances when serving in posts overseas. In determining seniority and starting pay, consideration will be given *inter alia* to the age of the candidate.

INDIA'S ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION TO U.N.O.

219. *Shri B. A. Mandloi: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state what annual contribution the Government of India is required to pay to the United Nations Organisation?

(b) Has any Indian been employed in any of the responsible posts of the United Nations Organisation?

(c) If not, have Government made any representation?

(d) If the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, what is the result of such representation?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The annual contribution to the United Nations Organization is fixed for each year separately. The contribution for 1947 for the whole of India, since divided, was paid in May 1947 and amounted to United States \$ 1,084,275 or about Rs. 35,91,800.

No intimation has yet been received of the exact amount to be paid for 1948. The contribution payable both by India and Pakistan has been jointly assessed at 3.95 per cent. of the total United Nations budget for 1948, and on this basis the combined liability of both India and Pakistan is expected to be approximately Rs. 46,00,000. In view of the complications involved in determining the share of the Government of Pakistan, it has been decided that for 1948 India will pay for both the countries, the relative share of each being determined later in accordance with the proportion fixed separately for 1949 for each country by the United Nations. The payment made on behalf of Pakistan during 1948 will, therefore, be recovered during 1949.

(b) Yes, there are eight Indian Nationals holding responsible posts in the United Nations Secretariat. A list of Indians at present employed in the United Nations Secretariat is laid on the table.

(c) Government of India are not satisfied with the existing position and have made representations to the United Nations Secretariat from time to time.

(d) The number has doubled; in February last there were only eight Indians employed in the United Nations Secretariat and now there are 16.

Indian Employees in the United Nations Secretariat.

		Dollars
1. Lokanathan, P. S.	Executive Secretary, Far Eastern Commission	11,000 plus 3,000
2. Subramanian, P. S.	Organization Methods Officer, Administrative and Financial Services.	10,000
3. Ghate, B. G.	Assistant Director, Economic Stability and Development Division.	9,200
4. Narayanan, T. G.	Political Affairs Officer, Department of Security Council Affairs.	8,300
5. Behanan, K. T.	Social Affairs Officer, Department of Trusteeship.	7,450
6. Ghosh, Dwarkanath	Economic Affairs Officer, Department of Trusteeship.	7,450
7. Raman Tirunagari	Information Officer, Department of Public Information.	7,450
8. Obhrai, G. L.	Information Officer, Department of Public Information.	6,700
9. Mitra, Probodh	Statistician, Department of Economic Affairs.	4,910
10. Sikand, Harcharan	Economic Affairs Officer, Department of Economic Affairs.	4,910
11. Guha, Thakurta, S.	Personnel Officer, Administrative and Financial Services.	3,970
12. Das Kamalkumar.	Social Affairs Officer, Department of Social Affairs.	3,570
13. Dalal, Bobby	Accountant, Administrative and Financial Services.	3,210
14. Sivasankar, Menon	Librarian, Library	2,890
15. Chaplin, M. B.	Secretary, Administrative and Financial Service.	2,610
16. Salim, Dawood	Clerk, Conference and General Services	2,480

Mr. B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur: Has there been any response from the United Nations as a result of the appeals made by the Government of India for better representation of Indians in their staff?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I have already answered that: I have given the figures of increase.

Shri B. Das: May I know whether the contribution of Rs. 46 lakhs for India and Pakistan represents all the contributions that are made to the U.N.O. and its associated organisations, such as the Institution of Public Hygiene, UNRRA and other such bodies?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I imagine there are some other contributions, possibly. But I do not know exactly.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is any effort being made by the Government of India to assess the total amount of money that is being paid to the various organisations associated with the United Nations Organisation, as well as the United Nations Organisation itself?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I should try to find out and give the figure to the House, if it so desires.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I know if the Honourable Prime Minister has received a request from the Pakistan Government to make their contribution for the time being?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: This is a matter, I suppose, that fell within the purview of the Partition Council. I cannot say if any request was received, but normally speaking, India as the continuing body has assumed all obligations that came to the whole of India, to be adjusted later, because otherwise difficulties—legal and constitutional—might arise. We assumed all those obligations and proceeded as the continuing international body, as we are. Subsequently these matters can no doubt be financially adjusted.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: I want to know from the Honourable the Prime Minister whether we have taken for the time being, all responsibilities only for the liability and not for assets, incomes and all that?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not quite understand the Honourable Member's question. We have taken the responsibilities that attached to the Government of India previously in regard to international obligations except such responsibilities as were automatically removed by virtue of the partition and the geographical facts following from that partition. For instance every treaty that India had engaged in is continued by us. But if there is some agreement which applies to Afghanistan and the Frontier Province we cannot fulfil it because of the partition, and it goes, otherwise every international treaty obligation continues to exist so far as we are concerned.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that U.S.A. was willing to raise her own contribution of the usual 25 per cent. to the U.N.O. as well as the associated organisations, has the Government of India made any claim for a substantial reduction in her own contribution towards these organisations?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: These contributions are fixed on a percentage basis. As a matter of fact the percentage for 1947 has been reduced. The more the members that join the United Nations, the lesser the percentage falling to the lot of each nation: but while the percentage is reduced, the actual expenditure of the United Nations is going up, so that actually we have to pay more. The percentage now, I believe, is 3.95 per cent. so far as India is concerned, and I do not know whether it would be in the

there are certain difficulties about appointing women, and most Foreign Services do not employ women except sometimes in the highest grades of individuals whose services might be distinguished, but there is no bar at all.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know, Sir, if the Selection Board referred to also deals with selections for Cultural Relations Services?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: What are the Cultural Relations Services?

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: There are some representatives appointed for instance, for cultural relations between Iran and India.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not understand the Honourable Member's question. There are persons in the Diplomatic and Consular Regular Service. They are chosen by a competitive examination except for top rank people who come from public life. The Attaches and others may be appointed. They may be members of the Service or they may be outsiders. For instance there may be a Scientific Attache, a Cultural Attache or a Military Attache. If they are members of the Service, of course they are there. If they are chosen from outside, they are members of some other Service.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

ANTI-INDIAN PROPAGANDA IN MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES

221. *Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the anti-Indian propaganda in the various Middle-Eastern countries; and

(b) the action the Government of India propose to take to save those Indians, whose life and property are in danger in those countries, on account of that propaganda?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Reports of such activities have reached the Government of India from time to time.

(b) The only request for protection came recently from Indians in Iran. Suitable representations were made immediately to the Iranian Government and India's Ambassador-designate to Iran has been instructed to look into the matter personally. As regards anti-Indian propaganda in the countries referred to by the Honourable Member, nothing systematic has been possible so far, but, with the opening of Indian Embassies in Teheran and Cairo, it is hoped that effective action will become possible.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN TO FEED REFUGEES

222. *Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state the terms of the joint agreement entered into between the Governments of Pakistan and India to feed the refugees in their own territory?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The terms of agreement pertaining to the Provinces of East Punjab and West Punjab is contained in the Press Communique issued from Government House, Lahore on 3rd September, 1947 are as follows:—

"The Governments of East and West Punjab have undertaken the responsibility for running refugee and evacuee camps for Muslims as well as non-Muslims in their own areas and will provide food and other necessities in equal measure to all refugees."

This agreement would apply also to the North-West Frontier Province as the Province is included with West Punjab in the agreement for mass transfer of population, but in practice the obligation to supply free food to refugees has not been carried out fully by the North-West Frontier Province Government.

PAYMENT OF REPARATIONS BY GERMANY AND JAPAN

223. *R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether any reparations in connection with the last Great War have since been claimed from—

(i) Germany; and

(ii) Japan?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what is the amount recoverable in each case and how much out of it has since been recovered in cash or in the shape of materials and how much still remains to be recovered?

(c) If the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, when do the Government of India propose to take up this matter?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) So far as Germany is concerned, division of reparations among claimant countries was decided at the Paris Conference held in 1915 at which India was represented. In terms of the agreement reached, India is entitled to receive 2 per cent. of general reparations called Category 'A' and 2.9 per cent. of industrial and other capital equipment called Category 'B'. India has been allotted as her Category 'B' share German plant and machinery of an aggregate value of R.M. 12,000,514.27 up to 30th September, 1947. So far as Category 'A' share of German reparations is concerned, no items have so far been received.

The question of Japanese reparations is still under discussion in the Far Eastern Commission at Washington and India has claimed 12.5 per cent. as her share. The total amount of the reparations recoverable from Germany and Japan is not however yet known and it is not possible therefore to say how much is due for recovery.

(c) Does not arise.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIA'S AMBASSADORS, ENVOYS AND HIGH COMMISSIONERS

224. *R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state the names of Ambassadors, Envoys, High Commissioners and other persons holding similar position, who represent India in foreign countries, and the date of appointment and emoluments of each?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: A statement is placed on the table of the House.

Statement showing name of country, name of the Ambassador etc., date of appointment and emoluments.

Name of the Country	Name of the Ambassador, etc.	Date of appointment	Emoluments
1	2	3	4
1. U.S.A.	Mr. Asaf Ali, Ambassador.	20th February, 1947.	(1) Pay Rs. 3,500 p.m. (2) Frais de Representation Rs. 4,500 p.m. (3) Free furnished house. (4) Free car and chauffeur at Govt. expense. (5) Free heating of the house.

fitness of things for us to plead for a reduction of the percentage which has been laid down in accordance with certain rules.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I have an idea from the Honourable the Prime Minister as to the method of machinery by which we could hope to recover the money due from Pakistan?

Mr. Speaker: Does not arise.

RECRUITMENT TO FOREIGN SERVICE

220. *Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of an announcement made by the Federal Public Service Commission calling for applications for recruitment to Foreign Service;

(b) whether it is a fact that no selection has been made upto now;

(c) the number of persons sent abroad to work with Indian Embassies in the meantime;

(d) how these persons are selected; and

(e) when do Government propose to hold selection for the proposed Foreign Service?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes. The Honourable member presumably refers to the advertisement issued by the Commission on the 27th February, 1947.

(b) A few selections have been made.

(c) Since the issue of the advertisement mentioned in the answer to part (a), eight gazetted officers have been deputed to serve with our Diplomatic Missions abroad.

(d) Two of them, who were officers with war-service were selected on the recommendation of the Federal Public Service Commission, five are members of the Indian Civil Service and one a member of the Indian Political Service. These last six were chosen by a Selection Board of Departmental Representatives constituted for the purpose with the approval of the Cabinet.

(e) The Federal Public Service Commission is still interviewing candidates from among those who applied in response to the advertisement of the 27th February, 1947. Since recruitment from this source is not likely to prove adequate to the needs of the Service, Government have recently decided to set up a special Board consisting of the Secretary General, Ministry of External Affairs, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, a representative of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the President of the Inter University Board and a member of the Federal Public Service Commission to tap fresh sources, especially in the business community and the liberal professions. These are exceptional measures designed to meet the most urgent needs. Normal recruitment will, as in the case of other public services, continue to be made by means of a competitive examination conducted by the Federal Public Service Commission.

Seth Govinddas: With respect to the qualifications of these candidates, Sir, will this new Board or the Government keep in mind that the degrees of their educational qualifications taken from various important non-official institutions like Shantiniketan and Gurukul Kangra will also be taken into consideration

as the Honourable the Prime Minister had promised last year when this question was discussed that he would consider this question?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: So far as this Gurukul is concerned, it is not bound down by the strict terms of the advertisement which the Federal Public Services Commission issued. For instance that Commission said that a person must hold a first class university degree. That was done because we want men of the highest merit. Nevertheless it is conceivable that a person who gets a first class degree is not very competent for this particular work and a person who might get a second class degree subsequently gets other qualifications which make him more competent. Anyhow, in answer to the question put by Seth Govinddas I would say that it is open to the new Board to consider such questions.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: May I know, Sir, whether a competitive examination for recruitment to the Foreign Service was held in June last and whether any candidates appeared at that examination, and if none of them have been so far taken, why?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: No competitive examination specially for the Foreign Service has been held: but out of those who were selected in the competitive examination for the All-India Administrative Service, some persons were selected for the Foreign Service.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why is it, Sir, that representation is provided for the Indian Merchants Chamber and no representation at all for this House?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: This House is represented by quite a number of Members there. We are all Members of this House representing this House in those Committees. The Diplomatic Service is divided into two parts: One is purely Diplomatic Service and the other Consular Service. More or less they are taken together now, not separate as they used to be. Because there was this consular aspect, which deals with trade and commerce to a great extent, we thought we might have some representative of the Indian Chambers of Commerce.

Shri B. Das: Is it a fact that one or two persons have been sent abroad in the Diplomatic Service who have foreign wives, and is it not a fact that no other country sends out persons who have foreign wives in the Diplomatic Service?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I cannot speak for other countries. Normally it is not considered desirable for diplomats, at any rate holding very responsible posts, to marry foreign wives as the Honourable Member puts. But there is no bar to that. It may only be the reason for reconsideration of the appointment. This matter was examined and it was considered that it should not be a bar, but that the question can be considered on individual merits.

Seth Govinddas: Will the Government under these circumstances see that no bachelor is sent?

(No reply)

Begum Aizaz Rasul: May I know if women with the requisite qualifications, are eligible for recruitment to Foreign Service through the Federal Public Services Commission?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, certainly in theory. I hope also to some extent in practice. Certain difficulties arose when this matter was being considered last year when we were framing our rules. I may tell the House that the rules as originally framed excluded women, but I struck out that clause and said women should not be excluded. The fact remains

1	2	3	4
2. China	Mr. K. P. S. Menon, Ambassador.	9th March, 1947 (A.N.)	(1) Pay (consolidated) Rs. 4,500 p.m. (2) Free furnished house. (3) Motor car and chauffeur at Govt. expense. (4) Free service in the house.
3. U.S.S.R.	Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, Ambassador.	13th August, 1947.	(1) Pay Rs. 3,500 p.m. (2) Frais de representation Rs. 4,500 p.m. (3) Free furnished house and free heating of the house. (4) A car and chauffeur at Govt. expense.
4. Nepal	S. Surjit Singh Majithia (Ambassador designate).	Has not taken over so far.	(1) Pay Rs. 2,250 p.m. (2) Frais de Representation Rs. 750 p. m. (3) Free furnished house. (4) A car with chauffeur and a cleaner, the Ambassador bearing the running expenses.
5. Iran	Mr. Ali Zaheer, Ambassador.	16th November, 1947.	(1) Pay Rs. 3,000 p.m. (2) Frais de Representation Rs. 2,000 p.m. (provisional) (3) Free furnished house. (4) Provision of a car at Government expense.
6. Japan	Sir B. Rama Rau (Head of the Indian Liaison Mission in Tokyo and Political Representative of India with S.C.A. P. with personal rank of Ambassador).	24th July, 1947	(1) Pay Rs. 3,500 p.m. (2) Representation allowance Rs. 2,000 p.m. (3) Free car with chauffeur. (4) Free accommodation and free ration.
7. French Establishments in India and Portuguese Possessions in India.	Mirza Rashid Ali Beg, Consul-General for French Estts. in India and for Portuguese Possessions in India.	19th September, 1947.	(1) Pay Rs. 2,000 p. m. (2) Representation allowance Rs. 300 p.m.
8. Shanghai	Capt. R. D. Sathe, Indian Consul, Shanghai.	16th August, 1947 (A.N.)	(1) Pay of rank in the army. (2) Additional pay Rs. 350 p.m. (3) Special pay £200 P. A. (4) Local allowance £300 P.A. (5) Sumptuary allowance £200 P.A. (6) Free accommodation.

1	2	3	4
9. Siam	Mr. Bhagwat Dayal, Charge d' Affaires, Indian Legation, Bangkok.	2nd September, 1947 (the date on which the Consulate was raised to the status of a Legation).	(1) Pay Rs. 1,100 p.m. (2) Foreign Allowance £ 600 P.A. (inclusive of £ 150 as sumptuary allowance). (3) House rent allowance £ 300 P.A.
10. Indo-China	Mr. A. N. Mehta, Consul for India in Indo-China.	1st June, 1947	(1) Pay of rank in the Army. (2) Special Pay Rs. 150 p.m. (3) Foreign allowance £ 400 P.A. (4) House rent allowance £ 300 P.A.
11. Indonesia	Mr. N. Raghavan, Consul-General for India at Batavia.	8th October, 1947 (A.N.)	(1) Pay Rs. 2,250 p.m. (2) Consolidated foreign allowance Rs. 1,250 p.m. (3) Free furnished accommodation. (4) Provision of a car at Government expense the maintenance charges being borne by the Consul-General and provision of a chauffeur at local rates of pay, as a special case.
12. South-Africa	High Commissioner	(Vacant)	
13. Australia	Sir R. P. Paranjpye, High Commissioner.	14th October, 1944.	(1) Pay £ 2,500 p.a. (fixed). (2) Equipment allowance £250 (once only). (3) Sumptuary allowance £ 700 p.a. (4) Car allowance £ 400 p. a. (including pay of chauffeur Car provided at Govt. expense. (5) Free furnished house.
14. Canada	Mr. H. S. Malik, High Commissioner.	30th July, 1947	(1) Pay Rs. 2,250 p.m. (fixed). (2) Representation allowance \$ 10,000 p.a. (3) Free car and chauffeur, maintenance charges to be borne by the High Commissioner. (4) Free furnished house.
15. Burma	Dr. M. A. Rauf, High Commissioner.	8th November, 1946.	(1) Pay Rs. 2,750 p.m. (2) Sumptuary allowance Rs. 750 p.m. (3) Car allowance Rs. 250 p.m. Car provided at Govt. cost. (4) House rent allowance Excess over 10 per cent. of pay. (5) Cost of living allowance Rs. 300 p.m.

1	2	3	4
16. United King- dom.	Mr. V. K. Krishna Menon, High Commissioner.	15th August, 1947.	(1) Pay (provisional) £ 3,000 p.a. (2) Sumptuary allowance £ 1,000 p.a. (3) Free furnished house, occupant bearing mainten- ance charges up to £ 250 p.a. (4) Free car and chauffeur maintained by Government
17. Pakistan	Mr. Sri Prakasa, High Commission- er.	15th August, 1947.	(1) Pay Rs. 2,500 p.m. (fixed). (2) Entertainment allowance Rs. 500 p.m. (3) Free house. (4) Free car for official use.
18. Malaya	Mr. J. A. Thivy, Representative.	11th August, 1947.	(1) Pay Rs. 2,250 p. m. (fixed). (2) Local allowance Rs. 500 p.m. (3) Sumptuary allowance Rs. 500 p.m. (4) Car allowance Rs. 125 p.m. (5) House rent allowance Rs 150 p.m. (6) Cost of living allowance Rs. 350 p.m.
19. Ceylon	Mr. V. V. Giri, Representative.	2nd July, 1947	(1) Pay Rs. 2,250 p.m. (fixed). (2) Sumptuary allowance Rs. 500 p.m. (3) Local allowance Rs. 500 p.m. (4) Car provided by Govern- ment cost.

MIGRATION TO AND FROM INDIA AFTER PARTITION

225. *R. B. Lala-Raj Kanwar: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Muslims who, since the partition of the country into two Dominions, have migrated from India into Pakistan; and

(b) the number of Hindus, Sikhs, Indian Christians and members of the Scheduled Castes who have, during the same period, migrated from Pakistan into India?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) and (b) The Honourable Member is referred to my reply to Starred Question Nos. 1 (a) and 19 (a) on the 18th November, 1947.

EXPORT OF CRUSHED BONES

226. *Shri R. R. Diwakar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the export of crushed bones is increasing by leaps and bounds since the cessation of hostilities?

(b) If so, what is the quantity exported during the year 1945-46?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) No, Sir.

(b) I may add for the Honourable Member's information that the actual figure of exports for 1945-46 was 46,791 tons.

APPOINTMENT OF ORIYAS IN FEDERAL COURT OFFICE

227. *Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state how many persons from the Province of Orissa have been appointed in the office of the Federal Court?

(b) Do Government propose to see that sufficient number of persons from the Province of Orissa are appointed in that office?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) No person from the Province of Orissa has so far been appointed to the staff attached to the Federal Court.

(b) The Chief Justice informs me that the staff of the Court is recruited on considerations other than provincial (or communal), though he always endeavours to do justice to all provinces (and all communities).

HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEMES

228. *Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to lay on the table of the House a list of all Hydro-Electric Schemes which have been started or which are under contemplation, showing the location of each?

(b) How far has each scheme advanced?

(c) What is the expenditure incurred on each project and the estimated total cost of each?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) and (b). A statement showing only the hydro-electric projects is placed on the table of the House. It does not include projects covering electric power transmission lines and thermal generating Stations.

(c) The estimated total cost of each project has been given in the statement. For those projects, however, which are still under investigation, estimates of the cost can only be made after the investigations have been completed. Information about the expenditure incurred so far on each project is not readily available.

Statement on Hydro Electric Schemes in India which are either under execution or under investigation.
MW = Megawatts, i.e., 1000 KW (or 1000 Kilowatts)

Name of Hydro Electric Schemes.	Proposed installed capacity (MW)	Estimated Total Cost (Rs. in Lakhs)	Location & brief description of Project	Present stage of Progress
<i>West Bengal—</i>				
1. Jaldhaka Hydro Electric Scheme.	18.00	197.00	The power site is located on the Jaldhaka river in the unsaid district. A diversion of the waters from the river will be taken off from a point near the junction of Bindu Khola and Jaldhaka so as to utilise the drop of about 645' available over a length of 3 miles between this junction and the proposed power house site.	The Scheme is under preliminary investigation.
<i>Bihar—</i>				
2. Unified Development of the Damodar River Valley— Tilaiya Dam Konar dams (3 dams) Aiyar Maithen Panchet Hill Bal Pahari Berno Bokharo	6.00 26.75 45.00 40.00 40.00 30.00 18.00 3.2	This multi-purpose project is estimated to cost Rs. 55.00 crores of which about Rs. 28.00 crores is proposed to be charged to 'Power.'	Eight dams are proposed to be built on the Damodar river and its tributaries. A thermal station (capacity 160 MW) is also likely to be erected near Bermo in the Bokaro Coal-fields.	The preliminary investigations have been carried out and detailed plans and designs for some of the dams have been completed by the Central Technical Power Board of the Government of India. It has now been proposed to establish a new organisation known as "Damodar Valley Corporation" who will proceed the further implementation of the entire Damodar Valley Development.
3. Kosi River Project.	1000.00	..	A 750 ft. high dam and a power station will be located at Chhatra gorge in Nepal, before Kosi reaches the plains.	The Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission of the Government of India is carrying out the preliminary investigations on this scheme.

Bombay—

4. The Tata Hydro Electric Agencies— Bhira Power Station Extension. Bhivpuri Tail race Scheme Bhira Tail race Scheme	22.0 6.50 9.00	45.00	On the hill ranges in the Western Ghats—South of Bombay	These additions were under consideration. However, no final decisions on the implementation of these schemes have so far been reached.
5. Kalinadi Scheme	50.00	...	On the Kalinadi river in the North Kanara district near the junction of Kalinadi and Pandri. The scheme comprises a dam near Supa, a diversion weir at Bonnanhalli and necessary penstock and power plant.	The scheme is being studied by Messrs. Associated Consulting Engineers (India) who are expected to submit their report to the Government of Bombay by the end of this year.
6. Koyna River Project.	200.00	...	This scheme is designed to develop the Koyna river for power-development by constructing a dam about 2 miles up stream from Helwak. A tunnel will take off from the reservoir and lead to the penstock. The power house is proposed to be located about 6 miles from Chiplun on Chiplun-Karad Road.	Preliminary survey work completed. Preliminary survey work is being continued.
7. Bhandardara and Randha Hydro Electric Project.	32.00	399.00	(1) Bhandardara site—On the Pravara river in the Ahmednagar District. (2) Randha site—3 miles downstream.	The Govt. of Bombay completed the preliminary investigations on the scheme, but subsequently decided that on account of the prevailing high costs of plant of considering that due to limited water supply during cold weather, the output from the station will be very low, decided to postpone the project tentatively.

Statement on Hydro Electric Schemes in India which are either under execution or under investigation.
KW = Megawatts i.e., 1000 KW (or 1000 Kilowatts)

Name of Hydro Electric Schemes.	Proposed installed capacity (MW)	Estimated Total Cost (Rs. in Lakhs)	Location & brief description of Project	Present stage of Progress
Coorg Division—				
8. Barapalai Hydro Electric Scheme.	36.00	..	On the Barapalai river, dam at the junction of Konganna and Kakattu Holes.	A preliminary reconnaissance was carried out. Madras Government has agreed to take up on behalf of Coorg administration further detailed investigation, but no active work has yet been commenced mainly due to paucity of trained staff.
Madras—				
9. Pykara Hydro Electric Scheme (third and final stage extension).	20.00	413.79	Location is in the Nilgiris district 15 miles from Ootacamund. Present extensions comprise a new dam on Pykara river, additional penstock line and 2-10,000 KW water wheel generating sets.	Camp buildings and road construction works are in progress.
10. Moyar Hydro Electric Scheme	36.00	268.00	The power site is located on the tail race of the Pykara Power Station.	Plant and equipment are on order. Active site work is now in progress.
11. Papanasam Hydro Electric Scheme (Extension).	5.80	39.40	On the Tambraparni river, about 6 miles from Ambasamudram Ry. Station in Tinnevely District.	Plant on order. Work in progress.
12. Pericard Hydro Electric Scheme (Extension).	77.50	..	Below Periyar reservoir and in the Cardamom Hills on the borders of Travancore Madras (Madure).	Investigations still in progress. No final decisions have been taken on the implementation of the project.
13. Machkand Hydro Electric Project.	103.50	752.00 (The cost includes that for the thermal scheme under this project).	On the Machkand river in Jayapore Estate on the borders of Madras and Orissa provinces. The site of the dam is at Jalamput. The Govts. of Madras and Orissa have agreed to develop this project jointly. The capital expenditure for the power station and civil works will be shared by Madras and Orissa Govts. in the proportion of 70:30. Power supply from this project will be extended to both the territories.	The scheme will be constructed in two stages of installed capacity 51.75 MW each. Preliminary surveys, site clearance and road-laying etc., are on hand. Land acquisition proceedings are in progress. Exploration and rockdrilling at the diversion weir site is proceeding. Specifications for plant are being drafted and tenders are expected to be invited shortly.
14. Tungabhadra Project.	40.00 (Tentative)	..	A dam will be constructed on the Tungabhadra river at Mallapuram near Hospet in the Bellary district. Two power sites are available—one below the dam and the second about 15 miles downstream on the irrigation canal from the dam.	Finalised details have not yet been worked out by Madras Govt. Meanwhile, they are proceeding with the construction of transmission and distribution lines in this area and propose to build up load by purchasing bulk power from the Mysore Jog System.
15. Ramapadaagara Project (Godavari Hydro Electric Scheme).	1000.00 (Tentative)	..	A dam 393' having a reservoir capacity of 520,000 million C. ft. will be constructed on the Godavari river at Polavaram. The power plant will be located below the dam.	The project has been accepted in principle and preliminary work is in progress. The work is likely to take 12 years for completion and accordingly to be functioning for considerable time yet.
Orissa—				
16. Multipurpose development of the Mahanadi River Gurajyd Project.	350.00 (Ultimate)	47.5 crores Rs. of which Rs. 29.5 crores will be charged to "Power"	The Location of the dam is at Hirakud 7 miles from Sambalpur in Orissa Province. Two power stations are proposed one at the dam site and the second at the end of a power channel 20 miles below the dam.	The Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission of the Govt. of India will be carrying out the work on behalf of Orissa. Preliminary investigations have been completed and active work is to be commenced shortly.
Tikkerpara Project Naraj	2000.00 (Tentative)	..	Tikkerpara and Naraj gauges on the Mahanadi.	Under investigation of the Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission.

INDIAN SUPPLY MISSION IN LONDON

229. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement about the Indian Supply Mission in London as to its personnel, working and annual expenditure?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: A statement containing the required information is laid on the table.

Statement

With the termination of the war and the release of the pent-up world demand for capital goods on U. K. manufacturers, it was felt that, if India was to secure her due share of U. K.'s exportable surplus of these goods which were so vital to her economy and for the encouragement and orderly development of Indian Industries in the post-war period, it was most essential that she should have a separate organization on the spot to arrange for and finalise the purchase of all her requirements. With this object in view, the India Supply Commission came into being in November 1943. The work of this organization covers registration, co-ordination and processing of all imports on non-Government account, sponsorship of shipments, programming and progressing of requirements of machinery, plant equipment and their civil requirements.

The staff of the India Supply Commission in London consists of an India Supply Commissioner assisted by one Deputy and three Assistant Commissioners and the necessary complement of subordinate staff. The last incumbent of the post of India Supply Commission having opted for service under the Pakistan Government, the Indian Trade Commissioner, London, is, at the moment, as a temporary measure, in charge of the post in addition to his own

The annual expenditure on the Commission as budgetted for the year 1947-48 is Rs. 4,92,000

APPOINTMENT OF INDIAN TRADE COMMISSIONERS

230. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement about the Indian Trade Commissioners in different countries?

(b) Who are the present Trade Commissioners, how were they selected and what are their respective periods of appointment?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) I lay a statement on the table which will give the Honourable Member the information which I think he desires.

(b) A statement furnishing the required information is laid on the table.

Statement I

Places where Indian Trade Commissioners have been appointed

Jurisdiction of the Trade Commissioners.

Places where Indian Trade Commissioners have been appointed	Jurisdiction of the Trade Commissioners.
1. London	United Kingdom and such other countries in the continent of Europe with which private trading is permitted excluding countries under the jurisdiction of the Paris Office.
2. New York	United States of America.
3. Buenos Aires	Whole of South America as far north as and including Guatemala.
4. Toronto	Dominion of Canada.
5. Sydney	Australia and New Zealand.
6. Mombasa	East Africa (Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika and Zanzibar).
7. Alexandria	Turkey, Syria, Palestine, Egypt, Trans Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Arab shore of Persian Gulf including Bahrein and Kuwait, Muscat, the Sudan and Yemen.
8. Tehran	Iran.
9. Colombo	Ceylon.
10. Paris	Portugal, Spain, France, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Czechoslovakia.

The principal duties of a Trade Commissioner are :

- to answer trade enquiries which are directed to the development of markets for Indian goods in the area for which he is responsible;
- to compile an index of firms of good standing in his area dealing in goods such as India produces or is capable of producing for export;
- to furnish commercial information directed to the development of Indian export trade required by Departments of the Central Government or by Provincial Governments, by Indian States, by the High Commissioner for India or by the Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics;
- to report spontaneously and with the least possible delay to the Secretary to the Central Government, Department of Commerce, the reactions of trade restrictions, regulations and other Government measures, in his area, on Indian export trade and other matters of special commercial importance;
- to report, spontaneously to the Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, any local developments, official or unofficial, likely to affect Indian trade;
- to visit local firms and represent to them the means of securing Indian goods suitable to their requirements;
- to test the local markets for Indian goods by means of trial consignments if so desired;
- to assist, by means of letters of introduction and advice, visitors to his area engaged in the development of the Indian export trade;
- to take such steps as are possible to settle trade disputes arising in his area involving claims by merchants in India;
- to maintain a library of Indian trade publications available for consultation by interested local enquiries;
- to organise exhibits of Indian goods at local exhibitions or fairs on lines approved, and within the scope of funds allotted for the purpose, by the High Commissioner or by the Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, as the case may be; and
- to represent the possibilities of Indian trade by means of lectures, the display of films and other suitable methods.

Statement II

Places where Trade Commissioners have been appointed	Name of the Trade Commissioners	How they were selected	What are their respective periods of appointment
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
London	Mr. A. S. Lall, M.B.E., I.C.S.	Taken from the Commerce-Finance pool.	Mr. Lall, the Deputy Indian Trade Commissioner is officiating as Indian Trade Commissioner with effect from 1st June 1947 and will continue to hold that post till such time as a regular incumbent for that post is appointed.
Buenos Aires	Mr. J.R.K. Modi	Selected through the Federal Public Service Commission	Mr. Modi assumed charge of his present post on 25th February 1943.

Statement on Hydro Electric Schemes in India which are either under execution or under investigation
MW = Megawatts, i.e., 1000 KW (or 1000 Kilowatts)

Name of Hydro Electric Schemes.	Proposed installed capacity (MW)	Estimated Total Cost (Rs. in Lakhs)	Location & brief description of Project	Present stage of Progress
29. Lakkavalli Project.	12.70	..	At Lakkavalli on the Bhadra river in Kadur District.	The project is under investigation.
Travancore—				
30. Pallivasal Hydro Electric Scheme (Extn.—I Stage)	7.50	..	Near Munar on the hill ranges in north Travancore (Pallivasal Estate).	The first 7.5 MW set has been erected completely except for some minor items and has been put into commercial service. The erection of the second is in progress. Delivery of third set is expected in 1949.
31. Sengulam Scheme.	48.00	200.00	On the tail race of Pallivasal power station.	Specifications for the plant and equipment are under preparation and tenders are likely to be invited shortly.
Rajputana States—				
Kotah—				
32. Chambal Hydro Electric Scheme.	100.00	..	The power site is on Chambal river in Kotah State. The proposal is to construct a dam on the Chambal with a view to generate power and also provide water supply for irrigation.	The scheme was proposed to be undertaken as a joint measure by a number of contiguous Rajputana States. Decisions on the implementation of the scheme are awaited.
Jodhpur—				
33. Erinpura Hydro Electric Scheme.	4.00	..	Near Erinpura on the B.B. and C.I. Railway. This is a small power scheme on the Erinpura reservoir under construction on the Jawai river.	The scheme is being studied by the Jodhpur Government.
Hyderabad—				
34. Nizamagar Hydro Electric Project.	18.00	85.91	Below the dam across Nizamagar reservoir.	Plant has been ordered and work is in progress.
Other Projects—				
35. Narbada Valley Development } Tapti Valley development. } (Tentative)	1000,000 KW	..	Several dams on the Narbada and Tapti rivers.	Under investigation by Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission.
Assam Valley Development—				
36. Dihang Dam Project. } Punas Dam Project. } Barali Dam Project. } Suneshwar Dam Project. } (Tentative)	3000,000 to 4000,000 KW	..	Located in the tributaries of the Brahmaputra and on the Barali and Suneshwar rivers.	Ditto.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Toronto	Mr. M.R. Ahuja	Selected through the Federal Public Service Commission.	Mr. Ahuja assumed charge of his present duties on the 7th November 1947 and is at present holding charge of the New York post also till such time as a Trade Commissioner can be appointed to hold charge of the New York office.
Sydney	Vacant	...	Mr. V. C. V. Raghvan the Head Clerk in that office is carrying on the current duties of the Trade Commissioner in addition to his own till such time as a successor is appointed.
New York	Vacant	...	Mr. Ahuja, the Indian Government Trade Commissioner, Toronto is officiating as Indian Government Trade Commissioner, New York, with effect from 6th August 1947, in addition to his own duties. He will continue till such time as a regular Trade Commissioner is appointed at New York.
Alexandria	Vacant	...	Mr. J.A. Rahim, I.C.S., last incumbent, having opted for Pakistan, his services have been placed at the disposal of that Govt. Mr. M. R. Vaveja, the Head Clerk in that office is carrying on the current duties of the Trade Commissioner in addition to his own.
Tehran	Do.	...	Major Hassan, the last incumbent, having opted for Pakistan, his services have been placed at the disposal of that Government. Mr. N. C. Sen, the stenographer, is looking after the office on a care and maintenance basis. He was appointed on the 7th February 1941 and his present term expires on the 31st December 1949.
Mombasa	Sardar Sahib Sardar Sangat Singh	By promotion	He was appointed to the post on 21st May 1946.
Ceylon	Mr. R.L. Tandon	Belongs to the Punjab Civil Service.	He was appointed to the post on 22nd August 1946.
Paris	Mr. S.S. Bajpai	Taken over from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.	

231* [WITHDRAWN]

VARIOUS AGREEMENTS BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN.

232. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the various agreements entered into by the Government of India with the Government of Pakistan?

(b) Which of them have not been fulfilled and to what extent?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) There are two classes of agreements reached by the Government of India with the Government of Pakistan:

(i) Those entered into by the representatives of India and the representatives of Pakistan before August 15, 1947. Most of these have been embodied in Orders of the Governor-General. A list of these agreements is placed on the table of the House.

(ii) Agreements reached by the two Governments subsequent to August 15, 1947 at inter-Dominion conferences and otherwise. Details about these agreements are being collected and will be supplied to the House as early as possible.

(b) Some of the agreements have been contravened by the Central and Provincial Governments of Pakistan by the issue of ordinances and otherwise. For example, the ban imposed by the Government of Sind on the export to India of goods imported at Karachi and the imposition of duty on raw jute exported from Pakistan to India contravene the Agreement on Economic Relations (Trade) reached on the 5th August, 1947. Full details of these breaches are being collected from other Ministries and will be supplied to the House as soon as possible.

List of Agreements referred to in the reply to Part (a) of Question No. 232.

(A) Orders of the Governor General.

1. The Executive Council (Transitional Provisions) Order, 1947.
2. The Joint Defence Council Order, 1947.
3. The Federal Court Order, 1947.
4. The High Courts (Bengal) Order, 1947.
5. The High Courts (Punjab) Order, 1947.
6. The High Court (Calcutta) Order, 1947.
7. The High Court (Lahore) Order, 1947.
8. Indian Independence (Partition Councils) Order, 1947.
9. The Arbitral Tribunal Order, 1947.
10. The Crown Representative (Transfer of Property and Liabilities) Order, 1947.
11. The Indian Independence (Legal Proceedings) Order, 1947.
12. The Indian Independence (Income-tax Proceedings) Order, 1947.
13. The Indian Independence (Miscellaneous Transitional Provisions) Order, 1947.
14. The India (Provisional Constitution) Order, 1947.
15. The India (Provincial Legislatures) Order, 1947.
16. The India (Adaptation of existing Indian Laws) Order, 1947.
17. The Indian Independence (International Arrangements) Order, 1947.
18. The Indian Independence (Rights, Property and Liabilities) Order, 1947.
19. The Pakistan (Provincial Legislatures) Order, 1947.
20. The Pakistan (Adaptation of existing Pakistan Laws) Order, 1947.
21. The Pakistan (Monetary system and Reserve Bank) Order, 1947.
22. The Pakistan (Provincial Constitution) Order, 1947.

23. The India Provisional Constitution (Amendment) Order, 1947.
 24. The Bengal State Prisoners Regulation (Adaptation) Order, 1947.
 25. The India Provincial Constitution and Provincial Legislatures (Amendment) Order, 1947.
 26. The Indian Naval Forces (Temporary Governance) Order, 1947.
 27. The India Provincial Constitution (Second Amendment) Order, 1947.
 28. The Indian Independence (Miscellaneous Transitional Provisions), No. 2 Order, 1947.
- (B) *Agreements on policy for the interim period.*
1. Agreement on economic relations (Trade) reached on 5th August 1947.
 2. Agreement on economic relations (Controls) reached on 5th August 1947.
 3. Agreement on nationality and domicile reached on 5th July 1947.

ANTI-INDIAN PROPAGANDA IN IRAN

233. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state the number of Indians in Iran?

(b) Is it a fact that the life and property of Indians in Iran have been greatly endangered as a result of the propaganda conducted by the Raja of Mahinudabad?

(c) If so, what action have Government taken to counter-act it, and what action they propose to take against the Raja?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) There are approximately 500 Indians in Iran.

(b) and (c) We have received various telegrams from the Indian community in Tehran and Zahidan to the effect that their lives and property were in danger because of propaganda carried on against them. This was brought to the notice of the Iranian Government who have given assurances that the lives and property of the Indian community in Iran will be protected. Our Ambassador to Iran will shortly arrive there and will consider whether any further action is required to safeguard the interests of Indian nationals.

POST-WAR DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES

234. *R. K. Sidhwa: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state what progress has been made by the Government of India in putting into operation, various post-war development schemes?

(b) Do Government intend to hold over the scheme, until normal conditions return, or would they proceed with the work?

(c) If the answer to the latter part of (b) above be in the affirmative, when do Government propose to give effect to the schemes?

(d) Do Government propose to give priority to the construction of roads in various parts of the country for the betterment of the life of the masses of India?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) A start, but only a start, has been made both in the Provinces and in the Centre in putting these schemes into execution. A sum of approximately Rs. 13 crores has been paid to Provinces upto 31st March, 1947 as Central Government grants for Provincial schemes. The expenditure on Central Government schemes during the same period was estimated to be 11½ crores. Actuals are not yet available.

(b) and (c) Government have no intention of abandoning or retarding the progress of development schemes.

(d) 15 per cent. of the total cost of development plans is allocated to roads. Government consider this adequate.

FORMATION OF PLANNING COMMISSION FOR INDIA

235. *Shri K. Santhanam: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up a Planning Commission for the whole of India; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what will be its strength, functions and powers?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b) The establishment of a Planning Commission was recommended by the Advisory Planning Board presided over by Mr. Neogy. The matter is now under consideration.

REPORT OF HINDU LAW CODIFICATION COMMITTEE

236. *Shri K. Santhanam: Will the Honourable Minister of Law please state:

(a) whether the Committee on the Codification of Hindu Law has submitted its final report; and

(b) whether and, if so, when it is proposed to introduce the Bill as recommended by the Committee?

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

(b) A Government Bill in exactly the same terms as the draft Hindu Code prepared by the Hindu Law Committee was introduced in the late Indian Legislative Assembly on the 11th April, 1947. A motion for the continuance of the Bill has also been adopted by this House on the 17th November, 1947.

EVACUATION OF HINDUS AND SIKHS FROM WEST PUNJAB AND N.W.F.P.

237. *Shri K. Santhanam: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation please state:

(a) the total number of persons evacuated from the West Punjab and N.W.F.P. up to the 15th November 1947;

(b) the number of Sikhs and Hindus who have still to be evacuated from these provinces; and

(c) the number of Hindus and Sikhs who have declined to avail of the facilities of evacuation and have decided to continue in their old places?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) The Honourable Member is referred to my answer to question No. 19 (a). The number of persons evacuated between the 11th November, and 15th November, 1947, is not yet available.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to my answer to Starred question No. 9 (b) on the 18th November. Figures subsequent to the 11th November, 1947, are not yet available.

(c) The reports suggest that all desire to be evacuated to the Indian Union.

CONVERSION OF HINDUS AND SIKHS IN WEST PUNJAB AND N.W. F.P.

238. *Shri K. Santhanam: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation please state:

(a) the estimated number of Hindus and Sikhs forcibly converted in the West Punjab and N.W.F.P.;

(b) the number of persons who have been rescued and reconverted; and

(c) the number of women abducted and the number rescued?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a), (b) and (c) No definite figures are yet available.

APPOINTMENT OF AMBASSADORS, HIGH COMMISSIONERS, ETC.

239. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state the number of Ambassadors, Representatives, Consuls-General, High Commissioners and Agents, etc., appointed after the popular Ministers took charge of Government?

(b) How many of them are Harijans?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the statement placed on the table of the House in answer to Question No. 224.

(b) None.

APPOINTMENT OF A LABOUR OFFICER AT COCHIN PORT

240. *Shrimati D. Velayudhan: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether there is any Labour Officer in the Cochin Port at present?

(b) Was the post of Labour Officer sanctioned at any time?

(c) If the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, when was it sanctioned?

(d) If the answer to (a) above be in the negative, why was the appointment not made?

(e) Are Government aware that the majority of the workers there belong to the Scheduled Castes?

(f) If so, do Government propose to appoint a qualified Labour Officer in the Port preferably from the Scheduled Castes?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) No.

(b) Yes. A temporary post of Labour Officer has been sanctioned for the port for a period of three years in the first instance with effect from the date it is filled.

(c) On the 6th January 1947.

(d) It is proposed that the post should be filled by an officer from the pool of Labour Officers which the Ministry of Labour intend to constitute. The Federal Public Service Commission was asked to select suitable candidates for this pool on the basis of the requirements intimated to this Ministry by various Central Government Departments. A list of candidates suitable for appointment has been furnished by the Commission but no posting has yet been made as it has become necessary to consult the Departments concerned again as to whether their requirements as previously intimated have altered due to the partition of India, and this information is not yet complete.

(e) It has been ascertained that the majority of workers at the port do not belong to the Scheduled Castes.

(f) Due consideration will be given to the question of appointing a Scheduled Caste candidate at the time of filling the post.

APPOINTMENT OF AMBASSADORS, AGENTS GENERAL AND REPRESENTATIVES

241. *Shrimati D. Velayudhan: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state how many foreign countries have Government covered in the appointment of Ambassadors, Agents-General and Representatives?

(b) Who are the persons who accepted the jobs?

(c) How many of them are Muslims?

(d) Is there any Scheduled Caste member among the selected representatives? If none, why?

(e) How many officers are selected for the Diplomatic jobs?

(f) How many of them are Muslims, and how many Harijans?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Eighteen.

(b) It is not quite clear what the Honourable Member means by "jobs". According to the Oxford English Dictionary a job is a "piece of work; especially a small definite piece of work in one's own calling." Appointments in the Foreign Service are not jobs of this kind, but are selections of suitable and competent men for a career or calling which is highly specialised and requires the best talent available. Full information about our foreign representatives has been placed repeatedly before the House. A further list of persons holding posts of Ambassadors, Representatives, High Commissioners and Consuls is placed on the table of the House.

(c) Four.

(d) None. I regret that no member of the Scheduled Castes has so far been selected for appointment in this service. The criteria for diplomatic appointments are merit, capacity and suitability for a particular post.

(e) Ten officers have been appointed to the Indian Foreign Service so far by direct recruitment.

(f) One of them is a Muslim and none is a Harijan.

List of countries in which Ambassadors, Representatives, etc., on behalf of the Government of India have been appointed.

1. America: Mr. Asaf Ali, Ambassador for India at Washington.
2. China: Mr. K. P. S. Menon, Ambassador for India at Nanking.
Captain R. D. Sathie, Indian Consul, Shanghai.
3. U. S. S. R.: Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit, Ambassador for India at Moscow.
4. Nepal: Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia, Ambassador-designate for India.
5. Iran: Mr. Ali Zahcer, Ambassador-designate for India.
6. Japan: Sir B. Rama Rao, C.I.E., Head of the Indian Liaison Mission in Tokyo and Political Representative of India with the Supreme Commander of Allied Powers in Japan, Tokyo, with the rank of an Ambassador.
7. Siam: Mr. Bagwat Dayal, the Charge de Affaires, Indian Legation, Bangkok.
8. Indo-China: Mr. A. N. Mehta, Consul for India at Saigon.
9. Indonesia: Mr. N. Raghavan, Consul General for India at Batavia.
10. French and Portuguese possessions in India: Mirza Rashid Ali Baig, the Consul-General for India in the French Establishment in India, Pondicherry and Consul-General for India in the Portuguese Possessions in India, Nova Goa.
11. Australia: Sir R. P. Paranjpe, High Commissioner for India.
12. Canada: Mr. H. S. Malik, High Commissioner for India.
13. Burma: Dr. M. A. Rauf, High Commissioner for India.
14. Pakistan: Mr. Sri Prakasa, High Commissioner for India.
15. United Kingdom: Mr. V. K. Krishna Menon, High Commissioner for India.
16. Malaya: Mr. J. A. Thivy, Representative of India in Malaya.
17. Ceylon: Mr. V. V. Giri, Representative of India in Ceylon.
18. South Africa: The post of the High Commissioner is vacant at present.

LORD ADDISON'S VISIT TO INDIA

242. *Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state the purpose of Lord Addison's visit to India?

(b) Do Government propose to lay on the table of the House a statement relating to the discussions which the Honourable the Prime Minister had with Lord Addison?

(c) Did Lord Addison come in his individual capacity or on behalf of the Government of England?

(d) Did Lord Addison bring any plan from England for a voluntary type of union between the Dominions of Pakistan and India?

(e) Is there any such plan in the knowledge of or under contemplation of the Government of India?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a), (b) and (c) Lord Addison spent a short time in Delhi *en route* from Canberra to London. He had no particular purpose in visiting India except to meet some people here. The Government welcomed his visit as that of a distinguished statesman. There were no formal discussions with him and no record was kept of informal talks.

(d) No. Lord Addison brought no plan of any sort.

(e) No.

243*—246* [WITHDRAWN].

EVACUATION OF HINDUS AND SIKHS FROM PAKISTAN

247. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister please state whether the possibility of evacuation of the minorities, Hindus and Sikhs, was visualised by the Interim Government before the Partition of India into two Dominions India and Pakistan was agreed upon?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what steps were taken to safeguard the life and property of such Hindus and Sikhs who were then living in that part of India which fell into the Pakistan area? If none, why?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b). No large scale evacuation of minorities was envisaged or thought desirable before the partition of India. The kind of political and communal convulsions that took place in the Punjab and some other areas could hardly be predicted. No large scale evacuation could possibly be arranged before the 15th August.

MAINTENANCE OF REFUGEE CAMPS IN INDIA

248. *R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation please state:

(a) the number of refugee camps opened in India from the commencement of the operations with the name of the camp and the number of refugees placed in each camp;

(b) the number of wounded and disabled persons brought into these camps; and

(c) the approximate monthly or daily expenditure incurred on the maintenance of such camps?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) Detailed information is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course. Refugee Camps are opened and maintained by Provincial Governments and Indian States. There are a great many camps all over India of which a full list is not yet available. It will be realised that in a fluid situation the numbers of camps and the population of such camps are subject to rapid change.

(b) This information is not available, but an attempt will be made to collect it as far as possible.

(c) Roughly the daily expenditure per adult on food alone is about eight annas. There are a great many other items which count for expenditure on maintenance of camps. They pertain to matters like shelter, warm clothing, medical arrangements, sanitation, water supply, watch and ward and administration. The total number of persons in Non-Muslim refugee camps all over India may be about 1½ millions of which about 5 lakhs are in East Punjab, 2½ lakhs at Kurukshetra, about 18,000 at Delhi and the rest spread over other parts of India including Provinces and States.

RELIEF AND REHABILITATION OF REFUGEES

249. *R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation please state the total number of:—

(a) (i) teachers and (ii) doctors employed for the benefit of refugees;

(b) refugees who have secured employment; and

(c) refugees who have secured financial assistance in setting up business or industry and the approximate monetary value of such assistance?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b) 8,145 refugees have so far secured employment under some of the Ministries of the Government of India and some of the Provincial Governments. Replies from the Government of Bombay, East Punjab and Bihar are still awaited. Besides employment under Government a large number of refugees have found employment in mills, factories and other commercial establishments, whose number cannot be estimated at present. This does not include the persons settled on the land whose numbers are increasing daily.

(c) The Honourable Member is referred to paragraphs 3 to 6 of my answer to question No. 1 (e) on 18th November 1947.

Statement referred to in Question No. 249(a).

(i) Teachers.—54 teachers have so far been employed in Delhi in six schools opened by the Local Administration for the benefit of refugees.

These figures do not include the number of teachers employed by Aided Institution in Delhi for the benefit of refugees.

The number of teachers employed elsewhere is being collected.

(ii) Doctors.—118 doctors have been appointed by Government as follows:—

East Punjab—71.

Kurukshetra—39.

Delhi—8.

In addition 22 doctors, 9 medical students and 2 personnel of the St. John's Ambulance are working honorarily in different places.

Besides, the Director of Health Services, Delhi and the Medical Relief Commission, Punjab, have appointed some doctors details of these are not available.

INDIA'S EMBASSIES ABROAD

250. *Shri Jadubans Sahay: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries, in which Indian Embassies have been opened, the names of the Ambassadors, the strength of the staff under them and the expenditure incurred on each Embassy; and

(b) the number of persons from the province of Bihar serving in the different Embassies already opened?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) A statement is placed on the table of the House. As regards expenditure incurred on Embassies, the attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to my answer given on 18th November, 1947 to the Honourable Professor N. G. Ranga's starred question No. 31.

(b) This information is not readily available as appointments are not made on a provincial basis.

Statement showing the names of the countries where the Government of India have opened Embassies, the names of the Ambassadors, and the strength of the staff under them.

Name of the Country	Name of the Ambassador	Strength of the staff under them excluding the lowest grade like messengers
United States of America	Mr. Asaf Ali	46
China	Mr. K. P. S. Menon	14
U.S.S.R.	Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit.	14
Iran	Mr. Ali Zaheer (Ambassador designate)	11
Nepal	Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia (Ambassador designate). No staff has so far been appointed.	

251. *[WITHDRAWN].

INDUSTRIAL FINANCE CORPORATION BILL—Concl'd.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed with further consideration of the following motion moved by the Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty yesterday:

"That the Bill to establish the Industrial Finance Corporation of India be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Shri K. M. Munshi, Diwan Chaman Lall, Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar, Nawab Muhammad Ismail Khan, Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani, Shri C. Subrahmanyan, Prof. K. T. Shah, Shri B. Das, Shri S. K. Patil, Shri Jaspal Roy Kapoor, Shri Ram Sahai, and the Mover, with instructions to report on the opening day of the next session of the Assembly, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Prof. K. T. Shah (Bihar: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with the other Honourable Members who have welcomed this motion by the Honourable the Finance Minister to establish an Industrial Finance Corporation. There can be no two opinions about the necessity and desirability of such a motion and such a corporation being instituted at this time in this country. I would have wished indeed that instead of being as it is a piecemeal legislation, taking up one problem by itself, it had been part of a well-knit and co-ordinated plan for the entire national development on all fronts of our economic and social life. As it is, however, I recognise that there are certain urgent problems that

cannot be deferred until a proper plan has been formulated of a comprehensive character that I have mentioned; and as such I would welcome this proposal with all the sincerity that I command.

At the same time I would like to point out that there are some features or provisions of this Bill which will require very careful scrutiny and revision, as indeed the Finance Minister has himself admitted. The Bill is an attempt to establish a semi-public organisation sponsored by the State, and not an entirely State enterprise as I would have wished. No private enterprise can succeed in this field, as I am sure the Honourable the Finance Minister knows from the history of the Tata Industrial Bank started some 25 years ago, which had to be amalgamated with an existing commercial bank after a short career of three or four years. There is in a private Corporation of this kind not only the danger of its being associated with and involved in the existing concerns with which the founders or promoters may have connection, but also the risk of its bringing one-sided or sectional development, rather than working on a truly national aspect and outlook which an organisation of this kind must maintain. An organisation on the lines of the Australian Commonwealth Bank, to which the Honourable the Finance Minister had himself referred, is far to be preferred over that which has been proposed in the Bill. I trust when the Select Committee goes into the matter in detail this point will meet with favourable consideration from the Committee as a whole.

There are several lacuna, moreover, in the scope and activities or functions of this Organisation to which also I would, with your permission, Sir, like to draw attention of this House. The operative clauses seem to confine the assistance to be rendered by this Organisation only to industrial concerns, which manufacture goods or which are engaged in processing and the production and distribution of electricity. Only one kind of power is mentioned, and no services are mentioned. As such I think a very important field of our economic life is left out of the purview or scope of the activities of this Bill. I hope it was not the intention of the authors to exclude such essential items in the economic life of this country from the help that it will be absolutely necessary for such an Organisation to extend. For instance, services like shipping or other transport services may come in, perhaps, in so far as the production or the manufacture of the goods—the vehicles—with which those services are to be operated; but not the operation of the service itself. Some weeks ago Government have declared their policy of organising two or three shipping corporations, for instance, which are not primarily intended to build ships but rather to run them. If that is so, then I do not see why the scope of a measure like this should be confined so as to exclude such important industries or services. The same may be said with regard to the automobile industry, which will not only produce the automobile vehicles, but also operate the road transport service; and thus would have to be on a sufficiently large scale to require Government aid or financial assistance from a semi-public Corporation like this.

I would like to mention in this connection another service which seems not to receive the attention that is its due, namely the Press—publications or journalism. There is a very considerable danger of the Press, particularly the Daily and Weekly Press, falling into the hands of private monopolists to the serious detriment of the nation's public interests. The Press may not doubt be a small scale enterprise but a large scale enterprise also is unavoidable especially if in the regime of free competition it is to make a success. I do not know if it is the intention of the authors of the Bill; but, as I read it, it seems very likely that enterprises of this character may not receive the aid that the Corporation is designed to extend. If so, I hope that suitable changes would be made in the Bill, when it is enacted, to include also such enterprises as these.

[Prof. K. T. Shah]

A still more considerable omission as I read the Bill is in regard to Agriculture. There is, no doubt, a department or branch of the Reserve Bank of India which is supposed to extend financial assistance to agriculture; and there is also the system of co-operative credit which it is believed is intended for assistance to the agricultural growth of this country. But agriculture also tends to be industrialised and mechanised, and large scale of cultivation is not unknown even as it is in this country. I am sure the Honourable the Finance Minister is aware of such ventures as exist in some parts of the country which specialise not only in the cultivation of land by mechanical aid in large blocks of 35,000 to 40,000 acres—but which also develop industries from the raw materials produced by this cultivation to the finished product ready for consumption of the general public.

These are not entirely agricultural operations but also agriculture and industry combined, and as such if only some of these are to be aided and others are not qualified for receiving the aid, I think the measure would be lopsided. It is therefore to be hoped that in this case also the Select Committee will scrutinise the provisions carefully and make appropriate changes, if they meet with their approval.

The danger, in my opinion, of confining the operations of the Bill only to industrial concerns pure and simple as defined in Clause 3 of the Bill would be that inasmuch as industry is in private hands and mutually competing, inasmuch as there are various competing establishments in the same industry, there is a risk that while some may receive the aid the others may not. Those who cry the loudest, those who are able to command the ear of the powers that be, may receive the assistance; while those who are perhaps not so loud in their demands may go unheeded though their need may not be less urgent. This consideration is all the more important with regard to the differences in the various provincial or regional developments in this country. It is well known, Sir, that not all provinces in this country are equally advanced in their economic development, notwithstanding the availability of very considerable natural resources in their midst. Some provinces, which are much more advanced in industrial matters than others, are able to wield influence, in my opinion, disproportionate to their population or even to the initial natural endowment of those provinces. Care should be taken, therefore that an organisation like this is of uniform and universal benefit and not restricted in a large proportion, at any rate, to one or other region or industry as against the other provinces. To avoid this danger it would be necessary to have this organisation wholly as a State enterprise rather than a semi-private or statutory body which would be predominately under the influences of private capitalist. I do not think that there would be any difficulty in obtaining not only the initial capital provided for in this Bill for founding and working this organisation, but if proper instruments are devised, if proper means are taken so as to make the instrument issued for this organisation easily negotiable and easily recognisable, the small savings would be attached. Incidentally, the problem of what we call today "inflation" may also be solved. I think if the bonds of this organisation not only as regards the initial share capital, but also as regards the guarantee given to industrial corporations or concerns assisted by it, are issued guaranteeing the securities of those Corporations, in forms or denominations which are easily accessible to small savers, then I think the benefit and utility of this Corporation would be very much wider than is perhaps likely to be the case if the provisions stand as they are today. The problem of associating the small man, whether as industrialist or as the saver of capital, is much more important, especially in these days of almost uncontrolled inflation which meets the eye. I am not going to enter into any controversy just now about the relative chances in the future of the small scale as against the large scale mechanised industry.

But whatever that might be, I think if proper steps are taken and if proper instruments are issued by this body, the small worker, handicraftsman and even the ordinary middle-class or lower middle class worker who has some savings would be very much more benefited than is the case today.

These are points which I hope will be duly considered in the Select Committee when it meets and when the Bill finally comes before this House for further consideration and many of these, if not all, would have been duly attended. I again support the motion made by the Honourable the Finance Minister which is all the more remarkable in that he has brought forth a child which has been conceived by another.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru (U. P.: General): Mr. Speaker, I agree in principle with the Bill that has been placed before the House by my Honourable friend the Finance Minister. It is a Bill which we have been expecting for a long time, but it has seen the light of day only today. We hoped last year that it would be brought forward at an early date, but as my Honourable friend Mr. Chetty told us yesterday, it had been laid aside on account of constitutional difficulties.

Sir, while I recognise that the Bill deals with a very important matter and that it is a matter of satisfaction to all of us that the Government are at last going to take steps to take an active part in promoting the industrial development of the country, there are a few remarks which I should like to make in regard to the capital and character of the Bank, which I hope will receive from the financial authorities the consideration which they deserve.

As regards the character of the Bank Sir, I should like to ask my Honourable friend the Finance Minister why he has restricted the subscription of the share capital practically to the Banks and Insurance Companies and the larger Investment Trusts. As industrial development is a matter which concerns the whole country, I think it is a matter of psychological and practical importance that the ordinary man should be associated with it to as large an extent as is possible. I see no reason why the ordinary investor should not be given a chance of taking up shares in this Bank.

In these days when we want that industry like other things should be democratised—indeed it should be socialised—it is rather strange that the Finance Minister should ask us to accept the provisions which would make the bank entirely a capitalists bank. I think, Sir, that even now it is not too late for him to accept changes which would make the ordinary man feel that the bank is his own, and that it is not merely the big, capitalists who are going to derive substantial benefit from it.

The second point that I should like to urge is in connection with the share capital of the bank. Had this Bill been brought forward when the Central Banking Committee reported or even before the war, it would have been hailed with delight all over the country. But coming as it does at a time when we feel that there is urgent need for the rapid development of the economic resources of the country, it seems to me that the capital which will be at the disposal of the bank will be small in comparison with the needs of the country. The share capital will amount to about five crores and as the bank can in various ways allow accommodation to the extent of 20 crores, that is, four times the share capital, it means that it will be able to provide assistance to the tune of 25 crores. I am sure that my honourable friend the Finance Minister will be the last person in the country to claim that this is an adequate sum for the promotion of the industrial development of the country. I suggest, Sir, that the share capital of the bank should be increased, or at least that following the precedent set by the Reserve Bank of India Act, power should be taken to enable the bank, or power should be conferred on the bank to increase the share capital with the sanction of the Government and the approval of the Central Legislature. I

[Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru]

hope that both these suggestions for which I claim no originality, will receive the consideration of the Government and the Select Committee.

Sir, there are questions relating to the management of the bank and its connection with the planned development of the country which should receive as much attention as those which I have already pointed out. In consonance with the character which Government have assigned to the bank, the management will be in the hands of the capitalists, that is, particularly the banks and the insurance banks, subject to the control of the Government.

Now, Sir, I think that the points which I urged in regard to the democratization of the bank apply with greater force to the management. I think it is not merely desirable, but necessary that the management should not be wholly in the hands of the larger capitalists. Though this bank is intended to provide credit facilities, to industries I am afraid that the constitution will place overwhelming power in the hands of the bigger banks and insurance companies and the more powerful industries. I am not sure whether according to the preamble the bank will be in a position to give help to minor industries. But assuming that it will be in a position to do so, I should like to ask Government what measures they have got under consideration for assisting such industries. If, however, this bank may help all kinds of industries, it is absolutely necessary that its management should be such as to inspire confidence among all classes of industrialists and all sections of the population general. I cannot suggest the specific means by which popular control though not uniformed control over the affairs of the bank might be brought about. I am not asking that the directors of the bank should be men who have no knowledge of industry or commerce or business of any kind. It is possible to lay down qualifications which would effectively ensure that the Directors are men who are well acquainted with trade and commerce and yet to so alter the character of the management as to make the common man feel that the bank will be managed not in the interests of big capital or of any particular class of business but in the interests of the country as a whole.

Sir, I have already said that I am unable to make any specific suggestion which would enable us to achieve this. But I am prepared to say that if the Government and the Select Committee are together unable to devise suitable means of achieving the purpose that I have in view, the bank should be completely under the control of the Government. It should be a Government bank so that we might feel fully assured that it would look after the interests of the country as a whole and would not restrict its attention either mainly or wholly to the needs of the larger industries.

Sir, Even if the share capital of the Bank were to be increased, as some of those who have spoken on the Bill have suggested, I think it will still be necessary for Government to ask the provinces to start industrial banks with a view to helping small industries. While there is no reason why the all-India Industrial Finance Corporation should not take an interest in such industries it is obvious that provincial banks which will be in touch with local needs and conditions will be in a much better position to provide the credit facilities which smaller industries—particularly the cottage industries—will need. I was rather disappointed when my Honourable friend Mr. Chetty made no reference to this point in his excellent speech yesterday. I hope his silence on this point does not mean that he will not bear it in mind and that he is not already considering measures for assisting the smaller industries whose operations are usually of a provincial character.

There is just one more Sir that I should like to say before I conclude. This Bill will enable us to set up an organisation for promoting the industrial development of the country; but it will not be in a position to lay down the lines on which future development should take place. The Planned development of

the country is a matter which can be suitably dealt with only by Government. It is they alone who after a full consideration of the problem and consultation with the interests concerned as to the industries to which priority should be given with in a position to determine the channels in which the capital of the country should flow. It is for them to devise suitable means to collect the savings of the people and utilise them for the promotion of the best interests of the country. In order to be able to discharge this responsibility I think it is necessary, as suggested by Sir Archibald Rowlands last year, that a national investment board should be set up. I do not know whether the inquiries that were to be made in connection with this matter have been undertaken, but I have no doubt that the establishment of such an authority is one of our urgent needs. And if my Honourable friend Mr. Chetty democratises the bank, urges the provincial Governments to start banks of their own which will be complementary to the all-India bank and establishes a national investment board, I think he may well claim to have laid the foundations of the future economic development of the country and to have laid down the lines along which the country might safely advance, to promote the standard of living of the people and produce all those things which a free country like India would need in an ever-increasing measure in the days to come.

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): Sir, I, like other previous speakers, welcome this Bill. I wish, however, that the Honourable Minister for Finance had devised it according to his own conceptions and brought in a Bill in his own name instead of taking it over bodily from his predecessor. As the present motion is only for reference to a Select Committee I shall not take the time of the House by going into details. I want to make a few suggestion on the main principles underlying the Bill. The idea governing the Bill is not quite clear. Is it intended to finance all industries in the country? Is it primarily intended to finance and assist large-scale industries or the medium industries or the small-scale industries? In my view the large-scale industries do not require the help of this Corporation; they should be able to go to the investing public directly. Therefore I think its scope should be confined to medium industries. I think an all-India institution cannot effectively assist small-scale industries and some other machinery should be devised to assist them. I therefore suggest that the present Industrial Finance Corporation should be confined to assisting medium industries. Of course any definition would be arbitrary, but I suggest a limitation of a minimum capital of 10 lakhs and a maximum capital of 2 crores for the definition of medium industries. If a company has got a capital of more than 2 crores it must be asked to go to the public direct; if it is less than 10 lakhs some other machinery should be devised. That machinery also should be of the same nature. It should be a provincial or a State Finance Corporation.

And this leads me to a matter of fundamental principle. I think, Sir, it should not be a purely unitary concern. This Industrial Finance Corporation should consist of a federal structure. It should have a central body but affiliated to it should be an industrial corporation in every province and acceding State, and its constitution should be so framed that this affiliation is organic. It should not be forced. It should not be a sort of unintegrated structure—as if connected by accident. For this purpose I suggest that a certain part of the share capital should be allotted to the provinces and States as well. It is only when the Provincial Governments and the State Governments are offered a share that they will naturally come to take a vital interest in the Corporation, and I make this suggestion for another purpose. There is a terrible lack of economic and financial knowledge on the part of the provincial Governments and the association of all these Governments in the Reserve Bank, in this Corporation and in all other central concerns will give them that atmosphere, that background which they so badly need today.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Madras: General): Sense of co-operation and co-ordination!

[Prof. N. G. Ranga] of democratisation, especially in this direction. One or two suggestions have already been made. I am inclined to agree with my Honourable friend Prof. Shah when he said that the smaller investors should be encouraged to place their money in this corporation. Every possible step should be taken by the Government to adopt the suggestion. Here it is put that the price of each share should be not less than Rs. 25,000. Who can buy these shares except big capitalists. I want it to be reduced to Rs. 100. I do not see any reason why smaller people who have got Rs. 100 or more should not be encouraged to come into this corporation.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): Only banks are allowed and not individuals.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That is another point which my Honourable friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar has brought to my attention. I want that lacuna also to be removed. I want that individuals also should be allowed to come into this corporation. Why should it be restricted to institutions alone. Speaking about institutions, I do not see any provision being made for co-operative banks to come into this Corporation. I want Presidency and District Co-operative Banks to be encouraged to come into this Corporation. I want also representation to be reserved for these co-operative concerns on the Management Board.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose (Orissa: General): Have they capital enough to invest in this Corporation?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: They have got crores and crores of rupees. I know that it is in Madras and they would be quite willing to place as much of it as possible at the disposal of this Corporation.

As regards the purposes for which this Corporation is to function, I cannot agree with my Honourable friend Mr. Santhanam that it should not extend its operations to the development of agriculture and cottage industries. Agriculture and cottage industries must be the most important aspects of industrial development, which should come in for protection and help from this Corporation. I am not satisfied with this proposal that there should be only one Corporation. There ought to be two—one for all those concerns which have been suggested by Mr. Santhanam such as middling concerns—those with a share capital of ten lakhs to two crores of rupees. But there are so many other concerns with only a share capital of less than that, may be 5 lakhs to 50 lakhs. All those concerns also are badly in need of assistance and what is more, there is much greater need for the development of these middling or smaller concerns in this country. Thus we want more and more decentralisation. We are all in favour of decentralisation of power not only in politics but also and perhaps more so in industry. It is no good encouraging these bigger concerns to get all this encouragement and assistance and guarantee from this Corporation in order that all industrial power should be concentrated in the hands of a few handful who in times to come will be able to control the political destinies of this country also. Therefore I am in favour of establishing two corporations or rather the same corporation having two wings, one separately from the other. I am in favour of the suggestion of Mr. Santhanam that there should be a federal structure but I wish to make the suggestion that every province, every provincial government and its legislature should be free to float their own provincial organisations or corporations but those corporations should be welcome to be affiliated or federated with this central federation, not that they should only be mere units to be dovetailed into this central federation.

I am also anxious that the Indian States as well as the provincial governments should be encouraged to contribute the share capital as well as to debentures and also that they should be given separate allotted representation on the Board of Management of this industrial corporation. It is for these reasons that I am anxious that the strength of the Board of Directors should be increased from 11 to 15 or 16 or some other suitable figure, so that the Indian States and Provinces, cottage industries and co-operative banks should all be accommodated and suitable representation might be given to them on the Corporation.

I am not satisfied with the quantum of representation sought to be given to the Central Government. I want it to be more. It may be argued that the Reserve Bank also would be more or less representing the point of view of the Central Government on this Corporation and therefore in the proposed Board of Directors of 11 the Central Government would be having five Directors. I do not think that is quite satisfactory. Government should be able to have a majority of the Directors to represent their case. The representatives coming in as directors on behalf of the provincial governments should also be taken into consideration and if thereafter Government sees to it that there is a majority of representation for the Government point of view on this Corporation, I shall be quite content.

There is one feature which is particularly welcome to me and it is this. If this Corporation was to be properly strengthened with a suitable amount of share capital, not as it is proposed here, which is a small share capital, it should be much bigger. I am not even satisfied with what my Honourable friend suggested, viz., that it should be 100 crores. It should be a much greater figure, only then it would be possible for the State to have some direct control over the management as well as the direction of a large number of industrial concerns that are likely to be brought into existence under the aegis of the Corporation. We want this sort of control of the state over as many of these industrial concerns as possible. One thing more has got to be proposed and that is that when this Corporation advances money to any industrial concern it should also seek to insist upon its right of representation on the Board of Management of these concerns. Many industrial magnates are doing it even today in this country as well as elsewhere. They contribute the share capital to the various companies. They have what is known as holding companies and various other devices by which they come to have effective control over a large number of associated industrial concerns. I do not see any reason why the Government through this Corporation should not be able not only to finance these concerns, assuring them of minimum rates of profits, but also to have an effective say in their Board of Directors, so that they will be able to see how industrial production is being carried on in various concerns, to what extent these profits are being distributed and in what manner in the shape of salaries and others, how labour is being treated in all these concerns, etc. Therefore I do not know whether it will be quite possible from a legislative point of view to bring in any such provision into this Corporation but I would like the Select Committee to keep this idea before them and see whether they cannot possibly incorporate a suitable provision in this Bill.

Then there is the question of the total amount of capital. I do not think 100 crores will be anywhere near our needs at all. The Bombay Plan had planned for 12,000 crores worth of industrial development in this country. Even if we think of 1,000 crores worth of industrial development as was proposed by the previous Government within the first five years after the war (and already two years have passed), we will need not less than 200 crores. Therefore this is more or less an apology to what we are expected to develop in this country rather than being an earnest attempt to help the industrial

Shri K. Santhanam: In this manner, I would like to extend the scope in such a way that it will be the centre of a federal structure consisting of many industrial corporations. I do not agree with Professor K. T. Shah that the scope should be widened to include distributive concerns and agricultural concerns. I do not think any single institution can tackle the entire economic problem of the country. To undertake it is to undermine the solidity of the institution and it will break down. It will require such a huge capital that 1,000 crores or even 2,000 crores will not be sufficient to finance all aspects of economic planning. Each aspect must have its own separate specific institution.

Then, Sir, I wish to make a concrete suggestion regarding the function of this Industrial Corporation. It is said that it will give advances, it will underwrite the shares and give such financial assistance. But I think it is not sufficient. Supposing, a concern to which loans or advances have been made fails, or is in difficulties, the only provision is that this Corporation can apply to a District Judge, or attach its property or sell it. But I suggest it should be taken over and managed for two or three years, and then when financially solvent it may be restored. If it cannot be made solvent, liquidation proceedings must be taken. But that must not be only way to deal with these concerns. We are in an infant stage of industrialisation. Of course industrialists promote concerns hoping that they will succeed but there are difficulties such as non-arrival of plant and the lack of skilled labour. In all such matters the Industrial Corporation will be better able to provide the facilities needed. It may be possible for the Government of India to acquire the equipment which a private company is not able to. It may be able to import technical skill which a private concern is not able to get. Thus it should be a constructive concern. It should not be merely a lending concern. We do not want there moneylenders whether in the form of industrial corporations or otherwise.

Many speakers before me have suggested that the capital is not sufficient. I agree with that view and I made the positive suggestion that the capital should be increased to 15 crores, of which half should be contributed by the Reserve Bank and the Central Government, one-quarter by the Institutional Investors mentioned in the Bill and the other quarter by the Provinces and States: in this way it will become a much more national institution than as it is now proposed.

Shri M. S. Aney (Deccan and Madras States Group): You mean by provinces; Provincial Governments?

Shri K. Santhanam: And the Government of States which have acceded to the Indian Union.

And having made the share capital 15 crores, I would like that it should be able to float debentures and get loans for five times the capital amount. That will give about 90 crores, and with 10 crores of deposits its finances will be of the order of 100 crores which I think is a minimum to start with for a bank of this type.

Then, Sir, it is provided that in helping those concerns, no single concern should get more than 10 per cent. of the share capital. But I do not think share capital is a proper basis for determining the percentage.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Minister for Finance): This point has been repeated. The 10 per cent. refers to 10 per cent. of the capital of the Corporation.

Shri K. Santhanam: That is to say it should not give more than 50 lakhs to any company. That is exactly what I am referring to. I contend that it should not be more than one per cent. of the entire assets of the Corporation. It is not the capital that should be the criterion but the total assets. What does it matter whether you get the money by capital, or debentures or other

ways. We do not want just a few to monopolise the capital of the Corporation. Therefore it should be confined to one per cent. of the total assets at any amount of the Corporation. No single industrial concern should be given assistance which exceeds this percentage.

Lastly, a word about the management. I do not see any purpose in having an executive committee. You have a Board of eleven members of whom at an ordinary meeting, only five to six people may attend: and then you have an executive committee of five. I think the whole thing is unworkable. If you had a Board of 30 members, I could see the reason for an executive committee of five. This is wholly unnecessary. I would rather that you should have a Deputy Managing Director or a General Manager, and these two people should be directly responsible to the whole Board, and the Board should meet as often as necessary. I do not think this sort of hierarchical management contributes to efficiency. It will make the ordinary Directors quite indifferent. They will say that the executive committee is there, which will manage the affairs of the Corporation and they will not read the papers at all. The Directors must be given direct responsibility to the public, to the Reserve Bank, and to the Government of India as to the proper executive management of the bank.

Sir, I have made all these suggestions for the consideration of the Select Committee. I hope they will be given due consideration. I have made the points very brief so that I should not waste the time of the House by going into them in detail. If any further argument is needed, I shall be glad to assist the Select Committee by submitting a memorandum for their consideration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt whatsoever that all people are agreed in welcoming this proposal. But let us understand the real significance of this. This proposal means that today the capitalist structure of this country is not able to provide all the capital that is needed for the industrial development of this country: that our capitalists are so keen on making assured profits that they are not prepared to take sufficient risks for developing the industrial structure. Therefore, there is the need for the Government to come forward with this proposal and offer also to the capitalists that if only they agree to invest funds in these various industries they would be assured of their minimum profit of 2½ per cent., their capital would not be lost and all they are asked to agree to is not to claim any more than 5 per cent. maximum profits. My honourable friend, Mr. Krishnamachari, was yesterday wondering whether this limit would be enough, in view of the fact that many people have been willing to subscribe to Government loans carrying 2½ per cent. interest. I wish to assure him that there are plenty of people in the country who do not know where to put their money, but who at the same time are anxious not to take too great risks, and therefore they are anxious to put their money in Government loans. But those who are keen not only in putting their money in Government loans but also in having the satisfaction that their investments would go to the industrial development of the country would be quite happy to accept this offer of the Government. What is more, there is the question of control over this concern. They will gain control over this great corporation to be developed in our country.

Then there is the limit proposed to be fixed, viz., the maximum limit of 5 per cent. profits. I am very much satisfied with it. I think 5 per cent. is about the highest maximum profit that it will be possible to agree to. Various provincial governments have already fixed 6 per cent. as the maximum rate of interest that can be taken by moneylenders.

Next comes the question of the democratisation of the control of this corporation. Should we or should we not democratise this? I am all in favour

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development of our country. We must take every possible care to see that this Corporation does not become the private property of a few concerns. Mr. Krishnamachari has already made one point, that one class of people should not be given major control over this Corporation. We should see that a few concerns in a few Provinces are not allowed to control this.

1P. M. Some provision should be made whereby as large a number of people will be brought into direct contact with this as shareholders and contributors to debentures and no few individuals will be able to corner the shares or debentures and control this Corporation.

Mr. Speaker: The House may now adjourn and reassemble at half past two.

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

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half-Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

Shri Khandubhai K. Desai (Bombay: General): Sir, while supporting the motion for reference of the Industrial Finance Corporation Bill to the Select Committee, I would like to make a few observations for the consideration of the Select Committee. The Bill that has come before this House, I think, has been prepared under the old setting and, under these circumstances, it has naturally got the defects which are bound to arise from the old setting, and I am quite sure that had our present Finance Minister drafted the Bill himself, he would have brought before us an entirely new Bill. Sir, the criticisms that have been offered in the course of discussion, if carried out in the Select Committee would, I am quite sure, result in the Bill being entirely scrapped and the Finance Minister would certainly bring before us a Bill incorporating most of the important criticisms that have been made on the floor of this House. Assuming for the sake of argument that the Select Committee is not prepared to redraft or to bring before us entirely a new Bill, then I would make a few suggestions for the consideration of the Select Committee.

The Board of Directors, as it has been set out in this Bill, consists of about eleven Directors, out of which the Government is to nominate only two Directors. Apparently the idea behind it appears to be this, that the Government is making a contribution of about 25 per cent. of capital, and therefore in that proportion the number of Directors to be nominated by the Government has been made two: but the Bill appears to ignore the fact that Government is taking on itself very huge responsibilities. It has taken upon itself the responsibility of guaranteeing the whole capital and also the minimum interests of 2½ per cent. So when the Bill is going before the Select Committee, the present structure of the director's board should be so amended as to include at least 50 per cent. of the Directors, nominated by the Government. It has been said that the bank's structure and constitution should be made democratic: but as far as I can see, a democratic government functioning under the democratic franchise would certainly be responsible to the people, and the persons nominated by that Government would certainly reflect the opinions of the people and therefore the nomination would lose much of the old odium. As it is, the Bill contemplates a structure for the Industrial Finance Corporation, which is going to be a sort of close preserve for the big business, and as it is, the industrial development of the country is not delayed because there is lack of capital. There is a lot of it available and therefore there is no need for creating a corporation for the benefit of only big business. The Directors

coming on behalf of the Reserve Bank, as well as those on behalf of the scheduled banks or other industrial corporations are naturally going to be those who will represent the big business in the country.

My friend Mr. Santhanam has suggested a sort of federation to assist the cottage industries or the development of agricultural industries, but as a separate entity. I should think that the Industrial Finance Corporation should be the one body. This should deal with finances both of the big industries to the extent that is necessary in the interests of the country, and cottage industries as well as agricultural development. Otherwise, what may happen is that the cottage industries or small industries or agricultural development will get under the present circumstances a stepmotherly attitude. The economy that our country wants to develop should be by its very nature in a decentralized form, and unless there is a centralized Industrial Finance Corporation or whatever name one may give it, should, while investing money, have in view the development of large industries as well as small industries. Otherwise what may happen, and it is bound to happen as we have seen, is that it would be lop-sided development which it has been our misfortune to see during the last generation.

Then there is one other point to which I want to refer, and that is that certain obligations appear to have been thrown upon this corporation under section 21, that is if a particular industrial concern has misused its finances or if its efficiency has gone down or the administration has been very inefficient, it should apply to the District Judge. But I think it is imperfect. How is the Finance Corporation to know whether the particular industry concerned has mismanaged? For ought we know, most of the industrial concerns continue to be mismanaged for a series of years by window-dressing its financial position. So what I would suggest is that this Industrial Finance Corporation should be statutorily asked to have a continuous audit and inspectorate for the concerns to which finance has been advanced. Otherwise, I should think that at the end of 20 or 25 years for which a long term loan is given, probably the Financial Corporation would have nothing to take from the companies.

In this connection, I feel that if the Select Committee is not able to bring in a Bill properly amended by taking into consideration all the criticisms and comments made on the floor of this House, I would very earnestly request the Finance Minister, even before taking it before the Select Committee, to redraft the whole Bill taking into consideration all these criticisms so that when the Bill comes up before us again it will be under an entirely new setting, under a new psychology. Because, as it is, Sir, to make an improvement on the Bill for a different purpose is very difficult—it will be expensive or it will be something which we do not want. So even though I support the motion to refer the Industrial Finance Corporation Bill to the Select Committee Government should reconsider the Bill in the light of criticisms. I think some time is being given to the Honourable the Finance Minister and the Select Committee to see if they can build up on this basis something that will be acceptable to the country.

With these few words, Sir, I commend the criticisms which were made on the floor of this House to the Select Committee.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of the large variety of criticisms which have already been made in the House, I propose to be very brief. In a word, I welcome the principles of this Bill but I think that the Bill requires to be altered and amended; as the last speaker has said, it should be an entirely new Bill in keeping with the new set up; indeed it should be changed lock, stock and barrel. The Bill

[Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad]

was drafted under circumstances entirely different from those prevailing to-day. I do think that the most important problems before the country is the production of consumer goods. We should industrialise the country and finance follows as the corollary for the proper development of industry and of our natural resources.

So far as the general principles are concerned, I am in full agreement but then, as has been repeatedly pointed out here from authoritative quarters, the Corporation should be democratized. First of all, its capital structure should be entirely re-cast. In fact, the share value is placed too high: the share value should be reduced as much as possible, even to Rs. 100. Then again, share-holding should not be confined to a capitalistic class. The Bill was drafted under entirely different circumstances when capitalism prevailed over other considerations. The Bill should be democratized so as to introduce some popular element in share-holding. It is no good confining this vast capital within a powerful class so as to enable them to entirely dominate the entire situation. As has been pointed out, the largest corporations and companies do not directly require any help from this Corporation; it is the medium sized companies, by which I mean a much smaller companies than have been suggested, which deserve and require financial assistance. A group of big capitalists can hardly inspire confidence in this respect.

Then with regard to the Directorate, the popular element should be largely represented. I do not agree with the suggestion that it should be entirely a Government concern. In fact there should be some amount of autonomy in the Corporation so as to allow it to develop on natural lines; the Government should only have some voice in the affairs of this Corporation. Much should be left to individual initiative and to democratic principles. The control should pass from a financial aristocracy to a real democracy.

With regard to the amount of capital, I should submit that I agree with the suggestion that the capital should be vastly increased. There should be practically no limit to the share capital. It may be 10, 15, 20 or 25 crores or more; that would not be too much. In increasing the capital, if we err, we would be erring on the right side. The borrowing power should also be practically unlimited. In fact, the share capital and the borrowed capital, together, minus the amount locked up in the block account of the Corporation, that is, the amount that is left as the working capital, would be the measure of its utility. If the share capital is left at a very small sum of 5 crores and the borrowed money at only 10 crores, then from this 15 crores if we set apart the capital expenditure, then very little will remain for feeding the growing needs of our industrial concerns. In these circumstances I should suggest that the capital structure should be so arranged and the borrowing power so enhanced as to leave a very large margin in the hands of this Corporation to enable it to adequately finance small, medium and big concerns. This, to my mind, is the very essence of the undertaking.

Then, the amount which may be lent to any particular concern, as has been explained, is 10 per cent. of the share capital of the Corporation, not of the borrowing companies. That would, I think, be too large. We should democratize the Bill and give help to a larger class than is possible under the scheme suggested in the Bill.

In these circumstances, I suggest that the capital structure, the Directorate and the shareholding should be made available to the common man. After all the people should feel that they have some interest in this national concern.

The illustration of the Reserve Bank has been cited, namely that there the share capital was brought down to Rs. 100, that each applicant was limited to five shares, and that the entire share-holding was rationed out to the different Provinces. I should suggest something of that sort. The share capital should be made available to the public, to corporations and others and shares should be rationed out on a provincial basis. If that is done, I think more good will follow than harm. These, Sir, are the few broad suggestions which I hope the Select Committee would take into consideration in revising the Bill. There is consensus of opinion in the House on this aspect of the case. With these few words, I suggest that the criticisms made in this House be fully considered and a new Bill—a practically new Bill—is made out of the Bill under consideration.

Shri P. Govinda Menon (Cochin State): Sir, to the loud chorus of compliments paid to the Honourable Minister in charge of Finance I wish to add my humble voice of appreciation in his having brought this Bill before the House. I intervene in this debate to urge one and only one point for the consideration of the Honourable Minister and of the Select Committee. The Bill as laid before the House seeks to help industrial concerns in the provinces of India. It does not appear from the provisions as they stand, that industrial concerns started in the Indian States will get the benefit of the provisions of this Bill. The Preamble of the Bill as also the definition of the expression "industrial concern" make this clear. From the statement of objects and reasons of the Bill, I find that the Bill was prepared on the 1st of November, 1946. Government in the then context of affairs were probably justified in framing a Bill of this nature, but, Sir, things have changed subsequently and the word "India" has a different meaning and significance now. The territories of India include the territories of the acceding Indian States as well at the present time. The very fact that Government thought it fit to bring a legislation of this nature is evidence to show that the industries in our country require to be helped financially. This is all the more so in Indian States, which are comparatively backward industrially. The Governments of Indian States will not be in a position to sponsor such institutions in order to promote industries in Indian States. The Scheduled Banks and the Reserve Bank of India are some of them in Indian States also and the Insurance Companies whose funds will go to finance this Corporation derive, in no small measure, their revenues from the people of the Indian States. Under the circumstances, I would request the Honourable Minister to consider whether he would not enlarge the scope of the Bill in order to extend its helping hand to industries in Indian States also.

I can imagine, Sir, several objections which may be raised against this suggestion. It may be stated that this House is incompetent to legislate for Indian States, but what I suggest is not a legislation for Indian States; it is only a suggestion to make provisions to enable the Corporation which will come into existence in India to extend its operations to Indian States as well. I can also see another difficulty. There are certain special provisions in clause 22 of the Bill. The Finance Minister in his speech yesterday explained that an institution of this type would require some special power to enable it to realise its debts when they fall due. Under clause 22, the district courts are under an obligation to do certain things when an application is made by the Corporation against an industrial concern which has defaulted to pay its dues. Probably, if this Bill becomes law, that provision in the Act may not bind the district courts in an Indian State. There are one or two ways in which this difficulty can be removed. For example, it can be provided that the Corporation will help industries in those States only which will enact a similar provision as is contained in clause 22 of this Bill, or it may be provided that

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those industrial concerns in Indian States which would seek the help of this Corporation should have the backing of the Governments of those States, so that the amounts due from such concerns can be realised through the Governments of those States. Whatever the device adopted, I would submit before this House that it would be highly improper to bring into being a Corporation for promoting industries in the provinces of India alone. This is the only point I have to submit at this stage and I am sure the Honourable Minister and the Select Committee will go into this question and so modify the provisions of the Bill that the industrial concerns in Indian States would also be able to get the help sought to be given by this Bill.

With these words, Sir, I support the motion before the House.

Shri B. M. Gupte (Bombay: General): I rise, Sir, to support the motion moved by the Honourable the Finance Minister. The speakers who preceded me have congratulated the Honourable Minister and I should like to join in those congratulations. It is indeed remarkable that he should have thought of this long-term measure in the midst of distractions, anxiety and the burdens of the troublous times in which we are living. I therefore congratulate him all the more sincerely. As with congratulations, I also agree with some of the criticisms that have already been levelled against this measure. I shall not repeat those points. I shall merely confine myself to one point which I think is more important and deserves to be considered by the Select Committee.

My Honourable friend Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari had a complaint against the minimum rate of dividend. He wanted that it ought to be raised to 2½ per cent. from 2¼ per cent. I shall not grudge him that small increase; but I was surprised that my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga was satisfied that the maximum is to be at 5 per cent.

I am surprised that a Kisan leader like him should have consented to this figure of 5 per cent. In my opinion the maximum should not exceed 4 per cent, and I take my stand on the analogy of the Reserve Bank of India. The Reserve Bank shareholders do not get more than 4 per cent. In the beginning they did not get more than 3½ per cent. and the maximum they got was 4 per cent. I do not see any substantial reason why there should be any difference between these two rates of dividends. This Industrial Finance Corporation would also be a monopolistic concern. There is no competitor in the field today and there is likely to be none coming into the field, because this Corporation is endowed with special privileges, and I do not think there will be any competition in this matter. Thus practically this is also a Semi-Government monopolistic concern. Moreover in this business also there is no risk. As is evident from the provisions of this Bill, all the finance would be on security. It will be entirely a secured business and nothing on credit. In the circumstances there does not seem to be any likelihood of any loss being incurred. I personally, therefore, think that in the circumstances, there is no reason why a departure should be made from a similar lower rate obtaining in a similar institution. I may be told that there is this difference that for some years they will not be getting this 4 per cent. It will be some years no doubt, because the reserve has to be built up and possibly therefore some years might elapse. I do not think at that time the rate will be even what it is today. We do not know what it will be and therefore it is not necessary to put that larger figure. I am not complaining against what the shareholders will actually get then, but I think once the standard is set commercial magnates will take advantage of it now. Well, they may argue this semi-monopolistic Government concern says 5 per cent. is reasonable. Why should we not then get 8 or 10 or 12 per cent.? Therefore in setting the standard care should be taken that no mischief is done. Therefore I think that there is

no reason why this rate should be fixed at 5 per cent. It is possible, of course, as I said, that in the course of years perhaps the rate might go even below that. Then I might be again told that the shareholders of the Reserve Bank of India were getting 3½ per cent. from the beginning. That would not be the case in respect of this concern. But I think that even those shareholders were getting what was the ordinary borrowing rate of the Central Government in those years. At that time 3½ per cent. was the Government borrowing rate, and shareholders of this concern would also be getting what is the Central Government borrowing rate. I therefore think that there is no difference and I therefore suggest that it should be considered by the Select Committee whether the rate can be reduced to 4 per cent. With this, Sir, I support the motion.

Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao (Mysore State): In supporting the suggestion that this Bill should be extended to the States also I would like to put before this House one other reason. No province or State can afford to start a heavy industry without an All India Planning. Heavy industries have to be started on an All India basis to prevent overlapping and working at cross purposes and this Industrial Corporation will have a large part to play in promoting the starting of heavy industries in India. So I suggest that if it is not possible to extend the operations of this Act, some such provision like Section 85 in the Bill for providing better facilities for workmen, which extends the operation of that Bill to the States may also be provided in this Bill, so that the benefits that may be conferred on the heavy industries by this Bill may be available to these industries to be started in the States also. That is my suggestion and I support the reference of this Bill to the Select Committee.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U. P.: General): Sir, I am unable to congratulate the Honourable Minister on this Bill. As my Honourable friend Mr. Khandubhai Desai has pointed out the Bill needs to be scrapped and be substituted by an entirely new Bill. For the last three or four days I have been feeling that the Ministers have not tried to incorporate the new spirit into the Bills. We hope that the New India will have planned development, industrial as well as agricultural, and I am rather surprised to find that this Bill which was prepared by the Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan has been bodily taken over and put here. I had wished that it had not been done. Really what is needed is a planned development of our own country and the labour devoted by the Planning Commission and its Committees for so many years should now have been utilised in framing these Bills. Here we have this Industrial Corporation Bill brought before us and we are required to ratify it. I do not know when the Planning Commission sits and makes a plan how this will fit in with the final plan. I therefore think that the Honourable Minister would be well advised to accept the suggestions which have been made in this House and withdraw this Bill at this stage and bring a new Bill when the plan for the new development has been drafted and submitted to the House for approval. As it is, the Bill has got very glaring defects. The shares are valued at 25,000 rupees and 2,000 shares have to be sold. Now none but the capitalists can purchase these shares. This will only mean that 2,000 persons in the country will control this Corporation. I was reading sometime back an analysis of the industrial corporations in the United States and I found there that 60 families in the United States own 56 per cent. of the total wealth of the United States.

Mr. Hossain Imam (Bihar: Muslim): What is the percentage in India?

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: I cannot definitely say. If this Bill is passed, these 2,000 families will really control the destinies of the country. Therefore I think that this clause should not be allowed to stand as it is. My Honourable friends have suggested that Rs. 100 should be the value of each share and 5 shares should be the maximum that each man should be allowed to purchase. I would suggest that the limit should be reduced in our poor country and Rs. 10

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should be the minimum value of the share, though the number of shares which each man should be allowed to purchase should be increased. Then every cultivator and labourer will be in a position to purchase these shares, and they shall be able to control the policy of the corporation. This will remove the fear that this corporation will become the monopolistic concern of only 2,000 families. About the appointment of Directors, criticism has already been voiced in the House. At present out of eleven directors, eight will belong to Big Business. I would suggest that this should not be so. My friend Mr. Khandhubhai Desai suggested that more than half should be Government directors. I would say that if the shareholders become smaller then probably the Bill will become more democratic; still, the Government must have a controlling voice to see that this does not become a Monopolistic Corporation. I also support the suggestion that the interest of 5 per cent. is too high and it must not be more than 4 per cent. I would have probably made a detailed criticism, but I feel that the Bill is not what it ought to be and it should be substituted by a new Bill and should come after we have got before us the whole picture of what we plan to be the industrial future of India. But the complete plan for India's future development must come before us very quickly. We are already at war with Pakistan in Kashmir. We have already probably also other very important engagements in other states and unless we show the spirit which a country must show in war we cannot probably survive and therefore I say that an immediate beginning must be made by putting the new plan for India's future development before this House and if this Bill or some Bill of this sort becomes a part of this plan, I shall be very willing to support it and I hope the House will also support it.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I do not agree with my Honourable friend, the previous speaker, nor with Mr. Khandubhai Desai that this Bill is to be scrapped and a new Bill introduced. I am very sorry that both my Honourable friends have overlooked this matter that for a long time before the advent of the British in this country we were one of the most highly industrialized countries of the world but after that we had practically been the producers of raw materials and importing machines from foreign countries. Our economy has become absolutely agricultural and it is why our standard of life has been very low. Our national income is not more than Rs. 100 per year, per head. Are we to be still waiting until a new plan is set up? My Honourable friends are not aware that plans are already there and recently a Committee was appointed over which Mr. Neogy presided who co-ordinated all these plans and evolved a plan. I am sure that this is the plan which is being adopted by the Government for the purpose of industrialization of this country. The Honourable the Finance Minister referred to the Policy Committee which was enunciated on the 25th November 1945 by the then Government. There is not much to change. It is true if my honourable friends said that the whole of the United Kingdom is also swinging towards the left and introducing nationalization of industries and if that is their intention, I would certainly agree with them. But what are the industries that ought to be Nationalised? It is agreed in this Policy Committee report that the Defence industries must be nationalised. I am sure that all the defence industries in this country are in the hands of the State. There are other industries which come under the Provincial control. But even there the Policy Committee lays down that some industries by their very nature have to be taken charge of by the centre because they have got an all-India importance and they are largely used in various provinces. One single province may not sustain or support a particular industry though there may be branches in various parts. That is why they have divided industries into two *viz.* central and provincial. So far as central industries are concerned they have laid down in paragraph 5 that:—

"they attach particular importance to the development of these industries which constitute

the foundation of modern industrial life, such as the iron and steel industry, the heavy engineering industries, the machine tool industry, heavy chemical industry and so on.

They also do not forget that so far as consumption goods industries are concerned they must also be helped to a large extent, but while the development of these industries must take high priority it must form part of a balanced plan in which due place is given to consumption industries also."

Now therefore the policy of Government is clear. These industries which the State itself has taken, it is running; there are other industries which the State may promote by advancing its capital and taking a large share in the management. And so far as single industries are concerned, like the shipping industry, our Government is contemplating bringing into existence a separate corporation for that industry alone, because it requires a separate corporation to manage its resources. It is not only in the field of industry; we have, for instance, got irrigation projects to increase the agricultural output of the country. The Honourable Minister for Works, Mines and Power said the other day that the Damodar Valley Project Corporation is being sponsored by Government. Therefore both in relation to agriculture and in relation to industry wherever a particular industry or a particular source of irrigation has to be tapped, if they are very big, instead of having a centralised corporation of this kind which must cater to lesser industries, they will bring into existence particular corporations to deal with particular sets of industries. That is the policy of Government. Therefore they are also attempting to have a corporation for the air transport industry,—transport from this country to foreign countries.

Then after these State-owned and State-managed industries come those other industries which will be left to private enterprise and management but in which Government is rightly interested, and on account of the hugeness of an industry they establish particular corporations to manage that industry. The basic industries necessary for the growth of the country as a whole are the iron and steel industry and the heavy chemical industries. If finance is not available for these the State may have to advance finance. Honourable Members are aware that the existing banks, including the scheduled banks and the Reserve Bank, have been so incorporated that they cater to short-term loans and by their very foundation do not advance long-term loans. A Banking Amendment Bill is also on the anvil of the legislature. It may come up during the budget session after the Select Committee has reported. One of the important clauses of that Bill is that no bank shall engage itself directly or indirectly in any trade and it shall give only short term loans. Take a commercial bank. The definition of a bank shall be applied only to such institutions as admit demand liabilities. Therefore the essence of a bank according to the Banking Act is fluidity. And so various restrictions have been imposed on the manner in which money can be lent. It can never be contemplated that money can be lent for a period of more than three years or five years; and even if immoveable property is purchased it shall never be owned by an ordinary bank. Therefore commercial banks as they are constituted were modelled on western banks whose essence is liquidity, who depend mainly on demand liability and current liabilities. Such banks do not cater for long-term loans for industrial concerns. It is to complete that part and to fill up that deficiency that this Industrial Corporation is being sought to be brought into existence. There is an analogy in this respect with respect to agricultural banks. To improve agriculture in this country and to finance agricultural enterprises cooperative societies have been established under the Central Cooperative Societies Act and also under the provincial Cooperative Societies Acts. The cooperative credit societies are working; there are provincial cooperative central banks. The Reserve Bank has a particular department to cater to this and give advice from time to time and also to give financial aid. It is not generally large and I believe that is why Government instead of making this Industrial Finance

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Corporation merely a branch of the Reserve Bank have thought it wise to introduce and establish a separate industrial bank. I know, of course, as I hear Prof. Ranga saying, that the Reserve Bank unfortunately has not done all that was expected of it, so far as agricultural finance is concerned. That is an argument for separating that portion and starting an apex bank for agricultural needs is one part of the Industrial Corporation that is sought to be introduced here. Honourable Members are also aware that to give long-term credit for agricultural operations like digging wells or repairing irrigation sources there are land mortgage banks established in the various provinces. For short-term credits the ordinary cooperative credit societies are there; and for long-term credits there are these land mortgage banks. So far as agricultural credit is concerned, we have got these two institutions. No doubt at the apex for cooperative purposes on an all-India basis there is no central bank which is specially devoted to agricultural purposes. I am sure my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga with his enthusiasm will induce the Finance Minister to bring into existence some such corporation. So far as the present Corporation is concerned it is long overdue. It is good and it can certainly be improved in the Select Committee. I therefore do not agree that this ought to be taken back. Once it is taken back we do not know how long it will be kept away and once gone it will be put into the waste paper basket. This does not stand in the way and I would like the Honourable Finance Minister to make a statement. I have already read in the Policy Committee Report that this will be utilised. Therefore, to say that this relates only to big business is not true. We want big and small business. I am not an industrialist nor even a capitalist. There appears to be a kind of apathy in two opposite sides and there is a warfare between big and small business. I am sorry to see the repercussions of it in the share market. It goes against the good of industry. I believe that the imposition of the excess profits tax had its own reactions on the growth of industry in this country. We must make up our mind that if the State takes various industries, avoid big business. If on the other hand, the State takes up a particular kind of industry, allow a sufficient margin for other industries to grow up. The want of a definite policy has made all these industrialists hard. They are not coming forward to start these industries. I know that there are floatations but they are only in the air. In the monthly statements and statistics of various joint stock companies, especially in the monthly statements of August and September, if 25 companies came into existence, 20 companies have closed down.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya (Madras: General): No material!

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: It is not a question of material. The money is not forthcoming. For large scale industries, there ought to be a Corporation of this kind. For small scale industries provincial Governments may start provincial Corporations. Therefore when we are starting one kind of Corporation in big industry, there is no need to say I will help only smaller industries. They will have their own turn. Till now cottage industries have not been helped. From the time an application is made for aid, by the time the budget comes when the application matures, the cottage industry closes down. As far as the Cottage Industry Act is concerned in the provinces, the Finance Minister will have his eye on various aspects of the industrial structure. It is true that he must have a federation. As a matter of fact Mr. Santhanam suggested that there must be a federation. The bank must have a federation of various units. I hope the Finance Minister will have this in mind and try to add many more units to this federation.

As regards the persons that are allowed to be shareholders in this Corporation: I do not agree that the shares should be reduced to Rs. 100 or Rs. 15

and should be sold in the market along with other shares of various joint stock companies. The object of this measure is to provide capital wherever it is not available. In the day to day work there are other departments, to help the industries concerned. For enlarging the scope of it, purchasing capital goods and buildings which do not repay immediately, a long-term loan is necessary. A central institution should be made to be the shareholders of an institution of this kind. For other loans there will not be sufficient money coming forward. If the Provincial Governments want to bring into existence smaller corporations to cover smaller industries, and if the ordinary man is also tapped, from where can you get the money? When provincial loans are floated then they have to be under-written. Money does not easily flow. Therefore it is not for the purpose of competing. It is not the intention of this Bill to make this institution compete with the others in the open market. As a matter of fact, insurance companies do not know what to do with their monies. Therefore for insurance companies there will be an outlet. They depend on their statement of policy when they settle the premium which has to be paid. They say one of the important elements is the amount of interest they can get on their investments. Insurance companies and financial corporations are those who are tapped for the purpose of subscribing to this Corporation by way of shareholders. I do not agree that the share value ought to be lower. It is not as if some big business or industrialist will capture. The institution will capture. Let there be no alarm with this institution. It has come into existence. It must come into existence early.

Then as regards the volume of business. I agree with Mr. Santhanam. I find that the textiles themselves—some of the important industries—have a capital of 80 crores: iron and steel 40 crores: sugar 20 crores. In all the volume of their share-capital and the debentures they have floated come to 700 crores. If that is the amount that is floating in this industry, what is this amount of 20 crores for which my honourable friend, the Finance Minister, is responsible in calculating. It was originally in the hands of a gentleman who was not a financier himself.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma (U. P.: General): Finance Minister!

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I am sorry. It is because we are still in a Dominion that I am feeling that we are not yet independent! I am glad to see that I am correct in assuming that they are really Ministers! The Honourable the Finance Minister is eminently suited for this task. No doubt he did not want to waste time. He is very suited for this business because he is an industrialist himself and he was at one time President of the Tariff Board. I am sure he will modify it.

I would make one or two suggestions. It is necessary that an industrial planning commission ought to be established immediately; otherwise the money here may be flittered away in cosmetics. A cosmetic, or tobacco or cigarette industry may be established. The persons who are in charge of this Corporation may be interested in getting quick returns in that industry which is first stabilised. For instance, cosmetics and tobacco sell much more freely than foodstuffs and they yield larger profits. I would ask that he should immediately plan out and have a plan which would suggest to this Corporation what those industries have to be, otherwise this money may not go to that field or industry which is really in need of it. In that way he must prescribe priority.

I would also urge that the scope of this measure is a little small. It has to be enlarged. It is not merely financial but technical advice also that has to be given. I shall now read for you the scope of a similar institution in Australia. Under the Commonwealth Bank Act of 1945, of Australia, the functions of an

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Industrial corporation of this kind are as follows:

"(a) to provide finance for the establishment and development of industrial undertakings, particularly small undertakings;

(b) to assist in the establishment and development of industrial undertakings; and

(c) to provide advice on the operations of industrial undertakings with a view to promoting the efficient organization and conduct thereof."

It seems as if they have not only efficient technical men such as engineers, etc. to give them advice as to stability but also persons who have enormous experience in industry to advise them as to whether a particular industry would prove useful to the community.

Then again there is a suggestion in the statement of the Government's industrial policy that in a particular place alone all industries should not be located. That was referred to by my honourable friend Prof. Shah. I agree with him. One way to avoid is by introducing a system of licenses, whereby the location of these industries will be distributed in places where raw materials and the men are available. The Industrial Corporation must have such a plan before it and try to help the establishment of industries according to localities. Let there be industries whether by Birla or the Tatas. We have absolutely no industries in this country. Today from a pin to aeroplanes we have to depend on foreign countries. I request these industrial magnates to start industries. After all 98 per cent. of the people are poor like myself and Prof. Ranga and ultimately it is up to us to deprive them of their property and take it over. Therefore let us not have an eternal bias or prejudice against these people. Let us take advantage of them as much as possible.

I also want this institution to come into existence to train up the men for purposes of administration. We are having a centralised civil service. We should pick up the best of men for industries. I was very anxious during the war that the state itself should take up all these mills and run them, because even though there is a shortage of cloth the mills are producing 500 and odd varieties to make money.

Who are to man these mills? The I.C.S. man may be the best product of the university and he may be a double graduate but is he competent immediately to take charge of a mill? Therefore it is equally essential that we must have men who are competent to give advice to industry. Let us not have the eternal impression that there is an undeclared war between us and the industrialists. They are bringing in the money and the country as a whole will benefit by it. It is only a question of distribution. I therefore welcome this measure and I also want that the scope of this Corporation ought to be enlarged in the terms that I read out from the Commonwealth Bank Act 1945 of Australia.

I would like to make one or two other suggestions. I want that before this Corporation lends to various industries they must make sure that the industries are run properly, that labour is paid properly and treated properly, their wages are decent and are provided with housing accommodation etc. As regards the prices of the commodities manufactured by the industries they must have a controlling voice. Not that they must strictly control it but they must have an influence or voice in it. They must also see, when they are gathering public money, that the industries do not pay exorbitant dividends to their shareholders. After all industry is a risky concern. It is not a savings bank. All industries which are to be helped should not pay more than nine per cent. dividend to their shareholders. Only those industries should be helped. When industries are developed in this country we should be equally careful that they do not exploit the ordinary man. The man that pays is the poor consumer ultimately. Therefore these are all the things that the Industrial Corporation should address itself

before helping an industry. They should also see that the consumer is equally well protected.

As regards audit, I want that the Government itself must audit. There is a provision that two auditors appointed under the Company Law should audit such a big concern as that. Government audit alone will satisfy the public. Enormous funds of the public are invested in a corporation of this kind.....

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General): That is a very funny idea.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I see fun in the talk of my honourable friend but not in what I have said. I do want Government audit for this purpose. My honourable friend was not a member of the Select Committee on the Banking Bill. Even there I insisted that the Government alone should audit. The audit must be through the agency of the Government.

As regards management there seems to be alarm that the management of this concern will be in the hands of big business. I find that they have not calculated the number. Under clause 7 two directors are nominated by the Central Government, three by the Central Board of the Reserve Bank and that makes five. The total number is eleven. Three directors are elected by the banks, that is scheduled banks, and two directors by the shareholders of the Corporation, other than the Central Government, the Reserve Bank, etc. Thus there are five against five. The Managing Director is a person who is appointed by the Central Government.

The predecessor of the Honourable the Finance Minister, who was called the Finance Member then, said that he was going to introduce legislation very soon in this Assembly to nationalise the Reserve Bank. I expect that the Reserve Bank will be soon nationalised. There is no meaning in having small shareholders and run a shareholders' bank. Similarly the Bank of England was also nationalised. I expect that all these reforms will be introduced by the Honourable the Finance Minister who has had experience in this direction. Sir, I welcome this measure and I feel that it can be improved in the Select Committee.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Minister for Finance): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am glad to find that the debate has disclosed a perfect unanimity about the need for an Industrial Finance Corporation in our country. My Honourable friend, Prof. K. T. Shah, used an unnatural metaphor and said that I brought forth a child which somebody else had conceived. If I may be permitted to use a more natural metaphor, I might say that I found an orphaned and abandoned child and I adopted it. When I examined the child before deciding to adopt it, I found that it was not perfectly to my liking. But I thought that the child as I found it had immense possibilities and under the care of the eminent nurses of the Select Committee it could be improved! In view of the fact that the Bill is going before a Select Committee, I am sure the House does not expect me to answer the various criticisms and suggestions that have been made.

Apart from the criticisms relating to the detailed provisions of the Bill, the main criticisms might be classified under three categories: the scope of the Corporation, the adequacy of its resources and its constitution. All the suggestions made during the course of the debate may be classified under one or other of these three heads.

With regard to the scope of the Corporation some criticism was made that the activity of the Corporation will not extend to helping service concerns and to helping small scale industries. Sir, this criticism misses the entire point relating to the scope of the Bill as I conceive it. I must frankly say that the object of this Bill is to set up a finance corporation for the purpose of financing the large scale industries in our country. When I make this deliberate state-

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ment it does not mean that I ignore the need for having similar corporations to help agriculture or to help the small scale industries. If we believe that there is need for large scale industrialisation of this country and that for some considerable time to come we must give scope to private enterprise also in addition to the State's enterprise in the building up of large scale industries, then we must accept the logical corollary that we want an industrial corporation to help these industries. The object of this Bill has got that restricted scope and I would very much like that the Select Committee will confine the scope of this Corporation to that limited purpose. As I said, I frankly recognize the need for other corporations. In fact it is my intention, after this Bill has been placed on the statute book, to persuade the Provincial Governments to set up similar industrial finance corporations in each Province, and also to persuade the acceding States—at least the major States—to set up corresponding corporations within their jurisdictions. Such Provincial and State corporations will be expected mainly to finance the small scale industries. I would also make an attempt to do something definite and concrete for the helping of our agricultural economy. Criticism was rightly made that the Reserve Bank has not achieved very much in this direction. Without being an apologist of the Reserve Bank I am bound to say that the Reserve Bank of India was not expected directly to finance agricultural operations. I happened to be a Member of this House when the Reserve Bank Bill was passed and I also at one stage sat on the Joint Committee of both Houses which shaped that measure. The object of asking the Reserve Bank to set up an Agricultural Credit Department was to give a guidance in the direction of setting up the necessary machinery for helping our agricultural economy.

Shri B. Das: Section 54 went further.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: It is quite true that even in this restricted field enough has not been done. But in any case there is no use our bemoaning of what has not been done in the past. We have now got the power to do what we like. There is no outsider who stands in our way. We may therefore go ahead. Apart from the co-operative credit societies, whose main function is to help the agricultural economy of the country, we must do something to set up a Central Agricultural Finance Corporation on the lines of the Industrial Finance Corporation. When these have been set up we would then have the necessary machinery for tackling the entire economic activities of our country. At this stage I want Honourable Members to realize that this Bill does not aim at creating a corporation which will help all the Industrial and economic activities of the country; it has got a restricted scope. In fact, in view of the recent catastrophe that has overtaken the country, especially in the East Punjab, I find that over and above the Industrial Finance Corporation, the Provincial Finance Corporation and the Agricultural Finance Corporation, there is a need for a special Reconstruction Finance Corporation. The problem of the rehabilitation and resettlement of refugees is of such a tremendous magnitude that it would require all the energy, expert knowledge and resources of a special Reconstruction Corporation to tackle that problem. I hope, Sir, that in the coming months, with the help and co-operation of this House, I might be enabled to set in motion the machinery for all these purposes.

With regard to the adequacy of the resources at the disposal of the Corporation I am afraid there has been some misconception. This Corporation is not intended to supply all the finances, or even a substantial part of the finances, necessary for the large-scale industrialisation of the country. We contemplate that the Government itself, as State concerns, will set up some of these large-scale industries. In such a case there is no need for any help from this Corporation. This Corporation is intended to help the large scale industry started

by private enterprise. Even in this field, normally a private industrial concern is expected to raise all its capital requirements from the market and to obtain from the commercial banks the accommodation necessary for the day to day running of the concern. But anyone with industrial experience will tell you that whatever might be the capital structure of a private industrial concern, occasions do arise when substantial help for meeting capital expenditure is required, and it is difficult to raise such additional capital in the open market. The raising of that capital may mean prosperity or decay for that concern. It is at such a critical time that an Industrial Finance Corporation of this type is expected to come to the rescue of the industrial concern. If you compare the capital requirements for the industrialisation of the country which will run into many hundreds of crores, you will probably go away with the impression that the paltry amount of 30 or 40 crores which this Corporation will command as its resources is a totally inadequate figure. But I might assure you that 30 or 40 crores at the disposal of a centralised corporation of this kind can finance industries which have got a capital of probably 700 or 800 crores of rupees. But it will be open to the Select Committee to increase the resources available to this Corporation.

And now, Sir, I would say a word regarding the constitution of the Corporation. The aim of this Bill has been deliberately to restrict the shareholding to certain categories of institutions. I am in agreement with the purpose of the original Bill regarding the constitution of the Corporation. We want a responsible corporation to finance our industries which will not become the monopolistic concern of any group of individuals, which will guarantee state control in public interests, and which will at the same time utilise all the experience and efficiency of private business men. The running of a Finance Corporation of this kind is a very technical and complicated process. A layman cannot manage this concern. It requires the expert knowledge and efficiency of men who have been long engaged in business and in industry. By deliberately restricting the shareholding to certain specified institutions, it was the intention of this Bill to bring to the service of the State under the control of the State the experience gained by private captains of industry.

Sir, my honourable friend Mr. Anathasayanam Ayyangar asked us not to carry the prejudice against the capitalist. I think he has given very sound advice to us. I do not want the House to be under the impression that I am an apologist for any capitalist. I am not myself a capitalist. I do not consider myself a capitalist.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Who else can be a capitalist?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Every workman who earns Rs. 60 a month and saves two rupees a month and puts it in the savings bank is a capitalist. That is the scientific and technical meaning of the word capital. I think we must frankly recognize that whatever might be our ultimate objective in shaping the economy of our country, for a long time to come we would do well to utilise the experience gained by private individuals in the management of industry and business. I do not think that a Sovereign Legislature like ours need have any apprehension that any individual or group of individuals will be allowed to exploit the common man. If we allow anybody to exploit the common man, I would blame ourselves, and not the man who exploits. A modern State has got ample resources and ample powers to curb exploitation of any kind. If we are to follow a wise economic policy, what I would suggest is, Sir, that the Indian Government with a popular backing should exploit in its turn all the resources, the ingenuity, the experience, the knowledge, and the efficiency of every individual in this country, whether he is a capitalist or a workman. All this is aimed at achieving the good of the common man. There is really no difference of opinion. At any rate I have no doubt Honourable Members would feel satisfied that whatever they might

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think about the individual Ministers of the Government, the Government as a whole can be trusted to look after the interests of the common man.

As this measure is going before the Select Committee, it is not necessary for me to answer the other detailed points of criticisms that were made in the course of debate. I have no doubt the Select Committee will take note of all these criticisms, and so far as I am concerned, I may give the assurance that I am not committed to any particular course of action and that I would be prepared to fall in line with the opinion of Honourable Members of the Select Committee, and I hope that I might be in a position to bring again before this House a measure which will be more acceptable to them.

Before I conclude, I would propose an amendment.

Mr. Speaker: Let some other person propose.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: With these words I commend the motion to the House.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (U.P.: General): With your permission, Sir, I move:

"That in the motion the names of Mr. Hossain Imam and Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya be substituted for the names of Nawab Muhammad Ismail Khan and Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani."

Mr. Speaker: I will first take the amendment to the motion.

The question is:

"That in the motion the names of Mr. Hossain Imam and Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya be substituted for the names of Nawab Muhammad Ismail Khan and Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: I now put to the House the amended motion.

The question is:

"That the Bill to establish Industrial Finance Corporation of India be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Shri K. M. Munshi, Diwan Chaman Lall, Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar, Mr. Hossain Imam, Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, Shri C. Subrahmanyam, Professor K. T. Shah, Shri B. Das, Shri S. K. Patil, Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor, Shri Ram Sahai, and the Mover, with instructions to report on the opening day of the next session of the Assembly, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

The motion was adopted.

FOREIGNERS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. Speaker: The next business to be taken up will be item No. 5 of the List of Legislative Business.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Minister for Home Affairs, Information and Broadcasting and States): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to amend the Foreigners Act, 1946, be taken into consideration."

This is a short measure. The necessity for the Foreigners Act was amply proved by the passing of the Bill in the last Assembly, and the amending Bill which is now proposed to be put before the House is necessary on account of certain verbal changes as necessitated by the partition of the country and of some changes found necessary on account of a further examination of the section of the Act which gave general powers. The first is that the words "Indian State" wherever they occur in clause (a) of section 2 of the Act be substituted by the words "acceding State".

Then, where there is mention of "Tribal areas", we propose to use "Assam tribal areas" because that is the only area with which we are concerned here.

The other amendments which we propose, arose out of the fact that Section:

3, which we thought gave ample general powers, would not give us

4 P.M. powers to exercise the control contemplated by the amendments now proposed. If a ship or vessel has in it a foreigner who has

been brought here, and if we want to compel the Master of the ship to take the foreigner back, Section 3 as we have it does not give that power. So also, if a foreigner is brought in an aircraft and we want to return him, the present Act does not give the powers to compel the pilot to take him back.

Then you will all agree that it is necessary to have full and detailed information about the movements of foreigners—at least a certain class of foreigners—in this country, and the only source from which we can generally get the information is the occupant of the premises in which the foreigner lives or makes his temporary stay. At present there is nothing in the Act which would compel the owner or the occupier or the manager of the premises to give us that information and the amendment proposed is to secure powers to fill up that lacuna.

There are certain places where undesirable activities are carried on by foreigners—some places such as disreputable houses, gambling dens and other places—where power is necessary to close down such houses. In the Act that has been passed no such power has been given.

Then, if a foreigner is to be deported, under the present Act there is no provision to recover the expenses of deportation although that foreigner has considerable assets in this country, and the Government has to bear all the expenses. We consider it only reasonable that if the foreigner has got his assets, the Government would have the power to recover the expenses of deportation.

These, in general, are the powers that are proposed to be given by the amendments. It is a short Bill for which I do not propose to take up the time of the House. Sir, I move.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to amend the Foreigners Act, 1946, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Shri M. S. Aney (Deccan and Madras States Group): Sir, here for the words "Tribal areas", the words "Assam tribal areas" are proposed to be substituted. I really do not see the propriety of this thing at all. Now the only tribal area that exists is the Assam tribal area; the other tribal areas are outside the Indian Union. Therefore the words "Tribal area" in any Act of the Union Government can only mean tribal areas that exist inside the Union and not any tribal area which has altogether been taken out of it. I therefore submit that there is no need to qualify the word "Tribal" by adding "Assam" to it.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: If, as the Honourable Member says, there is no other tribal area in the Union except the Assam tribal area, is there any harm in keeping the word "Assam" there?

Shri M. S. Aney: There is no harm.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya (Madras: General): Sir, to single out Assam tribal areas would be to suggest that there are other tribal areas.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: If mention of "Assam tribal areas" suggests that there are other tribal areas, they are not included here.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Therefore omit "Assam".

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 3 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 4 to 7 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

[At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Mr.

Hossain Imam (one of the Panel of Chairmen)].

WORKMEN'S STATE INSURANCE BILL

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram (Minister for Labour): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for certain benefits to workmen employed in or in connection with work of factories in case of sickness, maternity and accident and to make provision for certain other matters in relation thereto, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra, Shri K. Santhanam, Shri Mohan Lal Saksena, Shri T. T. Krishnamachari, Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth, Shri Biswanath Das, Shri H. V. Kamath, Prof. N. G. Ranga, Shri Harihar Nath Shastri, Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand, Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao, Mrs. Renuka Ray, and the Mover, with instructions to report on the opening day of the next session of the Assembly, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Sir, the Workmen's State Insurance Bill was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on the 6th of November 1946. The provisions of the Bill were the result of a prolonged study extending to about three years in the course of which different interests concerned were closely consulted. The Bill provides for a unified scheme of insurance for workers in perennial factories and provides for medical care and treatment and up to certain limits cash benefits during sickness and maternity, cash benefits in the form of periodical payments in case of employment injury which in the event of permanent, total or partial disablement, takes the form of a pension. Where death arises on account of employment injury, a pension becomes payable to the family of the deceased. The Bill is a beginning of a scheme of Social Security on the lines followed in countries much more advanced economically.

The scheme of insurance will be financed mainly by contributions from employers and workers except that workers in the lowest category, that is, those drawing below ten annas as average daily wage will be exempted from contributing, though eligible for the benefits. Provincial Governments will, as their share, bear one-third of the total cost incurred within the respective Province, on medical care and treatment. The Central Government will, for a period of five years in the first instance, bear two-thirds of the cost of administration of the Fund. The incidence of cost on account of employment injury

benefits and maternity benefits will fall wholly on the employer, this being the position in existing laws relating to such benefits.

Workmen insured under the Act will, besides getting facilities for medical care and treatment on efficient standards, also get cash benefits during periods of certified sickness for periods not exceeding in the aggregate eight weeks during a year. The amount of payments will be approximately half the average earnings of the workman. Women workers will get maternity benefits at a flat rate of twelve annas per day for a maximum of twelve weeks in all, partly before and partly after confinement. In case of both cash and maternity benefits, there is a qualifying period prescribed.

Employment injury benefits are a substitute for the lump sum payments now payable under the Workmen's Compensation Act in cases where a workman suffers injury arising out of his employment. Payment of a pension for life and to the family in case of death of the bread-winner affords obviously better security than a lump sum payment. In case of complete permanent disablement, the pension is approximately equivalent to half the average wages of the preceding twelve months.

An insurance scheme of this nature should be on a country-wide basis and this is what the Bill provides. The administration will vest in a statutory Corporation which will include, among others, representatives of employers, workmen and of the medical profession. The medical administration will vest in the Provincial Governments though, in view of the contributions paid by the employers and workmen, the standard of medical care and treatment provided will be of a much higher standard than is available to the general public.

Workers in perennial factories number about two million. If the Bill is enacted, it will apply to all perennial factories four months from the date of commencement of the Act. The administrative machinery including medical personnel and equipment needed for efficient functioning of the Act will be of a large magnitude. It may not be easy to apply the Act within the time indicated to factories in outlying areas and power of exemption has therefore been provided to deal with such cases for periods not exceeding one year at a time. This is necessary as it is unjust to make a levy on a section of the public until Government are certain that the services for which the levy is made are available at the same time.

The Bill, as I said before, was introduced in the Assembly just over a year ago. It was the pressure of legislative business that prevented its further progress till now. But the Ministry of Labour, to save time, has departmentally circulated the Bill for expression of opinion to all those included in the usual circulation list of the Legislative Assembly. Most replies have come in and copies of all replies are expected to be ready by the end of this month and if the motion for appointing a Select Committee is carried, the members thereof will have time to go through these replies before they meet. There has been some misunderstanding in some quarters and there have been criticisms—obviously wrong—that this scheme has been cold storaged. I do not, of course, attach any importance to that when I am satisfied that the delay was wholly unavoidable, but I do feel that any further long delay might invoke justifiable criticism. The Select Committee will have before it all material that is possible to obtain and which will enable it to improve on the provisions of the Bill to the maximum extent.

I may add, Sir, as I have remarked previously, that this is just a beginning of the social security measures for the working classes of this country and as the task before the Corporation will be of tremendous magnitude only the industrial labourers and rather a fraction of them are to be covered in the first instance. The intention of the Government is gradually to extend these benefits to all the industrial workers and to other categories of workers in the coalfields, in

[The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram]

in the plantations, in the docks and also in agricultural pursuits, but in the present conditions of our country it will take some time and the working classes might have reasonably to wait for some time before all of them are in a position to be given all these facilities. I would like to repeat, Sir, once again that this is just a beginning and we must have this beginning as early as we can.

With these words, I move that the Bill be referred to the Select Committee.

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for certain benefits to workmen employed in or in connection with work of factories in case of sickness, maternity and accident and to make provision for certain other matters in relation thereto, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra, Shri K. Santhanam, Shri Mohan Lal Saxena, Shri T. T. Krishnamachari, Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth, Shri Biswanath Das, Shri H. V. Kamath, Prof. N. G. Ranga, Shri Harihar Nath Shastri, Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand, Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao, Mrs. Renuka Ray, and the Mover, with instructions to report on the opening day of the next session of the Assembly, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

The motion is now open for discussion of the House.

Shri Harihar Nath Shastri (U. P.: General): Sir, both as a member of the House and as a humble representative of the Indian working class, it is my privilege to offer my hearty congratulations to the Honourable Minister of Labour for bringing forward this measure, which is a big step towards realising the goal of Social Security in this land. I am sure, Sir, the Honourable Minister will earn for himself the deep gratitude of the working classes of this country for this measure.

In the life of very human being, Sir, there are two stages of dependency child-hood and old age and between the intervening period there are occasions during which a man or a woman is unable to earn his or her living. In the life of a worker such occasions include unemployment, sickness, accidents while working—I mean disability and maternity. Now so far as accidents are concerned, the Government of India moved in the matter as far back in the year 1923 when they passed the Workmen's Compensation Act. As far as unemployment is concerned, that too is an urgent problem. But no serious efforts have been made in this direction so far. I am sure, Sir, with the genuine sympathies as is possessed by our Honourable Minister a bill on unemployment insurance will also be brought forward before this House in near future. Sir, apart from maternity and compensation for disability that are to a certain extent already covered under the existing laws prevalent in some of the Provinces and the country as a whole, the main problem that this Bill seeks to tackle is the problem of sickness. Now, Sir, the object of sickness insurance are two-fold. Firstly, it provides opportunities to workers of a curative nature, that is to say, it provides medical benefits, so that it may be possible for them to meet or to do away with diseases or occasions for sickness. Now, the other object of this Sickness Insurance is to provide suitable compensation to workmen to enable them to make both ends meet, while they are unfit to work as a result of sickness. Now Sickness Insurance in our country is a new thing. But it has been in existence in most of the European countries since the close of the 19th century. The system of compulsory Health Insurance was for the first time introduced in Germany in the year 1883 and since then and particularly between the war that ended in 1918 and the last war this system of Sickness Insurance spread in most of the countries and the result is that at present it is in existence in 29 countries with a population of about

50 crores. Now so far as our country is concerned, Sir, the question of Sickness Insurance for the first time came up for consideration before the Royal Commission of Labour that was set up in the year 1929. The Royal Commission on Labour considered over this question and it came to the conclusion that in view of the fact that incidence of sickness in our country was much higher than in other countries, it was necessary that Sickness Insurance scheme should be introduced. They made two suggestions. They suggested a long-term plan and a short-term plan. Their long-term plan was that the question of Sickness Insurance should be entrusted to an Expert Committee which should go into the details of the question and formulate schemes on an All India basis. Their short-term plan was that the schemes for Sickness Insurance should be split into two parts. Firstly, so far as medical benefits were concerned, they should be tackled by the State, and so far as the question of compensation was concerned, it should be tackled voluntarily by contribution from the employers, and from the workers. Now the Government of India later on considered these schemes and elicited the opinions of Provincial Governments. The Provincial Governments gave their opinions and then it was referred to the Advisory Committee of Industries and Labour of the Government of India. That Committee came to the conclusion that a scheme of Sickness Insurance would be formulated only after a close study of the problem was made for a number of years; The Government of India thought that the expense and labour that was likely to be incurred for such a study was much more than the benefits that were likely to be conferred as a result of that scheme, and for some time the scheme had to be given up. Again the question was reopened in the 1937 and the opinion of various Provinces was again elicited and the Government thought that the best course was that instead of making any detailed investigation, a beginning should be made by making an experiment in certain industries and in certain Provinces on a voluntary basis. But that too ultimately proved a failure. Then in the year 1940 there was a conference of Provincial Ministers convened by the Government of India and that Conference decided that the opinion of labour and employers should be ascertained in connection with the question of Health Insurance. These opinions came forward. Labour readily agreed and so far as the employers are concerned, they too agreed, subject to certain conditions, i.e. that such a scheme should cover the whole country including the Native States and that the expenses of the scheme should be met equally by the Government workers as well as the employers.

In the light of those observations and those suggestions this problem was considered afresh in 1941 and 1942 by conferences of Labour Ministers, and it was then decided that the whole question should be referred to an experienced economist who could go into the details of the question and formulate a scheme. Accordingly they appointed Prof. B. P. Adarkar who was assisted by an advisory committee which also consisted of certain experts besides representatives of labour and employers. And this Bill that is now before us is in fact based on the findings that were arrived at as a result of investigations carried on by Prof. Adarkar.

Now, Sir, this is not the stage to offer any detailed criticism on the Bill or to go into the merits of every clause in it, but with your permission I shall just deal with two or three points for consideration of the Honourable Minister and the Select Committee. I was a little disappointed when I came across the Bill a few months ago. In the very first clause I found that the Bill is not applicable to a class of workers known as seasonal workers. Now seasonal labourers in this country are quite big in number and most of them do a certain nature of work which is of supreme importance from the point of view of the community as a whole: for instance, workers in the sugar industry. In other countries where this scheme of health insurance is in operation not only

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seasonal labour but even farm labour, i.e., agricultural labour and domestic labour also are covered by the health insurance scheme. I was very carefully listening to the speech of the Honourable Minister and I was happy to know from him that he is willing to extend the scope of this Bill later on as a result of experience. What I might suggest at this moment is that no such discrimination as between seasonal and perennial should be made in this Bill. The best course would be that in the first instance it may be left to Government to decide the categories of workers to whom this Bill will first apply and then later on it should be left to them to decide how this Bill will operate. I humbly suggest that the discrimination that is proposed to be introduced in this Bill between seasonal and non-seasonal workers should be done away with.

The second point is about composition. The Honourable Minister just said that representatives of employers and workers are included in the proposed board that will be set up after this Bill is passed. Sir, you will see that the board is to consist of 29 members of whom there are only 3 who will be labour representatives. I feel that in a measure which is primarily, rather exclusively, concerned with the welfare of workers it is only proper that adequate representation of labour should be assured so that the board may enjoy the confidence of the people for whom it is meant. Similarly in the standing committee that is proposed to be set up we find that out of eleven members only one labour representative is proposed. I suggest that this point may also receive the attention of the Honourable Minister.

The third point is about exemptions. In the Bill it is provided that workers who get ten annas per day will be exempt from the payment of any contributions to this fund. Sir, if this Bill were introduced before September, 1939 I would have been quite content with an exemption up to a wage limit of ten annas a day. But, as everybody is aware, the times have changed since then and what was ten annas in September 1939 is hardly equivalent now to 2½ annas. Perhaps there are no workers in this country—even if there are they are very few in number—who get ten annas or less. So this exemption in fact has no meaning if it is confined to workers who are getting only ten annas. I shall even draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to the report prepared by Dr. Adarkar in which he has suggested 13 annas as the limit for exemption. I personally suggest that the minimum should be at least Re. 1 per head,—the basic wage which has already been introduced in certain industries. And I think it is the intention of Government that Rs. 30 should be the minimum wage in all the industries of this country. Under the circumstances I feel that if any exemption is to be given the workers to be exempted should be at least those who get Rs. 30 per month.

Coming now to the total period for which the benefits under this fund are permissible to workers, the Bill provides that the maximum period for which a worker will get sickness benefit will be eight weeks. I shall explain the position.

In most of the countries whether this Bill is in operation, for instance in Germany and in various other countries, the maximum period for which a worker is entitled to get benefits under a scheme of health insurance is 26 weeks. There are certain countries where 39 weeks are provided whereas there are certain countries like Czecho-slovakia, Hungary and Brazil, where a worker is entitled to get benefits under schemes of health insurance as long as he is unfit to work or as long as he absents himself as a result of sickness.

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General): Is it pre-war practice or present day practice?

Shri Harihar Nath Shastri: Pre-war.

Shri B. Das: But Germany does not give anything now.

Shri Harihar Nath Shastri: Anyway, that question does not arise at the present movement.

Even with regard to conditions in other countries I may put only two points before you. In the first place, as I said in the very beginning, incidence of sickness in our country is much higher than in other countries. Secondly, it may be noted that wages in our country are extremely low as compared to other countries.

Shri H. V. Kamath (C. P. & Berar: General): I submit that members of the Select Committee will do well to cut down their speeches.

Shri Harihar Nath Shastri: I shall accede to your wish and conclude in a few minutes.

Now, the other point is Mr. Adarkar's report, which forms the basis of this Bill. I would draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to this report in which he has said that the maximum period should be 90 days, which come so about 13 weeks. I should suggest humbly that if the European standards are not accepted, at least the suggestions which have been made as a result of close study by a very qualified and competent economist, who has thoroughly gone into the problem, should be accepted by the Government.

In accordance with the wishes of my honourable friend, Mr. Kamath, I will not pursue the matter further. I would conclude by once again congratulating the Honourable Minister, especially for two of the clauses in the Bill, presumably Clause 62 and Clause 63, in which it has been laid down that during the period of sickness no employer shall be competent either to reduce the wages or to punish or to dismiss any of the workers.

I hope, Sir, that after the Bill emerges from the Select Committee, it will come back in a form that will enable it to rank amongst the model schemes or model legislation that is prevalent in this connection in other parts of the world.

With these few words, I once again support the motion.

Shrimati G. Durgabai (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure I rise to congratulate the Honourable Minister in charge of this Bill for having brought such a measure which promises great boons and benefits to the workmen employed in various factories. It is really a pity that we could not have this kind of legislation earlier when the other progressive countries in the world had made a great onward march in this direction of having social securities of this nature. I do not know whether I should say that it would go to the credit or discredit of the regime previous to ours.

But the fact is there that we could not have a measure of this kind. So I congratulate the Member who is the author of this Bill in bringing forward a Bill which is intended to give great benefit to the workmen.

Of course I have had an occasion to go through some of the provisions of this Bill. I find that it has been very well planned out and very well conceived and it really speaks of the very sympathetic attitude taken and the great vision which the Honourable Minister has shown in planning out the whole thing. Of course it deals with the matter quite extensively and also very liberally. But some of the clauses in the Bill, I feel, require some kind of reconsideration by the Honourable Minister and also by the Select Committee which is going to scrutinise this Bill. My difficulty is this. I just wanted to bring to the notice of the House and also to the Honourable Minister some clauses, for example, clause 40, sub-clause (3)—relating to maternity benefit. I wonder how the rate of twelve annas a day, a period of twelve weeks, of which not more than six weeks shall precede the confinement, was arrived at. My friend, the honourable Member the previous speaker, has just said that ten annas in the

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olden days would only mean two and a half annas now. I stand subject to correction but he has said that that is the value of the money today. Applying that to the case of a lady who has to undergo a confinement or who comes under the benefit of this clause, she would not really be well provided by the rate given to her, that is twelve annas. But in considering this, I really feel, Sir, that she has to be counted as two and not one, because she not only has to be provided for but also the child whom she is to give to the world as a national fortune or wealth. Therefore, I feel Sir, that the Honourable Minister may please consider this suggestion and see that the rate of twelve annas may be a minimum rate and not the maximum. I hope that the Honourable Minister and the Select Committee would give due consideration to this aspect.

Another consideration which has troubled me as much is that some kind of limitation is placed on the ability of women coming under the benefit. She is required to fulfil certain conditions in order to come under this benefit clause, namely, sub-clause 3 which says:

"A woman shall not be qualified for the maternity benefit unless—

- (i) not less than 26 weekly contributions in respect of the woman have been paid within a continuous period of twelve months immediately preceding the week in which she is confined or in which she gives notice of pregnancy before confinement, etc."

But if this is to be applied I do not know how many women will really be able to benefit under this. Many women may have to go without having the benefit of this legislation. Even men may not be really conversant with the law, the rules and the technicalities. That being so, how many women will be conversant with the rules and regulations so that they would know that they should pay their premiums regularly in order to take advantage of this legislation and that it is only when they duly comply with all the formalities that they would be entitled to the benefit under this legislation and not otherwise. I request the Honourable Minister and the Select Committee to see that they are exempted from the operation of this qualification imposed upon them for at least a period of two years. Otherwise many women who have not registered their pregnancy or who have not given notice of it may be excluded from the benefit of this clause. That is another essential point which I would bring to the notice of the Honourable Minister and the Select Committee for consideration.

Then, I notice here that in the case of maternity benefit not less than 26 weekly contributions are to be paid but in the case of sickness under clause 39 sub-clause (b) not less than 17 weekly contributions in respect of workmen should have been paid. I do not know why in the case of sickness it has been only 17 weekly contributions and in the case of maternity it is 26 weekly contributions. I would suggest for the consideration of the Honourable Minister and the Select Committee that they should see that this kind of imposition of a rule, which is not going to work to the benefit of the women is removed or relaxed to some extent or at least for a period of two years.

Clause 86 of the Bill says.

"At any time when the funds of the Corporation so permit, the Board may enhance the scale of any benefit admissible under this Act and the period for which such benefit may be given."

I do not know what the future would be like. But if the Corporation so permits and if the fund so permits I would urge the Honourable Minister and the Select Committee to provide for some kind of recreation, for some kind of vocational activities and also for the establishment of some training institutions for enabling the women and children to equip themselves with the necessary

knowledge and also to have some kind of enjoyment through the recreational activities provided for them.

There is one other important point that I want to bring to the notice of the Honourable Minister. In the Preamble it is stated that the benefits of this legislation will be open only to workmen working in the factories. As the previous speaker pointed out, the benefits should be open not only to the workmen in factories but to all kinds of workmen in any occupation, such as workers in agricultural operations, domestic servants, etc. India is predominantly an agricultural country and roughly a crore of people are employed in agricultural operations. I do not know why this very useful social security measure should give the benefit only to the workmen in factories but not to the large number of workmen in other occupations and institutions other than the factories. With these few observations I would request the Honourable Minister once again and the Select Committee to give due consideration to these facts and I once again congratulate the Honourable Minister.

Shri S. Nagappa (Madras: General): Sir, I rise to join the previous speakers who congratulated the Honourable Minister for Labour. I find in the Statement of Objects and Reasons that the sickness benefit given to a man will not exceed eight weeks. In a year of 12 months after all there is every likelihood of a man falling sick for more than eight weeks. Even if he recovers he will require sometime, at least some weeks, to become fit enough to resume work. For this period nothing is given to him. When the man is on the way to recovery he requires more money in order to recoup himself and become fit to work again. No doubt the Honourable Minister has done a good deal in the interest of the workers but I would request him to do a little more. I would suggest that instead of eight weeks it should have been twelve weeks per man and 15 weeks per woman.

An Honourable Member: Why?

Shri S. Nagappa: My Honourable friend asks, why make a distinction between man and woman.

A woman is a tender creature and requires more care than a man. A man can take care of himself better than a woman.

An Honourable Member: Question.

Shri S. Nagappa: My Honourable friend says that ladies are capable of taking care of themselves and can do so better than men. However, I do not want to enter into a controversy over that.

The Honourable Minister has not been kind enough to include in the scope of this Bill seasonal labourers. The Honourable Members who spoke before me were kind enough to emphasise this particular point. I hope the Select Committee will go into this matter and try to include seasonal labourers also, so that they may also get the benefit.

I do not find any clause in this Bill as regards old age pension. A man or woman is expected to work during her life time but there is a time in old age, if a man or woman has no children who is to take care of them. They have been working all their lives in order to produce more and more national wealth. They have been exploited so long as they were strong and sturdy enough to work but when they grow old what will happen to them? In all countries, especially the Western countries there is the system of old age pension prevailing. The Honourable Minister was kind enough to say that we have only made a beginning and I would request him to include this particular benefit in the Bill in order to give old age pension benefit to those poor workers. As the Honourable Lady Member said the scope of the Bill need not be confined to the workers in industrial concerns only but it should be extended to other

[Shri S. Nagappa]

workers, especially agricultural labourers, who have been responsible for producing the main essentials of our day to day life. Without agricultural labourers you cannot have raw materials, without the raw materials you cannot have industrial magnates and then only you require industrial labour. Therefore first of all you have to take care of the agricultural labourer who is responsible for the whole production of the national wealth. The Honourable Minister said that he has made only a beginning and I hope he will not stop with the beginning but would go further in order to give benefit to all classes of labourers in whatever walks of life they may be working in this country. With these few remarks I once again congratulate the Honourable Minister for having brought in such a beneficial measure before this House. One more point, Sir. Now there are 29 Members on the Board. But very few representatives belonging to the labouring classes have been put on the Board. There is another thing I wish to mention. While making selection of Members to the Select Committee I do not find Members belonging to the labouring classes, who can understand labour problems better than others. There are only a few who will I think can do some thing. I have however full confidence in those Members who have been appointed to the select Committee and I hope they will be able to see that the Bill is made more beneficial to all classes of workers.

With these few observations I once again congratulate the Honourable Member.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Saturday, the 22nd November, 1947.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Saturday, 22nd November 1947.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members might have noticed that I stepped in here, according to the clocks in the Chamber, at 10 minutes past 11. When I came here I found that the clocks were going a bit too fast. I have, therefore, asked the office to adjust them. I came at the exact hour of 11. I hope, in the meanwhile, before we adjourn for lunch, the clocks will be set-right.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

ACCUMULATION OF MAILS ON RANAGHAT RAILWAY STATION

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether Government are aware that heaps of mails have been lying in uncovered platforms of Ranaghat Railway Station for a long time and mails from India to Assam are being held up?

(b) If so, what actions do Government propose to take to despatch these mails to their destinations?

(c) Do Government propose to introduce an air mail service from Calcutta to important towns of Assam? If so, from what date?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) Government are aware that there has been at Ranaghat a heavy accumulation of mails including those for Assam.

(b) Arrangements have been made in collaboration with the Pakistan authorities to clear existing accumulations in the next few days and to prevent further accumulations. An Inspector of the Railway Mail Service is being sent to Ranaghat to assist in this operation.

(c) Government are examining the possibilities of organising air mail services between Calcutta and important towns in Assam and expect air transport will operate in near future.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know, Sir, by what time Government expect to clear up the mails which are now lying in Ranaghat?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: About a fortnight ago there was an accumulation that was cleared up. Now we came to know there was great deal of accumulation. Our officers are already there and I hope in the next few days the accumulation will be cleared up.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know, Sir, what towns of Assam planes carrying air mails will touch?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: All the air mails will be carried to important towns in Assam, and we will be able to send mails by air to Gauhati.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know, Sir, whether the mails carried by air will be carried on ordinary postage or whether extra postage which is prescribed for air mail will have to be paid?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: As I have said in my reply, im- by air, and as much more of ordinary mails as there is accommodation in the planes.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I point out to the Honourable Member that the same result will take place if all the mails are not carried by air because ordinary mails will again be accumulated in Ranaghat or some other station?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: That is why I said that even ordinary mail would be carried by air, but it will be limited to the space available in the plane.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is the Honourable Member aware that at Ranaghat station which I had occasion to visit about 10 days ago there is still a huge accumulation of mails not only bound for Assam, but also for Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri, and that notwithstanding our best efforts we could not persuade the Pakistan Government to take them over to Darjeeling and Assam?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: That has been admitted in the reply and I said a special officer has been deputed to see that the accumulation is cleared.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is he aware that this difficulty has been mainly due to the fact that without reference to the Indian Union the Pakistan Government suddenly abolished the District Headquarters and the Postal Divisional Headquarters at Krishnagar Nadia, and that as a result of the sudden abolition by the Pakistan Government of the Postal Divisional Headquarters without reference to the Indian Union, the whole distribution of postal business has been dislocated?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: That may be.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Does not the Honourable Minister know that I addressed a personal communication on the subject that this sudden abolition by the Pakistan Government of the Divisional Headquarters which is within the Indian Union has caused this entire dislocation of postal business and the Honourable Minister promised action. What action has the Honourable Minister taken so far to re-establish a Postal Division there so as to facilitate postage of mails from Ranaghat to Assam and other parts of the Indian Union?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I have said we have decided to send mails from Calcutta to important towns in Assam by aeroplane and in the meanwhile arrangements are being made to clear the accumulations.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: I may also refer to Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar and other parts of the Indian Union.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Yes, in reply I have said that mails will not be confined to Assam, but other places as well.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is the Honourable Minister aware that at the present moment Ranaghat happens to be the station where the Pakistan and Indian Governments exchange their personnel for transit of mails. If so, will the Honourable Minister consider the suggestion of having a special establishment at Ranaghat for the time being for the speedy disposal of mails to other parts of the Indian Union?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: That is also being arranged.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Sir, is it a fact that air mails are today being taken from Calcutta to Dibrugarh and Jorhat and not to Gauhati? I have received unofficial information to that effect. May I know if there is any truth in it?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I have not received any information.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: If my information is correct, Sir, may I ask the Honourable Minister to particularly lay stress on Gauhati because Gauhati is the nearest place to Shillong?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: In my reply I have said that Gauhati is one of the places where the mail will go.

Mr. B. Poker Sahib Bahadur: Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I make a suggestion regarding these short notice questions? I suggest that they may be included in the list of business for the day and a copy circulated to the Members of this House so that the Members may know what question is being moved.

Mr. Speaker: That suggestion is not possible. *Ex hypothesi* it is a short notice question—notice may have been given the previous evening after the agenda is issued. The Honourable Member may have noticed that, while other questions are not read to the Assembly, these short notice questions are read by the Questioner and then answered by the Minister.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

VALUABLES OF NON-MUSLIMS IN LAHORE SAFE DEPOSIT VAULTS

Mr. Speaker: Now, I have received notices of three adjournment motions, one of which is not going to be moved. They all relate to the position regarding the safe deposit vaults at Lahore and happenings in the Western Punjab about those vaults. I will read to the House the two motions. They practically cover the same ground with a slight difference as regards the emphasis on the points raised.

One is from the Honourable Member Shri Har Govind Pant, which reads:

"That the business of the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) be adjourned for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the treatment meted out to non-Muslims from India who went to Lahore on Thursday to collect their valuable belongings lying in various safe deposits there".

The other stands in the name of Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena. I have amended the motion slightly with reference to words which I think are unparliamentary to be used. The motion is:

"That the House do adjourn to discuss a matter of urgent public importance namely the misgovernment in Lahore and the deliberate humiliation and insult offered by the Pakistan police and authorities to Hindu and Sikh nationals and the military guard of the Indian Dominion which had gone with our nationals who had gone to take their safe deposits in the vaults of the Punjab National Bank in Lahore and who were forced to re-deposit their valuables by use of criminal force as published in the *Hindustan Times* to-day and to decide the measure which should be taken to put a stop to such occurrences in future by their Government."

The matters are of course, of grave importance and they are urgent. I should like to know what the Government have to say about this. Personally I should have liked the Honourable Members to put in, first, short notice questions to Government to obtain information on the points and then see whether there is any occasion for moving such motions. As, however, they have sent me notices in a matter *prima facie* important and urgent, I am asking the Government to state what they have to say and then I will decide about the admissibility of the motions.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Minister for Home Affairs, Information and Broadcasting and the States): Sir, I do not think that these adjournment motions are in order because they refer to incidents that have taken place in a foreign State. Therefore on behalf of the Government I would object to the discussion of this matter in this House. I do not think that what has happened in a foreign State can be discussed on the floor of this House by means of an adjournment motion.

Mr. Speaker: May I clarify the position as I see it? It is perfectly correct to say that whatever has happened in Pakistan cannot be the subject matter of

[Mr. Speaker]

discussion here. As I understand the motion, what is sought to be raised here is, the steps this Government are expected to take with reference to the incidents and the interests of the nationals of this country. That is the question as I see it. Of course from the point of view of expediency, I shall not express an opinion but I may say that these are not matters fit for discussion at present on the floor of the House. But then I have to go by the rules of admissibility.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The question as to what steps Government should take about this matter can only be considered after we have got full details of the incidents that have taken place. Government cannot take any action merely on Press reports. The Government has been carrying on telegraphic communication on this matter, since before the incidents took place, about the attitude of the Pakistan Government regarding the safe deposits and we are still making efforts to settle this question amicably. I do not know what actually has happened and the Government therefore cannot decide what steps should be taken. I can only give an assurance that all that is possible will be done by the Government to safeguard the interests of their nationals.

Mr. Speaker: As there is no information on which the correctness of the facts could be vouchsafed, I do not give my consent to these adjournment motions.

ELECTION TO COURT OF UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : جناب میں یہ تجویز پیش کرتا ہوں -

دہلی یونیورسٹی امدد ملت ایکٹ نمبری ۲۳-۱۹۳۳ کے سیکشن ۱۸-سب سیکشن ۱-دفعہ ۱۳ کے ماتحت جسے یونیورسٹی کے Statute ۲ دفعہ ۵-مدرجہ Schedule کے ساتھ ملا کر پڑھا چاہیئے۔ اس اسمبلی کے ممبروں کو چاہیئے کہ ایسے طریقہ سے جسے آنریبل Speaker منظور کریں اپنی تعداد میں سے ۱۲ اشخاص کے چناؤ کی کارروائی اختیار کریں۔ یہ ۱۲ اشخاص دہلی یونیورسٹی کورٹ کے ممبر ہونگے۔ اس سلسلے میں مجھے استقدر اور کہنا ہے کہ دہلی یونیورسٹی کے کورٹ کی بناوٹ ایسی ہوتی ہے کہ اس میں ۱۲ ممبر Central Legislature سے لئے جاتے تھے چار کونسل آف اسٹیٹ سے - اور آٹھ Legislative Assembly سے - اب چونکہ ۱۵ اگست کو وہ دونوں ختم ہو گئے اور اسکی جگہ اس Dominion Legislature نے لیلی اسلئے اسکی ضرورت ہوئی کہ نئے سرے سے ان ۱۲ آدمیوں کا چناؤ کیا جائے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (Minister for Education): Sir, I move:

"That in pursuance of clause (xiv) of sub-section (1) of Section 18 of the Delhi University Act, 1922 (VIII of 1922) as amended by the Delhi University (Amendment) Act, 1943 (XXIV of 1943), read with clause (5) of Statute 2 of the Statutes of the University set out in the Schedule to that Act, the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the Speaker 12 persons from among their own number to be members of the Court of the University of Delhi."

In this connection I have to say further that the Court of the University of Delhi is so constituted that it included 12 members of the Central Legislature; viz., four from the Council of State and eight from the Legislative Assembly. Now because both these Houses have ceased to function with effect from the

15th August, 1947 and have been replaced by the Dominion Legislature, the necessity for the *de novo* election of these twelve members has arisen.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in pursuance of clause (xiv) of sub-section (1) of Section 18 of the Delhi University Act, 1922 (VIII of 1922) as amended by the Delhi University (Amendment) Act, 1943 (XXIV of 1943) read with clause (5) of Statute 2 of the Statutes of the University set out in the Schedule to that Act, the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the Speaker 12 persons from among their own number to be members of the Court of the University of Delhi."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION TO THE CENTRAL ADVISORY BOARD OF ARCHAEOLOGY

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : جناب میں تجویز پیش کرتا ہوں -
 وہ اس اسمبلی کے ممبروں کو چاہیئے کہ ایسے طریقہ سے جسے آنریبل دی اسپیکر منظور فرمائیں اپنی تعداد میں سے سات شخصوں کے چناؤ کی کارروائی اختیار کریں۔ یہ سات اشخاص سنٹرل ایڈوائزری بورڈ آف Archaeology کے ممبر قرار پائیں گے جسے گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا نے قائم کیا ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (Minister for Education): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as the Honourable the Speaker may direct, seven persons from among their number to be the members of the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology in India constituted by the Government of India."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

((That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as the Honourable the Speaker may direct, seven persons from among their number to be members of the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology in India constituted by the Government of India."

The motion was adopted.

Shri M. S. Aney (Deccan and Madras States Group): May I suggest, Sir, that when a motion is being read in Hindi or Urdu it is necessary that the members should have a copy of the Hindi or Urdu motion on the table?

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Members have copies of them in English and they are conversant with the particular motion that is coming before the House.

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform Honourable Members that the following dates have been fixed for receiving nominations and holding elections, if necessary, in connection with the following Court and the Advisory Board, namely:—

	Date for nomination	Date for election
Court of the University of Delhi	2-12-1947	5-12-1947
Central Advisory Board of Archaeology	2-12-1947	5-12-1947

The nominations for the Court and the Advisory Board will be received in the Notice Office up to 12 noon on the dates mentioned for the purpose. The elections by means of the single transferable vote will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room (No. 21) in the Council House between the hours 10-30 A.M. and 1 P.M.

ELECTION TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the Assembly that up to 12 noon on Friday the 21st November 1947, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Ministry of Commerce, ten nominations were received. As the number of candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare the following members to be duly elected:—

Shri Satyanarayan Sinha, Shri U. Srinivasa Mallayya, Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar, Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar, Shri B. A. Khimji, Shri M. C. Veerabahu Pillai, Shri N. Mahadava Rau, Sir Padampat Singhanian, Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, and K. T. M. Ahmed Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur.

CHANGE IN THE PROGRAMME OF BUSINESS IN THE ASSEMBLY

Mr. Speaker: Before the House proceeds with legislative business, I have to announce a little change in the programme, which I trust the members will appreciate. In the programme sent to them, Tuesday the 25th is fixed for general discussion of the Railway Budget. The time allowed is up to lunch. I am extending that time for the whole day; so the whole of Tuesday the 25th will be allotted for general discussion of the Railway Budget. The question-hour will, of course, be there as usual. This also leads to another change, namely, that the voting on demands for grants which was to take place after lunch on Tuesday the 25th will now take place on Wednesday the 26th up to about 4-30 P.M. At 5 P.M. there is the presentation of the General Budget, which time is fixed by the Governor General. So the voting on the demands for grants has to be completed before 5. This necessitates fixing the voting on demands for grants a little earlier and therefore I am fixing it up to 4-30 P.M. I hope the House will be able to finish the voting on demands within half an hour.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): May I request you, Sir, to dispense with the question-hour on both the 25th and the 26th in view of the fact that the general discussion on the Railway Budget will normally take three or four days and it has now been confined to only one day and a number of cut motions have already been given notice of?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid I am personally not inclined to consider this suggestion favourably. However, I am entirely in the hands of the House. This is not a full Railway Budget; it is a supplementary revised Budget. That is one thing. Of course the revised Budget includes the whole railway policy but that is another matter. Apart from that the question-hour, to my mind, is an important item and many honourable members who have tabled questions would like to have information by way of supplementaries on the questions they have put. The previous practice was, that if the House was unanimous, then only the question-hour could be dispensed with. At this stage, I do not find unanimity. So the question-hour will stand.

DELHI AND AJMER-MERWARA LAND DEVELOPMENT BILL

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad (Minister for Food and Agriculture): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the preparation and execution of land development schemes, the reclamation of waste land and the control of private forests and grassland, in the Provinces of Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the preparation and execution of land development schemes, the reclamation of waste land and the control of private forests and grassland, in the Provinces of Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara".

Shri Raj Krishna Bose (Orissa: General): May I submit, Sir, that copies of this Bill have not yet been circulated?

Mr. Speaker: As usual this is a motion for leave to introduce a Bill and there is no discussion whatever. It is only a matter of formality. Therefore the practice has been to distribute the copies of Bills after the introduction. The Honourable Members will get these at their residences this evening and copies will also be available in the lobby.

The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the preparation and execution of land development schemes, the reclamation of wasteland and the control of private forests and grassland, in the Provinces of Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara".

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I introduce the Bill.

INDIAN NURSING COUNCIL BILL

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur (Minister for Health): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to constitute an Indian Nursing Council.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to constitute an Indian Nursing Council".

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

PHARMACY BILL

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur (Minister for Health): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to regulate the profession of pharmacy.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to regulate the profession of pharmacy".

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed with the further consideration of the following motion moved by the Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram on Friday, the 21st November, 1947, namely:

"That the Bill to provide for certain benefits to workmen employed in or in connection with work of factories in case of sickness, maternity and accident and to make provision for certain other matters in relation thereto be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra, Shri K. Santhanam, Shri Mohan Lal Saxena, Shri T. T. Krishnamachari, Haji Abdus Sattar, Haji Ishaq Seth, Shri Biswanath Das, Shri H. V. Kamath, Prof. N. G. Ranga, Shri Harihar Nath Shastri, Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand, Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao, Shrimati Renuka Ray, and the Mover with instructions to report on the opening day of the next session of the Assembly, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (Madras: Muslim): Sir, I have to move a slight amendment to replace my name in this motion. It is an agreed amendment. In the place of my name, I propose the name of Begum Aizaz Rasul.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram (Minister for Labour): I have no objection.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Sir, I move:

"That in the motion for the name of Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth the name of Begum Aizaz Rasul, be substituted".

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That in the motion for the name of Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth the name of Begum Aizaz Rasul, be substituted".

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa (C. P. and Berar: General): Sir, the question of Health Insurance for the working classes has been receiving the attention of the general public and particularly the labouring classes since two decades. Many a time this question has come up before the various Legislatures also, but without any result. We are therefore, Sir, very glad to find to-day this measure, which has come from this popular ministry after the achievement of freedom in this country and at its very first session we are further gratified to learn that the Honourable Minister has thought it advisable to bring it so that the condition of the toiling working classes could to a certain extent be redressed. With this end in view, I heartily congratulate the Honourable Minister for bringing this Bill so that to some extent relief could be given to this class of workers who have been denied all these facilities, all these centuries in this country under the Bureaucratic Government.

Sir, the Bill provides that relief will be granted under this Bill to all the factory labourers including factories belonging to the Crown, but other than the seasonal factories. The Honourable Mover of this Bill stated that while he would have preferred his Bill to be made applicable to all the workers, he would like to start it with a particular class of labourers so as to see the result of its working and then he might bring in subsequently an amendment to apply to all classes of workers. Sir, with due deference to him, I do not share that view. When a start has to be made after such a long period—I should say about twenty years since this demand has been placed before this country—the start should have been more liberal and the start should be perfect, particularly when we are in the free country today and I do feel the seasonal factory labourers who are excluded should be included in the provision of this Bill. Before the War there were 11,080 factories in this country. Sir, out of this 6,941 are perennial factories and 4,023 are seasonal factories. From this you would be pleased to see that nearly 50 per cent. are the labourers who work in seasonal factories and so a fairly good number of the working classes will be

denied this right. I would therefore ask the Honourable Mover whether he feels justified to exclude 50 per cent. of the workers from the operation of the provision of this Bill. I would submit, Sir, that when he is going to make a start, the start should be liberal. I would not, of course, I use the word 'liberal', but I do say that justice demands that this class of relief ought to be given to the seasonal workers in the factories. They are also working for a number of years and for some reason or the other they are working in the seasonal factories and there is no reason why there should be a distinction between workers in the perennial factories and workers in the seasonal factories. If it had been a small number I would not have given much importance to it but when the number, as I have mentioned, is nearly 50 per cent. I hope, Sir, the Honourable Minister, sympathetic as he is always, will reconsider this matter and himself move an amendment in the Select Committee rather than allow any Select Committee Member to move such an amendment. That is one part of the Bill.

Sir, there is to be a Workmen's State Insurance Corporation for the purpose of giving relief to the labourers under this Bill and here also niggardly treatment, if I may use the word has been meted out, by fixing up the total relief to be given to the labourers. As one of the Speakers yesterday stated, the labourer who earns ten annas and under will be exempted from making any contribution towards this Fund. Ten annas today means, Sir, three annas. The value of a Rupee being five annas you can very well understand what the value of ten annas would be and under these circumstances the minimum wage to an ordinary labourer should be nowhere less than a Rupee. It varies between Rs. 1/4 and Rs. 2. This 10 annas might have been appropriate in former times but now that the value of the rupee has gone down so much I feel that the Select Committee should substantially raise this amount; it should be Rs. 1/8 according to present conditions.

Then, Sir, sickness benefit is provided for eight weeks. While in other services—Government, commercial as well as private—there are casual leave, medical leave, privilege leave, furlough, etc. which can be taken by any one from a subordinate to the highest officers who get full pay during these periods of leave, the workers are denied any of these kinds of leave although they are the backbone of all our industrial concerns. They do not ask for furlough or even for casual leave, but in sickness also they are limited to eight weeks. Specially in maternity cases, a woman after child-birth is not supposed to work, according to custom, for 40 or 50 days; and from the point of view of her health she should not be made to work for that period. Poverty of course compels them to do domestic and other work after about 30 days but Government should not allow them to work for two months after confinement. I submit that this is very essential in the interest of the health of these women workers. Before confinement also they should undergo ante-natal treatment, and medical opinion prescribes three months' ante-natal treatment in order to prevent infantile mortality which prevails to such a great extent in this country. I therefore submit that at least one month's leave should be given before confinement to undergo this treatment, and the period provided in the Bill should be increased. I am glad to find a provision in the Bill that provincial Governments will be asked to set up hospitals and dispensaries for this purpose. Today workers falling sick have to depend on the free dispensaries maintained either by the local bodies or by Government, and the burden on these dispensaries is so heavy that this class of workers does not get the treatment that it should have. I am therefore happy that the provincial Governments will be asked to establish these "special" hospitals and dispensaries; I say "special" because I hope they will be established exclusively for this class of people so that they may get the kind of relief that they are entitled to.

[Mr. R. K. Sidhwa]

Then with regard to the proposed constitution of the corporation I find no provision made for a woman member though there is only one seat provided for a woman on the Standing Committee. As there are 2½ lakh women workers employed in factories I feel that women should have proper representation in the working of this Corporation. I feel that women are the proper persons to look after the health of the workers, even male workers; and women should therefore be in large numbers in the executive of the Corporation. Membership is surely not restricted to the Assembly Members.

An Honourable Member: We have them on the Select Committee; we will follow that up.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: I am not thinking of the Select Committee; there you can get in by favour or through ability. I am thinking of this permanent body, viz., the Corporation. I appeal to the Honourable Minister that the same class of work should be distributed between man and woman and there should be a large number of women on this body.

Then I find that labour representation also is very small, only three being provided. The Bill is meant for the benefit of labour and I must say that the number of workers' representatives is insignificant,—only three out of something like 22. I feel that the Honourable Minister should bear this point of increasing this number in mind when the Bill is discussed in Select Committee.

Sir, I will not go into the details of this Bill at any length because I am told that every minute of this House costs a few hundred rupees. I have of course to do my duty and offer the views of the people whom I have the honour to represent here; but still I will not take the time of the House by discussing each clause of the Bill. I would have done that if the Bill was not to go to the Select Committee, but there are very able men in this Committee and they hold liberal views and I hope when they do go into Committee they will bear in mind the real injustice that has been imposed by the bureaucratic Government for the last 20 years on not being in measures for insurance fund. They will see to it that they are liberal enough, no matter if this is going to cost some money to employees. My honourable friend on the Select Committee will bear in mind that a share has to be given by the employers and there is a contribution also from the labourers. What a fine thing, that both combined go together! The labourer contributes in this fund and also the employer and the labourers have been saying that in your profit you also give us some little share. Now the labourers have said that in our own benefit and in your own benefit, we do not want necessarily to depend upon you. We pay also one pie and you will pay one rupee. That is real co-operation that this Bill provides for it. I congratulate the Honourable Minister for making this co-operative system in a fund that is proposed to be moved so that the labourers and employers also may feel that this is not a one-sided fund but brought about with the co-operation of both, and when it is co-operation of both, I do hope the Honourable the Select Committee Members, when it is presented to them, will bear in mind that no argument that this will cost the Government a good deal of money should be allowed to arise, because Government has not to incur any expenditure. The employers should be asked to take out from their pockets which they have filled for a number of years, something more for the benefit of the people, so that there may be more production and good co-operation between the employers and employees and we could see the factories making larger profit in the near future. I have congratulated the Honourable Minister for the initiative and courage that he has shown.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam: General): Is the Honourable Member in order for clapping?

Mr. Speaker: It is a mis-statement of fact. He is not clapping.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: There is a section that relates to the benefit to be given to workmen who sustain temporary disablement and during the period of such disablement. We have a Workmen's Compensation Act also and for the various kinds of injuries and accidents certain amounts are set aside under the Workmen's Compensation Act. But I do hope when the provisions of this section are considered, it will be borne in mind that the amount that is provided in the Workmen's Compensation Act is quite different. It will not be understood that because a labourer for a certain accident gets compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act, therefore he will not get the benefit of this. Therefore, the Honourable Minister has rightly made a provisions for this in this Bill but it is not very clear. It is likely to cause some friction between the operation of the Workmen's Compensation Act and this Act when it comes to giving any relief to the labourers. Under these circumstances, Sir, this clause will also require serious consideration of the Select Committee.

There is nothing more I have to say, although I could have said much more. I only hope when this Bill comes out in the next session, it will be a Bill for which we ought to be proud. Every honourable member of this House should be proud that whatever our belief, it has been our creed and principle. I have said that the workmen's interests will be near our hearts at all times. This we have said in our election manifesto. Only few days ago the A.I.C.C. meeting in Delhi reminded legislators to do their duty towards labourers by treating them liberally. When the Honourable Minister has given us an opportunity for considering this Bill, I hope the honourable members will bear in mind not to grudge a few rupees here or there, but that they will be very liberal for making this Bill really worthy of being on the Statute Book.

With these words, I again congratulate the Honourable the Minister and support the motion.

Shri Khandubhai K. Desai (Bombay: General): I have great pleasure in congratulating the Honourable Minister for Labour in bringing in this Bill, at the very first session of the free Parliament of this country. The working class has been expecting some sort of relief in regard to health for the last decade. I need not go into the history of the growth and the consciousness, particularly with regard to health insurance for the last 20 years. Anyway it is better late than never. The Bill that has been brought before us is certainly very comprehensive and it does consolidate into one legislation relief for various disabilities, a workman is liable to in the course of his work. The maternity benefit that has been contemplated under this Act now will apply to all the women workers working in the Dominion, irrespective of the fact whether a particular provincial Ministry has enacted a law with regard to it or not.

As far as the Bill is concerned, there have been one or two criticisms levelled against it, and I think definite exclusion of workers working in seasonal factories is not proper and we should not enact the law on these lines. If Government feel that in the initial stages it would not be possible to set up an administrative machinery to administer relief and medical aid to the workers working in seasonal factories, it may say that in the first instance it will apply to all the factories excluding the seasonal factories. But the scope of the Bill should be comprehensive enough so that whenever the Government thinks that a further application of the law is necessary, or it can be done, it should be provided accordingly.

Apart from this, there is a very serious omission to which I would like to refer. The Bill does not give any relief either in the way of medical aid or cash allowance to the clerical staff. I think the clerical staff working in the factories are as much entitled to get this relief as any other workman and

[Shri Khandubhai K. Desai]

particularly now when most of the provinces are enacting or have enacted legislation with regard to the Shop Assistants' Act, there is no reason why the Shop Assistant should be excluded from the operation of this law. I hope the Select Committee would take into consideration this aspect and make adequate provision for the inclusion of the clerks in the scope of the Bill. In offering my remarks on the Bill I do not propose to go into details. However, I would like to point out that as far as the working classes are concerned they are not very much concerned with what cash allowance they will get during the period of disability due to illness. The most important part of this

12 Noon Bill is the medical relief that is going to be granted to the workers. As is today, well known, there is very limited medical relief granted to the workers, either by the employers or by the municipalities or by the provincial Governments. We have to consider whether the obligation that is being placed on the provincial governments will be carried out properly. It has been said that every insured worker will be entitled to get medical relief and the provincial government under this law has been called upon to make adequate facilities for indoor and out-door medical relief of the insured workers. There is only one clause which is somewhat important in this connection and it is this. If in a particular provincial area the incidence of sickness cash benefit is much more than the average, the contribution may have to be made by the provincial government to the general insurance fund. That may give an impetus or encourage or impose a sort of obligation on the provincial government to give adequate medical relief.

There is one great omission in this. I think the health of the citizen is primarily the obligation of the State, whether it is the Centre or the Provinces. As far as this particular Bill is concerned it does not take into consideration the health of the dependants of the workers. Medical relief, both indoor and out-door will be given to the worker who is insured but as long as the worker has not got a living wage (and in a living wage is included the expenditure which a worker has to incur for the medical treatment of the members of his family) I should think, when the provincial governments have been called upon to institute dispensaries, hospital and such other medical institutions for medical aid to the working classes, it would not be too much—in fact I should think it would be economical—to provide for the medical relief of the women and children of the workmen who have been insured under this law. There is reason for this also. Generally all industries are located in big cities and it is one of the obligatory duties of the municipality to start medical aid for the citizens living in its jurisdiction. Under this law nothing is laid down as an obligation on the municipality. In my opinion, if the present fund will not be sufficient to give relief to the members of the family of the workmen, a contribution can certainly be asked for from the local bodies and they may be associated with this insurance fund and its management also. To that extent I should think the burden on the municipalities will be relieved. In cities like Bombay, Ahmedabad, Cawnpore, Calcutta, etc., more than 30 per cent. of the population belong to the working classes. In some cities it is more than 50 per cent. and it is the bounden duty of such local authorities to look after the health of the citizens living under their jurisdiction. We know that if there is any class of people in the urban areas who have been neglected in the matter of medical relief, it is this particular class. Under this law no provision has been made with a view to make medical relief available to the members and dependants of the insured workers. I think the Government should have gone a step further and provided for this. On the other hand, it will also give a sort of experience to Government as to how medical relief can be managed and can be made available to every citizen in the country, because I do think that in the very near future the Government would have to consider the possibility of extending medical relief to all citizens. The experience which may be gained, particularly in the administration of this act, will go a long way to give helpful suggestions in the matter of general medical relief.

Then some sort of liability or obligation has been placed on the occupier or the owner of a *chawl*, if it is insanitary, because the more insanitary the *chawl*, is, there will have to be more medical relief and more medical cash allowance. In this context I would suggest that if the municipality is also brought into the scheme, the purpose will be served better, because as is well known in big cities the employers do not provide houses for more than 10 per cent. of the workers working in their own respective factories. 90 per cent. of the *chawls* are more or less managed by private landlords and it is there that the local authorities should make the *chawls* sanitary. A sort of indirect deterrent liability should be placed on the municipal corporations of big cities to make additional contribution if the municipality fails to do its duty to look to the sanitation of the *chawls* owned by private landlords. Otherwise not only public health suffers but the corporation would have to pay larger cash benefits and they will have to provide a bigger amount for medical relief. Therefore I would recommend to the Select Committee to explore this suggestion which I have placed before the House.

A criticism has been made and rightly too that once this corporation is instituted, the persons concerned are the main beneficiaries under the Act, that is the working classes and the Government. The labouring classes have been given representation of three in the medical relief council, which in my opinion is very important. As I said in the beginning I attach more importance to the medical relief than the cash benefit. A worker does not want his cash relief if his health is insured. Therefore, even in the statutory constitution of the Insurance Corporation I should think that the workers should be given more representation; instead of three they must have five seats. Even keeping the constitution as it is, it is provided that the eleven Provinces will provide eleven representatives. Now there will be only nine Provinces. I would therefore suggest that the two remaining seats can very well go to labour, as they ought to.

As far as the question of cash relief to a worker, as an indoor patient is concerned, it has been provided that if a worker is so ill as to be admitted in the hospital as an indoor-patient, the relief will be half. It ignores the fact that whatever compensation for sickness is paid to the worker is not paid to him alone. That amount is also for the maintenance of his dependants and his family. It appears that the Bill assumes that all the members of the family of a working class person will be earning. When the worker is so ill as to go as an indoor-patient into the hospitals, how is his family going to be maintained? I should feel that he gets the unfair treatment because he is very seriously ill. If he is not given the treatment as an indoor-patient it is likely that his illness will be aggravated and it may prove fatal. But what is going to happen to his family? There is no justification whatsoever, when a worker goes as an indoor-patient, to reduce his allowance to half. With these words, Sir, I commend the motion to the House.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain (U. P.: General): Sir, it is a matter of no small pleasure for me to welcome this Bill. It is an important piece of social legislation. In fact it marks a milestone in our onward march to make up the lag in labour laws. For the first time in the history of labour legislation the State has taken upon itself the responsibility for safe guarding health of the labouring classes.

This Bill is applicable only to factories, and that too only to perennial factories. We are on the eve of an industrial revolution. Unfortunately on account of the difficulties in the import of machinery and capital goods our industrial progress has not assumed the pace that it should have otherwise done. Therefore this measure has come none too soon so far as the factories are concerned. But a complaint has been made by a number of speakers who have preceded me as to why seasonal factories have been excluded from the

[Shri Ajit Prasad Jain].
operation of the Bill. I join hands with those Honourable Members in taking up that grievance. So far as these seasonal factories are concerned, there is one aspect which perhaps has not been emphasized before the House so far. Even in seasonal factories there are a certain number of workmen who work permanently. In the sugar factories practically 20 to 25 per cent. of the workmen are on the permanent list and if this Bill remains as it is, namely that the seasonal factories are excluded from its operation, it will mean that not only workers who are employed during the working season in our seasonal factories but even the workmen who are permanently employed in the seasonal factories will be excluded from the benefits of the Bill. Whatever may be the reasons for excluding the seasonal factories, at least these workers stand absolutely on a par with workers who work in permanent factories.

An examination of the preamble of the Bill will show that it provides for insurance against sickness, maternity and accident. In case of seasonal factories it may be reasonable to make a differentiation in respect of maternity cases, because the seasonal factories work only for a short time. The sugar factories work only for 100 to 120 days, and one could say that if during this short period a woman gets leave for 3 months for maternity, it may not be proper to employ her altogether. But so far as the other two things are concerned, namely sickness and accident, it would be improper to make a differentiation between the workers who are employed only during the season and workers who are permanently employed. Even under the Workmen's Compensation Act, if a worker labouring in a seasonal factory suffers an injury during his employment is entitled to compensation. I would submit that that the provisions of this Bill by which the worker gets higher compensation than what he gets under the workmen's Compensation Act for accident, should be made applicable to seasonal workers also. Similar to this is the case of workers who suffer from sickness.

Apart from all these, a very large number of workmen are employed in transport, in agriculture and as domestic servants. I can well understand that there will be some difficulty in applying the provisions of this Bill immediately to unorganised labour in agriculture and to domestic servants, but there may not be the same difficulty in the case of transport workers. At any rate, I would wish that provision should be made in this Bill that all these classes of persons, namely transport workers, domestic servants and agricultural workers may be included within its compass but the provisions of the Bill may not be made applicable to them immediately but extended to those classes of workmen as conditions permit.

I would like to make some comments on a few aspects of the Bill for the consideration of the Select Committee. An observation was made by the Honourable Member, Shri Harihar Nath Shastri, which has had the support of several other speakers, that the ten annas limit of exemption from payment of contribution in the case of workers is very low. This ten annas in these days are really equal to about $2\frac{1}{2}$ or 3 annas and I join hands with those speakers that this limit should be raised to at least Re. 1. But I find a much worse case than that. It is that the benefit to women in case of maternity is limited to a flat rate of twelve annas. Section 40 (1) says that "maternity benefit shall be payable to a woman, who is or has been an insured person at the rate of twelve annas a day for a period of twelve weeks". I fail to understand why a flat rate should have been prescribed in the case of women. This Bill covers cases in which the maximum pay of a workman might be Rs. 400 a month. And to pay a paltry sum of twelve annas a day to a woman in confinement who gets Rs. 300 or 400 per month is I think no relief.

What I would wish is that this 12 annas may be kept as the minimum, and in other appropriate cases a higher rate of maternity allowance may be paid.

There is another provision in section 39, sub-section (4), clause (a), which says that no cash benefit shall be paid until six months have elapsed after his,

that is the worker's, entry into the insurance scheme. I would submit, Sir, that a similar condition is not laid down in the case of an accident, and if any compensation is permissible in the case of accidents during the first six months there is no reason why a distinction should be made in the case of sickness, and more so because sickness has been definitely defined in this Act. It excludes any sickness arising out of drunkenness or voluntary participation in any brawl, riot or affray, or injury or condition voluntarily brought about by a worker, or any condition attributable to his wilful misconduct. Now after the exclusion of these cases, sickness is a misfortune and an accidental misfortune not brought about by the worker himself. Why should you treat such sickness differently from an accident and I would commend it to the consideration of the Select Committee that they may delete this condition.

There is another important section in this Bill, namely 45, which deals with medical benefit. As a previous speaker has observed, medical benefit is even more important than cash benefit. Clause (5) lays down that treatment as an in-patient in a hospital or other institution shall be available to an insured person in need of such treatment only so long as he is entitled to sickness cash benefit, disablement benefit or maternity benefit. It would mean that after 8 weeks during which a worker is entitled to cash benefit under section 39, he will be turned out from the hospital. That I consider, Sir, would not be a proper thing. Only those persons, who are suffering from any very serious ailment, will be admitted in a hospital, and unless they are fully recovered, it would be cruel that they should be deprived of treatment as an in-patient merely because eight weeks have expired. I also, Sir, do not agree with the provision that the amount of the cash benefit should be reduced to half in the case of persons getting in-patient treatment. A worker has to support his dependants, and if he falls ill, surely his dependants cannot go half-stomach, I would very respectfully suggest to the Honourable Minister to put it before the Select Committee to consider whether this provision will not work as a very great hardship upon the workmen.

There is one more provision, Sir, to which I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister, and that is sub-clauses (i) and (ii) of clause (3) of section 40, which deals with maternity benefit. It says that a woman must have made 26 weekly contributions before she is entitled to maternity benefit. Of course I do not agree with what was said yesterday by the honourable member Shrimati Durgabai, who objected that if men have to pay only 17 contributions in case of sickness or accident why a woman should pay 26 to earn maternity benefit. The reason is a woman gets benefit for 12 weeks; a man gets benefit for 8 weeks. It is a very simple principle that the larger the amount of insurance the more and larger contributions you have to pay. But there is another condition in sub-clause (ii) that five out of the said twenty-six contributions must have been paid before thirty-five weeks preceding the week in which the confinement takes place. I have not been able to understand the logic of this double check. It may be that there is some reason for prescribing that, but I will await the reply of the Honourable Minister to understand this provision.

Now, Sir, this Bill is a great measure in so far as it provides curative treatment against diseases. But more important than the curative relief of it is the positive health of the nation. India has a low longevity. The incidence of sickness is very high. The general health of its people is very poor. I would request the Government to bring in another bill at an early date by which the positive health of the nation may be built. It is good to provide for medical relief when a workman falls ill, but it is even more important to provide healthy conditions of living, nutritive food and good working conditions for workmen so that the necessity for curative relief may be lessened and lessened and be ultimately obviated. I hope that the Honourable Minister will pay increasing attention to measures for ameliorating the conditions of the working classes and for building the positive health workmen.

[Shri Algu Rai Shastri]

In that resolution of ours which is popularly known as the Bombay Resolution of 1942, we agreed that we want freedom for India, freedom of the kind we find in other countries. This freedom would mean the power of Government vesting in the hands of the people, in the hands of those who are responsible for the formation of the Government. The clear definition of "The people responsible for the formation of the Government," as given then, was "workers in the factories" and "workers in the field." But what actually happens is that whenever we talk of reforms or of providing amenities to the labourers, we let our attention rest only on mills and factories. No doubt, as the greatest friend and benefactor of the labourers, Marx, says in his book entitled "Capital," the difficulties which a factory worker comes across and the troubles which he has to bear are worse than those which confront a worker in the field. The workers in the fields have fresh air to inhale, and consequently they are healthier than the workers in the factories. The fields belong to them and they work according to their will. But the labourers of the mills toil only to add to the wealth of the capitalists. You have seen men and women working in knee deep water with little clothing on their persons. From this point of view the field workers are much better off. And those labourers who work under the feudal lords, the owners of these farms, and those who work under such petty Zamindars and husbandmen, have comparatively greater amount of freedom than those who work in the factories. But it is the former who can be called labourers in the real sense of the word. In the age we are passing through, the Trade Union Movement will assume different forms; and these forms will make us feel it our bounden duty to advert to those who work in the mills and factories. We intend providing many facilities to the Industrial labourers. I do not want to go into the details of these. Mr. Sidhwa, another friend of mine pointed out some of the short comings of this Bill. The experts of the factory labour know what points deserve special attention. I have some knowledge of the difficulties of the peasantry today, I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister for Labour to this poor class so that amenities and protection be provided to them.

The complete history of the labour after the Industrial Revolution has been recorded by Marx in his book entitled "Capital". He writes that for a hundred years after the French Revolution the French workman had to labour for about eighteen hours a day. By and by the labour was rid of this strain of work. This is the history of a very great struggle, it is a monumental record of people's collective work.

If we survey the growth of this struggle, then it can be said that I am very impatient. Let me first of all discuss that point about the factory labour which even the most progressive countries of the world have failed to attain. We do not desire to imitate others in this way. Ours is an agricultural country. They are mostly the workers in the field who are responsible for the formation of this Government. Who is there whose heart will not overflow with the milk of human kindness when he sees peasants, men and women, planting the seedlings in rice fields? Who is there whose heart will not be torn with compassion when he sees the women tanners working in thigh deep water? With what great difficulties they have to pull on. Diseases like Malaria etc. pounce upon them.

Mr. Speaker: While the Honourable Member would be in order, as he has done, to invite attention to the necessity for providing benefits to workmen and speak on the motion before the House, it is not permissible for him to go into further details. He should make a point of only inviting attention and that he has already done. But if he wants to go into any further discussion on the miseries or disabilities of agricultural labourers, I am afraid, though the subject is important, it will be out of order.

Shri Algu Rai Shastri: With a word or two, I would like to finish my speech. My object is only to draw the attention of the Select Committee to this aspect of the problem so that it may be able to give some thoughts to it. It would thus be discharging the obligations which it owes to this big class of the poor.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U.P.: General): Sir, I have very great pleasure in thanking the Honourable the Labour Minister for having brought forward this great measure. It is a measure for which I congratulate him and it is worthy of the new times into which we have emerged. I know these provisions have been in existence in the free countries for long but in our country they were totally absent so far, and so the measure is really a great one and one worthy of the first Labour Minister of free India.

I wish, while congratulating him, to point out the limitations of this measure which have taken away very greatly from its utility. While discussing during the last three or four days other labour legislation, I heard some honourable friends here say, "You people think only of labourers, who are very few in number, and do not think of the population. You provide the labourers with so many amenities and benefits and cry for more." I want to tell them that I am not one of those who do not wish all these benefits to be provided to all people. In fact, I think in our Constituent Assembly we have provided for every person who is fit for work full employment plus other benefits. We have also provided that he shall get sickness insurance, maternity and other benefits, and when we are able to do it, I think there will be nobody left whether in agriculture, or in industry or in other walks of life, who shall be denied these benefits. But at present we have only come into our own and I think anybody will agree that we cannot immediately adopt all these measures which you would wish to be adopted. I therefore think that even though I would insist for the immediate extension of this Bill to all the agricultural labourers, although I feel that theirs is a very big class and that they are probably worse off than anybody else, still I do not think it will be fair on my part to demand from the Minister an immediate application of this Bill although I am sure he is very keen and that he is alive to their disabilities and will do all he can to ameliorate their conditions.

But when I say that even organised labour and labour organised in trade unions or otherwise, has not been given the benefits of this Bill, then I feel I have the right to ask the Labour Minister to go a bit forward. The Bill in the Preamble says,

"to provide for certain benefits to workmen employed in or in connection with work of factories".

I wish to point out exactly the position about labour in this country. In our country (though the figures are for the whole of India and Pakistan), the total number of labourers in 1943 was:

Factory—Industries	... 24,36,312
Plantation Group	... 11,69,618
Communication Group	... 9,91,046
Mines Group	... 3,49,391
Total	... 49,46,367

These 50 lakhs of people is really industrial labour. Some work in factories, some in plantations, some in communications and some in mines. We have to give priority to them because, as everybody knows, it is industry which provides the key to the life of a nation. Out of the population of the country, these 50 lakhs are the key-men. We have had experience in the revolution in our own country as to what serious consequences may flow if a key industry is controlled. General strikes have brought even a democratic country like Britain to a standstill and they have played a great part in our own revolution.

[Shri Ajit Prasad Jain]

I will not take any more time of the House, and with these few remarks I resume my seat.

श्री अलगूराय शास्त्री : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मजदूरों को तरह तरह की सुविधा देने के लिए जो यह बिल आज सेलेक्ट कमेटी में भेजा जा रहा है, उसके लिए मैं श्रम सचिव को बधाई देने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ और इसके साथ ही उनसे एक छोटी सी प्रार्थना करनी है। भारत में भी यह है कि जब हम मजदूरों को सुविधा देने का विचार करते हैं और कोई विधान उसके लिए बनाते हैं, तब हमारा ध्यान केवल उन मजदूरों की ओर जाता है जो फैक्टरीज (Factories) में काम करते हैं, कारखानों में काम करते हैं। मजदूरों की समस्या एक ऐसी समस्या है जिसमें मजदूरों का केवल एक ही वर्ग नहीं आता। जो कारखानों में काम करते हैं सिर्फ वह ही श्रमिक हैं, ऐसा हम नहीं मानते।

हमने अपने उस प्रस्ताव में जो बम्बई का सन् ४२ का मशहूर प्रस्ताव है, यह स्वीकार किया था कि हम भारत में स्वतंत्रता चाहते हैं, वैसी ही जैसी दूसरे स्वतंत्र देशों में है और उस स्वतंत्रता का अर्थ होगा शासन सत्ता का उत्पादक जनता के हाथ में हस्तांतरित होना। उत्पादक जनता का साफ साफ अर्थ अंग्रेजी में Workers in the factories and workers in the field किया था। लेकिन होता यह है कि जब कभी हम सुधारों की बात करते हैं, जब भी मजदूरों को कोई सुविधा देने की बात करते हैं, तब हमारा ध्यान कारखानों की तरफ जाता है। इसमें संदेह नहीं कि मजदूरों के सबसे बड़े मित्र और सब से बड़े कल्याणकारी मार्क्स ने 'Capital' नामक ग्रंथ में कहा है कि जो मजदूर कारखानों में काम करते हैं, उन्हें जैसी असुविधाओं से दुःखित होना पड़ता है और कष्ट उठाना पड़ता है, खेतों में काम करने वाले मजदूरों को वैसे कष्टों का सामना नहीं करना पड़ता। खेत में काम करने वाले मजदूरों को अच्छी खुली हवा मिलती है और वह उनसे अपेक्षाकृत अधिक स्वस्थ रहते हैं। उनके अपने खेत होते हैं। और वह आजादी से काम करते हैं। लेकिन कारखानों में काम करने वाले मजदूर अपने श्रम से पूँजीपतियों की जेब भरते हैं। आपने नंगे, घुटने तक पानी में डूबे हुए औरतों और मर्दों को काम करते हुए देखा है। इस हिसाब से देखा जाय तो खेतों में काम करने वाले मजदूर बहुत कुछ सुविधाएं प्राप्त करते हैं और Feudal Lords के अधीन जोकि खेत के मालिक हैं, ऐसे ही छोटे छोटे खेतीहरों तथा जमींदारों के अधीन काम करने वाले मजदूर कारखानों में काम करने वाले मजदूरों की अपेक्षा अधिक स्वतंत्र होते हैं। लेकिन सच्चे मजदूर वही हैं और आज हम जिस युग में चल रहे हैं उसमें ट्रेड यूनियन मूवमेंट की चाहे कोई शकल रहती हो और उसके हिसाब से हम खाली कारखानों में काम करने वाले मजदूरों की तरफ ध्यान देने में अपने को कृतकृत्य समझ लें, लेकिन मैं नम्र निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि जो सुविधाएं कारखानों के मजदूरों को आप दे रहे हैं—उनके details में नहीं जाना चाहता हूँ। सिध्वा साहब ने और एक मित्र ने बिल में कुछ खामियां बतलाईं। उन खामियों को

दूर करने की तरफ सेलेक्ट कमेटी ध्यान देगी। वे लोग जो Factory Labour के माहिर हैं जानते होंगे कि किन किन चीजों पर विशेष ध्यान देना चाहिये। मैं खेतिहर मजदूरों के सम्बन्ध में कुछ अपनी जानकारी रखता हूँ आज मैं माननीय श्रम मंत्री का ध्यान इस तरफ दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि वह उस गरीब तबके की तरफ ध्यान करें और उनको भी वही सुविधाएं प्रदान करें और उनकी रक्षा करें। लेबर का पूरा इतिहास Industrial Revolution के बाद इस तरह का है और उसका पूरा इतिहास 'Capital' नामक ग्रंथ में मार्क्स ने लिखा है कि फ्रेंच रिवोल्यूशन के बाद एक सौ वर्ष तक फ्रांस के मजदूर को लगभग अठारह घंटे काम करना पड़ता था। धीरे धीरे करके मजदूरों को उनके बोझ से नजात मिली है और वह एक बड़े भारी Struggle का इतिहास है और वर्ग संघर्ष का महान् इतिहास है। और अगर हम इस तरफ देखें तो आज हमको कहा जा सकता है कि मैं एक बड़ा भारी अधीरवान पुरुष हूँ, मैं बड़ा impatient हूँ। Factory Labour के बारे में दुनिया के बड़े बड़े समुन्नत देशों ने जो बातें नहीं कीं, आज मैं पहले उस चीज को लेना चाहता हूँ। दुनिया की हम इस तरीके से नकल नहीं करना चाहते हैं। हम कृषि प्रधान देश हैं। यहां ज्यादातर उत्पादक जनता खेतों में काम करती है। उन लोगों ने जिन्होंने धान के खेत में रोपनी करते कृषि मजदूरों और मजदूरियों को देखा है, जिसने जांघ भर पानी में डूबे चमार औरतों को काम करते देखा है, उनमें कौन ऐसा है जिसका हृदय द्रवित न हुआ होगा। किस तरह कष्ट से उनको गुजारा करना पड़ता है। और मलेरिया जैसी दूसरी बीमारियां उनको होजाती हैं।

Mr. Speaker: While the Honourable Member would be in order, to invite attention, as he has done, to the necessity for providing benefits to agricultural workmen and speak on the motion before the House, it is not permissible for him to go into further details. He may mention the point only for inviting attention and that he has already done. But if he wants to go into any further discussion on the miseries or disabilities of agricultural labourers, I am afraid, though the subject is important, it will be out of order.

श्री अलगूराय शास्त्री : केवल दो शब्द कहकर अपनी स्पीच पूरी करना चाहता हूँ। मेरा विचार सिर्फ ध्यान दिलाने की तरफ है कि इसकी तरफ सेलेक्ट कमेटी गौर कर सके और इस तरह एक बड़े भारी गरीब तबके के प्रति वह अपने कर्तव्य का पालन करेगी।

English Translation of the above speech

Shree Algu Rai Shastri (U.P. General) Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the sympathisers of the labourers for the Bill which is being referred to the Select Committee for providing amenities to the Working Class. I have also one small request to make to the members of this Committee. In India also we find that whenever we think of providing amenities to the labourers, and make a law for it, our attention is drawn only towards those who work in the factories and in the mills. The labour problem is such as does not include only one class. I am not prepared to accept that only they are labourers who work in the mills and factories.

[Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena]

So if we want to build a great nation as we all wish to do and if we want to achieve our ideals, we must give priority to these key labourers and my answer to those friends of mine who complained that we always think of these industrial people is that it is not because we are partial to them but because we feel that these are the key-men and without making them more healthy and happy, we cannot make the whole nation more efficient and more happy. In my opinion, we must give these men the first consideration, because that will result in enabling all workers to get the benefits. I therefore appeal that this Bill which extends to factory workers alone should extend to industrial workers also.

In this connection, I wish also to mention the existence of what is called "seasonal labour" employed in Seasonal factories. Out of these five lakhs, the seasonal labour amounts to the following figures. It is divided into two categories, the first one consisting of cotton ginning and pressing, jute pressing, indigo, shellac, tea, coffee and rubber factories etc., and the second group consisting of rice mills, oil mills, sugar mills, tobacco factories, flour mills and others. The number in the first group is 248,398 and in the second group 93,172. As regards the latter, I find the figure is an under-estimate because I know from my experience that in the sugar industry alone the total number of labourers is 1 lakh 50 thousand. In other words, I would put the latter category at about 2½ lakhs. In view of the large number of this seasonal labour and in view of the fact that they are performing a very essential function for the country, I see no reason why we should exclude these seasonal factories from the benefits sought to be given by this Bill. Cases of the type mentioned by my friend Mr. Jain may happen, but when our aim is to provide maternity benefits for the whole of the nation, I do not see any reason why the women labourers in seasonal factories should be excluded from the maternity benefits.

Again, I would like to refer in particular to sugar factories in U.P. which employ nearly 1½ lakhs of people. There are no women workers there. Out of these 1½ lakhs, at least 50,000 are permanent labourers, i.e. those who are retained even in the off-season. If this Bill is passed as it is, then seasonal factories would include even these 50,000 workers. I therefore think that the Select Committee must take care to extend this Bill to these people also, so that the nation as a whole may gain by the advantages which these people will derive and the consequent better and happier state in which they will work.

Besides, we have got the plantation group, the communication group and the mines group. My friend who preceded me has pleaded for the extension of this Bill to agricultural labour. If this Bill is extended to the plantation group, that will be a beginning with agricultural labour. I know the Honourable Minister feels for them very much and I wish to repeat my hope that he will try to extend the operations of this Bill to include plantation workers. If the Bill is extended to them, they have experience of the agricultural aspect in these plantations and the difficulties of agricultural labour will also be brought out.

Then, coming to the communication group, there are about 9 to 10 lakhs of people. They are organised concerns, e.g. the railways, the tramways and the buses. I think the bottleneck at present in our development is the delay and trouble prevalent in the communication services. One of the main reasons for this is that labour is not fully satisfied and therefore not fully efficient as it ought to be. I think it is most important in the interests of the nation as a whole that this group should get all the benefit that we can give. They are the key-men and we should not grudge them. Without them we cannot function as a great nation.

So also the mines. In their case, I am glad to inform the House, that from 1941 most of the people in the mines have begun receiving maternity benefits already. I submit, therefore, that it will not be very costly to extend to them these two other benefits, compensation and accident sought to be given by this Bill. It is not a very big thing, especially as we remember what the Honourable the Railway Minister said the other day when introducing the Budget that how important is coal to the life of the nation. Without coal, the velocity of the wagons becomes so small that a very large proportion of our wealth becomes choked. I therefore think that if this Bill could be extended to the mines also, it will be a very good thing. The preamble of the Bill limits its utility to only factory workers. I would therefore request the Honourable Minister for Labour to kindly extend its operations to these 50 lakhs workers.

Then there are other difficulties which have been pointed out by my friends which I shall not repeat again. I merely wish to extend my support to the suggestions made by my friend Mr. Shastri and my sister Mrs. Durgabhai and other friends. I do hope that the Select Committee will take all these things into consideration and amend the Bill accordingly.

I only want to say at the end that in our country labour legislation is in a very primitive stage. In fact there are only 9 Labour major Acts which are at present in existence and this will be the tenth Great Act which will be on the statute book. I know our Labour Minister is very keenly conscious of the deficiency of these necessary essential legislations which alone can put labour on a proper footing. May I draw his attention to the Australian Labour laws in which labour is given all rights. I would request the honourable Minister to see that our labour legislation also comes on a par with that of the most advanced countries and the next thing I would expect him would be to provide Unemployment Insurance. This is probably the most difficult and also the most important and the most necessary measure and I hope that he will see that very soon our country becomes in the van-guard of all those nations who are at present great nations. In fact as a matter of right, we must be the greatest nation in the world. By population we are the greatest nation. China probably is not at present in a position to come to the most advanced position. Then our resources, our civilization and our leadership are such that we may easily attain the highest position and that is only possible when we are able to carry on a planned programme and catch up with America and Russia and come to the forefront and for that also I think that labour which consists of keymen will be to do their bit to realize their dream. My honourable friend the Minister of Labour has therefore got great responsibility in his hands and on him and on his wisdom will depend the pace at which we can progress. Once labour is contented, I can assure him there will be no strikes and no more industrial disputes and we shall have a very smooth and calm running of the industry in our country and our country will really become great and we shall have all we want. The Philadelphia declaration says that "poverty anywhere constitutes a danger to prosperity everywhere". That famous phrase in that great declaration is and should be our ideal. Recently there was the Asian Labour Conference held here and there was an item—Social Security—and in that our Great Prime Minister said that these were the two ideals which he wanted to achieve and the ideals were that "if there is poverty anywhere it constitutes a danger to prosperity everywhere" and secondly "all human beings irrespective of race, creed or sex have the right to pursue both their material well-being and their spiritual development under conditions of freedom, dignity, economic security and equal opportunity." I think these two great principles laid down in the Philadelphia Charter, which the Honourable the Prime Minister declared to be the guiding principles of this nation shall very soon be realised and our labour shall then thank our great Labour Minister for his achievement.

Shri V. I. Munishwami Pillai (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I heartily welcome the introduction of the Bill of this nature which goes to give some benefit to the labourers in the factories. I do not wish to take the various clauses that are in this Bill, but I would like to confine myself to a few observations that will affect the labourers in the factories and in the plantations. In the first place, Sir, I must welcome the provision under Section 63 of this Bill. Hitherto, Sir, the labourers in the plantations, either in the field or in the factory were dismissed without any rhyme or reason. Now, Sir, this provision will go a long way that some justice is done to the labourers in the factories. Sir, in plantations during the time when recruitment takes place, labourers from the plains are taken to the *ghats* where the management selects a few people for the work in factories and drafts other people to the field. When the Objects and Reasons of this Bill is known in the plantations, we must know what will be the reaction. Out of 100 people who are recruited for tea plantations or tea estates, it will be only 15 or 20 people who will be taken to the factories and the rest are left in the field. We can very well know what will be the invidious distinction that is made between labour and labour and the few labourers that are drafted to the factories will get all the benefits that are provided in this Bill, but 90 per cent. of the labourers who are drafted to the fields will go without any of these benefits. So naturally there will be great disappointment in the minds of those labourers who are drafted to these tea fields.

Secondly, Sir, as it is provided in this Bill, the seasonal factories are left out. Take for instance the coffee estates which have factories of their own and they do not come exactly as factories, but they are called 'pulp houses' and these labourers who have to do this technical work are drafted to these factories in coffee estates since they do not come under the category of the factories, they also will be left alone. So also if you take cinchona plantations where they do not have several factories for doing the bark work and other things they too will not be happy with regard to the benefits provided in this Bill. I know, as a matter of fact the Honourable Minister has got in his mind to do something for the agricultural labourers. I would also like him to take into account the plantation labourers other than the factory labourers so that it may also have some benefit, if not today at least in the future date.

Sir, in the Objects and Reasons under clause 5, sickness cash benefits—it is said that if a man or woman works for 12 continuous months they will be entitled for 8 weeks' leave but what happens now for the labourers in plantations is the able-bodied men are all retained in the plains but only the weaklings and the poor people generally go to these plantations. As soon as they go from the plains to the plantations, where generally Malaria is prevalent, these people immediately become sick and are laid up. So I wish the Honourable Minister during the discussion of this Bill in the Select Committee will make some provision for compulsory medical benefit for those people who are taken in the estates immediately after their arrival. Sir, in the composition of the Committees under Section 6, I find enough representation is not provided for the representation of workmen. 'It is said only one'. I would urge on the Honourable Minister to reconsider this and give better representation for the workmen in the factories. Another thing, Sir, is that no provision has been made for the children in the estates. As we know and as the Honourable Minister himself saw in many of the estates on the Annamalais during his recent tour in South India, we found several of the children rolling in the cooli lines in the mud and in several bad places. I would request that all the children of the labourers either in the factory or in the estates should be looked after at the Child Welfare Centres which should be opened. I am sure Sir, the Select Committee will take into consideration these suggestions and do something for the benefit of the Labourers in the factories.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Sir, I hope you will permit me a little digression. I have succeeded in getting this chance to speak at the fifth attempt, thus proving the shastric injunction, *Panchama Shubha*. In our part of the country we do not make the fourth attempt, we call it *Teen Bar NEEBAR*. I was following my own provincial doctrine when an honourable friend intervened and said that the fifth attempt was bound to be successful.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member has succeeded much earlier.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Sir, I will not congratulate the Honourable Minister on this Bill at this stage. I believe in praising the fair day at night, and I will congratulate him only after I have seen what kind of Bill emerges out of the Select Committee after he has been able to meet successfully the fiery arguments of my honourable friends like Mr. Kamath or Mrs. Renuka Ray. If the Bill survives their criticism it is only then that I will congratulate the Honourable Minister.

Sir, even at the risk of repetition I will draw the pointed attention of the honourable Minister to the definition of the word "sickness" in this Bill. I know it is very natural for a man to fall sick if he is assured of half the wages. I remember that in boyhood—other honourable Members who were wicked in their younger days in school will also remember it—it was very easy to pretend sickness like colic pain. You have simply to struggle with your arms and feet or lie inert and there is no medical man on earth who can say that you are not suffering from colic. My friend Dr. Khare if he were here would support me but my honourable friend Dr. Sitaramayya will admit the truth of what I am saying. Even then, Sir, I consider that the definition given here is rather too strict. It is provided here that you are entitled to the benefit of this clause only in case of a breakdown in health. Now breakdown in health is a very serious matter, and if the workers are to get the benefit of wages only if there is a breakdown in health I am sure it will be very difficult for them to get these Concessions at all. Would you say that a man suffering from malarial fever or from typhoid has got breakdown in health. He certainly does not necessarily suffer a breakdown in health although in such cases, everybody will admit, the man or woman should be entitled to sickness benefit. I do not also understand the third sub-clause which refers to conditions attributable to "wilful misconduct". Causing voluntary injury has been already met in sub-clause (ii) and drunkenness in sub-clause (i); but what kind of wilful misconduct can it be which gives rise to sickness? I know that if you want to show a little fever you have only to put a few onions under your armpit and then you get fever. Is that the wilful misconduct? Our honourable Minister is referring to in this Bill.

Then I turn to clause 40 of the Bill and I think the lady Members of the House will appreciate my doing so. In sub-clause (3) it is provided that a woman shall not receive maternity benefit unless—

"Not less than twenty-six weekly contributions.....immediately preceding the week in which she is confined or in which she gives notice of pregnancy before confinement,..."

Is there any woman who will give notice of her pregnancy My Honourable lady friends here may enlighten us on this. I think the clause should run as follows:

"the week in which she is confined or in which she or her relations give notice of her pregnancy..."

I remember the honourable Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya saying once that in law "he" embraces "she". But that would not be applicable to this clause because both "he" and "she" are there. In any case I think the Honourable

[Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri].
Minister will agree that some amendment is called for in this clause. One should be careful about this clause because it is the only clause in which a discrimination is sought to be made in law between man and woman.

Then it is stated that leave for women during maternity should be given for six weeks before confinement. In that case what assurance is there that her husband or her relative will not employ her for domestic work during this period? She may be made to draw water or do various kinds of work; the husband will get the benefit of her labour though the wages have been paid by the employer. In our part of the country woman in an advanced stage of pregnancy are asked to work on a *dhenki* which is supposed to be beneficial for her,—a *dhenki* being a substitute for an aeroplane in which the great Rishi Narada came down from heaven to earth. If a woman is given six weeks before confinement to spend at home she may be employed there more cruelly than in the factory. I personally think one month would be better than six weeks. Then I come to clause 63. Let us turn to sub-clause (c) particularly. The first two sub-clauses (a) and (b) deal with workmen.

“No employer shall dismiss, discharge or reduce any workman or punish him in any other manner—(i. e., here the workman does not include woman).”

- (a) during the period he is under medical treatment or is in receipt of sickness cash benefit or maternity benefit; or
- (b) while he is in receipt of disablement benefit, except in accordance with the regulations made under this Act; or
- (c) in the case of a woman worker during such period of her absence from work as a result of illness medically certified to arise out of pregnancy or confinement and rendering her unfit for work, as may be specified in the regulations.”

In the three clauses you think of the workman and the benefits to be given to him. In the last clause you speak of woman and there you write as if the only illness a woman can suffer from is the illness arising out of her pregnancy and confinement. This ought to be made more clear so that the woman also gets the benefits of the previous two sub-clauses.

Shri Harihar Nath Shastri (U.P.: General): There is a definition of “workman” in the Bill.

Mr. Speaker: His point is not about a woman being described as woman: but the specific mention of “a woman” might lead to the interpretation that a woman be excluded in the other clauses.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Yes, that is my point. I hope the Select Committee will consider the points raised by me. Although I cannot congratulate the honourable Minister at this stage, I am sure the labour population of India will bless him if he can bring this into law.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya (Madras: General): I shall confine myself to one or two points only and will therefore finish very soon. I had a chance to cast my glance upon two sections. One is a definition and the other is Section 40. In the definitions there is the term ‘confinement’ defined. I looked up as to what it was made to mean. Under ‘Confinement’ it is said that the childbirth must be after 28 weeks’ of pregnancy; that is to say, seven months roughly. Therefore any maternity benefit will accrue to a woman only when she has carried her gestation seven months or 28 weeks. That would really be less than seven months. In this country it is well known that abortions are very common, and as one who has examined tens of thousands of cases of insurance policies, I find that many of the deaths of young women occur from *post-partum* difficulties, mostly in cases of abortion. Abortion is the name given to the failure of pregnancy within three months, and thereafter it is

called miscarriage. But whether it is abortion or miscarriage, the dangers of abortion and miscarriage and of the *post-partum* affects act much more adversely upon a parturient woman who has aborted or has had a miscarriage than on one who has run her gestation to full term. Therefore the maternity benefits must also be made possible for women who have not run quite upto 28 weeks. The second point is this.

Shri M. S. Aney (Deccan and Madras States Group): What is meant by *post-partum*?

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: It means after birth.

Mr. Speaker: If the second point is to take some time, we may adjourn till after lunch.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: I shall finish in two minutes. Section 40. (3) (ii) says:

“A woman shall not be qualified for the maternity benefit unless—

(i)

(ii) at least five out of the said twenty-six contributions have been paid before thirty-five weeks preceding the week in which the confinement takes place.....”

Confinement takes place in a particular week. Thirty-five weeks before that she must have paid five weeks’ contributions. That is to say, the total number of weeks have come to forty. But the total duration of pregnancy is only 39 weeks or 273 days. Therefore the Honourable Member for Labour—(and here the Labour obviously) is economic labour and not midwifery labour,—would do well to consult a doctor with regard to these figures. It is difficult for the woman to know when she is pregnant unless she misses her first period, and many women imagine that they are pregnant although they are not. But many do not know that they are pregnant until two or three months elapse. Therefore there is a mistake in computing these terms as nobody can possibly make five weekly contributions thirty-five weeks prior to the confinement,—i.e., make the first contribution a week before pregnancy commences!

The third point is about the eight weeks illness. There are cases in which enteric and typhoid may be the illness contemplated. I have treated a case of typhoid which went on for 180 days. My next case went on for 150 days. Sixty and seventy days are very common. Such cases must be provided for, also where there are tubercular cases in which the people are likely to suffer from low temperature and progressive decline in weight. These are the reasons why the whole business must be made as elastic as possible.

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

The Assembly reassembled after Lunch at Half-Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

Shrimati Purnima Banerji (U.P.: General): Sir, I wish to say a few words. I join with my other friends in their congratulations to the Honourable Minister for the legislation which he has introduced in this House. I would rather congratulate him for doing a thing which was long overdue, because I think that the benefit that labour get out of this legislation is their elementary rights which they should have got much before the passing of this measure. Knowing as we do the conditions of labour that one of the first acts of this Government should be the introduction of this form of social insurance is a very happy step and right step which we all welcome.

I will not repeat the many points that have been raised by the other speakers, with which I am in agreement but I would only refer to one difficulty with which I am faced and I wish to bring it before the House so that when

[Shrimati Purnima Banerji]

the Select Committee meets it is able to pay attention to that point. Where it has been said that dependants of disabled workers will get compensation the wording used is "he". Under the ordinary law "he" stands for "she" as well and it follows that the dependants of the woman worker will also get the benefits, should she be disabled. But it has been said in the Act that the dependants are those dependants who have been defined in the Workmen's Compensation Act, which is already in force. It is true that in the definition the wife's husband has been mentioned and also her legitimate children. But I would like to suggest that when a woman goes to a factory to earn her living, she does not do so to earn pocket money or pin money in order to indulge in some luxuries with that earning. She subscribes to the domestic budget and even though she only supplements the income the whole family depends upon such supplementary income. If she is disabled she should be entitled to the pension that the ordinary workers will be entitled to. Therefore even if her husband is already working and is not disabled, if the woman has been disabled and the family has been deprived of that amount of money which she would have ordinarily earned had she been well, she should get it under this Act. I hope that the honourable Minister will keep this in mind.

The other point which I would like briefly to refer to is that the weekly contributions which a woman worker or a married worker has to pay before she could get the benefit of this legislation should be further examined. Sir, I commend this Bill to the House.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Sir, one naturally feels elated when volleys of congratulations are offered to him from different sides of this honourable House but to tell the truth I feel rather overburdened by these congratulations and if I have decided to say a few words, it will not be in the nature of a reply to the various criticisms that have been advanced against this Bill. not because I am not in a position to meet these criticisms or not because that my case is indefensible but my weakness is—if that may be regarded as a weakness—my sympathy for the working classes. So I will not attempt a detailed reply of the various criticisms that have been made on this Bill. I know that anybody who has a genuine sympathy for the working classes will feel that this Bill falls short of expectations in various respects. One may very well point out that the Bill is not adequate. But as I said, while referring this Bill to the Select Committee, this is just a beginning and if we view the measure from that point of view, we will find that most of the criticisms are not justified.

The scope of the Bill, I admit, is limited, limited to the factory workers and even in the case of the factory workers it is for those workers who are engaged in perennial factories. Even in the case of perennial factories provision has been made in the Bill authorising the provincial Government to exempt certain factories from the scope of this Bill. One may very well infer that in that case the benefit which will accrue to the working classes will be limited to a fraction of the workers even in the factories. I admit that the position is as such. But while considering social security measures and especially measures of the present nature, we will have to keep in view the various limiting factors which we have to face, not only in the case of the working classes but for the country as a whole. Primarily the Bill intends giving medical facilities to the working classes. In this respect it will not be out of point if I were to emphasise the paucity of qualified medical men and medical facilities available in this country. I may just quote one instance: for the coal mines we have made a provision that where female workers are employed, the employers should maintain creches for the children of the female employees, but that provision has not been given effect to in the coalfields—not because the employers are unwilling to give effect to

it, but because qualified nurses are not available and whenever we impress upon the employers the necessity of giving effect to that provision they ask us to supply them with qualified nurses who will take charge of those children. Howsoever I wish and howsoever the present Government wishes that these social security measures, and especially measures relating to medical facilities that are to be made available to the working classes should be implemented we find that the limiting factor is there. It is no use placing a measure on the statute book which will not be given effect to in the near future. If it were only to satisfy the wishes of some of the honourable Members in this House or to satisfy the working classes, it is very easy to widen the case of the Bill not only to seasonal workers but to all categories of workers, whether in plantations, mines, docks or in agriculture. But we will simply have the consolation of putting an Act or the statute book without giving effect to that in the near future. My intention is not, however, that other categories of labour should be deprived of these benefits.

As regards labourers employed in the mines we have got the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund created out of a cess which we levy on the production of coal, and with that Fund we are already having a programme of medical facilities for the coal miners. Already some hospitals, regional and central, have been constructed and I hope in the coming few months those hospitals will be functioning fully. More than that, recently I have been able to institute a compulsory contributory provident fund for the miners. That will go a great way in relieving their difficulties in time of emergency.

As regards plantation labour I feel that they have been the most neglected one. As soon as I took charge of this Department I convened a tripartite conference on plantation labour. As a result of that we instituted an enquiry into the condition of the labourers on the plantations in Assam, Bengal and Madras. The report of the enquiry is now before the Government, and we are considering that. For January next I have already invited a tripartite conference on plantation and I am sure I will be able to persuade the planters to agree to the realisation of a welfare cess on the lines of the Coal Mines Cess, and out of that cess to create a Welfare Fund. With that Fund I am sure we will be able to provide better housing accommodation, and better medical facilities. Effort shall also be made to institute a compulsory contributory provident fund for the plantation labourers as in the case of the coal mining labourers. So that covers the case of labourers in plantation and in mines—not only coal mines but other mines, as for instance mica.

Then comes the question of agricultural labour and the labour engaged in transport services. As I said on a previous occasion the question of other categories of labour are already before us. The only point is whether we will be in a position to cope with the situation, whether the Corporation that we envisage in this Bill will be in a position to keep pace with it. When we think of the health of the working classes we should not lose sight of the health of the general population of this country. It is a problem not only of the working classes. It is a problem of the entire population. I need not emphasise and dilate on the point that we have, as a result of foreign rule in this country for so many years, been deprived not only of health but of many things, and it will be a herculean task for any Government to regenerate the nation in all directions. We are short not only of funds. Here the question of the cost does not arise. Some of my friends have pointed out that the question of funds should not come in because the contributions are to be made by the workers and employers. It is not the question of cost which arises. The Government is prepared to meet the cost which will accrue on account of the administration of this Corporation and this Fund. The question of funds does not come in. But questions of qualified medical personnel and the medical accessories necessary for this purpose are the greatest hurdles that stand in the way. If one were to quote facts and figures, which I do not propose to do on this occasion, one will find

[Shri Jagjivan Ram] : How short we are of qualified medical personnel. That is the one factor which stands in the way of extending the scope of this Bill to all categories of labour. Other points were also raised in the debate. Pandit Algu Rai Shastri has been very vehement in espousing the cause of agricultural labour. I am glad that the problem of agricultural labour has begun to receive the attention of our honourable Members in this House and also of the public workers in the country. It is a happy sign. These vast multitudes of toiling millions have long been neglected, not only by the Governments but also by the public workers, and it is therefore a happy sign that we have now come to realise that unless we do something substantial for these people who are the mainstay of agricultural products we cannot think of economic progress in all directions in the country. But I may point out to Pandit Algu Rai Shastri that a man from India need not go to Marx in order to compare the condition of agricultural labour with other labour. He said that the condition of agricultural labour was like that of the cattle which plough the fields. I may point out to him with some personal experience that the condition of agricultural labour is worse than that of the cattle which plough the fields. It is not the absence of any appreciation of this on the part of the Government which stands in the way of doing something substantial for them. As their condition is the most miserable, they deserve the first attention. But there are certain difficulties in the way. In this case the primary difficulty is whether the Provincial Governments will be in a position to make available to these vast multitudes of agricultural labourers the medical facilities envisaged in this Bill in the near future, or whether it will be simply a pious hope to include agricultural labourers within the scope of the Bill and not to give them any of the facilities provided in this Bill within the next few years.

The general scheme of improving the public health in the country and making available to the general public the medical facilities required for a man will certainly cover the agricultural labourers; but that will naturally take some time before we are in a position to launch upon that scheme. A modest beginning however may be made and I will certainly consider in the Select Committee with our friends who are there whether we can do something for them in this Bill or not.

The other suggestions regarding the inadequacy of the allowances for women workers in case of maternity, the unreasonableness of the exemption of only such workers as get only 10 annas a day and other points which have been raised will be naturally considered sympathetically in the Select Committee. I do not want to give a reply in the way of a reply to all these points. As I have already pointed out, Sir, I have a weakness and that weakness is my sympathy for the working class. I hope the House will unanimously adopt my motion for referring the Bill to the Select Committee.

Mr. Speaker: I formally put the amendment first to the House, which was moved by Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth. The question is:—
“That in the motion for the name of Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth the name of Begam Aizaz Rasul be substituted.”

The motion was adopted.
Mr. Speaker: I now put the amended motion.
The question is:—

“That the Bill to provide for certain benefits to workmen employed in or in connection with work of factories in case of sickness, maternity and accident and to make provision for certain other matters in relation thereto be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra, Shri K. Santhanam, Shri Mohan Lal Saksena, Shri T. T. Krishnamachari, Begam Aizaz Rasul, Shri Bishwanath Das, Shri H. V. Kamath, G. Ranga, Shri Harihar Nath Shastri, Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand, Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy, Rao, Shrimati Renuka Ray and the Mover, with instructions to report on the opening day of the next session of the Assembly, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five.”

The motion was adopted.

DOCK WORKERS (REGULATION OF EMPLOYMENT) BILL

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram (Minister for Labour): Sir, I beg to move:

“That the Bill to provide for regulating the employment of dock workers be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Shri R. R. Diwakar, Pandit Govind Malaviya, Shri Nandkishor Das, Shri V. C. Kesava Rao, Shri Khandubhai K. Desai, Shri Arun Chandra Guha, Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani, Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava, Shri Damodar Swarup Seth, Shri Jaipal Singh, Shri O. V. Alagesan, Shri Gokulbhai D. Bhatt, Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena, Mr. Naziruddin Ahmed, and the Mover, with instructions to report on the opening day of the next session of the Assembly, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five.”

This Bill, Sir, is a simple one, but at the same time urgent and important one. The nature of the employment of the labourers in the docks depends upon the arrival of ships and upon the cargo which they bring. As there is uncertainty and irregularity in the arrival of ships and also in the cargo which they bring, the employment of the labourers employed in the docks is not regular. The dock authorities may call on a certain date a number of workers only a fraction of whom may get employment on that date and the remainder of them might have to return unemployed. As the result thereof many of the workers do not get any employment on that day either in the docks or elsewhere, and this has been a cause which leads sometimes to bitterness among the labourers and sometimes gives rise to serious trouble. We have been thinking for some time past whether we can evolve some scheme by which we can stabilize the labour force required in the dockyards. This measure is a simple one which provides that in respect of major ports the Central Government may have the power, and in the case of smaller ports the provincial Governments may be authorised to prepare suitable schemes for the registration of workers and thus to see that as many workers are called for as are required in the docks, and those for whom employment is not available on the date on which they have been called, some wages—say half of the wage or a portion thereof—may be given to them in order that they may be in a position to maintain themselves. The Bill also provides for the formulation and execution of such schemes as may be necessary for social and welfare measures for the working classes. The Bill is a very small and simple one, and I hope the House will accept the motion.

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General): May I enquire why the Commerce Minister is not a Member of the Select Committee, as he is in charge of docks and harbours. He is the employer of most of the labour that would be engaged in dockyards: so it is better he is included in the Select Committee so that we may know his difficulties. There is difficulty in Bombay even now.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: As a matter of fact this Bill is the result of consultations between the Labour Department and the Transport Department, and at every stage that Department will be kept in touch with developments in the Bill: but I will have no objection if the Commerce Member is also made a Member of the Select Committee.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Madras: General): The only difficulty in adding one more Minister is that when meetings of the Select Committee are to be arranged, his convenience also has to be provided for.

Mr. Speaker: As the Honourable Minister has said, this has been proceeded with in consultation with him, and he will continually keep in touch. I do not think we need include him at this stage.

I will now put the motion to the House:
Motion moved:

“That the Bill to provide for regulating the employment of dock workers be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Shri R. R. Diwakar, Pandit Govind Malaviya, Shri Nandkishor Das, Shri V. C. Kesava Rao, Shri Khandubhai K. Desai, Shri Arun Chandra Guha, Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani, Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava, Shri Damodar Swarup Seth, Shri Jaipal Singh, Shri O. V. Alagesan, Shri Gokulbhai D. Bhatt, Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena, Mr. Naziruddin Ahmed, and the Mover, with instructions to report on the opening day of the next session of the Assembly, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five.”

Shri Harihar Nath Shastri (U. P.: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, very few remarks are called for in support of the present motion. I have had some knowledge of the problems of dock labour due to my intimate contact with the trade union movement of this country for the last 22 years. The main hardship that the dock labour suffers from is in regard to the system of recruitment which has all along been done through contractors. In the year 1929 when the Royal Commission on Labour was set up, this problem was placed before it and the Commission very vehemently condemned this system and recommended its abolition. But for a number of years nothing could be done. During the War when the importance of this kind of labour gained considerable importance, the then Government had also to move in the matter and they felt it necessary to do something to appease labour. In the year 1943 when the Government set up a Labour Investigation Committee, one of the industries that was entrusted to that Committee for investigation was Docks. The Committee made necessary investigations for a certain number of years and only last year it submitted a report. A perusal of that Report will reveal that the system, which received condemnation at the hands of the Royal Commission on Labour in 1931, although it has improved in some of the Ports including Calcutta, still continues with no appreciable change.

The system as it prevails in Bombay and as it persists even today is like this. To put it in a nut shell, there are a number of contractors employed by the Port Authorities, who are known as *toliwallas* and these *toliwallas* are registered by the Port Authorities as approved contractors. Each of these *toliwallas* has got 10 to 15 gangs and there are about 15 to 20 men in each gang. It is in fact these *toliwallas* that are responsible to the Port Authorities who have nothing to do directly with labour.

Now, the main defects of the system as it prevails, are that in the first place the Port Authorities have got no control over the conditions of work with the result that serious complaints have from time to time been brought against the contractors and against the unsatisfactory conditions of work to which labour working under these contractors are subjected.

The second difficulty is that these contractors employ a much larger number of men than is actually and ordinarily needed. The result is that, generally speaking, most of the workers have to remain idle for a considerable number of days every month. That means reduced earnings and unemployment.

The third defect is that there is no security of tenure and the labour employed is left to the complete mercy of the contractors who can dispense with their services any time they choose at their sweet discretion.

Then the Port Authorities have got no voice in the wages of labour which is ordinarily determined by these contractors. Of course, the Port Authorities have fixed some minimum but, generally speaking, they have got no voice in the wages permissible to the various categories of workers. Now, in a City like Bombay, I should say the average earnings of a Port worker is Rs. 40, provided he works throughout the month. But in view of the fact that he has to remain idle for a number of days in the month, the wages are much less. Now with regard to the wages, what actually happens is that the Port Authorities pay to the contractors a certain amount based on tonnage—piece-rates—and the contractors in their turn pay to the labour on time-scale.

The next point worthy of consideration is that whereas in determining the rates on tonnage the Port Authorities take into consideration the number of men in each gang as 14, the work actually is taken by ten persons; the rest of the money goes into the pocket of the contractors. So, these contractors derive maximum profits and the workers in their turn suffer.

Sir, I am glad that this Bill has been brought forward. As has been explained by the Honourable Minister, the cardinal provision of this Bill is that one scheme or more schemes than one will be formulated by the Government and according to that scheme labourers will be registered with a view to ensuring regularity of employment to them and also with a view to regulating their conditions of work including holidays, remuneration, absence, and so on and so forth.

One other provision of the Bill that I should like to appreciate is that so far there has been no provision about payment of any compensation for the period of idleness, but in this Bill it has been provided that in course of unemployment workers will get certain amount of compensation.

The Bill, as I said, in the beginning, calls for very little comment. In fact, my own personal view is that it should not have been referred to any Select Committee but should have been passed outright. But as the proposal has been made by the Honourable Minister and it is only a question of a few weeks, I support this motion and congratulate the Honourable Minister for the same.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa (C.P. and Berar: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the condition of dock labourers is quite different from the labourers in the ordinary factories. When I say the conditions are different, I mean the privileges and the rights that are conferred under the various Trade Union Acts and the other measures are not enjoyed by the dock workers in many respects. The main principle of this Bill, as the previous speaker made out, is to regularise the unjust practices which are prevalent in the recruitment of labour. That is the main principle and also to improve the condition of dock workers generally.

In some of the port areas, Sir, the system of labour is that the Stevedores and *Dubashis* who are the agents of the Steamship Companies have the greater part to play for the recruitment of labourers and these Stevedores and *Dubashis* connive with the Port Trust authorities and between them create an agency for recruitment. They in turn entrust the work to a contractor of labour, who is known as *Jamedar*. The *Jamedar* brings in a certain number of labourers and for that he is supposed to be paid something like 6 annas to 8 annas for each labourer per day. When the labourer gets his wages at the end of the day in the evening, or at the end of two or three days' work in some cases, the *Jamedar* has to be paid at the rate mentioned. I might tell you also that the labourers' wages in the docks are not very low wages as are given to the other factory workers. They sometimes get from Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 per day, but the point there is that the work which they have to do is really very arduous. There is no system fixed for their wages and there is no protection to them. Therefore these *Dubashis* exploit them because they have a lot to do for the purpose of this labour, being responsible for discharging and loading cargo from the steamer to the wagons in the railways or on the port. Both the Port Trust Authorities and the Steamship agents employ them and they, as we all know, make a huge amount of profit. Notwithstanding what they earn from the Steamship Companies they try to earn as much as possible from the poor labourers as well. Some of them charge very heavy bills to the ship-owners, which indeed exceed what they actually pay. The system is so defective that there have been strikes and we know that even today there are strikes in some docks. I may tell you, Sir, these strikes are not strikes organised for the purpose of strikes only but they are very legitimate because these dock labourers suffer from two or three directions. First of all they have to suffer at the hands of the contractor. Nobody listens to them if they go for direct recruitment. There is no agency for recruitment. Secondly, the Stevedores come in. They go and induce the Port Authorities to employ their services. Of course, the Port Commissioners, or Port Trustees in various ports etc. who have a final say in this matter are all preponderantly officials. The Collector of Customs is a Member, the Railway Manager, the Military Officer are *ex-officio* members and then there are seats given to various mercantile Chambers

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[Mr. R. K. Sidhwa] both European and Indian. That is the composition of the Port Trust at various ports and whenever a complaint arises, it goes to the Port Trust Board and the Commissioners and Trustees come to know of it. But I know, Sir, of many instances where they have not been helpful to the workers for the reasons I have stated before. What I would suggest, therefore, is that—while it is true that the recruitment system provided herein is very good, we must see that this underhand practice of these contractors and also these Stevedores and *Dubashis* intervention as far as labour recruitment is concerned should be done away with.

It may be argued that these *Dubashis* have to be there because they are the agents of the Steamship Companies. That is true. Actually speaking, the Stevedores are supposed to provide provisions and other things for the crew of the ship from the period they are in the port or up to the next discharging port that they have to go to, but, Sir, let me tell you frankly, there are many duties entrusted to the Stevedores for the purpose of making money and in this money-making everybody—I won't say everybody, I may say several of them, right down from the Managers and the staff of the Ship Companies, Port Trust people and the Captains and some of the high officials of the ship take part. If one scrutinises their bills, one will be simply horrified. Once upon a time, this matter came up for consideration before certain Steamship Companies and one of the Stevedores offered to the London Office that he was prepared to do the same job at 65 per cent. less charge than what it is charged by the present Stevedores. You can understand from this the hopelessness of the situation. The Stevedore did not get a certain Steamship Company's business, therefore he was in competition and offered to do it at such a reduced charge. All the same, Sir, I may assure you that he was making 25 per cent. profit on the reduced offer. This is not a new thing that I am placing before you. Those who are connected with these people—I am not a Stevedore nor am I interested in being one—but as one having acquaintance with the dock workers, I know these people. We have brought this matter to the notice of the Port Trust authorities several times, but to my regret nothing has happened. I hope, therefore, that this point will be borne in mind by the Select Committee and it will remove these underhand methods. If the Select Committee do not give attention to them, let me tell you, Sir, the improvement sought for will not be achieved.

Then, Sir, as is stated rightly in the Bill, hardly 20 per cent. of the labourers working in major ports get work for 12 days in a month. I have known of instances where for a number of months, on the average, workers got 14 days or sometimes only 12 days in the month. Therefore, although their wages are higher, since they do not get work for the month, you can imagine what their monthly salary would work out to.

Therefore this discontent remains even between the labourers and the system is so very defective and I know, Sir, for the purpose of employing of labourers for the only purpose—no question of wages, no question of relief, no question of leave or any other concession—that they should be given work, there have been strikes and legitimate and right strikes. Some of the labourers are residing near the docks—the harbours in Bombay, Madras and Karachi are an exception and some places are not. That also is a burning question. The Port Trust authorities have built houses for them in some Port areas—of course they charge reasonable rent. Therefore one of the conditions should be that these dock labourers in all the ports must be provided with houses by the Port Trust authorities. That is a legitimate duty. The Government must compel these local bodies. The Port Trusts make a good deal of profit.

I can tell you of only one port, Sir, where the income of a port is much more than the income of the Municipal Corporation because the Port trust charges, the wharfage, the Port Trust demurrage and other charges, the crane charges,

landing and shipping—all these are very high and naturally the Port Trust Budget is very much higher than that of the Municipal Corporation of that city. From that point of view, I remember Sir, one of the Committees recommended to the Port Trust to build houses for the dock labourers and some have started. I imagine there is no provision in this Bill to this effect but if it is within the scope of this Bill, I do hope that the Select Committee will kindly bear it in mind, because that is one of the greatest complaints of the labourers and on account of it there have been strikes that the houses should be provided near the harbour, as some of the harbours are two or three or four miles away from the city. In Madras, Bombay and Calcutta the harbours are situated just in the heart of the town. I do hope that this facility will be provided and the remarks that I made will be borne in mind; otherwise the object of the Bill which is very good will be simply frustrated if the Select Committee does not consider it. With these remarks, I support the motion.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very glad that this Bill has at long last been introduced. It is long overdue. Forty years ago a similar scheme was inaugurated in London and we have had to wait till today to see this Bill. Sir, as our friends have already suggested that until and unless the contract system of recruiting labour and employing them is done away with, this Bill or any schemes that may be inaugurated thereunder cannot be of much use at all to the dock labour. Sir, there is an Act called the Payment of Wages Act by which every employer is charged with the responsibility of paying the wages directly to the worker. But it has been made absolutely nugatory in so far as the great majority of the dock workers are concerned, because of the existence of this vicious system of contract recruitment of labour. Some of us had strongly pleaded for doing away with that system at the time when the Payment of Wages Bill was on the anvil but we could not succeed. I sincerely hope that the Honourable Minister will see to it that one of the many schemes that he is likely to inaugurate under this Bill will provide for the effective abolition of the contract system and of recruiting labour in these dock-yards.

Secondly, Sir, there are four curses from which these dock-workers suffer. One is the contractors, the other is casualness of labour. The third is chronic indebtedness and the fourth unemployment being the result of large reserves of labour. Larger reserves of labour do exist in dock-yards than in any other employment and this has naturally weakened the bargaining capacity of the workers for higher wages and better facilities. This evil can be got rid of only if labour exchanges are started in every part for the benefit of these workers, and employers are made to recruit their labour only through the labour exchanges and also through the registration that is provided for here and not by any other means. There is the question of indebtedness also which has been referred to at great length by the Royal Commission on Labour and one cannot really come to grips with it until and unless the casualness of the character of recruitment for dock-yard labour is done away with. That reform can be effected only when registration is insisted and only a minimum amount of reserve of labour is allowed to make itself available for employment whenever called upon by the Port Trust authorities and not otherwise. If you allow the present system of labour going through being entirely free to make themselves available on call and to be at the disposal of these Port Trust authorities and shippers, then it will be impossible to remove this casualness and that will always bring about this chronic disease, of indebtedness. Therefore, the Government has got to see to it that this system of recruiting this labour will minimise the total quantities of reserve of labour that will be made available for the Port Trusts and other authorities.

Sir, I am glad there is a provision here for the appointment of a Port Advisory Committee on the national level. But I wish to suggest that such committees should be appointed in every major port. While the National Com-

[Prof. N. G. Ranga]

mittee may be expected to make definite suggestions in regard to various schemes that may be inaugurated or any alterations that may be proposed to be made in these schemes, those local committees must be expected to look after the interests of labour on those areas and to aid effectively the Port Trust authorities in seeing to it that the labour exchanges that have got to be brought into existence, the system of registration and various other means that have got to be adopted in order to eliminate casualness of labour will be able to play their role and aid the workers. I am glad, Sir, my honourable friend, Mr. Sidhwa has referred to the question of housing. This housing problem is a very serious thing to any kind of labour and more so in the case of those dock-yard workers and early attention has got to be paid to them. Then, Sir, I am anxious that at an early date, whatever schemes that may come to be inaugurated under this Bill will also be extended to the minor ports also and especially the workers who are employed in the inland navigation and shipping.

Lastly, Sir, it is essential that the Government should take care to bring in within its net the shipowners and win their co-operation either voluntarily or otherwise and see to it that they will not encourage any longer any of these evils that my honourable friend, Mr. Sidhwa has already referred to and that they will not continue to encourage these contractors. The biggest difficulty in this is that the shipowners themselves are so much unmoved with the contract system because they find it much more easy to exploit the workers and also to escape from the provisions of the various labour legislations that Government bring forward from time to time. For instance, the Payment of Wages Act has had no terrors at all to the employers because the workers that have been employed have been there under the contract work under the contractors and naturally shipowners could always claim that they were not responsible for the payment of wages to their workers. With these remarks, I wish to support this Bill.

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): Sir, I rise to make just two points which are more or less of a formal nature. I think clause 3 should be divided into two parts, one part consisting of those provisions which every scheme must contain and the other part containing provisions which a scheme may contain. As the provision stands, it will be possible for a scheme to contain any of these provisions or not. My own view is that apart from registration clauses (c), (d) and (e) should form part of every scheme for dock workers; the other provisions like training and welfare of dock workers may or may not form part of a scheme. It depends upon the size of the port, the number of dock workers, and so on. You cannot say that for every small port if you form a scheme all these provisions should be there.

An Honourable Member: It is only for major ports.

Shri K. Santhanam: In any case as the provision stands everything is optional. My point is that some of these provisions must be compulsory.

My second point is that the provisions regarding Advisory Committee are far from clear. The heading of the clause is "Advisory Committees" but in the body of the clause it looks as if they contemplate a central Advisory Committee alone. My own view is that the provisions have been so framed as to fit in with an advisory committee for each scheme. For instance, representation is given to Government, the dock workers and the employers of dock workers. I do not think on a national level this representation can be fitted in; it is good for a local scheme. Again I should like to know who are the employers of dock workers; are they the contractors or the port authorities? The matter must be made clear. Suppose the port authorities are the employers of dock workers, Government and the port authorities are the same. Therefore it will mean over representation of Government and the workers will be in a permanent and insignificant minority. I think the whole question of the composition of the local Advisory Committees and the Central Advisory Committee

tee—if one is to be started—should be made very clear. Prof. Ranga has suggested that there may be a Central Advisory Committee and local Advisory Committees. I do not know if the Central Advisory Committee will be much good because there will be many schemes and I do not see how one Central Advisory Committee can go into the working of every one of these schemes. Therefore the right procedure according to me is to attach an Advisory Committee to each scheme, and let it be more or less a self-contained business. There is no need for an Advisory Committee on a national level.

Sir, I suggest these two points for the consideration of the Select Committee.

Mr. Speaker: I should like to invite the attention of honourable Members to one little point. Among honourable Members who are trying to catch my eye with a view to be able to address the House, I notice there are some whose names have already been proposed as members of the Select Committee. To my mind, it will be a better convention to set up that those whose names are on the Committee do not make any such attempt. It saves time and also gives an opportunity, of addressing the House, to others who might make suggestions which would be useful to the Committee.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): I suggest, Sir, that the views of these Members also may be invited so that all these things may be taken into consideration by the Select Committee, although preference may be given to non-select committee members. But I submit that they should not be excluded altogether because their views also may be of much use to the select committee.

Mr. Speaker: I just expressed to the House what is passing in my mind, so that if they are unable to catch my eye they may not misunderstand the position; and my eyes ordinarily will not be open to them.

Shri B. Das: Sir, I consider this Bill a very half-hearted measure. As far as it goes to improve the working condition of dock labourers I have my sympathy and support for it. But today we have a national Government and I should not like this national Government to attempt to solve the problem of dock workers in the way it has been attempted in this Bill. Already there is a strike of dock workers in Bombay and the military has been called out to clear the ships. This phase of labour attitude is not an isolated instance. It will continue, because Indian labourers have got the habit of imitating their Western comrades and do not like to imitate their comrades in Asian countries. They try to follow what is happening in far richer countries of Europe and America and they want India to repeat all that; they are at times very cheap imitations.

When I suggested that the Honourable Commerce Minister should be associated in this I had a larger viewpoint in mind. The Port Trusts are all State-owned; they are utility concerns, though the predecessors of this Government have so framed the Port Trusts Acts and created bodies of Port Commissioners that the whole thing was isolated islands in the administration by the Government of India of the major Port Trust and they were controlled by British capitalists, British shipowners and British interests. And the Port Trust Commissioner was inevitably a European who served best the U.K. interests in commerce and trade. The full measure should be to have all the Port Trust Acts revised; all major ports as they are owned by the Government of India should devise measures in such a way that there should be no undue hardship on dock labourers. At the same time there should be no undue hardship on the business community and the consumers. My Honourable friend Mr. Sidhwa pointed out the institution of *Dubashis* and *Stevedores* in Bombay, Calcutta and Karachi. We know some of them are millionaires or rather multi-millionaires. They came into existence with the advent of the British Government and with British shipping companies who have been enemies of Indian shipping interests, and are so even today. So it is high time for the Government of India to revise their attitude. The Port Commissioners must be nationalised, the Port Trusts should be nationalised and the dock labourers

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to regulate the profession of dentistry be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Shri Ramnarayan Singh, Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi, Shrimati G. Durgabai, Shri Mihirlal Chattopadhyaya, Shri Deshbandhu Gupta, Shri P. Kunhiraman, Mr. Hussain Imam Prof. Yashwant Rai, Shri N. C. Mehta and the Mover, with instructions to report on the opening day of the next session of the Assembly, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Shri M. S. Aney (Deccan and Madras States Group): May I ask the Honourable Minister whether the opinions of the local and provincial governments to whom the Bill was circulated are also available to the members of this House and are they circulated to them?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I do not think the opinions have been circulated. They were taken into consideration of course and they will again be taken into consideration in the Select Committee.

Shri M. S. Aney: Will they be circulated to the members of the Select Committee?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Yes, they will be circulated, if desired.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): How many of the Honourable Members whose names have been given for the Select Committee are doctors or dentists?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The election of members to the select committee is in the hands of the House itself. I asked how many doctors there were in the Assembly and was told that there were not more than one or two and I do not think there are any dentists in this House.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I move:

"That in the motion the names of Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya and Dr. V. Subrahmanyam be added to the names proposed for the Select Committee."

Mr. Speaker: Are the names acceptable to the Honourable Minister?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Certainly.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya (Madras: General): Sir, here is a series of Bills, one relating to the constitution of the Nursing Council, another on the regulation of the profession of dentistry and a third to regulate the profession of pharmacy. These three are of an allied nature. I wish all the three could be taken together and I do not see why public money should be wasted in the setting up of three separate committees. They are merely three branches of the medical organisation and if it would be possible to refer all these three Bills to one common Select Committee business would be expedited, expenditure would be saved and man or woman power conserved. That is one point I would like to suggest for the consideration of the Honourable Mover. I am not particularly anxious to serve upon this committee nor do I think will be able to make any contribution to dentistry. I might perhaps like to be on the later committee on pharmacy, if there are to be separate committees.

An Honourable Member: What about nursing?

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Nursing, I am not an expert in. If at all you are inclined to put in an amendment, I would put Dr. Subrahmanyam in this Select Committee and I would come in in the committee on Pharmacy.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa (C. P. and Berar: General): I am sorry I cannot approve of the suggestion of Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya that there should be one committee for all the three Bills, for the simple reason that the nursing council is absolutely different from dentistry and pharmacy.

Mr. Speaker: We need not spend any time over that. In short what Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya said was that he would not like to serve on this committee, and there is only the name of Dr. Subrahmanyam to be added to the list.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: What about his suggestion that there should be only one committee for the three Bills?

Mr. Speaker: It does not arise on this question. It is only a casual remark of his which we might not consider. I am putting to the House the amendment to this motion. Motion moved:

"That in the motion the name of Dr. V. Subrahmanyam be added to the names proposed for the Select Committee."

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (U. P.: General): Sir, Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya's name may also be added. He says that he has no objection to serve on this committee but he would like to serve on the other committee on pharmacy.

Mr. Speaker: I understood him differently.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: I am prepared to abide by the verdict of the House if they know better what I meant than what I said.

Mr. Speaker: The proposition before the House is not a test of the understanding of the House.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Sir, please cut out my name.

Mr. Speaker: That is how I understood him.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose (Orissa: General): As this is a Bill to regulate and control the profession of dentistry, I would like to know from the Honourable Minister whether there is any institution at present in the country where special training in dentistry is provided?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: There is one in Bombay and there is also one in Calcutta. There was one in Lahore but that has now gone into Pakistan.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam: General): Sir, I had no intention of speaking on this motion but I certainly must say that all people, young or old, man or woman, who suffer from dental troubles are sure to welcome this beneficial measure. I am afraid I have a quarrel with the Honourable Minister in charge of this motion. Instead of going about for medical men or dentists to serve on this committee she should have tried to include in this committee persons who have really experienced dental troubles. When you suffer from dental trouble, often you go to a medical man and he paints some tincture iodine or something of that sort which does not really alleviate the pain. That has been my painful experience. Go to a dentist and he simply pulls out a tooth and makes you look prematurely old. Although none of the members of the Select Committee would like to own it I dare say that many of them are chronic sufferers from dental trouble and we can therefore expect that the work of the Select Committee will be very smoothly gone through.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in the motion the name of Dr. V. Subrahmanyam be added to the names proposed for the Select Committee".

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to regulate the profession of dentistry be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Shri Ramnarayan Singh, Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi, Shrimati G. Durgabai, Shri Mihirlal Chattopadhyaya, Shri Deshbandhu Gupta, Shri P. Kunhiraman, Mr. Hussain Imam, Prof. Yashwant Rai, Shri M. C. Mehta, Dr. V. Subrahmanyam and the Mover, with instruction to report on the opening day of the next session of the Assembly, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

The motion was adopted.

[Shri B. Das]

should be nationalised, so that there is no undue hardship on the business community. Any extra charge that my Honourable friends Mr. Shastri and Prof. Ranga have in view will fall on the business community as goods will be charged much more in docks and clearing houses. That means that the consumer will pay. So we are all at one in that and we do not want the consumer, already hard-hit as he is with these high prices in the country, to be still more hard-hit. Therefore while I will not raise now or hereafter any serious objection to this half-hearted measure, I think it is high time that the Port Trusts should function as national institutions and all contracted labour and all full time labour should, as employees of the State, be employed by Government. The strategic importance of these ports demand State control of all labour. Sir, I am alive to the demands of dock labourers in ports. During the monsoons, in Indian ports, less labour is employed there being few ships to unload or load. Then again, it all depends on the number of ships that come from foreign climes to these ports. Then there is the problem of making double arrangements for the wholtime employment of a certain kind of labour and for seasonal employment of others. I hope the question of dock labour and stevedores will vanish and services like dock labourers and port employees must be controlled by the Port Commissioners and the State.

I hope this point will be examined in the Select Committee. I do not think that this Bill can entertain all the points which I have mentioned, and I hope that in time the Commerce Minister and the Minister of Labour will combine to introduce proper Bills in this House for the control of all major ports and their employees in the national service of India.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I speak with a view to remove some misapprehensions under which some Members in this House are labouring.

Primarily, this Bill aims at de-casualization of dock labourers and this is clear from the title of the Bill. De-casualization does not mean anything if it does not mean the abolition of the contractor's labour. We have been trying to introduce some welfare measures in the major ports. But it was not possible because all the short-comings that have been pointed out by the various speakers, are inherent in the system of contractor's labour, and any welfare measure is not possible unless the recruitment and control of labour is directly under the employers. That has been the handicap in introducing welfare measures in the major ports and even in the minor ports.

Mr. Sidhwa has spoken about housing problems and other welfare measures, but so long as labour is not stabilized and regular, one cannot think of housing and other welfare measures. That was the primary object with which this Bill has been brought forward.

Mr. Das says the Bill is half-hearted. But he has not indicated what items should have been included in the Bill, in order to make it whole-hearted. He talked of nationalising the docks. I do not think this was the appropriate opportunity for that point. It would have been for the consideration of the Transport Member who is in charge of major ports. In any way, I am not in a position at the present moment to say anything definitely on that point. But while talking of nationalization of docks, he talked of nationalization of labourers. I do not know where the implication of this leads him to! There is not much to say on other points. The welfare measures will be worked out. The schemes will be prepared and certainly we have the intention to introduce all the welfare measures that we propose to give the other categories of workers and labourers in the docks as well. And certainly as far as I am concerned, I stand for the total abolition of contract labour, not only in the dock-yards but everywhere, where it is possible and feasible.

DOCK WORKERS (REGULATION OF EMPLOYMENT) BILL

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I can assure the Honourable Members that I will try to give as much benefit to the dock labourers as it is possible.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for regulating the employment of dock workers be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Shri R. R. Diwakar, Pandit Govind Malaviya, Shri Nandkishore Das, Shri V. C. Kesava Rao, Shri Khandubhai K. Desai, Shri Arun Chandra Guha, Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani, Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava, Shri Damodar Swarup Seth, Shri Jai-pal Singh, Shri O. V. Alagesan, Shri Gokulbhai D. Bhatt, Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena, Mr. Naziruddin Ahmed, and the Mover, with instructions to report on the opening day of the next session of the Assembly, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

The motion was adopted.

DENTIST BILL

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur (Minister for Health): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to regulate the profession of Dentistry be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Shri Ramnarayan Singh, Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi, Shrimati G. Durgabai Shri Mihirlal Chattopadhyaya, Shri Deshabandhu Gupta, Shri P. Kunhiraman, Mr. Hussain Imam, Prof. Yashwant Rai, Shri N. C. Mehta and the Mover, with instructions to report on the opening day of the next session of the Assembly, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Sir, in placing this Bill before the House, for acceptance for reference to a Select Committee. I just wish to make a few remarks regarding the present extremely unsatisfactory position of the profession of dentistry in India.

Honourable Members may or may not be aware that except in Bengal no legislation exists in India for the control of this profession. Persons practise without adequate qualifications, without adequate training. Indeed, I may say, sometimes without any qualifications and without any training. Surely this is a very hopeless position for an arm of medicine which is extremely important. And as always happens, it is the poor and ignorant who suffer at the hands of unskilled persons.

Then there is no provision whatsoever for the registration of qualified persons. There is no authority to prescribe any minimum standards of training or again to negotiate with foreign countries in the matter of reciprocal recognition of qualifications.

This Bill is brought forward in order to remove this sorry state of affairs.

Proposals for legislation, as the honourable Members are aware, were prepared in consultation with Provincial Governments. The Bill provides for setting up a Central Dental Council as well as Provincial Dental Councils. It will be the duty of the Central Dental Council to provide minimum standards of qualifications, to keep an All-India register, and to negotiate for reciprocal recognition and qualifications. The Provincial Councils will in their turn keep provincial registers and also exercise jurisdiction in the matter of professional discipline.

This Bill was introduced in the Central Legislative Assembly in 1947. Subsequently in order to avoid delay it was circulated for opinion departmentally to Provincial Governments as well as to local administrations and replies have been received from most of the provinces.

The Bill, Sir, is wholly non-controversial in principle and it is a matter of urgency for us that it should come on our Statute Book. Therefore, I do ask the members to accept the motion that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee and that the report be placed before the House on the first day of the next session.

RESOLUTION RE. RATIFICATION OF CONSTITUTION OF WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION AND PROTOCOL CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL OFFICE OF PUBLIC HYGIENE—concl'd.

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General): Sir, I feel like congratulating the Minister of Health and ourselves that at last India has been able to persuade the U. N. O. to locate an office in India and I hope that it is in its final stage and not in the talking stage. One thing that has made me very critical when I read the report of the Ministry of Health in the note that was circulated to us is that we will have to pay more money to the U.N.O. or rather the International Office of Public Health Hygiene.

[At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Hossain Imam (one of the Panel of Chairman).]

The other day I asked a question of the Honourable the Leader of the House and he said that in addition to the contribution of Rs. 47 lakhs to the U. N. O. which India pays, contributions to the other organisations associated with the U. N. O. will also have to be paid for. My painful experience of 25 years in this House has shown that we always pay through our nose and we pay everything, but afterwards we stand neglected in the international forum, be it, U. N. O., the UNRRA or be it this little social welfare organization referred to in the resolution moved by my friend the Honourable Minister for Health.

From paragraph 6 of the Ministry of Health Report, I find that on the question of ratification of the Constitution of the World Health Organisation and of the Protocol concerning the International Office of Public Hygiene the late Standing Advisory Committee of the Legislature for the Department of Health was of the opinion that the Constitution and Protocol should be ratified, but that it considered that "the financial contribution of India to the organisation should be fixed on the basis of the national income or the expenditure on health measures and not on a population basis." Of these three alternatives mentioned by the Members of the Standing Committee I do not like two. I would rather go out of the institution than pay always on the population basis. It will result in more Yankees and Englishmen—getting more employment in it and trying to play the part of adviser—superior to Asiatics. I would think that the basis of national income is rather better and our contribution could be fixed on the basis of our national income. But I should think that at present we should not go to that extent. I would therefore suggest to the House and to the Honourable Minister of Health that India should pay her contribution on the basis of her expenditure on public health matters. The world knows, as we ourselves know, that the expenditure on public health in India has been infinitesimally small. The foreign Government never bothered about public health or social justice to the people of India. Let us therefore pay on a *pro rata* basis. Because we have a few American or German or English doctors standing here and assuming superior airs, talking about their country and their system of hygiene, which is so unnatural to the climate and tempo of this country, we are not going to pay more than is necessary. This point of paying more than is necessary according to our paying capacity has been worrying me all along, and I do hope that the Honourable Minister for Health will, when these international Protocols, U.N.O. and similar high organisations, come for discussion in the Cabinet, pay more attention to the financial aspect instead of being extra-generous. We, Indians, are very generous and hospitable. That does not mean that we should always pay to the maximum tune and remain just the same old hewers of wood and pariahs in Western hierarchy.

CONSTITUTION OF WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION AND PROTOCOL CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL OFFICE OF PUBLIC HYGIENE 533

Now, Sir, I have distinct objection to associate myself with Netherlands which is a signatory to this Protocol. India is well-known for its malnutrition and for its deficiency diseases. Had the Dutch Government allowed the export of quinine from Java we would not have suffered much. Had it allowed a fraction of the accumulated sugar stocked in Java, which the Indonesian Government were so willing to send to India, the Honourable Minister of Health would not be worrying her head for the poor man's health.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): What about rice?

Shri B. Das: I accept that amendment. If they had helped we would not have been troubled with rice shortage and would not have to pay high prices to U. S. A. and Australia for rice. Therefore, why should I associate myself with an institution where the Netherlands Government is also a constituent? Let the world know that we condemn as much the action of the Netherlands Government as we condemn the action of the South African Government in insulting Indians in South Africa. Unfortunately I have not seen in the press that in the U. N. O. General Council or in any of the Security Councils the Indian representatives—our permanent Minister or the Delegation sent there—ever raised the issue of these bad manners of the Dutch Government in starving India.

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): On a point of order, Sir. The Protocol is to terminate the International Office of Public Hygiene.

Shri B. Das: No. My friend is mistaken. We are ratifying the Convention. Unfortunately I got a snubbing the other day from the Honourable Leader of the House that I have raised the issue of the League of Nations which is a defunct old body. We find that everything is a legacy of that defunct body in the measure under discussion. America and Russia which are refusing to participate together and co-operate as world power, are so very well-off; while in the poor countries of China and India poverty and malnutrition prevail. I would particularly refer to the Annexure in the last page of the booklet, to item 9 in it—'Convention on Traffic in Opium and Drugs, Geneva, 19th February 1925'. India has suffered the greatest humiliation owing to the Englishman's actions at the League of Nations Office in Geneva. There was one Campbell in the employ of the Finance Department. He was an Opium Master or something of the kind. That Campbell goes there and insults the Indian people and talks of her opium eaters and opium addicts. It has been affirmed by many Indians, by me many times on public platforms and on the floor of the predecessors to this House, that opium in small quantities is as much a necessity to do away with mosquitoes and other maladies of the poor man who walk 25 or 30 miles a day than a peg of whisky is to the Englishman and his European guests. And this Campbell became one of the greatest opium authorities in Geneva at India's cost! I am not convinced with what has been done by the League of Nations for Asiatics. If I correctly interpret it, even this very Protocol, the Health Organization, is also a legacy of that League of Nations. The westerners, including Americans, want to show, they are great servants of humanity. Humanity is a word that they cannot spell and cannot understand. They represent I would say destruction of humanity and destruction of culture and civilization of Germany and not to speak of Asia, and they talk of humanity. They came to Asiatic countries and talk of humanity! So I support my honourable friend the Minister of Health. I am not very happy that this particular office should be located in India, for American doctors and English doctors to talk about the system of sanitation, and hygiene prevalent in their countries. While the *per capita* income of the American is 1,500 dollars and the *per capita* income of the English is £100, the *per capita* income of my nation, my people, is no more than 100 rupees. We have been bled white by our former enemy, the Englishman. I must say that doctors that are represented

[Shri B. Das]

here—and doctors are not politicians (except of course my esteemed friend Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya) do not hit out. They will not dare to say to the European doctors and American doctors what they are. So I do hope that the Honourable the Minister of Health, who is a great patriot, will see that India and Asia are in no way insulted by the location of the particular office in India.

Shri V. I. Munishwami Pillai (Madras: General): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the motion on the floor of this House. While doing so, Sir, I would like to bring home to the notice of the Honourable Minister of Public Health that Government, by ratifying these declarations and conventions of this Organization, is taking on a very great responsibility as to the state of health in India. Among the various nations and countries in the world, I think India is in a very low ebb of public health. Several states that formed the International Health Conference have unequivocally declared,—I would like to bring it to the notice of the Honourable Minister,—the enjoyment of the highest attainment of standard health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition. Also Government have a responsibility for the health of the people, which can be fulfilled only by the provision of adequate health and social measures. This country is full of villages, and for any casual observer it is crystal clear to know that standard health and proper nutrition to the various people that live in the villages is still wanting. Unless this Government takes up a dynamic programme of uplifting the masses in the villages, it will not be in the interests of this country joining the various countries in propagating or carrying out what is said to be an organized effort to improve the public health.

Sir, it must be within our knowledge that every village in India has with it a small place or a hamlet inhabited by the *Harijans*. This portion of the village forms an eye-sore not only in the matter of public health, but in all respects. If there is an outbreak of any epidemic, it is in this part of the village that it starts: and due to the exploitation of the foreign government, and due to what I may call the provicious system of caste distinction, a certain section of the people have all along been kept in dungeons and places where no beasts will ever live. Now, Sir, the Honourable Minister, in a motherly approach, has taken up this important work of bringing India along with other countries to improve the lot of the masses in matters of health. Sir, I may tell you there are millions of our people we have no habitation and no drinking water facilities. The very habitation of these poor people is the abode of beasts. The cattle they have, have to be accommodated in their very habitation. These things do not talk much of the civilization of our country. It might have been very well in years gone by that our villages were noted for *acharam*, cleanliness and all that, but as days went on, all these have been neglected and we are in a hopeless condition. The primary need when any country is thinking of improving the lot of the people is to take care of the children in these villages and to promote the well-being of the masses by seeing that they have proper nutrition, housing, sanitation, recreation, all of which form a part of the functions of this agreement by the various nations. I would urge upon the Honourable Minister for Public Health that she should take up this cause of the *Harijan* hamlets known as *cheries* in South India, and *Harijan* hamlets in various other provinces by affording facilities in the matter of habitation and drinking water. Sir, in chapter V, under clauses 11 and 12 are given the composition of the Board, delegates and their associates. What I would request of the Honourable Minister is that if at any time we were to send representatives from this country to these international conferences, we must pick up people who are in these miserable conditions so that they may point out at the world conference the state of affairs obtaining in India.

There is one other point I want to refer to. I find that having declared all these functions and all these points about the welfare of the masses, there is no clause as to the penalty that will be imposed on any countries that have joined this conference and have not followed the principles as set out in the conference note. I would request the delegates that might go from India to take this point and see that something is done in this matter. But in article 7 of Chapter III it says that if a member fails to pay subscription, the voting privilege will be taken away: but I would rather like that the principles set out are carried out than losing the vote in the International Conference.

With these words, Sir, I support the motion.

Shri H. V. Kamath (C. P. and Berar: General): Sir, I am very well aware that it is too late in the day to alter or amend either the Constitution or the Protocol, because we are more or less faced with a *fait accompli* and here it is before us merely for ratification. After a cursory perusal of this Constitution and the Protocol, I could not but put to myself the question as to what part our representatives from India—Dr. Lakshmanan and Major Mani—played in the drafting of the Constitution and the Protocol. Of course, I do not intend to lay the fault at the door of the present Government, because I find from the relevant papers that the Constitution and the Protocol were drafted and signed at the International Health Conference held in New York from the 19th June to the 22nd July, 1946; that is to say, even before the Interim Government took office—let alone the present Government. So, then the present Government had no hand whatsoever in selecting the representatives to this International Health Conference held in 1946.

Yet, Sir, I felt on reading the Constitution that certain points could have been better elucidated and clarified. Especially here I feel that our Indian representatives in spite of their background perhaps played no part whatsoever in the drafting of the Constitution. (An Honourable Member: How do you know?) How do I know? Well, I cannot get the information from the present Minister of Health and must proceed only on hypothesis. Well, Sir, on page 1 of the Constitution, health is defined as “a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being”. I fail to understand, Sir, what is meant by the definition of health as “social well-being”. I can very well imagine social health as social well-being, but to define mere health as social well-being certainly beats me. I could have put it better by saying that health is a state of complete physical, mental and spiritual well being, because, Sir, it is realised more and more that the ultimate basis of well being is the spiritual. Time was when the Greek doctors or psychologists or moralists laid the *dictum mens sana in corpore sano*; that is, a sound mind in a sound body. But recently our friend George Bernard Shaw has amended it to this effect—he might have been half in jest and half in earnest. He remarked that the criterion or basis of health is “a sound body in a sound mind”. I feel, Sir, that with our ancient spiritual background we in India, who developed our systems of *Hatha Yoga* and *pranayam* recognise the nervous and mental system; and behind that, the spiritual as the true basis of all well being.

Therefore, Sir, it was in the fitness of things for our representatives at the Health Conferences to have stressed the spiritual aspect of well being. In any case, health cannot be defined as social well being; health certainly is physical and mental well being; social health is of course social well being. Over and above that, Sir, I should like to say that the malady from which the world is suffering at the present day is at bottom spiritual and nothing else. It is only a transvaluation of values and a return to the spirit that can save the world and therefore it would have been very well indeed if health, meaning health in the comprehensive sense, had been defined as physical, mental and spiritual well being, giving priority to the spiritual well being of the individual as well.

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as of humanity. In the Gita, Sir, it is stated that struggles and conflicts arise

[Shri H. V. Kamath]
because certain men take it into their heads to behave in a particular manner. There are some well known verses in the Gita which with your indulgence, Sir, I would like to quote. In the sixteenth Chapter of the *Bhagvad Gita* it is stated that men with *asura prikriti*—devilish or demonic nature—bring about these wars and conflicts and thus ruin the well being of humanity. It is necessary, Sir, that these tendencies should first of all be curbed and eliminated before we proceed to build the well being of humanity. The important verse from the Gita, which is very well applicable to the present day, is:—

Asatyam apratishtham te jagadahuranishwaram.
Apāraspara sambhutam kimanayat kama haitukam.

That is exactly the state in which we find the world and humanity today, and unless that is remedied and unless these tendencies are eliminated from human society, I see no salvation for men, and *homo sapiens* will go under as many other species have gone under in the past.

There is another point which I would by your leave, Sir, like to make out. The second Article or second sub-clause of the Preamble to the Constitution says that "the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being, without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition". I fail to see, Sir, how if economic and social conditions are bad, health is at all attainable by any human being. I could have very well understood it if the word had been "status" instead of "condition", because after all we are living today in a class society. But I cannot understand how you can say that irrespective of social and economic conditions health is the fundamental right or the birthright of every human being. Put a man in a *chawl* in Bombay or a slum in London and then say, "You must be healthy". I fail to see, Sir, how anybody can be told to become healthy living in slums. I feel, Sir, that this idea does not represent the point that is sought to be made out in this, that is that health is the fundamental right of every human being irrespective of social and economic conditions. I do not see what they had in mind but this Constitution has come before us only for ratification; we have not got the time or the opportunity to amend or alter it at this stage.

One more point, Sir, and I have done. In Hindi or Sanskrit there is one word which very aptly, very comprehensively, very completely defines what health is; and that is the word *swastha* from which you derive *swasthya*—health. *Swa* is self, and *stha* means to stand—poise; poised in the self; that is health. That point I tried my very best to find elucidated or even mentioned in this Constitution—I was very much disappointed.

The last point, Sir, that I want to make out is that in Chapter 2—Functions—there are various functions assigned to the Organisation. I would have very much liked, Sir, that this International Health Organisation had some active contact and association with the various Governments of the world in a particular direction, namely, the direction of education. I mean to say the World Health Organisation should have called upon the various educational institutions like colleges and schools through the respective Governments to promote health instruction as an integral part of the curriculum during the formative period of boyhood, youth and adolescence. That I find, Sir, has not been done. Of course, I am speaking subject to correction. It may have been included indirectly in some other clause, but I tried my very best to see if it could be comprehended in some other clause, but I could not. This is very necessary at the present day when all educationists and psychologists realise that education is the only way to practically every kind of prosperity and happiness, provided you give the proper bias to it, whether in schools or in colleges or in universities. The International Health Organisation has an active role to play here,

because with it all the Governments are associated and certainly it could have been embodied in its Constitution that the Organisation should ask the various Governments of the world to see that proper instruction is imparted to the pupils in all the educational instructions in this direction of promoting health by means of sports of all kinds, pastimes, recreation and cognate activities of that sort.

Sir, unfortunately, for good or for ill, this Constitution and the Protocol are before us only for ratification. I have therefore only to request that in future at least the National Government of our Free India would take care to see that our representatives who attend these International Conferences are properly instructed from time to time.

Begum Aizaz Rasul (U.P.: Muslim): Sir, I have great pleasure in supporting the motion which the Honourable the Minister for Health has moved for the consideration of the House. I do not think that a long speech is necessary to support it, because it is a matter which I think will have the unanimous approval of the House. In fact, Sir, it is one of the most fundamental and necessary requirements of our life that this motion seeks to bring into existence and I am glad that the Honourable Minister for Health has brought forward this motion here.

Sir, the basic principles that have been enunciated by the World Health Organisation in its constitution lay out very clearly the principles on which this Organisation will work and I hope that every single principle that has been laid down here will be followed both in the letter and in the spirit. Our country, Sir, most unfortunately, as it is backward in most other respects, is, I am sad to say, very backward in the matter of health also. There was a time when India was very high up in standards of health, when people in this country compared very favourably in the field of physical strength in comparison to other countries and won prizes in physical contests but that is now a story of the past. Misfortunes betook our country and took away among other things the health of the country also. The health of our people has gone down most considerably and it is a matter for great regret that today our men and women are physically very much inferior as compared to peoples of other countries. This is a matter which must engage the attention of every one who has the good of the country at heart and of the Central and Provincial Governments. Therefore, the constitution of this World Health Organisation is more necessary from the point of view of the needs of our country than of any other country. As I said, I only hope that the principles enunciated and the objectives laid down will not merely remain on paper but will be followed both in the spirit and in the letter.

Sir, we can confidently hope that this world organisation viz. the International Health Organisation, the signatories of which hail from most of the countries of the world, will be popular, and will, it is hoped, get the unstinted and undivided support of all countries of the world. Unfortunately, the world today is so much torn by factions, rivalries and jealousies that any world organisation that is set up, founders on the rocks of international rivalries and intrigues. We have the example before us of the League of Nations. We also see what is going on in the United Nations Organisation, and how groups of different powers are intriguing against each other. Therefore, the organisation World Health Organisation, to me, seems a very happy augury for at least in its case there is a principle on which every country in the world, irrespective of its importance or non-importance in world affairs, will contribute very heartily and sincerely. That is one reason why we can look forward to the successful attainment of the basic principles laid down by this Organisation.

[Begum Aizaz Rasul.]

Sir, the Honourable Mover when moving this Bill told the House that she hopes that the Head Office of this Organisation will be established in India. With all the emphasis at my command, I would request her that she should try that this should be so, because more than from any other point of view, the reason why India should be the headquarters of this international organisation, is that tropical diseases are mostly rampant in this part of the world and need the greatest attention from the medical institutions and technicians of the world, and therefore if India is made the headquarters of this Health Organisation this very important branch of medical research will receive better attention. India being the heart of Asia, will be able to supply not only facilities for research and other things but also the very much needed medical facilities that are so much required in this part of the world.

From another point of view, Sir, and some reference of this has been made by previous speakers, the nutrition conditions in India and in other countries of Asia are such that they require special attention and therefore also it is necessary that India should be made the headquarters of this Health Organisation.

Sir, I support the suggestion made by my Honourable friend the previous speaker that attention should specially be given to physical culture. That is one of the most necessary things which go towards the making of a healthy body and no amount of medicine or medical research can have the desired effect until and unless due attention is paid to the physical development of human bodies and it goes without saying that a healthy body is necessary for a healthy mind and that can only be achieved if we pay more attention to our physical well being, by improving not only our food, which unfortunately is not so much in our hands but is due to the economic conditions of the country, but by physical exercises and physical culture. For this government should make as much provision as possible and encourage means of imparting physical education. I may inform the Honourable House that in the United Provinces such a council has been in being for some time, as this is one of the principles laid down in the Constitution of the World Health Organisation. I should like to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister for Health that she should kindly keep this in mind and that as soon as it is possible a Council of Physical Culture for the whole of India may be established to cater for this very necessary item of the human requirements. With these words, Sir, I have great pleasure in supporting the Motion.

Shri K. Santhanam: (Madras: General): I do not propose to take the time of the House for long. I cordially support the motion before the House. I am convinced that nothing but good can come to this country out of this organization. Its objects and generally the constitution are altogether unexceptionable. But I have got one or two points on which I seek some light from the Honourable Mover.

Sir, if you turn to Article 56 it is stated that the World Health Organisation may approve the Budget estimates and according to Article 59, it is said that important questions will be decided by two thirds majority and other questions by a bare majority. I want to know whether the Budget appropriations are considered to be important questions and whether they will be decided by a two-thirds majority or by a mere bare majority, because if it is by a bare majority, there is a chance of all small nations joining together and putting on us a very disproportionate burden. I do not see why such an ambiguity was left in this Constitution.

Again Sir, if you take Article 74 it is said the Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts of this Constitution shall be regarded as equally authentic. I cannot understand the rationale of this linguistic combination. I think in all world organisations there should be some principle adopted in

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relation to language. I would suggest that our representatives hereafter should suggest the adoption of some such principle, for instance they may suggest that the language which is the mother tongue of not less 200 millions of people may be taken as a world language or some such principle. Now it is said English, French, Chinese, Spanish texts of this constitution etc... Why should it not be a Hindustani text? And why not there be other texts? While we ratify it now, I hope our representatives will take up this question of language and see that we get a proper recognition that is our due.

Again, Sir, in the Executive Board there are to be 18 members. I want to know if it is the World Health Organisation that pays for all the travelling and other expenses of the Executive Board of the Member nations. I ask this question for this specific purpose because the chances are that the headquarters of this organisation will be somewhere in Europe or America, so much so if the Member nations have to meet this expenditure, the poorest countries will have to bear much greater burden. So if all the expenses are met by the World Health Organisation, I do not mind if it is situated in America or Europe or anywhere because our Members will get an opportunity to go at the World Health Organisation's expense to other countries; otherwise our taxpayers have to pay heavily for every world organisation and then it would become an unnecessary and rather unreasonable burden upon our country. I hope I shall get some information on these points. Otherwise generally I approve of the constitution I congratulate the Minister on the motion and I hope our country will play an adequate part in this World Health Organisation.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur (Minister for Health): There are not many points to which I have to reply after the discussion to which we have all listened. I am aware as well as anybody else what very poor conditions of health are obtaining in this country and it was for that very reason that I suggested to our Government that we should ask that the headquarters of the World Health Organisation should be in India. I think that health has been neglected and it is my hope that if this proposition of India is accepted a very great impetus will be given and more attention than has hitherto been concentrated will be given to a solution of health problems. As far as Village India is concerned if the Organisation is here and I have no doubt that medical relief to Village India will constitute one of the things that we in India can put forward before the Health Organisation. As far as removing of slums in Bombay or *cheris* in Madras, I would suggest to the speakers that they are primarily Provincial questions, but with the help of the World Health Organisation, these questions would certainly be brought before the public eye in a larger measure.

Now one of the things was in regard to finance. I would like to assure Members that I do not think in any case will India have to pay more than the scales that have already been settled at the Fourth Interim Commission. The decision that was arrived at there was that they should be based provisionally on the scales approved by the General Assembly in 1947 for the 1948 budget of the United Nations adjusted as necessary with the membership of the World Health Organisation. For the information of Honourable Members I should like to say that the total expenditure of the World Health Organisation for the years 1946 and 1947 on the basis of 3.95 per cent. representing the contribution from India and Pakistan was Rs. 1,69,455; and for the financial year 1948 it will be about the same or perhaps a little more. But that means India and Pakistan, and Pakistan will not pay itself and therefore that contribution will be less. Then, it may be even less than that because the expenditure was distributed among 54 States who are members of the U.N.O. and 63

[Rajkumari Amrit Kaur]

States actually have signed the Constitution of the World Health Organisation. And if the number of States which accept the Constitution exceeds 54, then the percentage contribution from India along with that of other countries will also be correspondingly lower. As far as whether we should join this World Health Organisation or any other organisations that are off-shoots of the U.N.O. is concerned, I think the Prime Minister very clearly put forward the Government of India policy, and I need say no more about that. In regard to the question about *Hindustani* this really rests of course with the United Assembly. We can certainly raise this point and it can be dealt with later.

There was some criticism as to what part our Indian representatives had played in framing this Constitution. I think I said in my opening remarks when I moved this Resolution that the Technical Committee which drafted the original Constitution in Paris in March 1946 included our representative and he was a member of a committee of four who drafted the bulk of the Constitution; so that they did not play an unworthy part in the drafting of the Constitution as a whole.

Then one honourable Member talked about no reference having been made to health education. I think if he were to read the functions more carefully he would see that clauses (h), (g), (q), (r), and (v) would include all that he wants in the sphere of education. And the travelling allowances of members as they go will be paid by the World Health Organisation.

Sir, I think I have answered most of the questions that have been raised; and as far as our own health programmes are concerned they are really not relevant to this Resolution because here we are only ratifying what has in fact been signed on our behalf by our Indian delegation. The question that I myself wish to emphasise is that we shall benefit by becoming a member and a party to this World Health Organisation, and I hope the House will now proceed to ratify the Constitution and the protocol.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"This Assembly is of opinion that the Constitution of the World Health Organisation and the Protocol concerning the International Office of Public Hygiene be ratified."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 25th November, 1947.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Tuesday, 25th November, 1947

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS.

NUMBER OF INDIANS APPOINTED AS CHIEF JUSTICES.

252. *Shri S. Nagappa: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the number of Indians appointed as Chief Justices in the several High Courts in India?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The number of Indian Chief Justices of High Courts including the Oudh Chief Court is five.

Shri S. Nagappa: Sir, may I know whether these Judges are posted in their own provinces or in different provinces?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I can give you a statement from which you will be able to find out. For example in—

Bombay—Mr. Muhammad Ali Chagla is the Chief Justice and he belongs to Bombay:

Allahabad—Mr. Kamala Kant Verma is the Chief Justice and he belongs to the United Provinces:

The Chief Court of Oudh—Mr. Ghulam Hasan who is probably from the same province:

The Punjab—Diwan Ram Lal:

Patna—Sir Clifford Mohan Agarwala.

Shri S. Nagappa: Will the Government at least see in the future that the Chief Justices are posted only from that province to which they belong and not from outside the province?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Am I to understand that in future the Chief Justices should be appointed from outside their own provinces?

Shri S. Nagappa: No, from their own provinces.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The question of the Honourable Member is that Chief Justices should be appointed from the same provinces?

Mr. Speaker: That is the suggestion.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: But why in future? The present procedure is the same.

Seth Govinddas: Is the Honourable Member aware that in the Central Provinces the Chief Justice is not only not of that province, but a foreigner? Will the Honourable Member see that no foreigners are made Chief Justices in India now?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: If the Government of the province makes a recommendation, certainly it will be considered.

Shri B. A. Mandloi: Will the Honourable Member please state how many non-Indians hold the office of Chief Justice in the Union of India?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Three.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyaya: Will the Honourable Minister be pleased to state whether an Indian will be posted Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court instead of an European now holding the post?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: In the Calcutta High Court the present Chief Justice is a European. You want an Indian. We will gladly consider the recommendations of the Bengal Government.

STRENGTH AND EXPENDITURE OF INDIAN AND NON-INDIAN ARMY PERSONNEL

253. *Shri S. Nagappa: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

- the total number of divisions in the Indian Army;
- the total number of non-Indian Regiments;
- the expenditure that is incurred annually on an Indian soldier and a non-Indian soldier;
- the difference in pay of an Indian and a non-Indian officer of the same rank;
- the total number of non-Indians sent to their homeland after 15th August 1947; and
- the savings so effected?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Four.

(b) Presumably the Honourable Member's enquiry is whether there are still British units serving in the Indian Army. If so, the answer is in the negative.

(c) The average expenditure incurred annually on an Indian soldier and a non-Indian (British) soldier is roughly Rs. 1,200 and Rs. 3,000 respectively.

(d) I lay a statement on the table of the House.

(e) 18,762 non-Indians (British Officers and men). This figure is in respect of India and Pakistan. It is regretted that separate figures are not available.

(f) It is regretted that the savings effected cannot be computed as an analysis of the British officers and men by various ranks who have left India is not available.

STATEMENT

There is no difference between the pay of a King's Commissioned Indian Officer and that of a King's Commissioned British Officer paid under the Indian Pay Code. The rates of pay admissible under the Indian Pay Code to a K.C.B.O. and an I.C.O. are however not identical and compare as follows:

Rank	Monthly Rates of Pay.		
	I.C.O.	K.C.B.O.	
2/Lt.	Rs. 350	Rs. 385	
Lieut.	400 to 450	435 to 470	
Captain	450 to 700	555 to 855	
Major	700 to 1050	915 to 1035	
Lt.-Colonel	1100 to 1400	1525	

plus the allowances shown in the notes below.

Note: In addition, cost of living allowance is allowed at the rates admissible to civilian officers drawing the same rates of pay, but no command pay, staff pay, additional pay, corps pay, family allowance etc. is admissible.

- The rate of pay for a Lt.-Col. includes Command/Staff pay of Rs. 300 p.m. which is admissible to all officers on the old pay code while holding Command or Staff appointments.
- The following additional pay and allowances are admissible:—
 - Indian Army Allowance varying from Rs. 75 for a 2nd Lt. to Rs. 200/- for a Lt.-Col.
 - War Service Increments depending on rank and length of war service. The maximum rate for Majors and Lt.-Cols. is Rs. 138 p.m. and for Captains and below Rs. 102 p.m.
 - Single officers receive lodging allowance varying from Rs. 20 p.m. for a 2nd Lt. to Rs. 75 p.m. for a Lt. Col. Married officers receive family allowance the amount of which depends on the rank of the officer and the size of his family.
 - Certain other additional pay and allowances, e.g., Corps pay, Staff pay, Adjutant's pay, etc., depending on the rank and arm of service, are admissible.

Shri S. Nagappa: Arising out of the answer to clause (f), may I ask the Government whether they will considerably increase the Indian Army from the savings so effected?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: It is quite clear from the answer. When the British officers and men go we will have plenty of money.

Shri S. Nagappa: When do the Government expect all the British personnel to go?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: By the end of March next.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: May I know whether any discrimination between Indian and European soldiers in our Army will still continue to be made in the future?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: There will be no British soldier. So the question does not arise.

Shri S. Nagappa: Will the Government allow the continuance of British personnel even if they offer to serve after 31st March 1948 in the Indian Army under conditions prevailing?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I am making a statement in reply to another question on the terms offered to British personnel who will volunteer for employment in the Indian Army.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the position of the new recruitment of British officers?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: It is all clear in the statement issued by the Government a few days ago.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Minister assure the House that in future there will not be any discrimination between the Indian and British personnel in the Army?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The question does not arise.

Mr. Speaker: It is unnecessary also.

SCHEME FOR MODERNISATION OF INDIAN UNION ARMY

254. *Shri S. Nagappa: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether there is any scheme or proposal under the consideration of Government to modernise the present Armies of Indian Union with up-to-date armament and ammunition; if so, when will it come into force?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above is in the negative, what is the reason thereof?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (b). The Indian Army was considerably modernised during the last war but, as the Honourable Member will appreciate, modernisation is a continuous process and the intention is to keep pace with the development of arms and equipment in other countries.

RECRUITMENT TO VACANCIES CAUSED BY DIVISION OF ARMY BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

255. *Shri S. Nagappa: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state what portion of the Army has been sent to Pakistan as a result of the division of the country into Pakistan and the Indian Union?

(b) Do Government propose to fill up the vacancies so caused by recruiting from the demobilised soldiers?

(c) If so, when, and if not, why not?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) The question is not quite clear. Of the combined Army roughly about one-third has gone under Pakistan Government. This did not, however, involve the despatch from India to Pakistan

of one-third of the Army located in India. More troops have come or are due to come to India from Pakistan than the number of troops which have left or are leaving India for Pakistan.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) It is considered that the forces allotted to India are adequate as India's peace-time Armed Forces.

Shri S. Nagappa: In view of the fact that we are experiencing disturbed conditions throughout India, and in view of the fact that one-third of the army has gone to Pakistan, will the Government consider the advisability of filling up the one-third deficiency by fresh recruitment?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: If the Government so decides we will have to recruit more soldiers. As I have already stated, at present the existing forces are considered adequate for the defence of the country.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: By what time will this movement of troops between the two Dominions—our troops which are to come from Pakistan and their troops which are to go from India—be completed?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Latest by the end of December.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is it a fact that there are large quantities of military equipment in Pakistan which could not be brought to India?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Some equipment is in Pakistan, but whatever is our share, is coming to India.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: I am asking the Honourable Minister if it is not a fact that large quantities of equipment are in Pakistan which the Indian Government has not been able to bring back so far?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: That may be so, but we have also in India vast stores which we have not been able to despatch to Pakistan.

Shri H. V. Kamath: In view of the fact that vacancies have been caused in the Indian army by sending some of the men to Pakistan, may I know if any of the vacancies have been filled by men of the Indian National Army?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The question of filling up the vacancy does not arise, as we do not propose to start fresh recruitment at this stage.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is there any ban on the recruitment of I.N.A. men into our army?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The question has not arisen so far, because we have not recruited any new men.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Have Government laid down any policy in regard to that? This question has been so much debated on the floor of this House during the past, may I know from the Honourable Minister if his Department has gone into the whole question and has issued a directive or enunciated any policy with regard to the future recruitment of these men?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The question of the employment of the I.N.A. men in the regular army is under the consideration of the Government. No decision has been taken as yet.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: How long will it take them to come to a decision?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: There are several factors involved. If we have to employ the I.N.A. men in the regular army, we have to declare them as prisoners of war and all the facilities that are due to prisoners of war would have to be given to them. That question is under examination. When all the details are available, the question will come before Government for a decision.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has any effort been made to expedite the matter and come to an early decision?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Yes, Sir.

NUMBER AND EVACUATION OF EMPLOYEES IN PAKISTAN OPTING TO SERVE INDIA

256. *Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs please state:

(a) the number of Government employees with the names of Departments in the Dominion of Pakistan who agreed to opt out to the Dominion of India;

(b) the number of employees who have actually arrived in the Dominion of India, up to the end of October 1947;

(c) how many still require to be evacuated from the Dominion of Pakistan;

(d) how many of them have actually joined the services; and

(e) whether all the Departments now work normally; and if not, when Government intend to bring them to normal level?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a), (b), (c) and (d). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(e) All the ministries are working normally though they are not yet upto normal strength.

STATEMENT

Ministries.	The number of Govt. employees agreed to opt out for the Dominion of India.	The number of Govt. employees actually arrived in the Dominion of India.	How many still require to be evacuated from Pakistan?	How many of them have actually joined the services?
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Agriculture	316	205	111	189
	49	47	2	47
	12	10	2	10
Commerce	32	29	1	29
Communications	211	170	41	170
	149	137	12	134
	9000	8000	1000	8000
	2	1	1	1
Defence	77	3	5	3
	121	116	74	6
E.A. & C.R.	221	..	221	..
Education	33	23	10	23
Finance	335	..	..	35
	1717	1323	394	123
	963	963	..	63
Finance (Defence)	3122	..	..	192
Food	70	36	34	36
Health	145	104	41	91
Home Affairs	..	..	..	..
I. & B.	1	1	1	..
I. & S.	193	173	20	167
Labour	2	..	1	..
	352	146	206	146
Law	26	..	..	5
Railways	1,26,000	1,08,400	17,600	1,03,000
R. & R.	..	..	..	..
States	1	..	..	..
Transport	8	7	1	7
W. M. & P.	..	..	..	..
TOTAL	1,43,157	1,19,894	19,778	1,16,787

ANTI-INDIA PROPAGANDA IN AMERICAN PRESS.

257. ***Mr. R. K. Sidhwa:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting please state what steps have Government taken to counteract the one-sided report sent by American Correspondents in India to the American Press about the situation in India?

(b) Has our Ambassador in the United States taken steps to contradict this one-sided report?

(c) If not, do Government propose to do the needful in the matter?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a), (b) and (c). In the absence of any specific mention of the report and the correspondent concerned I regret I am unable to reply to this question.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Is it a fact that only one-sided reports have actually appeared in various foreign newspapers, of which the Government must be already aware?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Government is aware of the fact that several foreign correspondents have sent unfortunately tendentious, exaggerated and one-sided reports.

Shri B. Das: Is there any truth that when Pakistan and India were separated the B.B.C. representatives in India took photographs and circulated gruesome false tales in America about atrocities in India? What steps have Government taken to represent to the British Government that the B.B.C. representatives should not tell such lies?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: If reporters have taken photographs there is no censorship in our country so far as foreign correspondents are concerned. There is complete freedom in external publicity. We cannot prevent it.

Shri B. Das: I have been alluding to the fact that the B.B.C. representatives circulated in the American press false informations. That is what I have been alluding to.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government been sending out any daily news bulletins to all our embassies abroad, so that it may be possible for them to make them available to as many papers in other countries as possible as well as correspondents on that side?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: We do supply correct information. Daily cables are being sent to our Information Officers and to our ambassadors in the countries concerned. Apart from the daily information that is supplied by cable, steps have also been taken to remove misunderstanding and to spread correct information. Foreign correspondents have been contacted here by me personally and by the Prime Minister and we have often drawn the attention of foreign press through their accredited representatives to the necessity of giving factual and objective information and not to put false or exaggerated colours on news in order to create a wrong impression. Besides press conferences have been held by the Prime Minister and considerable publicity is given to these press conferences where correct facts are stated.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know if the Honourable Minister's attention has been drawn to the fact that the Associated Press of India, which is a part of Reuters, has been sending out different versions of the same happenings to papers in Pakistan and in India; particularly in regard to Kashmir the reports emanating from the A.P.I. appearing in the "Dawn" and other papers published in Pakistan are a different version of the same happenings as they appear in the Indian papers?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Once it is agreed that Pakistan and India have different angles of vision and different points of view that two representatives naturally send out different reports.

ERADICATION OF CORRUPTION AND BLACK-MARKETING

258. ***Mr. R. K. Sidhwa:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs please state what steps have Government taken to stop corruption and black-marketing?

(b) Have Government adopted a definite policy to eradicate this evil?

(c) If so, what steps have been actually taken by Government in this direction, beyond few periodical incidents detected by officials?

(d) Do Government intend to adopt a definite policy in this matter?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a), (b), (c) and (d). I would invite Honourable Member's attention to the existence on the Statute Book of the Special Police Establishment Act 1946 and the Prevention of Corruption Act 1947. These Acts implement a definite policy in the matter and if the Honourable Member will care to study the debates leading to the passage of the respective Bills, he will appreciate that Government have a definite policy in the matter and also the means of implementing that policy.

DIVISION OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

259. ***Mr. R. K. Sidhwa:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance please state whether Government have laid down any policy and adopted any principles in connection with the division of assets and liabilities between the two Dominions?

(b) How do Government propose to meet the liabilities of the Government promissory notes, postal certificates and other assets between the two Dominions?

(c) Will the Currency and Government papers held by the people of one Dominion be exchanged and cashed by the people of the other Dominion?

(d) If the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, what conditions would be imposed on them?

(e) Up to what period, the Indian money in coin or paper, will be common to both the Dominions?

(f) What will be the conditions under which each Dominion can use its own Currency after the cessation of the period referred to in part (e) above?

(g) How will the people of both the Dominions be affected by the new Currency conditions?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) A copy of the terms of reference of the Expert Committee which dealt with the division of assets and liabilities giving the principles of the division is laid on the table.

(b) Under para 9 of the Indian Independence (Rights, Property and Liabilities) Order all loans, guarantees and financial obligations of the late Central Government have been placed on the Indian Dominion subject to Pakistan making an equitable contribution. The amount of this contribution still remains to be determined. In regard to Postal Savings Bank deposits and Postal Cash and other certificates it has been agreed that each Dominion will take over liability for the outstandings in its area on the date of the partition.

(c) to (g). I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the Pakistan (Monetary System and Reserve Bank) Order, 1947. The position briefly is that there is no change till the 31st March 1948 after which separate notes and coins will issue in Pakistan although India notes and coins will continue to be legal tender in Pakistan in accordance with the provisions of the said Order. Arrangements and conditions in regard to the exchange of currency between the two Dominions after 31st March 1948 are under consideration.

Terms of Reference of Expert Committee No. II—Assets and Liabilities.

- (1) To compile lists of assets by broad categories showing value and present location.
- (2) To make recommendations as to the division of assets between the two successor Governments. The general principle should be to secure the greatest good of the two States, but if there are disputed claims for fixed assets, like plant and machinery, the removal of which might be detrimental to the interests of the other Government, the facts of each case should be reported for consideration by the Partition Council.
- (3) When division is impracticable, to make recommendation either for mutual assistance or for joint administration or for any other arrangement for such period as may be necessary.
- (4) To make recommendations in regard to the financial settlement between the two Governments arising from the above as well as from an allocation of the public debt, pensions and other liabilities.
- (5) To recommend measures for giving effect to any transfer of assets after the recommendations have been accepted by the Partition Council.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: Arising out of the answer to part (e) may I ask whether the Honourable Minister is aware that citizens of the Indian Dominion who are in possession of defaced or mutilated notes of one rupee, five rupee, ten rupee or hundred rupee denominations issued by the Lahore Office are told by the Reserve Bank here that they should present them at Lahore for exchange with good ones. If so, in view of the conditions prevailing at the moment, whether Government do not think that it is not possible for such note-holders to present them at the Lahore Currency Office and that there is consequently a good deal of nervousness in the market?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: If the Honourable Member will pass on that information to me in writing I will make enquiries.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Has the Honourable Minister got with him figures relating to the postal cash certificates and national savings certificates that have fallen into Pakistan?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: That information is not available with me just now.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable Minister place before the Standing Finance Committee the proposed standing agreement between India and Pakistan on currency and exchange matters, before it is finalised?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: These are matters for the Partition Council and finally for the Arbitration Tribunal to decide. But I have no objection to place the information before the Standing Finance Committee if desired.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Do I take it that the Honourable Member's Department would be collecting the necessary data regarding the total holdings of savings bank cash certificates and national savings certificates, before the next session?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: If the Honourable Member will put down the question I shall endeavour to get the information.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: The Honourable Minister said that even after 31st March 1948 the Indian currency will be freely allowed in Pakistan. May I know whether the currency of Pakistan will be legal tender in India after the 31st March 1948?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The Indian notes will be legal tender in Pakistan only up to 1st October 1948 and not indefinitely. After that period they will be accepted only in treasuries for exchange for another six months. They are not intended to be legal tender indefinitely at all.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What about Pakistan currency?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: It would not be legal tender in India.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Cannot the defaced notes from Pakistan be accepted in the Indian Dominion until the Stand-still Agreement exists?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I do not see how this difficulty has arisen, because no notes have been issued by the Dominion of Pakistan. I think there are some rules of procedure for getting a defaced note exchanged. As I told the Honourable Member, if he will pass on the information regarding any difficulty experienced in this direction I will certainly make an enquiry about it.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: I have got a one rupee note with me on which is stamped that it should be presented at the Lahore Office, and I want to make a representation of it to the House.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable member may do so, but that would not be a question.

NATIONAL MILITIA FOR DEFENCE OF INDIA AND HER BORDERS

260. *Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence please state whether Government of India have adopted any policy for giving training to those who intend to join the Military Force?

(b) What steps Government propose to take to start National Militia?

(c) What steps have Government taken for the purpose of defending the Borders of India and also the Dominion of India, as a whole, in the event of an attack?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (b). The question is under consideration of the Government.

(c) Government are alive to their responsibilities in regard to the defence of the Country and the adequacy of defence arrangements is all the time under examination. It is however considered not desirable to disclose defence plans.

EXPANSION OF UNIVERSITY TRAINING CORPS AND AUXILIARY CORPS

261. *Shri Debi Prosad Khaitan: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the desirability of extending the activities of the University Training Corps to include every college-going boy to join it;

(b) the steps which Government are taking to establish a National Militia to help the Government both against foreign aggression as well as for the maintenance of peace inside the country, and also to give training in discipline to adult boys according to their capacity, in the various branches of military requirements; and

(c) the steps which Government are taking to utilise the services of girl students and other suitable women by forming Auxiliary Corps and introducing other supplementary activities to help the various branches of Defence?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (b). The whole question is under the active consideration of Government.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

LOANS TO PAKISTAN BY INDIAN BANKS

262. *Shri Debi Prosad Khaitan: Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) under what procedure and guarantee loans have been given by Indian Banks in Pakistan under the standstill Agreement up to 31st March 1948; and

(b) under what procedure and guarantee loans can be given by Indian Banks including the Reserve Bank of India to Pakistan for periods extending beyond 31st March 1948?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) Government have no information regarding loans if any made to the Pakistan Government by Indian banks.

(b) So far as the Reserve Bank is concerned, loans are subject to the provisions of the Reserve Bank Act and the Pakistan (Monetary System and Reserve Bank) Order, 1947. As regards loans by other banks, it is presumed that they will be on usual business principles.

WORKING OF ARMAMENT FACTORIES IN INDIA

263. *Shri Debi Prosad Khaitan: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, before India got Independence, the Armament factories in the country were interfered with by the removal of equipment and of personnel;

(b) whether all the armament factories in India are still in a working condition, and if not, the number of factories that are in good working condition;

(c) whether Government propose to consider the desirability of working the armament factories to their full capacity, either by the manufacture of defence materials, or by the manufacture of goods required by the civilian population; and

(d) whether Government propose to consider the possibility of permitting, under suitable conditions, private enterprise to manufacture arms and ammunition?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) There has been no such interference with any factory selected for postwar retention.

(b) All postwar factories are operating satisfactorily and in sound working condition under the supervision of civilian technicians except Ordinance Factory, Khamaria, which is a reserve Small Arms Ammunition and Shell filling factory and which is retained on a care and maintenance basis.

(c) The matter is receiving attention.

(d) Yes, Sir.

SUBSTITUTION OF "INDIANS" OR "BHARTIS" FOR "NON-MUSLIMS"

264. *Shri Debi Prosad Khaitan: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that even now Indians who are not Muslims continue to be called non-muslims in official circles;

(b) whether Government are aware that Indians in general resent being called non-muslims; and

(c) whether Government propose to consider the question of calling Indians in general by some more suitable name *e.g.*, Indians or Bharatis?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) As far as I am aware, persons resident in India, irrespective of the community to which they belong, are referred to in official documents as Indians unless in any particular context it is necessary to specify the community.

In view of this reply, clauses (b) and (c) of the question do not arise.

EDUCATION OF INDIAN STUDENTS ABROAD

265. *Shri B. A. Mandloi: Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places in foreign countries at which educational facilities exist for the Indian students;

(b) the number of students receiving education at these centres during the years 1945-46 and 1946-47; and

(c) the number and value of scholarships given by the Central Government to students for studies in foreign countries?

آنریبل مولانا ابوکلام آزاد : اس سوال میں جو باتیں پوچھی گئی ہیں - انکے لئے دو ۲ اسٹیٹمنٹ تیار کر رکھ دیئے گئے ہیں - ایک سوال (a) اور (b) سے تعلق رکھتا ہے - اور دوسرا (c) سے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Two statements showing the required information, one in respect of the portions (a) and (b) of the question and the other in respect of the portion (c) are placed on the table of the House.

[illegible][illegible]

Number of students receiving education during

S. No.	Name of the Institutions where education facilities exist for Indian students	1945-1946					1946-1947				
		Central Govt. Students	Prov. Govt. students	Indian States students	Private students	Total	Central Govt. students	Prov. Govt. students	Indian States students	Private students	Total
169	Royal Veterinary College, London	...	4	...	...	4	...	5	...	5	
170	Royal Veterinary College, Glasgow	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	
171	Royal Technical College, Lancashire	...	3	...	...	3	...	1	...	1	
172	Woolwich Institute	...	3	...	...	5	...	5	...	5	
173	Co-operation Union College, Loughborough	1	4	...	2	5	1	6	2	9	
174	Courtald Institute of Biochemistry, London	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	
175	College of Estate Management, London.	...	1	...	...	1	...	2	...	2	
176	Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, London	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	
177	Municipal Technical College & School of Arts, Blackburn	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	
178	Cambridge University	...	1	...	1	2	...	2	...	2	
179	Dublin University	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	
180	Leicester College of Arts & Crafts	...	2	...	...	2	...	2	...	2	
181	King's College, Aberdeen	...	1	...	...	1	...	3	...	1	
182	Trinity College, Dublin	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	3	
183	Medical College, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Southfield.	...	1	...	...	1	...	2	...	3	
184	Rewell Institute of Aberdeen, Bucksburn.	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	
185	Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh.	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	
186	Research Laboratory, Harmondsworth.	...	1	...	...	1	...	3	...	3	
187	Royal Technical College, Salford.	...	2	...	...	2	...	3	...	3	
188	Froebel Educational Institute, London.	...	2	...	...	2	...	1	2	3	

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

189	Institute of Child Health, London	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
190	West of Scotland Agricultural College.	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	2
191	Motessori Training College, London.	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
192	School of Oriental & African Studies, London.	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	3
193	Manchester College of Tech. U.K.	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
194	City of Liverpool Tech. College U.K.	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
195	Marine School of Smithshead U.K.	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
196	Leeds College of Tech. U. K.	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2
197	British Museum (National History)	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
198	University College of South West Exter of External London	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
199	Derby Tech. College Manchester Univy.	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
200	Edinburgh College of Domestic Science	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
201	Westfield College, London.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
202	Bedford College for Women, London.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
203	London School of Oriental Studies, London.	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
204	Institute of Actuaries, London	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
205	Inat. of Laryology & Ology, London.	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
206	Marfield Eye Hospital, London	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
207	Stanford University	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
208	Wales University	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
209	Leeds Maternity Hospital, Leeds Univ.	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
210	Queens College, Oxford	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
211	School of Architecture, London .	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
212	London School of Economics	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
213	London University	...	2	...	...	...	...	7	7
214	City & Guilds, London	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
215	Architecture Association School, London.	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
216	Technical College, Sunderland	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
217	Power case corporation Stockton-on-tees	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1

S. No.	Name of the Institutions where education facilities exist for Indian students	Number of students receiving education during											
		1945-46					1946-47						
		Central Govt. students	Prov. Govt. students	Indian States students	Private students	Total	Central Govt. students	Prov. Govt. students	Indian States students	Private students	Total		
218	Christ College, Cambridge	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
219	Welsh National School of Medicine	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
220	Bel fast University	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
221	Queens University, Belfast	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
222	Nottingham University	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
223	London & North Western Railway	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
	(c) Australia												
224	Waite Institute	..	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
225	Malbourne University	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	3	...	...	3
226	Gordon Institute of Tech. Geol-ling	2	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	1	...	3
227	Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Sydney	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2
	(d) New Zealand.												
228	Massey Agricultural College, Palmerstan	...	2	...	...	2	1	...	...	3	...	...	4
229	Canterbury Agricultural College	...	3	...	...	3	...	...	...	3	...	...	3
	(e) France												
230	Madame Curie Laboratory, Paris	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1

[illegible]

STATEMENT II

Showing the number and value of scholarships awarded by the Central Government

S. No.	Name of Country	Number of scholarships awarded by the Central Government	Average value of each scholarship for the complete training of the scholar
1	United States of America	486	Rs. 23,350
2	United Kingdom	324	Rs. 15,500
3	France	1	Rs. 15,500
4	Australia	8	Rs. 11,650
5	Newzealand	11	Rs. 11,850
6	China	9	Rs. 9,900

सेठ गोविन्ददास : क्या माननीय मंत्री यह बतालायेंगे कि जिन लोगों की सिफारिश अलग अलग प्रान्तों से इस बात के लिए आई है कि वह विदेश में पढ़ने के लिए भेजे जायें उनमें से अधिकांश अभी तक नहीं भेजे गये हैं। उनकी बाबत गवर्नमेण्ट क्या इत्तजाम कर रही है ?

Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister please state, if it is a fact that out of the number of the people whose names were recommended by different Provinces for study overseas, quite a large number has not been sent abroad so far? What do Government propose to do in the matter?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : کئی دفتین اس میں پیش آرہی ہیں یونیورسٹیوں میں جگہ ملنے کی دقت اور کچھ شیعہ کی دقت گورنمنٹ اس پر غور کر رہی ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Many difficulties are being experienced in this connection—want of seats in the Universities and lack of shipping facilities. Government is considering over the matter.

STATES ACCEDED TO PAKISTAN AND INDIA'S RELATIONS WITH STATES NOT JOINING EITHER OF THE DOMINIONS

266. *Shri B. A. Mandloi: Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Indian States, which have acceded to the Pakistan Union;

(b) the names of the Indian States which have not acceded either to the Union of Pakistan or to the Union of India;

(c) the status of such States which have not joined any of the Union; and

(d) whether any political or other ties exist between such States and the Government of India and on what basis their relations between the State and the Union Government are regulated?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) We have no information.

(b), (c) and (d). Hyderabad is the only State which has not acceded to either Dominion, and discussions are still proceeding between His Exalted Highness the Nizam's Government and the Government of India.

Shri B. A. Mandloi: Is it permissible or open for any State not to join either of the Dominions?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: It is open to any State even to commit suicide.

ACCESSION OF NIZAM'S STATE TO INDIAN UNION AND EXODUS OF MUSLIMS TO THE STATE.

267. *Shri B. A. Mandloi: Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nizam's State has acceded to the Union of India;

(b) whether there has been an exodus of Muslims on a very large scale from the units of the Union of India to the Nizam's State; and

(c) whether the large scale exodus of Muslims from the units of the Union of India and migration to the Nizam's State has the concurrence of the Government of India, and if not, what steps have been taken to stop such migration?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) No.

(b) There has been some exodus of Muslims mainly from the United Provinces, Central Provinces, Indore and some of the Central India States.

(c) The Provincial Governments and the States concerned are actively discouraging this exodus and have taken measures to check it.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Arising out of the answer to part (a) of the question, may I know whether Government have fixed any deadline for the negotiations with the Nizam?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The date of the deadline is very near.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether the leader of the Ittehad-ul-Muslemin was invited by the Honourable Minister for negotiations?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Where—in this Assembly?

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: In New Delhi.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I have not extended an invitation, but if the Honourable Member so desires I shall consider it.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: There is the movement in Hyderabad to send out all Hindus and replace them by Muslims from outside Hyderabad from the various Provinces. What steps are taken by the Central Government to discourage such a movement?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I do not think there is any such official movement.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are not Government aware of the fact that there is a large exodus of non-Muslims from the Hyderabad State owing to the troubles created there by the Ittehad-ul-Muslemin as well as the Administration?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: There is some exodus. I cannot say whether it is due to the movement or the organisation concerned. But there is some exodus due to some trouble, and due to panic.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government received any plan from the Indian Provinces adjoining the Nizam's State to the effect that border incidents are being created by the people of Hyderabad and also the agents of the State, as well as this organisation?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Government have received no complaints, but they have received reports. We have also been informed by them that they are capable of dealing with the situation.

Prof. Shibbanlal Saksena: Has the Honourable Minister drawn the attention of the Nizam's Government to these happenings?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Yes, we have done so.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I ask the Honourable Minister why Government has been particularly so lenient as regards the Hyderabad State in granting time from time to time?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Because it is the biggest State in India and it is in the interests of the people of India as well as of the people of the Hyderabad State to deal with such questions gently, delicately and in a statesmanlike manner.

Shri S. Nagappa: As the time-limit granted has not been in the interests of the people, will the Government at least assure the House that it will not grant any more time so far as Hyderabad is concerned?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I do not think the House needs any assurance because the House knows that no more time will be given than is necessary.

NUMBER OF BRITISH OFFICERS SERVING THE INDIAN ARMY

268. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state how many British Officers in the Indian Army have agreed to serve in the Indian Army as volunteers under the Supreme Commander?

(b) How many British Officers have offered to serve in the Indian Army after the Supreme Command is liquidated?

(c) What conditions have been offered by Government to those British Officers who want to stay on in the Indian Army?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) 1,204.

(b) and (c). The terms and conditions of service to be offered to British Officers are contained in the Press Communique which was issued on the 20th November 1947. It is too early to say how many British Officers will volunteer for service under these terms.

Seth Govind Das: With reference to clause (c) of the question, Sir, will Government see that first the option of taking officers is given to Indians and not British officers? If Indian officers are willing to come in the vacancies created, first Indians should be appointed and not British officers.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Yes, Sir, that is the policy of the Government.

STRENGTH OF STANDING ARMY AND RAISING OF NATIONAL MILITIA IN INDIA

269. *Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the strength of the standing army the Government of India propose to maintain in the Indian Union; and

(b) whether there is any proposal before the Government of India to raise a 'National Militia' soon?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (b). The future strength and composition of the army, including requirements for second-line defence, are under consideration.

INDIA'S MEMBERSHIP OF 'EMPIRE DOLLAR POOL'.

270. *Seth Govindas: Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that India is still a member in the Empire Dollar Pool;

(b) whether there is any proposal to liquidate the above pool as a whole;

(c) the share India will get if the Empire Dollar Pool is abolished; and

(d) whether the Government of India propose to continue in the Empire Dollar Pool any further?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: In view of the complexity of this subject and of the fact that there is more than one question on the Order Paper today relating to it, I should like, with your permission, Sir, to make a full statement on the subject of the Empire Dollar Pool, which will cover this question and parts (b) and (c) of Question No. 277 and parts (a), (b) and (c) of Question No. 284.

2. The Empire Dollar Pool is a popular way of describing certain exchange arrangements which were in force between members of the Sterling Area. It was customary before the War for a large number of countries (generally referred to as the sterling bloc) to hold almost all their foreign exchange balances in London in the form of sterling. Sterling was then freely convertible into other currencies and therefore countries which held sterling balances could convert them at will into any currency which they happened to need for fulfilling their international obligations. With the outbreak of war and the increasing difficulty caused in securing the convertibility of sterling, this system assumed a degree of rigidity which had not been previously contemplated. By mutual agreement those members of the sterling bloc who continued to be members of what is now known as the Sterling Area sold all their surplus exchange to the Bank of England for sterling and agreed to impose restrictions on the expenditure of non-sterling foreign exchange in order to ensure that the limited resources of the Sterling Area in foreign currencies were utilised to the best advantage in the prosecution of war. The whole of the Sterling Area's holdings of foreign exchange were thus held in one Pool in the custody of the Bank of England and the British Treasury. As the United States dollar was the most important foreign currency in this Pool, this whole arrangement came to be known as the Empire dollar Pool.

3. The restrictions imposed on the expenditure of foreign exchange followed more or less a similar pattern in the whole of the Sterling Area and in this matter the members of the Sterling Area were guided largely by the advice of the Bank of England and the British Treasury. Individual members including India were however free to vary their policy within limits and the final judge of the essentiality of foreign expenditure was always the member country itself. When the Exchange Control of a member country granted the necessary authorisation, the British Treasury never questioned the decision that was taken.

4. From what I have stated above, it is obvious firstly that there is no definite date on which the Empire Dollar Pool was constituted, secondly that as long as the Sterling Area continues in the sense that a certain number of countries Pool their foreign exchange resources in London, the Empire Dollar Pool will also continue in existence and thirdly, that a country's connection with the Pool can only be terminated by its withdrawing from the membership of the Sterling Area.

5. India is still a member of the Sterling Area. It follows therefore that it is still a member of the Empire Dollar Pool. I should like however to point out that there is, as far as India is concerned, a quantitative difference between the incidents of India's membership of the Pool now and her membership of that pool before the coming into force of the Sterling Balances Agreement of the 14th August, 1947. Previously, though India could draw foreign exchange theoretically without limit of amount for all current transactions which she herself regarded as essential, she was bound in practice to abide by the convention for judging essentially common to the whole of the Sterling Area and in practice therefore her liberty to spend

the more difficult currencies was often substantially restricted. Now India is free to follow her own independent policy with regard to what she will or will not purchase from countries outside the Sterling Area without regard to what the general policy of the Bank of England or the British Treasury may be. By virtue of this agreement however our right to withdrawal of dollars and other foreign currency is now limited to the amount of Sterling we may at any time have to our credit at the Reserve Bank's Account No. 1 at the Bank of England.

6. We have no information about the contributions made to or withdrawals made from the Dollar Pool by other members of the Sterling Area. We have however kept an account of India's earnings and expenditure of United States dollars and other difficult currencies, figures regarding which have been given to the House from time to time and more details regarding which I shall give to the House in my Budget Speech tomorrow.

7. As there is no likelihood of the Sterling Area being dissolved, it follows also that the Empire Dollar Pool will not be dissolved. If and when India decides to leave the Sterling Area she will also cease to be a member of the Pool and it will then be a question of negotiation as to the number of Dollars or other currencies she may take into her own possession at the time of her withdrawal. Whether or not India should leave the Sterling Area is a matter which will constantly engage attention.

Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister be pleased to state whether under the present circumstances the Government has considered whether it would be in the interests of India to remain a member of the Dollar Pool or to leave it?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: If the Honourable Member's question means whether it is in India's interests to remain a member of the Sterling Area, my answer is that just at present it is to our advantage to remain in the Sterling Area.

Mr. Speaker: In view of the technical nature of the subject and the long statement made in reply, and also in view of the fact stated just now by the Honourable Finance Minister that he is going to make a reference to it in his Budget speech tomorrow, I would request Honourable Members to study the statement rather than go into supplementaries now. That will save time for other questions. I do not mean to suggest that Members are not entitled to put supplementaries but I suggest this to save time.

RECRUITMENT TO INDIAN ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AT THE CENTRE AND IN PROVINCES

271. ***R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of posts created in the Indian Administrative Service at the Centre and in the various Provinces;

(b) the distribution, so far made, at the Centre and each of the Provinces of members of that service; and

(c) the number of vacancies still remaining to be filled?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) The fixation of the cadre strength of the Indian Administrative Service is still under consideration in consultation with the Provincial Governments. The Centre has no separate cadre but draws the officers required from provincial cadres.

(b) Officers who have so far been recruited to the Service have been allotted as follows: Assam 2, Bihar 7, Bombay 6, C. P. and Berar 6, Madras 14, Orissa 5, U. P. 20.

(c) The number of vacancies cannot be determined until the strength of the cadre is finally settled.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Sir, may I know on what basis the Provincial cadres have been created?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The Provincial cadre is fixed on the basis of Provincial requirements including deputation reserve for the Centre.

REPRESENTATION OF ORISSA IN THE CENTRAL BOARD OF REVENUES

272. ***Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any representative of Orissa in the Central Board of Revenue; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, whether Government propose to have one representative from Orissa so far as Income-tax, Customs, and Central Excise, are concerned?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) and (b). There is no officer in the Central Board of Revenue to represent any particular province as such. It is neither practicable nor desirable to have representatives in the Board on a provincial basis.

INCOME FROM SALE OF OPIUM IN ORISSA

273. ***Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the total income from Opium in the Province of Orissa; and

(b) whether Government propose to give back to the Government of Orissa the whole income from the sale of Opium?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) The Government of India do not derive any income from opium consumption in the provinces. The opium is sold to the Provincial Governments by the Central Government at cost price. The Provincial Governments derive revenue from the sale of opium by levying excise duty, licence fee etc., and the amount of revenue derived by the Government of Orissa during the calendar year 1946 was Rs. 55,36,414.

(b) The question of giving back to the Government of Orissa the whole income from opium sale, therefore, does not arise.

RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING OF CADETS AT DEHRA DUN

274. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure to be adopted by the parents who are anxious to send their sons to Dehra Dun to be trained there as Cadets;

(b) whether the political suffering and opinion of parents are any longer a bar to the admission of their children;

(c) whether it is proposed to recruit a larger number of Cadets and if so how many; and

(d) what is the total capacity of the college at Dehra Dun to train the cadets?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Parents who are desirous of sending their sons to the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, have to submit their applications to the local military authorities.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) 210 Cadets will be admitted to the next course.

(d) 680.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, arising from the answer to clause (b), when the various cadets have the same qualifications, will the Government consider the desirability of choosing those persons who suffered for the cause of the independence of India?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Sir, there is no bar—previously there was some kind of bar against those who had taken part in the political agitation—but there is absolutely none now.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I am asking the Honourable Member if, instead of being merely satisfied with the passive removal of the bar, whether Government will actively consider helping those persons or choosing them as cadets, provided they have got the same qualifications as others, if their parents had suffered for the cause of India's freedom.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Well, Sir, I have stated the policy which is followed at present. The question raised by the Honourable Member is a matter of policy. If the Government adopt it, I will of course have no objection.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the advisability of taking such a decision?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: If it is the desire of the House, Sir, I will certainly put it before the Government.

Shri M. S. Aney: May I ask, Sir, whether admission is confined to the qualification of the candidates to be admitted or the qualification of the parents or guardians of the candidate?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I have not followed the question.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Sir, do Government propose to train suitable women in the future?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: There is such scheme at present.

Diwan Chaman Lal: May I know whether the total number of vacancies to be filled at the Dehra Dun College are sufficient to meet the requirements of the Army?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: No, Sir. We are short of officers and this 210 is the maximum number we can take at present.

Diwan Chaman Lal: May I ask my friend what arrangements Government are making to provide facilities in order to get the requisite number of cadets?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The House will remember there is another Report—the National War Academy Report—which will come before the Government very soon which if adopted will meet the total requirements of the Army.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: What is the maximum age limit and other qualification required for the cadets?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Cadets should be between the age of 18 and 21 and should have passed the Matriculation examination in 1st or 2nd division.

MEASURES FOR PROTECTION OF BORDER AREAS.

275. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether any attempts are being made to develop the border areas' protection policy in the post August 15th set up;

(b) whether any Committee of experts has been appointed to examine the matter; and

(c) whether any special steps are being taken or are proposed to be taken to constitute Civic Guards and invite the voluntary co-operation of the youth of the provinces of the border areas to join the Civic Guards?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Yes, Sir. The adequacy of the defence of the new frontiers is constantly under examination and suitable steps are being taken.

(b) The Defence Committee of the Cabinet assisted by the Chiefs of Staff Committee is considering the matter.

(c) The constitution of Civic Guards and voluntary youth organisations for internal security duties is primarily a Provincial responsibility. The question of creating an adequate secondling defence capable of supplementing the regular Armed Forces in the event of an emergency is, however, under the active consideration of the Government of India.

Shri Balkrishna Sharma: May I know if the Government are aware that a few weeks ago the Provincial Governments were always complaining that they did not receive any assistance by way of supply of arms for the home guards which the Provincial Governments were recruiting?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: All the requirements of arms of all the Provinces have been met, Sir.

گیانی گورمکھ سنگھ مسافر: کیا گورنمنٹ اس بات کی ضرورت محسوس کرتی ہے یا اس پر غور کریگی بارڈر کے اضلاع میں ہر ایک بالغ مرد کے لئے فوجی ٹریننگ لازمی قرار دی جائے؟

Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir: Do Government feel the necessity or will it consider over the matter for prescribing compulsory military training for every adult residing in the border districts?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: That is the responsibility of Provincial Governments.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I know from the Honourable Member as to what steps Government are taking to utilise the services of women in the various branches of the defence of the country?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I am afraid, Sir, it is not possible for me to give a reply to this question, but wherever Government can make use of the services of women they are doing it.

INDIAN RESEARCH SCHOLARS SENT TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

276. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sir Ardeskar Dalal's scheme of sending 400 Indian scholars each year to other countries for research is still being pursued;

(b) if so, how many scholars were sent and to what countries in the years 1946-47 and 1947-48 and at what cost; and

(c) whether there are any scholars chosen to be sent to U.S.A., who are still being held up in India for want of shipping facilities or seats in American Universities, and if so, how many?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: (a) کا جواب ہاں ہے۔

(b) اسوقت جتنے Scholar ۳۷-۳۸—۳۶-۳۷ میں مختلف ملکوں میں بھیجے گئے

ہیں اُنکا توکل نمبر یہ ہے۔

United States	.	.	.	1946-47	.	.	146
United Kingdom	.	.	.	1946-47	.	.	116

Australia	1946-47	5
N. Land	1946-47	1
France	1946-47	2

۱۹۳۷-۳۸ میں یونائیٹڈ اسٹیٹ کو ۳۵ طلباء اور یونائیٹڈ کنگڈم میں ۳۲ لائے -
 خرچ کا جو اندازہ کیا گیا ہے وہ یہ ہے ۱۹۳۶-۳۷ کیلئے ۳۸ لاکھ ۵۰ ہزار اور ۱۹۳۷-۳۸
 کیلئے ۱۰ لاکھ ۵۰ ہزار ہوا - ان اسکالرشپ کی تعداد جو یونائیٹڈ اسٹیٹس کیلئے جنے لائے
 تھے مگر بھیجے نہیں جاسکے - ۱۳۵ ہے - اس میں سے ۱۱۹ اسلئے نہیں جاسکے ۵ امریکن
 یونیورسٹی میں جگہ نہ نکل سکی - گیارہ اسلئے روک لئے گئے ہیں کہ جہاں میں کوئی
 انتظام نہ تھا -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) Yes.

(b) Total number of scholars so far sent to various countries abroad against the 1946-47 and 1947-48 selections of the Scheme, is as follows:—

1946-47.	United States of America	...	...	...	...	...	144
	United Kingdom	...	...	...	...	...	116
	Australia	...	...	...	...	...	5
	Newzealand	...	...	...	...	...	2
	France	...	...	...	...	...	1
1947-48.	United States of America	...	...	...	...	...	35
	United Kingdom	...	...	...	...	...	32

The total cost on these students is estimated to be Rs. 38,50,000 (Rupees thirty eight lacs fifty thousand) and Rs. 10,50,000 (Rupees ten lacs fifty thousand) for 1946-47 and 1947-48 respectively.

(c) The number of scholars earmarked for United States of America who are still being held up in India, is 119 for want of seats in American Universities and 11 for want of shipping facilities.

श्री० एच० जे० खांडेकर : जो सरकार की तरफ से विद्यार्थी भेजे गये हैं उनमें मुसलमान कितने हैं, हरिजन कितने हैं, और हिन्दू कितने हैं।

Shri H. J. Khandekar: Out of the number of students sent on behalf of the Government, how many of them are Muslims, how many of them are Harijans and how many of them are Hindus.

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اس کے لئے نوٹس کی ضرورت ہے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: A notice is required for this.

श्रीमती जी दुर्गाबाई : क्या मैं आनरेबल मेबर से जान सकती हूँ कि उसमें कितनी स्त्री विद्यार्थी हैं।

Shrimati H. G. Durgabai: May I know from the Honourable Members as to how many of them are girl students?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اس کے لئے بھی نوٹس کی ضرورت ہے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: A notice is required for this.

شری اجیت پرشاد جین : کیا یہ واقعہ ہے کہ باہر یعنی یونائیٹڈ کنگڈم جو طلباء

جانیوالے تھے انکو یونیورسٹیوں میں جگہ نہ ملنے کی وجہ سے روک لیا گیا ہے ؟

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: Is it a fact that the students who were to go abroad, viz., United Kingdom have been held up for want of seats in the Universities?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : ہاں دقتیں پیش آرہی ہیں -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Yes; the difficulties are being felt.

شری دیش بندھو گپتا : ان دقتوں کو دور کرنے کیلئے کیا کیا جا رہا ہے ؟

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: What steps are being taken to remove these difficulties?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اس سلسلے میں ہم نے دو کمیٹیاں بٹھائی تھیں - ان کے فیصلے

آچکے ہیں - گورنمنٹ اس بات پر غور کر رہی ہے - کہ آئندہ اس اسکیم کو کس تھلک اور روپ سے چلایا جائے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: In this connection we set up two Committees. Their decisions have been received and the Government is considering over the matter as to the future form and method of working this scheme.

سےٹ گوویندداس : जब यह दिक्कतें हैं तो वे विद्यार्थी जो अभी तक नहीं भेजे गये हैं क्या उनकी जगह और नये विद्यार्थी चुने जा रहे हैं ?

Seth Govinddas: When these are the difficulties, are some more new scholars being selected in place of those who could not be sent out of India so far?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اس طرح کے کسی واقعہ کی گورنمنٹ کو اطلاع نہیں ملی

ہے - لیکن پرانے و دیارتہوں کا ضرور خیال رکھا جائیگا -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Government is not aware of any such instance but cases of those who have already been selected will certainly be borne in mind.

श्री० मिहिरलाल चट्टोपाध्याय : जब हमारे मुल्क से लड़के बाहर भेजे जाते हैं तो क्या वहां से अच्छे २ प्रोफेसर हमारे मुल्क में appoint करने का इन्तजाम किया जायेगा जिससे बहुत से लोगों को शिक्षा मिल सके ?

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyaya: When scholars from this country are being sent out, do Government propose to appoint some capable professors from abroad in this country, so that a larger number of men could get that training.

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اس چیز پر گورنمنٹ غور کر رہی ہے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The Government is considering over this.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know how many students who have gone to the U. K. and U. S. A. have had to change their course because of non-availability of seats or admission to the particular courses for which they were sent?

(No reply is given.)

MEASURES FOR BUILDING UP OF INDIA'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESOURCES

277. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state what steps are being taken to build up our Foreign Exchange resources?

(b) What have been the results for India on account of the dissolution of the Empire Dollar Pool?

(c) What is India's present position in regard to her Dollar Exchange?

(d) Are any negotiations being carried on with U.S.A. for any lend and lease agreement?

(e) Are the World Bank and Monetary Fund being approached by India for suitable accommodation in order to make large scale purchases of industrial machinery in America?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) Government are considering every possible method of building up foreign exchange resources by expansion of export trade and suitable restriction of expenditure of foreign currency and remittances. The Honourable Member is no doubt aware of the enactment of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act earlier this year and of the series of orders revising our import control policy. The object of all these measures is to ensure the utilisation of our foreign exchange resources economically and to the best advantage of the country.

(b) and (c) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the statement I have made in reply to starred question No. 270.

(d) No.

(e) The matter is receiving the attention of Government.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is any effort being made by Government to represent to the Government of the United States of America to see that the Marshall's Plan for assistance to European countries in regard to their industrial development is also extended to the Eastern countries?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Sir, Government will examine in due course whether it is necessary and advisable to approach the Government of the United States for any help in implementing the industrial or economic programme of our country.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know if it is the policy of the Government of India that all foreign exchange earned by this country should be held in the Bank of England only?

The Honourable Shri Shanmukham Chetty: That was explained by me in the Statement that I made. So long as we are the members of the Sterling Area, they are all credited in the first instance as sterling in the Bank of England.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is there any statute which binds us down to this arrangement that all our resources in sterling should be kept with the Bank of England merely because of our membership of the Sterling Area?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: There is no statutory obligation. It is purely a voluntary arrangement amongst certain countries.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Minister state whether it is to the best advantage of India now to remain a member of the Sterling Pool?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: As I explained in the Statement, Sir, we are constantly examining whether it is advantageous for us to continue to be members of the Sterling Area and the moment we find that it is against our advantage we shall, at that moment, leave it.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: It is not one of the obligations of membership of the International Monetary Fund that our sterling should be pooled like this?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: No Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that his predecessor had definitely stated in this House that as soon as our negotiations in regard to this World Monetary Fund were over, India's membership of the Pool would cease?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I am not aware, but I take the Honourable Member's word for it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Then, how is it, that inspite of those assurances given by the previous Finance Member, the Government of India even today consider it incumbent on herself to remain a member of this Empire Dollar Pool?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: When the International Monetary Fund was created, so many economic consequences were expected to follow from it, but the actual consequences that have followed are very different from the expectations.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know if it is not one of the conditions of the Anglo-American Dollar Agreement that the Empire Pool should be abolished within one year of a certain date?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: But does the Honourable Member know that the clause relating to Multi-lateral convertibility of sterling arising out of the Anglo-American Agreement has now been suspended?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the advisability of convening a meeting of those members of this House who happen to be members of the earlier House and who happened to be members of a separate Committee appointed for the purpose by the previous Finance Member?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Do I understand the Honourable Member to mean that he wants me to convene a Committee of this House and discuss with them the question of the advisability of remaining in the Sterling Area?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Yes.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I am always willing and ready to take the advice of the members of this House and if such a standing committee had been constituted, I shall certainly convene a meeting of such members of that Committee as survive in this House.

An Honourable Member: Why only they? With more members from this House.

CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMODITIES PRICES BOARD

278. *Shri K. Santhanam: Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) when the Commodities Prices Board was appointed and who were the members;

(b) when and why the members resigned;

(c) whether the Board has been abolished;

(d) whether any report was submitted by the Board; and

(e) if the answer to part (d) above be in the affirmative, whether the report will be published?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) The Commodities Prices Board was constituted in February 1947 with Mr. A. D. Gorwala, C.I.E., I.C.S., as President and Professor D. R. Gadgil as Member with provision for the appointment of another Member.

(b) Mr. Gadgil submitted his resignation on the 15th July 1947 and Mr. Gorwala on the 29th September 1947. The reason given by the Members for their resignations, was, among other things, that their views in respect of certain points were not accepted by Government.

(c) The resignations of the Members of the Board have been accepted and the Board has accordingly ceased to function for the present.

(d) The Board submitted in all ten reports.

(e) One report about the prices of rabi-grains and pulses has already been published. Another report on the control of prices of Vanaspati is under print and will shortly be published. Their general report regarding integrated controls has been released for publication. The advisability of publication of the other reports is under consideration.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know, Sir, if the Honourable Member is aware that a Commodities Prices Board was one of the vital recommendations of the Famine Enquiry Commission?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Yes. I have not read the Famine Commission report, but I am willing to admit the statement made by the Honourable Member.

Shri K. Santhanam: Will the Honourable Member consider whether it is not desirable for the country to have a Board and re-establish the Board, if necessary with new Members?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The need for examining the question of commodity prices is certainly recognised, but it is quite possible that Government might refer this question to other bodies who are already at the service of Government. For instance, there is a Tariff Board, and in fact, recently the question of textile prices has been referred to that Board.

Shri K. Santhanam: Is the Honourable Member of the opinion that the Tariff Board is competent to deal with agricultural prices?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: It is competent to deal with any relevant question referred to that Board.

Shri K. Santhanam: Is the Honourable Member of the opinion that the qualifications of the Members were fixed with a view to consider such matters?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The qualifications of the Members were considered from the point of view of their ability to discharge their duties.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state why it was considered necessary to appoint a separate Board when the Honourable Member was the President of the Tariff Board and was quite competent to deal with this matter?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Because I had no hand in the appointment of the Commodities Prices Board.

Mr. Speaker: The Question Hour is over.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF ALL-INDIA LEPROSY WORKERS' CONFERENCE HELD AT WARDHA

279. *Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether Government are aware that an All India Leprosy Workers' Conference was held at Wardha recently?

(b) What are its recommendations and in what way are Government going to give effect to them?

(c) Are Government aware that in the District of Balasore (Orissa), 88 people have completely isolated themselves of their own accord and are completely self-supporting, relying on their own labour by cultivation?

(d) Do Government propose to open such agricultural settlements in the other affected areas of India?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) Yes.

(b) Government have not so far received the recommendations.

(c) Government have no information but such voluntary segregation by the leprosy patients themselves is commendable.

(d) It is understood that certain Provincial Governments have been attempting to evolve methods of isolation suitable to this country from the point of view of cost and of the social habits of the people.

EXPENDITURE ON BUILDINGS IN LEPROSY INSTITUTIONS

280. *Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether Government are aware that a large amount of money is spent for building purposes in Leprosy Institutions? If so, are Government aware that very little is spent to provide cultivated land for making the inmates partly self-supporting? If so, why?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The responsibility for determining what measures should be taken for the control of leprosy rests on Provincial Governments. The modern approach is to develop leprosy institutions on the lines of colonies with sufficient land to provide facilities for agricultural and cottage industries. Information regarding such approach in organising leprosy relief will be conveyed to Provincial Governments.

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP FOR LEPROSY RESEARCH

281. *Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether any University in India has provided any scholarship for Leprosy Research specially in Chemo-therapy?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The Government of India is not aware of the provision of any such scholarships.

WORKING HOURS OF BROADCASTING STATIONS AND TIME DEVOTED TO ENGLISH PROGRAMMES

282. *Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state the hour at which each Broadcasting Station in India starts operating and the hour at which it closes?

(b) What is the number of hours devoted to programmes in English?

(c) Is any reduction in the hours of English programme contemplated? If not, why not?

(d) Do Government propose to confine English programmes to one or two Stations only?

(e) Is any extension of hours under contemplation? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) The opening and closing hours of the Stations of All India Radio with intervals between different transmissions, are shown in the Statement laid on the table of the House.

(b) The latest figures readily available are for the month of July 1947; the total duration of programmes in English in that month was as follows:—

80 hours 40 minutes (excluding News in English), i.e., 11.1 per cent. of all spoken-word items excluding news broadcast from A. I. R. stations.

297 hours 10 minutes (including News in English), i.e., 26 per cent. of all spoken-word items broadcast by A. I. R. stations.

(c) Substantial reduction has already been made and the possibility of further reduction is being borne in mind.

(d) No.

(e) No; the present transmission timings are quite adequate having regard to the expenditure involved and the time available to an average listener to listen in to the broadcasts.

Delhi	0 00
Bombay	0730—2300
Calcutta	0700—2230
Madras	0700—2230
Lucknow	0730—2230
Trichinopoly	0715—2230

SCHEME FOR STUDY AND RESEARCH IN ATOMIC ENERGY

283. *Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether Government have any scheme to give increased facilities for research?

(b) What steps have Government taken for giving facilities for training in research in Atomic energy?

(c) Have Government any scheme for study and research in this direction?

(d) If so, do Government propose to place the same on the table of the House?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement.

Amongst the various schemes on the subject is one included by the Ministry of Education for fundamental research in the post-war plans for the first quinquennium under which it is proposed to spend a sum of Rs. 75 lakhs spread over a period of five years for fundamental research. Schemes from the various scientific institutions have been invited and each will be examined on its own merits.

The Hon'ble President, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and the Government of India set up a Board of Research on Atomic Energy with the following personnel:—

1. Prof. H. J. Bhabha—*Chairman*.

Members.

2. Sir K. S. Krishnan.

3. Prof. M. N. Saha.

4. Mr. D. N. Wadia.

5. Dr. Nazir Ahmed.

6. Dr. D. M. Bose.

7. Dr. M. S. Krishnan.

8. Sir S. S. Bhatnagar—*Ex-Officio*.

9. Dr. Jivraj N. Mehta—*Ex-Officio*.

The main functions of the Board are:—

(a) To plan, finance and carry out Atomic Research and development throughout India;

(b) To explore the availability of raw materials connected with the generation of Atomic Energy and to advise Government on the control, utilisation and export of such raw materials in India;

(c) To provide the machinery for co-operation on matters of Atomic energy, research and development with the corresponding bodies, and to advise Government on any agreements with foreign powers that may be necessary for this purpose; and

(d) to appoint committees and to take all other steps in furtherance of the aim of developing atomic research and energy to the fullest extent in India.

In addition, the Honourable President, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and the Government of India have, with the consent of the Government of Travancore, set up a Joint Committee for research and development of atomic energy from Travancore Minerals with the following personnels:—

1. Prof. H. J. Bhabha—*Chairman*.

Members—

2. Prof. M. N. Saha.

3. Mr. D. N. Wadia.

4. Dr. Nazir Ahmad.

5. Dr. M. S. Krishnan.

6. Sir S. S. Bhatnagar—*Ex-Officio*.

7. Dr. K. L. Moudgill—*Ex-Officio*.

8. Mr. K. P. Menon—*Ex-Officio*.

9. Mr. V. Mahadevan—*Ex-Officio*.

This Joint Committee will work under the general supervision of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research through the Board of Research on Atomic Energy and will be recognised by the Government of Travancore as the sole Advisory Body on matters appertaining to the development and research including the utilisation and disposal of the atomic energy raw materials of Travancore state.

The following schemes of research have been sanctioned by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research relating to atomic energy:—

1. Grant to the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research for study on cosmic rays Rs. 75,000 per annum for five years, sanctioned in 1945.

2. Grant to Prof. M. N. Saha of Calcutta University for establishing a Centre of Nuclear research and Bio-Physics; Non-recurring Rs. 70,000 and recurring Rs. 40,000; sanctioned in 1946.

3. Grant to the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research at Bombay, for training a team of workers in the elementary technique, both experimental and theoretical of Nuclear Physics, in connection with the establishment of a high energy accelerator, Rs. 35,000 per annum sanctioned in 1946.

4. Grant to the Bose Research Institute at Calcutta for research on trans-uranic elements, etc., Rs. 22,400 per annum sanctioned in 1946.

So far about 2,42,000 have been sanctioned for research in connection with atomic energy. The Calcutta University have already taken steps to instal a cyclotron in connection with nuclear research which has been undertaken at the University under the guidance of Professor Saha.

By encouraging the various schemes of Research, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research have given ample opportunities for the training of technical personnel on the subjects.

In connection with the training of personnel abroad it may be mentioned that Dr. B. D. Nag Chaudhury was deputed by the Government of India to Europe and America to acquaint himself with the development and latest technique of Nuclear Physics there.

The Calcutta University have deputed the following men for foreign training in Nuclear Physics :—

1. *Dr. N. N. Das Gupta* : He was deputed by the University of Calcutta, to study Electron Microscopy in Stanford University, California. He has brought an Electron Microscope with him which he is setting up.
2. *Dr. Dharendra Nath Kundu* : He was given a Watumall Fellowship and joined the Ohio State University in the Nuclear Physics Department under Prof. M. A. POOL.

Besides, Dr. A. K. Saha, Mr. Ambuj Mookherjee, Mr. Samarendra Nath Ghosal, Mr. Debidas Basu, Mr. Amal Ghose, have also been sent by the Calcutta University to the United Kingdom and the United States of America for further study in the various branches of Nuclear Physics.

CONSTITUTION OF 'EMPIRE DOLLAR POOL' AND SHARES OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN

284. *Shri Biswanath Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which and the purpose for which "Empire Dollar Pool" was constituted;

(b) the contribution made to the said Empire Dollar Pool by each of the member countries, as also the amount drawn by each member country, separately for each year upto the end of March 1947;

(c) the balance, if any, standing to the credit of India;

(d) whether the shares of India and Pakistan have been determined in the same; and

(e) if the answer to part (d) above be in the affirmative, the basis on which determination was made?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a), (b) and (c) I would refer the Honourable Member to the statement I have made in reply to starred question No. 270.

(d) and (e) Under section 4(1) (c) of the Pakistan (Monetary System and Reserve Bank) Order, 1947, the foreign exchange arrangements for the Dominions of India and Pakistan will be common upto the 31st March 1948.

COMMITTEES FOR THE DISPOSAL OF BUILDING MATERIALS DISMANTLED BY MILITARY AUTHORITIES

285. *Shri V. I. Munishwami Pillai: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a large number of buildings used and building materials dismantled by the Military authorities, during the last war, are lying useless in Military camps in various provinces?

(b) What action do Government propose to take for the speedy disposal of the materials instead of their getting spoiled in the sun and rain?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of asking the Provincial governments to set up suitable committees to dispose of the material by sale or by giving them free to houseless people and scheduled castes in their respective provinces?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) No, Sir. Buildings surplus to the requirements of the Defence Services are declared for disposal either as going concerns or for dismantlement in order to restore the requisitioned or hired land to its former condition. If in any particular case materials are strewn about, they are probably the property of the purchaser pending removal.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Disposal in different ways is already taking place. Several military buildings and camps, not immediately required by the Defence Services, have lately been transferred, as a temporary measure, to Provincial Governments and other authorities for housing refugees.

PUBLIC AUCTION OF UNSERVICEABLE AIRCRAFTS AT AIRCRAFT SALVAGE DEPOTS AT CHEKERI AND BAMRAULI IN OCTOBER 1947

286. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence please state whether Government are aware that a public sale by auction of about 200 unserviceable aircrafts of mostly Liberators type was announced to be held on the 3rd October, 1947 at Aircraft Salvage Depot, Chakeri and of 261 unserviceable aircrafts of various other types at M.T. and Aircraft Salvage Depot, Bamrauli on the 7th October, 1947?

(b) Has the public auction of the above aircrafts already taken place?

(c) When and in what condition were these aircrafts purchased by Government?

(d) If they were purchased for service in good flying condition, how long were they used in service and for what reasons had they been declared unserviceable?

(e) Did Government consider the alternative of dismantling these aircrafts and keeping the spare parts for future use? If not, why not?

(f) If these aircrafts have already been sold out, what action Government have taken to prevent the material being sent to Pakistan?

(g) What is the total number of serviceable or unserviceable aircrafts sold by Government by auction or otherwise?

(h) Did Government make any attempt to get as many of these aircrafts as possible repaired? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The public auction was cancelled as part of the general embargo placed on the disposal of surplus equipment by Director General of Disposals.

(c) During the war and in serviceable condition for use by the Americans and the R. A. F.

(d) The exact period of service of the various aircraft is not known. These aircraft became unserviceable as a result of crashes.

(e) Yes, Sir. All valuable and useful items, together with such additional types of items in tight supply as might be required for the maintenance of other aircraft were stripped and reconditioned as spares.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(h) These aircraft are beyond economical repair. They are also not the type required by the R. I. A. F.

DIVISION OF DEFENCE FORCES AND EQUIPMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

287. *Shri K. Santhanam: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence please state:

(a) the principles on which the Defence Forces were divided between India and Pakistan; and

(b) the estimated cost of military equipment and stores transferred to Pakistan between 15th August and 15th November 1947?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the Press Communique issued on this subject on the 1st July 1947.

(b) The information is not readily available. The collection of the necessary information will involve time and labour which would not be justified at this juncture.

NUMBER OF BRITISH OFFICERS IN INDIAN ARMY ON 15TH NOVEMBER

288. *Shri K. Santhanam: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence please state:

(a) the total number of officers in the Indian Army after the division of the country; and

(b) the number of British officers on the 15th November and their various categories?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) 8,267.

(b) 1,204. It is regretted that details of these officers by various categories are not readily available.

OPENING OF INDIAN MILITARY ACADEMY AT POONA

289. *Shri K. Santhanam: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence please state:

(a) when the Indian Military Academy at Poona will be started;

(b) its estimated annual output of officers; and

(c) the estimated capital and recurring expenditure of the Academy?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) The Honourable Member is probably referring to the project of establishing a National War Academy near Poona. The project was held up due to partition and the consequent uncertainty about the future strength and composition of the Armed Forces. It is again being considered now but Government are not yet in a position to specify a date by which the Academy will be started.

(b) The annual output of officers will be determined by requirements which in turn will be dependent on the future strength of the Armed Forces, a question on which a decision cannot be taken until the conditions of the country become more normal.

(c) This is under technical examination.

NUMBER OF STATES ACCEDED TO INDIAN UNION HAVING LEGISLATURES AND RESPONSIBLE MINISTERS

290. *Shri K. Santhanam: Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) the number of States that have acceded to India up to the 15th November 1947;

(b) the number of such States which have legislatures the members of which are elected by non-official majorities;

(c) the names of such States which have responsible Ministers in their executive; and

(d) the names of such States whose executive consists entirely of responsible Ministers?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the statement laid on the table of the House regarding the Instrument of Accession executed by the Rulers of Indian States.

(b), (c) and (d) The information asked for by the Honourable Member is not readily available but is being collected.

APPOINTMENT OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND OTHERS AS INCOME-TAX OFFICERS DURING 1946-47

291. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state the number of Income-tax officers appointed during 1946-47 and 1947-48?

(b) How many of them belong to the Scheduled castes?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) 21 during 1946-47 and 167 during 1947-48.

(b) Nil in 1946-47 and 14 in 1947-48. The appointment of seven more Scheduled-caste candidates is under consideration.

SERVICEABLE AND UNSERVICEABLE AIRCRAFTS ON 1ST OCTOBER, 1945 AND 1ST OCTOBER, 1947

292. *Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence please state:

(a) the total number of serviceable and unserviceable aircrafts on the 1st October, 1945 and the 1st October, 1947;

(b) the different kinds of services for which they were meant;

(c) whether it is a fact that the number of serviceable aircrafts on the 1st October, 1947 was less than that on the 1st October, 1945; if so, why; and

(d) the steps that are being taken to replace those aircrafts which are no longer serviceable?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) It is not in the public interest to disclose this information.

(b) (1) Fighter, (2) Communication, (3) Transport, (4) Observation Posts, (5) Training.

(c) Yes. The reduction is due to the withdrawal of the R. A. F. and division of aircraft between the R. I. A. F. and the R. P. A. F.

(d) Replacements are effected from the authorised reserve held for this purpose.

NUMBER OF HIGH RANKING INDIAN ARMY OFFICERS AND THE PLACE OF SUPREME COMMANDER IN INDIA'S FORCES

293. *Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the number of British Officers in the Indian Army to-day;

(b) the number of Major Generals, Commanders and Brigadiers in the Indian Army;

(c) how many of them are Indians;

(d) whether there is any difference in the pay of a British Officer and an Indian Officer of the same status in the Indian Army;

(e) whether the Dominion Government have got complete control over the Indian Union Forces;

(f) if so, what is the place of the Supreme Commander in the Indian Union Forces; and

(g) why the Indian Forces are still called Royal Indian Navy, Royal Air Force and Royal Indian Air Force?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) 1,204.

(b) Major-Generals ... 17
Brigadiers ... 58

(c) At present Major-Generals ... 9
Brigadiers ... 17

(d) I would refer the Honourable Member to my answer to part (d) of Starred Question No. 253 asked by Shri S. Nagappa a short while ago.

(e) and (f) As has already been explained in a Press Communique issued on the 1st July 1947, the Supreme Commander, acting under the direction of the Joint Defence Council, is responsible, during the period of reconstitution, for the administration of the Armed Forces of the two Dominions (i.e., for paying, feeding, clothing and equipping them) and for the allocation, transfer and movement for the purposes of such reconstitution, of units, personnel and equipment, stores, etc. He has, however, no operational control over any units, except in respect of those which are in transit from one Dominion to another in pursuance of the reconstitution programme.

The Supreme Commander's Organisation is being wound up with effect from the 30th November 1947, and complete control, both administrative and operational, over the Armed Forces will pass to the Dominion Governments with effect from that date.

(g) Because India is still a part of the British Commonwealth. There is no Indian Force known by the name of "Royal Air Force".

EVACUATION OF TROOPS FROM INDIA AND PAKISTAN

294. *Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Military personnel to be evacuated to India from Pakistan;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of the Indian troops are now in the North West Frontier Province;

(c) how long it will take to evacuate the entire Indian Force from Pakistan;

(d) whether the Government of Pakistan have evacuated all their troops from India;

(e) if not, what is their number now in India; and

(f) who meets their expenditure at present, the Government of India or the Government of Pakistan?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Roughly 14,000 on the 1st November 1947.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) As at present arranged, it is hoped to complete the move of all Indian Units from Pakistan to India by the 15th December 1947, and of other miscellaneous personnel by mid-January.

(d) Not yet, Sir.

(e) Roughly 15,000 on the 1st November 1947.

(f) Government of India, subject to financial adjustment later.

295.* and 296.* [Withdrawn.]

RELATIVE STRENGTH OF LAND, AIR AND NAVAL FORCES OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN

297. *Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state the relative strength in detailed figures of the Land, Air and Naval forces of the two Dominions of India and Pakistan?

(b) Are Government aware of the facts relating to the military strength of the Islamic States in the Middle East?

(c) If so, do Government propose to place on the table of the House a statement giving an account of the military strength of each one of them separately?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) to (c) Government do not consider it to be in the public interest to disclose this information.

ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT SUPREME COMMAND AND BOUNDARY FORCE

298. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state the reasons which led to the Cabinet decision relating to the establishment of (a) Joint Supreme Command, and (b) Boundary Force?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The decision referred to by the Honourable Member as taken by the Partition Council. As regards the reasons which led that Council to take this decision, I would refer the Honourable Member to the Press Communiques issued on these subjects on the 1st and the 24th July 1947 respectively.

REGIONAL COMMISSIONERS FOR STATES IN INDIA

299. *R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar: Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Regional Commissioners appointed for the various Groups of States in India with their emoluments and head-quarters;

(b) what their precise duties and functions are;

(c) whether any instructions have been issued to them and if so, whether a copy thereof will be laid on the table of the House; and

(d) whether Government propose to appoint any more Regional Commissioners and if so, for which States or groups of States?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) The information is given in a Statement a copy of which has been laid on the table of the House.

(b) The functions of these officers will generally be to co-ordinate effectively the food and Civil Supplies arrangements in the States and to render any other assistance to the States in regard to matters arising out of the Standstill agreement.

(c) No.

(d) Not at present.

Names of Regional Commissioners appointed for the various Groups of States in India with their emoluments and headquarters.

Names	Headquarters	Pay
1. Mr. C. S. Venkatachar, C.I.E., O.B.E., I.C.S., Regional Commissioner for Central India.	Indore . . .	Rs. 3,500 p. m.
2. Mr. N. M. Buch, O.B.E., I.C.S., Regional Commissioner for Kathiawar and Gujrat States.	Rajkot . . .	Rs. 3,000 p. m.
3. Lt. Col. B. D. S. Bedi, Regional Commissioner for Rajputana States.	Abu . . .	Rs. 2,050 p. m.
4. Mr. C. K. Desai, Regional Commissioner for Kolhapur and Deccan States.	Kolhapur . . .	Rs. 1,100 p. m. (inclusive of pension).
5. Rai Bahadur Brajendra Nath Chaturvedi, Regional Commissioner for Bundelkhand.	Nowgong . . .	Rs. 1,100 p. m.
6. Mr. A. Isar, Regional Commissioner for the Punjab States.	Simla . . .	Rs. 1,100 p. m.
7. Maharaj Nagendra Singh, I.C.S., Regional Commissioner for the Eastern States.	Sambalpur . . .	Time scale pay in the I.C.S. plus Rs. 400 p. m.

POLICY re GRANT OF ARMS LICENCES

300. *Shri Jadubans Sahay: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any change of policy after the 15th August 1947 in regard to the grant of arms licences to the public;

(b) whether Government propose to instruct the Provincial Governments to grant licenses to all the elected members (i) of the Provincial Legislatures and (ii) Local Bodies; and

(c) whether Government propose to grant licenses for arms to the members of the Dominion Legislature?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) No.

(b) No special instructions are necessary. I have no doubt that licensing authorities will give due weight to the special claims of persons of these categories.

(c) Members of the Dominion Legislature are exempt from the obligation to obtain licences.

DISCOVERY OF ARMS AMMUNITION ETC. FROM MUSLIMS IN CENTRALLY ADMINISTERED AREAS

†301. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs please state the quantity of arms, ammunitions and the kinds of weapons discovered by the police from Muslims in various parts of the Indian Union particularly the Centrally Controlled Areas since the 15th August till the 8th November, 1947?

† For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 302.

(b) Were any factories for manufacturing arms and ammunitions also discovered?

(c) If so, were they underground?

(d) Were these factories discovered in the premises occupied by Muslims only or was any factory discovered in any house occupied by non-Muslim residents as well?

(e) Were any wireless transmitters discovered and if so, how many?

(f) Are Government aware that arms, ammunitions and other weapons were found stocked in Mosques, tombs and other places regarded by Muslims as sacred?

DISCOVERY OF ARMS, AMMUNITION AND RADIO TRANSMITTERS AFTER 15TH AUGUST 1947

302. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs please place on the table of the House a list of the persons with their status in life from whose possession arms, ammunition and transmitters were discovered from 15th August onwards in different parts of India and in particular the Centrally Controlled Areas?

(b) Is it a fact that some of these persons were Anglo-Indians, Britishers and some were in the service of the Defence Department?

(c) Is it also a fact that all these persons had opted for Pakistan?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: 301 and 302. The information is being collected and will be placed on the table when received.

EMERGENCY POWERS OF VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE DELHI UNIVERSITY

303. *Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that it has been suggested to the Vice-Chancellor of Delhi University to refer the question of his emergency powers to the Government of India for their advice;

(b) whether Government are aware that he has declined to do so on the ground that he is competent to decide the question himself; and

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

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) and (b) A certain member of the Executive Council of the Delhi University suggested at a meeting of the Executive Council that the question of the Vice-Chancellor's Emergency powers should be referred to the Chancellor for his decision, but the majority of the council on that occasion took a different view and accordingly the suggestion was not proceeded with.

(c) Government do not propose to take any action in the matter.

INTRODUCTION OF THREE YEAR DEGREE COURSE BY THE DELHI UNIVERSITY

304. *Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Delhi University has introduced a Three Year Degree Course, which does not correspond to the courses of any major University in India;

(b) whether Government are aware that Delhi being the Capital of India, a large number of people come from all over the country on business or service of the State, and wish to educate their children;

(c) whether Government are aware that the new scheme of the Delhi University has entailed great hardship on students who wish to migrate to and from Delhi;

(d) whether Government are aware that when the Delhi University Act was amended in 1943, an assurance was given on behalf of Government that if the new scheme introduced by the Delhi University was not accepted by other Indian Universities for purposes of admission or migration of students, the whole question would be reconsidered;

(e) which Universities in India have approved of the new scheme of the Delhi University and admit students who have passed the qualifying examination of the Delhi University to their own Degree courses in the same way as is done by the Delhi University;

(f) whether the arrangement has met with the approval of the Central Advisory Board of Education or of the Inter-University Board of India;

(g) whether Government are aware that these Boards have suggested that the Delhi University should hold a public examination corresponding to the Intermediate Examination of other Universities, to enable the students to migrate; and

(h) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of moving the University to amend their scheme in the light of its acceptance or otherwise by the principal Universities of India?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. So far no complaints have been received by the Government of India.

(d) I am not aware of any such assurance.

(e) A statement is being laid on the table of the House.

(f) Yes.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) No, Sir.

STATEMENT
Showing recognition by other Universities of Delhi Examinations.

Name of the University.	Qualifying Examination.	Pre-Medical Examination	Completion of 1st year Degree Courses.
Punjab	Yes	Yes	...
Nagpur	Yes	Nil	Yes
Cocutta	Yes (Subject to a test by Admitting College)	Yes	No.
Aligarh	Yes	Yes	Yes
Madras	No general recognition in exceptional cases on the examination of the record of individual candidates exemption from 1st year of the Intermediate course may be granted. Higher Secondary Examination granted recognition on reciprocal basis.	Yes	...
Dacca (University and Board)		...	Eligible for admission to the 1st year B.A. or B.Sc. Provided the candidate had passed the qualifying Examination or H—S. Examination in the 1st or 2nd Division and produces a certificate from the Dean. Reciprocity also desired.
Agra	...	Yes	...
Lucknow	...	Yes	...
Bombay	Decision postponed	Yes	...
Benares	Yes	Yes	...
Osmania	Principle of recognition on reciprocal basis accepted	Yes	
Mysore	No decision communicated as yet	...	
Ajmer (Board)	No.	...	
Allahabad	Willing to reciprocate.	...	
Andhra	Recognition on reciprocal basis.	...	
Anamali	Higher Secondary Examination passed students eligible for admission to XII Class.	...	
Patna	...	...	
U. P. Board	...	...	
Travancore	...	...	Yes.

APPOINTMENT OF AN ENQUIRY COMMITTEE FOR THE DDLHI UNIVERSITY.

305. *Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether Government propose to appoint a Committee of Enquiry into the affairs of the Delhi University?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above is in the affirmative—

(i) when it is likely to be appointed;

(ii) what would be its terms of reference; and

(iii) what would be its personnel?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

PROTECTION OF EASTERN FRONTIER OF INDIA AND FORMATION OF A NATIONAL MILITIA.

306. *Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) what arrangements, if any, have been made for the protection of the eastern frontier of India;

(b) whether Government are aware that the eastern frontier is most vulnerable in the absence of any natural protection there such as mountain, river or sea;

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to consider the desirability of making such arrangements as may ensure safety to this boundary in case of any sudden attack; and

(d) whether Government propose to consider the desirability of forming a National Militia for India?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) to (c). As I have already stated in answer to an earlier Question by Prof. N. G. Ranga, the adequacy of the defence of the new frontiers of India is constantly under examination and suitable steps have been or are being taken.

(d) Yes, Sir.

APPOINTMENT OF I.N.A. MEN TO INDIAN ARMY AND PARTICIPATION OF MUSLIM I.N.A. MEN IN THE KASHMIR FIGHTING.

307. *Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any officers in the army of India who belonged to the Indian National Army and if so, what are their names and ranks;

(b) whether any attempt was or has been made to appoint suitable officers from among those belonging to the Indian National Army;

(c) whether any organisation concerned with the relief of the Indian National Army approached Government for appointment of persons belonging to the Indian National Army to the army of India, and if so, with what results;

(d) whether Government propose to consider the desirability of recruiting persons belonging to the Indian National Army to suitable posts in the army;

(e) whether Government are aware that one Mr. M. Z. Kiani of the Indian National Army fame has been leading the attacking army in Kashmir; and

(f) whether Government are aware that other Indian National Army people are also reported to be taking prominent part in the fighting in Kashmir against the army of India and Kashmir and if so what their names are?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (b) No Sir.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The whole question is under the consideration of Government.

(e) In the early stages of the fighting in the Srinagar Valley, Mr. M. Z. Kiani of the Indian National Army was reported to be in general control of the raiders but we have not been able to substantiate this report.

(f) Yes, Sir, but as Government have not been able to verify such reports it is undesirable to mention names.

RECOGNITION OF DIPLOMAS, DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES OF NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICE

308. *Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether a distinction is still being made between graduates, diploma-holders and certificate holders of the National Colleges, Schools and other educational institutions started without seeking Government recognition during the different national movements such as the Swadeshi and non-cooperation movements and those of the universities and other Government recognised institutions in the matter of appointment in service; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to consider the desirability of removing such distinctions and directing the Provincial Governments also for taking necessary action in that behalf?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b) Minimum standards of educational qualifications have been prescribed for appointment to different services. Government have been considering and are prepared to consider on merits requests made to them by non-official educational institutions of standing and repute for recognition of their diplomas and certificates where they are satisfied that the syllabus of studies and standard of education imparted in it are equivalent to those of other recognised institutions.

Provincial Governments themselves are competent to take action on the lines desired by the Honourable Member in respect of services under them and any suggestions on the subject should be addressed to them.

COMPULSORY MILITARY TRAINING IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

309. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether the Government of India, under the present state of emergency, propose to make military training compulsory in the Educational institutions, and to raise an Auxiliary Military force?

(b) If so, has any scheme been prepared so far? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (b) The whole question of military training for the youth of the country and the creation of a second-line defence is under the active consideration of Government.

RETROCESSION OF VILLAGES IN AJMER-MERWARA TO THE MEWAR AND MARWAR STATES IN 1938

310. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state the conditions on which certain villages formerly included in the British province of Aimer-Merwara were retroceded to the Mewar and Marwar States in the year 1938?

(b) Was it one of the conditions that these retroceded villages will continue to be governed by laws in force in these tracts while being a part of Aimer-Merwara?

(c) Was it also one of the conditions that all the beneficial and reformist laws enforced in Ajmer-Merwara, from time to time, shall be made applicable to these retroceded tracts also?

(d) If the answer to parts (b) and (c) above be in the affirmative, are Government aware that these conditions are being violated by the Mewar and Marwar States, and that there is great resentment and dissatisfaction amongst the inhabitants of these tracts against the treatment accorded to them by the Mewar and Marwar states?

(e) Are Government aware that the people of these villages have a common culture, language, tradition, habit and have historically been one community and that there is a strong feeling among them against their artificial division into three distinct groups and under separate Governments?

(f) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of re-opening the question with the Mewar and Marwar states and providing a solution keeping in view their peoples' right of self-determination?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) I lay on the table of the House a statement showing the conditions on which the Mewar-Merwara villages, which were administered as part of the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara's Province, were returned to the States with effect from the 1st April 1938.

(b) and (c). Yes.

(d) and (e). I have no information but will ascertain the facts.

(f) The answer to this question must wait until we know what the actual position is.

Conditions for the retrocession of the Marwar-Merwara villages

(1) That laws, rules and regulations at present in vogue in the tracts shall continue to be observed and in no way be interfered with. If at any time a contingency arises requiring any addition in them it will be given effect to only after obtaining the previous concurrence of His Excellency the Crown Representative.

(2) That the present revenue settlement will continue to remain in force till the expiry of its term and under no circumstances will it be interfered with. Prescribed remissions and suspensions will be granted in time. After its expiry a revised settlement, if found necessary, will be conducted by a duly qualified Government lent officer.

(3) That the existing revenue staff, from Tehsildar down to Patwari, and the Police staff, from Inspector down to constable, will be taken over by the Darbar under the usual terms applicable to Government lent servants and all who continue to serve satisfactorily will be kept in service till they are qualified for pension and their successors in office will also be duly qualified persons.

(4) That any rule or regulation issued in future by the Central Government for the good of their subjects in the co-terminous tract will also be promulgated by the Darbar within these villages.

(5) That no fresh 'lag' or cess will be imposed on, or any forced labour exacted from the ryots.

(6) That all local and village industries will be fostered and encouraged.

(7) That no such differential treatment will be accorded under the customs tariff as may prove prejudicial to local trade or industries.

(8) That existing roads will be maintained and means of communications developed.

(9) That all existing bunds and embankments will be kept in proper repair and means of irrigation developed.

(10) That all existing schools and dispensaries and their buildings will be duly maintained.

(11) That a British Officer shall be employed to administer the tracts, whose appointment will be terminable only with the concurrence of the Crown Representative.

(12) That the Residents at Udaipur and Jodhpur shall have the right to inspect the area every half year or more frequently if they consider it necessary.

(13) That if there are any more points requiring elucidation and settlement, they will receive the Darbar's careful consideration and a satisfactory solution will be found in collaboration with the Honourable the Resident for Rajputana.

LEVY OF TAX BY SIROHI STATE ON VISITORS TO DILWARA TEMPLE AT MOUNT ABU.

311. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the famous Dilwara Temple at Mount Abu, which commands great religious and cultural importance, is visited by a large number of people from the various parts of the country every year and that the Sirohi State authorities are charging a tax of Rs. 1/4/- from each visitor per trip?

(b) Do Government propose to take up the question of the abolition of this tax with the Sirohi State?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The matter relates entirely to the internal administration of the State.

EFFICIENCY OF POLICE FORCE IN AJMER-MERWARA

312. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the Police Force in Ajmer-Merwara is inadequate to cope with the abnormal situation?

(b) Are Government aware that the efficiency of the Police Force has been weakened owing to the resignation of a very large number of Muslim officials, Head constable and constables?

(c) If so, what steps have been taken by Government so far to see that the efficiency of the Police Force is not affected in any way?

(d) Are Government aware that in the recruitment to the Police Force, I.N.A. personnel have not been taken?

(e) If so, what is the reason for it?

(f) Do Government propose to see that qualified I.N.A. Personnel are given preference in the recruitment to the Police and other services?

(g) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of organising Home Guard in the province on the lines similar to those in other provinces? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a), (b) and (c). Owing to the resignation of a large number of the Muslim Members the police force was depleted. In spite of the depletion the police forces have however been able to cope with emergencies that have arisen satisfactorily. Military aid has been, and can be, called in wherever necessary. Fresh recruitment to the police forces is being carried on vigorously and Government have every hope that the deficiency in the force would be soon made up.

(d), (e) and (f). There is no bar to the appointment of ex-I.N.A. personnel if such personnel is otherwise suitable. Government consider that recruitment to the Police Forces must be on merit.

(g) The question is being examined.

ANTI-INDIAN PROPAGANDA IN BRITISH AND AMERICAN PRESS re PUNJAB RIOTS

313. *Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the reports sent by correspondents of British and American newspapers in India about the Punjab disturbances to England and the Dominions, the United States and China have been one-sided and exaggerated and have tended to create a prejudice against India in these countries?

(b) What steps have been taken by the Indian Embassy in the United States and the Indian High Commissioner in England to counteract this anti-Indian propaganda in these countries?

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(c) Have Government impressed on the correspondents concerned the imperative necessity of fairness and accuracy on their part?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Public Relations Officers attached to the Indian Ambassador in the United States of America and the High Commissioner for India in the United Kingdom circulate to Editors and Press Representatives cables of factual information sent by the Government of India. Wherever necessary, our High Commissioner in the United Kingdom and Ambassador in the United States of America held Press Conferences and endeavoured to give correct information about the situation in India.

(c) Yes, Sir.

UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

AUDIT REPORT ON DELHI UNIVERSITY ACCOUNTS

4. Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to paras. 6 and 13 of the Auditor's remarks recorded in the Audit Report on the Accounts of the Delhi University for the year 1944-45?

(b) Are Government aware that a number of similar remarks by Government Auditors have been made on the Accounts of the Delhi University from year to year?

(c) Has the attention of Government been invited in particular, to the various irregularities mentioned by the Auditors in paras. 6(a), 6(b), 6(f) and 13 of their notes?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The attention of the Government of India has been drawn to the defects pointed out in the Audit Report for 1944-45 on the accounts of the Delhi University. Under the conditions attached to the payment of the grants to the University, the Audited Accounts and the Audited Reports of the University are received every year and since 1944-45, a careful check is exercised on these to ensure that the Government grants are utilized for the purpose for which they were made. Major defects pointed out in the Audit Report for 1944-45 are already under investigation by Government and the Audit Report for 1945-46 is also under examination. In the normal course, the Audit Reports bring out the irregularities and the action taken by the University on these has also to be reported to the Court of the University. The report of such action taken is also received by the Government of India.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

STATEMENT ON EVENTS IN KASHMIR

Diwan Chaman Lall: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to make a statement regarding the events in Kashmir?

Mr. Speaker: I may make one point clear to the Honourable Members. It has been the practice followed by me in this House that, in cases of requests for statements, no supplementaries are allowed when a statement is made.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am glad to have this opportunity of explaining to the House the course of events that have led to our intervention in Kashmir with the aid of armed forces, and the attitude of the Government of India to the grave problems that have arisen in that State.

2. The House is aware that on the lapse of Crown Prerogative on the 15th August, this year, Kashmir did not accede to either Dominion. We were of

course vitally interested in the decision that the State would take. Kashmir, because of her geographical position with her frontiers with three countries, namely, the Soviet Union, China and Afghanistan, is intimately connected with the security and international contacts of India. Economically also Kashmir is intimately related to India. The caravan trade routes from Central Asia to India pass through Kashmir State.

3. Nevertheless we did not put the slightest pressure on the State to accede to the Indian Dominion because we realised that Kashmir was in a very difficult position. We did not want a mere accession from the top but an association in accordance with the will of her people. Indeed we did not encourage any rapid decision. Even in regard to a standstill agreement no speedy steps were taken by us although the matter was under consideration, even though Kashmir had entered into a Standstill agreement with Pakistan soon after the 15th August.

4. We learnt later that serious external pressure was being applied on Kashmir by the Pakistan authorities refusing to send to Kashmir supplies vital to the needs of the people, such as foodgrains, salt, sugar and petrol. Thus an attempt was being made to strangle Kashmir economically and force her to accede to Pakistan. This pressure was serious because it was not easy for Kashmir to obtain these essential supplies from India on account of the difficulty of communications.

5. In September news reached us that tribesmen of the North West Frontier Province were being collected and sent to the Kashmir border. In the beginning of October events took a grave turn. Armed bands moved into Jammu Province from the neighbouring districts of West Punjab, committed serious acts of depredation on the local inhabitants, burnt villages and towns and put a large number of people to death. Refugees from these areas poured into Jammu.

6. On the Jammu side of the border the local inhabitants, who are chiefly Hindu and Rajput in that area, took retaliatory measures and drove out the Muslims living in those border villages. In these border conflicts a very large number of villages were destroyed or burnt by both parties on either side of the frontier.

7. The raiders from West Punjab into Jammu Province were increased in numbers and spread out over that Province. The Kashmir State Army which had to meet these raids at numerous points soon found itself broken into small fragments and gradually ceased to be a fighting force. The raiders were highly organised, had competent officers and modern arms. They succeeded in occupying a considerable part of Jammu Province, more especially in the Poonch Area Poonch town, Mirpur, Kotli and some other places held out.

8. About this time the State authorities asked us to supply them with arms and ammunition. We agreed to do so in the normal course. But in fact no supply was made till events took a more serious turn. Even at this stage no mention was made of accession to India.

9. The leader of the popular organisation in Kashmir, Shaikh Mohammad Abdullah, President of the Kashmir National Conference, was released from prison during this period and we discussed the situation in Kashmir with him as well as with representatives of the Maharaja of Kashmir. We made it clear to both of them that while we would welcome the accession of Kashmir we did not want any hurried or forced accession and we would rather wait for the people to decide. Shaikh Abdullah was himself of this opinion.

10. On the 24th October we heard that large armed bands consisting both of tribesmen from the Frontier and ex-service men had broken through Muzaffarabad and were marching to Srinagar. These raiders had crossed Pakistan territory and they were equipped with Bren Guns, Machine Guns, Mortars and

20. In order to establish our *bona fides* we have suggested that when the people are given the chance to decide their future this should be done under the supervision of an impartial tribunal such as the United Nations Organisation.

21. The issue in Kashmir is whether violence and naked force should decide the future or the will of the people. The raiders encouraged by Pakistan have sought to enforce by the sword accession to Pakistan against the obvious wishes of large numbers of the people in Kashmir. We cannot permit a success of this method to achieve political ends. It is a tragedy that Pakistan should ally itself to such methods instead of devoting herself to the urgent tasks of economic and social reconstruction.

22. Kashmir has gone through fire and I am sure that the House would like me to communicate their sympathy to the people of Kashmir for the tribulations they have been going through in recent weeks. This fair land which nature has made so lovely has been desecrated by people who have indulged in murder, arson, loot and foul attacks on women and children. The people have suffered greatly from shortage of the most vital necessities of life and yet, under the inspiring lead of Shaikh Abdullah, they have stood together in the hour of calamity and showed to the rest of India an example of what communal unity can achieve. Whatever the future may hold, this chapter in the history of Kashmir will be worth reading and we shall never regret that in their hour of distress we have been able to be of assistance to this gallant people. Kashmir and India have been bound together in many ways from ages past. These last few weeks have forged a new link which none can sunder.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

VOTING IN THE U.N.O. ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN QUESTION

Mr. Speaker: I received notice of an adjournment motion from Shri Deshbandhu Gupta but I understand the Honourable Member does not propose to move it.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta (Delhi): Sir, as Government are not in a position to make a statement on the question of voting in the U.N.O. on the South African question, I do not propose to move the adjournment motion.

Mr. Speaker: So it is not proposed to move it.

DECLARATIONS OF EXEMPTIONS UNDER THE REGISTRATION OF FOREIGNERS ACT— LAID ON THE TABLE

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Minister for Home, Information and Broadcasting and States): Sir, I lay on the table a copy of each of the following Declarations of Exemption issued under the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939, namely:

- (1) No. 1/8/47-Poll. (E), dated the 13th February, 1947.
- (2) No. 1/15/47-Poll. (E), dated the 24th March, 1947.
- (3) No. 1/19/47-Poll. (E), dated the 30th May, 1947.
- (4) No. 1/18/47-Poll. (E), dated the 2nd June, 1947 (10 declarations)
- (5) No. 1/20/47-Poll. (E), dated the 2nd June 1947.
- (6) No. 1/21/47-Poll. (E), dated the 9th June, 1947 (2 declarations).
- (7) No. 1/23/47-Poll. (E), dated the 13th July, 1947.
- (8) No. 1/26/47-Poll. (E), dated the 21st July, 1947 (2 declarations).
- (9) No. 1/27/47-Poll. (E), dated the 28th July, 1947. (4 declarations).
- (10) No. 1/25/47-Poll. (E), dated the 4th August, 1947.
- (11) No. 1/28/47-Poll. (E), dated the 5th August, 1947 (2 declarations).
- (12) No. 1/10/47-Poll. (E), dated the 14th August, 1947.
- (13) No. 1/30/47-Poll. (E), dated the 1st September, 1947 (2 declarations).

- (14) No. 1/32/47-Poll. (E), dated the 12th September 1947.
- (15) No. 1/33/47-Poll. (E), dated the 23rd September, 1947.
- (16) No. 1/35/47-Poll. (E), dated the 23rd September, 1947.
- (17) No. 1/27/47-Poll. (E), dated the 26th September 1947.
- (18) No. 1/38/47-Poll. (E), dated the 7th October 1947.
- (19) No. 1/39/47-Poll. (E), dated the 13th October 1947 (3 declarations).

No. 1/8/47-POLL. (E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

New Delhi, the 13th February, 1947

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 3 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors, who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to, Dr. F. A. Nickell, an American national, for so long as he is working for the Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission in connection with post-war multi-purpose projects.

F. SINGH,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/15/47-POLL. (E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

New Delhi, the 24th March, 1947

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 3 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors, who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to, Dr. J. E. Church, an American national, for so long as he is employed with the Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission as Snow Survey Expert.

F. SINGH,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/19/47-POLITICAL (E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

New Delhi, the 30th May, 1947

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 3 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors, who are not foreigners shall not apply to, or in relation to, Miss Marie E. Casey, an United States national, for so long as she is employed in the American Consulate General, Calcutta.

F. SINGH,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India

Flame-throwers and had at their disposal a large number of transport vehicles. They moved rapidly down the Valley, sacking and burning and looting all along the way. We gave earnest consideration to this situation in our Defence Committee on the 25th and 26th October. The position on the 26th morning was that the raiders were marching towards Srinagar and there was no military detachment capable of stopping them. They had been stopped for two days near Uri by the State forces under a gallant commander who resisted this advance to the point of death. These two days thus gained were very valuable.

11. We were asked at this stage both on behalf of the Maharaja and Shaikh Abdullah to accept the accession of the State to the Indian Union and to intervene with the armed forces of the Union. An immediate decision was necessary, and in fact it is now clear that if we had delayed the decision even by 24 hours Srinagar would have fallen and would have suffered the tragic fate that befell Muzafarabad, Baramula and other places. It was clear to us that we could not possibly accept under any circumstances this ruin of Kashmir by brutal and irresponsible raiders. This would have been a surrender to frightfulness and fanaticism of the worst type and it would have had the most serious consequences all over India. To intervene at that stage was no easy matter and was full of risks and danger. Yet we decided to face this risk and intervene because any other course would have meant ruin to Kashmir and greater danger to India.

12. In accepting the accession however we made it perfectly clear to the Maharaja that his Government must be carried on in future according to the popular will and that Shaikh Abdullah should be charged with the formation of an interim government on the new model adopted in Mysore. Shaikh Abdullah, in our opinion, had undoubtedly the support of the large majority of the people of Kashmir, Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs. Further we made it clear that as soon as law and order had been restored in Kashmir and her soil cleared of the invaders, the question of the State's accession should be settled by reference to the people.

13. I shall not detain the House by dealing with the course of the military campaign that followed. The facts are well-known and redound to the credit of our military organisation, our troops and our airmen. It must be remembered also that our operations have been very largely based on air transport in difficult circumstances. Our civil air-lines and their air-crews functioned with remarkable success.

14. One fact however which contributed to our success at least as much as the military operations was the maintenance, under the leadership of Shaikh Abdullah, of the civil administration and the morale of the civil population. The civil population, completely unarmed, with the enemy within a few miles of the city, behaved in a manner which showed extraordinary courage and coolness. They did so because they had a great leader and because Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs all joined together under him to throw back the enemy and to save Kashmir, their common heritage. This fact is one of the most remarkable events of recent times in India and one from which the rest of the country may take a profitable lesson. It was certainly a factor of the most vital importance in the saving of Srinagar.

15. The present position is that our troops have relieved Poonch and are within 8 miles of Kotli. The terrain in which they are functioning is difficult and mountainous and the roads and approaches have been destroyed by the raiders. Progress is therefore slow. In this Poonch area occupied by the raiders several massacres of the non-muslim inhabitants have taken place involving large numbers of persons.

16. I should like to say here that certain events happened near Jammu early in November which I regret very deeply. The Muslim convoys of evacuees were being taken away from Jammu when they were attacked by non-muslim refugees and others and a large number of casualties were inflicted. The troops escorting them did not play a creditable role. I might add that none of our troops were present or had anything to do with this. We have issued the most stringent orders to our troops to protect the people, to function with impartiality and indeed to make friends with the local population. I am glad to say that they have carried out these instructions.

17. The House is aware that the Pakistan Government has protested emphatically against our action in Kashmir. In doing so they have used language which is not becoming in any government and have alleged fraud and conspiracy on our part. I need only say that I am completely convinced that every action that the Government of India have taken in regard to Kashmir has been straight and above board and I can defend it at any time before the world. We have indeed been over-scrupulous in this matter so that nothing may be done in the passion of the moment which might be wrong. The behaviour of our army has all along been good and worthy of our traditions.

18. I cannot say this of the Pakistan Government. Their case is that the genesis of the trouble was extensive killing of Muslims in Eastern Punjab and Kashmir and that the raid on Kashmir was a spontaneous reaction to this on the part of the tribesmen. I think this is completely untrue. I regret deeply that in parts of Jammu province Muslims were killed and driven out. This of course has had nothing to do with our government or our forces. But this mutual killing has been a very tragic feature during these past months in the Punjab, and Jammu was powerfully affected by this. We have sufficient evidence in our possession to demonstrate that the whole business of the Kashmir raids both in Jammu province and in Kashmir proper deliberately organised by high officials of the Pakistan Government. They helped the tribesmen and ex-servicemen to collect, they supplied them with implements of war, with lorries, with petrol and with officers. They are continuing to do so. Indeed their high officials openly declare so. It is obvious that no large body of men could cross Pakistan territory in armed groups without the goodwill, connivance and active help of the authorities there. It is impossible to escape the conclusion that the raids on Kashmir were carefully planned and well organised by the Pakistan authorities with the deliberate object of seizing the State by force and then declaring accession to Pakistan. This was an act of hostility not only to Kashmir but to the Indian Union. It is only necessary to see the semi-official organs of the Muslim League and the Pakistan Government to find out the attitude of that government. If we had allowed this scheme to succeed, we would have been guilty of betrayal of the people of Kashmir and a grave dereliction of duty to India. The results of these on the communal and political situation all over India would have been disastrous.

19. The Pakistan Government have proposed a simultaneous withdrawal of our forces and the raiders from Kashmir. This was a strange proposal and could only mean that the raiders were there at the instance of the Pakistan Government. We cannot treat with free-booters who have murdered large numbers of people and tried to ruin Kashmir. They are not a State although a state may be behind them. We have gone to Kashmir to protect the people and as soon as this duty is discharged our forces need not remain there and we shall withdraw our forces. We cannot desert the people of Kashmir till danger is passed. If the Pakistan Government is sincere they can stop the entry of these raiders and thus accelerate the return of peace and order. After that let the people of Kashmir decide and we shall accept their decision. But if this armed conflict continues no opportunity is given for the people to decide by peaceful means and the decision gradually takes shape by the sacrifice and power of the people in this conflict.

No. 1/18/47-POLL. (E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

New Delhi, the 2nd June 1947

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors, who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to Miss Jane Loranger, a United States Government official, for so long as she holds her present employment.

F. SINGH,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/18/47-POLL. (E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

New Delhi, the 2nd June 1947

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors, who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to Miss Lucy Singleton, a United States Government Official, for so long as she holds her present employment.

F. SINGH,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/18/47-POLL. (E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

New Delhi, the 2nd June 1947

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors, who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to Miss Orpha Soine, a United States Government official, for so long as she holds her present employment.

F. SINGH,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/18/47-POLL. (E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

New Delhi, the 2nd June 1947

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors, who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to Mr. Paul G. Wright, a United States Government official, for so long as he holds his present employment.

F. SINGH,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/18/47-POLL. (E).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

HOME DEPARTMENT

New Delhi, the 2nd June 1947

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors, who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to Miss Alexandra Wilson, a United States Government official, for so long as she holds her present employment.

F. SINGH,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/18/47-POLL. (E).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

HOME DEPARTMENT

New Delhi, the 2nd June 1947

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors, who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to Miss Betty Ann Garnett, a United States Government official, for so long as she holds her present employment.

F. SINGH,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/18/47-POLL. (E).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

HOME DEPARTMENT

New Delhi, the 2nd June 1947

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors, who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to Mr. Robert Bancroft Cate, Jr., a United States Government official, for so long as he holds his present employment.

F. SINGH,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/18/47-POLL. (E).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

HOME DEPARTMENT

New Delhi, the 2nd June 1947

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors, who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to Miss Ann Lorene Goodpasture, a United States Government official, for so long as she holds her present employment.

F. SINGH,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/18/47-POLL. (E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

New Delhi, the 2nd June 1947

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors, who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to Mr. G. Edward Clark, a United States Government official, for so long as he holds his present employment.

F. SINGH,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/18/47-POLL. (E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

New Delhi, the 2nd June 1947

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors, who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to Miss Elizabeth G. Robb, a United States Government official, for so long as she holds her present employment.

F. SINGH,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/20/47-POLL. (E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

New Delhi-3, the 2nd June, 1947

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors, who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to Mr. L. V. Pelto, an American national, for so long as he is employed with the Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission of the Government of India.

F. SINGH,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/21/47-POLL. (E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

HOME DEPARTMENT

New Delhi, the 9th June, 1947.

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors, who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to Mr. Jack Herfurt, a United States national, for so long as he is employed in the office of the Military Attaché to the Embassy of the United States of America at New Delhi.

F. SINGH,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/21/47-POLL. (E).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

HOME DEPARTMENT.

New Delhi, the 9th June, 1947.

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors, who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to Mrs. Mildred Herfurt, a United States national, for so long as she is employed in the office of the Military Attaché to the Embassy of the United States of America at New Delhi.

F. SINGH,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/23/47-POLITICAL (E).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

HOME DEPARTMENT.

New Delhi-3, the 13th July, 1947.

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors, who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to Miss Valor Wylley, for so long as she is employed in the office of the Military Attaché, American Embassy, New Delhi.

F. SINGH,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/26/47-POLL. (E).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

HOME DEPARTMENT.

New Delhi, the 21st July, 1947

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors, who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to Miss Jennie Bernice Young, American national, for so long as she is employed with the American Embassy, New Delhi.

F. SINGH,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/26/47-POLL. (E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

HOME DEPARTMENT.

New Delhi, the 21st July, 1947

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors, who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to Miss Ruth Leone Buchholz, American national, for so long as she is employed with the American Embassy, New Delhi.

F. SINGH,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/27/47-POLL. (E).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
HOME DEPARTMENT.

New Delhi-3, the 28th July, 1947.

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors, who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to Mr. Ralph K. Eyster an American national for so long as he is in the Service of the American Embassy in India.

F. SINGH,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/27/47-POLL. (E).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
HOME DEPARTMENT.

New Delhi-3, the 28th July, 1947.

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors, who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to Mr. Glenn Prosser an American national for so long as he is in the service of the American Embassy in India.

F. SINGH,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/27/47-POLL. (E).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
HOME DEPARTMENT.

New Delhi-3, the 28th July, 1947.

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors, who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to Mr. Ernest H. Fisk an American national for so long as he is in the service of the American Embassy in India.

F. SINGH,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/27/47-POLL. (E).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
HOME DEPARTMENT.

New Delhi-3, the 28th July, 1947.

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors, who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to Mr. Henry Cassis an American national for so long as he is in the service of the American Embassy in India.

F. SINGH,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/25/47-POLL. (E).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
HOME DEPARTMENT.

New Delhi-3, the 4th August, 1947.

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors, who are not foreigners shall not apply to, or in relation to Mr. James R. Healey, an American national for so long as he is employed with the United States Maritime Commission, Bombay.

F. SINGH,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/28/47-POLITICAL (E).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
HOME DEPARTMENT.

New Delhi-3, the 5th August, 1947.

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors, who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to Miss Forrest Miller, an American national, for so long as she is employed with the American Consulate, Calcutta.

F. SINGH,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/28/47-POLITICAL (E).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
HOME DEPARTMENT.

New Delhi-3, the 5th August, 1947.

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors, who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to Mrs. Ervie Moorhouse, an American national, for so long as she is employed with the American Consulate, Calcutta.

F. SINGH,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/10/47-POLL. (E).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
HOME DEPARTMENT.

New Delhi-3, dated the 14th August 1947.

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors, who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to 1st Lt. Abdul Rahman Khan, for so long as he remains in India as an interpreter for the Afghan Officers attending the course at the Royal Indian Army Service Corps School, Kakul.

F. SINGH,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/30/47-POLL. (E).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

New Delhi-3, the 1st September, 1947

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors, who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to Miss Mary Jane Tuttle an American national, for so long as she is employed in the American Consulate, Madras.

F. SINGH,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/30/47-POLL. (E).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

New Delhi-3, the 1st September, 1947

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors, who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to Mr. Harlan H. Howard, Jr., an American national, for so long as he is employed in the American Consulate, Madras.

F. SINGH,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/32/47-POLL. (E).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

New Delhi, the 12th September, 1947

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors, who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to Miss Ruth Teasdale an American national, for so long as she is employed with the American Embassy, New Delhi.

F. SINGH,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/33/47-POLL. (E).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

New Delhi, the 23rd September, 1947.

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors, who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to Mrs. Chun Tsai Wu nee Ma Chin Chounz, a Chinese national, for so long as she is employed by the Embassy of the Republic of China in India, New Delhi.

F. SINGH,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/35/47-POLL. (E).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

New Delhi, the 23rd September, 1947

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors, who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to Miss Ruth Booker, an American national, for so long as she is employed in the American Embassy.

F. SINGH,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/27/47-POLL. (E).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

New Delhi-3, the 26th September, 1947

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors, who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to Mrs. Mary Wright Fisk, an American national, for so long as her husband Mr. Ernest H. Fisk, an American national, remains in the employ of the United States Embassy in India.

F. SINGH,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/38/47-POLL. (E).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

New Delhi-3, the 7th October, 1947.

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors, who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to Miss Catherine E. Hempen, an American national, for so long as she remains in India in the employ of the American Embassy, New Delhi.

F. SINGH,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/39/47-POLL. (E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

New Delhi-3, the 13th October, 1947.

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors, who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to Miss Marian Frubaker for so long as she remains in India in the employ of the American Embassy.

F. SINGH,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/39/47-POLL. (E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

New Delhi 3, the 13th October, 1947

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

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F. SINGH,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/39/47-POLL. (E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

New Delhi 3, the 13th October, 1947

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors, who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to Miss Frances Vick for so long as she remains in India in the employ of the American Embassy.

F. SINGH,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

ELECTION TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon on Friday, the 21st November, 1947, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Ministry of Communications, eleven nominations were received. Subsequently one member withdrew his candidature. As the number of the remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare the following members to be duly elected:

- (1) Raja Sardar Singhji Bahadur of Khetri.
- (2) Kunwar Shamsher Jang.
- (3) Shri Brajeshwar Prashad.
- (4) Shri P. Kunhiraman.
- (5) Shri Mihirlal Chattopadhyaya.
- (6) Pandit Chaturbhuj Pathak.
- (7) Shri Himmat Singh K. Maheshwari.
- (8) Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava.
- (9) Shri Prafulla Chandra Sen, and
- (10) Kazi Syed Karimuddin.

ELECTION TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. Speaker: I have also to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon on Friday, the 21st November, 1947, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Ministry of Agriculture, eleven nominations were received. Subsequently one member withdrew his candidature. As the number of the remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare the following members to be duly elected:

- (1) Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi,
- (2) Shri Upendra Nath Barman,
- (3) Shri Ramnarayan Singh,
- (4) Shri Damodar Swarup Seth,
- (5) Ch. Ranbir Singh,
- (6) Dr. P. S. Deshmukh,
- (7) Shri K. C. Gajapati Narayan Deo,
- (8) Shri Ram Sahai,
- (9) Sardar Jogendra Singh, and
- (10) Syed Abdur Rouf.

ELECTION TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Mr. Speaker: I have further to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon on Saturday, the 22nd November, 1947, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Ministry of Defence, ten nominations were received. As the number of candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare the following members to be duly elected:

- (1) Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru,
- (2) Sardar Jogendra Singh.
- (3) Shri Manikyalal Varma,
- (4) Shri Mohanlal Gautam,
- (5) Shri C. M. Poonacha,
- (6) Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath,
- (7) Col. Shri Maharaja Himmat Singhji,
- (8) Shri S. K. Patil,
- (9) Maharajadhiraja Sir Kameshwara Singh, and
- (10) Mr. Hussain Imam.

ELECTION TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon on Saturday, the 22nd November, 1947, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations, ten nominations were received. As the number of candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare the following members to be duly elected:

- (1) Sardar K. M. Panikkar,
- (2) Shri V. Nadimuthu Pillai,
- (3) Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao,
- (4) Prof. N. G. Ranga,
- (5) Shri H. V. Kamath,
- (6) Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru,
- (7) Diwan Chaman Lal,
- (8) Seth Govind Das,
- (9) Maharajadhiraja Sir Kameshwara Singh, and
- (10) Begum Aizaz Rasul.

[सेठ गोविन्ददास]

है। मैं इन कठिनाइयों को महसूस करता हूँ और मंजूर करता हूँ कि कठिनाइयाँ हैं। लेकिन अनेक चीज़ें ऐसी भी हैं जो इस समय उपलब्ध हैं, काफी तादाद में और उन चीज़ों का उपयोग इन पुरानी बोगियों में हो सकता है।

फर्स्ट क्लास अब तक चल रहा है। मेरी समझ में यह बात नहा आता कि माननीय मंत्री के इस बात के वचन देने के बाद भी कि फर्स्ट क्लास वे बहुत जल्द समाप्त करेंगे, और इस एसेम्बली के वर्षों तक यह मांग करने पर भी कि फर्स्ट क्लास की इस देश में आवश्यकता नहीं है अब तक फर्स्ट क्लास क्यों चला जा रहा है? कम से कम जब कि हवाई जहाज चल रहे हैं और जो ऊँचे क्लास के लोग कहलाते हैं उन्हें हवाई जहाज से यात्रा करने की सुविधा है तो ऐसी दशा में फर्स्ट क्लास की यात्रा जारी क्यों रखी जाय। मैं आशा करता हूँ कि फर्स्ट क्लास जल्द से जल्द समाप्त किये जायेंगे और उनके स्थान पर दूसरी बोगियाँ बढ़ाई जावेंगी जिसमें भीड़ भाड़ में कमी हो सके।

जहाँ तक शरणार्थियों की यात्रा का सवाल है, मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि शरणार्थी एक प्रांत से दूसरे प्रांत ले जाये जायेंगे। मेरा माननीय मंत्री से इस संबंध में कहना है कि जहाँ तक शरणार्थी लोगों के आवागमन का संबंध है वहाँ शरणार्थी स्पेशल ट्रेनों द्वारा ही ले जाये जायें। वे साधारण ट्रेनों द्वारा न ले जाएँ।

एंजिन बनाने की क्या व्यवस्था हो रही है मैं नहीं जानता। विदेशी सरकार ने केवल एंजिन ही नहीं बल्कि किसी प्रकार की मशीनरी इस देश में न बन सके इसका सदा ध्यान रखा है। मैं आशा करता हूँ कि जो एंजिनों की हालत इस देश में हो गई है, उसे देखते हुए इस बात का प्रबंध किया जायगा कि इस देश में जल्द से जल्द ही एंजिन तैयार हों। इस समय जो गाड़ियाँ बहुत बिलंब से पहुँचती हैं और कुछ गाड़ियों की देर से पहुँचने की शोहरत हो गई है, जैसे "ग्रैंड ट्रंक एक्सप्रेस" इसका प्रधान कारण एंजिनों का ठीक अवस्था में न होना है। मैं आशा करता हूँ कि स्वतंत्र भारत में नई मशीनरी के साथ एंजिन भी बनाये जायेंगे।

नई लाइनों का भी सवाल है। मेरे प्रांत में कई ऐसी जगह अब भी मौजूद हैं जहाँ पर बहुत दिनों से यह कहा जाता है कि नई लाइनें डाली जायेंगी, मोटर गेज की जगह पर ब्राड गेज का इस्तेमाल किया जायगा। माननीय सदस्य शायद जानते होंगे कि मध्य प्रांत के दो प्रधान नगर नागपुर और जबलपुर के बीच में नजदीकी रास्ते से मोटर गेज है। वहाँ ब्राड गेज नहीं है। इसका फल यह है कि जब जबलपुर और नागपुर के बीच में मोटर सिर्फ छः घंटों के अंदर पहुँचती है तब ट्रेन से कोई जाना चाहे तो उसको पूरे १६ घंटे लगते हैं। आप स्वयं सोच सकते हैं कि कितना बड़ा अंतर दोनों प्रकार की यात्रा में है। मैं माननीय मंत्री से निवेदन करना चाहूँगा कि जबलपुर और नागपुर के बीच में मोटर गेज के स्थान पर ब्राड गेज होना चाहिये। कितने ही स्थान मध्य प्रांत में ऐसे हैं जहाँ नई लाइनों की नितांत आवश्यकता है। स्टेशनों में परिवर्तन होने की जरूरत

है। मेरे प्रांत में नागपुर स्टेशन को छोड़ कर, सारे स्टेशन पूर्ववत् हैं, जबलपुर स्टेशन भी। मेरी उम्र इस समय ५० से ज्यादा है और करीब चालीस वर्ष से, जब से मुझको होश आया है तब से मैं देखता हूँ कि जबलपुर स्टेशन की हालत आज तक वही है जो पहले थी। इस वक्त जबलपुर की आबादी ६० हजार से बढ़कर करीब तीन लाख तक पहुँच गई है। कई बार यह कहा गया है कि जबलपुर में एक नये स्टेशन की आवश्यकता है और

माननीय मंत्री ने यह आश्वासन भी दिया था कि जबलपुर में बहुत जल्दी ही एक नया स्टेशन बनाया जाने वाला है। मगर इसकी अवस्था वैसी ही है। और जल्दी कोई स्टेशन के कार्य आरंभ होने के आसार नहीं दिखाई देते।

माननीय मंत्री जानते हैं कि सागर में एक विश्वविद्यालय स्थापित हो गया है। वहाँ का स्टेशन अजीब तरह से बनाया गया है। शहर जाने के लिए पहले लाइन को फाँदना पड़ता है। जिस प्रकार का विचित्र स्टेशन सागर बना हुआ है शायद ही हिंदुस्तान में ऐसा कोई स्टेशन बना होगा। इस स्टेशन में परिवर्तन की बड़ी आवश्यकता है। मैं सभा का बहुत अधिक समय नहीं लेना चाहता। शायद एक दो मिनट मेरे रह गये हैं। मगर मैं एक बार फिर माननीय मंत्री को इस स्वतंत्र भारत के प्रथम यातायात बजट को पेश करने के लिए बधाई देता हूँ और आशा करता हूँ कि स्वतंत्र भारत में यातायात में बहुत शीघ्र सुधार किये जायेंगे।

(English translation of the above speech)

Seth Govinddas (C. P. and Berar : General): Mr. Speaker, in this free India today, after attaining our freedom, I am delighted to speak in Hindi, our national language. For about 23 years I have been a member of this Legislative Assembly, and all this time I have had to constantly speak in a foreign language. Today I have the good fortune of speaking in my national language, in my free country.

I congratulate the Honourable Minister for Transport for being the first to present in Free India the Budget for the Railways, the most important means of transport.

So far as the budget is concerned, we can examine it from different points of view. Some people object to the repeated increase in the railway fares. Last budget also included an increase in the fares. At that time I said that it was not fair to increase the fares of the different classes in the same proportion. I am glad to find that my suggestion has been put into practice, and that the new increase in fares takes into consideration the different classes. It would have been better if the fares of the third class had not been increased at all. But, if it was not possible, the third class passengers would at least have the satisfaction that if they have to pay something in excess, the Inter class passengers have to pay more than they, while those who travel in second class pay still more and those who make journeys in the first class pay even more than those who go by the second.

So far as it is the question of making good the deficit, I would like to say that increase in the railway fares should not be the only means. We should use other means too. We are no doubt of the opinion that so far as the low paid staff is concerned we should not make any reduction in their salaries; but with regard to the higher posts I would like to request the Honourable Minister that first of all he should retrench the very old employees, and secondly that new recruits to the superior services should be given lower salaries than are admissible to them at present. The difference of salaries between the senior

THE RAILWAY BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION

FIRST STAGE

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed with the General Discussion of the Railway Budget. Before the General Discussion of the Railway Budget commences, I have to announce to the House that under Rule 46, I fix the time limit for speeches as 15 minutes for each Honourable Member excepting the Honourable Minister of Railways for whom 45 minutes or more will be allowed, if necessary.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : सभापति जी, इस स्वतन्त्र भारत में स्वतन्त्रता प्राप्त करने के बाद आज राष्ट्र-भाषा हिंदी में बोलने से मुझे बड़ा आनंद हो रहा है। मैं लगभग २३ वर्षों से इस धारा सभा का सदस्य रहा हूं और इन २३ वर्षों से लगातार विदेशी भाषा बोलते बोलते आज स्वतंत्र भारत में मुझे राष्ट्रभाषा बोलने का सौभाग्य प्राप्त हो रहा है।

मैं यातायात के मंत्री महोदय को, उन्होंने यातायात के मुख्यसाधन रेलवे का जो बजट स्वतंत्र भारत में सर्व प्रथम उपस्थित किया है, उसके लिए वधाई देना चाहता हूं। जहां तक बजट का सम्बन्ध है, उसे अलग अलग दृष्टियों से देखा जा सकता है। कई लोग जो किरायों में फिर से वृद्धि की गई है उस पर आपत्ति करते हैं। गत बजट में भी किरायों में वृद्धि ई थी, और मैंने उस समय यह निवेदन किया था कि सब दरजों के किरायों में एक सी वृद्धि होना उचित नहीं है। मुझे यह देखकर हर्ष हो रहा है कि मेरे उस सुझाव पर ध्यान दिया गया, और अब जो वृद्धि किरायों में हुई है वह दरजों में भेद रख कर की गई है। अच्छा होता यदि तीसरे दरजे के किराये में कोई वृद्धि न की गई होती। परन्तु यदि यह संभव नहीं था तो कम से कम तीसरे दरजे के यात्रियों को इस बात पर संतोष होगा कि यदि उन्हें कुछ अधिक देना पड़ रहा है तो उनकी अपेक्षा इन्टर में मुसाफिरी करने वालों को उनसे अधिक 'सेकेन्ड क्लास में मुसाफिरी करने वालों को उनसे अधिक' और फर्स्ट क्लास में मुसाफिरी करने वालों को उनसे भी अधिक देना पड़ रहा है।

जहां तक घाटे को पूरा करने का सम्बन्ध है, वहां तक मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि किरायों में वृद्धि के अतिरिक्त और भी कुछ उपाय काम में लाने चाहिये। हम लोग इस पक्ष के तो अवश्य हैं कि जहां तक नीचे दरजे की नौकरियों का संबंध है वहां तक उनके वेतन में कोई कमी न हो, परन्तु जहां तक ऊंची नौकरियों का संबंध है, मैं माननीय मंत्री से निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि कुछ तो उनमें से जो बहुत पुराने नौकर हैं उनकी छंटनी होनी चाहिये और ऊंचे दरजों की नौकरियों पर जो नियुक्ति की जाय उनको वेतन जो इस समय मिल रहा है उससे बहुत कम होना चाहिये। नीचे दरजे और ऊंचे दरजे की नौकरियों के वेतन में इस देश में जितना अंतर इस समय सब विभागों में देखा जाता है वह वांछनीय नहीं है। हमें नीचे दरजों और ऊंचे दरजों दोनों को निकट लाना है। नीचे दरजों को उठाना है, ऊंचे दर्जों को गिराना है और इस प्रकार दोनों में जो अन्तर रहता है उसको कम से कम कर देना है।

जहां तक यात्रियों की सुविधा का संबंध है मैं माननीय मंत्री से कहना चाहता हूं कि इस संबंध में अभी कुछ भी नहीं हुआ है। आज कल ट्रेनों में भीड़ भाड़ अवश्य कम हो गई है, परन्तु इसका कारण कुछ दूसरा ही है। इसका कारण यह नहीं है कि ट्रेनों की संख्या में वृद्धि हुई है या ट्रेनों में जो बोगियां लगाई जाती हैं वे अधिक लगाई जा रही हैं। इसका प्रधान कारण यह है कि सांप्रदायिक दंगे जो चारों तरफ हुए उनके कारण लोगों ने यात्रा कम कर दी। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से कहना चाहता हूं कि परिस्थिति के साधारण स्थिति पर आते ही फिर से वे देखेंगे कि भीड़ भाड़ का वही हाल हो जायगा जो अब तक रहा है। इसलिए इस संबंध में कुछ और होना आवश्यक है। इसके सिवा यात्रियों की दूसरी सुविधाओं का भी अभी वही हाल है। बहुत कम बोगियां ऐसी रहती हैं जिनमें पूरी बत्तियों का प्रबंध है। ऊंचे दर्जों की बोगियों में स्विच बहुत कम पाई जाती हैं। यह कहा जाता है कि बल्बों की चोरी होती है। यह कहा जाता है स्विचों की चोरी होती है। परन्तु बल्बों के न रहने और स्विचों के न रहने की यह कोई ठीक दलील नहीं है। ऐसे उपाय काम में लाये जा सकते हैं, उन बल्बों पर ताले लगाकर, या उन स्विचों को इस प्रकार से फिट करके जिससे उनकी चोरी न हो। मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि दो तारों को मिलाकर पंखों या बत्तियों का चलाना और जलाना यह एक बड़ी भयानक बात है। इसमें कई बार यात्रियों को धक्के लगे हैं, और मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूं कि इसमें बड़ी दुर्घटनाएं हो जाने का भय है। इसलिए मेरा यह निवेदन है कि जहां तक बत्तियों और स्विचों का सवाल है वहां तक सबसे पहले इस ओर ध्यान देना चाहिये।

पानी की ट्रेनों में और स्टेशनों पर विशेष रूप से कमी है। यह गरम देश है और गरम देश में लोगों को खाना अलग रहा, यदि पानी भी पीने को न मिले तो इससे अधिक खराबी की बात नहीं हो सकती। बार बार भाषणों में यह बात कही गई है कि ट्रेनों में और स्टेशनों पर दोनों में पानी की ठीक व्यवस्था होनी चाहिये और मेरा विश्वास है कि यदि इस ओर थोड़ा भी ध्यान दिया जाय तो यह ऐसी चीज नहीं है, पानी कम से कम ऐसी वस्तु नहीं है, जो कहीं से लानी पड़ती हो, उसकी व्यवस्था ठीक तरह से हो सकती है।

नई बोगियों के संबंध में मेरा माननीय मंत्री से कहना है कि हम उन के लिए नहीं रुक सकते। नई बोगियों के आते आते न जाने कितना समय लग जायगा और तब तक यदि हम नई बोगियों के भरोसे ही बैठे रहें और पुरानी बोगियों को न सुधारें तो लोगों को जितनी उनको उचित सुविधाएं मिलनी चाहियें उतनी नहीं मिल सकेंगी। इसलिए मेरा निवेदन है कि नई बोगियां तो बनाई ही जा रहीं हैं और नई बोगियां बनते बनते काफी समय लग जावेगा इसलिए हमको पुरानी बोगियों का भी सुधारना शुरू करना चाहिये। कितनी बार यहां कहा जाता है कि इन बोगियों को सुधारने के लिए जिन वस्तुओं की आवश्यकता है वह वस्तुएं इस समय प्राप्त नहीं हो रही हैं। उनकी प्राप्ति में कठिनाई

[Seth Govinddas]
and the junior employees, as exists today in the various departments is not desirable. We have to bridge this gulf, we have to bring these classes closer to each other, we have to pull up the lower class and bring down the upper; and in this way we have to reduce this difference in pays to a minimum.

With regard to the facilities to the railway passengers I would like to tell the Honourable Minister that nothing has been done for them so far. Of course, the overcrowding in the trains has lessened a little; but it is due to another reason. It is not because the number of trains has been increased or because the rakes contain greater number of bogies. It is because on account of these communal disturbances people have stopped travelling frequently. I want to tell the Honourable Minister that with the return of normal conditions he would find the same overcrowdings as has been witnessed before. Something must be done, therefore, for diminishing this overcrowding.

The same applies to the facilities to the railway passengers. Very few compartments are such which have all the lights functioning. Switches are seldom found in the upper class coaches. It is said that the bulbs and the switches are removed. But that is not the right argument for their absence. Means can be devised for the safety of these things. Bulbs can be fitted under locks; switches can be fixed in such ways that they cannot be removed. I want to say that it is a very dangerous thing to light the bulbs and to let the fans go by just putting together two wires. There have been cases where people have received electric shocks. I want to tell you that this practice is fraught with dangers. I have, therefore, to suggest that so far as the lights and fans are concerned we must first of all attend to this side.

Scarcity of water supply is acute on the trains, particularly at the railway stations. India is a tropical country. Leave aside the question of food, nothing can be worse than this that people should not get water to drink. Over and over again, it has been emphasised in our speeches that adequate arrangements should be made for the supply of water, both on the trains and at the railway stations. And I believe, if we pay a little attention to it, we can improve the situation, for, after all it is not such a thing, water at least is not so, that has got to be imported.

With regard to new bogies I have to tell the Honourable Minister that we can no longer wait for them. Who knows how long will it take them to come, and if we depend upon them and do not overhaul the old ones, the public will be deprived of the facilities to which they are entitled. The new bogies are under construction and it will take sometime before they are placed at the disposal of the people. Why should we not in the meantime overhaul the old ones? Often it has been said here that the things required for their amelioration are not available at present. It is difficult to obtain them. I realise these difficulties and I admit that difficulties are there. But there are many things which can be obtained now and obtained in good numbers. They can be used in the old bogies.

First class compartments are still moving. For years this Assembly has been demanding that there is no need for first class travels in this country and that this class should be eliminated. I cannot understand why, inspite of the assurance given by the Honourable Minister that he would shortly put an end to the first class journeys, it is still allowed to linger? Aeroplanes are flying; and those who are called the upper class have the privilege of travelling by air. Why should, then, we have first class on the railways? I hope that soon first class compartments will be replaced by third class so that overcrowding on the trains may be reduced.

With regard to the movement of the refugees, I want to say that they will be transported from one province to another. So far as it is the question of their transport, they can be transported by means of special trains and not by the public trains.

I do not know what is the position with regard to the manufacture of locomotives. The alien Government have always taken special care to see that, not only engines, but even machinery of any kind is not manufactured in this country. Seeing the present condition of the locomotives, I hope arrangements will be made soon to manufacture locomotives here.

There is also the question of new lines. There are many places even now in my own province where it has been said for a long time that new tracks would be laid, that the meter gauge would be replaced by the broad gauge. The Honourable Speaker might be knowing that the shortest route between two prominent places of the C.P., from Nagpur to Jubbulpore, is *via* the meter gauge. There is no broad gauge. This means that if it takes only six hours to go from Nagpur to Jubbulpore by means of a bus, not less than sixteen hours are required to travel by train. You can see for yourself what big difference there is in the two modes of conveyance. I would request the Honourable Minister that he should replace the meter gauge by broad gauge between Jubbulpore and Nagpur.

Many places are there in the C.P. which require new lines. Changes are required to be made in the railway stations. Leaving aside Nagpur, all stations in the C.P. are as of old. Jubbulpore is no exception. I am more than fifty years old; and for the last 40 years or so, from the time I have begun to understand things I have been seeing that the railway station of Jubbulpore remains unchanged. The population of this city has increased from 60 thousands to about three lakhs. Many a time it has been pointed out that Jubbulpore needs a new railway station. The Honourable Minister gave assurances also that in the near future a new railway station would be constructed at Jubbulpore. But matters stand where they have been; and no signs are yet there of its being shortly rebuilt.

The Honourable Minister might be knowing that a University has been established at Saugor. The railway station of this city has been made in a peculiar way. One has to cross the railway lines before one can enter the city. There would hardly be a railway station in the whole of India which could be compared with this odd station. Changes are badly required to be made in this building.

I do not want to take much time of the House. Perhaps only a minute or two of my time now remain. Let me once again congratulate the Honourable Minister for being the first to present this railway budget in Free India; and I hope that soon improvements would be made in the railways.

Mr. Hussain Imam (Bihar: Muslim): Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to take up the time of the House in making a detailed examination of the Railway Budget. That is a thing which can be more profitably done while discussing the demands for grants. I simply wish to say a few words about the general position.

Before we congratulate the Honourable Minister in charge of Transport for his budget, let us examine if we have done what was due from us. This is the third time that an increase has been suggested by the Minister or a Member in Charge. Every time the House has stopped him from making the necessary increases. The immediate predecessor of the Honourable Minister was more fortunate in getting a part of his demands satisfied but Sir Edward Benthall could not get anything. We have to realise one thing which the Honourable Minister stressed in a passing way, that is what part the Railway plays as a tax-gathering agency of the Government. People are prone to regard the

[Mr. Hussain Imam]

railway simply as if it were the property of private persons like other utilities which must conform to the proposition that their cost should be equal to their disbursement. If we visualise the railways as a method of taxation on the users, we will get better results both for the public who utilise them and for the Government which has to administer them and the other departments as also discharge other functions of the State. The State—I should not say the owner—as the representative of the people, which runs the railways owes a duty that it shall so spread out the rates as to keep them in consonance with the general level of prices. If you examine the cost of other commodities like food, cloth, etc., you will find that there has been an increase of 200 to 250 per cent. in their prices in comparison with the prices that prevailed in August 1939, whereas in the case of the Railways the increase in fares has been not more than 15 to 20 per cent. in different categories. I am referring to coaching as well as passenger traffic. Is it proper that a state organisation whose disbursement of wages has more than doubled in this period and the prices for whose raw materials in the shape of coal have gone up by about 150 per cent., should be compelled to charge a rate which is not in keeping with either of these two increases? I personally would prefer even a higher increase in the fares and coaching rates than has been recommended by the Honourable Minister, but I would make it conditional on two things. Government owes a duty to the travelling public to give it a better deal than it has been giving so far. I know the difficulties which the Honourable Minister has to confront with. He is short of wagons, of coaches, of personnel and he is short of everything which is required. But cannot the difficulties be met by means of road transport aided and run by the state. The previous speaker mentioned, and I have my own experience, that there are places where rail journey takes longer than road journey. In those places it is necessary in order to reduce the congestion on railways to run road services for meeting the convenience of the people. In places where you cannot run a sufficient number of train services it is your duty to have alternatively road services to take passengers. I would like to say this without making any revelation. I think it is well known that there is a controversy whether the state is bound by a contract not to reduce the higher salaries of those who are already in government employment. Last time it was held by the Government of India when we had retrenchment in 1931, that all those who were then in employment could rise up to the highest salaries without any reduction in the emoluments being made. This question was considered by the Pay Commission. We thought that the better course would be to leave the matter to the Government because there was difference among ourselves. I think that considering everything, the changed atmosphere, the accelerated promotions, the higher opportunities available to the people in service, it is meet and proper that all higher salaries should be reduced to the level fixed by the Pay Commission. There should be no privilege attached to those who were employed pre-1931 that they must continue, whenever they are promoted to higher posts, to draw a higher salary. If we bring down the higher salaries to the level suggested now it will not mean any great deal of economy in costs. It should be realized that it is more as a sort of consolation to others, to remove the discontent between a pre-1931 and post-1931 man working in the same position but drawing different rates of pay. I want to remove that discontent, and I would suggest that the recommendations of the Pay Commission about higher salaries should be accepted for all those who were in the employ of the Government, whether pre-1931 or post-1931.

I should like to stress one aspect, namely that the third class fare is the lowest in the world. If we wish our people to have comfortable travel it will be well nigh impossible to supply them with the amenities without a little

further increase in the fares. I should invite the attention of the House to the fact that reserves built during the years of prosperity from 1924 to 1929 were finished up within a year and a half of depression. That is a thing which the House must take cognizance of, and whenever we should build up a reserve we should not hesitate to increase fares if increase is justified. I suggest that when we ask for increase in wages, when the capitalist asks for increase in the price of coal due both to high cost of wages and to demand, it is proper that a national government should have the courage of its conviction and charge the rate which the traffic will bear. In spite of the fact that India is the poorest country in the world—the rupee has lost its value—in real wages or real wealth India is still as it was in 1939; but in terms of money it will be idle to say that any part of the population from the meanest wage-earner to the highest capitalist has not benefitted by the devaluation of the rupee. But we have continued to charge from our passengers the same old rates which were prevailing before the war. It is unscientific and I suggest, not now but for future consideration, that when the Honourable Minister brings forward a budget for the full year he will keep in view the necessity of building a reserve in order to give better service to third class passengers. I would have them fitted with fans. But can you do so if you do not increase the fares? You want to have better water facilities. It is very necessary to provide more amenities in this direction. Water supply is very deficient and troublesome. The way people are packed in the compartments is deplorable. It is a slur on the fair name of India to have third class passengers huddled like that in a compartment. We must remove all these anomalies. But we cannot do it without money. It is therefore better that a national government should increase the fares and freight without discrimination and only as much as is necessary for the ultimate objective of giving a better deal to the travelling public.

Shri A. P. Pattani (Western India States Group): I would like to confine my remarks to only two or three observations in as few words as possible. The first thing I wish to suggest to the Honourable Minister is that in his statement he has said that the deficit of Rs. 16.92 crores can be adjusted from the railway reserves at the disposal of Government of Rs. 21.61 crores. I would like to know, or rather to be assured, that the sum of Rs. 21.61 crores is merely a very rough estimate and that we shall know our actual reserves after the accounts with the Pakistan Dominion have been settled.

The next observation I wish to offer is in connection with the turn-round position of the wagons. The turn round position actually is—I am speaking as one who has had something to do with the railway system in my own State, small as it is—that when a wagon loaded at, say, Bhavnagar goes to, say, Okha, it is ready again for re-loading at Okha station. If the period of this time, which normally used to be 9 to 10 days has increased to 14 or 15 days, it is really a very serious position, and I submit that not merely the civil disturbances, but also lack of locomotive power and labour troubles are responsible for the over all decline of some 40 to 50 per cent. of our wagon power.

And lastly about the locomotive power itself. I think everyone will agree with the Honourable Minister that it is a great reflection on the late Government that they did not provide for the manufacture of locomotives and parts in this country. But now that we are in a very serious crisis about locomotives—again I speak as one who is connected with a small system of railways and we have realised the difficulty of how an engine between two stations will stop because workshops have not been able to put them in proper repair and there are no essential parts available in the country—I would like the Honourable Minister kindly to state how soon we shall be able to manufacture locomotives and parts in this country; and also, since this is likely to take some time, how soon we can import from England or America or any other country the loco-

[Shri A. P. Pattani]

motive power that we require. I believe, Sir, that this locomotive power will greatly reduce the increase in the turn round time of wagons.

This is all I want to say now.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to congratulate the Honourable Minister for Railways for one of the best speeches I have heard delivered in this House on this subject, and I am also glad, Sir, that he has taken the House into his confidence in regard to many of the adjustments that the Government has had to make owing to the division of the country: but I am sorry that the Honourable Minister has not taken the trouble to provide us with an explanatory note on these Demands for Grants. These figures relate to their proposed expenditure for a period of 7½ months. How they compare with similar figures for the last year, we do not know, with the result that we are unable to know whether Government proposes to spend much more than they need have to on these various sections of their railways and their railway expenditure. For instance, Sir, I find that they have today five Members on the Railway Board. There used to be only three. Why they have increased the strength of it, I do not know, although for a fact it cannot be contended that the railways are obliged to work much harder now or the strain on the Railway Board is very much more than it used to be during the war. That is only an instance, and I am rather afraid it is rather illustrative of what might be occurring in various other departments of the management of the railways.

I cannot agree, Sir, with my Honourable friend Mr. Hussain Imam, that the railways should be used as a sort of tax-gathering agency. That is what the last Government tried to do. If you want more money for the general revenues, it is better to be more honest about it and go to the public through this House at the time of the budget and say you want 20 crores and then tell the people how the additional 20 crores of rupees are expected to be collected by the Government so that the people would know what to do about it.

I am glad, Sir, that the Railway Minister does not propose any general raising of the rates of railway fares or freights, and I am also in agreement with the method that he seeks to adopt in order to raise the additional revenues that he wants, so that only those people who can be expected to pay will have to pay and the ordinary people need not have to pay. But at the same time I wish to sound a warning in regard to the proposed change in fixing the railway freight rates. There will be every possible opportunity for interested railway officials either to lower the classification of certain goods or to over-charge for certain classes of goods as between one station and another. Of course I am glad that the Minister proposes to make the Railway Rates Tribunal a more permanent one and to make its recommendations also mandatory. Too much care cannot possibly be taken in this regard and I hope the Honourable Minister will try to associate the commercial public as well as others, including agriculturists: I hope he will see that they are associated at every stage with those authorities who have got to make decisions in this regard.

I am sure, Sir, the House will be in agreement with the stand taken by the Government of India in regard to the distribution of assets and liabilities over the strategic railways. This budget does not hold out any bright prospects either for the year to come. The Honourable Minister has already stated that there cannot be any improvement before the end of 1948 owing to shortage of spare parts for construction of rolling stock, etc. That is indeed a very unfortunate thing. It only shows that the constructive side of the railways has not been very active. Reference has already been made to the construction of locomotives, and I hope the Honourable Minister will have some heartening news to give.

In regard to the manufacture of locomotives and rolling stock, and specially the improved special coaches that we have been promised for so many years

and in vain for third class passengers, I am glad that at least one expert is being sent to the U.S.A. It is a good decision, but we should send not one, but two or three, and we should charge them also with the task of studying all those things and coming back as early as possible so that it would be possible for the Government to give effect to their recommendations in this country.

Again there are dark prospects regarding new projects. I find here on pages 6 and 7 some mention of some of the railways in regard to which they are having some survey projects. There is plenty of scope for many more projects and I do not know when Government is going to give any sort of satisfaction in regard to the more important of them. That is why I welcome the suggestion that railways should try to take over the road traffic also by placing on the roads their own buses in as many places as possible and thus placing their services at the disposal of the public.

Then coming to third class passengers, what is it that one can say? My Honourable friends have already stated how many things have yet to be done. I can only mention a few things. We want more carriages for them, waiting rooms, and latrines especially have got to be improved. They are in a hopeless condition. Raised platforms we have always wanted, and we want departmental catering on trains as well as stations. For a number of years this has been a sort of burning topic with us, and until now Government has not been able to come to a decision in regard to this matter. I wish to tell them that departmental catering on the South Indian Railway has been a great success and it ought to be tried on other railways also.

Then I wish to come to the question of raising railway revenues. Sir, I have already stated that I am in favour of the proposals made by the Government. In addition to that I want them to explore the possibilities of putting to very good use the vast expanse of land which today lies fallow all along the railway lines. They can certainly raise on them fodder, food and also green manure and they can get any amount of additional revenues thereon.

Then there is the question of season tickets. I am not at all in favour of this particular proposal. The real difficulty in most of our towns today is 1 P.M. that there are too many people, and too great a shortage of housing. We must disperse people and help them to disperse as far away from the towns as possible; we can better do that by inducing them to travel away from their places of work in the towns, by season tickets, farther and farther away from the towns. That is why I consider this proposal to be rather a retrograde one and a very unfortunate one.

Then, Sir, the Honourable Minister wants to raise about eight crores of rupees from ticketless travel.

Shri M. S. Aney (Deccan and Madras States Group): To save, and not to raise.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: It is a sort of leakage; it is being lost and therefore he wants to gain it. I suggest that he can save just as much by trying to have a better administration in regard to goods traffic also. There is any amount of corruption going on in that direction. Many goods are classed rather too low and there is under-weighting in very many places: if only he can stop these things and if he can have proper administration in that direction, he will be able to save easily eight crores of rupees if not more.

Then, Sir, there is the question of corruption—the public also wants to expect something from the Railways. Any amount of corruption there is, especially among the officer ranks—even some of those who can be classified as station masters or goods clerks and upwards. It has got to be stopped. Government have been saying that vigorous steps have been taken but I am afraid with very little effect. Why not cut off the 1st class carriages? Convert them—have only 2nd class and 3rd class and nothing more. Then you can

[Prof. N. G. Ranga]
certainly save, by way of the manufacturing of these costly vehicles and also the equipment thereon. Supposing you develop electrification of the railways, will it not be possible for the Government to save quite a lot on coal traffic?

Sir, I wish to congratulate the Government on the very good relations it has at last come to develop between itself and labour, but I wish to make a suggestion—that it ought to try to welcome labour of different ranks, from the lowest paid to the highest paid, to associate itself at every stage, wherever decisions have got to be taken, with the Railway Administration, and expect them to make suggestions from time to time as how to increase their own incentives for better work, more efficient work and more continuous work, than has been forthcoming till now. Unless and until the railway labour is encouraged to come into direct participation or partnership with the Railway Administration, I am afraid it would not be possible to get over the hiatus of discontent and psychological nexus that there is today between the Administration on the one side and labour on the other. My Honourable friend the Railway Minister himself is well aware of the fact that the level of efficiency is going down, has been going down for some years, and railway labour really has not been so very keen to co-operate with the Railway Administration in getting better results as it ought to. Why is it so? It cannot be merely because there are lower wages; now according to the Pay Commission's recommendations higher wages are going to be paid. But are higher wages alone the only guarantee for higher efficiency, greater production and greater work? That is where any amount of research will have to be made by Government and experiments tried. In this direction, Sir, I think Government have much to learn from some of the successful experiments made in Soviet Russia. They call it a "triangular management" of the Railways and various public utilities and also of publicly owned enterprises—the Administration, the supervisory staff and the labour are on it. Now I would like the Government to study the various possibilities in this direction.

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General): Will our Communist friends in India enjoin Railway Workers to work?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: It is much better, Sir, instead of bewailing that the communists are in charge of Railway Administration, to say that our nationals are in charge of labour in India. Let them gain a majority of office on the Railwaymen's Federation so that it is possible for us to show the maximum amount of co-operation between the Railway, Labour and the Government itself.

Sir, in conclusion I wish to say that although prices have gone up in all other directions, Railway fares have not gone up. It is true, but at the same time, if there is to be any experiment to be made at all at the time of the next Budget by way of raising the railway rates, I would like that a beginning should be made with the railway freights and not with railway fares because we must know what is likely to be the incidence of any sort of a general increase that may be made. I admit at the same time that there is every need for increasing the revenues of the Railways and I am rather a little alarmed at the prospect of our Railway Reserve being more or less exhausted because these are the times when we should be able to build up our reserves in anticipation of the coming economic depression that is in the offing. On the other hand we are simply exhausting these reserves. The only solution is that my Honourable friend should not seek to raise on the Amortization Fund or the Depreciation Fund. Sir, I conclude.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was only in the last Budget Session of the Central Assembly that we had amidst great misgivings agreed to an increase in the fares of passengers. At that time we had some sort of an assurance that better arrangements will be made for the travelling public. I think I am correct in saying that it will be

hoping against hope to have better facilities for the passengers, particularly for the third class. Nevertheless, Sir, in presenting this revised Budget, the Honourable the Minister in charge had received an ovation which should be the envy of everyone in this House. Sir, I take it that these cheers were given for three reasons. Firstly, for the promptness with which he had been able to carry the refugees both from Pakistan and the Indian Dominion. Secondly, for the decision to give effect to the recommendations of the Pay Commission's proposals so far as the railway labour is concerned. Thirdly—which concerns me vitally—his decision to have direct railway communication between Assam and the rest of India. As a Member from that Province I pay my special tributes to the Honourable Minister for his quick decision in this matter.

Sir, it must have been known to the Members of this House that those of us who have to go through the Pakistan railways have to suffer a good deal of harassment; our baggages and luggages are searched by persons who belong to the officials of Pakistan—not only by them but also by the Muslim National Guards and by other unauthorised persons. Various acts of extortion have been committed on the passengers when they have to go through these Railways, particularly at Parvatipur and Santahar.....

An Honourable Member: How much you paid?

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: My Honourable friends are asking me how much I had actually paid. Well, Sir, I had escaped somehow because of my general set-up. But there is no real security to other passengers to India.

Then, Sir, I have heard that there are three different proposals for having this new railway line from Assam to India. The three proposals are:

- (1) to start from the station of Kokrajhe through Rajabhatkh.
- (2) to start from Jipkain.
- (3) to start from Sapatgon.

In my humble opinion, the proposal from Kokrajhe Khevowa should be accepted because that passes through the various forest areas and it will enable the people of that locality to export a large quantity of timber which is so urgently wanted in other parts of India. Secondly, this line would be farther away from the Pakistan territory than the other two lines and therefore greater measure of safety to the passengers may be ensured. I would like to know very much from the Honourable Minister which of the three proposals he has already accepted.

Then the other question which naturally arises in this connection is whether the headquarters of the Assam Railway should be in a town in Assam or in Calcutta as at present. At the present moment, the General Manager's office is in Calcutta but there is a Deputy General Manager's office in Pandu. We must now realise the importance of Assam, being the eastern Frontier province. It is frequently necessary for the Government of Assam to come in touch with railway authorities and experience has shown that the Deputy General Manager stationed in Pandu cannot pass orders or take prompt action without reference to the General Manager in Calcutta. When you remember that about 1,300 miles of the Railway is in Assam and only 650 miles in Bengal, the case for the location of the General Manager's office in Assam is obvious. I hope, Sir, the Honourable Minister in charge of the Railways will give particular attention to this matter, because we have a large quantity of tea and petrol and other goods to export from Assam and therefore compared with Bengal and Calcutta, the importance of having the General Manager's office of the Assam Railway in Assam is certainly very great.

Another point to which I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister is the proposal to have another line from Bongaigaon to Golpara through Jogighopi and then connect with Pandu railway station near Gauhati. So far as this proposal is concerned, Sir Edward Benthall when he was in charge of the Railways said on the floor of this House that it would receive high priority and he also said that the construction of the bridge near about

[Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri]
Golpara town on the Brahmaputra was under consideration. I know only this much that certain engineers went to these localities, I mean Golpara, Pandu and Amingaong, but I do not know more. It appears that the whole proposal has been shelved. I would like to know from the Honourable Minister whether the idea of the construction of the Brahmaputra bridge has since been given up or whether it is still in progress.

Mr. Speaker: I believe the Honourable Member has almost finished. If he wants we can stay a minute or two.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: I can speak later, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: If he can finish in a couple of minutes, then the House can wait.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Trains are always so late, but speakers are being required to be so punctual.

There is one other important point I would like to mention in this connection. That is, if a line from Bongaigaon to Pandu through Golpara is constructed, then we can connect this line through Lakhipur or Krishna to Garo Hills. In Garo Hills there is a large area which has been leased out to the Associated Cement Company for manufacture of cement and this Company had given an assurance to the railway authorities formerly that if the railway line was constructed they would be able to supply one lakh tons of coal every year. Coal being now so important, I would humbly suggest to the Honourable Minister in Charge of Railways to take up this line immediately and give it A-1 priority, so that we can get all the coal which is going to be available there. In the ordinary course of things, this Company might agree to give that coal to the Pakistan Railway and Pakistan being so much in need of coal at the present moment will certainly grab it by having a line through that place.

Mr. Speaker: I think we better adjourn. The speaker has about three minutes more, which he shall have after Lunch. The house will re-assemble at 2-30.

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

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: In connection with my suggestion to connect the Garo Hills, I may mention here that we had one Company. The Assam Bengal Cement Company, which supplies cement to India and that Company operated on the lease given by the Government of Assam. But now it has gone, to the Pakistan area of Eastern Bengal. And if you do not now take the cement, manufactured by the Associated Cement Company in the Garo Hills, the whole of India will suffer for want of cement and therefore that proposal, as I have already said, should get the first and highest priority.

Sir, another question to which I would like to bring to the attention of Government is about the Tripura situation. What has been called an administrative problem may not prove in the long run to be an administrative problem. The same situation may arise as it has arisen in Kashmir and Tripura is hemmed on all sides by Pakistan. There is no access to Tripura except through Pakistan Railways. Now there is a railway from Karimganj station to Kolkulighat to Tripura border the distance is only 20 miles. If this is linked up then there might be access to Tripura from Assam independently of the Pakistan railways and I would therefore commend this particularly to the attention of the Government of India.

Now, Sir, I want to say a few words about the conditions of travel. I have already said about the difficulties of third-class passengers coupled with the question of ticketless travel. You complain against the public for ticketless travel, but I would ask whether the public cheat you or the Railway cheat you? Most of the cases of travel are *bona fide* cases. People do not get tickets now.

You have not got railway tickets for sale and you should also remember this that you are now carrying passengers three times more than your capacity. You have no right to ask for this money. On behalf of the ticketless travellers I would say that you should leave them alone, because you have not been able to provide accommodation for all the persons to whom you sell tickets. Why bother about ticketless travellers now? They are finding their way and they are travelling. Why are you fighting with them?

The Government has been pleased to increase the first-class and second-class fares to a great extent, but what have you given in return. Sir, this is a very serious matter. I was travelling in a first-class compartment and two of the posts of the bunk broke down. It is not an invention. I made a complaint to the Honourable Minister. The bunk simply collapsed.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member must speak now in a hurry. His time is up.

Mr. Nazirudin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to congratulate the Honourable Minister sincerely and heartily for his excellent Budget speech. The excellence of the speech may have been due to its synchronisation with another happy and popular event which was happening at the very centre of the Commonwealth, i.e., in London. I refer to the happy wedding of Princes Elizabeth and Prince Philip the ceremonies of which were being actually performed at the time that the Honourable Member rose. The marriage ceremony was being performed by the Archbishop of Canterbury in the famous Westminster Abbey and the Prince and the Princess were declared man and wife at 5.15 Indian Standard Time when the Honourable Member was fully on his way. This may be, cinics may say, a coincidence but would prefer to call it a happy augury.

Sir, with regard to various questions that have been raised, I have only to touch upon a few small points. For reasons which have been carefully explained by the Honourable Member, namely, the effect having had to be given to the Central Pay Commission's recommendations, the rise in commodity prices, the price of coal and various other reasons, the administration has become costly and I believe that the public—I mean the travelling public and those who send their goods through the railways—have got logically to pay for the increased cost. I do not agree with the suggestion of Prof. Ranga that the Railways are being converted into a tax-gathering body. I submit that in asking the people to pay for their journey and the cost of carrying their goods is not the same thing as making the railways a tax-gathering body. Like the post office the institution of railways should be made self-sufficient and made to run on business lines. Their Budgets must be squared. If that is not done a large number of complications would follow. Prof. Ranga has suggested that the deficit should be borne by the public exchequer. I submit that it would be unfair to ask the public at large to contribute towards the cost of the travel enjoyed by those who do the travelling. In a large number of cases we find that the tax is levied—and levied justly—on the consumers; e.g., taxes on matches and sugar, kerosene, customs duties, etc. Then there are the provincial sales tax and electricity tax and various other taxes which fall on the consumer. In asking the railway using public for the personal services rendered to them the railways would not be creating a new or unheard of precedent but rather following a very scientific and well-established principle of taxation—that of taxing the consumer. I therefore support the Honourable Member's claim that travelling should be a little more costly to make up for the deficit. The enhanced cost has got to be met by those who enjoy the service. If you ask the general public to pay, it may be that a man who has never travelled in his life will have to pay and the man who travels all the 365 days in the year will escape the additional taxation. That I submit would not be fair and proper. The question then is whether in allocating the tax between the general public

[Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad]

and the railway-using public the principle is sound that the travelling public should be asked to pay. That is why the Railway Budget was separated from the General Budget. I think the justice of the Honourable Minister's proposition is only self-evident. Then the question is how the increased cost is to be distributed. The Honourable Minister has tried to allocate it between the different classes of passengers from Third class upwards. In the memorandum which accompanies the budget papers it is said that the increase is proportionately upwards from Third and Inter to Second and First. But I find that there has been some little disparity between the Inter class and the Third class as compared with the Second class. On calculation I find that the increase in the receipts from Third class passengers would be a little over 32 per cent., from the Inter class 46 per cent. On this basis the increase in the Second class should have been a little more but it is actually 42 per cent.; so there is a drop of 4 per cent. here. In first class it is 81 per cent.; it should be double the increase of the Second class but it is slightly below that. I submit that the Inter class passengers have been neglected; they have been asked to pay a little more than they really should. The interest of the Inter class passengers has been always overlooked. There are many Honourable Members who are champions of Third class passengers but Inter class passengers consist of middle class people of moderate means who have their grievances. Sometimes it happens that in order to get accommodation they buy Inter class tickets and they find to their surprise that the Inter class compartments are more than overcrowded while the third class compartments go practically empty. So these Inter class passengers require some kind of relief. In fact it will be found from the statement that the Inter class passengers have been asked to pay more than 50 per cent. over Third class passengers. I think the proportion between the rate of the Third class passengers and Inter class passengers should not exceed 50 per cent. over Third class passengers. Then again the Second class passengers' rate should be about double the Inter class passengers and the First class passengers should also be asked to pay double Second class rate, because they can afford to pay for luxurious travel. These are some slight adjustments which I suggest in the interest of fair-play and justice, specially justice to Inter class passengers.

Then, Sir, there appears to me to be some anomaly in the nomenclature used in the various headings in the books circulated to us. In the green book which is the Demands for Grants it is described as Expenditure of the "Central Government". In the Explanatory Memorandum it is described as Railway Budget of the "Government of India". This difference in the terminology does not matter. But what seems to be a little material is that in the actual budget we are told that it is the Budget of the Railway Revenue and Expenditure of the "Governor-General". I do not see any reason for this difference in the nomenclature. Does the Honourable Minister mean that the railway revenue and expenditure are those of the Governor General? In the new set-up I think the Governor General is merely a constitutional head. In these circumstances I think the terminology which suits the present situation namely, the "Central Government" or the "Government of India"—I prefer the "Central Government"—should be used.

Sir, these are the few points that I want to suggest for the consideration of the Honourable Minister. The Honourable Minister's speech was remarkable for its clarity and grasp, particularly when it related to a subject of such intricacy as railway finance. The Honourable Minister, as has been pointed out, approached the question with an open mind and took the House fully into confidence. That is the proper thing to do in a democratic House and the result is the willing support which I hope the House will give him. A democracy is the strongest support to the Government provided it is taken into confidence and approached in the right spirit, and I congratulate the Honourable Minister

on his approaching the House in the proper spirit. I have never had the good fortune of listening to budget speeches in this House but I have experience of reading them; and I think the Honourable Minister's speech will go down in history as a very remarkable performance. He has not been too long; if he has erred it was rather on the side of brevity. The House was rather thin but his speech was listened to by a very attentive and appreciative House.

Sir, I hope the Honourable Minister will consider the points I have made and give them due effect.

Mr. Speaker: I find that a large number of Honourable Members are desirous of addressing the House on this question. There are therefore two alternatives.—either a select number should attempt to speak or the time-limit should be curtailed from 15 to 10 minutes. If the original time-limit of 15 minutes is adhered to only 5 speakers can speak; and I have to tell them also to be brief. So I think Honourable Members should confine their remarks to ten minutes from now.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa (C. P. and Berar: General): Sir, the Honourable Minister has very lucidly placed before us the whole picture of the assets and liabilities of our railways after partition. So far so good. But I am sorry that so far as the amenities of passengers are concerned, and as far as the proposed increase in the railway fares go, I am not in a position to agree with what he has said. Leave aside for the time being the amenities for the passengers: today the bare necessities which are due to the passengers are denied to them. The conditions of travel are most deplorable. We know the extraordinary conditions in which we are living today. With all that every year we are told that efforts are being made to improve the conditions and every year and every day we find the conditions are getting worse. Take the instance of the safety catches, the windows and planks of the railway coaches: the lights, the drinking water, the taps in the coaches. I am not referring to the drinking water on the platform but in the coaches: the pegs, the looking-glasses, the basin: all these are in a most wretched condition, and with due respect to the Honourable Minister, I maintain, Sir, that no serious effort has been made to improve them. If you travel in any coach today, you will find something or the other very defective: either a safety catch is not there with the result that there is no safety in travelling, particularly in women's compartments. Then when you have to open the shutter in sun or rain, you will find that half the shutter is broken. Then going to the drinking water in the lavatory, you will find that the tap is missing or if it is there, there is no water properly flowing through it. Coming to the lighting we have been told that there have been thefts and particularly that the passengers steal away these bulbs. It is most astounding. As we all know, these bulbs are manufactured for the particular type of railway carriages and these bulbs are useless for any domestic purpose in any house or any shop because they are of a certain voltage manufactured specially for these railway carriages. These bulbs are under lock and key within the globe. I would like to know, in the case of third class carriages where there 50 to 100 passengers, from where the thief brings a key to open the bulbs and how can he steal those bulbs in the presence of so many passengers. Is it thinkable that these bulbs are stolen by the passengers? Let me tell the Honourable Minister that I have made thorough enquiries into this matter. I am telling him with all the evidence in my possession that the thefts occur in his railway yard. Systematic thefts are going on and no efforts are being made to check them and those very bulbs are resold to the manufacturers who are contractors of the Railway Board—I have come across them—and then they are replaced. These are some of the things that should not go unnoticed. These are the difficulties of the third class passengers. The first and second class compartments also have no lights. But the condition of the third class carriages are very bad.

Mention has been made of ticketless travel. But when there is no light, how can your Inspector catch those passengers travelling without tickets? That

[Mr. R. K. Sidhwa]

is one of the important points that the Honourable Minister should bear in mind, and efforts should be made to see that all the coaches are provided with lights. These excuses of the officers are not tenable for one moment. They are taking shelter under the war conditions. The war has been over for three years and yet the conditions are worsening instead of improving. A serious hint from the Honourable Minister to all the officials in this respect is overdue and he must tell them that they should not allow these things and they must see that the bare necessities, leaving aside the amenities for which we have been living for ages, are provided. Heaven knows when these are going to come. The Arrow train has been exhibited as a specimen. Their third class coaches are beautiful. I do admit that they are very fine. But God alone knows when we shall see them working on the lines. There is the third-class: fans are provided: cushions are provided: the water arrangements are good: the lavatory is good. One class is being done away with and the second class has been converted more or less into Inter-class and when these new coaches come into running the Honourable Minister will see to it that the second class fare is equal to the Inter-class because the comforts of the second class have been materially reduced. I do not mind this because it will give some relief so far as fares are concerned.

These are the conditions of the travelling public. I do not blame the Honourable Minister for this. He takes an interest in it. But he should not rely too much on the officers when they say conditions are beyond their control. I asked how many coaches are still with the military. I was told that all the coaches for disembarkation and for other pressing needs of the military would be handed back to the Railway Board by June last, and when we asked the question the other day we were told some three hundred odd are still lying with them and we are not told when they are coming back. We were told this morning that the British troops are going away by February. There may be some movements of the Indian troops. But those movements take place in ordinary cases. Even before the war there were such movements and there are military trains for them. I do not understand why such an impediment has been caused and why so many coaches are still left with the military. If all these are brought over then some kind of relief can be given. The overcrowding is most deplorable and I do feel that something really serious should be done. The last time when there was a clamour on the floor of this House the Honourable Minister said "I will supply one crore for amenities". What has been done we do not know. He may have provided a little hall here or a passenger ticket house there. But let me tell him that many improvements are necessary: third class halls and ticket offices are far off from the main office and the upper classes. Why should there be differential treatment for third class passengers? Third class passengers must have ticket houses and windows just near to the upper classes so that they may have access to the platform. Some of the ticket offices are far off from the station platform. If you were to see Ahmedabad Station and even Delhi station, the upper classes are near the main hall while the third class passengers ticket rooms are far away. Take the Victoria Terminus station in Bombay, where it is far off. There must be many windows so that the passengers can have access to purchase their tickets. The result is that delay takes place, pick-pocketing takes place and the passenger has to pay Rs. 2/- for a ticket that costs only Rs. 1/4/-. About corruption.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The Honourable Member has only half a minute.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: I am the President of the All-India Railways Passengers' Association. If you can give me five minutes more I will be grateful.

Mr. Speaker: It is not a question of my favouring one Member and not the other. The House, by common agreement, has agreed that ten minutes should be enough, so that every Member may have an opportunity of expressing his views.

Shri Biswanath Das (Qrissa: General): Let me request you that for myself I would not like to talk. So that this time could be utilised by another member.

Mr. Speaker: It is not that the Honourable Member is the only one in the list of speakers. I call upon Giani Gurumukh Singh Musafar. I first rang the two minutes warning bell. Perhaps the Honourable Member was so much engrossed in his speech that he could not hear. But he was referring to the point of corruption. That he has mentioned already.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: You said there was one minute left. Sir, I will only mention one point viz., that it is very necessary to inform the passengers about the arrival and departure of trains and loudspeakers should be installed

3 P.M.

at important stations for this purpose. Sir, I have got many more suggestions to make, but my time is up.

گیانی گورمکھ سنگھ مسافر: صاحب صدر! ریلوے کے قابل مانیہ ملتوی نے جو بھت اسوقت ہاؤس کے سامنے پیش کیا ہے انکی محنت اور قابلیت کی میں داد دیتا ہوں اور وہ واقعی مبارکیاد کے مستحق ہونگے۔ باقی باتیں میں اسلئے کہہ کر چلے گا کہ ابھی تک کسی ممبر صاحب نے اسطرح توجہ نہیں دی۔ اگر مجھے یقین ہوتا کہ مسٹر سدھوا میری باتوں کو یہاں ہاؤس میں لایں گے تو میں سارا وقت شاید انکو دیدیتا اور اپنے آپ کو withdraw کر لیتا مگر اصل بات یہ ہے کہ دیکھنے اور سننے میں بڑا فرق ہے پنجاب کا جہاں تک تعلق ہے بجا طور پر یہ کہا جا سکتا ہے کہ وہاں کوئی ریلوے ہے ہی نہیں۔ اگر ریلوے کا کوئی ڈپارٹمنٹ ہے تو شاید وہ اسوقت کسی اور Duty پر ہے وہ اپنی Duty پوری نہیں کر رہا ہے۔ اس بات کو میں یقین کے ساتھ کہہ سکتا ہوں کہ سوموار اور اتوار کی دو چھٹیاں تھیں اگر کوئی ممبر اس خیال سے پنجاب میں چلا جاتا کہ میں پنجاب سے آکر منگل وار کو تقریر بھی کر لوں گا تو وہ شاید بھت کے پاس ہونے تک یہاں نہیں پہنچ سکتا تھا اور اس طرح وہ بولنے کی زحمت سے بچ جاتا اور سننے والے سننے کی زحمت سے بچ جاتے پنجاب میں ریلوے کی حالت بالکل ایسی ہی ہے۔ جو بھی لوگ وہاں سے آتے ہیں وہ ایسا ہی بتلاتے ہیں۔ بدقسمتی سے میرا جنم پنجاب کے اُس حصہ میں ہوا ہے جسے اب West Punjab کہتے ہیں وہاں سے لوگ جو East Punjab میں آئے ہیں اور پھر جنکو یہاں آنا پڑا ہے۔ مجھے کوئی بھی ایسا آدمی نہیں ملا جسنے یہ کہا ہو کہ میں تھیک وقت پر دہلی پہنچ گیا ہوں۔ امرتسر سے دہلی آنے میں دو تین اور کبھی کبھی چار چار روز لگ جاتے ہیں۔ جہاں چاہا گاڑی کھڑی کردی اسٹیشن آنے پر گاڑی یا دوسرے ادھیکاری اپنی مرضی سے جتنا دیر چاہیں گاڑی کو تھہرا رکھتے ہیں اور جو مسافر پہنچنے والے ہیں وہ اصل منزل پر تھیک وقت پر نہیں پہنچ سکتے یہ حالت آج ہی نہیں بلکہ متواتر تین مہینے سے ایسے حالات پیدا ہو رہے ہیں اور اسواسطے سب سے فوری توجہ جو دیلی چاہئے میں سمجھتا

(گیانی گورمکھ سنگھ مسافر)

ہوں کہ اس انتظام کو تھیک کرنے کی طرف دینی چاہیئے منسٹر صاحب کی تقریر کو سنا ہے اور پھر غور سے پڑھا ہے تقریر اچھی ہے مگر اُسے ہمارے حوصلہ کو نہیں بڑھایا اُنہوں نے تین سال کا عرصہ اس حالت کو تھیک کرنے کیلئے دیا ہے لیکن تین سال تک میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ شاید کون ہو اور کون نہ ہو اس واسطے جلدی ہی سب سے زیادہ توجہ اس طرف دینے کی ضرورت ہے کہ ریلوے کا انتظام تھیک کیا جاوے اس سے پہلے جبکہ ہمارا دیش آزاد نہیں ہوا تھا تو بیجا طور پر یا بجا طور پر یا کچھ ہماری غلامی کی وجہ سے یا انگریزوں کی efficiency کیوجہ سے ہمارے دیش میں ایسا خیال پیدا ہو گیا تھا کہ جو کوئی آدمی punctual نہ ہو وقت پر نہ پہنچے تو وہ کہتا ہے کہ میں دیسی Time سمجھتا تھا اسلئے دیر کرے آیا اسطریقہ سے جو بات غلط ہو، کوئی خرابی ہو، کوئی گڑبڑ ہو تو یہ کہہ دیا جاتا ہے کہ دیسی انتظام ہے اسلئے اس قسم کی گڑبڑ ہوئی ہے۔ ہم اس بات کو غلط ثابت کرنے کی کوشش کریں۔ جب کہ ہمیں آزادی مل گئی ہے۔ میں یہ سمجھتا ہوں کہ تکلیفات بڑی ہیں۔ دقتیں بڑی ہیں۔ رکاوٹیں بڑی ہیں مگر ان سب کے باوجود ہم اچھا انتظام کر کے ان سب باتوں کو غلط ثابت کرنے کی کوشش کریں اور ثابت کر دیں کہ ہم رکاوٹوں کے باوجود انتظام کر نیکی اہل ہیں۔ افسوس ہے آج گاڑیوں کی حالت دیکھ کر لوگ ہم سے متحول کرتے ہیں کہ بھائی دیسی حکومت ہو گئی گاڑیوں کے وقت مقررہ پر نہ چلے اور نہ پہنچے کی وجہ سے یہ کام سارا گڑبڑ میں پڑ گیا ہے اس کے علاوہ میں نے خود دیکھا ہے کہ Sanitation کی طرف شاید بہت کم توجہ دی گئی ہے Platforms پر انڈا گند ہے اور اس کی وجہ سے بیماریاں پھیل گئی ہیں پچھلے دنوں میں نے انبالہ کے Waiting Room میں ہیضہ سے مرتے دو آدمی اپنی آنکھوں سے دیکھے اسلئے ان باتوں کی طرف توجہ دینا بڑا ضروری ہے۔ سٹیشنوں پر کھانے کا انتظام تھیک نہیں۔ بعض بڑے بڑے چمکشیوں پر جو ہوٹل ہیں وہ بھی Function نہیں کرتے ہیں اور جو آدمی بد وقتی سے وہاں رہ جاتا ہے بھوکا رہتا ہے۔ کئی جگہوں پر لڑائی جھگڑا ہے شہروں میں کرفیو لگا رہتا ہے تو جو لوگ سٹیشنوں پر رہ جاتے ہیں انکو رات Platforms پر گزارنا پڑتی ہے اور کرفیو کچھ وقت کیلئے کھل بھی جائے تو کوئی Conveyance نہیں ملتا تھا اور ان کو دو دو دو اور تین تین دن تک Platforms پر بھوکے پڑا رہنا پڑتا تھا اسکے علاوہ ایک چیز جو اس وقت تقریباً تھوڑی بہت ہر محکمہ میں نظر آ رہی ہے اور ریلوے میں اسکا بڑا زور ہے میری مراد رشوت سے ہے یہاں رشوت کے نئے نئے دھنگ نکالے جا رہے ہیں مجھے میرے ایک دوست نے آج ابھی بتایا ہے کہ یہاں کی گاڑیاں جو زیادہ لیت ہو جاتی ہیں اُسکی ایک وجہ یہ بھی ہے کہ گارڈ لوگوں کو Overtime ملتا ہے اسلئے Overtime لینے کی وجہ سے Stations پر گاڑیاں کھڑی رکھتے ہیں اسکے علاوہ یہ جو پرمٹ ہیں اسپر میں ایک مثال دیکر اپنی

بات ختم کرتا ہوں۔ آج دہلی میں آنے کے جو پرمٹ ہیں اسیں کتنی رشوت لی جا رہی ہے۔ جگادھری میں گاڑی روک لیجاتی ہے اور جن لوگوں کے پاس Permit نہیں ہیں ان سے تھوڑا تھوڑا روپیہ لیکر پاس کر دیتے ہیں۔ ٹکٹ اُسی کو ملتا ہے جسکے پاس پرمٹ ہو۔ پرمٹ لینے کی تکلیف سے بچنے کیلئے لوگ ٹکٹ ہی نہیں لیتے۔ جس کی وجہ سے نقصان ہو رہا ہے تو یہ چند باتیں ہیں جنکی طرف میں آڈریبل منسٹر کی توجہ ضرور دلانا چاہتا ہوں کہ اسکی طرف دھیان دیا جائے اور خاص طور پر جو Third class کے مسافر خانے ہیں اُن میں ضروری اصلاح کی جائے اور کم از کم اُنہیں موسمی حفاظت کا انتظام ضرور ہونا چاہیئے تاکہ مسافر سردی اور گرمی سے اپنے آپ کو محفوظ رکھ سکیں۔

(English translation of the above speech.)

Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar (East Punjab: Sikh): Mr. President, I admire the Honourable, the Minister for Railways, for his ability and industry in presenting the Railway Budget before the House, and really he deserves to be congratulated. I rise to tell other facts as, upto this time, no other member has drawn the attention of the House to the same. Had I been sure that Mr. Sidhwa would mention my facts in the House, I would perhaps, have given the whole of my time to him, and had withdrawn myself.

But the fact is that there is a great difference between seeing and hearing. So far as the Punjab is concerned, it is correct to point out that there is no railway worth the name. If at all there is a Railway Department, it is then probably, engaged in some other duty; it is not discharging its obligations properly. Had anybody gone to the Punjab on the two holidays falling on Sunday and Monday respectively, in the hope that he would be able to return to deliver his speech on Tuesday, I am sure, he would not have been here before the end of the Budget, and thus he would have been saved from the trouble of speaking, and the hearers from that of hearing. The situation of the Railways in the Punjab is just as described above, and those who come from there tell the same story. Unfortunately, I was born in that part of the Punjab, which is now called the West Punjab and those who have migrated to the East Punjab and thence to this place, and I have hardly come across any such individual who said that he reached Delhi in time. The journey from Amritsar to Delhi takes two to three days and some times even four. On the way the train halts where it pleases. On arriving at the platform the guard or other railway authorities keep it standing at their sweet will for whatever period they like, and thus the passengers who are to reach their destinations cannot do so in time. Such a state of affairs does not exist only these days, but it has been going on continuously for the last three months. Therefore, in my opinion, the most immediate attention should be paid to this side of the management. The speech of the Honourable Minister has been listened to and carefully read by me. The speech is good, but it has not encouraged us and has asked for three long years to set the present situation right. I cannot say who will survive these three years. It is, therefore, necessary to devote utmost and immediate attention to chastise the Railway Administration of today.

Before, our country was free, rightly or wrongly or on account of our slavery or due to the efficiency of the British regime, this idea prevailed in our country that a person who is not punctual in reaching the place used to offer the excuse that he took it that Indian punctuality would be observed and so came late. Similarly, if anything is wrong, defective, and irregular, it is commonly said that since it is Indian arranged, therefore mismanagement has taken place.

[Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar]

Now, when we have attained freedom, we must endeavour to prove this notion wrong. I feel, that though the troubles are great, difficulties are great, and obstacles are great, yet in spite of all these we should try to prove such notions to be untrue and established the fact that even in the face of these obstacles we are competent to set the management in order. It is a pity that on looking at the trains people say to us, in a joke, that now the Indian Government has come. Due to late departures and arrivals of trains, this affair has totally fallen into disorder.

Besides all this, I have noticed for myself that very little attention has been devoted to sanitation. There is so much dirt on the platforms that, as a result, diseases have broken out. Two months ago, I saw with my own eyes two men dying of Cholera in the waiting room at the Ambala Railway Station. Therefore to pay attention to these matters is very necessary.

The catering arrangements at the stations are not satisfactory. Even the Hotels, at the principal junctions, do not function, and the man who is unfortunately left there remains hungry. There are disturbances in several places, and the cities are under curfew orders, the people who are left at the stations have to pass their nights on the platforms. And even if the curfew is lifted for some time, they do not find any conveyance and have to remain hungry on the platforms for two or three days.

In addition to these defects, one thing which is more or less seen in every department, and which is rampant on Railways specially, is bribery. Novel ways of taking bribe are invented here. Today, just now a friend of mine has told me why the trains were running late was that the guards get overtime allowance. Therefore, to get overtime allowance they keep the trains standing at the stations.

Besides all these facts mentioned above, and after quoting an instance in connection with the permit, I am closing my speech. These days, the permits that are issued for coming to Delhi involve taking of heavy bribes. At Jagadhri, the train is made to halt, and those who have not got permits, are allowed to pass on payment of some money. The man, who has a permit, gets a railway ticket. To save themselves from getting a permit, people do not buy tickets, and the result is loss to the Railways.

These are a few facts to which I must draw the attention of the Honourable Minister so that consideration should be given to them. And, the third class passengers' waiting rooms in particular, must be reformed, arrangements at least for protection against inclemency of the weather should be made, so that the passengers may protect themselves from heat and cold.

Shri S. K. Patil (Bombay: General): Sir, after the very remarkable performance of the Honourable the Transport Minister it is difficult to criticise the Railway Budget. If in spite of the pressure of time I have stood up to speak on the budget, it is to raise, what is according to me, a very fundamental issue. That there have been inconveniences, or want of amenities is a very woeful tale on which I do not want to waste the time of the House. The Honourable the Railway Minister was kind enough to give us the reasons, among which the three principal reasons were the difficulties of partition, difficulties of the refugee problem and the difficulties of labour and that these were responsible for the deficit that has occurred in the Railway Budget. We can quite understand those difficulties and the House will have utmost sympathy with the Railway Minister so far as these difficulties are concerned. But the point I am raising is not in regard to those difficulties: it is in regard to a fundamental issue which I am sure the Railway Minister will not forget. It must be remembered that the Railways are the first largest nationalised concern in this country of ours. There is no other concern of such gigantic scale which has been nationalised. Therefore,

the country has been awaiting with great expectancy the result of this nationalised concern. We were told during all these years that the improvements could not be secured because there was the war. We could understand that there was the war and there was the non-availability of materials and therefore improvements could not be made. But surely it was expected that immediately after the cessation of hostilities or at least after a couple of years thereafter some reforms would be made which would tell us that a nationalised industry of this country is going to be an industry which would bring not only comforts and conveniences but an assurance to the public that other industries have also got to be nationalised. Does the Honourable Minister realize—and I am quite sure he does—that much hangs on the success of our railways. The country is waiting today for the nationalisation of many industries. What is the purpose of nationalisation? It is not an end in itself but only a means to an end. Nationalisation means that after the industry is nationalised the maximum good to the largest number of people will be secured out of that process of nationalisation. It is that good is not secured then woe be to all chances of nationalisation. We are anxious that not only railways but other systems of transport have got to be nationalised; our other key industries have also got to be nationalised. When the atmosphere in the country today is one full of nationalisation and everybody's eye is on the railways, how are they working? Surely I do not characterize what the Honourable Minister has said as excuses because I know that he has done the best of a bad bargain. In spite of that we are not concerned so much with what has happened and what are the difficulties. What the people want today is how early are all these conveniences which they have been waiting for all these years coming. Therefore I sound a note of warning that when there is talk of nationalisation going on in the country and when everybody points to the railways—I have seen it in public speeches and I have myself used that argument—if nationalisation is going to follow the same process which the Railways in this country are following, then surely that is not the nationalisation which will make an appeal to the common man. There are two big concerns, the Railways and the Telephones, that have been nationalised, and what is the result today? People have been telling that this is wanting and that is wanting. I have been a frequent traveller in railways. But for the ceiling and floor I do not know what conveniences exist in the railway compartments. If I were to tell my tale of woe, possibly it will take a long time and I do not want to take the time of the House. If the millions of our people who travel by the railways do not get the elementary conveniences, if that is the tale of these big national industries, namely the Railways and Telephones, how are you going to convince the common man that nationalisation is ultimately in the best interests of the people of this country? Therefore, I would humbly appeal to the Honourable Minister that it is not a question of his making up this year or the next what he has lost. The issue is much greater. The implications are far wider. If we fail in the conduct of our Railways and Telephones, woe be to all chances of nationalisation of key industries in this country. As I said, much hangs on how we succeed in conducting our Railways. That is according to me a very fundamental question and that is why, as I said, I thought it my duty to raise it in spite of pressure of time.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma (U. P.: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I hope I will not be guilty of tautology if I say that the speech of the Honourable Minister for Railways and Transport is really a remarkable and wonderful performance. Its lucidity of expression, its facility, all have a charm of their own. At the same time the realism which one can see in every line of the speech of the Honourable Minister is very disturbing. He has a poet's imagination to present before us a panoramic view of our transport system. The picture which he presents to us is not very enchanting, it is not enthralling; the picture is rather depressing. Yet I can say that his words give us courage and hope and determination to overcome the difficulties which have fallen to our lot. When we passed our Railway

[Pandit Balkrishna Sharma]

Budget last year we did not know what the future held in store for us. Since then we have seen and suffered indescribable agonies. Here in this land of broad humanity we have seen humanity uprooted. We have seen the brute in man rearing its head in all its ferocity, and we have seen that brute shaking its goary claws in our face. And may I ask if there is any wonder that all this upheaval and carnage should have shaken to its very foundation our railway transport system? Not only man's bigotry and sub-human intolerance but even nature conspired against us. But we are thankful to providence that we have come out of it, though badly battered, yet alive and kicking and determined to do our job well. Naturally the partition issue that we had to face has created many a problem before us. The Honourable the Minister has very lucidly pointed out to us the various problems that were involved as a result of partition. As he has said in his own speech so many things had to be done. Operating arrangements resulting from partition, the problem of division of assets and liabilities and the concrete problems of current nature had to be taken into consideration. The operating arrangement naturally involved many things and the workshop arrangement did not work well as has been admitted by the Honourable the Railway Minister. He has said at one place that the Moghulpura workshop did not give us any service. For his consideration I would like to place before him a suggestion. At the time when we were one railway system, Moghulpura was all right. But before Moghulpura there was a workshop, and a very good workshop, near Saharanpur, hardly a mile and half from the Station, Khan Alampur and that workshop was giving us very good service. I would beg of him to consider the proposition whether it will not be desirable to revive that workshop for our railways of the East Punjab and other adjoining territories.

Then again, at another place, in regard to the division of assets and liabilities the Honourable the Minister for Railways has said that a hitch has arisen on the issue of shouldering all liabilities in lieu of the assets which have been given over to Pakistan. Though from the speech it is not clear as to what principle in notional division was kept in view, yet I think the principle that was adopted must have been of a nature which did not unnecessarily put us at a great disadvantage. Broadly speaking, three principles could be taken into consideration while dividing our assets and liabilities. Firstly the entire length of the permanent way, in divided territories, secondly the ratio of population in the divided territories, and thirdly the ratio of square mileage of the entire divided territory.

I do not know which of the three principles have been accepted while partitioning our assets and liabilities and yet I shall be failing in my duty if I did not point out that the division of liabilities cannot be settled in a way which will, as I said, put us at a disadvantage. The Pakistan Government, we have been told, has raised the issue that the division of liabilities should be on the basis of the earning of the railways. That certainly cannot be accepted by us. The question has not been settled simply because of the unwillingness of the Pakistan Government not to assume capital liabilities for the capital assets received by them. Let it be clearly understood that we shall not tolerate any extra burden on our exchequer resulting from liabilities not in consonance with our capital assets. The correct basis is the one which has been pointed out in the speech by the Honourable the Railway Minister and we are not going to accept any other basis in its place. The problem of transport difficulties and the problem of inconvenience to our passengers has been raised by so many members in this House. I may be forgiven when I say that when we are raising these problems and these difficulties, we really are shutting our eyes to the actualities of the situation because even a cursory glance through the pages of the Honourable the Railway Minister's speech will convince us as to the tremendous work which our railways have been able to perform during these difficult three months. They have transferred 1,08,000 of our opting staff and during that period we have transported as many as 25 lakhs of refugees, and if all this has resulted in congestion,

has resulted in the holding up of wagons and thus has slowed down the movement of goods from one end of the country to another, we shall really be ungrateful if we lay the blame at the door of the Minister for Railways and Transport. In him I can say we have a man who has very ably handled the situation.

There are one or two things more which I would like to point out to the Honourable Minister. In the United Provinces the Government of the United Provinces have banned the entry of refugees from the Punjab. Now the Deputy Commissioner of Ambala informed the railway authorities there that they should not book any refugees for the U. P., but you will be surprised to know, Sir, that as many as seven trains were waiting, full of refugees, in each train about 1500 of them, at a station called Kalanaur in my province from the Punjab, and those trains were goods trains to which open trucks were attached. The District Magistrate of Saharanpur telephoned to the Deputy Commissioner of Ambala saying that these refugees cannot be taken by us and the poor Deputy Commissioner of Ambala said he had already written to the railway authorities but that his orders are not being obeyed. I would request the Railway Minister through you, Sir, to look into this matter.

Then again there is the question of . . . /

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member's time is over.

Honourable Members will note that the time-limit is 10 minutes.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony (C.P. and Berar : General): Sir, I shall endeavour to touch briefly on four points which the Honourable the Minister for Railways raised in his Budget speech. They relate to the regrouping of certain railways, the shortage of staff, particularly loco and engine staff, the absence of a certain sense of law and order which has led to ticketless travel and other activities involving the railways in the loss of a considerable sum of money, and last but not least, the labour question.

I appreciate, Sir, the need for the regrouping of certain railways, particularly as certain railways such as the Bengal and Assam and the East Punjab have been truncated as the result of division. There is one urgent problem which I would ask the Honourable Minister to bear in mind when dealing with this question of regrouping. I was addressing a few weeks back, a meeting of railwaymen at Kanchrapara. The Honourable Minister is aware that Kanchrapara is part of the B. & A. Railway which now falls into India. Members of the staff told me that on the B. & A. Railway they have a pernicious system of not making any of their employees permanent, and that in this regrouping they will be seriously affected; that all the other railways as a rule, and quite rightly, make an employee with one year's service permanent, but on the B. & A. Railway a man with anything from 10 to 15 years' service, a man who has risen from the subordinate to an official position, even he is not confirmed even in the original position to which he was recruited on the day he joined the railway. This is a serious problem because the men feel that if this peculiar position is lost sight of in regrouping, then the men on the B. & A. Railway with 10 to 12 years' service, men who have risen to an official position, will be placed subordinate to a man on another railway with one year's service who has been confirmed, because on the railway seniority is counted from the date of confirmation.

The Honourable Minister referred to the question of the shortage of staff, and particularly of loco and engine staff. I did an extensive tour of the East Indian Railway a few weeks back and I was not only amazed but I was very gratified when I found that while on the one hand as much as 60 per cent. of the loco staff had gone out with the option to Pakistan, yet the remaining 40 per cent. of the loco and engine staff were running up to 80 per cent. of the pre-division number of trains. This, I think, is a remarkable feat. And in this connection, Sir, I have a suggestion to make to the Honourable Minister for Railways. I am aware that a fair number of non-Muslims—Hindus, Sikhs, and members of my

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own community had opted for Pakistan before all these disturbances occurred. Since the disturbances they feel that they have no place in Pakistan. A number of loco people came to me the other day from Moradabad and they said they have no intention of going to Pakistan and that if necessary they would resign their jobs if they were not allowed to reopt for India. I would ask the Honourable Minister to consider this matter sympathetically. There are a number of non-Muslims who, when conditions had not reached the serious position they did in September had opted for Pakistan, not because of any political leanings but because perhaps they had some relatives in Pakistan or because of the very natural human reason that they thought transfer might improve their prospects. These people today have no desire to go to Pakistan. They are people in the loco and engine staff who I feel would be invaluable in filling the void which the railways are seriously suffering from in the matter of dearth of loco staff.

The third point, Sir, which the Honourable Minister made was the absence of a certain sense of law and order, which, the Honourable Minister felt, was largely responsible for ticketless travel. I also agree with him largely in this matter. I feel that a certain absence of a sense of law and order is also responsible for other activities which are costing the Railways very considerable financial loss. I refer to what I regard as sheer vandalism: when I travelled on certain lines recently, and particularly on branch lines, I found that carriages had come out from the workshops upholstered, reconditioned, completely renovated; the staff complained to me that within a week the upholstery was either torn or stolen, mirrors, bulbs and even fans were being torn out indiscriminately and regularly from these various carriages. I feel that while the Honourable Minister is considering measures to restrict this evil of ticketless travel, he might also well consider some measure for trying to restrict this organised vandalism and this organised theft with regard to Railway property.

Another matter to which I feel the Honourable Minister might give some attention is the not inconsiderable theft of coal. I was at one of the large—perhaps the largest—yards on the East Indian Railway the other day and I was told by the people in charge that on an average 100 tons of coal were being stolen each month. This coal was being stolen either in transit from uncovered wagons, or even more so in broad day light. I myself saw literally scores of little boys and women waiting to steal the coal with their bags. As soon as the men went off duty, these people would come there, steal maunds of coal and either sell it directly in the market or even unload it in vehicles which had been supplied to them by certain merchants.

Finally, Sir, I want to deal with this question of labour. To my mind, I feel this is the most important aspect of the Railway administration. I feel that there is little point in talking of financial rehabilitation, of development and of progress unless the Railway Administration is able to evolve some measure for both guiding and controlling Railway labour. I was gratified that the Honourable Minister has expressed a word of appreciation to the Railway worker. Quite frankly, I would like to have seen a more emphasised tribute. I feel that this House and the public do not realise the tribute that is due to the railwaymen. I have already mentioned how in some parts 40 per cent. of the loco staff are today, or since division, keeping 80 per cent. of the trains running. The tendency is for most of us to consider our personal comforts and discomforts: to complain all too generally and all too easily about some incident in a waiting room, or in a refreshment car or in some carriage. I am not for one moment advocating that we should condone shortcomings where they exist, but I do say that the railwayman has done yeoman service and a tribute—an emphatic tribute which is highly publicised—should be rendered to him.

In the two minutes that I have at my disposal I want to advert to some thing which I feel is both a serious and complex matter. I visited fifteen centres of the East Indian and B. N. Railways and I got one general complaint; that was this, that there was not a sense of sufficient obligation among members of those who are called "Inferior Staff". As a matter of fact, I was told at the largest workshop centre on the East Indian Railway that an expert had assessed that the average output of a member of the "inferior staff" amounted to two man-hours a day. This, as I have said is a serious and complex matter. I feel that the fault can be largely laid at the door of the Railway administration: the fact that there is no sufficient understanding and contact between the officers and men—this is a bad legacy of a bad past. Men do not trust the officers, they trust the supervisory and subordinate staff to a greater extent; the supervisory and subordinate staff feel they cannot take firm measures because they cannot get the support of the senior officers. The men are left today completely in the hands of incendiary and subversive elements who are feeding them on the slogan of more and more pay for less and less work. I would ask the Honourable Member deliberately to see to it that the senior Railway officials make greater contacts with their men. I talked to the senior Railway officials; they said, "We have no contact with the men. That is largely due to the fact that we are tied down to our desks, that we are involved in red-tape and routine and spend all our time going through mountains of unnecessary files. We have no time at all to contact the men".

The second suggestion I have to make is that we should depute somebody to talk to the men to tell them that under the terms of the Pay Commission recommendations, we have sought to do substantial justice—particularly to the men in the lower wage brackets—against the background of the capacity and resources of the country.

And finally, I feel that the supreme need of discipline must be brought home to the men. Today among the "inferior staff" independence is being interpreted as licence to do what each one likes; there is no discipline—discipline is the supreme need today. I say, "Do not enforce the petty dictatorship of the past, a dictatorship which made the official not only feared but hated; let there be discipline informed by a sense of liberality". I have asked repeatedly that the Railway Administration appoint an ex-Judge of the Federal Court or a High Court; let all appeals go to him. But having once told your railway men that we have done everything possible to give them fairplay—we are continuing today to do everything possible to give them fairplay—we now demand in return adequate work and we will take all necessary measures to enforce salutary and necessary discipline.

Shri M. S. Aney: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to make a long speech and I wish to finish my observations within the time allotted. In the first place, I do not want to offer any congratulations to the Honourable the Railway Minister. He has had a surfeit of them from a large number of Members but in my opinion he stands in greater need of sympathy than of congratulations, because he had had a very difficult job to do and a very unpleasant budget to present for adoption by the House. It is very kind of the House no doubt that they have taken a very sympathetic view of the proposals for additional taxation which he has imposed upon the people in the form of increase of railway fares—and for very good reasons also.

I congratulate him for another reason—not for this so much. He is one of the fortunate Ministers that is presenting a Budget to this House which is not opposed at all by the Benches on this side. It has been a tradition, Sir, of this House that whenever a Railway Budget or annual Budget was presented, Members on the Nationalist Benches and the Congress Benches have had a convention of throwing it out on the constitutional issue. (Some Members: "There

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रात भर जंगलों में पड़े रहते हैं जहां शेर और चीते जैसे जानवर उन्हें खतम कर सकते हैं। यह परिस्थिति आज थर्ड क्लास के पैसेंजर्स की है जिनके ऊपर सरकार ने किराया बढ़ाया है।

इसके अलावा मैं रेलवे के बारे में और एक बात कहूंगा, और वह सार मेम्बरों ने बात कही है, वह है घूसखोरी की। अपना भाषण देते वक्त आनरेबल मेम्बर साहब ने कहा कि कितने ज्यादा 'विदाउट-टिकिट' पैसेंजर जाते हैं। इसका कारण भी बहुत से सदस्यों ने बताया। मुझे खास कारण बताना है। जो बगैर टिकिट पैसेंजर जाते हैं उसका पैसा रेलवे डिपार्टमेंट में नहीं आता बल्कि उसमें काम करने वाले जितने नौकर हैं उनकी जेब में जाता है। मैंने अपनी आंखों से देखा है कि गेट की तरफ से आते हुए पैसेंजर्स को टिकिट देने की जरूरत नहीं, अगर वर्धा से बम्बई पहुंचने के आठ रुपये लगते हैं, टिकिट कलेक्टर के हाथ में एक या दो रुपया देकर वह सब बाहर निकलते हैं। यह परिस्थिति रेलवे की है और इसकी तरफ मैं आनरेबल मेम्बर का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं। टिकिट खरीदते वक्त भी घूसखोरी का यही हाल है।

इसके अलावा एक दूसरी बात मैं कहना चाहता हूं और वह यह कि सी० पी० के अंदर खास नागपुर में संतरा उत्पन्न होता है। मैंने यह देखा है कि संतरा इतना बाजार में आता है कि जो बाहर भेजा जाना बहुत जरूरी है। जो कि संतरा व्यापारी और काश्तकार रेलवे के जरिये बैगन्स में दूसरी जगह पहुंचाना चाहते हैं उसके लिए बैगन्स नहीं मिलती हैं। नागपुर के बाजार में आकर संतरा सड़ जाता है। लोगों के उपयोग में नहीं आता। उपयोग में आ सकता था अगर उसे बाहर भेजने के लिए रेलवे सहूलियतें देती। जिन काश्तकारों ने संतरे के बगीचे लगाये हैं रेलवे के जरिये बाहर न जाने के कारण सारी की सारी काश्त बेकार हो जाती है। उनको पैसा नहीं मिलता है। मेहनत बेकार जाती है और वह भूखे मर जाते हैं। मैंने कितनी बार रेलवे को लिखा मगर कोई जवाब नहीं। और सालों बाद जवाब आया भी तो यह कि बैगन्स नहीं हैं। जब कि हमारी पापूलर सरकार किसानों की भलाई करने का दावा रखती है तो संतरे के काश्तकारों का माल बाहर भेजने की व्यवस्था करना भी उसका कर्तव्य है। मैं इसकी ओर भी आनरेबल मेम्बर का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं। संतरा एक फल है और वह दस पांच दिन से ज्यादा नहीं रह सकता। अगर आपने वक्त के ऊपर बैगन न दिया तो वह सड़ जायगा और हिन्दुस्तान के लोगों को संतरे का आनन्द नहीं मिलेगा और काश्तकारों को नुकसान होगा। इस लिये नागपुर और उसके अतराव वाले सब रेलवे स्टेशनों पर संतरा बाहर भेजने के लिये बैगन्स का इन्तजाम होना जरूरी है।

तीसरी बात, सी० पी० के अन्दर नैरो गेज रेलवे है जहां अगर नागपुर से बैठ कर चलें और ९० मील छिंदवाड़ा जाना है तो दस घंटे लगते हैं। तो मैं आपसे प्रार्थना करूंगा कि जब आप किराया बढ़ा रहे हैं तो आपको पैसेंजर्स को सुविधा देनी चाहिये। अगर छिंदवाड़ा से आदमी ८०-९० मील मोटर पर आना चाहे तो तीन घंटे लगते हैं। लेकिन जिस रेलवे में दस घंटे लगते हैं उस रेलवे की क्या जरूरत है। छः बजे चलना है तो कभी तो पांच ही बजे चल देती है, कभी दस बजे तक भी नहीं चलती। यह भी मैं आनरेबल मेम्बर के ध्यान में लाना चाहता हूं कि इन नैरो गेज रेलवे का कोई टाइम नहीं है और ना आराम। इसलिये मैं तो कहना चाहता हूं कि जितनी नैरो गेज की रेलवे हैं, हिन्दुस्तान में वह सब बन्द कर दी जायें और सारी की सारी ब्राड गेज कर देनी चाहिये क्योंकि इसमें टाइम कम लगेगा। स्टेशनों पर जैसा मैंने कहा ठंडा पानी का इन्तजाम नहीं है। वह हो जाना चाहिये। इसके अलावा मैं एक मुख्य बात आनरेबल मेम्बर के ध्यान में लाना चाहता हूं और वह यह है कि आपका जो कैटरिंग (Catering) डिपार्टमेंट है उसका इन्तजाम तो आप देखें। न तो कभी चाय में शकर है और न गाय या भैंस का दूध है। मैंने तो यह देखा है कि कहीं डब्बे का दूध जिस में बहुत सारा पानी मिलाया जाता है वह हमारे सामने रेलवे में आ जाता है और उसका वही दाम लिया जाता है जो दाम पहले हम गाय और भैंस के दूध के साथ चाय पीते थे वह देते थे।

इसके अलावा आपके कैटरिंग डिपार्टमेंट में एक और बात आपको बतलाऊंगा जिसके ऊपर आनरेबल मेम्बर को फौरन ध्यान देना होगा। आज भी हिन्दुस्तान के अन्दर जब देश स्वतंत्र हो गया है उसके बाद अनटचैबिलिटी (Untouchability) आपके कैटरिंग डिपार्टमेंट में मानी जाती है। हरिजनों के लिये अलग कपवशिया रखी गई हैं। आज भी बरहानपुर और नागपुर के बाजू में जितने स्टेशन हैं आप देखेंगे कि रेलवे में काम करने वाले और प्रवास करने वाले हरिजन लोगों के लिये अलग कपवशिया रखी गयी हैं। आज जब कि देश स्वतंत्र हो गया है और महात्मा जी के नेतृत्व में कांग्रेस का राज्य है, हरिजनों के लिये अलग कपवशियों की व्यवस्था की जाती है। साधारण हरिजनों की हालत तो ऐसी है ही लेकिन मुझे रेल वालों का ध्यान उसकी ओर खींचना पड़ा जब कि मुझे महार जाति का समझ कर रेलवे की चाय की दुकानों में चाय नहीं दिया गया और अलग कपवशि के तरफ उंगली बतायी गयी। मैंने अपना हक प्रस्थापित करने के लिये बीसो बार चैन खींच कर गाड़ी खड़ी रखी और इस नीच व्यवहार के लिये रेलवे बोर्ड को लिखा। उसका जवाब रेलवे बोर्ड से मेरे पास आया कि ऐसी कोई बात नहीं है कि पैसेंजर्स को चाय देनी ही चाहिये। यह जवाब मेरे पास आया वह भी तीन साल बाद। आज की परिस्थिति में अस्पृश्य और स्पृश्य का भेद रेलवे के कैटरिंग डिपार्टमेंट

[श्री ऐच० जे० खन्डेकर]

में माना जाता है उसकी ओर मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ। और आशा रखता हूँ कि वे इस भेदाभेद को मिटाने की कोशिश करें।

इसके अलावा मुझे एक बात और कहनी है। शायद मेरे दो ही एक मिनट मेरे लिए रहे हैं। आनरेबिल मेम्बर तो सुन ही नहीं रहे हैं। वे तो किसी से बातें करने में मग्न हैं और शायद उन्हें हिंदी नहीं आती है। लेकिन मैं दूसरी भाषा बोलना नहीं चाहता। मैं अंग्रेजी जानता हूँ लेकिन देश हमारा है, और हम आजाद हैं, हम अपनी भाषा बोलेंगे। उनको चाहिये आजाद भारत में वह हिंदी सीखें, मेरे भाषण का उत्तर देने के लिए अन्य किसी के हाथ से नोट लेलेंगे मगर दुःख है, सभापति जी, कि वे अब भी, बातों में ही मशगूल हैं। मैं तो इतना और बताऊंगा कि गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया ने हरिजनों के लिए छोटी नौकरियों का साढ़े सोलह प्रतिशत और बड़ी नौकरियों का साढ़े बारह प्रतिशत जगहें रिजर्व रखी हैं। मगर रेलवे डिपार्टमेंट में मैंने अभी देखा वह कोटा पूरा नहीं किया गया। लायक हरिजनों की अर्जियां नामंजूर हो रही हैं। रेलवे डिपार्टमेंट में जो दो चार हरिजन काम करते होंगे उनको आज तक तरक्की नहीं मिली। बीस बीस साल नौकरी करने के बाद भी बी० एन० आर० और जी० आई० पी० आर० में हरिजन असिस्टेंट स्टेशन मास्टर तरक्की नहीं पाया। उनसे जितने कम सविस के दूसरी जाति के लोग हैं वह उनके सर पर जा कर बैठ गये। अगर कोई असिस्टेंट स्टेशन मास्टर हरिजन है तो उसको तरक्की नहीं मिली। मालूम नहीं वह हरिजन है इसलिए नहीं मिली या और कोई कारण है। मगर मैं तो यही समझता हूँ कि वो हरिजन है इसी कारण वह बढ़ नहीं सकता। मैं आनरेबिल मेम्बर का ध्यान इस बात के ऊपर जोरों से खींचना चाहता हूँ कि जब हमने निश्चय कर लिया है, कांस्टीट्यूट असेम्बली में हमने कानून पास कर लिया है कि "Untouchability will be an offence in India" ऐसी हालत में जो रिजर्वेशन Reservation गवर्नमेंट आफ इण्डिया ने दिया है उसको स्वीकार करना आपका फर्ज है। इस ओर भी मैं आपका ध्यान आकर्षित करते हुए अपना भाषण समाप्त करूंगा।

(English translation of the above speech.)

Shri H. J. Khandekar (C.P. and Berar: General): Mr. President. I have carefully listened to the speech of the Honourable Minister of Railways on the Railway Budget and also read his printed speech. His knowledge in this respect is really praiseworthy. He deserves to be congratulated for the ways and means found by him to ensure proper working of his Department in the difficult times ahead.

Sir, the country got freedom on the 15th August, but the Railway Department does not appear to have become independent. Because whenever I happen to travel on the Railway I find the same old names of the stations which existed during the days of British slavery, for instance, our sacred name "Mathura" is still written as "Muttra". "Mumbai" is still named as "Victoria Terminus". The Honourable Minister may kindly devote his attention towards this and change the names of such station, in the Indian language at an early date. The Honourable Minister has referred to certain difficulties in his speech and to remove these he has also suggested remedies; and simultaneously he has presented some proposals for increasing the passenger fares in this scheme.

I have nothing to say in regard to the first and second class passengers. But he has mentioned the same thing in respect of third class passengers also. I am somewhat pained over the increase in passenger fares proposed by him. The fare has been increased but no facilities have been provided for the third class passengers so that these passengers may gladly pay the fare. On the one hand they are placed in a bad financial position and on the other they are asked to pay more money.

There is no change in the former difficulties of third class travel. And if I place these difficulties before you, Sir, you will be surprised that where a compartment is to seat 19 persons, it is huddled up with forty, forty five or even sixty passengers like a herd of sheep and goats. If a railway compartment is meant for nineteen passengers, the Railway authority is in duty bound to issue only the same number of tickets. But this does not happen. They issue as many as 500 tickets while there are only six compartments with carrying capacity of 19 passengers each; and the condition of animals is much better than that of the third class passengers as the Honourable Member would have seen. But despite the money they spend, the plight of these passengers to-day is by no means better. They look eagerly for water at the stations, but there is no cold water for them to drink. There are no platform on flag stations. The third class passengers get down from the trains arriving at these flag stations without platforms which are situated in jungles. They pass their nights in the jungles where there is every likelihood of their being devoured by leopards and tigers. This is the plight of third class passengers to-day who have been made to pay increased fare by the Government.

Besides this I will talk about another matter concerning the Railways which has also been referred to by all the members and that is corruption. In the course of his speech the Honourable Minister referred to the increased number of ticketless travellers. Many members explained the reasons for this. I have to tell the particular reason and that is—the amount saved by the ticketless travelling passengers does not go to the Railway Department, but it falls into the pockets of the entire Railway staff. I have seen with my own eyes that the passengers while passing through the gate need not make over their tickets. All of them are able to secure exit by taking out rupees one or two from their pockets and tipping this to the Ticket Collector—when it costs rupees eight to travel from Wardha to Bombay. This state of affairs exists on the Railways and I wish to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister towards this. The same state of corruption prevails while purchasing the tickets.

Besides this the other thing which I want to say is that oranges are grown in Nagpur proper in the Central Provinces. I have seen that the oranges are brought to the market in such a large quantity that it seems essential to export these. The growers and traders are not able to secure wagons for despatching oranges to other stations by rail. The oranges therefore rot in the Nagpur market. They cannot be used by the people. They would have been used if the railway had afforded necessary facilities for their transport to outside stations. The growers who have planted orange-orchards are thus not able to procure any return for their crop which is thus wasted for lack of Railway transport facilities. Their labour is lost and they starve. I have so many times written to the Railway Department but no reply could be elicited. And if at all the reply came after years it was that there were no wagons. When our popular Government claim to be the benefactor of the farmers, it becomes its duty to make necessary arrangements for the transport of produce of the orange growers. I should like to invite the attention of the Honourable Minister to the fact. Orange cannot keep for more than 5-10 days. If the wagons are not supplied by you in time, the fruit is likely to rot. This would deprive the people of India of this one enjoyment and make the cultivators suffer. Therefore it becomes all the more necessary that arrangements should be made to supply wagons at Nagpur and other Railway stations situated in its suburbs for the transport of oranges to other places.

[Shri M. S. Aney]

is no Opposition".) He has been the first Minister to be able to present a Railway Budget in the first Sovereign Legislature, which is being accepted by the Members on this side and considered and criticised on its merits and not rejected on constitutional procedure.

Sir, apart from that there are two or three points to which I wish to invite the attention of the Honourable Minister. He is aware that when the War was going on, several lines were dismantled on account of the necessity of war. Of course there was no promise made then that the lines so dismantled would be re-laid but I want the Honourable Minister to look into the point and see whether it is not necessary that the persons who have undergone the suffering of losing their travelling by railway during the war, are not entitled to get back the advantage which they had before. In fact, when this point of dismantling was first considered in 1940-41 by the Central Advisory Council, the point of restoration was brought to his notice. I may tell him by the way that the Honourable Sir Andrew Clow who was in charge of the Railways then had gone through the whole matter very carefully but before anything could be done, out of a list of 13 lines six were already dismantled and nothing could be done in regard to them. But there was, in my opinion, a moral obligation upon the Railway Department, that those six lines which had been dismantled ought to be restored unless it is found to be extremely unremunerative and of no use at all.

Shri H. V. Kamath (C.P. and Berar General): Were you in the Government then?

Shri M. S. Aney: I was not.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member should address the Chair.

Shri M. S. Aney: I have mentioned this point because the fate of these lines lies more or less upon the decision which the Railway Board will take. It is the duty of the Railway Board to consider this matter and decide as a matter of policy whether they should not seriously tackle the question of restoration of railways dismantled during the war as a war measure. The total mileage involved is 305 and the capital required is Rs. 190 lakhs. The Honourable Member will find all the details in the proceedings of the Central Advisory Council meeting held on the 2nd December, 1940. I bring this point particularly to his notice.

Then the second point is, I find that there is a reference to the restoration of one dismantled railway in the speech as well as in the Memorandum that has been submitted to us. In part II, he has stated:

"The Bhimsen-Khairada Section of the G. I. P. Railway which was dismantled during the war, is under construction."

I want to know whether this restoration is dealt with at random or whether the Government have arrived at any policy in regard to it. In my opinion, they should decide it as a matter of policy that railway lines which were dismantled during the war should be restored and the people who were deprived of the advantage of railway travel should be given back the advantage. One of these dismantled branch lines is Darwha-Pusad which runs through Yeotmal district.

I desire the Honourable Minister to particularly consider the point in regard to its restoration. Another point I wish to touch upon and to which a reference is made in the memorandum is the "Investment in road services". A very large amount has been allotted for this purpose. The memorandum says:

"For 'Investment in road services' requirements during this budget period are estimated at 69.5 lakhs, of which 2 lakhs are required to meet calls on shares held by the G. I. P. Ry. in the C. P. Transport Services, Ltd., operating in C. P., and the balance of 67.5 lakhs for investment in new Companies being formed in the United Provinces, Madras, Orissa and Bihar."

I thought, Sir, that there will be some reference to the policy behind the allotment that has been made, but unfortunately in the course of his budget speech, the Honourable Minister did not mention anything about it. It is a matter in which lakhs of people are interested, and I would like to hear something from the Honourable Minister when he rises to give his reply.

Sir, I have promised not to take very long. So I shall stop here and thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Railway Budget.

श्री एच० जे० खण्डेकर : सभापति जी, रेलवे बजट पर माननीय मंत्री महोदय का भाषण मैंने ध्यान से सुना और छपा हुआ भाषण मैंने पढ़ा। इस ओर जो उनका अभ्यास है वह प्रशंसनीय है और आज की कठिनाई की परिस्थिति में उन्होंने अपने काम काज को ठीक प्रकार चलाने के लिए जो जो मार्ग निकाले हैं उसके लिए वे धन्यवाद के पात्र हैं।

सभापति जी, १५ अगस्त को देश स्वतंत्र हो गया मगर रेलवे डिपार्टमेंट स्वतंत्र हुआ सा मालूम नहीं होता। क्योंकि जब ज़ब मैं रेल में चलता हूँ तो स्टेशनों के वही अंग्रेजी गुलामी के नाम देखता हूँ जैसे कि हमारा पवित्र नाम "मथुरा" अभी तक 'Muttra' नाम से लिखा है। "बंबई" अभी तक 'Victoria Terminus' नाम से है। मंत्री महोदय इस ओर ध्यान दें और ऐसे स्टेशनों के नाम देशी नामों में जल्दी बदल दें। अपने भाषण में मंत्री महोदय ने बताया है और यह दिक्कतें दूर करने के लिए उन्होंने अपने भाषण में उपाय भी सुझाये, और इसके साथ साथ उन्होंने पैसंजरो पर किराया बढ़ाने के कुछ उपाय इस स्कीम में पेश किये। फर्स्ट और सैकिड क्लास के पैसंजरो के बारे में मुझे कुछ नहीं कहना है। मगर थर्ड क्लास के पैसंजरो के बारे में भी उन्होंने ऐसी ही बात कही है। जो किराया उन्होंने बढ़ाया है उसके लिए मुझे कुछ दुःख मालूम होता है। किराया बढ़ाया गया मगर इसके साथ थर्ड क्लास के पैसंजरो को कोई सहूलियत नहीं दी है जिससे वह पैसंजर खुशी से किराया दे सकें। एक तो उनकी माली हालत बुरी है दूसरे यह है कि उनसे कहा जाय कि ज्यादा पैसा दीजिये। जो उनकी दिक्कतें पहले से थर्ड क्लास में ट्रैवेल करने की हैं, उन दिक्कतों में कोई तब्दीली नहीं हुई। और अगर मैं यह दिक्कतें आपके सामने रखूँ तो, सभापति जी, आप ताज्जुब करेंगे कि जहाँ १९ आदमियों का एक कम्पार्टमेंट रक्खा गया है वहाँ ४०, ४५, ५० यहाँ तक कि ६० पैसंजर भेड़ों और बकरियों की तरह ठोंसे जाते हैं। अगर १९ आदमियों के कम्पार्टमेंट वाली गाड़ी चलती है, वहाँ रेलवे का फर्ज हो जाता है कि १९ ही टिकट इसू issue करें। मगर यह नहीं होता। टिकट तो जारी करते हैं ५०० और कम्पार्टमेंट होते हैं १९ वाले छः और सारे थर्ड क्लास के पैसंजरो से, सब सदस्यों ने देखा होगा, जानवरों की हालत अच्छी होती है, मगर इन पैसंजरो की हालत पैसा देते हुए भी आज अच्छी नहीं है। स्टेशनों पर पैसंजर पानी के लिये ताकते हैं लेकिन उनके लिये ठंडा पानी पीने को नहीं है। फ्लैग स्टेशनों पर प्लेटफार्म नहीं हैं। जंगलों में जो फ्लैग स्टेशन रक्खे गये हैं वहाँ वह गाड़ी पहुंचती है, और थर्ड क्लास के पैसंजर वहाँ उतरते हैं। प्लेटफार्मस हैं नहीं।

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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) [25TH Nov. 1947]

[Shri H. J. Khandekar]

Thirdly, I have to say that there is a narrow gauge Railway in the C.P., where it takes ten hours to travel a distance of 90 miles between Nagpur to Chhindwara. I have, therefore, to request you to kindly afford facilities to the passengers when you are increasing the fare. If a person travels 80-90 miles by motor from Chhindwara, it takes him three hours. But existence of the Railway which takes ten hours does not any longer seem to be necessary. If its departure time is scheduled at six o'clock, some times it leaves at five, and at times it does not start till ten o'clock. I should like this also to be brought to the notice of the Honourable Minister that this narrow gauge Railway has neither any regular timing nor does it provide any comfort. I would, therefore, suggest that all the narrow gauge Railways in India should be wound up and the entire system should be converted into broad gauge, because it will take lesser time. I have already mentioned that there is no arrangement for the supply of cold drinking water at the stations and this should be made.

Besides this, I want to bring another important matter to the notice of the Honourable Minister and that is: your Catering Department—the management of which you may kindly see for yourself. At times there is neither sugar in the tea nor cow or buffalo milk. I have personally seen this that at places on the Railway we are to use the tinned milk which is adulterated with a large quantity of water and we are to pay the same price for this as we used to pay before for the tea which we took with cow and buffalo's milk.

Along with this, I would refer to another matter relating to your Catering Department which would require the immediate attention of the Honourable Minister. Even to-day after the dawn of independence in the country, untouchability is existing in India in your Catering Department. Separate cups and saucers are maintained for *Harijans*. You will find even to-day that at all stations situated near Burhanpur and Nagpur separate cups and saucers have been maintained for *Harijans*—working and travelling on the Railway. To-day when the country has achieved freedom and there is the Congress Government under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi a separate establishment for maintaining cups and saucers has been set up. This is no doubt the condition of the ordinary *Harijans*. But I have got to draw the attention of the Railway people towards this—when I was not provided with tea at Railway tea stalls being taken as a member of the 'Mahar community', and my attention was drawn towards the cup and saucer kept separately by raising of the finger. On this I pulled the chain for about twenty times and stopped the train with a view to establish my right. I wrote to the Railway Board about this maltreatment meted out to me and in reply the Board informed me that it was not obligatory that the passengers should be supplied with tea. This reply I got and that too after the lapse of three years. This differentiation between the touchables and untouchables is existing in the Catering Department of this Railway even in the present day conditions. I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister towards this and hope that he would try to remove this distinction.

Besides this I have to say another thing—perhaps there are only one or two minutes left for me. The Honourable Minister is not listening to this—he is busy in talking to somebody else and perhaps does not know Hindi. But I do not want to speak in any other language. I know English but it is our country and we are independent—we will speak in our own language. He should try to learn Hindi in free India. To enable him to reply to my speech he should ask someone else to take notes thereof. But, Sir, it is a matter of deep regret that he is still busy in his talk. Further I will only say this that the Government of India have reserved for *Harijans* 16½ per cent. and 12½ per cent. of subordinate and gazetted posts respectively. But in the

Railway Department I have found that this quota has not been filled up. The applications of capable *Harijans* are being rejected. Whatever little number of *Harijans* are working in the Railway Department they have not been given promotions till today. The *Harijan* Assistant Station Masters having put in about 20 years service on the B. N. and G. I. P. Railways have not been able to get promotions. They have been superseded by people of other communities but an Assistant Station Master who is a *Harijan* is not granted promotion. It is not known whether he has been precluded for promotion for the reason that he is a *Harijan* or there is any other cause.

With all the emphasis I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to the fact that when once we have decided and enacted a legislation in the Constituent Assembly that "Untouchability will be an offence in India" it becomes your duty to accept the reservation earmarked by the Government of India. While inviting your attention towards this aspect, I will end my speech.

Shri H. V. Kamath. Sir, I had better begin without the customary note of congratulation, because I find it has tended to become very hackneyed. As I listened to the speech of the Honourable the Railway Minister I went back in my memory over twenty years when I had listened to him in Madras when he was a Professor in the Presidency College, not as a pupil of his but as an occasional listener to his very interesting addresses. I found that years had added charm to his manner and mellifluousness to his speech. But in spite of this, Sir, there are certain points in his address which I feel are open to a little criticism, and I hope he would certainly not mind this little criticism.

I may at the outset say I am at a certain disadvantage because I am speaking at the far end of the discussion and most of the points have been made out by previous speakers who have participated in the discussion. My Honourable friend Mr. Anthony has referred to the lack of a sense of discipline. I want to reinforce this point that has been made out by my Honourable friend. Permit me, Sir, to point out a concrete instance in this connection. Coming by road from Nagpur to Delhi, I had to cross the railway bridge at Chambal near Dholpur. The Chambal Bridge is a deck bridge for military traffic, but it is open to civilian traffic on special permission. I found on reaching the bridge that there are three gates at the bridge. One gate was opened by a cooly and the second gate was absolutely unattended to and there was nobody there. I had to walk all the way along the bridge, go to the other end of the bridge and fetch the Controller from the other end and bring him to this side and get him to phone to the Jhansi Head Office after considerable difficulty. He said he had no instructions, but after some considerable wrangling and arguing he agreed to telephone and it was nearly after an hour and a half's delay I was able to pass over the deck bridge at Chambal. The other points, Sir, like the overcrowding, insanitation and the lack of water facilities, tea facilities and such cognate matters have been touched by the previous speakers.

There is one point which has been missed by some of them and that is the problem of water, which formerly had assumed a communal aspect, in the sense that it was called "Hindu and Muslim water" (*Hindu Pani* and *Muslim Pani*). Since perhaps last year it had changed to "orthodox water" and "general water", so far as I can remember. Either at the end of last year or early this year, when I was passing through Allahabad, at the station I saw big boards "orthodox water" and "general water". (*Khas Pani* and *Am Pani*). I did not comprehend what it meant at first. I just wanted to test what difficulty there would be in having "orthodox water". At that time, Sir, fortunately or unfortunately I had a beard and I went up to the men who were giving "orthodox water". They said: "You cannot have this

[Shri H. V. Kamath]
 "orthodox water". I said: "Why not"? They said: "This 'orthodox water' means only Hindu". I said: "That is abolished now. There is no Hindu or Muslim water".

I asked what general water was and was told that it was Muslim water, orthodox water being Hindu water. After considerable discussion and argument in which many of my co-passengers joined me, I succeeded in getting even this orthodox water in spite of my hirsute appendage.

The Honourable Minister referred to ticketless travel in the U. P. He was quite right in this respect because last year when I travelled on the O. & T. Railway I saw people crowding on the roof tops of coaches in such a precarious position that I was at times wondering whether they would not fall over. On inquiry I found that accidents had happened and many people had perished by travelling on the tops of these coaches. Then overcrowding and congestion inside the third class carriages is extremely bad. The other day my Honourable friend Mr. Sidhwa raised the question of dogs in trains. I think dogs in airconditioned and other coaches are better off and more comfortably provided for than third class passengers in their compartments. This is a thing which puts humanity to shame and the condition of these third class carriages beggars description. I hope that with the advent of nationalisation of this important undertaking and with our National Government in office this sort of thing will be put an end to at a very early date.

Sir, there are just one or two points that I should like to deal with before I conclude. There is one little bit of tract in this country which is devoid of any railway line and that is between Kadur in Mysore State and Mangalore. The only way to link up Bangalore and Mangalore—unless it be circuitously by way of Madras—is through Hassan. That would add to the convenience of passengers from Mysore State who want to proceed to Mangalore instead of having to go all the way round Madras or by bus via Kadur. This I know is a very difficult terrain for the railway to negotiate but I hope that with modern contrivances and scientific advancement this would not be a difficult undertaking to accomplish.

Then there is the question of electrification. I think that with electrification of railways much of our expenses on coal would be saved and it would also result in the speeding up of trains and add to the convenience of passenger traffic.

Lastly, Sir, I should like to see in our country as soon as possible a very fine underground system as obtains in Europe, Russia and England. I know it is a very difficult thing but an underground system would add to the convenience of railway travelling.

In conclusion I would like to say that the common man must be made to feel that the railway is his own, that it is a national asset and not merely an instrument of exploitation and oppression. The railways can be made an instrument of national happiness and national prosperity, and I do hope that with the Honourable Minister in charge of this national undertaking we will see our railways at the head of all other railway system, in the world.

Shri S. Nagappa (Madras: General): Sir, I join the previous speakers in congratulating the Honourable Minister on his presenting a very able budget. The first budget presented by independent India is a deficit budget. But anyhow I realise the difficulties of the Honourable Minister in these days due to the division of the country. I was glad to see that this has resulted due to the cost of coal and due to the increased wages that are paid to the labourers.

[At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Pandit Thakurdas Bhargava (one of the Panel of Chairmen).]

I am glad that Government have established a kind of contact with these labourers and I hope this contact will continue for ever and the good will

between the labourers and Government will prevail for all time to come. I was particularly glad to note that fourth class and third class employees of the railways were given the maximum benefit out of the 22½ crores of raised wages.

As regards the difficulties of the travelling public I have heard Honourable Members making a catalogue of their grievances; I hope the Honourable Minister will try at an early date to redress as many of them as possible. As to the raising of fares and freights I find that there has not been much of a justification. A good deal of discrimination has been made, specially the second class passenger has been hit hard while the third class passenger has been less burdened. For instance, the difference between the first class passenger and the second class passenger seems to be great. The second class passenger rate has been raised by 33 1/3 per cent. whereas the first class passenger has to pay an excess of 25 per cent. only. I should like to know why there should be so many classes at all. Is it necessary? As in England, I think there should be two classes only,—Upper and Lower,—instead of the First, Second, Inter and Third classes.

Then the Honourable Minister drew a sad picture as regards our locomotives. It is of course true that we could not produce enough locomotives. As Mr. Kamath suggested, I think by electrifying our lines the cost may be reduced. And instead of depending on coal, we could have, as in Southern India, oil-fired locomotives in order to economise and curtail the expenditure.

As regards ticketless travel the Honourable Minister referred to the U.P. alone. I do not think other provinces are in the same line. But I hope he will realise the difficulties of these people who travel without tickets. At times they are not able to get tickets at all. If you go to a station you find only one booking centre and the tickets are not issued properly and the booking clerks indulge in all sorts of tricks in order to avoid giving a ticket. I do not want Government to encourage ticketless travel but I want them to take better steps so as to prevent it. Moreover, as compared to other countries we find more men employed here than are necessary. I suggest to the Honourable Minister to make retrenchment as much as possible. I find that 166 Britishers are still serving here; they should be replaced by Indians at the earliest possible moment. Now, Sir, the superior posts that are still occupied by the other personnel, such as British personnel, may be replaced by Indians.

As regards the other point, that is expenditure on coal, the Honourable Minister has said it is about Rs. 5 to 6 crores. I do realize the Honourable Minister's difficulty. Because of the cost of labour it might have gone high. But I would request him to find out other means in order to reduce the cost. I hope, Sir, the High Power Committee which enquired recently into the railway problems, might have thrown some light on this point, especially the examination of other fuel than coal or the oil-fired locomotives, as it has proved in Southern India a success, and at the same time the electrification of railways.

As far as possible, I would request the Government to try to manufacture almost all parts in India itself instead of importing.

As regards the revision of scales and revision of freights and fares, the Honourable Minister has not considered the other aspect of it. It will also have its own reflections and reactions on other necessities of life as a result of the increase of freights.

Along with the stoppage of the leakage in ticketless travel, I would request the Honourable Minister to take particular care in stopping all the discrimination in weighments or as regards goods or classes of goods, especially now that other friends have described their difficulties in getting wagons. It is a fact that it is very difficult, unless and until we act according to the tune of the officials concerned, to get wagons in these days.

With these few remarks I support the budget proposals that are before this House.

شری دیش باندھو گپتا : سہا پتی جی! میں آرہیل منسٹر کی توجہ ایک دو باتوں کی طرف کھینچنا چاہتا ہوں۔ دہلی خوش قسمتی سے یا بد قسمتی سے ایسی جگہ ہے جہاں گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا کے ہر ایک ڈیپارٹمنٹ کا امتحان ہو جاتا ہے۔ چونکہ یہاں پر گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا کے براہ راست ریسیانسیبل ہونے کی وجہ سے ہمیں اپنے سب منسٹروں کی کارگزاری کا کچھ اندازہ کرنے کا موقع ملتا ہے۔ دہلی میں اگر انتظام ٹھیک نہ ہو تو اس کا مطلب یہ ہوگا کہ چراغ تلے اندھیرا ہے۔ اس میں کوئی شک نہیں ہے کہ اتنے محکموں کو آپ اپنے وقت کا بہت سا حصہ دیتے ہیں۔ قسمت سے پہلے سے ان کا کم واسطہ ہے اس لئے زیادہ وقت ان کو ڈیپارٹمنٹ کو دیکھنے کا ملتا ہے۔ اس لئے میں توقع کرتا ہوں کہ آج جتنی باتیں میں عرض کرنا چاہتا ہوں ان کی طرف ان کا دھیان کھینچے۔ دہلی میں اس وقت سب سے بڑی مصیبت یہ ہے کہ دہلی ایک بہت بڑا ٹرانسپورٹنگ سنٹر ہے۔ ریلوں کے لحاظ سے تو ایک بہت بڑا چلکشن ہے۔

تمام ناردرن انڈیا کی ریلوں آتی ہیں لیکن میرے لائق دوست کو معلوم ہوگا کہ چند مہینوں سے چاہے وار کی لیگیس ہو لیکن کچھ دنوں سے یہ بات اور شکایت عام ہو رہی ہے کہ بمبئی سے کلکتہ سے یا کراچی سے اگر کسی ضروری چیز کو بھیجنا ہے تو بکلنگ دہلی کو نہیں ملتی بمبئی۔ کلکتہ۔ کراچی وغیرہ سے جو Booking دہلی کے لئے ہوتی ہے وہ دہلی نہیں آتی وہ پہلے شاہدرہ یا فیروز آباد جاتی ہے اور وہاں سے پھر دہلی آتی ہے اسکی وجہ صرف یہ ہے کہ دہلی میں Wagons کی بہت کمی ہے اور اس کمی کی وجہ سے بہت زیادہ مال مہینوں تک پورا رہتا ہے۔ تعلق ذاتی اپنے تیج اخبار سے ہے میرے آدمی جا کر دیکھ آئے تھے میرے آدمی آج دو مہینے سے اور جاتے ہیں اور اسٹیشن پر رپورٹ کرتے ہیں کہ Wagon کہاں ہے اسکا کوئی جواب نہیں دیا جاتا ہے۔ اگر اسٹورٹ منسٹر صاحب نے اس کے آرائے کر نیکی لئے توجہ نہیں کی تو بہت زیادہ لوگوں کا نقصان ہوگا۔ میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ اگر آرہیل منسٹر صاحب چاہیں تو اسٹیشن پر خود جا کر ملاحظہ کر سکتے ہیں۔ میں ایک بات کیطرف آرہیل منسٹر صاحب کا دھیان اور دلائوں کا اور مجھے اُمید ہے کہ وہ پوری ہو جائیگی دہلی میں ٹرانسپورٹ کا انتظام ٹھیک طرح سے کھاجائے مجھے معلوم ہوا کہ گورنمنٹ اور G. N. I. T. Buses کے درمیان کوئی سمجھوتہ کی بات چیت ہو رہی ہے اگر کوئی سمجھوتہ ہو جائے تو بہت اچھا ہے اور Buses کی تعداد بڑھا دی جائے جس سے لوگوں کی تکلیفیں جو آجکل بہت زیادہ ہیں دور ہو جائیگی۔

(English translation of the above speech.)

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta (Delhi) : Mr. Chairman, I desire to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to one or two facts. Fortunately, or unfortunately, Delhi is so situated that every department of the Government of

India is put to the test. Here in Delhi, due to the Government of India, being directly responsible, we get an opportunity of forming some estimate of all our Ministers' Services. Absence of proper management in Delhi, means darkness under the lamp. There is no doubt that you devote much of your time to departmental work and as things stand the public has little concern with you and the Ministers have therefore more time to devote to their departments. I hope, therefore, that the attention of the Ministers should be drawn towards all of the facts which I want to mention today. One of the greatest difficulties in Delhi, today is that it is a very great transporting centre. It is the one of the biggest Railway Junctions, where the Railways of the whole of Northern India meet. My learned friend knows that for the last few months it may be a legacy of the war but at least for a few days it has been a general complaint that if any necessary commodity is required to be sent either from Karachi, Bombay or Calcutta to Delhi, it will first be booked to Delhi—Shahdara or Firozabad and thence to Delhi. The cause for this is that there is a great scarcity of the wagons in Delhi, and due to this scarcity a very great quantity of goods is left lying in Delhi for months together.

My personal experience has been derived from transactions in connection with my newspaper *The Tej*. My men went to the Railway Station, and there they have ascertained this; my men still have been going there daily for the last two months. When enquiries about wagons are made and complaints are lodged at the station, no definite reply is given.

A great many men will suffer loss if the Honourable Minister does not take measures to remedy these defects. I think, the Honourable Minister will see for himself, if he goes to the Railway station.

I want to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister towards another defect, and I hope it will be remedied. It is that in Delhi, Transport arrangement should be done properly. I am given to understand that some negotiations in this connection, are being carried on between the Government and the G. N. I. T. Bus administration. If this arrangement is made it will be good and if the number of buses is increased the difficulties of the people which are many in these days, will be reduced.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Minister for Railways and Transport): Sir, if I may say so, the discussion that has taken place on the Railway Budget today does credit to the House. It is my privilege as Minister in charge of the Railways, to know things from inside and on that knowledge to size up the relative importance of the problems which the railways are facing. To me it is a cheering fact that Honourable Members who have taken part in the discussion today attach the same order of importance to specific railway problems as I do.

The discussion has ranged over so vast a field that it is a little difficult for me to know either at what point to begin to reply or the portion of this wide field which I should cover in my replies. What I will do in the time that has been allotted to me is to take some of the more important problems that have been raised and offer such replies as I can to questions put to me by Honourable Members.

One question in which this House and its predecessors have always taken a keen interest, is the conditions under which our lowest class passengers travel. Ever since I took charge of the Railways as Minister, it has been brought home to me in many ways that unless we can make a real difference to the conditions of third class travel we shall not have justified the nationalisation of the railways. There is a fundamental point which my Honourable friend Mr. Patil raised and to which I want to reply a little later. I do consider that the extent to which we are able to improve the conditions of travel of our lowest class passengers is a test by which our management of the railways would, to a large extent, be judged. I am well aware of that.

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The conditions under which I have to face this problem today, as I explained in my Budget speech, are conditions so difficult and so largely beyond my control—that for the present, except to express my determination to do all that I can, there is little that I can do. I do not want to make promises or to give undertakings to the House in this respect, because over such time as I might have charge of this office I doubt whether there would be such an improvement as would make a material difference to the position.

As I understand this question—it is a question to which I have given a good deal of thought—the right point from which to begin to tackle the conditions of travel of our lowest class passengers, is overcrowding. Unless we are able to relieve the terrible overcrowding which at present prevails we cannot make any contribution to the solution of the general problem of amenities. When you consider this question of overcrowding you will find that it has many sides to it. First of all, I want to draw the attention of the House to a patent fact which somehow does not receive the attention it deserves. There is more money in the country than there are goods and services on which the money can be spent. A person with money to spend cannot spend it on food, because there is a limit to the quantity of food that he can buy: he cannot spend it on clothes, because there is also a limit to the quantity that he can buy: he cannot spend it on other classes of consumer goods, because we are not producing them and we can hardly import them either. But there is one kind of service, one class of goods on which he can spend it, as much of it as he wants, at practically the price he used to pay before the war. And that is railway transport—I am inclined to think that this has had a great deal to do with the tremendous increase that has occurred in the amount of passenger traffic. If you compare the amount of passenger traffic today with what it was in 1938-39 you find the increase is a little over 100 per cent. The extent to which we have been able to increase the number of passenger coaches since 1938-39 is somewhere about 10 per cent. That gives you the problem in a nutshell.

But it is not merely that people can get their railway service at something like the prices which they used to pay before that accounts for this. There is the question of ticketless travel, to which a great deal of reference has been made. Honourable Members have perhaps misunderstood me. They think that I attributed this problem of ticketless travel entirely to the misdoings of people, to bad citizenship. Bad citizenship is only a part of the problem. Part of it is the responsibility of the railways. During the past year I know that the facilities available at our booking offices have not been adequate. Over a long period of months there were not enough tickets available. Our Printing presses were not working, it was impossible to get private presses to do the work and for a considerable time it was a serious factor which contributed to ticketless travel. Whatever it be, whether it is the fault of the railways or whether it is a certain deterioration in standards of citizenship, ticketless travel has greatly accentuated this problem of overcrowding.

Therefore the way in which we can deal with the problem is this. First of all, we have to increase the transport capacity. We have a large number of coaches on order but I do not expect that we shall be in a position to get the bulk of it executed and delivered before the end of 1949. Before the end of 1948 I expect to get somewhere about 600 additional coaches put in service—not a small number. If every thing goes well, if our programme works all right, I expect to be able to get about 250 or 270 III class passenger coaches returned by the Defence Department; that is to say that in the course of about 6 to 12 months from now I think we should be able to put in service over 800 passenger coaches and I think that would make some difference.

But you have to tackle the problem not merely from the side of transport capacity but also from the side of the number of passengers who want to

travel. What I mentioned in the course of my budget speech about ticketless travel I think would reduce overcrowding. We are going to do what we can in the way of improving railway facilities (which are relevant to the question of ticketless travel) and I hope also to enlist sufficient support from those responsible for law and order in the provinces, to prevent unauthorised travel.

Mr. Sidhwa challenged me on certain statements that I made in the course of the budget debate in the old Assembly. I made certain promises, which I have not been able to carry out. I do not propose to make any promises today. But I want to tell Mr. Sidhwa what actually happened. In the course of the discussion reference was made to what is called the Betterment Fund, which is the fund out of which all improvements which are not of a directly remunerative character are financed. In the analysis of the expenditure from the Betterment Fund the House found that out of about Rs. 5 crores only 1 crore was set apart for the provision of additional amenities for passengers. In the course of the debate I said I would make arrangements for an additional expenditure of Rs. 1 crore. Immediately the session was over I issued instructions to the Railway administrations to send up estimates for the provision of additional amenities for third class passengers up to a total figure of Rs. 1 crore. We got proposals and instructions were given to railways to proceed with them. Then the question of partition came on, and the energy and resources of the Railways were largely directed to it. I believe nevertheless that a substantial addition was made to the expenditure which was originally contemplated in regard to amenities. My latest information is this. According to my promise to the Assembly Rs. 2 crores was to be the amount expended during 1947-48. That, on a post-partition basis, would be somewhere about Rs. 170 crores. I believe arrangements have been made by the Railway administrations to spend about Rs. 150 crores out of this. It is as far as we have been able to go. I want therefore to submit to the House that in view of the severely limiting conditions under which we worked we have done our best to implement such promises as I have given.

I come now to the fundamental point which my friend Mr. S. K. Patil raised, a point that has often caused me worry. The point was this. Here is this outstanding nationalised concern in the country. There is at present a great deal of demand for nationalisation. If this large industry which stands out as the typical example of a nationalised concern in the country gives so little satisfaction, then it knocks the bottom of the case for nationalisation. I want to make it perfectly clear that I am not advocating the universal adoption of nationalisation. That has never been my view. I believe in the end you will find there is a fairly large case—larger than many of us have thought—for nationalisation in India. But the question has to be considered with reference to the circumstances of each industry. I think we are in the habit in these matters of generalising too hastily. It is somewhat like the question of free trade and protection. There is no such thing as a universal 'yes' or universal 'no' to this question. It all depends upon the circumstances of the particular country and the particular industry. That is also the view I take with regard to nationalisation. I want to take the point that Mr. Patil raised. If this concern, the Railways, had been a private concern and not a state one, owned and managed by the state, then one of the first things it would have done would have been to raise the prices of its goods to an extent that would adequately cover the increased costs that it has to bear and the reserves it has to provide. As a nationalised concern it has not been able to do that. Even with all the increases that I have proposed, I take it that compared with pre-war figures the increases might be of the order of not more than 25 to 30 per cent. In a country like the United Kingdom where the increase in the cost of living has not been anything so high as it is here the increase that has taken place since pre-war is 55 per cent. If the House is going to restrict the extent to which business methods can be applied to a

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nationalised concern, then I submit the reason why the nationalised concern is not able to do its job properly is a reason which the House has to share with me.

We have nationalised all the class I railways, all the major railways in the country. Today I believe there are only 25 small narrow gauge and meter gauge lines that have not been taken over by the state. The principle of nationalisation has not been applied to them. It is extraordinary that hardly a week passes when I do not get an appeal from large groups of people asking me to take over these lines. If nationalisation is such an objectionable thing why is it that people are so anxious that these few remaining small lines should also be taken over by the state? There must be something behind it.

I want to go further. One of the biggest problems in this country is the shortage of essential consumer goods. The textile industry, next to agriculture, is the industry which produces consumer goods. Are we satisfied that we are getting the best possible service out of the textile industry? If we are not, why is it that this charge is not being brought in regard to them? Obviously when it comes to an industry, every detail of which is subject to the scrutiny of the Legislature and subject to public opinion, tests are being applied which are not altogether fair. That is the real point.

I now come to the general question of economy which naturally is exercising the minds of Honourable Members. I am alive to this problem of economy because, on the basis of the increased fares and freights only I do not think I should be able within a reasonable period to bring the Railways into a satisfactory financial position unless I can effect further economies than we have been able to achieve so far. I am very well aware of the importance of economy. The trouble is this: if you take the total working expenses of our railways, nearly two-thirds is expenditure on staff and labour. There are two ways in which you can economize on staff and labour. One is to reduce the rates of salaries and rates of wages. The other is to reduce the number of people employed. It so happens that I am not in a position to do either, because the scales of salaries and the scales of wages are fixed for me by outside agencies in whose decisions I have no voice. We are now basing all our scales of remuneration on the recommendations of the Pay Commission. It is perfectly true that there is a considerable number which is at present surplus to our requirements on the existing basis. But along with that we have to consider a substantial extension of the process of liberalisation that has gone on in regard to working conditions, in regard to periods of leave, in regard to hours of work. As the House knows, Mr. Justice Rajadhyaksha who was appointed Adjudicator in these matters has sent in his report which is now under consideration by Government.

That report makes various recommendations regarding reduction of hours of work and provision of more leave. My examination of the question, as I told you in the course of my Budget speech, has led to the conclusion that in order to meet the recommendations of the Adjudicator it would be necessary to keep more or less the existing staff, including that part of it which is surplus to requirements judged on the present standard. Therefore I am not in a position to reduce the personnel. If I cannot reduce the salaries and wages, and if I cannot reduce the number of personnel, how am I to effect economy in regard to this item of expenditure which covers two-thirds of our total working expenses?

The other question is the question of coal, the question of power. So far the trouble with power is that, the increase in expenditure has been entirely due to a rise in prices. It is possible that by measures of fuel economy, we can reduce the quantity of coal that we use. We are doing everything that

we can. I am quite serious about it because I have had a good deal of experience of the possibilities of fuel economy. When I was in charge of the Tata Iron & Steel Company where the question of coal is of live importance, I became aware of the economies which it is possible to achieve. There has been a good deal of complaint in recent years that the railways are consuming an undue proportion of the better class coal in the country. The railways need coal for making steam. For that you do not need to use the kind of coal used by the steel industry, that is to say metallurgical coal. It is much too good for our purpose. Therefore we have been asked to reduce our consumption of high class coal. We are trying to do that. In fact on several of our railways now we have made sufficient progress in direction of dispensing with the use of metallurgical coal. But that raises its own problems. The cost of coal in a country of vast distances such as ours is measured by freight rather than by the price at pit's mouth, for example coal conveyed to Bombay, coal conveyed up to the Punjab, coal conveyed to the U.P., the price that you pay at pit's mouth is relatively a small part of the total cost. When you use inferior coal, you pay the same freight. Actually you pay more because inferior coal means there is more ash, etc. and so you are paying freight on a lot of things mixed with coal which have no calorific value. Therefore really the moment you go down to inferior coal, instead of reducing the expenditure of the railway industry you are probably increasing its cost.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (West Bengal, General): Has this aspect been technically examined by experts? It is more or less theoretical.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am simply putting forward my personal view which has not been technically examined as far as I know. But in my opinion it is a commonsense view. I should like to assure my Honourable friend that the question of coal is something with which I have been brought into contact over a period of many years since I had the honour of doing a Tariff Board enquiry into coal somewhere in 1926.

With regard to the number of people we have employed, a reference was made to the size of the Railway Board, why we have six Members now instead of five as before. I explained in my Budget speech the point of having a sixth Member. The problem of evacuating refugees became so difficult and so complicated that we have had for a few months to set apart a Member to give his whole time to this question. But that Membership would be abolished in the course of a week or so. During the past two months we have abolished 12 superior posts in the Railway Board, amounting to an annual expenditure of somewhere about 2 lakhs, and that process is going to continue. We are going to look into every branch of administration. There is a large number of posts which were created under war conditions, and as you know the inertia of bureaucratic organizations is such that once a post is created, it continues unless you apply your mind to it and prune them. Now that we have started this process, I am determined to see that that process is carried out up to the total extent possible.

There has been a great deal of reference to the question of electrification. As a matter of fact we have various schemes of electrification in hand and we propose to go through with that. There again, subject to what my friend **Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra** might say, I think there is a limit up to which you can achieve economy by electrification.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Only if you can link up hydro-electric with thermal energy.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I was going to say that the best way in which you could economize by means of electrification is where your electricity—I am speaking of conditions in this country—is thermal electricity and produced near the coalfields so that the coal has not to bear any freight. If

[Dr. John Matthai]

Honourable Members have examined the financial position of hydro-electric concerns in India, the greater number of them, they will find, include an amount of overhead expenditure, which in the end makes the cost of hydro-electricity greater than the cost of thermal electricity provided you generate the latter right on the coalfields.

My Honourable friend Mr. Chaudhury from Assam raised a number of questions regarding the Assam Railway. I made a reference to this problem in the course of my Budget speech. One of the points that he raised was where the headquarters of the Assam Railway was going to be. At present it is at Pandu, but I think my Honourable friend said that the administration is in the hands of a Deputy General Manager. That is not so. The administration is in the hands of an officer called the Chief Administrative Officer who is directly responsible to the Railway Board. Where the headquarters of the Assam Railway are to be permanently, is a question which must wait for a decision till we have completed the present investigations regarding the regrouping of the Bengal and the Assam Railways. But the problem that my Honourable friend raised is a problem which has received already a great deal of attention at my hands and I shall not lose sight of the points that he mentioned.

Then as regards the question of the starting point of the through rail connection—that again is a point which must await the investigations which are now being carried out as regards alignment. I believe there is a considerable difference of opinion even in Assam as regards where the starting point should be. So, I am not in a position to make any statement on that; it necessarily is a technical matter and must await engineering investigations.

As regards the question of the new line to Pandu the position is that the project has been finalized and I expect to have it brought up at a very early date before the Central Transport Advisory Board and reach a decision. As to what we should do with the Brahmaputra,—whether we should put a bridge over it, that is a big issue. A bridge over the Brahmaputra would be a very expensive proposition and would take a very long time to construct but it is likely that if the main project goes through, it may be possible for us to put that into operation and negotiate the crossing of the Brahmaputra by means of a ferry.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Why do you not make arrangements similar to those which prevailed during war time under the administration of the Americans?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It was a ferry service. I am speaking of the ferry service as an alternative to a bridge.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Not a steamer ferry.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I suppose it was a Bailey Bridge.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Yes.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: With regard to another point that my Honourable friend Mr. Chaudhuri raised—the very serious inconvenience that is being caused to business people in Assam in regard to the traffic that passes through the Pakistan area—I have had various reports about it and I want to say I am concerned about what is happening. There are only two things that we here can do: one is to lodge a strong protest to the Pakistan Government for the serious interruption to traffic that is occurring now—it is very much more than interruption. Whether these protests will have any effect is more than I can tell. There is another direction in which we can help Assam and that is to try and speed up the construction of this new through rail connection. My advisers tell me that normally it would be a matter of at least two working seasons which

would mean three years; but recently I have had further discussions with the Government of Assam on this question and I am trying to see if it would be possible by some means to shorten the period required for the construction of this through rail connection. We are not going to get a permanent solution of the problem to which my Honourable friend has referred unless we are able to get our own rail connection between Assam and India.

My friend Mr. Sidhwa raised the question of amenities for passengers to which I have already made a reference. I have great regard for the efforts that my Honourable friend has been making in his capacity as President of the Passengers' Association. Even before I met him here as a combatant in our debates, I used to have discussions of a fruitful character with him regarding the directions in which we might promote conditions of travel for third class passengers. Whenever he puts a question to me or makes a suggestion to me, I want to assure him, I listen with the greatest possible interest. Whatever I can do in the directions that he mentions I shall always be glad to do. He asked me what is going to happen to the "Silver Arrow" and the coaches which we put on exhibition in connection with the "Silver Arrow". Well, as soon as the exhibition was completed, we issued a large number of questionnaires to people who visited it and I am cheered by the fact that we have had a very large number of replies to our questionnaires making suggestions of various kinds. I do not know if Mr. Sidhwa still remembers the general set-up of the "Silver Arrow". On an analysis of all the replies that we have had I found that there are two matters to which probably all the criticism has been directed as regards the design of the third class coaches. One is the doorways and the footboard and the other is the amount of luggage space provided. In both these directions we are trying to improve the original design. In fact certain suggestions have already been formulated with regard to it and we are shortly going to place an order with the Hindustan Aircraft Company for two specimen coaches on the improved designs, revised in the light of replies to our questionnaires. I hope, to put it on a very conservative basis, to be able in the course of 1949 to put coaches of this design increasingly in service.

Seth Govinddas: What about the improvement of old coaches?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: We have to revise the designs of the new coaches. Meanwhile whatever construction we are undertaking now would be of old design coaches into which as many new amenities would be introduced as these coaches would allow. The main difference between the "Silver Arrow" and the old coaches is that the old coach is somewhere about 10 feet wide whereas the other is 11'8". That makes a lot of difference as regards the amenities that you can provide inside the coaches. But as much as possible of these improvements would be included in the construction of these designs.

My friend Mr. Balkrishna Sharma raised the question of the large number of people who are travelling in goods trains and finding their way into the border districts of the U. P. That is a problem that has given us a great deal of worry. What has been now done is this. There is a screening point beyond the U. P. border where with military assistance we are now trying to remove passengers who travel in an unauthorized manner in goods wagons and other trains. It is too soon to tell how far this screening arrangement has been a success. I had a discussion some time ago with the Commissioner of that area in the U. P. and I am inclined to feel from his reaction that probably things are a little better now. Of course if the military arrangements do not succeed I really do not know what we can do.

The question of the provision of locomotives has been raised. As far as the proposed indigenous factories are concerned the position at present is this. As regards the Kanchrapara workshops at which a small beginning had been made

[Dr. John Matthai] in the way of construction, it has been decided to locate it at some other place. At one time under the notional division, Kanchrapara was on the border, now it is somewhere about 25 to 30 miles from the border but even now, we feel that it would be more desirable to locate the workshop elsewhere and we have taken in hand an examination of fresh location for the Kanchrapara shop. I do not want to anticipate the final decision but I am inclined to think it would be somewhere in the Asansol area. The advantage of that would be that it is nearer coal, nearer steel and is sufficiently away from the frontier. I do not know how soon it will be possible for us to get locomotives produced here. Already there has been a delay of nearly a year. So, I am not in a position at all to tell when the first locomotive will be delivered by the Kanchrapara factory.

As regards the other factory the Tata Locomotive Factory at Singbhum the original intention was that they would be in a position to supply boilers about a year ago. For various reasons they have not been able to do that. Deliveries began last July and they have been coming in progressively in small numbers. I hope they will be in a position to give us within a relatively short period at least a hundred boilers. Some of them are Broad Gauge and some Metre Gauge. Then the other Locomotive factory that we have is Ajmer. We have placed an order on the Ajmer Factory, I think, for 58 Metre Gauge locomotives and the boilers would be supplied by the Tata Locomotive Factory. There the work is progressing. The House will realize, therefore, from indigenous sources, it is not likely that in the near future we shall be able to replace any of our existing locomotives or add to them. We have therefore placed orders abroad of over 500 locomotives. The deliveries are likely to begin from the beginning of 1949.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Has the Honourable Minister's Department received locomotives for which orders were placed during the closing years of the war?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: They have all come. Since then we have been placing further orders. All the orders placed during the War have been delivered.

My Honourable friend Mr. Aney raised the question of the restoration of dismantled Railways and the general problem of road-rail co-ordination. As regards the restoration of dismantled railways the position of Government is briefly this. We propose to restore such dismantled railways as would be reasonably remunerative, and not lines which are likely to be unremunerative. My Honourable friend said it is not fair to the people in these areas that the Government should take this line. I have at least two reasons for taking that line. One is that we are not now in an affluent position—and we have got to consider very carefully that new enterprises which we are undertaking would be at least reasonably remunerative. There is another side to it which probably is more important. In all these areas where lines were dismantled some years ago during the war, I notice there has been a very substantial development of road traffic and road facilities. The problem, therefore that we are faced with is this. In view of the importance of encouraging road traffic wherever there are opportunities for such traffic, is it right that the Railway Ministry should restore these dismantled lines and introduce an element of competition which is not called for in the interests of public service. That to my mind is the issue, I have gone into the facts of a number of these cases, where we have had applications for the restoration of dismantled lines and I find in cases where the lines are likely to be unremunerative, it is largely due to the fact that in these areas the road traffic has developed to such an extent that railways would not be able to attract sufficient traffic to make their services remunerative. That really is the issue. My Honourable friend raised some particular cases. I will look into them. I have not got the facts ready.

My Honourable friend Mr. Anthony raised the important question of our attitude to labour. I need not say I am in entire agreement with it; the more I see the relations between management and labour on the railways, the more I realize that the real solution will come only by the establishment of better contacts between those in authority and those who work. That, of course, is a very old problem, but by actual experience I have realized that there is a great deal of truth in that principle that ultimately what is necessary for a satisfactory solution of these labour problem is to establish the right kind of personal relations. I have had some opportunities of looking into it—you will find the point at which personal relations between the management and labour are most important and if properly established, would be most effective—is the district administration. It is at the level of district administration that we ought to try and establish better contacts between those who do the primary work of the Railways and those who supervise and manage. While I agree, therefore, with Mr. Anthony that what is called for is personal contact, I would like to tell him that the point at which personal contact should be established is the district administration and as far as I am concerned, I am concentrating my attention on that.

Sir, I think that covers more or less the points that have been raised and I have no doubt I should have further opportunities of dealing with some of these matters in connection with the discussion on Cut Motions, tomorrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday the 26th November, 1947.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Wednesday, 26th November 1947.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

USE OF BONES AS MANURE

314. *Shri R. R. Diwakar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government are aware that as a result of the abnormal slaughter of animals and sheep during war-time, there was a huge collection of bones?

(b) Have Government made any arrangements for utilising these collections at different centres for the preparation of manure?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) The normal output of bones is estimated at a million tons a year of which only some 3,00,000 tons are collected. Due to difficulties of transport and the stoppage of exports, the collection of bones decreased during the war but Government have no information about any accumulation of bones in any area.

(b) Does not arise. But the question of encouraging the collection of bones was brought to the notice of the Indian Chemical Manufacturers Association, early this year.

Shri P. Kakkan: May I know whether Government have issued any instructions to the provincial Governments to issue an order to each and every major and minor punchayet board to remove dead cattle and store the bones for manure?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: So far as I am aware, no order has been issued by the Government of India; but the provincial Governments may have issued orders like that.

Shri B. A. Mandloi: In view of the fact that bones are very useful for manure will Government take steps to stop completely the export of bones from the Union of India?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: As I have said, we get every year only about one million tons of bones and we are not able to collect more than 3,00,000 tons. So it is no use stopping the export of bones. The real problem is to collect the bones, and if more bones could be collected we could have the foreign market as well as meet our own requirements.

BONE-MEAL AS FOOD FOR MILCH AND DRAUGHT CATTLE

315. *Shri R. R. Diwakar: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture please state:

(a) the total quantity of bone-meal produced;

(b) the quantity used as manure for different crops; and

(c) the food value of sterilized bone-meal for milch cattle and draught animals?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) Between 25,000 and 30,000 tons a year.

(b) About 50 per cent of the production is used for plantation crops like Tea, Coffee, Rubber, etc.; the balance is used for paddy, sugarcane, fruits, etc. No details are available.

(c) Bone-meal provides two of the essential mineral elements—Calcium and Phosphorus which the milch as well as draught animals require for normal body metabolism. Their absence from the diet leads to structural and functional injuries. Bone-meal contains both these elements (minerals) in the proportion found in the animal body. It is generally fed in powder form mixed with salt in the ration given to cattle. The average percentages of Calcium and Phosphorus in steambone meal are 31.3 and 14.4 respectively.

Shri S. Nagappa: Are Government making any efforts to increase bone-meal production? If so, what are those efforts?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: As I have stated in reply to the previous question, the question really is one of collection of bones. We have got a number of factories which are dealing in these bones, but they are not efficient enough to compete with foreign markets, and therefore the work is not making as much headway as it should.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What steps are Government taking to see that all the bones available in the country are collected and sent to these various factories and also to encourage the cottage industry that has grown up during war time, to utilise these bones for the manufacture of bone-meal?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: It is hardly necessary to collect the bones unless they can be utilised by the factories. And, as I have stated, the factories are not in a position to utilise the bones that are collected because they are not efficient enough to produce cheap bone-meal for our use.

Shri K. Santhanam: With reference to part (c) of the question, may I know in what provinces bone-meal is mixed with food for cattle?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: It is generally not used at all in this country, and some people even object to taking milk from cows fed on bone-meal. So it is not used in this country in that way.

Shri K. Santhanam: Will Government consider the desirability of investigating how it can be transformed in such a way that it may be used by our farmers for the use of cattle?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: The point is not of converting it into a form in which it can be used. It is produced in a form in which it can be used; but the real objection is the religious prejudice which prevents its being used.

Mrs. Renuka Ray: In what quantity is bone and bone-meal exported outside the country?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: It is limited to about 40,000 tons.

Seth Govinddas: Are Government making any efforts to see that these factories become more efficient, and have they issued any instructions to provincial Governments in this regard?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: We have advised that these factories may be subsidised.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: Is it proposed to control the export of bones outside this country consistent with the requirements of our farmers?

Mr. Speaker: That has been answered already. Next question.

NUMBER OF BONE MILLS WITH DISINTEGRATORS

316. *Shri R. R. Diwakar: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture please state:

(a) the total number of Bone Mills in the Dominion of India;

(b) the number of disintegrators in each of them; and

(c) the amount of bones crushed by each of them in 1942-43, 1944-45 and 1945-46?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) There are 23 Bone Mills in the Indian Dominion.

(b) and (c). A statement giving the available information is placed on the table.

Statement showing the number of disintegrators and the amount of bones crushed in each Mill during 1942-43, 1944-45 and 1945-46

Serial No.	Name of Bone Mill.	Number of disintegrators in each Mill	Quantity of bones crushed in 1942-43	Quantity of bones crushed in 1944-45	Quantity of bones crushed in 1945-46
1	2	3	4	5	6
			Tons	Tons	Tons
1	Hubli Bone Mills, Hubli . .	2 big and 2 small	1,500	800	900
2	Premior Bone Mills, Tanjore .	2 in 1942 to 1945 3 since 1945.	600	472	564
3	Katpadi Bone Mills, Katpadi .	2	2,144	1,090	750
4	Kadambur Mill, Kadambur .	2	1,600	924	413
5	Southern India Manure and Tanning Works, Samalkot.	2	97	1,522	93
6	Jai Hind Bone Mill, Bombay	1	2,700	3,200	Nil
7	Fazalbhai Ibrahim & Co. Bone Mill, Bombay.	1	318	...	453
8	Hindustan Fertilizers, Kuppam	2	1,000	900	800
9	Hapur Bone Mills, Hapur .	1	...	4,000	6,825
10	Ranipet Bone Factory, Ranipet	2	1,916	1,857	2,198
11	Feroke Factories, Feroke .	1	...	...	...
12	Hindustan Bone Mills, Ennore	3	2,500	2,000	100
13	Burjor Ardeshir & Co., Bombay Kalal.	Giant Miracle crusher (capacity 50 tons a day of 10 hours).	...	2,500	3,000
14	Santra Gochi Mill, Calcutta .	3 also 2 roller crushing units.	3,656	5,066	6,086
15	Stanes & Co., Coimbatore .	2 (One dismantled since last 18 months, only one working.	202	320	400
16	Chingreehatta Bone Mill, Calcutta.	2 (also 2 sets of crushers).	2,373	2,014	2,153
17	Anderson Dawn Coy., Bombay	3	4,750	5,250	6,250
18	Ganges Valley Bone Mills, Calcutta.	4 Disintegrators .	11,800	9,300	10,900
19	Empire Bone Mills, Pagladarga	3 Roller Crushers. 3 Disintegrators .	2,500	4,000	6,250
		2 Units of Roller crushers.			
20	East India Bone Mills, Neoapalli Rly. Station, Nandyal Distt., Kurnool.		...	...	...
21	Ahmed Nagar Tannery & Bone Mills, Dhulia, Bombay.		...	...	...
22	Ahmed Nagar Tannery & Bone Mills, Kulwa, Ahmednagar.		...	...	...
23	Ralli Brothers, Magarwara, near Cawnpore.	1	3,812	4,649	5,016

POLICY *re* UNIFORM PRICE OF OIL-CAKES AND OIL SEEDS

317. *Shri R. R. Diwakar: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government propose to adopt a uniform policy with regard to the fixing of the price of oil-cakes and oil-seeds throughout the Dominion?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: No such proposal is at present under consideration. The control over oilseeds and oils was lifted in March, 1947 after full consultation with the Provinces and States.

SUPPLY OF CHEAP FUEL AND SUBSIDIZED MANURES

318. *Shri R. R. Diwakar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government propose to encourage fast-growing fuel plantation and arrange to supply cheap fuel to the rural population, so that the major portion of the farm-yard manure will find its way into the soil?

(b) Are Government aware that even if the whole of the farm-yard manure is made available, it will meet only one-third of the total requirements and that only one-third of the total production (of farm-yard manure) is used as manure?

(c) What are the measures that Government have taken towards the production of chemical manure in the Dominion?

(d) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of adopting a policy of supply of subsidized manures in view of the high prices and difficulties of transport and in view of the fact that the Ryat will not be induced to adequately manure his holding unless the use of different kinds of manure is encouraged by subsidisation?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) Government are encouraging fuel plantations in order to supply cheap fuel.

(b) It is estimated that about 2/3rds of cow-dung manure is being used as fuel. The total quantity of cow-dung manure produced is estimated at 840 million tons green or 336 million tons dry.

(c) A large factory is in the course of erection at Sindhri (Bihar) for the production of 3,50,000 tons of Ammonium Sulphate per annum. The Ministry of Industry and Supplies except that the factory will start pilot production in about three years' time.

Steps are being taken to develop the super-phosphate industry in India. The present annual production capacity is about 50,000 tons and several units are being put up by private individuals. The export of bones from India has been restricted with a view to utilising them for the production of super-phosphates.

(d) In the Grow More Food Schemes for popularising the use of fertilizers and manures, subsidies are being offered wherever necessary to bring down high prices and high transport charges.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are any active steps being taken to encourage the production of green manure?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: Nothing beyond propaganda steps, I should imagine!

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that all economists have agreed that green manure is the best form of manure that can be supplied to the soil, will Government consider the advisability of taking special steps to encourage the production of green manure on as much land as possible?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: Scientists are not agreed on the point. As a matter of fact, I might inform the Honourable Member that our Chief Agricultural Officer here, Mr. Sethi, does not have much faith in green manures. But so far as is possible, green manures are being encouraged.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: Is there any proposal of having any large-scale casuarina plantations anywhere in India?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: As I have said, there is a proposal before all the Provincial Governments in their five year post-war development plan for increasing supply of fuel wood and they are thinking of encouraging plantations, and casuarina will necessarily be included in their plans.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: With regard to part (a) of the question, what success, if any, has the Government obtained in increasing the quantity of fuel production and what specific steps are the Government taking to further increase production?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I have here with me a long report from all the provinces as to what they have done. If the Honourable Member wants it I will hand it over to him. It covers two foolscap pages and it will take a long time to read.

Shri K. Santhanam: With reference to (a) is there any Agricultural Research Station which is doing research on fuel plantation—such as which fuel plant can grow in which climate and the like?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: The Forest Research Institute has been looking into this matter and they have been doing that.

Shri O. V. Alagesan: What are the results of the experiments at the Pusa Agricultural Institute for converting cow-dung into gas?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I could not answer that offhand.

CONSTRUCTION OF SILVER ARROW TRAIN COACHES

319. *Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways please state:

(a) whether the Silver Arrow train with special coaches touring the various parts of India has completed its itinerary;

(b) if so, the suggestions received from public and when Government intend to place orders for construction of these coaches; and

(c) the building programme for such coaches?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). A questionnaire dealing specifically with the amenities provided and the special features of these coaches was distributed to the visitors with a view to eliciting public opinion. From a scrutiny of the replies received it is evident that the various features incorporated in the design were well received by the public.

As a result of the opinions obtained on the 'Silver Arrow' train a revised schedule of requirements for coaching stock of all classes has been drawn up. Negotiations are in progress with certain indigenous firms for the building of sample light weight 11'-8" wide coaches incorporating these requirements.

The coaches comprising the 'Silver Arrow' were built on ordinary standard underframes for the purpose merely of conveying to the public the future scale and form of amenities proposed to be provided in the different classes. The sample coaches which will now be built will be of the stressed skin light weight type based on the most modern coach building practices. The sample coaches are expected to be ready by August next year after which it is hoped to place orders for bulk manufacture by indigenous firms.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: May I know whether Government will be pleased to place first the orders for the third class coaches and after they are completed, the orders for the upper class and others?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As a matter of fact that is not going to speed up the process of manufacture because most of the suggestions we have received in reply to the questionnaire had been with regard to the design of the third class coaches. So the redesigning would be more with regard to third class coaches than with regard to others. In any case, if we are able to get these sample coaches built by August, I think it will be possible for us to introduce these coaches within a reasonable time.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Is it not possible to manufacture these coaches in our workshops?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: All the orders are being placed in India.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: In our railway workshops?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I do not think it will be possible to get these things made entirely in our railway workshops. It will be necessary to call in the assistance of outside workshops.

Seth Govinddas: Are not certain parts being built in our Government workshops?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: But the idea is, as indicated in my questionnaire, that we are to alter the whole composition of these coaches. As a matter of fact in the Silver Arrow train, as exhibited here, the under-frame was different from the body. What we are trying to do now is to have an integrated whole that will greatly reduce the weight. That means a comprehensive redesign.

Seth Govinddas: I wanted to know whether certain parts of these coaches—the Honourable Member said an order was being placed in India—would be built in Government workshops.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it a fact that some of these coaches in the Silver Arrow train which were approved by the persons who inspected them were manufactured in the G.I.P. workshops in Bombay?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes, part of the work will be done in the workshop.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Was not one of the particular coaches wholly manufactured in a shop in Bombay?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes: What happened in the G.I.P. workshop was that we had the under-frame and the body was built on it. We are not going to repeat that because the under-frame and the body would hereafter be one complete whole.

(Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar again rose in his seat.)

Mr. Speaker: The information has now been given.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I ask the Government what is the extra cost involved in building these coaches?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am not in a position to give the exact figure.

PRODUCTION OF STEEL IN INDIA

†320. *Shri Debi Prosad Khaitan: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated production of steel in the Dominion of India in the year 1947;

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

(b) the highest annual production of steel during the last five years;
(c) the total annual capacity of the present plants to produce steel; and
(d) the reasons for the reduced output and the steps that are being taken to obtain maximum production?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Approximately 900,000 tons.

(b) 1,166,204 tons in 1943.

(c) 1,254,000 tons.

(d) The main reason for the reduced output is labour unrest. Transport difficulties are a contributing factor. The Government intend to discuss with labour and employees the steps to be taken to eliminate labour unrest.

GOODS RAILWAY WAGONS AND ROLLING STOCK MAROONED IN PAKISTAN

†321. *Shri Debi Prosad Khaitan: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of goods railway wagons available on the Indian State Railways before the partition of India;

(b) the number of such wagons or rolling stock for goods, which has been allotted to Pakistan, and the number that is now left with the Indian Dominion;

(c) whether it is a fact that a large number of wagons sent to Pakistan have not been returned by that Dominion to India; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, their number, the steps that are being taken to get them back and with what prospects?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The number of goods wagons for public use on Indian Government Railways before partition was—

Broad Gauge	1,74,891
Metre Gauge	45,528
Narrow Gauge.	3,254

(b) The division of stock between India and Pakistan was arranged provisionally on the basis of notional boundary. The Partition Sub-Committee are meeting shortly to finalise the division in accordance with the Boundary Commission's award.

(c) and (d). Approximately, 3,855 Broad Gauge and 1,082 Meter Gauge Wagons sent to the Pakistan Railways on and after 16th August 1947 had not been returned by 31st October, 1947. Consequent on the partition, a general upsetting of operational conditions was inevitable. The Director of Wagon Interchange who controls the Board and Metre Gauge Wagon Pools to which the Pakistan Railways are a party, has been pressing upon the Pakistan Railways to return some of the stock, and has reported that a distinct improvement in the return of wagons by the Pakistan Railways is noticeable from 1st November 1947. With improvement in operational conditions, it is expected that the Pakistan Railways will be in a position to return more wagons, the number to be returned depending upon final allocation to those Railways of the Rolling stock, on division.

PRODUCTION OF COTTON CLOTH BY INDIAN MILLS

†322. *Shri Debi Prosad Khaitan: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state what was the average monthly production of cotton cloth in the Indian Dominion during the last three months for which figures are available?

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

(c) Government expect that the mills that will start working within the next two or three years are as follows:—

Year	No. of Mills	No. of Spindles	No. of Looms
		(Approximate)	
1947-48	9	1,34,800	2,500
1948-49	9	1,28,740	2,200
1949-50	8	1,64,000	3,000
1950-51	11	2,38,500	4,700

But such estimates are clearly liable to error, since everything depends upon availability in foreign markets.

Statement

Province.	No. of Mills	No. of Spindles
Bombay	4	48,000
U. P.	10	1,86,420
C. P.	6	1,26,000
Bihar	8	1,97,540
Madras	23	2,67,200
East Punjab	4	54,000
West Bengal	9	1,24,524
Assam	2	1,00,000
Orissa	4	12,800
Total	70	12,22,684
States	33	6,40,302
Grand Total	103	18,62,986

New Mills in respect of which orders were placed before December 1944

Bombay	2	20,000
Delhi	2	50,000
Madras	5	54,000
Bengal	1	12,800
Total	10	1,36,800

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Statement II.

Province	No. of promoters who have placed orders.	Total Spindlage	Spindles expected to be delivered in				
			1947-48	1948-49	1949-50	1950-51	After-wards
Assam	1	75,000	...	...	25,000	...	50,000
Orissa	4	1,19,000	44,000	...	...	25,000	50,000
Bengal	9	1,14,524	12,800	8,000	...	...	1,06,524
	1	12,800	...	...	...	25,000	29,000
East Punjab	4	54,000	...	...	...	19,000	82,000
C. P. & Berar	5	1,01,000	...	...	...	50,000	97,540
Bihar	8	1,97,540	...	...	50,000	50,000	1,94,960
Madras	20	2,31,200	24,000	40,740	12,000	13,500	...
	*5	54,000	...	...	...	...	25,000
Delhi	*2	50,000	25,000	...	...	...	...
Bombay	*2	20,000	...	10,000	10,000	...	...
U. P.	6	1,28,410	...	25,000	25,000	...	78,410
Total	67	1,157,474	105,800	83,740	122,000	132,500	713,434
States	30	571,302	29,000	45,000	42,000	106,000	349,302
Grand Total	97	1,728,776	134,800	128,740	164,000	238,500	1,062,736

*Denotes promoters who placed orders before December 1944.

Mr. Speaker: Has the Honourable Member been authorised to ask the question. (Addressing Shri M. A. Ayyangar). Has the questioner given the Honourable Member a written authority?

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Yes, he has.

Mr. Speaker: Then that question will come up last† and the authority will now apply to question No. 324 only.

DELAYED DELIVERY OF LETTERS, TELEGRAMS AND AIR MAILS

‡324. ***Shri Debi Prosad Khaitan:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the constant delay that takes place in the delivery of letters and telegrams, including mails despatched by air?

(b) What steps, if any, have Government taken to remove this complaint?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the answer given by me to starred question No. 156 by Shri Gopal Narain on the 20th November, 1947.

RAILWAY CARRIAGES AND COACHES IN POSSESSION OF MILITARY AUTHORITIES

325. ***Mr. R. K. Sidhwa:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways please state the number of Railway carriages and coaches still in possession of the Military authorities in India on the Assam and other borders, which were requisitioned for evacuating the British and other Military personnel from those areas?

(b) Do Government propose to take action to see that all these carriages are released without delay?

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

‡ Could not be taken at during question hour.

(b) What was the highest annual production of cotton cloth during the last five years?

(c) What is the maximum producing capacity of Indian mills and what steps are being taken to increase the production?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) The average monthly production of mill-made cotton cloth in the Indian Dominion during the 3 months ending the 31st October 1947 was 302 million yards; it was 307 million yards in the whole sub-continent.

(b) 4,811 million yards of mill-made cotton cloth in 1944, in undivided India.

(c) The Post-war Planning Committee on Textiles estimated the maximum productive capacity of the mills in undivided India as about 4,800 million yards a year. As regards the latter part of the question, I invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the press note issued at the beginning of November, which is laid on the table of the House.

PRESS NOTE

The Government of India have viewed with concern the continued fall in the production of cloth and yarn during the last few months. A variety of reasons have contributed to this fall amongst which are a recent and progressive shift of production from coarse and medium varieties produced with Indian cotton, to relatively finer varieties, the reduction of the working day from 9 to 8 hours since August, 1946, and the general unrest and relaxation of effort which have followed the strain of the war years. In February, 1947, the Government of India appointed an *ad hoc* departmental Committee to investigate the causes of the fall in production, and the price structure which had apparently made it remunerative for the mills to shift production from coarse and medium to finer varieties. This Committee has prepared a scheme for standardisation of production, with two main features:—

(a) the lowering of the average count produced by each mill, and

(b) the reduction of the types and varieties so as to increase production by making the maximum use of the available supplies of yarn.

The scheme will restrict production to such varieties as are in popular demand, reduce unnecessary widths and specify the minimum breaking strength of yarn. The objective is to produce more and better cloth, at the expense of finer varieties worn only by a few classes. This scheme, which is expected to increase production by about 400 million yards of mill cloth and 400 million yards of handloom cloth, has found general support and has been endorsed by the Commodities Prices Board. The Committee also recommended a revision of the price structure which involved an increase in the price of coarse cloth and yarn. The Commodities Prices Board have viewed this proposal with dis favour and suggested that, if necessary, price adjustments should be secured by an Equalisation Fund where by the prices of fine varieties are utilised to subsidise coarse and medium varieties.

Government have carefully considered the report of the *ad hoc* Committee, and the views of the Commodities Prices Board, and have also taken into account the weight of public opinion against any increase in the price of an essential commodity like cloth. They have accordingly decided to remit the whole question to the Tariff Board for advice. As an immediate practical measure, however, Government are bringing into force from the 1st December 1947 the scheme for the standardisation of production referred to earlier. They are also constituting an Equalisation Fund to which will be credited

(a) the difference between existing ex-mill prices of fine and superfine cloth and the lower prices which the *ad hoc* Committee believe to be fair;

(b) half of the amount now being paid as quota-holders' commission which Government have decided to reduce with effect from the 1st January 1948 from 3 to 1½ per cent

and (c) a surcharge on a sliding scale on "free" yarn sold by mills.

If Government decide on the recommendations of the Tariff Board to increase the prices of any types or varieties of cloth or yarn, such increase will be given retrospective effect on all cloth and yarn delivered by the mills under the Standardisation Scheme after 1st December 1947, provided a prescribed target of production has been reached. "On account" payments will be made to a mill if such assistance is shown to be necessary for the maintenance of production. Regional and Unit Production Committee consisting of representatives of labour and industry will also be set up to ensure that there is no leakage at the mill-end and that labour fully co-operates in the production programme.

Government will appeal to labour to work slightly longer hours than at present as an emergency measure. Any overtime will, of course, be adequately remunerated. Besides such compensation, suitable labour welfare measures in the Cotton Textile Industry will be financed by Government out of the Equalisation Fund which it is proposed to create on the lines suggested by the Commodities Prices Board.

During recent weeks there has been considerable controversy on the question of decontrol of cloth and yarn. Government are of the view that with supplies well below demand, immediate decontrol would only lead to a repetition of the shortages and the high prices which occurred in 1943 and were the direct reasons for the institution of the existing control over cloth and yarn. Apart from the grave hardships which will ensue, should such a situation recur, an increase of the price levels of cloth and yarn to those of 1943 would start an inflationary spiral dangerous to the country's economy. If, however, the present scheme for increase of production should produce the expected results, relaxation or withdrawal of existing control would become feasible. It is the policy of Government to continue the control only so long as is necessary in the best interests of the country, and in a form which will throw the least inconvenience on consumer and producer alike.

LICENSES FOR NEW COTTON MILLS IN INDIA

†323. ***Shri Debi Prosad Khaitan:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the number of and the names of the provinces for which licences have been granted to start cotton mills in India, how many of the mills have been able to raise the necessary capital therefor, how many have placed orders for machinery and for what delivery, and how many have started operations for the building of factories?

(b) How many of such license-holders have returned their licences to Government and for what provinces?

(c) How many factories, under such licences, are expected to start working within the next 2 and 3 years, respectively, and how many Spindles and Looms are expected to start working during the same period?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) The number of promoters who have received licences for textile machinery to establish new cotton textile mills in India, including the States exceeding to India and Hyderabad, is 113. This includes 10 mills in respect of which orders were placed before December 1944, when Government initiated their textile expansion plan. Details are given in Statement I which is placed on the table of the House. Government have in all cases permitted the issue of the necessary capital, if applied for. 97 promoters have placed orders, and the total number of spindles ordered so far is 1,728,776. Details regarding expected delivery are given in Statement II which is placed on the table of the House. About 30 mills have started building operations.

(b) Three licences, involving 49,000 spindles, have been cancelled owing to the inability of the licence-holders to obtain machinery. The details are as follows:—

Province	No. of Mills	No. of Spindles
C. P.	1	25,000
Madras	2	24,000
Total.	3	49,000

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

(c) Are Government aware that the retention of these carriages by the Military Authorities has caused the travelling public great hardship and difficulty?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) At present no such stock is in the possession of the Military Authorities in India.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: May I know if all the coaches have been now restored to the Railway Board?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The Honourable Member's question here relates to coaches which have been used on the Assam and other borders. They are meter gauge coaches. No meter gauge coaches are at present on loan. All the coaches on loan to the Defence Department now are broad gauge coaches.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: How many coaches are still with the military authorities?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The latest figure is 509.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: By when are they likely to be released?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am not in a position to say. Since I last reported to the House, that is last week, we have had 15 coaches released. If the release goes on at that rate I think we should be able to get them back within a fairly short time.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: To what railways do they belong?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Practically all the railways.

Begum Aizaz Rasul: What is the total number of broad gauge coaches?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The number of broad gauge coaches lent to the Defence Department is, as I said, 509.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member wants to know the total number of broad gauge coaches of which the 509 lent to the Defence Department is a part.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am afraid I cannot give the answer off-hand. I will give the Honourable Member the figure later on.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Is it not a fact that the previous estimate of the Railway Member was that the coaches would be restored to the Railways in July 1947?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Various things have occurred which have upset our original programme.

Mr. Speaker: This question was dealt with fully during the discussion of the Railway Budget in the Honourable Member's speech.

SETTING UP OF AN ALL-INDIA CENTRAL MILK BOARD

326. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one of the Agricultural Planning Panel Committees has recommended that an All-India Central Milk Board should be established; and

(b) if so, when Government propose to constitute such a Board?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) The Policy Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries recommended that the Central Government should take steps to set up an Indian Central Milk and Dairy Committee to co-ordinate and guide the work of cattle breeding and dairying in India.

(b) The recommendation was considered by the Government who decided that instead of setting up Commodity Committees the Government of India should itself set up institutes, research stations, etc., as may be required.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In pursuance of the decision of the Government that they should themselves set up such institutes and research stations, may I know if any steps have been taken in the direction and if so, what progress has been made?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: There is already one Dairy institute under the Government of India which is situated at Bangalore. Steps are being taken to improve and expand that institute. Then there is going to be started another institute at Jubbulpore and a proposal to start another institute near about Delhi is under consideration.

Seth Govinddas: By what time will the Jubbulpore scheme come into existence?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: It has passed through the Standing Finance Committee and further steps are being taken.

CONSTITUTION OF AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONNECTION WITH MILK PRODUCTION

327. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the lack of contact between Agricultural Marketing Department and the public; and

(b) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of constituting an Advisory Committee including the representatives of Kisan Congress and the various organisations intimately connected with milk production?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) No.

(b) Government have under consideration a proposal to constitute an All India Agricultural Marketing Board to advise them as recommended by the Marketing Sub-Committee of the Policy Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, presided over by Sir T. Vijayaraghavacharya.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister consider the advisability of including in the constitution of that Committee representatives of organisations interested in the development of agricultural marketing?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: Of course the matter will be considered when the committee is to be constituted.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: There are at present in each province provincial co-operative agricultural marketing boards and if that is so, with very little difficulty is it not possible for the Central Government to have a central organisation here at Delhi which would co-ordinate the activities of these various organisations?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: The recommendation of the Vijayaraghavachariar Committee is under consideration and steps will be taken to constitute the committee.

JUTE FIBRE FROM PAKISTAN AND ITS PRODUCTION IN INDIA

328. **Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent India is dependent upon Pakistan for her needs for jute fibre;

(b) what steps are being taken to increase the production of jute and similar fibres in different parts of India and with what success; and

(c) whether it is not possible to raise the fibre plants along most of the railway and road linings of India without encroaching upon the crop areas of the country?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) Cotton—9·2 lakh bales (of long and medium staple) and 3 lakh bales (of short staple).

Jute—45 lakhs bales.

(1 bale = 400 lbs.)

(b) As regards cotton, the problem is being tackled by recommending measures for increasing the area under desirable types to the maximum extent possible, without encroaching upon the area under food crops and for raising the yield per acre by extension of irrigation, use of manure, improved seed, judicious system of rotation and so forth. In fact the whole question has just been examined by the Indian Central Cotton Committee at its meeting held on 21st November 1947, its recommendations are not yet available.

The Indian Central Jute Committee is looking into the question of jute and it is considered that by increasing the yield per acre by the use of seeds of improved strains, by applying correct fertilisers, and by utilising tracts of waste land and current fallows and by adopting a judicious system of crop rotation in the jute growing areas of West Bengal, Bihar, Assam and Orissa, it will be possible to increase the production of jute without decreasing the area under paddy so as to reduce gradually India's dependence on imports to a very large extent in the course of next few years. The policy which will be followed by the Government of India in the matter is under active consideration.

As regards fibres other than Cotton and Jute, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research as under examination the recommendations made by the Fibre Development Officer.

The Indian Central Coconut Committee is also considering the question of increasing the production of heavy coir yielding coconuts.

(c) So long as the food position of the country remains difficult as it is now, such lands should be put under food crops rather than under fibre plants.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: With reference to part (c) of the question where I have suggested the use of railway and road linings for this purpose, will Government consider the advisability of using these spaces for the cultivation of fibre crops?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: So far as railway lands are concerned the question whether they can be utilised has been under consideration but that is a question which the Railway Minister will be in a better position to answer. As regards road lands whether they can be better utilised for fibre or food crops is a question on which there may be difference of opinion.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government aware of the fact that a fibre crop which is not very much different from jute is very generally grown in South India as one of the mixed crops and whether Government will consider the advisability of encouraging its production?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: If the Honourable Member will give me some details about the particular fibre I shall have the matter looked into.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: It is hemp.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: Will the Honourable Minister please state whether any survey has been made, particularly in Bihar and Orissa to find out what additional acreage is available for the cultivation of jute?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: The matter is under consideration at the present moment. We are considering what steps we can take for expanding jute cultivation.

EXPENDITURE ON 'GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN'.

329. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) how much money has so far been spent on 'Grow More Food Campaign' and in what years and in what provinces and with what results;

(b) whether Provincial Governments have been asked to send periodical reports;

(c) what amounts out of the development grants made in the last Budget for Provincial Governments have been set apart by Provincial Governments for this campaign; and

(d) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of reconstituting their earlier specific allotments for this campaign and its various items?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) The Honourable Member may kindly see the statements appended to my reply to question No. 132 asked by Shri Biswanath Das on the 20th instant.

(b) Yes. Provinces are asked to send annual and quarterly progress reports.

(c) A statement giving the available information is placed on the table.

(d) It has been decided that provision will be made on a separate basis for Grow More Food schemes for the year 1948-49; the amounts so provided being shown separately from the general development block grants.

Statement showing the amounts set apart by Provincial Governments for Grow More Food Campaign out of the Development grants.

Serial No.	Name of the Province	Total Block Grant	Amount set apart
1	Ajmer-Merwara	+	5,62,919
2	Assam	2,25,00,000	23,81,000
3	Bihar	4,50,00,000	..
4	Bombay	2,00,00,000	..
5	C. P. & Berar	2,75,00,000	9,50,000
6	Coorg-Morcarra	+	2,00,000
7	Delhi	+	10,00,000
8	East Punjab	* 4,00,00,000	5,81,000
9	Madras	6,25,00,000	1,72,00,000
10	Orissa	2,00,00,000	99,80,666
11	United Provinces	7,50,00,000	42,00,000
12	West Bengal	*12,00,00,000	22,00,000

† These figures relate to the grants sanctioned for Bengal and Punjab before partition.

*Figures of total block grants sanctioned for centrally administered areas are not readily available.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I know from the Honourable Minister what is the total extent of uncultivable and available on the whole and to what extent it has been brought into use under this campaign and what steps the Government propose to take to bring the remaining land also under cultivation?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: Sir, I would require notice of that question to give the Honourable Member the figures.

Shri Jadubans Sahay: In view of the fact that the aboriginal and Harijan cultivators have not been able to take full advantage of the Grow More Food Campaign, do the Government propose to reduce their contribution to the fund of eight annas in the rupee to four annas or less in the rupee, so that these

aboriginal and Harijan cultivators may be able to take full advantage of the funds allowed to them by the Grow More Food Campaign?

An Honourable Member: Is it a levy?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: It is not a levy but for every scheme which is accepted, the cost is borne by three parties. The Provincial Government contributes four annas, the Central Government four annas and the remaining eight annas is contributed by the owner of the land himself. That has been the system up to now generally. The suggestion made by the Honourable Member is that in the case of aboriginal and Harijan cultivators the contribution made by them should be reduced. At present there is no such proposal before me and we have not considered it.

Mrs. Renuka Ray: May I know what steps are being taken by Government to increase the yield per acre of food crops, as distinct from increasing the acreage by irrigation schemes over a longer period?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: The Grow More Food scheme contemplates three methods for increasing the yield per acre, namely, by improving irrigation, by supplying better quality of seed and by supplying manures. These three methods are utilised for increasing the yield per acre.

Mrs. Renuka Ray: What steps are being taken to distribute manure to cultivators for improving the yield?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: It is being distributed in some places through co-operative societies, in other places through government agencies. Other agencies are also employed for the purpose of distribution.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar: Have the Government considered the question of regulating the rotation of crops with reference to the Grow More Food campaign?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: The rotation of crops is very difficult to be regulated by Government. We have not got any all-India plan by which we could regulate the rotation of crops. It is done by the individual cultivator, and as we have got such a large body of cultivators it is not possible from the Centre to regulate the rotation or the growing of particular crops in particular periods.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government aware that owing to the controls put on the movement of oilcakes in South India and also the non-availability of iron for the manufacture of agricultural implements, the Grow More Food campaign is considerably impeded?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I am aware that the Grow More Food campaign has suffered from non-availability of certain material.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Owing to the controls put on the movement of oilcakes from one district to another oilcake is rotting in the factory premises whereas the agricultural producers are suffering for want of oilcake for manurial purposes.

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: We have removed all control from oil and oilseeds, and I do not think there is any control on oilcakes.

Seth Govinddas: As far as irrigation is concerned, are Government thinking of investigating where tube wells can be successfully put in different parts of the country?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: Yes. The question has been under investigation and we have got a separate Officer and a separate Department working under him for the purpose of investigating this and putting tube wells wherever they can be found suitable.

Dr. V. Subrahmanyam: Is it a fact that while big agriculturists by recommendation or otherwise are able to get large quantities of manure distributed to them while, small agriculturists are not in a position to do so and are finding it difficult to get even one bag of manure?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I have no information apart from what the Honourable Member has said. But it may be true that bigger people have advantages which smaller people may not have.

Shri M. S. Aney: Can the Honourable Minister say whether any officer in charge of these tube well operations was deputed to the Central Provinces, particularly to find out the possibility of irrigating lands in those parts of the Province which are not well supplied with water?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: He has been charged to have investigations made throughout the country. I could not answer off hand what steps he has taken with reference to the Central Provinces.

Begum Aizaz Rasul: May I know if the Government feel that the results achieved by this Grow More Food campaign justify the amount of money spent by Government?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: It is a question of policy in this respect.

Begum Aizaz Rasul: I want to know the Government's opinion.

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: Government is satisfied with the results.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF CROPS IN INDIA.

330. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any directorate in the Ministry of Agriculture or Food for studying the manner in which the various crops are being raised in the different provinces, from year to year, in relation to the areas under them, their yields and their prices;

(b) whether any effort is sought to be made by Provincial Governments or the Central Government to bring about voluntary or statutory crop planning; and

(c) whether Government propose to hold a Crop Planning Conference to study the ways and means for a more useful and profitable crop development in India, to make the best use of our lands and to afford the largest incomes and wages to our peasants and agricultural workers, respectively?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) The Economics and Statistics Section in the Ministry of Agriculture maintains statistics of the area, yield and prices of principal crops raised in different Provinces from year to year. The reorganisation of this Section so as to cover the entire sphere of agricultural statistics is under consideration.

(b) At present there is no overall voluntary or statutory crop planning either by Provincial Governments or the Central Government, in the sense of aiming to attain specific pre-determined acreage and production targets in respect of each crop. The 'Grow More Food' plans of the Government of India are, however, designed to increase the production of food crops to the maximum extent, and in this connection, some Provinces have made statutory provision for limiting the growth of non-food crops.

(c) Government do not consider that any useful purpose will be served by calling a Crop Planning Conference until the agricultural development plans

which have already been prepared are put into operation and overall agricultural production has increased to a sufficient extent to permit of planned expansion or curtailment in respect of different crops. Moreover, crop planning involves enforcement of an accepted plan which will need provincial legislation. Unless all areas including acceding States simultaneously agree and enforce the plan, it will not serve any useful purpose.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that several Committees and Commissions have already drawn the attention of the Government to the very defective nature of their agricultural statistics and have asked Government to take steps to improve the statistics?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: As I have said, steps are being taken to improve the work of the Economics and Statistics Section.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that again and again for the last six or seven years the answer has been given that 'steps are being taken', will Government take some energetic steps to see that something is really done in the near future?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I may inform the Honourable Member that in two Provinces at least—the whole of Bengal and Bihar—plot to plot survey has been made in the last two years and statistics were collected. They were compared with the statistics which are collected normally in the ordinary course. The results have not been found always to tally. Evidently improvement is required and that is what is being done.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not possible for Government to hold such a conference as is suggested here and then give advice to the growers as to the growing of which crops will be more profitable, more patriotic and so on? If I may supply some information, there is the tobacco crop today. The market is completely dull and the bottom has gone out of it, and people are faced with bankruptcy. If Government is in a position to supply information to these people and warn them in time it will be possible to prevent such catastrophe.

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: It all assumes that the Government have the necessary information in time to give warning to the people. But I suppose the ordinary agriculturist gets the warning perhaps more promptly than the Government itself.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it a fact that during last year a large acreage under foodgrains has been converted for the growing of commercial crops?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I understand that is so in Madras.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know what steps are taken by that Government to decrease the acreage of commercial crops and increase the acreage of food crops?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: The food situation is such that we trust the local Government will take the necessary steps to improve the food production.

UTILIZATION OF RAILWAY BRIDGES FOR VEHICULAR AND PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC

331. *Shri B. A. Mandloi: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government propose to consider the question of converting important railway bridges on the State-owned Railways into bridges for dual purposes, viz., rail, and other vehicular and pedestrian traffic with a view to developing road traffic and to save extra costs on construction of separate bridges over roads?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The Government have always been prepared to consider this question.

Decisions taken must however depend to a large extent upon the capacity of of structures to carry the extra loads which the addition of road decks would imply.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I know what steps are being taken to permit motor traffic over the Narbada bridge between Khandwa and Indore?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That does not arise out of the question. I believe there is a question on that coming later.

ROAD TRANSPORT ON B. B. & C. I. AND G. I. P. RAILWAY BRIDGES OVER THE NERBUDDA

332. *Shri B. A. Mandloi: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government propose to examine the feasibility of adding road transport on the following railway bridges:

(i) the Nerbudda bridge on the B. B. and C. I. Railway (metre gauge) between Mortakka and Barwaha Railway Stations; and

(ii) the Nerbudda bridge on the G. I. P. Railway section between Vikrampur and the Marble Rock Stations?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: No request for adding roadway facilities to these two bridges, has been received from any Civil Authority. The Government of India would be prepared to examine the feasibility of these proposals, if requested to do so, by the Road Authority concerned with whom the initiative for such proposals rests.

IMPORT OF FOODGRAINS FROM ABROAD AND ALLOCATION TO PAKISTAN

333. *Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state the total volume of food-stuffs that have been procured from outside India during the current year up to the middle of November 1947?

(b) What are the categories of food stuffs that have been imported from different countries and what are their respective quantities?

(c) What is the total value of these imports?

(d) Has any portion of these food-stuffs been procured by exchange of commodities from India? If so, what is the nature of such transactions?

(e) What portions of the imported food-stuffs have been allocated to Pakistan and what is their total value?

(f) Is it a fact that the Government of Pakistan is also importing food-stuffs from abroad independently of the Government of India?

(g) If so, is it done without any previous reference to the Indian Dominion, and has it affected in any way the position of the Government of India in the matter of procurement of food from foreign countries?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a), (b) and (c). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(d) A quantity of 4.4 lakh tons of foodgrains has been contracted for from Argentina against 60,000 tons of Hessian. 15,300 tons of foodgrains were received from Aden, Abyssinia and Iraq against quotas of 42 lakhs yards of textiles given in part cost of the grain.

(e) One shipment of 8,687 tons of wheat was given to Pakistan in November, 1947. The value of this shipment is approximately 26 lakhs. A quantity of 15,000 tons of Cuban sugar was allocated to Pakistan. The approximate cost of this sugar is Rupees 81 lakhs.

(f) Pakistan has imported a small quantity of rice from Burma. So far as the Government of India are aware no other imports of foodgrains have been made by Pakistan.

(g) Pakistan as an independent Member of the I.E.F.C. has a right to ask the council for allotment of foodgrains. The position of the Government of India is not affected by any demand placed by Pakistan on the I.E.F.C.

Statement of foodstuffs imported from January to November 15, 1947

Country	Kind of food-stuffs	Quantity (in '000 tons)	Value (in lakhs of rupees)
Australia	Wheat	151	568
East Africa	"	15	39
U. S. A.	"	312	1240
Abyssinia	"	3	6
Argentina	"	6	40
Turkey	"	83	448
Canada	Flour	90	521
Australia	"	13	73
Ceylon	"	8	48
U. S. A.	"	73	367
Burma	Rice	353	1630
Egypt	"	30	198
Saigon	"	7	33
Brazil	"	43	248
Siam	"	15	63
French Indo-China	"	2	11
Java	Paddy	10	16
Abyssinia	Maize	1	2
Iraq	"	4	2
U. S. A.	"	21	66
Turkey	"	5	18
Burma	"	11	30
East Africa	"	1	3
Argentina	"	118	413
Iraq	Barley	74	243
Turkey	"	37	150
Argentina	"	32	113
Australia	"	18	61
Iraq	Millets	10	25
Australia	"	7	2
East Africa	"	2.9	10
Ceylon	"	1	3
Argentina	"	3	8
Abyssinia	"	7	13
Egypt	"	1	1
U. S. A.	Milo	457	1346
Ceylon	"	9	28
Canada	Oats	8	22
Argentina	"	3	1
			81.06
Cuban	Sugar	30	1.62 crores

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Was any arrangement arrived at between the Indian Dominion and the Pakistan Dominion before partition as to the future distribution and allocation of food stuffs that should be acquired by the Government of India from foreign countries?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: It was agreed that existing arrangements should continue.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Do I take it, Sir, that the Pakistan Government is allowing exchange of commodities such as jute and jute mixtures for procurement of foodgrains? Are they allowing that?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I am not aware of that. I do not think they are exchanging jute for foodgrains.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is the Honourable Member aware that last year a huge quantity of hessian went to Brazil and Argentine for getting food crops? Are these arrangements possible even now?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: As a matter of fact we ourselves have arranged with Argentine for import of foodgrains in exchange of jute products, but I do not know if Pakistan has done that. It is open to them to have that kind of arrangement if they so desire.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is it obligatory on the Government of India to pass on a portion of the foodgrains so acquired to Pakistan under any arrangement?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: No, I think our obligation now is to our own territory.

Seth Govinddas: Did the Government approach Russia for foodgrains, and if so, what reply has been received from them?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: We have approached Russia and the matter is still under negotiation. We have not reached a decision.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I ask Government whether there is any scheme under the contemplation of Government to make India self-sufficient so far as food is concerned? If so, when can we expect it?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: The idea is to make India self-sufficient as to when we shall succeed in doing so is more than I can say at present.

Shri S. Nagappa: What attempts did Government make to make India self-sufficient in food?

Mr. Speaker: We are now getting into argument. Next question.

GOVERNMENT CONTROL OVER NEW AIR SERVICES CONCERNS

†334. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new air services have been licensed and that they have started functioning since 1945;

(b) the main centres between which air services operate today;

(c) the number of concerns which are predominantly owned and managed by Indians; and

(d) the nature of control Government have over these concerns regarding distribution of profits, service conditions for their employees, safety conveniences, rest places, hospitals and other facilities provided for passengers?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: (a) Yes.

(b) I lay on the table of the House a statement showing the air services which are in operation at present.

(c) All the air transport companies shown in the statement are predominantly owned and managed by Indians.

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

(d) Part XIII of the Indian Aircraft Rules, 1937, provides that no scheduled air transport service may be operated in India without a licence granted for the purpose by the Air Transport Licensing Board. The system of licensing prescribed in the Rules ensures proper organization and equipment of air routes, competency of personnel, airworthiness of aircraft and other safety factors. The Air Transport Licensing Board have power to control the fixation of passenger fares, air mail rates and freight charges and thus have control over the profits distributed by the Operating Companies. The Government have no direct control in the matter of service conditions of the employees of the companies. Rest places and other facilities for passengers are provided as a part of Government's Aerodrome Organization.

Statement showing the Regular Air Services in Operation at Present

S. No.	Route	Frequency of Services	Company
1	Bombay—Madras	5 times a week	Air India Ltd., Bombay.
	Karachi—Bombay	7 times a week	
	Bombay—Delhi (non-stop)	7 times a week	
	Karachi—Ahmedabad—Bombay—Hyderabad—Madras—Colombo	7 times a week	
	Bombay—Ahmedabad—Jaipur—Delhi	7 times a week	
	Bombay—Calcutta	7 times a week	
	Madras—Bangalore—Coimbatore—Cochin—Trivandrum	6 times a week	
2	Delhi—Jodhpur—Karachi	7 times a week	Indian National Airways Ltd., New Delhi.
	Lahore—Bikaner—Jodhpur—Ahmedabad (Under suspension)	2 times a week	
	Calcutta—Delhi—Lahore	7 times a week	
	Delhi—Amritsar	7 times a week	
	Calcutta—Rangoon	6 times a week	
3	Bombay—Junagadh (Keshod)—Jamnagar—Bhuj—Karachi	7 times a week	Air Services of India Ltd, Bombay.
	Bombay—Bhopal—Cawnpore—Lucknow. (Under suspension.)	7 times a week	
	Jamnagar—Wadhwan—Wankaner—Ahmedabad	1 time a week	
	Bombay—Gwalior—Delhi	6 times a week	
	Bombay—Bhavnagar	3 times a week	
	Bombay—Porbandar—Jamnagar—Bhuj	2 times a week	
4	Delhi—Gwalior—Bhopal—Nagpur—Hyderabad—Madras	7 times a week	Deccan Airways Ltd., Begumpet.
	Hyderabad—Bangalore	4 times a week	
	Hyderabad—Bombay	7 times a week	
5	Bombay—Nagpur—Calcutta	7 times a week	Mistry Airways Ltd. Bombay.
6	Bombay—Baroda—Ahmedabad	2 times a week	Ambica Air Lines Ltd., Bombay.
	Bombay—Rajkot—Morvi	7 times a week	
7	Calcutta—Vizagapatam—Madras—Bangalore	3 times a week	Airways (India) Ltd., Calcutta.
8	Delhi—Lucknow—Gaya—Calcutta	3 times a week	Bharat Airways Ltd., Calcutta.
	Calcutta—Cawnpore—Allahabad—Delhi	4 times a week	
	Delhi—Amritsar	4 times a week	
	Delhi—Lucknow	3 times a week	

AIR SERVICES BETWEEN HYDERABAD AND GANNAVARAM AND GANNAVARAM AND CALCUTTA

†335. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any air service companies which are willing to run air services between Hyderabad and Gannavaram (Bezwada) to connect Bombay and Delhi with Bezwada and between Calcutta and Gannavaram; and

(b) whether Government propose to take any steps to facilitate the use of Gannavaram aerodrome as one of the principal halting places for one or more air services?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: (a) No air transport companies have applied for licences for the operation of scheduled air services between Hyderabad and Gannavaram (Bezwada). The Mistry Airways Limited, the Airways (India) Limited and the Jupiter Airways Limited have applied to the Air Transport Licensing Board for the grant of licences for the operation of air services between Calcutta and Madras with Bezwada as one of the scheduled halts. These applications will be considered by the Board shortly.

(b) The aerodrome at Gannavaram is not yet properly equipped for the operation of a scheduled air service. It is scheduled for eventual development as an intermediate aerodrome, but having regard to the requirements of India as a whole, it occupies a comparatively low priority in Government's programme of Aerodrome Construction.

INSTALLATION OF TRUNK TELEPHONE EXCHANGE AT BHADRACHALAM

†336. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Bhadrachalam in South India is a very important pilgrim centre and also a place centrally situated within the Agency as well as an important town of Hyderabad State;

(b) whether Government have received any representation for the installation of a Trunk Telephone Exchange at this place; and

(c) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of installing a Trunk Telephone Exchange at this place in view of its strategical and commercial importance?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: (a) Yes.

(b) A request for a Public Call Office at Bhadrachalam was received from the members of the Pilgrim's Board.

(c) The proposal has been examined but it was dropped on account of its being unremunerative. It will again be considered in connection with the Development programme of the Department and if it is not found feasible to provide trunk telephone facilities and additional channels of communication are found to be necessary, a wireless transmitting and receiving set will be installed.

CONSTRUCTION OF AERODROME AT ANANTAPUR IN RAYALASEEMA

†337. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to consider Anantapur in Rayalaseema (Ceded Districts) for one of the halting places on the air-routes between Bombay and Madras and Bombay and Bangalore, etc.; and

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

(b) if so, when Government propose to take up the construction of an aerodrome at that place?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: (a) and (b). There is no aerodrome at Anantapore nor do the present plans of Government for civil aviation development include the provision of an aerodrome there. The services at present operating between Bombay and Madras and Bombay and Bangalore are through air services and are not intended to serve intermediate towns of secondary importance making Anantapore a halting station on a through route would be a matter for decision by the Air Transport Licensing Board.

PRODUCTION AND IMPORT OF SALT IN INDIA SINCE THE ABOLITION OF SALT DUTY

†338. ***Prof N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

- whether India has achieved self-sufficiency in salt production;
- if not, to what extent she is dependent upon imports;
- what the production position is since salt duty has been abolished;
- when controls on salt production will be removed;
- whether the price of salt has come down and if so, to what extent since the duty has been removed; and
- in what provinces and to what approximate extent is salt being freely manufactured by the people?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee. (a) No.

(b) The present production of salt in the country including Kathiawar and Travancore is about 5 crore maunds and the consumption including States is 5½ crore maunds: the difference represents the dependence of this country upon imported salt.

(c) Production has increased in Government works in Rajputana and in private factories in Madras. In Rajputana production has risen from the average of 1 crore 8 lakh maunds to 1 crore 40 lakh maunds this year and in Madras from the average of 1 crore 33 lakh maunds to 1 crore 65 lakh maunds. Unfortunately in Bombay production fell from 115 lakh maunds to about 60 lakh maunds owing to cyclones, unseasonal rains and labour and communal troubles.

(d) It is Government's intention to issue a Salt Control Order very shortly. Control of production in the sense of discouraging the opening of new factories or extending existing factories is being removed. The control of production envisaged by the Salt Control Order will be designed to secure conditions which would result in increased production of salt and improvement in quality of the salt produced.

(e) The price of salt has come down in some parts of the country since the duty has been removed. The areas in which it has come down and the extent of the drop is:—

Assam and Bengal	Average fall of -/-/6 per seer.
Madras	Average fall of -/-/6 per seer
North C. P., Ajmer	Average fall of -/-/6 per seer.
and Gujrat	

(f) Salt is being freely manufactured by people in the coastal areas of Orissa and Bengal. The extent of the manufacture can be estimated at about 5 lakh maunds per year. In Madras manufacture of salt by people under the Gandhi-Irwin pact has been controlled to allow them enough salt for their own and surrounding villages. Over a lakh of maunds of salt are made under these conditions in the province. It is proposed to remove all

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

restrictions on private manufacture of salt, Government control being retained only on organised manufacture.

MANUFACTURE OF SUGAR BY CENTRIFUGAL OPEN PLANT SYSTEM

339. ***Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state Government's policy regarding the manufacture of sugar by centrifugal open plant system?—

- Is it a fact that manufacture of sugar by this process is prohibited?
- Are Government aware that such a plant was started at Chhindwara in Central Provinces?
- Is it a fact that the Central Excise Department ordered it to be closed down?
- Do Government propose to lay on the table of the House a statement giving all the relevant facts of the case?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) The Sugar Control Order covers all kinds of sugar (sugar being defined as anything containing 90 per cent or more of sucrose by weight), and the Government have been regulating the production, movement and prices of factory made, that is, vacuum pan sugar only. The Honourable Member is presumably referring to *khandsari* sugar produced by the open pan system. This is the concern of the Provincial Governments concerned.

Khandsari is important only in the United Provinces where it is produced in large quantities, about a lakh of tons annually. In other Provinces, it is produced in very negligible quantities. The policy of the U. P. Government has not been to discourage its production except in factory areas.

(b) No. Except, perhaps, in Bombay where it is understood, *khandsari* manufacture was prohibited last year.

(c) Government have no knowledge of this.

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise.

Seth Govinddas: Is the Government thinking of removing all control from sugar in the near future?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: We have already taken a decision to decontrol sugar and gur.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: With effect from?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: It is being worked out in the department.

NATIONALIZATION OF INDUSTRIES

340. ***Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement embodying the policy of Government so far as nationalization of industries is concerned?

(b) Is there any scheme under contemplation of Government for this purpose? If not, do Government propose to take up the matter now?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) and (b). A Statement of industrial policy was issued by the Government of India in April, 1945 and referred amongst other things to the question of nationalisation. The whole

subject is, however, now being reconsidered and Government hope to make an announcement shortly.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Within what period is the announcement likely to be made? 'Shortly' can be interpreted to mean anything.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: In the course of the next one or two months.

INDUSTRIALIZATION OF INDIA

341. *Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether Government are aware that many experts from foreign countries are available for industrialization of India?

(b) If so, what steps have Government taken so far, to obtain the services of such experts?

(c) Do Government propose to make a plan of intensive manufacture of machinery extending over a definite period?

(d) Have Government done anything in the matter so far?

(e) If not, when do Government propose to move in the matter?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) first class experts are difficult to get from foreign countries on account of rehabilitation that is going in those countries, but some experts are available for work in India, specially from Germany.

(b) to (e). Various industrial concerns in India were circularised to estimate their requirements of technical personnel to be recruited from abroad. Replies were received from a very large number of firms requiring over 200 experts of different kinds. These requirements of various industries were communicated to the Indian Military Mission in Berlin who have made necessary enquiries. Some firms have been able to secure suitable experts and necessary travel facilities have been given to bring these experts over to India. Steps are also being taken to get some experts from Japan on the requisition of industries. Industries have also been helped to get experts from America on a short-term basis. Several nationals of enemy countries, who were interned in India during the war have been made available to various industries requiring their services.

Government had constituted a Panel on "Industrial Plant & Machinery" industry. The Report of the Panel is now under examination. Meanwhile, the question whether this industry should be selected for short-term execution will be discussed with Provinces and important Indian States at a conference proposed to be held early in December.

Pending the formation of such a plan the Government of India sponsored in 1946 a delegation to the U. K. under the chairmanship of Mr. Krishnaraj Thackersey with a view to establishing a Textile Machinery manufacturing concern in the country. An agreement was reached between this Delegation and the U. K. firm of Textile Machinery Manufacturers, and a Company has been formed under the name of National Machinery Manufacturers Ltd. This Company will shortly set up its plant near Bombay.

Attempts are being made to make available the surplus resources of Ordnance Factories for the manufacture of machinery requirements of industries, and, in some cases, the industries have availed themselves of this opportunity. All schemes for expansion of manufacturing facilities submitted to Government have been supported and technical advice has been given in many cases to modify the plants to suit the country's requirements. Bids have

been made for securing suitable plant and equipment from Germany for extending the manufacture of machines in India. Four officers of I. and S. Ministry are helping in selecting equipment and machinery from Germany. Some of these plants have already arrived and are being allocated to various industries. Along with these plans, a certain number of foreign technicians are also being brought in on a contract basis.

Shri Gopikrishna Vijayavargiya: Is there any idea of getting experts from Russia also?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Yes, if they are available.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I take it that a definite plan for the manufacture of machinery would be available within a short time to the public?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We are working on that line.

Mr. B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur: May I know whether the Government has made any effort to get experts from America?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Yes, that is what I have stated.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know from the Honourable Minister whether 50 per cent of the capital is invested in foreign countries and whether managing agency also ought to be given to them?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: No decision on those points has been taken, but each case will be considered on its merits, and the interests of Indian capital will be safeguarded.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: With regard to the textile manufacturing plan to be established in India and the arrangement which the Honourable Member said is being entered into by Mr. Thackersay with some firms in the United Kingdom, I would like to know whether one of the conditions of that arrangement is that the United Kingdom people should have a share in the capital and also whether they would have their own managing agency?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Well, that is a matter for private arrangement but I think their share in the capital will not exceed 30 per cent.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not one of the terms of the Fiscal Policy Commission Report that foreign capital and foreign managing agents ought not to be allowed in this country except on special terms and for a special period, and also except with the approval of the Central Government? If so, what steps are the Government taking to scrutinise the arrangements before they are finalized?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: So far as this particular enterprise is concerned, the foreign capital will not exceed 26 to 30 per cent. So far as the other aspects of the question are concerned, Government will see to it that Indian interests are in no way prejudiced.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: The Honourable Member said that some of the Ordnance Factories have been closed down and their equipment has been made available for the manufacture of machinery. How many Ordnance Factories have been closed down?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Sir, I cannot give definite information—Ordnance Factories are under the Defence Ministry.

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid it hardly arises out of this question.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Did I understand the Honourable Member, in the course of his reply, to say that it is the policy of the Government to close down some of the Ordnance Factories and to utilise their equipment for the manufacture of machinery?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Sir, it is really a matter for the Defence Ministry.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Will the Government be pleased to state if they have approached any friendly foreign Government to open a machinery manufacturing plant in this country?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We are negotiating with different countries. Of course we have not been able to achieve any results which I can report to the House but that is a matter which is being seriously considered by the Government.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know, Sir, if Government are aware that the development of machine tool manufacturing in this country is being impeded by the lack of facilities for high grade training in machine drawing and designing?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That also is under consideration.

PROJECT TO CONNECT AMRAOTI WITH NARKHED BY RAIL

342. *Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that there was a proposal to connect Amraoti with Narkhed by rail?

(b) If so, what has happened to this project?

(c) Is there any possibility of its being taken up again?

(d) Are Government aware that this project would be highly helpful for the development of the areas through which the railway line would pass?

(e) Are Government aware that much of the tract through which it will pass is in great need of better facilities of transport?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes.

(b) The Project is under investigation.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) This is under examination.

(e) This question will be settled by the Central Board of Transport when the Project is considered by them in close co-relation with facilities existing or anticipated in the alternative forms of surface transport.

Shri M. S. Aney: May I ask the Honourable Member, on his reply to clause (a), whether a scheme for the Amraoti-Narkhed line had already got very high priority even as back as back as 1930?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That is perfectly true, Sir. But the whole question has had to be reconsidered in the light of present circumstances and what we have done now is to call for a report from the Railway concerned which is the G. I. P. Ry. I think portions of that report have already been received and we are having the whole scheme submitted to further examination from the point of view of whether it will be remunerative for the Railway to construct this new line.

Shri M. S. Aney: Is the Honourable Member aware that a survey had already taken place about the Amraoti-Narkhed line? Do they contemplate to have another survey made?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Before we come to a final decision on that question, there are certain points arising from the present circumstances of railways which have to be taken into account. I will tell the Honourable Member briefly what they are. First of all, at present the Railways have to be careful with regard to the money that they allot for fresh capital expenditure, due to the financial position of the Railways. Secondly,

there is a more vital question: in view of the prevailing scarcity of building materials of all kinds, it is necessary for the Railways to take care that their new construction lines are such as are really called for by the traffic requirements of the area. Because, as the Honourable Member is aware, new railway construction makes a very big demand on the existing supply of building materials and, therefore, the Railways in the public interest have to be extremely careful in this matter.

PROJECT TO CONNECT AMRAOTI WITH BOMBAY-NAGPUR MAIN LINE

343. *Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state what steps, if any, are being taken to place Amraoti on the main line between Bombay and Nagpur?

(b) What is the present position of the project?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The question of diverting the main line between Bombay and Nagpur *via* Amraoti has been investigated recently, and in view of the poor financial prospects revealed by the Traffic Report, the Project has been dropped.

(b) As already stated in reply to part (a), the Project has been dropped.

IMPROVEMENT OF TELEPHONE SERVICE IN DELHI

344. *Shri Mohan Lal Saxena: Will the Honourable Minister of Communications please state whether Government propose to take any steps to improve the present telephone arrangements in Delhi? If so, what?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: Yes, Sir. The following steps have already been taken or are being taken to improve the telephone service in Delhi:

(i) Replacement of time-worn equipment of 1500 lines at Secretariat Exchange by 2000 lines at Connaught Place exchange. This may be completed by the end of August, 1948.

(ii) Attempts are being made to replace the time-worn equipment of 1670 lines in the Lothian Exchange.

(iii) With the partition of India, a large number of trained mechanics have left for Pakistan. Arrangements are being made for training of new staff.

(iv) A number of experienced telephone engineers have been posted at Delhi. The telephone service is showing signs of improvement and further improvement is expected in the near future.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: When do Government propose to restore the telephone connections that were recently cut off?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: So far as I know all the connections that were recently cut off have been restored.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Who has told the Honourable Member that the telephone service in Delhi has improved recently?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: My personal experience.

Mr. B. Paker Sahib Bahadur: Is the Government aware, Sir, that where ever the Government has undertaken the telephone enterprise, it has failed and that it has got on very unsatisfactorily—not only now but even before partition?

Shri Mohan Lal Saxena: Is the Honourable Member aware that his own telephone is out of order for hours every day?

Shri H. J. Khandekar: Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that any telephone conversation between two persons is heard by a third one?

The Honourable Dr. Shama Prasad Mookerjee: (i). Rs. 41,57,000.

(ii) Rs. 27,43,865.

(iii) Other controls administered by the Ministry of Industry and Supply at present relate to Coal and Newsprint. Annual expenditure in respect of these are:—

(a) Coal—Rs. 17,40,192.

(b) Newsprint—Rs. 87,595.

SUPPLY OF CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS TO AGRICULTURISTS

348. *Shri V. 1. Munishwami Pillai: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what were the total requirements of the agriculturists of fertilizers (chemicals) province-wise during the year 1946-47 and what were the quantities made available to them?

(b) What were the different chemicals and quantities supplied to Indian Dominion from the world pool?

(c) Are Government aware that due to meagre supplies of fertilizers, much of the land (under 'Grow More Food Campaign and otherwise) prepared for cultivation had to go fallow?

(d) What steps do Government propose to take to supply large quantities of fertilizers during 1947-48 to enable ryots to undertake intensive cultivation?

(e) What are the recommendations of the Fertilizer Mission that toured India two years back and what have Government done to implement their recommendations?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) A statement showing the indents of the different provinces for chemical fertilizers during the year 1946/47 as well as the quantities allocated to them for that year is placed on the table.

(b) A statement showing the different Chemicals and quantities allocated to India by the International Emergency Food Council is placed on the table.

(c) So far as Government are aware no land is left fallow for want of fertilizers alone. It is, however, true that the yield from land which does not get enough fertilizers is poor.

(d) (i) Due to World shortage of Nitrogenous fertilizers, India has not been able to secure allocation of even 50 per cent. of her requirements of these fertilizers from the world pool. In order to make good this shortage for the current fertilizer year, producing countries outside the I.E.F.C. are being approached directly and negotiations are being carried on for the purchase of fertilizers from those sources on a barter system. So far we have been able to get a promise of 15,000 tons of sulphate of Ammonia from the U.S.S.R. for which, however, the price asked for is nearly 40 per cent. higher than that payable for I.E.F.C. allocations.

(ii) In order to step up the indigenous—production, assistance has been given in respect of petrol, steel etc. to the Travancore Factory.

(iii) Steps are being taken to develop the Superphosphate Industry in India.

(e) A summary of the recommendations of the Technical Mission appointed to advise on the production of artificial fertilizers in India will be found at pp. 40 and 41 of the report submitted by that mission. A copy of the report is available in the Library.

The Government of India have decided to construct a factory capable of producing 3,50,000 tons per annum of Ammonia Sulphate at Sindri in Bihar.

TOTAL REQUIREMENTS OF AGRICULTURISTS PROVINCE-WISE FOR 1946-47 AND THE QUANTITIES ALLOCATED TO THEM

Name of Province	Sulphate of Ammonia		Ammonium Phosphate	
	Requirement	Allocation	Requirement	Allocation
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
1. Bengal	15,000	14,400	3,000	644.30
2. Bihar	22,000	12,000	Adequate quantity.	1,100
3. Orissa	3,000	3,000	2	..
4. U. P.	25,000	20,000	1,800	600
5. Bombay	30,000	21,300	15,000	1,200
6. C. P.	3,000	2,000	1,100	1,059
7. Madras	70,000	61,000	6,000	5,910
8. Punjab	2,500	2,000	5	..
9. Sind	3,000	2,808	..	..
10. N. W. F. P.	70	50	..	..
11. Asam	155	155	..	5

I.E.F.C. ALLOCATIONS FOR 1946-47.

SULPHATE OF AMMONIA										Quantity
Name of Country										L. Tons
1. U. K.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,39,638
2. Canada.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	12,600
3. Belgium	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	11,940
Total										1,64,178
AMMONIUM PHOSPHATE										
1. Canada	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	10,150
AMMONIUM NITRATE										
1. Canada	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	6,600

I.E.F.O. ALLOCATIONS FOR 1947-8.

SULPHATE OF AMMONIA										Quantity
Name of Country										L. Tons
1. U. K.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	59,626
2. Belgium	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	27,058
3. U. S. A.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	17,410
4. Canada	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,741
Total										1,05,835
AMMONIUM PHOSPHATE										
1. Canada	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4,464
2. U. S. A.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,790
3. Belgium	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,000
Total										9,254
AMMONIUM NITRATE										
1. Canada	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	7,950
SODIUM NITRATE										
1. Chile	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	21,875
CALCIUM NITRATE										
1. Norway	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,000

DELEGATIONS SENT FOR PROCUREMENT OF FOOD-GRAINS FROM ABROAD

345. *Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the Delegations sent to the various countries from the 1st August, 1946 to the 31st October, 1947, by the Government of India for the purpose of procuring foodgrain of all kinds;

(b) the result of each Delegation and the quantity of foodgrains actually procured and received in various parts of India together with the names of the ports they were received at;

(c) the total cost paid to the sellers of such quantity of grain imported into this country; and

(d) the expenses incurred by Government in sending each delegation to foreign countries, separately?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) (1) Food Mission to Argentina in September 1946 led by Diwan Chaman Lal.

(2) Visit to Middle East and Abyssinia in September 1946 by an officer of the Food Ministry, Mr. Ijaz Ahmed.

(3) Food Mission to Argentina in August, 1947 led by Mr. J. Vesugar.

(4) Visit to Iraq and Iran in September 1947 by an officer of the Food Ministry, by H. L. Khanna.

(5) Food Delegation to Australia in October 1947 led by Sir Raghunath Paranjapye.

(b) (1) Government of India had purchased 3,60,000 tons of foodgrains in Argentina out of which there was difficulty in obtaining export permits for about 3,20,000 tons. Diwan Chaman Lal Mission succeeded in obtaining export permits from the Argentine Government for this quantity.

(2) The visit of Mr. Ijaz Ahmed to Middle East and Abyssinia was of an exploratory character to find out the extent and possibilities of obtaining foodgrains from these countries. As a result of this visit it was possible to make purchases of foodgrains through private trade from Aden and Ethiopia on the basis of part payment of cost of the foodgrains in textiles

(3) Vesugar Mission was able to procure 6.5 lakh tons of foodgrains from Argentina.

(4) Mr. Khanna was able to purchase 12,700 tons of barley from Iraq. Negotiations with Iran Government for purchase of barley were not successful.

(5) The negotiations with the Australian Government for supply of wheat are still proceeding.

Out of 6.5 lakh tons of foodgrains purchased by Vesugar Mission a quantity of about 19,000 tons has already arrived in India. The name of the ports at which this consignment was cleared and its allocation to various parts of India are given below:—

Kind of grain	Quantity in tons	Port of clearance	Allocation
Wheat	9300	Madras Calcutta	6000 Madras
			3300 Bihar
			Orissa
			Collieries
			Depot
Maize	9528	Bombay	U. P.
			Bombay
			Hyderabad

Total quantities which have left Argentine upto 20th November 1947 are:—

Wheat	57,281 tons
Maize	119,794 tons
Barley	69,792 tons

(c) 440,000 tons of grains received from Argentine was on a barter basis against 60,000 tons of hessian to be supplied by India. The exact cost of grain cannot, therefore, be worked out yet. In approximate figures the c.i.f. price of all the 650,000 tons of grains would work out to Rs. 15 per maund.

The c.i.f. price of Iraq barley purchased by Mr. Khanna works out to Rs. 13 per maund.

(d) (1) Diwan Chaman Lal's Delegation—Rs. 72,000 appr.

(2) Mr. Ijaz Ahmed's visit to Iraq and Abyssinia—Rs. 6,500 appr.

(3) Mr. Vesugar's Mission—Rs. 33,900 appr.

(4) Mr. Khanna's visit to Iran and Iraq—Rs. 7,000 appr.

(5) Mr. Vishnu Sahay's delegation—Rs. 25,000 appr.

Total Rs. 1,44,400.

POISONOUS BURMA BEANS IMPORTED INTO MADRAS

346. *Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of India had imported Burma beans for Madras, which were found to contain hydrogencyanic poison?

(b) If so, is it a fact that several persons fell ill and some also died?

(c) To which parts of India other than Madras, were these beans also supplied?

(d) From whom were these beans purchased and what action have Government taken against the sellers?

(e) Have Government taken any steps to see that in future no such beans are imported in any part of India?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad.—(a) The Government of India did not import any Burma beans. A quantity stated to be about 16,000 tons was imported by the trade in Madras on their own account.

(b) The Madras Government reported that a number of people were taken ill by eating these beans. It is not known if any person actually died.

(c) The stocks in Madras were frozen by the Madras Government and the quantity has not been allowed to be moved to any other part of the country.

(d) and (e). Government of India have no information about the actual sellers in Burma as the beans were not imported by them. Imports of Beans of all kinds is at present completely banned.

EXPENDITURE ON TEXTILE, IRON STEEL AND OTHER CONTROL DEPARTMENTS

347. *Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the total expenditure per year, on maintenance of the following Control Departments.

(i) Textile Department;

(ii) Steel and Iron Department; and

(iii) other such departments, which come within the purview of the Honourable Minister?

TRANSFER OF TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT FROM INDIA TO PAKISTAN.

349. *Shri K. Santhanam: Will the Honourable Minister of Communications please state whether any telephone equipment was transferred from India to Pakistan (i) between 1st January and 15th August 1947, and (ii) after 15th August 1947?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: (a) Between the 1st January and the 15th August, 1947, the territories which now constitute the Dominion of Pakistan formed part of India before partition. During the period from the 1st January to the 1st July 1947, there was no restriction of any sort on the issues and movement of stores to and from territories which now constitute the Dominions of India and Pakistan. On the 1st July, 1947, however, orders were issued that stores should be issued only for maintenance purposes or urgent works with the concurrence of the Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Communications. On the 21st July, 1947, free movement of stores within the territories now forming the Indian Union was permitted. Between the 1st July and the 15th August, 1947, orders were issued for the release of stores to territories now constituting Pakistan in only two cases and this was done under the orders of the Partition Council. It may, however, be pointed out that stores and assets held in Pakistan areas on the 14th August, 1947, have been taken into account for the purpose of partition of assets and liabilities between the two Dominions.

(ii) After the 15th August, 1947 and upto now, orders have been issued for issue of stores to Pakistan in two cases only. The telegraph and telephone stores issued to Pakistan after the 15th August, 1947, will be set off against the share of stores and equipment to which the Pakistan Government is entitled according to the decision of the Partition Council.

DETERIORATION OF TELEGRAPH SERVICES.

350. *Shri K. Santhanam: Will the Honourable Minister of Communications please state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the deterioration in the telegraph services during the last three months; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to restore their efficiency?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the answer given by me to starred question No. 156 by Shri Gopal Narain on the 20th November, 1947.

NEGOTIATION FOR IMPORT OF FOODGRAINS FROM SOVIET UNION.

351. *Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of the Soviet Union has been approached by the Government of India for import of food grains as pointed out by him in his press conference of the 28th September, 1947; and

(b) what is the outcome of such negotiations and whether there is any likelihood of getting food grains from that country?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) Yes.

(b) The matter is still under negotiation.

DIVISION OF ASSETS OF N. W. RAILWAY BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN.

352. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways please state whether Government propose to lay on the table of the

House a copy of the agreement arrived at with the Government of Pakistan regarding the partition of the assets of the late North Western Railway?

(b) Has the physical division of the assets been completed?

(c) If not, why not?

(d) Is it a fact that while the Indian Railway authorities have been taking steps to fulfil their part of the undertaking, the Pakistan authorities have not been supplying stores and repairing the rolling stock that they undertook to do as one of the terms of the partition?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) I lay a statement on the table of the House giving the details of the recommendations of the Expert Committee constituted for the partition of the assets of the late North Western Railway.

(b) The physical division of the assets has not been completed except insofar as immovable assets are concerned. In respect of locomotives, carriages and wagons, the major portion of the assets due to India are already with us. The recalculation of the quantities consequent on the Radcliffe Award is being undertaken and until this is finished the exact position will not be known. The physical division of other assets has not taken place.

(c) The disruption of communications consequent on the Punjab disturbances and the abnormal conditions obtaining on both the systems, have up till now prevented action being taken to finalise the position. Steps have already been taken, however, to effect the division as soon as possible.

(d) It is correct that Pakistan Authorities have not fulfilled their obligations in respect of the assistance to be given to the Eastern Punjab Railway in repairing locomotives, carriages and wagons.

STATEMENT

In June 1947, the Partition Office decided to set up Expert Committees to make recommendations to the Partition Council, through the Steering Committee, on the administrative problems arising from partition. A Sub-Committee of Expert Committee No. II for Railways was entrusted with the work of distribution of assets and liabilities.

So far as immovable assets are concerned, the Sub-Committee agreed that their location should govern their division. It was also agreed that movable assets including stores and rolling stock should be distributed with due regard to the requirements of both sections. Certain measures for mutual assistance required by the Railways of the two dominions from each other in respect of major repairs to rolling stock and other items, until such time as each dominion could make its own arrangements, were agreed upon. The following are the details of such measures in respect of N. W. Railway:—

(a) Assistance from the Pakistan Government to India

Locomotive, Carriage and Wagon Workshops, Moghalpura (Lahore).	Broad Gauge Locomotives, carriages and wagon and narrow gauge locomotives and carriages belonging to India (E. P. Railway) will be given periodical overhaul, intermediate overhaul and nominated repairs (repairs arising out of accidents, casualties etc.) at these workshops.
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These workshops will also manufacture and/or recondition for the Eastern Punjab Railway for a period which may not extend beyond two years:

(a) parts and fittings of locomotives, carriages and wagons;

(b) machines, machine parts and tools.

The Carriage and Wagon Workshops will construct coaches for the Eastern Punjab Railway and will machine timber for the workshops at Kalka.

(b) Assistance from the Indian Government to Pakistan

Crescenting Plant, Phillaur.	This depot will treat wooden sleepers for the Pakistan Section of the N. W. Railway.
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MALADMINISTRATION OF EAST PUNJAB RAILWAY.

353. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways please state whether the East Punjab Railway is now in full working order?

(b) Are Government aware of the complaints about maladministration of this Railway?

(c) What arrangements have so far been made for office and residential accommodation for the staff of this Railway?

(d) How far the lack of such arrangements is responsible for the maladministration of this Railway?

(e) Are Government aware that the various Departments on the East Punjab Railway are understaffed?

(f) If so, what steps have been taken to complete the staff?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The E. P. Railway is not yet in full working order.

(b) No.

(c) The Headquarters Office of the E. P. Railway, except for the Traffic Accounts Branch for which office accommodation has been provided at Jullundur, is located in the Mall Barracks, Khyber Pass, Delhi. The staff have been accommodated partly in permanent quarters at Delhi and partly in temporary quarters at Muradnagar and Jullundur.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) There is a shortage among certain categories of the lower paid staff in the Locomotive, Transportation and Engineering Departments, but the existing staff is adequate to run essential services.

(f) The shortages referred to are being made up by recruiting suitable men from the open market and training them.

IMPLEMENTATION OF CENTRAL PAY COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

354. *Shri Khandubhai K. Desai: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state when the Government of India propose to implement the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission relating to Railway Employees?

(b) Are Government aware of the discontent among the pre-1931 entrants in the South India Railway and Oudh Tirhut Railway owing to the low scales of salary prevailing on those Railways as compared to the other Class I State Railways?

(c) Do Government propose to remove the disparity and bring their salaries on a level with those on other Railways?

(d) When do Government propose to publish the award of the Adjudicator?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Orders regarding the implementation of the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission, in so far as they relate to Pay and Allowances have been issued on the 31st October 1947, the other recommendations of the Central Pay Commission are at present under consideration. It is not possible to lay down the exact date by which orders on these recommendations will be issued.

(b) Yes.

(c) Government have given the option to the pre-31 entrants on all Indian Government Railways to elect for the scales of pay which have been introduced on the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission. This should result in the removal of the disparity referred to.

(d) Government regret to say that due to preoccupations with more urgent matters, it has not been possible yet to undertake a study of the Award but it is hoped that this will now be done and thereafter the Award will be published without further delay.

RETRENCHMENT ON SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.

355. *Shri Khandubhai K. Desai: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state when Government propose to define their policy in regard to the retrenchment of railway employees appointed after September 1945?

(b) Are Government aware that more than 100 employees of the South India Railway alone have been discharged as surplus to requirements?

(c) Are Government aware that this is a violation of the undertaking given to the Railway employees recently?

(d) Have Government received any representation from the South India Railway Workers' Union, Trichinopoly, complaining about unfair promotions, transfers and punishments?

(e) If so, what action has been taken by Government so far?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The Government have already defined their policy in regard to the retrenchment of railway employees appointed after the 15th of September 1945 and this is that such staff if declared surplus are retrenched only if alternative employment is not available for them.

(b) No. Some temporary employees and substitutes appointed subsequent to the 15th of September 1945 have, however, been rendered surplus consequently on absorption of War service candidates. As far as possible these men are being absorbed against other temporary vacancies. The exact figure of men discharged as surplus is not readily available.

(c) No. The undertaking referred to related to the staff who were in service on 15th September 1945 and not to those engaged after this date.

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise.

DISTRIBUTION OF CAUSTIC SODA, SODA ASH, ETC. TO PROVINCES.

356. *Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) what control the Government of India exercise over the distribution of caustic soda, soda ash, sodium permanganate and such other chemicals;

(b) whether any quota is fixed for each province and if so on what basis;

(c) whether the above chemicals are distributed to individual consumers also, and

(d) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative,—

(i) what facilities have been given to provinces for meeting their requirements in this respect;

(ii) whether Government are aware that without a proper quota being given to the provinces the progress of development of their industries is being hampered; and

(iii) whether Government propose to consider the desirability of fixing quotas for provinces according to their needs?

The Honourable Dr. Shama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) There is no statutory control over any of the chemicals mentioned. The main importers and producers have agreed to distribute caustic soda, soda ash and potassium chlorate,

which are in short supply, in consultation with the Directorate General of Industry and Supply. There are no such arrangements for the distribution of Sodium Permanganate.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir, in the manner already explained.

(d) (i), (ii) and (iii). I shall have the possibility of fixing provincial quotas examined; but the fixing of provincial quotas cannot alter the fact of inadequate supply.

SUPPLY OF SODA CAUSTIC TO COTTON MILLS AND ALL-INDIA SOAP MAKERS ASSOCIATION.

357. *Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether caustic soda is being supplied to cotton mills through the Textile Commissioner;

(b) whether the All-India Soap-makers' Association has been receiving any quota for distribution among its constituents; and

(c) how the requirements of individual soap-factories, i.e., those which are not members of any association, are being met?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Caustic soda is not under statutory control, but in order to distribute the available supplies as equitably as possible between the different industries the importers consult the Government authorities concerned. With regard to the Textile Industry, the distribution is made on the recommendation of the Textile Commissioner.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Individual soap factories, whether or not they belong to any Association, buy their requirements directly from importers, who decide how much to sell to the soap industry, in consultation with the Directorate General of Industry and Supply.

DISTRIBUTION OF CAUSTIC SODA AND OTHER CHEMICALS BY I. C. I. (INDIA) LTD.

358. *Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether the I. C. I. (India) Ltd. distribute caustic soda, soda ash and such other chemicals only on permits issued by the Director of Chemicals to the Government of India.

(b) whether the said company distributes the above-mentioned chemicals on the requisition of the Provincial Governments also; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, whether the Government of India propose to give authority for issuing permits for the above chemicals to the provincial governments who are primarily responsible for the development of Industry in their own areas?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) These Chemicals are not under statutory control. But in the interests of equitable distribution the I.C.I. (India) Ltd. distribute them in accordance with the suggestions of the Directorate General of Industry and Supply.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) As these chemicals are not under statutory control the question of empowering the Provincial Governments to issue permits does not arise.

SUPPLY OF SODA ASH TO GLASS MANUFACTURES

359. *Shri Basanta Kumar Das: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the glass-manufacturers have been put to great difficulties due to acute shortage of supply of soda ash?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of meeting these demands in order to give proper facilities for manufacture of glass?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Yes, Sir; Government are aware of this fact.

(b) Yes, Sir. Licences for the import of this chemical are freely granted provided the price is not unreasonable. A portion of the stock available from Disposals has also been offered to the All-India Glass Manufacturers Federation. Government are making every effort to obtain increased imports and to step up indigenous production.

ABOLITION OF CONTROL OVER SALE OF CAUSTIC SODA AND OTHER CHEMICALS

360. *Shri Basanta Kumar Das: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether the Government of India propose to consider the desirability of abolishing all control over the sale of caustic soda, soda ash and such other chemicals?

(b) If not, what are the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) There is no statutory control over the sale of the chemicals mentioned by the Honourable Member.

(b) Does not arise.

SUIT AGAINST GOVERNMENT FOR ILLEGAL SALE OF SALT BELONGING TO SUMANDI SALT FACTORY.

361. *Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Sub-Judge's Court of Cuttack has passed a decree for about a lakh of rupees as damages against the Government of India for illegally selling salt belonging to a lessee of the Sumandi Salt Factory within the jurisdiction of the Calcutta Collectorate?

(b) If the Government of India were not a party, why should the Public Treasury pay this huge amount of damages?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) and (b). A suit against Government is pending. Full information has been called for and when received will be laid on the table of the House.

GRANTS TO PROVINCES FOR 'GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGNS'

362. *Shri Jadubans Sahay: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the amounts of money allotted to the provinces of Bihar, United Provinces, Madras, Bombay and Central Provinces during the years 1944-45, 1945-46 and 1946-47 for 'Grow More Food' Campaign;

(b) the actual expenditure incurred by each of the provinces out of the amount allotted; and

(c) the reasons, if any, for the Provinces for not spending the entire amount allotted by the Government of India?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: The information required is being collected and will be supplied when received.

ABOLITION OF ZAMINDARY SYSTEM

363. *Shri Jadubans Sahay: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the system of zamindari is going to be abolished in all the provinces of India?

(b) Do Government propose to set up a central committee of Experts whose advice may be available to the provinces for the reconstruction of the land system in the various provinces after the abolition of the zamindari system?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) Land Tenure is a Provincial subject and as such the subject matter of this question is one with which the Provincial Governments are directly concerned. It may, however, be stated that Bills dealing with the subject are before the Legislatures of some Provinces while some other Provincial Governments also proposed to undertake legislation abolishing the Zamindari System.

There is no big zamindari land in the Delhi Province or in Coorg. Most of the land owners cultivate their land themselves.

In Ajmer Merwara, Zamindari System only exists in the Istimari area. A bill to give the tenants fixity of tenure and ensure fair rent and compensation for improvements on ejection is under preparation and will be introduced in the Legislature as soon as it is ready.

(b) Government have no such intention as conditions differ considerably from province to province. Provincial Governments will take such action as appears to them feasible. If they need guidance from the Centre, the Government of India will examine how best it can be given, if and when a request to that effect is received.

REMITTANCE OF STATION EARNINGS BEYOND KANCHRAPARA ON B.A. RAILWAY TO EASTERN PAKISTAN

364. *Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways please state whether Government are aware that the authorities of the East Indian Railway issued an order in the beginning of August last directing that the earnings of all stations on the Bengal-Assam Railway beyond Kanchrapara be forwarded from the midnight of the 14th August, 1947, to the Railway authorities in Eastern Pakistan?

(b) Are Government aware that the order was subject to modification by the Award of the Bengal Boundary Commission?

(c) Was the order passed with the approval of the Government of India? If so, what are the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes; Government are aware that such orders were issued.

(b) Yes; it was realized that modifications would be necessary as a result of the Award of the Bengal Boundary Commission.

(c) Yes; the orders formed part of the many that had to be issued well ahead of time in order to ensure that the maximum degree of partition was achieved immediately after the appointed date.

MONETARY LOSS DUE TO DELAY IN RETROCESSION OF SECTIONS OF B.A. RAILWAY APPORTIONED TO INDIA UNDER BOUNDARY COMMISSION AWARD

355. *Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways please state whether Government are aware that large portions of the Bengal-Assam Railway which had been placed in Pakistan under the Notional Division, had come within the Dominion of India under the award of the Boundary Commission?

(b) Have the Government of India taken over full administrative control and management of these portions now? If so, on what date?

(c) Are Government aware that for over 10 weeks after the date of the Award of the Bengal Boundary Commission, these portions remained under complete administrative control of Pakistan, while the salaries, allowances and grain concessions payable to the staff were met in full by the Dominion of India? If so, why was this state of things allowed to be continued so long?

(d) Who were the persons responsible for this? What action, if any, Government propose to take against them? If none, why?

(e) Are Government aware of the dislocation of traffic and inconvenience caused by it to the public?

(f) Are Government aware that vast sums of traffic receipts of railway stations affected by the Award have gone over to Pakistan and have been lost to the Indian Dominion? If so, what is the amount involved?

(g) How is it proposed to recover this amount from the Government of Pakistan?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes; on 8th November 1947.

(c) Yes. There was delay in obtaining the concurrence of the Pakistan Government to the taking over of these sections.

(d) Government are satisfied that the primary responsibility for the delay rests with the Pakistan authorities and no specific action seems called for.

(e) Government are not aware that there has been any dislocation of traffic or inconvenience to the public since through booking has continued.

(f) Traffic receipts at the stations concerned have been remitted to the E. B. Railway, but it is not accepted that the amounts have been lost to India. Information regarding the amounts involved is being obtained and will be laid on the table of the House.

(g) Arrangements for the division of the earnings between Indian and Pakistan Railways exist under the provisions agreed between the two Dominions for the interchange of traffic. Moreover, sums collected by India on traffic booked to Calcutta include a share for Pakistan which it is believed will more than counterbalance the amounts due to India on the collections at the stations concerned.

SETTLEMENT OF DUES OF B. A. RAILWAY STAFF BY CHIEF AUDITOR, E. B. RAILWAY, CHITTAGONG

366. *Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways please state whether Government are aware of the following Circular issued by the Divisional Superintendent of Sealdah, East Indian Railway:

"Due to the disintegration of Bengal-Assam Railway it has been decided that the final settlement of Bengal-Assam Railway Staff, who retired, resigned or died prior to the 15th August, 1947 will be arranged by the Chief Auditor, East Bengal Railway, Chittagong. Personal file of papers with service sheet and all other documents have been forwarded to the Chief Auditor, East Bengal Railway, Chittagong, for necessary action and payment.

You are, therefore, directed to make further reference on the subject to the Chief Auditor, East Bengal Railway, Chittagong, and note that no further application on the subject will be entertained in this office".

(b) If so, at whose instance was this Circular issued? Was the approval of the Government of India obtained before the Circular was issued? If not, why not?

(c) Are Government aware that in accordance with the above circular the employees of the Bengal-Assam Railway who retired, resigned or died prior to the 15th August, 1947, have since applied to the Chief Auditor, East-Bengal Railway, Chittagong, in Eastern Pakistan, but they have either been refused payment or their petitions have been ignored in spite of repeated reminders sent by them?

(d) What relief do Government propose to give to these unfortunate ex-employees?

(e) How are their claims proposed to be finally settled?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) According to the arrangements made at the time of partition, the authority responsible for closing the accounts of the B. A. Railway for the period up to 14th August 1947 is the E. B. Railway. The correct procedure would, therefore, be for the office from which the employee retired to prepare the settlement papers and send them on to the E. B. Railway for check and authorization of the claims.

(b) Please see answer to part (a).

(c) No instances of non-payment or unusual delay have been brought to the notice of Government, but further enquiries are being made. It is quite likely, however, that delays may have occurred, as it would have taken some time for the E. B. Railway office at Chittagong to begin normal functioning.

(d) and (e). Government are prepared to take all possible measures for the speedy settlement of all claims and are calling for a report from the authorities concerned.

ABOLITION OF SALT DEPARTMENT.

367. *Shri M. C. Veerabahu Pillai: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether in view of the abolition of Salt Duty, Government propose to consider the abolition of the entire Salt Department and employment of its staff on urgent rehabilitation and refugee work?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the abolition of the licensing system as well, with a view to avoid shortage in the supply of salt and to encourage its production?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) The abolition of Salt Duty has been followed not by availability of cheap salt of good quality all over the country, but by scarcity and high prices of this essential foodstuff in many areas. This state of affairs has been due mainly to the total production in India being about 10 per cent. less than total requirements even on the present unsatisfactory standard of consumption, to imports being not as plentiful as necessary, to transport bottlenecks and to certain middlemen in the distributory chain trying to make inordinate profits. Government, therefore, take the view that some control over salt is unavoidable in present circumstances. The control they propose to exercise will not, however, be restrictive but designed to ensure a fair deal to the consumers without hitting the producers. A corps of salt staff will, therefore, have to be retained.

(b) It is clear from (a) above that the licensing system cannot be abolished except at great peril to the country. Licences will be issued freely to applicants and will be designed *inter alia* to assist private manufacturers in raising the quantity and quality of production and to control ex-factory prices in the interests of the consumer.

IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF COAL COMMITTEE

368. *Shri K. Santhanam: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply please state what steps are being taken to implement the recommendations of the Coal Committee in regard to (i) State acquisition of mineral rights; and (ii) conservation of metallurgical coal?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (i) The Governments of Bengal and Bihar have been addressed regarding the procedure and principles of acquisition of mineral rights and their replies are still awaited.

(ii) A Committee has been set up to prepare a programme of sand-stowing for the next 10 years.

It will take some time yet to put into effect the recommendations of the Indian Coalfields Committee regarding the conservation of metallurgical coal, e.g.

- (i) prohibition of supplies to other than essential consumers;
- (ii) beneficiation of lower quality coals by washing and blending; and
- (iii) curtailment of output.

Enforcement of (i) must be deferred until the production of good quality non-metallurgical coal is stepped up sufficiently to meet requirements e.g. of the Railways. A start on washing is being made shortly when the equipment on order by a private concern arrives. But a good deal of study on the laboratory and pilot plant scales must precede large scale measures of beneficiation. This will be one of the principal tasks of the Fuel Research Institute when it is ready. Implementation of (iii) must be done in consultation with the Provincial Governments concerned who have been addressed on certain ancillary matters.

IRREGULAR SUPPLY OF WHEAT AND SUGAR RATIONS IN AJMER AND BEAWAR

369. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state whether the Government of India are aware that the supply of sugar at the ration shops in Ajmer, Beawar and in the rural areas of the province has been totally stopped during the last several weeks?

(b) If so, what steps are being taken to ensure regular supply of sugar in Ajmer-Merwara in future, and do Government propose to make up the deficiency in the supply of sugar to the consumers? If not, why not?

(c) Are Government aware that the supply of wheat at the ration shops in Ajmer-Merwara has been reduced to 2 chhataks only?

(d) If so, what are the reasons for this?

(e) Do Government propose to take steps at an early date to restore the cut to the normal quota of 4 chhataks?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) Yes.

(b) Due to transport difficulties caused by the shortage of locomotives and wagons on the O. and T. Railway and disturbances in certain areas, sugar could not be moved to Ajmer-Merwara in sufficient quantities in September and October. Ajmer-Merwara has now received sugar sufficient for four months' consumption. The weekly rations in the Province have been temporarily raised to make up for short supplies during the period of shortage.

(c) Yes.

(d) Reduction became necessary because of low stocks which could not be replenished owing to an unexpected delay in the arrival of the wheat ship from which quota was allotted.

(e) Sufficient quantity has been allotted to Ajmer in order to enable the Administration to issue a 4 chhataks wheat ration and it will be possible for the

Administration to restore the cut as soon as the allotted quantity arrives there. Every endeavour is being made to speed up despatches of quotas to Ajmer.

DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION IN RAJPUTANA AND CONSTRUCTION OF AERODROME AT AJMER

370. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether Government are aware that Ajmer City occupies the central position in Rajputana and as such, is eminently suited to form the basis for the development of Civil Aviation in Rajputana?

(b) If so, do Government propose to consider the question of granting licence to such persons as may take initiative in the matter?

(c) Do Government propose to set up an aerodrome at Ajmer and include Ajmer in one of the main air routes of India?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) and (c). There is at present no aerodrome in Ajmer. The Civil aviation development plan include the provision of a minor aerodrome there, but having regard to the requirements of India, as a whole, it occupies a low priority.

(b) The grant of licences for scheduled air transport service is the function of the Air Transport Licensing Board, who will certainly give due consideration to any application for licences for operating air services to and from Ajmer.

OPPRESSION OF TENANTS IN *Istimbari* AREAS

371. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the tenants in *Istimbari* areas do not enjoy legal security of tenure and they are oppressed by various sorts of exploitation by the *Istimrardars* and the money-lenders?

(b) Have Government received the draft tenancy legislation from the Special Officer appointed by Government for the purpose?

(c) Are Government aware that the draft tenancy legislation has been the subject matter of scrutiny by the sub-committee which consists of representatives of all interests?

(d) How much time Government propose to take to enact the draft legislation into law, and are Government aware that there is great discontent and dissatisfaction amongst the tenants of Ajmer-Merwara against their exploitation?

(e) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of giving any relief to the tenants, till the proposed legislation is enacted into law?

(f) If so, in what form, and if not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) Government are aware of the position.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) A bill is under preparation and will be introduced in the legislature as soon as it is ready.

(e) and (f). The question of giving interim relief is difficult and complicated but is under consideration.

372. *[Withdrawn.]

REMOVAL OF CONTROL ON ARTICLES OTHER THAN FOOD

373. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given any consideration to the Cut Motion passed by the last Assembly on decontrolling all commodities excepting food;

(b) if so, what controls have been so far removed; and

(c) what are the plans of Government to decontrol other commodities, and how long do Government propose to take before decontrolling the internal production and trade of essential commodities of daily consumption?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) and (b). The question of decontrolling the various articles has been examined by Government from time to time since March last, but so far it has been practicable to lift only the following control.

Newsprint: The Newspaper Control Order 1945 has been superseded by the Newsprint Control (No. 2) Order, 1947. Under the new Order, control on the consumption of Newsprint for printing newspapers and periodicals which are published at regular intervals of not more than one month, has been lifted with effect from 3rd April, 1947.

(c) Government propose to examine the desirability of decontrolling the other commodities as soon as possible. It is proposed to convene a conference of Ministers in charge of Industries in the Provinces and important Indian States, early in December to ascertain, among other things, the views of the Provinces on the subject.

Articles of daily consumption at present under control are paper, kerosene and textiles. The position in respect of these items will also be examined at the forthcoming conference.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

PRODUCTION AND IMPORT OF SALT AND EXPENDITURE ON SALT DEPARTMENT.

5. Shri M. C. Veerabahu Pillai: Will the Honourable Minister for Industry and Supply be pleased to place on the table of the House a statement (Province-wise) of the total production and import of salt and the total expenditure on the Salt Department, during the past ten years?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Three separate statements containing the information required by the Honourable Member are placed on the table of the House.

PROCEDURE RE PRINTING OF PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE.

Shri Biswanath Das (Orissa: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to make a submission on the question of papers laid on the Table. My experience of provincial Assemblies and Councils is that whenever papers are said to be laid on the Table, they are made available at once to the members of the House, but I find a different practice here. I would therefore submit to you, Sir, that it will add to our convenience if these statements and papers laid on the Table of the House are made available to the Honourable Members at once.

Mr. Speaker: I appreciate the Honourable Member's point and I entirely concur with him that all facilities should be given to Members to have those statements. The practice here has been that they are laid on the Table of the House and remain there during the day and any Member who wishes to see them can get them from the Secretary and see them. Then, they are placed on the Library Table and members who wish to see them can go to the library and see them. That is the present arrangement. If any further supplementing is necessary, I shall be glad to consider what steps need be taken in the matter.

Mr. B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur (Madras: Muslim): May I submit, Sir, that placing these statements on the Table here or in the Library does not enable the Members of the House to put any supplementary questions on the basis of the information contained in them. Therefore the question for which the statements are given by way of answer loses its value as a starred question.

Mr. Speaker: I don't think it is not possible for members to put in supplementary questions because the statements are laid on the Table here. The real difficulty is that long statements require to be studied and even if printed copies were at once given here to Honourable Members it is not possible for them to study them and put supplementary questions. Therefore it was, that I suggested on previous occasion that, in the case of long statements laid on the Table of the House, the Honourable Members, instead of putting supplementaries then and there, might study the statements and then table questions. If there is any point of urgency, then the procedure of Short Notice Question is also open. The difficulty cannot be solved by placing the statements elsewhere or making them available to the Honourable Members immediately in the House.

Dr. B. Pattabi Sitaramayya (Madras: General): The difficulty, Sir, is that the Secretary and other officers naturally rise by the time we rise and then they disappear before we can get to the Table and they gather here just simultaneously with ourselves. I am not complaining against them; they must have their grub as well as we. The real point is that placing on the Table as far as this House is concerned is absolutely useless and we cannot get at the papers. The other day you were good enough to say that important papers would be printed immediately. Now, the Instrument of Accession is one such. I thought you would have given orders for its being printed, but till today we have not got it. Hyderabad has now acceded and we do not know what has taken place without that paper.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member refers to the delay in supplying printed copies. I have ordered the printing of those papers, but Honourable Members will appreciate that while the Assembly is in session, every day there is a lot of printing that is going on. That is one thing. They would have also seen besides that the Honourable the Railway Member's speech which was delivered extempore was to be in the hands of members before there was any discussion about it.

Dr. B. Pattabi Sitaramayya: We thought that it was printed before he delivered it.

Mr. Speaker: Not at all.—So there are priorities and priorities. But I can assure Honourable Members that every effort will be made to see that these papers are distributed to members as early as possible.

ELECTIONS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEES FOR THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION, FOOD, HEALTH AND HOME AFFAIRS 705

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh (C. P. and Berar: General): Can we not introduce the system of printing the answers as is done in many other Provincial Assemblies?

Mr. Speaker: As I stated, I will consider the matter, but my personal inclination is not now in favour of it, owing to the changed set-up of the circumstances. I have, however, an open mind on the subject.

ELECTIONS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEES FOR THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION, FOOD, HEALTH AND HOME AFFAIRS

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the Assembly that upto the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committees for the Ministries of Education, Food, Health and Home Affairs, 11 nominations in the case of the first two and 10 nominations in the case of the other two were received. Subsequently one member in case of each of the first two withdrew his candidature. As the number of the remaining candidates was thus equal to the number of vacancies in each of the four Committees, I declare the following members to be duly elected:—

I. Standing Committee for the Ministry of Education—

- (1) Dr. H. C. Mookerjee.
- (2) Pandit Hiralal Shastri.
- (3) Prof. Yashwant Rai.
- (4) Shri S. Radhakrishnan.
- (5) Prof. K. T. Shah.
- (6) Shri V. C. Kesava Rao.
- (7) Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan.
- (8) Shri T. Channiah.
- (9) Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani.
- (10) Mr. Raghib Ahsan.

II. Standing Committee for the Ministry of Health—

- (1) Pandit Govind Malaviya.
- (2) Prof. Yashwant Rai.
- (3) Prof. N. G. Ranga.
- (4) Shri Satish Chandra Samanta.
- (5) Shri Brijlal Nandlal Biyani.
- (6) Mr. R. K. Sidhwa.
- (7) Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharthi.
- (8) Durbar Gopaldas A. Desai.
- (9) Shri M. R. Masani.
- (10) Saiyid Jafer Imam.

III. Standing Committee for the Ministry of Food—

- (1) Dr. N. B. Khare.
- (2) Shri Ramnarayan Singh.
- (3) Shrimati Kamala Chaudhri.
- (4) Dr. P. K. Sen.
- (5) Shri Vinayakrao B. Vaidya.
- (6) Shri Sunder Lall.
- (7) Shrimati D. Velayudan.
- (8) Dr. H. C. Mookerjee.
- (9) Dr. V. Subrahmanyam.
- (10) Mr. Jasimuddin Ahmed.

STATEMENT I.—*Salt production Figures of the various Salt sources in British India.*

(In thousand maunds)

Source	Year													
	35-36	36-37	37-38	38-39	39-40	40-41	41-42	42-43	43-44	44-45	45-46			
1. N. W. F. P.	5,47	5,14	5,70	5,65	6,01	6,11	7,71	10,71	6,74	8,05	8,84			
2. Punjab	41,12	43,77	43,48	43,79	50,39	46,52	44,43	57,39	73,05	55,50	75,55			
3. Rajputana Sources	83,94	78,29	72,26	1,11,57	83,34	1,08,51	1,37,03	49,60	1,39,16	1,03,24	86,38			
4. U. P. & Bihar	1,06	94	1,11	96	1,18	1,34	1,75	1,44	1,54	99	1,11			
5. Bengal	1	1	5	11	14	23	24	24	12	15	30			
6. Orissa	7,85	4,96	7,87	9,68	11,26	3,47	10,30	12,79	7,73	8,08	9,71			
7. Bombay	1,08,89	1,33,37	1,10,81	1,36,90	1,24,93	1,30,15	1,67,70	1,46,39	1,47,14	1,50,23	1,48,39			
8. Madras	1,14,76	91,53	1,14,16	1,18,68	1,22,79	1,01,23	1,39,52	1,53,82	1,18,55	1,48,54	1,66,16			
9. Sind	29,47	37,25	31,84	26,49	33,26	36,24	38,37	38,17	35,80	25,87	42,06			

STATEMENT II.—*Imports of salt into India from foreign countries.*

(In thousand tons)

Port of Import	Year													
	35-36	36-37	37-38	38-39	39-40	40-41	41-42	42-43	43-44	44-45	45-46			
1. Karachi	063	040	061	050	039	036	057	093	407	...	...			
2. Bombay	180	157	143	161	150	128	214	387	029	284	...			
3. Madras	164	133	300	186	161	139	222	022	032	848	...			
4. Calcutta	293	264	302	288	273	157	236	133	166	266	213			
5. Chittagong	35	36	45	24	41	46	25	...	...	...	4			
Total	328	300	347	312	314	203	261	133	166	266	217			

STATEMENT III.—*Expenditure for collection of Salt Revenue including manufacturing charges, cost of Salt and other revenue expenditure of the Salt Section of the Central Excises and Salt Department Northern India.*

(In thousand rupees)

Year	*N. I. Salt Revenue Department		North Eastern India		North Central India		Madras		Bombay		Bengal		Orissa		Sind		India General		Total	Remarks
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.			
1937-38	62,20	...	...	...	...	20,26	17,58	3,78	82	1,29	26	1,06,19								
1938-39	60,14	...	...	...	...	21,20	16,18	3,76	82	1,51	24	1,03,85								
1939-40	61,90	...	...	...	...	19,94	16,72	1,53	82	1,43	15	1,02,49								
1940-41	61,29(a)	4,91(b)	...	...	...	18,31	15,98	1,62	83	1,39	7	1,01,40								
1941-42	61,01(a)	1,74(b)	...	...	...	10,97	18,49	1,61	84	1,38	12	96,16								
1942-43	66,13(a)	1,75(b)	...	...	...	19,13	21,50	1,54	83	1,50	12	1,12,50								
1943-44	77,49(a)	2,09(b)	...	...	...	20,19	24,89	1,61	83	1,60	16	1,28,86								
1944-45	78,17(a)	2,73(b)	40(c)	...	...	20,25	18,70	1,74	...	1,71	13	1,23,83								
1945-46	...	...	Audited figures not yet available.																	
1946-47	...	...																		

*Had jurisdiction over the whole of Northern India from Bihar upto the N. W. F. P. (including Rajputana & Ajmer-Merwara).

(a) North Western India comprising of the N. W. F. P., Punjab, Delhi, Rajputana, Ajmer-Merwara and upto 1943-44 Western U. P. and thereafter without it.

(b) North Eastern India comprising of Bihar, and Eastern U. P. upto 1943-44 and thereafter of Orissa and Bengal outside Calcutta and Chittagong.

(c) North Central India comprising of the U. P. and Bihar.

IV. *Standing Committee for the Ministry of Home Affairs.*—

- (1) Shri Jai Sukh Lal Hathi.
- (2) Mr. R. E. Patel.
- (3) Shri S. K. Patil.
- (4) Pandit Balkrishna Sharma.
- (5) Shri Deshbandhu Gupta.
- (6) Shri Jainarain Vyas.
- (7) Dr. P. S. Deshmukh.
- (8) Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharthi
- (9) Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar.
- (10) Nawab Muhammad Ismail Khan.

EXTRA-PROVINCIAL JURISDICTION BILL

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Minister for Home Affairs, Information and Broadcasting and the States): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the exercise of certain extra-provincial jurisdiction of the Central Government.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the exercise of certain extra-provincial jurisdiction of the Central Government."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

ELECTRICITY (SUPPLY) BILL

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil (Minister for Works, Mines and Power): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the rationalisation of the production and supply of electricity, and generally for taking measures conducive to the electrical development of the Provinces of India.

Mr. Speaker: The motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the rationalisation of the production and supply of electricity, and generally for taking measures conducive to the electrical development of the Provinces of India."

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya (Madras: General): We do not know, Sir, what the objects of this Bill are.

Mr. Speaker: I stated on a previous occasion that the introduction of Bills is more or less a matter of form. After the Bills are introduced, copies will be supplied.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: I do not object to that, but it looks odd that we should say "Aye" to a Bill the nature or contents of which we do not know.

Mr. Speaker: The agenda is sent to Members; they know what Bills are going to be introduced and copies of these Bills are placed in the lobbies, so that Honourable Members who are really careful over this matter, have after seeing the agenda an opportunity of seeing the Bills in the lobbies. But that is a different matter. The motion for leave is more or less a formal thing.

The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the rationalisation of the production and supply of electricity, and generally for taking measures conducive to the electrical development of the Provinces of India."

The Motion was adopted.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

INDIAN MERCHANT SHIPPING (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil (Minister for Works, Mines and Power): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923."

The Motion was adopted.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

Mr. Speaker: Of course the object of putting the Motion, though traditionally the convention is that leave is to be granted as a matter of course; is to keep up the form because it is perfectly competent to a Member to oppose the introduction, and if he so wishes, to kill the Bill at the very initial stage.

Mr. Tajamul Husain (Bihar: Muslim): How can any Honourable Member do so when he has not read the Bill?

Mr. Speaker: He should read it in the lobbies.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: There is only one copy of the Bill and more than three hundred Members. How is it possible?

THE RAILWAY BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS

SECOND STAGE

Mr. Speaker: The House will discuss the Demands for Grants in respect of Railways now. I understand that a list showing the agreed Cut Motions which will be moved has been circulated to the Honourable Members.

As regards the time limit for speeches the usual practice has been to fix a limit of 15 minutes for all speakers including movers of the Cut Motions and 20 minutes for the Honourable Ministers replying. I might add that it may be necessary if a larger number of Honourable Members wish to speak on these Motions, to further curtail the limit to 10 minutes as we had to do yesterday. I trust this suits Honourable Members.

(Members expressed their assent.)

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (Madras: Muslim): Before you call upon the Motion to be moved, there is a further point of agreement, which I want to bring to your notice with regard to our Cut Motion No. 6. It has been agreed that this Cut will be taken up at ten minutes past Four, whether the other Cuts are finished or not.

Incidentally I have some objection to the heading that is put to this cut, but I will raise it in your Chamber as I do not want to waste the time of the House.

Mr. Speaker: Well, if that is an agreed matter, I have no objection. I take it then that Cut No. 6 will be moved at ten minutes past four and the Cut under discussion at that time will close at that time.

Mr. B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur (Madras: Muslim): May I know, Sir, if it is taken at ten minutes past four, whether there will be twenty minutes time left for the Member to reply in view of the fact that at half past four we have some other business to attend to?

Mr. Speaker: I am sure the Honourable Members will adjust within themselves so far as the time is concerned. The point is that the Cut has to be

[Mr. Speaker]

disposed off within twenty minutes and I believe there is also a further agreement that cut-motion No. 2 will be taken up after No. 5.

(Members expressed their assent.)

That is right. So we will proceed accordingly.

I think we might revise the procedure. I remember, last time at the time of General Budget, instead of putting in each Demand separately I stated that "the Demands included in the Order Paper be voted upon." That was the Motion and the House agreed to it, so that we disposed off all Motions in about a minute's time. So it is possible for us to deal similarly with the present demands instead of putting each of the Demands separately, to Honourable Members. First we may take those Demands in respect of which there are Cut Motions. Then after the Cut Motions are disposed of, in case any Cut Motion is carried, that Demand will have to be put to vote separately, and then the other Demands in respect of which no Cut Motions have been carried may be put up as a consolidated proposition, so that, we shall finish the voting in five minutes' time. That will mean that the time for discussion could be extended from 4-30 to 4-55 P.M.

Shri M. S. Aney (Deccan and Madras States Group): There is one point in this connection which I wish to bring to your notice. When you put all the demands to a consolidated vote, the right of a Member to record his vote against any particular Demand is taken away.

Mr. Speaker: Not taken away; I considered this point also and in case any Honourable Member wishes me to put a particular Demand separately, I shall split up the proposition and put it separately to the House.

Mr. B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur: May I know now whether this will require a re-arrangement about this ten minutes past Four business?

Mr. Speaker: The thing may be adjusted by agreement of parties outside the House so that I may be able to announce it by 2-30.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Sir, May I point out that all these cuts can come under Demand No. 1, so that Members may in future see that all Cuts are sent under Demand No. 1.

Mr. Speaker: That is a different matter.

DEMAND NO. 1.—RAILWAY BOARD

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Minister for Railways and Transport): Sir, I beg to move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,80,000 be granted to the Governor-General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th Augst, 1947 to the 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Railway Board'."

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,80,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Railway Board'."

Overcrowding in Trains

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh (C.P. and Berar: General): I move:

"That the Demand under the head 'Railway Board' be reduced by Rs. 100".

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you have told the House, by common agreement we are going to discuss only a specific number of Cuts and Motions. I had, as the House is aware and as you are aware, Sir, given a very large number of Cut

Motions. Some refer to the comfort of passengers; one of them refers to the overcrowding of trains; there were some of a more or less local nature which refer to my particular province; there were others which refer to the chronic thefts of Railway property and the want of switches, want of mirrors, want of hangers, impossibility of closing some doors and impossibility of opening others—all these things had been worked out by me and notice of them was given in the shape of different Cuts on different demands.

That position of course has altogether been altered on account of the agreement reached among various parties in the House, and it is now my specific business to move this particular cut on which I wanted to raise a discussion on the subject of overcrowding in trains. But because I had given notice of so many cuts my name was not included among those who were to speak on the general discussion. That is another difficulty of mine; but in view of the fact that there is going to be considerable saving of time on account of this agreement I hope the Honourable Minister will not mind my making a passing reference to subjects of which I had given notice in my cut motions. They are merely in the nature of asking for information, and I understand that one of the things that can be done in the voting on demands is to seek information on particular subjects. So, Sir, I hope you will permit me the latitude of referring to certain other items in this very speech of mine which should, properly speaking, be limited only to the question of overcrowding.

Sir, the whole House has listened very carefully to the very lucid and frank speech of the Railway Minister and, as my Honourable friend Mr. Aney remarked, the Minister of the present day sitting in this House has the enviable good fortune to get his budget through without any strong criticism against it and with congratulations from all sides, even though the budget reveals an increase in fares and although he has not been able to promise any modification of the present position on the railways to any appreciable extent. None the less this overcrowding in trains is a problem which has agitated my mind for a very long time, and I am sure that every one who has any consideration for the comforts of the travelling public must have experienced similar sentiments and must have been similarly affected. Sir, I think in this particular matter the Honourable Minister for Railways has not been able to pay that attention which in my view he should have paid. We know he has been working in very difficult circumstances, we know the various upheavals in the country which have caused considerable dislocation of the administration and intensified his difficulties; but none the less I consider the overcrowding of trains in India a matter of such serious importance that the earliest opportunity should have been taken by every one concerned in the department to rectify the present situation. Some of my Honourable friends said that people were herded together like cattle, and another honourable friend amended it by saying that they were packed like sardines. My view is that neither cattle nor sardines—if they were alive—would be able to tolerate the situation which is being forced upon people in the present circumstances. If my honourable friend would make it a point to stand on any of the bridges like the Jhansi bridge or the Bhusaval bridge or the Muttra bridge he will realise—as I do not think he does not realise—what discomforts the passengers of the third class and all other classes in fact are undergoing. For that I suggest that he should issue an order to the whole department that every one of his assistants who gets anything above Rs. 500 a month should not travel by any other class except the third. Only then will they realise the amount of humiliation and persecution that is being inflicted upon passengers, specially those in the third class. Although we are not often required to travel in the third class we still cannot help observing at the stations how people get into and out of these third class compartments and how the people who have occupied seats before them are also made to suffer injuries and hardships. Very often the only method of getting into a third class carriage is to throw your trunk through the window and then yourself climb through it.

[Dr. P. S. Deshmukh]

When the trunk is thrown in some people have to make room—although very reluctantly—for that passenger. The trunk is a good weapon and once you are able to throw it in you find it easy to get in also. This thing ought to stop and if a serious effort is made I feel certain that a great deal of improvement is possible. After all the average Indian is usually satisfied with very little and it is quite easy to please him and arrange for his comfort. If regular third class passenger coaches are not available, I am sure that if goods carriages are converted into third class coaches with some benches provided and some covering on them, people would be satisfied. But even that the railway authorities have not been able to do. I was told in my younger days that Englishmen believe that cows have no souls. Whether it is true or false I must say that the only other people who have no souls are the Railway Minister and his staff. The situation is so horrifying and so utterly disgraceful that if a foreigner were to come and see the way in which we treat our own people, I am sure he would be tempted to declare that India is not yet fit for self-government. Things which cattle or even inanimate things would not bear are being borne by the whole of India for the last six years. People were hoping that with the end of the war something would be done and the situation would improve; now independence has dawned on the country and our own Minister for Railways is sitting there to preside over the department. But the people have been sorely disappointed when he delivered his long speech without holding out any hope of the situation being rectified in the matter of overcrowding and without any hopes of additional comforts for passengers. I hope that even though he has not been able to hold out any hopes during his reply he will reconsider the position and tackle this issue in some way or the other. He has told us in reply to certain questions that they are trying to evolve certain new patterns of carriages. I for one am not enamoured of any new patterns; let the old patterns be there but let there be more room. That is the first request that I make to the Honourable Minister; and I am sure that if he sets his mind to it and his staff has any compassion for the public, there is much possibility of the present situation being rectified. It can be done by evolving some sort of temporary makeshift arrangement; even that will be a matter of some consolation. Travelling up and down the railways quite often and quite regularly I feel that there is no one who stops to consider if anything is possible. The whole railway administration has become so irresponsible that in the matter of inconveniences and complaints people have become quite despondent and they do not feel that there is any possibility of improving the railway administration in the country. I hope the Railway Minister is not so apathetic as this department and he should even now give us an assurance that every one of the discomforts from which the general public is suffering will be put an end to at the earliest possible moment. I cannot understand who arranges the time-tables and the number of carriages to be attached to a particular train. Very often I find on the Nagpur-Bombay line that sometimes there are fourteen bogeys and only one engine. But sometimes the number suddenly and without any notice comes down to ten. Consequently there is far more crowding. The situation is bad enough and it becomes still worse. There is no one who will listen to any complaints. At Bhadrua Station once I had no drinking water of my own with me. I went to the tap at the station and when I opened it I saw the water coming out contained profuse dirt and molasses. There was a guard standing nearby and I asked whether people were expected to drink such water. He said it was there for a long time and in spite of his own complaints nothing had been done. In the meantime a peasant came along with a small boy. I told them not to drink this water. But the peasant refused because he said the child was thirsty. Before I could make them listen to me the boy had drunk this water and gone away. Such is the condition in one of the important railway junctions. There is no one who appears prepared to listen to the complaints. Now, this sort of situation ought to end and there should be someone to look into these matters periodically. If

it was really a Department which had some consideration for the comfort of the people, the situation at these stations could not have remained what it is. Already the Grand Trunk Express and other trains are fully loaded and yet at stations like Jhansi there are 200 to 300 people always waiting to get in. I have very often travelled in a second class where there is room for six passengers but in fact there are nineteen people, and then you have to imagine the luggage of these nineteen people which has also to get in. I am sure it is possible to have more trains in addition to those already running because this overcrowding is chronic. When we find that such obvious things are not attended to by the department, I am right in saying that the Department has ceased to function and ceased to have any compassion for the people. They appear to think that they are drawing their pay and the people are still travelling and the railway budget can be balanced and so long as their salaries are drawn and railways are running, and people are there to travel, they are satisfied. That is not the satisfaction for which we have come to this House and although it is our own Government and our own Minister, we are not satisfied merely by the lucidity of his speech or the expert presentation of his case. We want all that to be translated into the comforts of the people. As long as that does not happen, we cannot have much of a good word to say for the Honourable the Railway Minister or for his staff.

Another matter is this. Why should it not be possible to have more carriages manufactured at a shorter period? We have the whole Indian budget at the disposal of the Government. I think with greater impatience for doing good to the people much more could be achieved. We are prepared to pass Bills in a couple of minutes and give the most autocratic powers to the Government. If my honourable friend wants the power to shoot at sight anyone who takes away anything from the railways, we can give it to him. He cannot say that he cannot build carriages because there is no material. We are prepared to give him a short time, but he must improve matters, because here we have a Government in which we are prepared to place the fullest confidence, and we are prepared to empower it to the fullest extent. After that they can have no excuse. What does the building material consist of—bricks, cement and steel. The steel companies are there and the cement companies. If they can't supply they can get the material imported from elsewhere. All these things should be possible because we have a Government whose hands we are prepared to strengthen and to which we are prepared to concede any powers they want. With this they ought to achieve results in the shortest possible time. Sir, I move:

Mr. Speaker: *Cut motion moved.*

"That the demand under the head 'Railway Board' be reduced by Rs. 100".

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya (Madras: General): I have great pain in supporting whatever my friend has stated. His is an experience which we have all shared for a long time. We have all witnessed the sufferings of the third class passengers. I had myself been for many years of my life—a major portion—a third-class passenger. Then I promoted myself to intermediate: later I was allowed the second class; on occasions although reservations were there, an earlier passengers had occupied the berths, I had to transfer myself to a first-class, and in my 68th year I have been travelling by air. It is not because I like to do so but because it is humanly impossible to execute third-class travel from its first to its last stages.

In the first place you cannot get a ticket. The booking clerk will not come till two minutes before the train comes. However much you may press for it, he will not come. These people are absolutely like buffaloes under rain. Nothing will move them and they are the lords of the station and they do not

[Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya]

see that the Government has changed. The Government has not changed as yet for the officials. It has only changed for the Ministers. The department does things in the same ante-diluvian, wooden way that it used to do in the time of Mr. Mantague. Of course the Ministers might represent new engines but the departments represent the old bogeys, rickety and ramshackle, and the biggest speed that you can develop is the speed that the old bogeys can develop. As no chain is stronger than the weakest link, the Minister is no faster than his slowest department official. The railway officials are looked upon by the public with a feeling of bitterness and helplessness because they are not attentive to the comforts of the people nor are they sensitive to the growing changes in the times. You must put a little patriotism, common-sense and decency into the administration: then they will be able to act up to the requirements of the times and not otherwise. This requires not a departmental reminder but conferences—Agents of the railways and Ministers addressing the staff personally, telling them that the world and the times have changed, that the needs of the people have changed and they must change also.

Then we get to the next stage when the gate of the waiting room is not open until the train has arrived. Then there is much crowding. The boxes on the porters' head strike your forehead and then you must attend to the injuries before you get into the train. When you try to go into the train there is no one to conduct third-class passengers. The porter is riding rough-shod over them: the station master is ringing the bell: the guard is sounding the whistle: the engine-driver is driving the train. No one waits to see whether the station platform is clear of passengers. There are no caretakers in the Railway Department. A watch and ward department there is which takes care of the thefts in the yard and they have done some good work but the passenger's caretaker department is not there. Often times there is only the Assistant station master who is the jack of all trades. He is the poor devil of the Railway institution. He is the cinderella of the Railway Station. He is the most hard-worked man and he has to issue tickets, collect them and see to this, that and the other business and it is an impossible task for him to attend to traffic. Now then comes the third stage when you must get into the train by the process which has been very graphically described by my Honourable friend the mover of the motion. You reach the doors, they are not open: they are banged from inside. People sit against them. Therefore you must adopt the new process, what is known as entry and exit through the window. It is an extraordinary procedure. At station after station, whether big or small all third and intermediate class passengers have to effect their entry or exit only through the windows.

I have often been asked as to why I do not keep a secretary. A certain friend of mine came to see me and when he saw me writing my letters, picking the envelopes, pasting them and posting them myself, he offered to pay me Rs. 500 a month to enable me to engage a secretary and asked me "Why don't you employ a secretary and take him along with you." I told him that I would have to look after the Secretary and the secretary could not look after me, because he cannot get out of the carriage. If he manages to come out of the carriage, he cannot get in. Then I have to go in search of him to see whether he has had his food or not. While I am in search of the poor fellow who has been locked up somewhere, the train moves in the meantime and I have to run at great peril to my life or at least to my health. Having experienced all these things I have decided not to have a secretary. I do my own business and do as much as I can do myself.

When all this has been done and we travel and we reach the destination we come out. That is the fourth stage. At the wicket gate you have another

struggle to get your luggage out. Only one gate is open. Can't they open the other gate? No they do not open it. There is the station master, the assistant station master, the booking clerk, the luggage clerk and so on, every person simply smoking away and nobody takes charge of the second gate. Even if there are 500 persons only one gate is open. Why should it be the case?

There are other difficulties in travel. At Samalkot station we have to cross an over-bridge in order to take the train for Cocanada. There is no second class in the shuttle coach and we have to take an additional ticket at Samalkot for Cocanada or travel without a ticket. The booking clerk at the station is always absent, at any rate, this has been my experience ten times, twenty times.

Bezwada is a huge nice station. For 15 years I have been carrying on correspondence with the Traffic Superintendent and the railway authorities to prevent the channels of urine flowing on to the platform which we have to cross before we get to the Masulipatam train. Right in front of the intermediate and second class compartments these channels make streaks like the rivers of a deltaic system. I begged the authorities to dig a small drain, so that the urine may be drained off into the general pool but I was told that that would encourage people to commit nuisance there. But what are they doing now? They are compelling the passengers to tread upon this filth. In Andhra country and in South India generally 95 per cent. of the people do not wear shoes. It may be a bit of news to the House. These people have to tread upon these channels or caked up urine and get into their compartments. I do not know how much postage I wasted over this business. But the authorities are unmoved. Such an impenetrable mass of human material I cannot come across. It passes my comprehension why they could not do a simple thing when a friend like me has begged them to do it? Have I suggested anything wrong? I simply asked them to construct a small drain so that the flow of urine may be led into the main channel and not right on to our platform.

The mail train from Calcutta to Madras has to run 900 miles by the time she comes to Bezwada absolutely crowded. We can never get any seat in it. Booking is useless. The passengers who entered at earlier stations have occupied the seats. The station master says "Your name is there. Sir, but I cannot help you. You can prosecute the gentlemen inside." This is an additional penalty for us. Therefore I suggest that from Waltair to Madras a special mail train be run. You are now content with a mail train from Calcutta to Madras. From Calcutta to Waltair is the B. N. R. From Waltair to Madras is the M. S. M. Railway. Make the latter a separate link altogether. We can then be sure of seats: otherwise it is impossible to get any.

In the matter of relieving crowding, I would suggest, if that were possible (I do not know whether it will be possible) that you build an upper storey to the third class carriages as in the tram cars. That will considerably minimise the expenditure and double the accommodation.

An Honourable Member: And then build an overbridge!

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: No, you will have a staircase, not an over-bridge to go up to the upper storey. Unless the proposition is palpably absurd I wish it to be considered. There is a shaking of the head as well as of the hand of the Honourable Minister for Railways. A layman's suggestion should not be so summarily dispensed with, because technical men are hopeless. You should never trust them. As far as possible reject their advice and force a layman's sound commonsense on their (new sense) view.

As for crowding at the Booking offices I need not say much. You must pay the constable there, or you must pay somebody else to get a ticket. The booking clerk makes a point of not handing back the small change, he owes you, if you give Rs. 2 and the fare is Rs. 1/14/- or you give a Rs. 5 note and the

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fare is Rs. 4. All these things have to be controlled in big stations. I must say that in Bezwada on the whole things are not so bad.

Then, at big or medium stations booking stations in the towns have been abolished during the war. They must be restored as early as possible. I have many things to mention but I may own I have not come prepared. Whatever positive suggestions of a constructive nature I may have I will send them to the Railway Minister.

Mr. B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur: Sir, as I had no opportunity of taking part in the general discussion I would now join the chorus of congratulations to the Honourable the Railway Minister for the lucid manner in which he has presented the budget? But I cannot agree with Mr. Aney when he said that he is the most fortunate member, because he has practically no opposition in this House. I would rather wish that he had a much better opposition than what there is now for then he would have been in a much better position than now to improve the railway system in the interests of the public.

From the way in which the Honourable Minister was making his speech on the budget I thought I was listening to a professor on railway economics lecturing to his students on account of the lucid way in which he was explaining his budget. At the same time I must also point out that he has treated this House also with some criticism which I think the House does not deserve. He says on page 8 of his printed speech, after quoting from an English journal on railway transport:

"I make a present of this to the House because I think that it is important that in discussing the problems of Indian railways we ought to develop a better comparative sense and a greater sense of proportion."

I do not think that in the discussions in this House the members had done or spoken anything so as to deserve this criticism from the Honourable the Railway Minister. I shall leave it at that.

Coming to the point which is covered by the motion before the House, viz., overcrowding, I must first of all say that it has been my experience that speeches made on cut motions or during the time of the general discussion on the budget ended with speeches alone. During the previous government an opportunity was given to Honourable Members to make eloquent speeches on various aspects. But if the object of these speeches is to give effect to the suggestions made I do not know whether even one in a thousand has been carried out. All that related to a time when the circumstances were entirely different from what obtains now. In those days we were under a bureaucratic foreign government whereas now we are our own masters. This is the first occasion when the Honourable Minister has an opportunity of showing what a popular government is. The taste of the pudding is in the eating of it. I would therefore ask the Honourable Minister to see that the suggestions made in the Honourable House are carried out in practice so far as it is practically possible for him. No doubt he has innumerable difficulties in carrying out these suggestion. As the Honourable Mover of this motion had already told him "we are ready to help you and to sanction anything that you want to carry out any of our suggestions." In the face of that I hope that he will take all the criticisms that are made in this House seriously and not treat them as was done by the previous Government, and give effect to them by translating them into action.

As regards overcrowding, some of the previous speakers have referred to the passengers as cattle, but I would go a step further because cattle will not bear such treatment. If you put a larger number of cattle in a truck than what it

can contain, they will kick and make up a row. But what is being done in respect of passengers is that they are treated as chattel, as inanimate beings. If you see the overcrowding in certain carriages you will shed, not tears, but blood will come out of your eyes. The pathetic way in which these passengers are situated is such that there have been many cases in which people have been so crowded and affected so much by the overcrowding that some women and children have fallen out of the running train and have died on account of the fall. I know that some little babies were actually seen dying on the platforms after being brought out of the train because of overcrowding and the consequent suffocation. There have been so many instances of that nature. That such state of affairs should be allowed to continue in this country is the greatest disgrace. The question is put by the Government 'What are we to do? What are the remedies?' Certainly there are remedies and if the Government take it into their head seriously to consider the situation and ameliorate the condition of the passengers and avoid overcrowding, it is really possible and practicable to do so. Many remedies have been suggested to the railway authorities to avoid this overcrowding. For instance, the suggestion was made that where there are a certain number of trains running between two stations one more train could be introduced. Such practical suggestions have been made. But in the old bureaucratic manner they have turned a deaf ear to them.

In this connection I would suggest that there must be at least some kind of an Advisory Board representing passengers who should be consulted by the railway authorities. They will be in a position to suggest ways and means of easing the situation. If the Government are really serious about it they can constitute such a Board representing the passengers of all classes, so that they can make practical suggestions for easing the situation. I need not add much to what has already been said about overcrowding and the most unsatisfactory state of affairs regarding accommodation. I would submit that the present Government which is a popular Government, which claims to reflect the views of the people and says it is there to carry out the wishes of the people, must do everything in its power to see that the passengers travel comfortably and are able to use the railway carriages with safety and convenience. The present Government is not like the previous Government and is bound to do that. If they are not able to carry out the wishes of the people I would say let them plead their inability and quit their office.

Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan (Madras General): Sir, I wish to say a few words about the condition of the third class ladies' compartments on the railways. When a train leaves a station the most crowded compartment in the train will be the third class women's compartment. What is generally done is that the men bring their women and children and also the luggage into the third class women's compartment and push everything into that compartment. They can go and get into any compartment. But there will be only one third class compartment in the whole train for women and it will be packed with women and children and luggage. I think that third class compartments for women were made at a time when women seldom used to travel from one place to another. It is now high time that these compartments were replaced by bigger compartments and more facilities made available. Recently, though I did not have the misfortune to travel in the third class women's compartment, I had to face almost the same fate. When I reached New Delhi railway station there was no way to get out of the compartment. All the doors and windows were blocked as the whole compartment had been packed with women and children. It was with the greatest difficulty that I could get out of the compartment.

There is another difficulty with regard to third class compartments for females. Even when the train starts there will not be even a drop of water in the pipe. Sometimes a tug of war will be required to extract a drop of water

[श्रीमती कमला चौधरी]

में ७०-८० व्यक्ति उतरे थे जिन में से बहुत से बच्चे ऐसे थे जिन्हें निमोनिया हो गया था और उस में से कुछ मृत्यु को भी प्राप्त हुए। स्त्रियों से छूटने पर मालूम हुआ भीड़ के कारण गाड़ी की खिड़कियां बन्द करना असंभव था। अव्यवस्था के कारण ऐसी दुर्घटनाओं का होना मैं समझती हूं आज इस सरकार के लिए, हमारे देश के लिए बहुत शर्म की बात होगी।

इसलिये मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान मैं इस ओर आकर्षित करती हूं कि शीघ्र से शीघ्र जो भी उपयोगी उपाय वह उचित समझें कार्य में लायें जिससे कि स्टेशनों पर और रेलगाड़ी के डिब्बों के अंदर, प्लेटफार्म पर और कम्पार्टमेंट के अंदर जो अत्यधिक भीड़ होती है जिसके कारण यह अनेक प्रकार की घटनायें और अनेक प्रकार की हानियां हो रही हैं उसका शीघ्र ही उचित प्रबंध हो और रेलवे विभाग की व्यवस्था उत्तम हो।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं माननीय सदस्य डाक्टर देशमुख के प्रस्ताव का समर्थन करती हूं।

English translation of the above speech.

Shrimati Kamala Chaudhri (U. P.: General): Mr. Speaker, through you I wish to invite the attention of the Honourable Minister for Railways, as I find, that though many Honourable Members of the House have spoken and have drawn your attention towards all such incidents that are taking place these days on account of tremendous rush on railways, yet the one, I feel, needs our attention most, is the harm that is being done to our society and culture as a result of the overcrowding besides other difficulties experienced on the way. Since the last war the entire working of the Railway Department has been going down day by day and it can be said that it has now reached the last stage of degradation. For this reason only various Members of the House just now drew the attention of the Honourable Minister and have shown to him that all sorts of accidents are taking place on account of overcrowding. Not only this but we are also told day by day that a very large number of men is dying as a result of these accidents. The passengers, particularly the ladies, have to face many difficulties. It is impossible for them to purchase their tickets in the rush, and if some how or other they get their tickets and enter the compartments they find it very difficult even to breathe there. While after occupying their seats they only witness such scenes as are totally against civilisation. In fact, the look of a third class compartment here these days is so dissatisfying that perhaps the animals are not packed so badly in a yard. Generally the little ones get overlayed or crushed. Other incidents like theft and death also take place. Every educated man realizes that there is a danger of catching a disease in a crowded place. Therefore, as a result of the overcrowding many children catch diseases from one and another and ultimately die.

Further, as I have pointed out before, there is a cultural loss too on account of this overcrowding. As it is impossible to obtain tickets in a rush and both men and women have to face that difficulty and people are gradually giving up that habit which they had imbibed and felt proud of occupying their seats after purchasing a ticket. Consequently those who do not want to buy their tickets

now and do not care to follow the rule have found an easy pretext. If you try you will find that the idea of following the rules is disappearing from the minds of the public as well as of the Railway staff. It is, therefore, essential to bring home the idea of discipline to the men of the Railway Department. Because if they do not observe the rules, other departments will be affected in the like manner. The passengers are a part and parcel of our society, of our country. When they travel they come in contact with men of every section and society, if, therefore, they misbehave they will affect the whole society and the whole country. I therefore say that the shortcomings that have crept into the working of the Railway Department do not merely hit that very department but affect the whole country and its people. After the attainment of freedom, the responsibility of having bad discipline in a department, is on our country—on our Government.

I, therefore, want to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister for Railways towards the need of finding some methods to remove the defects. He is an expert in this matter and understands what methods he should adopt to remove the faults so that there is an improvement in this department, and the department flourishes again, there is more staff, there is a larger number of trains moving and there is ample accommodation for all and there is no overcrowding which causes miseries to others.

I have learnt that the Government is having a financial loss on Railways. With the financial loss, the cultural and the social losses are also increasing day by day, if there is nothing to check them.

I shall also like to invite the attention of the Honourable Minister towards irregularities that are increasing every day in the management of Railways after the trains have started carrying refugees from one place to another in all directions. On the Delhi—Saharanpur line I have seen men clinging to the railway compartments by holding on the iron-rods and resting their feet on the foot-boards because of the lack of accommodation within the compartments. Anybody travelling these days must have noticed this thing for himself. Besides this I have also seen people travelling on the roofs of the compartments when they could not find any room in the train. It is also within my knowledge, that a few of them actually fainted while a number of them met death. Hardly 3 or 4 days ago a number of passengers about 70 or 80, detained at Meerut. Some of the children among them were suffering from Pneumonia, and a number of them died later. It was stated by the women folk that due to overcrowding in the train it was impossible to close the windows. Such incidents which are due to lack of management, in my opinion, is a matter of great shame for this Government and for the country.

I, therefore, invite the attention of the Honourable Minister and request him to take such measures as are considered fit to stop overcrowding on Railway platforms, and in the Railway compartments, and to stop the occurrence of accidents caused by overcrowding and to take such measures as are necessary to improve the condition of the Railway Department.

With these words I support the cut motion of the Honourable Member Dr. Deshmukh.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Minister for Railways and Transport): Sir, in listening to the debate on this motion, I have not been told anything which I have not already known and have not been deeply conscious of. When Honourable Members tell me that I do not know by experience or observation what is happening in the case of our lowest class passengers, they do me less than justice. There is no question regarding railway administration which has been more acutely present to my mind and to which I am more anxious

[Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan]

from the latrine pipe in the women's third class compartment. Sometimes there would be no water throughout the journey. It is the women who have to suffer all the way. When they have their children with them they need more water throughout the journey. I hope the Honourable Minister will see that more facilities are made available to women passengers in the third class compartments.

श्रीमती कमला चौधरी : माननीय अध्यक्ष, मैं आपके द्वारा रेलवे विभाग के माननीय मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान इस ओर ले जाना चाहती हूँ, हालांकि मैं देख रही हूँ कि बहुत से सदस्यों ने ऐसे सभी विषयों को लेकर रेलवे में आज जो अपार भीड़ के कारण दुर्घटनाएँ हो रही हैं, इस ओर आपका ध्यान आकृष्ट किया है। लेकिन मुझे सबसे अधिक यह बात चिंतनीय लग रही है कि आज भीड़ के कारण यात्रा में केवल यही दोष नहीं है कि यात्राओं में तरह तरह की कठिनाइयाँ होती हैं बल्कि इससे हमारे समाज की और हमारी संस्कृति की हानि हो रही है। दिन प्रति दिन गत युद्ध से आज तक रेलवे विभाग की सारी व्यवस्था एक प्रकार से नष्ट हो चुकी है जिस कारण आज यह कहा जा सकता है कि वह दुर्गति की और दुरावस्था की अंतिम सीमा, या चरम सीमा को पहुँच चुकी है। और इसी के कारण अभी अनेक मेम्बरों ने इस ओर माननीय मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान आकर्षित किया है और स्पष्ट किया है कि इससे अनेक प्रकार की कितनी ही दुर्घटनाएँ होती हैं। यहां तक दिन प्रति दिन ऐसे विवरण सुनने में आते हैं कि दुर्घटनाओं के फल स्वरूप मृत्यु कितनी अधिक संख्या में होती है। यात्रा करने वालों को, विशेष कर जो स्त्रियाँ हैं, उनको बहुत अधिक कठिनाई होती है। स्त्रियों के लिये भीड़ में टिकट खरीदना दुर्लभ होता है और किसी प्रकार टिकट खरीदकर भीड़ में डिब्बों में बैठ जाने पर भी सांस लेना मुश्किल होता है—बैठने पर वहाँ ऐसे दृश्य उपस्थित होते हैं कि थोड़ी देर के लिये ऐसा मालूम होता है कि जैसे मानवता के विरुद्ध कोई बात हो। साथ ही हमारे यहां के तीसरे क्लास की जो परिस्थिति आज कल होती है, उसमें तो ऐसा ही महसूस होता है कि शायद पशु भी इस प्रकार किसी वाड़े में बंद न किये जाते होंगे। छोटे छोटे वच्चे कुचल जाते हैं। और मृत्यु, चोरी आदि की बड़ी बड़ी दुर्घटनाएँ होती हैं। हर एक सुशिक्षित व्यक्ति इस बात को समझता है कि इतनी अधिक भीड़ में एक दूसरे को बहुत अधिक बीमारियाँ लगने का अंदेशा होता है। फल स्वरूप छोटे छोटे वच्चे एक दूसरे से बीमारी के कीटाणु लेते हैं और अनेक बीमारियों के शिकार होते हैं।

साथ ही मैंने जैसा अभी आपके सामने अपना विचार रक्खा इससे एक प्रकार से हमारी सांस्कृतिक हानि हो रही है, और वह यह कि भीड़ के कारण टिकट लेना असंभव होता है। स्त्रियों के लिये भी और पुरुषों के लिये भी इस प्रकार की कठिनाइयाँ मौजूद हैं। उससे जो अनुशासन हमारे यहां की जनता में था कि सब लोग टिकट लेकर बैठना ही

प्रतिष्ठा मानते थे, आज एक प्रकार वह समाप्त हो रहा है, और जो टिकट नहीं लेना चाहते हैं उनके लिये एक बहाना भी हो गया है इस अनुशासन के पालन न करने का। इसी प्रकार अगर आप देखें तो जनता से लगाकर रेलवे विभाग के कर्मचारियों तक में यह अनुशासन पालन की भावना नष्ट होती जा रही है। आज अनुशासन मानने की भावना रेलवे विभाग में लाना जरूरी है। अगर वहाँ अनुशासन नहीं रह जाता है तो इसका प्रभाव अन्य विभागों पर भी पड़ता है। रेलवे विभाग में जो जनता सफर करती है वह हमारे समाज की है, हमारे देश की है, जो प्रत्येक विभाग और समुदाय के सम्पर्क में आती है, अगर उसमें सदाचार की कमी होती है उसका अनुशासन एक जगह नष्ट होता है तो उसका प्रभाव सारे देश पर और सारे समाज पर पड़ सकता है इसलिये मैं समझती हूँ कि आज जो घटनाएँ और जो रेलवे विभाग की व्यवस्था में—भीड़ के कारण खराबियाँ पैदा हो गई हैं वह सिर्फ रेलवे विभाग तक ही सीमित नहीं हैं बल्कि उसका प्रभाव सारे देश पर और सारे समाज की जनता पर पड़ रहा है। आज आजाद होने के बाद सारी जिम्मेदारी, ऐसे किसी भी विभाग के अव्यवस्थित होने की हमारे देश के ऊपर है, हमारी सरकार के ऊपर है।

इसलिये मैं रेलवे विभाग के माननीय मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान इस ओर दिलाना चाहती हूँ। वे जिस प्रकार भी उचित समझें, इस अव्यवस्था को दूर करने का उपाय करें। इस विषय की वह स्वयं भी बहुत जानकारी रखते हैं और अच्छी तरह समझ सकते हैं कि कौन ऐसे उपाय प्रयोग में लाये जाय कि जल्द से जल्द रेलवे विभाग में सुधार हो, अव्यवस्था दूर हो जाय। और शीघ्र ही हमारे यहां के रेलवे विभाग की वृद्धि हो, वहाँ के कर्मचारियों की वृद्धि हो। अधिक से अधिक गाड़ियाँ चलने लगें जिससे अधिक संख्या में यह भीड़ न हो और यह जो खराबियाँ उत्पन्न हो गई हैं वह दूर हों।

मुझे ऐसा भी मालूम हुआ है कि आर्थिक हानि सरकार को रेलवे में हो रही है। आर्थिक हानि के साथ ही इससे सामाजिक और सांस्कृतिक हानि भी दिन प्रति दिन बढ़ती जायगी यदि शीघ्र सुधार का प्रयत्न न हुआ तो।

मैं उनका ध्यान इस ओर भी आकृष्ट करना चाहूंगी कि आजकल जब से शरणार्थियों का आना जाना इधर उधर शुरू हुआ है तब से इस रेलवे की व्यवस्था में और भी ज्यादा खराबियाँ और यात्रियों के लिये और भी ज्यादा कठिनाइयाँ उत्पन्न होती जा रही हैं। दिल्ली से सहारनपुर जाने वाली गाड़ी में मैंने यहां तक देखा है कि जब अपार जन राशि के कारण डिब्बों के अंदर जगह नहीं रहती है तो यात्री गाड़ी के बाहर राड (rod) के सहारे गाड़ी की सीड़ियों पर लटकाकर होते हैं। जो व्यक्ति आज कल यात्रा करते हैं उन्हें भली भाँति ऐसा अनुभव होगा। इसके अतिरिक्त ऐसा भी देखा गया है, मैंने स्वयं भी देखा है कि गाड़ी के भीतर स्थान के अभाव में लोग छतों पर भी बैठने लग जाते हैं जिससे मुझे ऐसी घटनाओं का पता है कि कुछ व्यक्ति बेहोश हो कर नीचे गिर गए और कुछ की मृत्यु हो गई। अभी तीन चार दिन का जिक्र है मेरठ

[Dr. John Matthai]

to give thought than the conditions under which our third class passengers are travelling. Now I am tired of offering explanations and putting forward excuses, and I do not want to do that any more. What one is out for if one is to be of any service at all is to see that definite practical steps are taken, that we get a move on with regard to these matters. That is an intensely practical matter. When I listened to my friend Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya I thought the solution to this whole question according to his way of thinking was that there should be a change of heart on the part of those who are responsible for the administration. I believe there is a great deal in it. But primarily this question is not a question of changing anybody's heart. Primarily this question is one to be dealt with on a concrete practical basis. What is the reason for this overcrowding? Overcrowding is the result of two factors: the amount of coaching capacity that you have and the amount of passenger traffic that you have to carry. It is really the coefficient of these two factors that gives you the problem, and with all the good intention in the world if one wants to make a change in the situation one has got to tackle it from one end or the other or from both.

As regards this question of the number of coaches—the amount of transport capacity that we have—I gave the House a few figures in my reply to the General Debate. Between April 1946 and August 1947, we have been able to put into service about 370 additional coaches which have been built in our Railway workshops. We have under construction, both in our Railway workshops and with outside concerns, about 2,500 coaches, in terms of four-wheelers. We have in addition, as I told the House in answer to a question this morning, about 500 coaches on loan to the Defence Ministry. That is the limit of our capacity for increasing our transport accommodation. My Honourable friend the Mover said that if only the Minister would put his heart into the business, he should be able to set the position right within the next few months. I wish I could. The only thing that I can say in reply to a challenge of that kind is to make him a sporting offer. Let him take my place. I have no particular motive for being here except to see that some little service is done and some improvement effected.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh (C. P. and Berar: General): I am prepared to help the Honourable Member without taking his place, if he is prepared to hear what I have to say.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The real point is this. We have placed as many orders as we are in a position to get carried out. The fabricating and manufacturing capacity of our country is extremely limited; we are putting the greatest pressure possible on the capacity available in our own workshops and using to the utmost extent possible all the fabricating and manufacturing capacity that we can utilise for this purpose in the country outside the Railway organisation. What more can we do?

If we are in a position, in the course of the next two or three years, to get all these coaches which are now on order to be put into service, I suggest that from the angle of transport capacity we shall have made some little difference; but that is not the sole question. The question, also, is the amount of passenger traffic that we have to deal with. I have been talking a great deal since I introduced the Budget, about ticketless travel and I do not want to say anything more about it. But I think this question of unauthorised travel has got to be dealt with if you want to make a difference to the quantum of traffic that the railways can conveniently carry with reference to their existing capacity. The House knows my views about it and what I propose to do with regard to it. When there is a question of adjusting the supply factor to the demand factor in a matter of this kind, under a free economy the only way in which you can

adjust it is by leaving it to the operation of the price mechanism. That is to say, if the supply of transport is limited, you put up the price of transport, until at last supply and demand begin to equate themselves. We cannot do it in this case because we are running a public utility service in which the extent to which we can increase fares is limited by consideration of public interest. Therefore that course is not open to me.

There is only one other course which is open for dealing with excessive traffic, and that is to have a system of physical control. Opinion in this country seems to be against controls. Besides putting a control on passenger traffic is administratively not workable. Therefore, if the price mechanism is not open to me, if direct control is not open to me, what is one to do with regard to equating the relation between demand and supply of transport? That really is the practical issue.

There is one point which my Honourable friend Dr. Pattabhi made, which I think is a point of great importance. If it was possible for the Railway staff to treat people who are travelling under these difficult conditions with a little more consideration and patience we could improve the position. It is a point that has been borne in upon me ever since I took charge of the Railways. After all these people whom we are complaining about—our Railway staff—are our own countrymen; they have grown up under an entirely different system so far, and if they are not able to adapt themselves to new conditions as quickly as we would like, the fault is not entirely theirs. I have seen a good deal of the Railway staff; we have in our Railway organisation people who with proper training, and with proper direction, would I think be fully equal to their tasks. I have great confidence in my Railway staff.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Madras: General): Yes, that training is necessary; it has got to be given.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I entirely agree. There is the question of training to which I have given a certain amount of thought and I hope I shall be able to put my ideas into concrete shape. I do think that we might look for a perceptible improvement in the situation if we could get a corps of railway servants travelling on our trains in the capacity of social service workers—men and women whom we pay, but so selected that they would bring to bear upon this problem the mentality of social workers rather than of bureaucrat employees. That proposal I know is easily made but to get the kind of people that you want for that work is not an easy matter, but I am prepared to give thought to it.

Sir, I do not think I have anything more to say, but I do wish the House would bear in mind that this problem of overcrowding and all the connected problems relating to conditions of third class travel are matters in which I am deeply interested and whatever is practically possible I certainly will do.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Thirty-five Minutes Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Thirty-five minutes past Two of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the chair.

Mr. Speaker: There is another cut-motion by Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava to Demand No. 1.

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): According to the understanding reached this morning, this is not to be moved, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: There is some confusion. There are two cut motions in respect of Demand No. 1. One of them by Shri Punjabrao Deshmukh has been disposed of

Shri K. Santhanam: No, Sir. It has not been disposed of. It has not been put to the House.

An Honourable Member: He may like to withdraw it, Sir.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes, Sir. I beg leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion.

Mr. Speaker: Has the Honourable Member leave of the House to withdraw his cut motion?

The cut motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

DEMAND NO. 4—ORDINARY WORKING EXPENSES—ADMINISTRATION

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I beg to move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,60,93,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Administration'."

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,60,93,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Administration'."

Question of Economy, Efficiency and Corruption

Pandit Govind Malaviya (U.P. : General): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Administration', be reduced by Re. 1."

Sir, the Honourable the Railway Minister has presented to us an interim Budget, which contains naturally not very much of policies or programmes and which is more or less a formality only meant to cover the period up to 31st March. Yet, Sir, it is a Budget which is of vital importance for this country, for the reason that the situation in the country today hinges almost entirely upon the question of transport. Whether you look at the difficulties pervading one aspect or another aspect of life, you come finally to one and only one difficulty, the difficulty about transport. The Railway Minister has made a very lucid and masterly survey of the difficulties with which the Railways have been faced. We have every sympathy with him and we appreciate those difficulties fully, but, Sir, the Railway Minister has not been able, in his Budget, to tell us of any important or major step which is going to be taken to enforce economy. The situation appears to be very grave. The working expenses of the Railways are mounting up and the Minister's speech did not indicate to us any hope that they will not continue to do so hereafter. At the same time, the income of the Railways is not likely to increase very much. We may go on resorting to the obvious and easy—but I must say the undesirable—method of increasing fares and freights, but that cannot go on very long and it cannot meet the situation, as is obvious from the fact that last year the Government did increase the fares and still we are left with a huge deficit for which the reserve has to be tapped. This touching of the reserve is a dangerous thing with the present structure of the Railways. If I am not mistaken, even in the pre-war days, the Wedgwood Committee had suggested a reserve of Rs. 50 crores. If anything, we ought today to raise it to at least Rs. 200 crores. On the contrary, we shall have a paltry reserve of Rs. 4 crores. It is a dangerous thing to do so, but that was not the point that I wished to make. What I wish to submit is that there is a limit to the help we can get from the increase in fares. That problem is one which I should have liked to deal with, but in view of the time limit, I will leave it to my other Honourable Colleagues to do so.

I will, Sir, come to the requirements of economy, because, obviously, if expenses are increasing, if our income cannot be augmented, the only thing to make this great huge national concern solvent and successful is to cut down the expenses that we are now incurring. There is no other way and I submit that unless we lift ourselves out of the time-old ruts of the officialdom of the Railway Department, unless we take courage in our hands and boldly adopt new methods and new policies, howsoever revolutionary and unorthodox they might be, I am afraid, Sir, there is no getting out of the crisis in which we seem to be placed today.

I, Sir, would urge therefore upon the consideration of the Honourable the Railway Minister, as indeed of the whole Government, the utmost urgency of seriously and realistically tackling the problem of cutting down costs and expenditure. Let them appoint a retrenchment Committee; let them have an Economy Research Section—I do not know if the Research Sections, which the Pope Inquiry had suggested and which the Wedgwood Committee Report had supported; are functioning. If they are there, so much the better; let them be augmented; if they are not, let us seriously look upon the problem of research, research with a view to improvement, not only of efficiency, but research with a view to economy, with a view to the cutting down of expenses, with a view to the cheaper managing of our Railways, which, if I might say so, I hope I will not be misunderstood, are anything but solvent to-day. I urge that need, Sir, upon the Government and along with it, Sir, I beg to emphasize the need of re-grouping of the Railways to which the Honourable Minister referred in his speech. He referred, Sir, to the re-grouping of the three railways on our eastern borders. He did not refer, Sir, to the re-grouping of the railways on our western borders. It is a most important issue.

Sir, at present there are nine systems of railways in the country, over the administration cost of which alone, as this demand indicates, we are spending nearly 14 crores every year. Now, Sir, the Honourable the Railway Minister has laid down three conditions according to which the question of re-grouping should be considered. Sir, I submit that we should give the fullest consideration to those considerations, but Sir, we should give the supreme and overriding consideration to the question of economy, and, if economy would justify, if economy would demand, I would suggest that, if need be, all other considerations should be relegated to the background and everything should be done which might make it possible for us to run the Railways more cheaply and to carry on its administration at a lesser cost.

I submit, Sir, for the consideration of the Government that the nine separate Railway administrations in this country should be grouped into three administrations only. It might appear fantastic to die hard railway experts that I should make that proposal, but there is absolutely nothing impracticable about it, besides, difficult circumstances require extraordinary remedies. I suggest these three systems. We could amalgamate the G.I.P. and the B.B.C.I. Railways on the one hand; we could amalgamate the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway and the South Indian Railway and the B.N.R. into one group; and we could group up all the five Railways in the north of India right from Amritsar to our borders in Assam, and thus we could have three systems which would make a great deal of saving. Sir, it will be said that these might become unwieldy. I will submit that the Wedgwood Report itself recommended that the Southern Mahratta and the South Indian Railways should be grouped together, even though they gave specious arguments against the re-grouping of Railways as a whole. One can understand that because, in those days the more the administrations of Railways in this country, the bigger were the number of big offices which could be doled out to the Europeans and Englishmen coming

[Pandit Govind Malaviya]

out from their country. Those days luckily are gone. Even they had suggested it. It may be argued that the re-grouping of the Railways in this manner may make them unwieldy. I submit, Sir, it would not be so. Even in the past the North Western Railway had a mileage of 7,000 miles which it was administering. Under my proposal, Sir, the B.B. & C.I. and the G.I.P. Railway will only be 7,069 miles, very much like 7,000. There would be no difference. And the M.S.M. and South Indian and the B.N.R., all the three together would have only 9,000 miles; while all the five systems in the North together would not come to more than 10,000 miles. If that seems to be an impossibility, I would say, very well, instead of all the five northern systems being grouped into one, they might be grouped up into two. The Eastern Punjab, the East Indian and the Bengal Railways, all the Broad-gauge Sections should be amalgamated into one administration so that all these three Broad-gauge Railways can be combined into one and that, Sir, will give us only 6,176 miles, substantially less than the old total mileage of the North Western Railway. We could group the O.T. Railway and the Assam Railways—all Metre Gauge sections—into the second group which would give us only 4,187 miles. So Sir, we could have these four groups, and even the most conservative officers will admit we will have every Section of perfectly manageable dimensions, not much more than the old N.W. Railway. We can imagine Sir that if instead of the present nine systems, we have to run only four, obviously, the 14 crores which we have to spend today over them will be very substantially reduced. A saving of several crores of Rupees annually will not be a small thing, Sir, and I hope the Ministry of Railways will not fail to do the needful in this matter.

Sir, it may be said that it will involve a very long run to amalgamate these three Railways in the North. I submit, Sir, that it will not be so and not only that, actually it will lead to greater efficiency; it will lead to better working. The Wedgwood Report, Sir, said: "Too much time is lost in passing traffic forward from Division to Division and from one Railway system to another. Delays to through traffic from 8 to 16 hours at yards and exchange points are not regarded as abnormal." I submit, Sir, that if we could combine these administrations we will increase our efficiency. It will shorten our delays and will cut down the time and thereby it will help the present situation considerably. Then, Sir, there are other considerations in this matter. Sir, from the strategic point of view also one single Railway system running from one frontier to the other will be a very important and helpful factor. Sir I am fully satisfied that under the proposal I have made, all the three conditions laid down by the Honourable Minister will be fully met. But, Sir, to show how paramount is the need for such re-grouping, I would say that even if they are not, then for the sake of economy, this must be done. The Administrative Offices, Sir, should be located at central places, from where greater efficiency and still greater economy may be possible.

Besides this urgent need for economy and efficiency, Sir, corruption in the Railways is rampant today. For that purpose I would suggest an all out hereafter lean programme. The turn-about which has been pointed out by the Honourable the Railway Minister as having gone down to 14 to 15 days per wagon as against 9 to 10 days per wagon during the pre war days, has a very grave reason behind it. A very high railway officer told a Minister that nearly 30 to 40 per cent. of wagons are being utilised unlawfully by dishonest and corrupt Railway officials to earn illegal income by supplying them to black-marketeers, without any record, without any entry into the books or registers at fantastic charges which are pocketed by these officials and that they do so by changing the numbers on these wagons and reporting them for the time as untraceable. If we could stop that, Sir, we could bring about a big difference. If we cannot still improve the transport requirements substantially, we must do something more.

We have got to deliver the goods. We have got to succeed. Let us take to new methods, if necessary. Let us confine our passenger traffic to two days a week and on these days run special duplicate trains composed, if need be, even of open wagons and run, if need be, even by goods locos, and thus complete the passenger traffic on those two days. On the remaining five days for the present, let us cancel all passenger trains and let us utilise the locos of passenger trains even, one or even more in each train as the load may require, and run hundreds of special goods trains on those days and run them at passenger speed if possible and take away the accumulated goods and ease the situation.

Then, Sir, there is the question of repairs and spare parts also.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member has by now exceeded his time limit.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: I submit, Sir, that all these points should be taken into consideration by Government and the needful done.

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Administration' be reduced by Rs. 1."

I understand that the next motion on Demand No. 9 also covers some of the ground which this motion has covered.

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General): That is an economy cut.

Mr. Speaker: The question of economy is raised in the present motion also. Therefore instead of having a double discussion I think Demand No. 9 may be moved at this stage so that there may be a common discussion.

DEMAND NO. 9—ORDINARY WORKING EXPENSES—MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sir, I move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,40,32,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August 1947, to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Miscellaneous Expenses'."

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,40,32,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Miscellaneous Expenses'."

Economy

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Miscellaneous Expenses' be reduced by Rs. 1,00,00,000."

This is an economy cut. My Honourable friend Pandit Malaviya gave some general considerations about the need for economy. I want to take the House to a more detailed discussion of one single item. Sir, the gross traffic receipts of all Indian railways in 1938-39 was 100 crores and the working expenses were 54 crores. In order to reduce these figures to the figures comparable to the budget we have to make two adjustments; one is that we have to multiply it by 4/5 to exclude the expenditure over the Pakistan railways. And to reduce the figures further for these 7½ months you will have to multiply them by 5/8. These multiplications give us the beautifully simple figure of just one-half. Therefore for the comparable period of 1938-39 we have a revenue of 50 crores and an expenditure of 27 crores. The budget figures presented by the Honourable Minister are 107 crores for revenue and 107 crores for expenditure. I want the House to reflect on these two figures; the revenue has doubled while the expenditure has quadrupled. The Honourable Minister was very anxious to drive home to us a lag in the revenue owing to the fares and freights not being raised *pari passu* with the increase in prices. Of course he made out a strong case for

[Shri K. Santhanam]

that purpose. While the index figure of prices is near 300 our revenue has only doubled; but he has not stressed the other fact that the working expenses have gone far beyond whatever may be justified by the increase in prices. While the index figure is near 300 our working expenses have gone up four times. Therefore if the working expenses had increased only in proportion to the increase in prices the present expenditure would be 25 per cent less; and if you work out the figures this 25 per cent. is exactly the amount of taxation which he is levying. Therefore the increased taxation that he is levying is not to cover the increase in prices but to cover the inefficiency that has crept into the railway administration during these four years. This inefficiency has crept in in many ways; there is deterioration in equipment, there is lesser outturn per worker, and there are more workers for the same amount of work. In all these ways our expenditure has become so swollen that while it should be only three times the expenditure of 1938-39 if only prices had their operation, it is now four times.

3 P. M. Therefore I suggest to the Honourable Minister that economy is even more important than the raising of revenue, because unless he effects economy he will have to raise fares far beyond even what is justified by increase in prices.

Now, Sir, the people of India have paid actually whatever is necessary not so much by increase in fares and freights as by taking less accommodation. He has himself said that the railways have carried double the number of passengers with practically no increase in accommodation. That means that they paid double fares for the same accommodation and in this way they have already paid whatever is due. But on the other hand the expenditure has become disproportionately swollen. Sir, I want to illustrate my point by a more specific illustration. I should like the House to turn to pages 30-31 of the Demands for Grants. I have taken this head "Miscellaneous Expenses" not because it is an item under which the greatest economy is possible but for the very opposite reason; it is one of those heads where the items are ordinarily highly inelastic. For instance, you cannot change Contributions to Provident Funds or Gratuities or other items. Still what do we find under this head? The total budget estimate for 1947-48 as presented by the Honourable Minister in February last was roughly 25 crores; and according to the formula I have given it should be only 12½ crores under this item for this period of 7½ months. And we have got 21 crores; there is an excess of 8½ crores. In such an inelastic head this increase of 8½ crores is very serious. I have got figures for each one of these heads; I do not want to weary the House by giving too many figures. What I find on analysis is that this 8½ crores is accounted for by two items,—loss on grain shops and additional expenditure on account of the Central Pay Commission's recommendations. I leave out the second item (2½ crores) and then there is an increase of 6 crores due to loss on grain shops. That is, it should have been 8½ crores but it is actually 14½ crores. It may be imagined that prices of grains rose up and therefore this loss was incurred. But on further analysis this thing is wrong; because I find that out of these 6 crores 4½ crores are accounted for by (i) the East Indian Railway (3 crores) and (ii) the Bengal Nagpur Railway (1½ crores). So far as I know the foodgrains have been controlled all over India more or less on a uniform basis. Therefore there should be some special reason for an increase of three crores over the normal budgeted figure in the East Indian Railway and an increased loss of one and a half crores in the Bengal Nagpur Railway. I think there is a big loophole somewhere. I think a lot of grain must have been lost or something is wrong in accounting. This four and a half crores in one item is an expenditure for which some valid explanation should have been offered, but we find not a bit of explanation offered in the demand for grants or in the explanatory memorandum or in the budget speech. If there is a loophole to cause a loss of this four and a half crores, it must be explained. I do not say it cannot be explained, but I am not able to find an explanation. Therefore, I suggest to the Railway

Minister that he may begin his enquiries for economy on this one item. If he takes up this loss of grain shops and begin with the East Indian Railway and the Bengal Nagpur Railway, he will find that out of the 14½ crores he will be able to recover two or three crores. My own cut motion is for a cut of one crore. I think he should accept this cut and pursue this enquiry and tell us during the next budget debate what happened. I think it is only by pursuing these large items one by one and finding where the loopholes are that we can really effect economy in the Indian railways.

I have tried to analyse other items like these. I do not think I shall be justified in taking up the time of this House for such a purpose. If you take Repairs and Maintenance, I find that on the Bengal Nagpur Railway it is the same story; also in the East Indian Railway. In the East Indian Railway the total budgeted figure for the whole year was Rs. 7.8 crores, while you find that for the 7½ months it is 7.58 crores. If you look at the figures for the other railways they are not so bad, though in every railway, I find not only increased pay commission's allowances but all kinds of extraneous things have come in and swelled the figures. Therefore, these details must be given to us at the next budget time in the form of a tabular statement. You must take the standard figures for 1938-39 and give us the figures for 1948-49 and give a detailed explanation as to how the increase has happened, whether legitimate, and if not what steps are being taken to curtail them. I can realise the difficulties of our Railway Minister. I do not expect him to perform miracles. But he must set in motion the machinery and adopt the policy of reducing everything to a normal level. Unless he tells the railway bureaucracy that they have to cut down all superfluous expenditure which has grown up in all kinds of directions during these war years, without any effective control or audit, he cannot manage the railways at all and he could not get any proper appreciation or sanction from this House. It is to strengthen his hands that I have moved this motion. We are on his side and he is himself anxious. But a Minister between the bureaucracy and the Legislature is between the devil and the deep sea. If he joins us and takes our co-operation, he is certain to make the bureaucracy realize that hereafter it is the Legislature that is the master and not the bureaucracy. Therefore, I hope that this particular cut will be accepted and the particular line of enquiry which I have suggested will be started and I also hope that similar lines of enquiry will be started under every item, so that by the time the Railway Minister comes before us with the annual budget for 1948-49, he will have started at least enquiries and policies which would result in a great deal of economy and will raise the efficiency of the Indian railways at least to the level of 1938-39 in one or two years. I agree that level was not high. It was comparatively low and he is taking steps by sending persons to America and other places to give us a standard of American efficiency. Of course we should aim at that but today our aim should be to get back to the 1938-39 efficiency and we should do it in the next year or two, I wish him all success in that effort.

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Miscellaneous Expenses' be reduced by Rs. 1,00,00,000."

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): Sir, I do not wish to take the time of this House in discussing matters of detail. I will only supplement some comments just now made in the House. I join with the previous speakers in their desire for economy. I request the Honourable Railway Minister to look into the matter carefully and effect as much retrenchment as possible. I should also request him to consider the technical matters raised by Mr. Santhanam. With regard to retrenchment, I do not think there is much scope in effecting pay-cuts in the lower services. We have had much bitter experience only recently in the railway strikes, and the Central Pay Commission's recommendations came in to save the situation. Quickly upon the heel of those recommendations

[Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena]

107 crores and in 1945-46, they rose to 243 crores, i.e., by about 127 per cent. But the train miles run in 1938-39 were 197 millions and they fell in 1945-46 to 190 million miles, so that the train miles were reduced by 4 per cent. whereas the revenue increased by 127 per cent. This means that for the same train mile or for the same distance every passenger had to pay $1\frac{1}{3}$ times more than he originally paid, so that after the war you are paying already $2\frac{1}{3}$ times the prewar fare. The number of passengers carried are also $2\frac{1}{3}$ times the prewar figure though the number of coaches on the line is less than that before the war. Thus the amount of fare is $2\frac{1}{3}$ times and the amount of space provided is $\frac{2}{5}$ th of the prewar space even if we assume that the present number of coaches on the line is equal to the prewar figure. So the real fare is about $5\frac{1}{2}$ times the previous cost. I do not think it is fair that he should say that further increase in travelling cost is justified.

I have very carefully analysed the figures and also the rates that prevailed before the war. The rates on the O. T. Railway were 2.6 for ordinary and express trains up to 50 miles, 2.3 up to 150 miles. After that it is 1.7 pies for ordinary trains for distances above 300 miles. A passenger going from Gorakhpur to Katihar has to pay Rs. 12 today whereas under the present recommendation he will have to pay Rs. 24. It will be impossible for me to defend that position of doubling the third class fare. The condition of trains on the O. T. Railway is very well known to the Honourable Minister. He himself said the other day that it is a headache to him. Can I go and tell people that the fares have been increased by this amount merely because our national government has come into existence? I cannot defend this increase in fares. I can say emphatically that I am absolutely opposed to all these increases.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (West Bengal: General): What about meeting expenditure resulting from the Pay Commission's Report?

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: My friend has suggested that the increase is necessary for implementing the recommendations of the Pay Commission. I have been in close touch with the Pay Commission from the very beginning. As a member of the Railwaymen's Federation I was one of those who took the initiative in 1946 when the General strike on the Railways was scheduled to take place on 27th June 1946 in trying to see that the strike did not take place. We were given assurances, but I am sorry to say that they have not been honoured. It has been said that the total additional expenditure, after implementing the Pay Commission's recommendations, will cost about Rs. 48 crores. But what is the net result? The net result is that 81,000 subordinates and 60,000 men in the workshops will be losing and their present pay will be reduced by amounts ranging between Rs. 5 and Rs. 100. Thus some 1,41,000 persons on the railways will get their salaries reduced to this extent. For instance, an Assistant Surgeon on the M. S. M. Railway who is now getting Rs. 360 will get hereafter only Rs. 220 because he was on the pre-1931 scale and now he will come back to the new scale and be given three increments, resulting in his pay being reduced from Rs. 360 to Rs. 220. That shows how the Pay Commission's recommendations have been implemented. Similarly a journeyman on the G. I. P. Railway who is now getting Rs. 150 will get Rs. 100 under the new arrangement. I can give many other instances but I do not wish to do so because there is not enough time for it. I would only say that these recommendations of the Pay Commission which are now being implemented will result in the decrease of pay of 1,41,000 persons, a large number of whom are workshopmen. Railway efficiency depends on the workshops more than on anything else. The Honourable Minister should there-

fore see that nobody loses in his emoluments as a result of the Pay Commission's recommendations and that everybody is given sufficient increment to make up for the increased cost of living. One of the arguments used for increase of fares is the rise in the cost of living whose present index number is 290. But in the case of these $1\frac{1}{2}$ lac subordinates and workshopmen forming 18 per cent. of all Railway employees, the salary is reduced. That is something extraordinary.

Coming to the detailed proposals, the main item of expenditure which has been mentioned is the recommendations of the Pay Commission. The additional expenditure has been put at Rs. 48 crores in all. I am unable to find out how the figure has been arrived at. From my contact with the Federation from the beginning I know that the Secretary of the Federation has challenged the figures. At present at least 80 per cent. of the salaries on Railways have not been fixed. Therefore it is not possible actually to find out what the additional cost will be. Workshop salaries have not been fixed, for instance. I would therefore say that this item which is sought to be covered is really an item arrived at by conjecture. Since my Honourable friend Mr. Maitra has raised the question I want to say that he should not grudge to pay the labourer a living wage. I want that labour should remain contented.

I have been hearing in the House about complaints on the railways. I am myself very bitter about them. But I know how things happen. I have seen so many ticket examiners on the O. T. Railway. The maximum pay of this ticket examining staff on this railway is Rs. 60 after a service of 30 years beginning with Rs. 30. And they ask me, "Tell us whether we can live and maintain ourselves on Rs. 60 per month?" They reach Rs. 60 after about 30 years of service. It is absurd. The man might have got two sons to keep at school or college. By honest living he cannot keep them there. What happens therefore, is that when passengers go and ask for tickets, no tickets are given to them. They are told that tickets are short. The passengers are allowed to travel ticketless and the amount is pocketed by the railway ticket examiners. I know in the journey from Gorakhpur to Nantanwa which is a distance of about 50 miles, at least 50 per cent. of the passengers do not pay the fare, but the money is taken by the ticket examiners and is divided between themselves. The result is that you lose the revenue. I think the revenues will increase by much more than Rs. 8 crores if, instead of having police to arrest ticketless passengers, there are police to check this corrupt practice by the staff, and to chalan the guilty officials. But you cannot arrest or chalan them unless you give them at least a living wage. If you reduce their salaries by Rs. 100 and Rs. 50 and also want to prosecute them it is not fair. They should have a living wage. Then only can you be strict and demand honest work from them. I would say to Pandit Maitra also that he should not grudge to pay a living wage to the labourer. He runs your industry and he must be paid his full wages. Then you can expect him to be honest. Otherwise it is impossible to expect him to be honest. Give him a living wage and see that the recommendations of the Pay Commission are not applied in an irrational manner. Then you can expect full and honest work from him. With the new free spirit abroad I am sure the workers will do patriotic work as the Honourable Minister has said. As he said they have done wonderful work during the riots and partition days. Under great risk they have been able to carry on their work during those days. As Mr. Anthony said the other day they have been able to make up for the shortage of firemen and other staff by extraordinary adjustment among themselves. They can rise to the occasion and can probably do miracles. You must therefore give these heroic men at least a living wage. Then corruption can be stopped. I hope therefore that this part of the subject will receive the careful attention of the Honourable Minister.

[Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad]

and their implementation by the Government, we should not try hastily to effect retrenchment in that direction. There is, however, I believe, some scope for retrenchment in the higher services. But there again the difficulty is that cuts in the higher services will not effect much financial saving. However, there is some scope there and the Honourable Minister would be pleased to do as much as possible without impairing efficiency or making the services discontented.

With regard to efficiency, I have one or two suggestions to make. I feel that the service is not really insolent to the public or foreign to a sense of discipline. But I feel on the contrary—it is my personal feeling—that they display much indolence and inattention to their duties. That seems to be more characteristic of the middle and lower class officers in the discharge of their duties. If anybody goes to a booking office, and asks for a ticket, he will find that the booking clerks are talking to one another—supremely unconcerned as to their duty towards the public. And then after repeated calls, he wakes up in a listless fashion and if he is asked a question, or if a suggestion is made to him he continues in a dreamy condition, replies as little as possible and does as little work as possible for the pay he gets. It has already been pointed out in the House that there is trouble about the getting back of change from some booking clerks. The time may be urgent; the passenger cannot wait; and the change is not often given.

Then there is the other head of corruption about which I wish to make one or two comments. The fact is that ticketless travel which has so far been so much of a menace in the railway administration, is largely the result of corruption among some railway officials. I shall cite to the Honourable Minister one or two typical examples. If anybody would care to travel in an inter or third class compartment or to have a peep into the working of the railway officials in those compartments, he will often find that a ticket examiner gets into the compartment at a wayside station and asks for tickets. It is found that many people have not got tickets. At once there is a thundering order that they should get down to be sent up for prosecution or pay the fare and so forth. Some of the passengers say that they have not got the fare. They are taken down to the platform and then it will be noticed that a conversation of a more intimate and affectionate character is now taking place between the passengers and the official. The passengers are taken away from the gaze of the persons who witnessed the preliminary stage. The ticketless passengers are then taken to another compartment or to a distant place and there the matter is satisfactorily adjusted of which however there would be no evidence in the railway books.

Then at the terminus stations or big junctions where tickets are supposed to be collected what is largely and openly done is that many persons who have no tickets adopt a well known course. There is a well established convention as to how things are managed. Any Honourable Member or official can privately find it out. At the Howrah station as also at other big railway stations the thing is managed so openly and systematically that it seems to be the accepted business principle on the subject. The man who has no ticket just hands to the ticket collector at the gate a one rupee or two rupee note in lieu of a ticket and without any argument or fuss the man is allowed to pass. I have referred to only two out of the many ways of corruption. I think this kind of corruption can be checked largely, though it cannot be rooted out altogether. It is ingrained in our nature. I submit that the Honourable Minister should appoint or cause to be appointed a few secret agents and ask them to pass as men travelling without tickets and go through the experience. Let them report to him or to some suitable officer. I think the experience which I have mentioned before the House will be borne out by facts. I think that if the idea gets abroad that there are officials or secret agents who are going about, then it will strike terror in the hearts of the wrong-doers and that would act as a deterrent.

The other kind of machinery which I think should be adopted would be to encourage complaints. Nowadays if there is a complaint, it takes years even to get a reply. The complainant never gets satisfaction from the ultimate reply. I should submit that complaints should be encouraged, they should be inquired into secretly, identity of the complainants should not be disclosed and the men reported against should be punished in a summary fashion on summary enquiry. If there is a large number of complaints about one particular station or a particular batch of staff or a particular officer, it is a sure indication that the batch or the individual official are or is corrupt. It is contrary to human experience that there would be a combination of men against any honest official. As soon as there is a dishonest official complaints grow. These complaints are very welcome in the postal department. The postal department makes very thorough enquiries into the complaints. The postal department is thus remarkably free from corruption. The railway department should take a leaf out of their books and adopt a similar system. I have made some concrete suggestions which I hope the Government will be pleased to take into consideration. With these few words I support the motion.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U. P.: General): Sir, before coming to my subject I would make a request to the Honourable Minister. Formerly this budget used to be discussed in two days in a lower House of one hundred elected members and in one day in the Council of State. Now the number of members has increased to 300, and there is only one chamber. The former Government was a bureaucratic Government, which did not care to have suggestions from the House. But the popular Government must enable every member to have his full say on the budget and give careful consideration to his suggestions. This is the prevailing practice in the Legislative Assemblies of the Provincial Governments since 1937. Members here are anxious to give their suggestions but they cannot find time even to speak out their mind. I would request the Government to give more time when the next budget is presented to the House for discussion.

I now come to my subject. I have been following very closely the debate since yesterday and I listened very attentively to the speech of the Honourable Minister. I have very carefully studied his speech and the budget. I can say that the Honourable Minister has delivered a very lucid speech giving a most simple exposition of a most complicated subject. But his is the speech of a great professor and not of a great statesman, and I cannot approve the measures he has suggested to meet the crisis. The biggest question that was raised in the debate yesterday was by my Honourable friend Mr. S. K. Patil, who said that on the successful and prosperous working of the railways hangs the fate of all nationalisation in this country but the manner in which it was answered by the Honourable Minister was not, I think, satisfactory. He said that we apply a very high standard in judging the administration of Railways, but we do not apply the same standard to the working of other industrial concerns like the textile industry. I would tell him that the textile industry is an industry run by capitalists for their own benefit, whereas the railways are run by the Government not only for their own interest but in the interests of the people. I think we have a right to demand from the Government a full explanation of every thing done and a much higher standard of efficiency. I therefore hope that he will not mind even if I am a bit fierce in my criticism and I trust he will take it in the spirit in which I make it. We as members here represent crores of people and if we tell him that this is not what the people expect from him I hope he will take it in the spirit in which it is said.

The Honourable Minister is demanding an increase in fares, which is always an unpopular thing. The present amenities to passengers, as the Honourable Minister himself has said, are far less than what they were even 20 years ago. I have here some figures. The prewar total gross earnings of Railways were

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Coming to the question of nationalisation, I think nationalisation cannot be judged by the past record of Railways. So far there had been no nationalisation and a foreign government was exploiting our railways. The amount earned by the railways was not spent in the best interests of the railways. I would suggest that it is only from now on that nationalisation has to be judged, whether it is good or not. I have with me the Reports of the Mackay Committee and the Acworth Committee. In fact we are working under the Acworth Committee recommendations. They had suggested that Railway Finance should be separated from the General Budget. It is at present so, of course. But the railways are contributing a sufficiently large amount to general revenues. You want to judge the advantages of Nationalisation by the progress made by the railways. If that is so, you must give them full liberty to devote their profits to their development and not ask them to contribute to the general revenues. They are themselves performing a national function. Therefore if you take away some money from them you will stunt their growth to that extent. Except interest on invested capital, no contribution to General Revenues should be demanded from them. In other countries also the railways have been allowed to develop and the revenue from them has been spent wholly on railways. Today there is only about 40,000 miles of railway in India as against 36,700 miles in 1920. After 25 years we have only an increase of 4,000 miles, i.e. by 10 per cent. though the capital cost has increased from Rs. 380 crores to 808 crores, i.e., by 135 per cent. Of this mileage, too, some 7,000 miles has gone to Pakistan. The Mackay Committee had recommended that India needed at least one lac miles of Railways. The budget shows that our greatest need is the ability to produce Railway Engines and Wagons in our Workshops. If the Honourable Minister will put in a programme of starting capital work on new lines and starting shops which produce engines and the like, I am prepared to bear any increase in fares. But merely to meet the deficiencies which can be well met by economies in expenditure, we are not prepared to give a single pie. If there is a big programme of establishing big engine shops, having more coaches, having things manufactured here, so that in a sufficiently small period of time we may really have a great railway system, then I am prepared to bear any increase in fares. The Honourable Minister has said that it will take three years for normal railway conditions to return. Surely this is a confession of utter bankruptcy in statesmanship. In 12 years from 1929 onwards, Russia could by her five year plans become the greatest power in the world in 1941. Hitler made Germany the greatest power in the world in five years from 1934 to 1939. If we desire to rise to our full stature and to realise our destiny of being the greatest power in the world, then the same spirit of urgency must inspire us. Three years is an unconscionably long time for railways to return to their normal prewar condition. The spirit of Free India and its great destiny must inspire us, and our railways must soon become the pride of our nation.

Mr. Speaker: Before I call upon any Honourable Member to speak may I know as to what time should be fixed for the last cut motion to be taken?

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (Madras: Muslim): Half past four.

Mr. Speaker: Then it will be taken at 4-30 instead of at 4-10.

Shri B. Das: Sir, I rise to support the economy cut moved by my friend Mr. Santhanam. Sir, I also support the points that have been raised by my friend Pandit Govind Malaviya regarding economy, efficiency and eradication of corruption. If I had my own way, I would have liked Mr. Santhanam's motion to have been for an economy cut of 10 crores and not 1 crore. Talking of 10 crores, I am reminded of the historic debate we had in 1944 when Sir

Edward Benthall wanted, just like my Honourable friend Dr. John Matthai, enhancement of railway rates and fares and wanted to keep 10 crores earmarked for the benefit of the third class passengers and for the comforts of the third class travelling public. Well, the House as it was constituted was wise enough to deduct 10 crores and the Benthalleian idea could not be realised.

Sir, I have been a little pained in hearing the debates in the last two days. There seems to be an exaltation. Although to me there is dawn of free India, there has been no nationalization and except for the Ministers nothing has been nationalized. It has been very painful for me to hear talk of nationalization of railways and to gloat over it!

Then, Sir, I would not have liked my very esteemed friend Dr. Matthai, a great scholar and a great economist, to follow the advice of his bureaucratic advisers in regard to Railways having provided "cheap service in spite of all-round rise in prices and wages" as long as it was possible for them to do. Why this self-complacency, this bravado? This advice which his advisers in the Railway Board gave him, he expounded a little more fully yesterday. I wish he had waited till the February Budget session, till circumstances had adjusted themselves and he had realised fully whether the railway concern is run as a national concern.

And talking of bureaucratic advisers, I am surprised that the Chief Commissioner and the Financial Commissioner included that political statement in the explanatory memorandum. It sounds a Benthalleian doctrine. We have become free only for the last three months. I cannot expect even if the Railway Board had been to a great extent Indianized, those gentlemen have become completely nationalistic in outlook. They are carrying on the tradition of the old railway bureaucrats, and what was their tradition? If we would not have been free today and if the old Government of India Act were to be working, there would have been a Statutory Railway Authority which would control all Indian railways and would have taken them away from the scope of criticism of the legislature. That was in contemplation. Thank God the British have quitted India and today we can control our railways.

Shri M. S. Aney (Deccan and Madras States Group): Are you better now?

Shri B. Das: My Honourable friend Mr. Aney has asked me 'Are we better?'. We will be better when the Honourable Minister of Railways reflects our hearts, our ideals, and is not guided by his bureaucratic advisers who were henchmen of the British Raj three months ago. Any European who had signed petitions, intrigued and represented that there should be Statutory Railway Authority in 1930-1931 must go out of India. Let us pay off compensations and pensions and let him go back, stock and barrel. If we want foreign experts, the English experts are no good. We must get them from America. Let us get them on contract basis. What has the Englishman done in controlling Indian railways? He has seen that the Indian railways have continuously fed the engineering industries in England. Hundreds of crores of rupees have gone to England and yet we cannot produce one locomotive, though we have been told during the last 20 or 25 years, after the Lee loot was conceded to the railway employees, that locomotives will be manufactured at Ajmer and other Railway Workshops. How can the English bureaucrats, and Railway bosses who placed orders with English factories in England and created and supported large British engineering industries do that? Sir, economy and efficiency will result when these fifth columnists go away from India; and my Honourable friend Dr. Matthai must understand, and appreciate the spirit with which I am speaking and with which we all are inspired today. They should not have fifth columnists in India to destroy the largest industry which my Honourable friend said is a nationalised concern. I hope I will live to congratulate him

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that he has nationalised Indian railways. Sir, it is a shame, it is our humiliation that we cannot produce railway appliances in India. For that the Railway Boards that were in existence before the 15th August 1947 were and are responsible. Until you get rid of these fifth columnists you cannot think of nationalising our railways.

Sir, I compliment my friend Mr. Frank Anthony for interpreting very courageously the maladies of our Railways. He represents in this House a large number of railway employees. The attitude of the railway employees has been "more and more pay and less and less work". I listened very attentively to my friend Professor Saxena. I cannot understand why labour must be pampered and feared. Sir, I condemn the attitude of the railway employees getting cheap grains as a special grace. Why should they be singled out among all the employees of the Government of India and among all the poor labourers all over India and the middle classes of India even? Why should they be pampered with Rs. 14 or 15 crores in subsidy? They are getting things which you and I do not get. They feed black market. They get very many things and this privilege was conceded out of fear of communism or socialism. We are now a free country. We should not be afraid of socialists or communists in borrowed dreams and the days when labour could paralyse the government by railway strikes are over. Those days are over. Those who borrowed such cheap phrases from Karl Marx or Lenin are now trying to think in other ways and my Honourable friend Dr. Matthai will try and deal with these socialists or congressmen or communists in a different and new frame of mind.

An Honourable Member: Patriots.

Shri B. Das: My labour friends should be patriots first and then they should follow and imitate ideas from foreign countries.

Sir, my friend Mr. Santhanam analysed the various items of Demand No. 9 and said why it has been selected for this economic cut. Sir, I think the Railway Publicity Department should be completely abolished. It has brought more infamy to India in foreign countries in the past than any other activities of the old Railway Board that was there to propagate British rule in India. The expenditure under this head has been steadily going up. In the original Budget which my Honourable friend the Railway Minister introduced it was six lakhs; now the expenditure asked for is something to the tune of 6.80 lakhs for 7½ months. I think this an useless item of expenditure and a burden on the public when the railway carriages cannot provide convenience to the travelling public, when the Railways cannot carry goods from Bombay to Calcutta or to Cuttack for want of wagons. It is no use wasting money and giving them cheap rations and so many other benefits that fortunately or unfortunately the railway servants are entitled to.

Sir, why should there be a Health Department in the Railways? Better abolish it. The Railways were company-managed; they were completely controlled by Britishers; they had British elements—British doctors and others—in all these Railways. Now we are one; this is our own country. Why should not the Railway Companies take advantage of our own doctors that are working under the Provincial or the Central Government?

I will make a few other suggestions. Sir, I endorse the suggestion of Pandit Govind Malaviya that the amalgamation of certain Railways should immediately take place. There is no need for so many groups of Railways. In the past it was so because it was under the British tradition; several senior jobs like the Agents were the preserve of Europeans—many wanted to be Agents. But now the European is out of the whole job; now we do not want

too many satraps. Three or four should be the limit of General Managers and thereby lots of saving will result.

Then about economy in staff. The Honourable Minister need not be afraid of strikes by the Socialists or Communists. The railway employees who are surplus must be disbanded. What large numbers of staff had been working in war time? Do we require all of them? The Honourable Minister was controlling a very large business in India; I think at that time he had not got that partiality towards labour or towards any others; he functioned as an employer. I want him to behave, in the next Budget speech that he will introduce, as an employer; no useless labour should be retained in the Railway service. More labour means more expensive overheads, and I say, had I my own way, I would have opposed the enhancement of rates and taxes. Why this hurry? The Honourable Minister could have waited another three months; he could have seen the way his staff are responding under the new conditions of Free India. Are they responding? In the engineering shops of the Railways, his workmen are not working—they are non-co-operating; production has gone down—everybody admits that, the world knows that. Why should production go down? So I say it is no use paying higher allowances or keeping surplus labour. He has brought the enhancements before us and I am bound by my Party decisions; I have not tabled any motion to oppose the enhancement of rates. But why is he in this hurry? Let the Honourable Minister take stock of his House—the Railways fully under the Swaraj condition, not under the old bureaucratic condition. We have gone through the bureaucratic tradition and we must come under the National tradition.

With these few remarks, Sir, I support the motion moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Santhanam.

[At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Shri V. I. Munishwami Pillai (one of the panel of Chairmen.)]

Mr. Frank R. Anthony (C.P. and Berar: General): Mr. Chairman, Sir, as I listened to the debate, I felt that we have got into rather a vicious circle. From one side of the House, from the majority of the Members, we heard complaints of inefficiency, of corruption, of pampering labour. From one Member of this House the Honourable friend Mr. Saksena, we heard partially the point of view of labour.

I admit, Sir, that many of the complaints against the Railway staff are more than justified today. But this House has not heard even partially the point of view of Railway labour and between these two points of view, I do not envy the Honourable Minister in charge of Railways at all. I was a member of the Pay Commission; we recognised in common with most other people the need for scaling down salaries in the upper reaches. By and large we accepted the principle that salaries up to a maximum of between Rs. 850 and 1,000 should not be materially affected. Apart from that we did scale down the upper limits of the senior cadre; we also scaled down the administrative posts' salaries—both the junior and the senior administrative posts. For instance, where a General Manager now gets about Rs. 3,500, under our recommendations he will get about Rs. 2,250. Where a Member of the Railway Board now gets about Rs. 4,000, under the recommendation of the Pay Commission he will get about Rs. 2,500. On the other hand, Sir, the Pay Commission deliberately upgraded scales in the lower wage brackets. We had to do that. Any body with any sense of social justice had to apply itself to raising what we regarded as a starvation level of scales, particularly in a concern so important as the Railways. We have definitely upgraded those in the lower wage brackets. The difficulty is that the bulk of

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the railway employees are in the lower wage brackets and consequently the bulk of the increase in these wages will go to the people in the lower wage brackets.

An Honourable Member: Nobody objects to that, but what about the additional facilities?

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: I do not doubt, Sir, that there are many items on which the Government can and should retrench. My Honourable friend Mr. Santhanam has indicated certain items. I have no doubt that certain retrenchments are overdue and can be made, but by and large the bulk of the increase that has been envisaged is involved in the increase of wages to people in the lower wage brackets. I say this: that the Government is committed to implementing the scales as recommended by the Pay Commission. I go further and say—not about pampering labour—but the conditions ought to be accepted as they are, and if the recommendations of the Pay Commission as they apply to the employees in the lower wage brackets are not implemented, the whole Railway system will immediately be caught up in a wide-spread and paralysing strike. But I do say this to the Honourable Minister of Transport, that he should make it known much more widely to the “inferior” staff—the people who are now known as the Class IV employees—that the Commission has dealt not only fairly but has dealt liberally with them. Wherever I went recently—and I did a very extensive tour—I got this one complaint that the Pay Commission scales which my friend there regarded as ultra generous, are regarded by the railway employee, particularly the “inferior” staff, as niggardly. He feels that the Pay Commission has let the people in the lower wage brackets down. The average member in the Class IV cadre feels that we have dealt with them in a niggardly, shabby and unfair way. This it is very necessary to counteract. The only explaining that is being done is being done by irresponsible elements who have got a hold and are getting an increasing hold on the bulk of the Railway labour who tell them that the Pay Commission has not dealt with them fairly. Yesterday, Sir, I dealt with this question of increasingly low output on the Railways. I agree entirely with the contention made by many of my friends that there is inefficiency in the Railway, that this inefficiency is increasing. As a matter of fact I am alarmed by it. I mentioned yesterday in my speech that an expert had assessed that in one of the largest workshops in this country, the average output of an “inferior” worker is two man-hours a day. My Honourable friend the Minister of Transport—who unfortunately is not listening to me now—did not make any comment on this yesterday.

I thought it was a very vital matter, this definite acceptance by the Railway official that efficiency is rapidly on the decline, particularly among the inferior staff and that the average output in the most important railway centres today of an inferior class worker is two man-hours per day. No answer to this was given. No comment was made. As I see it, it is a chronic condition. It is due mainly to one thing. I say it unequivocally and without qualification. It is due to dissatisfaction, increasing dissatisfaction. Indeed, there is more dissatisfaction among the railway employees today than there is in any other Department of Government that I know of. As I said, there are two main reasons. One is the gulf between the railway officials and the railway subordinates. The railway official has very little contact with and no understanding of the employee. In the old days, under the old bureaucratic regime, he ruled by fear. That fear has disappeared today and he has no weapon with which to substitute it. The other reason is the sense of frustration on the part of the railway employee. The average railway employee today is suffering acutely from it. He feels that he has no security of service. He feels that justice and fairplay are things which he cannot expect from the present Railway Administration and I say this—I say it with regret—that in spite of a change-over in the Administration, I myself can see no perceptible signs of any

change in the spirit of railway officialdom. The railway employee today does not know when he will be condemned, when he will be removed or dismissed from service, but he does know that however unfair a punishment may be, he has one chance in a million of having his grievance redressed. There is no right of appeal. Whatever right there is, it is illusory. The appeal provisions are farcical and that is one of the main reasons why we have this dissatisfaction among the railway employees today. They feel that their needs and their legitimate grievances have no chance of being met by the Railway Administration. When Sir Edward Benthall was in charge of this portfolio, I used to protest vigorously and repeatedly against this unresponsive attitude of railway officials. I am repeating that today. Probably, it is no fault of the railway officials that they have been reared in the old traditions of the bureaucracy and whatever protests I may make, whatever suggestions I may make, they will perhaps be treated with the same superciliousness, the same lack of consideration which their European predecessors used to treat them with. I am not blaming the Honourable Minister for Transport at all. He is getting all his information, all his knowledge of railway conditions, from officials who are not in touch with the men. I say to him he does not really know what the men are feeling and thinking today. I am in touch with more than 80 railway centres, large and small, important and unimportant. I get thousands of appeals and representations and I know what is the feeling of the men. So unresponsive is your officialdom today that I find even the sober and stable elements

4 P.M. among the railwaymen are being weaned away from their traditions of loyalty and service. They are being stampeded into organisations which will call a strike as soon as it suits them. And I give this House an assurance that unless some firm action is taken by the Minister of Transport, that unless he is prepared to ride roughshod over his die-hard Railway Board Members—be they Indian or anybody else—that unless he is prepared to put aside his officials who have been reared in this wrong psychology, that unless he is prepared to come down and meet the men and get to know their real needs and grievances,—that unless he does these things I give this House an assurance that whatever you may do, within six months, if you carry on in this way, the Railway Administration will be caught up in a gigantic paralysis. There will be nothing which you can do about it. Even today, if a strike is called, not 50, not 60 but 99 per cent. of the men, whether members of the Unions or not, will go on strike. (*An Honourable Member:* So it is a warning’.) They are all united on one point, in their general dissatisfaction with and detestation of the railway officials and the spirit of bureaucracy which is continuing. That is what I find today.

But the men are not unresponsive. They are amenable to reason. I have talked to them. I have seen them in their hundreds and thousands. I know their feelings. It is not so much an increase in wages which they want today. They want an increase in understanding. I asked the Honourable Minister to appoint an ex-Judge of the Federal Court, an ex-Judge of the High Court. I got no reply. I do not know why the Railway officials should balk at this suggestion. What prevents the Railway Administration from appointing a high judicial personage to deal with appeals. This is one of the main sources of discontent today. The men feel that they have grievances which have no chance of being redressed. Whatever decision is taken by the railway official, that is endorsed by the Railway Administration right up to the Honourable Minister in charge of Railways as a matter of form. Not only is it endorsed, but the whole Administration today is based on the same old principle: “Our officers, right or wrong”. Three weeks ago, I was discussing the matter with a General Manager. He confessed to me that he always works on this principle: “My officers, right or wrong.” I say this is what is wrong with your system. I beg of the Railway Minister to refuse to accept this principle and apply himself to this matter. The men are not entirely unresponsive. They do not merely want an increase of wages, so much as they do an increase in understanding.

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Finally, Sir, my Honourable friend Mr. Saksena mentioned that under the Pay Commission's recommendations, 81,000 people would have their salaries cut. I was a member of that Commission and I can say that it was never the intention of the Pay Commission that anyone should have his salary cut under these recommendations. It was our intention that everybody more or less up to Rs. 850 should have their salaries upgraded. I am certain that it was never an intention that people who are drawing less than that should also have their salaries cut. I state that, and I state that as one of the members of the Pay Commission—I do not want it to be felt that I, as one who lent myself to the suggestion that even men in the lower wage brackets should, under our recommendations, have their salaries cut.

In conclusion, Sir, I repeat to my Honourable friend my appeal for more understanding. I ask him not to resent what I have said. What I have said, I have said in a spirit of constructive criticism. There is much scope today for harnessing the goodwill of the inferior employee. And if my Honourable friend, the Railway Minister, will discard the advice of his railway officials where he should, and he will make, through the necessary channels, greater contact with the employees in the lower wage brackets, I feel certain that the Railways will re-capture the efficiency for which they once had a very proud tradition.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sir, in the various debates that have taken place on the Demands, this last debate that we have had, if I may say so respectfully, has been the most profitable and the most illuminating. I should like straightaway, Sir, in view of the limited time allotted to me, to get down to brass tacks. One of the most important points which has been made in the course of the debate, I think by my Honourable friend, Mr. Santhanam, is that we have an increase in the working expenses which is more than proportionate to the increase in the level of prices. It is a perfectly legitimate point to make, and if I may say so, that constitutes in a nutshell our problem on the Railways. What has happened is this: That while we have increased our expenditure on staff and labour and on various other things, we have not been able to get in return for our expenditure a proportionate output. Now that is the whole point, the whole problem with which we are faced. Why is it that we cannot get a better output of services from our staff? My Honourable friend Mr. Anthony, in a tone of righteous indignation, has told me that we are not likely to get an increase in the output of work done by our staff unless we fundamentally change our whole relationship to them. I am aware of the importance of that point. But when you try to look at it in a practical way the problem is not quite so simple as my Honourable friend makes out. Here am I at the head of this great Railway Organization with more than a million people engaged in it. My Honourable friend, does not surely expect me to get into personal touch with every one of these employees! The only way in which I can get into touch with the labour who are working for our Railways is by working through the organised Labour Associations. One of the most important things that I have in mind—and it is an idea that has been present in my mind for some time is that there ought to be better, more effective, more continuous contact between the Railway management and the Railwaymen's Federation and as I said in my Budget Speech, I have already started discussions with the Committee of the All India Railwaymen's Federation, so that we might be able to come to some arrangement on the basis of which not merely personal contacts could be established but labour know what exactly is the point of view of the Management; the Management could know what exactly is the point of view of labour, and so there might be introduced into our Organization a better co-operative spirit. That is the only basis on which I can proceed as far as this question of labour relationship is con-

cerned. It is not possible for me in view of my commitments, and the fact that there are only 24 hours in the day to fulfil them, to go round the whole country and establish personal contacts, individual contacts with our workers. In fact it is, I think, an unsound thing for the head of the Railway Administration to contact individual persons in labour except through the organisation which has been set up by labour itself; otherwise you introduce into your labour organization a disruptive element which will react adversely both on the management and on labour.

My Honourable friend, Mr. Anthony has dilated at great length on the sense of injustice and hardship experienced by our Railway staff. I am sorry he thinks so. I am aware there have been cases where injustice has been done and hardships have been inflicted and I will do everything in my power to see that injustices are rectified and that hardships are eliminated. But there is one thing to which he did not give any attention and that is a question which is very closely bound up with this problem of output, and that is that the sense of discipline among the staff and among labour, has greatly weakened in recent years. I am not one who for a moment would suggest enforcing discipline which would involve injustice. Discipline should be enforced firmly, but discipline should be enforced with a proper sense of justice and fairness. Therefore, while I am asking for a higher degree of discipline and for measures required for raising the standard of discipline, I propose to do it on a basis of understanding with the organised Associations of labour. My Honourable friend said there is no opportunity for appeal. My idea is that in a business organization like the Railways, if you are going to offer an unlimited latitude for appeals, you will never get on with your job. One of the troubles I think that the Railway Organization is faced with is the undue facilities for appeal, which a Government Organization offers. Our Railway Organization therefore is neither a properly organised Government Department nor a properly organised business concern. We are neither the one nor the other. I personally think while it is of the utmost importance that our staff, our labour as a whole, should feel that they will at every moment get a fair deal from us, I think at the same time it is most important that they should recognise that a proper standard of discipline should be maintained.

My Honourable friend, Mr. Santhanam, put a problem to me. He asked me, as an illustration of the lack of attention that we pay to details of finance, "Why is it on certain Railway Administrations our expenditure on grain shops is far more than on others?" I should like to tell him, without going into details, that the object for which our grain shops work is partly for securing a regular, continuous supply of essential commodities and partly also that these supplies should be made available at lower prices than in the open market. It happens that certain Railway Administrations think it necessary to make these grain shop organisation a means of providing their labour with as many of the essential commodities they require as possible. The larger the number of commodities that you sell through your grain shop, the greater the expenditure that you incur. If the East Indian Railway thought—and they may have had important reasons for doing so—that they ought to make their grain shop organisation a means of providing a wider range of essential commodities you cannot altogether blame them for it. As a matter of fact, one of the demands that the Railwaymen's Federation have made over and over again is: "If you are going to have these grain shops, make them really effective and really useful—" a demand with which I have a great deal of sympathy—and as far as I am concerned, I am going to see that while we have this grain shop organisation it is an organisation which will provide as far as possible for the men and their families all really essential commodities.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (U.P. : General): Is it not a fact that when the Honourable Minister was Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee the

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Committee unanimously recommended that these cheap grain shops should go and instead of that cash allowances should be given?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Well, Sir, I was then in a different position. This matter I am prepared to put before the Standing Finance Committee and I am certain in the circumstances which prevail now, I should be able to carry the Standing Finance Committee with me. I am prepared to explain the position when the time comes.

There is another point to which I should like to refer with regard to this question that my Honourable friend, Mr. Santhanam raised. The level of prices, that is to say, the cost of living index does not operate at uniform levels throughout the country. In the Calcutta area and the surrounding areas you will find a higher cost of living index than in most other parts of the country.

Yesterday I was speaking of the possibilities of economy in the course of my reply to the general debate, and I pointed out that as far as matters like staff and coal are concerned the margin that I have for economy is not very considerable. But I am quite prepared to look into that question and in the light of criticisms made by Honourable Members I am prepared to have that matter examined again. But the House will remember that last year in connection with our negotiations with railway labour we decided to set up a High-power railway inquiry committee. Unfortunately it has not been possible for that committee to complete its work. It is now in abeyance; but I am going to have it re-assembled at an early date, and I have no doubt that these questions will be gone into in detail by that committee. Whatever proposals it makes will be put before the Standing Finance Committee for Railways and I have no doubt some measure of economy will materialise from it. But as regards the particular cut that my Honourable friend has moved, with every intention in the world to effect economies in the working of the railways it is not possible for me between now and next March to do anything by way of radical economising of expenditure; it is not possible within this limited period. Therefore my difficulties are these. In view of the fact that on things like staff and coal the immediate prospect of economy is limited and the period that I have between now and the presentation of the next budget is very short, the possibility open to me of carrying out the recommendation contained in this motion is very restricted. But in view of the fact that the House has strong feelings on the subject of economy—and I understand it perfectly—and as a token of my earnest personal desire to carry out the wishes of the House in this matter and to implement its suggestions, I would propose to the Honourable Member who has moved this motion that if he would reduce the cut figure from one crore to 50 lakhs I would be prepared to accept it. Although I see at present no light as regards the possibility of effecting economy I would put this amount of compulsion on myself in response to the wishes of the House.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Sir, with your permission I should like to move a small amendment to Mr. Santhanam's cut motion. I move:

"That in Mr. Santhanam's cut motion for the figures 1,00,00,000 the figures 50,00,000 be substituted."

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I accept the amendment.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sir, I accept it.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That in Mr. Santhanam's cut motion for the figures 1,00,00,000 the figures 50,00,000 be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the demand under the head 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Miscellaneous Expenses, reduced by Rs. 50,00,000'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a reduced sum not exceeding Rs. 19,90,32,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Miscellaneous Expenses'."

The motion was adopted.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: Sir, what about my cut motion? I heard nothing from Government member about it.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sir, both Mr. Santhanam's motion and the Honourable Member's motion relate to the question of economy and my reply was intended for both of them. It is the general question of economy on railways which is covered by both the motions.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

Mr. Chairman: Has the Honourable Member leave of the House to withdraw his cut motion?

The cut motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

DEMAND No. 15—CONSTRUCTION OF NEW LINES—CAPITAL AND DEPRECIATION FUND.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sir, I move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,23,73,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Construction of New Lines—Capital and Depreciation Fund'."

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,23,73,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Construction of New Lines—Capital and Depreciation Fund'."

Reconstruction of lines dismantled during war—Darwha Pusad Line.

Shri M. S. Aney: Sir, I Move:

"That the demand under the head 'Construction of New Lines—Capital and Depreciation Fund' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Yesterday, I discussed the question of restoring dismantled lines to some extent and a reply was given by the Honourable Minister. To save time I propose not to repeat the arguments I advanced yesterday. In the course of his reply the Honourable Minister stated that the question of restoration of lines which were dismantled as a war measure will be considered by him mainly on the ground of their being remunerative or otherwise. Now I ask him to consider the question from a broader point of view. I said yesterday that it was only fair to the people who have suffered during the war that the lines should be restored now. I also said that it was a kind of moral obligation on Government to restore them now that the war is over. Today I will give my third ground so that the Honourable Minister may have an opportunity of replying on that point. Sir, every one knows that every line that is constructed in this country is taken on hand only after a vote of this House is recorded. A certain procedure is gone through and certain plans and estimates are prepared. These are considered by various committees and ultimately the grant for the construction of that new line is put in a statement and it is this House which in the end passes it. So it is on the vote of this House that a new line is constructed. I therefore submit that what is done on the vote of this House can only be undone by the vote of this House and not by any one else. As a war measure it may be permissible for the Executive Government to dismantle some line

[Shri M. S. Aney]

but immediately the emergency is over, the Executive Government must come before the House either to justify what has been done or to restore whatever damage they were required to do resulting in inconvenience to the people in order that the people's sufferings may be ended. I want the Honourable Member to bear this point in mind. If this House has given its vote for the construction of these branch lines on certain considerations, and they are now destroyed, it is necessary for the Government in the ordinary course to restore them without any excuse. Of course if they have strong reasons they should come before the House and say that it is for these reasons we are unable to restore these lines. There are also other considerations. If the consideration of a remunerative character is the only criterion for taking up lines for destruction at the time of war, then the Kalka-Simla and the Darjeeling-Himalayan railways were the proper lines that should have been taken up. These lines were less remunerative than several other lines that they dilapidated during the course of the war. So those lines that were going to be of some convenience to a particular class of passengers were maintained although unremunerative, while lines which mainly catered to the convenience of ordinary people were dilapidated.

There is also one more point which the Honourable Minister should know. Some of these lines were mainly used by the pilgrims. There is the case of the Nimisar line. Before the protest could be heard by the House or the Honourable Minister, or before the Honourable Minister in charge of Railways could do anything, the railway authorities on instruction from the Defence Department had already dismantled the line and there was nothing for the Railway Board to do. Things were carried out before instructions for doing so were issued by the Railway Board. Under these circumstances there was not much time for the representatives of the people and the Honourable Minister in charge to consider the matter coolly.

One more consideration is this. Even as regards the remunerative character of the line, I would ask the Honourable Minister to consider that there was no time at all. The Defence Department addressed the Railway Board and the Railway Board circulated it to the various agencies and then within a few days replies were received and the process of destruction began. It was war time and things had to be done quickly and there was no question of going through the usual red-tape procedure. Even as regards the remunerative character, there are various factors which will have to be considered before a hurried judgment can be given on a point that a particular line is remunerative or not. I humbly request the Honourable Minister to note that on the question of the lines being remunerative or not, he should not go by the opinion that he receives from the Agent of a particular railway or some other authority. That is a question which he should be prepared to discuss with the Railway Finance Standing Committee, the Central Advisory Council and the deputation of the people which may like to wait upon him. I am personally prepared to discuss with him the question of the remunerative or otherwise character of some of these lines.

Having said this much, there is one more consideration I would like to invite his attention to. In the altered geographical condition of Dominion Frontiers, he must look upon these lines not merely in the old way. We have a frontier today not only on the north-west and to the east of the dominion, but it is very likely that you may have a frontier in the interior of the country itself also somewhere. This being the position the Honourable Minister must see whether some of these lines which have been dismantled are not necessary in order to have as a means of easy access to our own interior border lands, so that any State or tribe that may be hostile can be effectively checked from doing anything wrong.

Mr. Chairman: Will the Honourable Member resume his seat. It is now 4-30 of the Clock.

Shri M. S. Aney: Therefore these special features also should be borne in mind. With these words I beg to move the cut.

Mr. Chairman: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Construction of New Lines—Capital and Depreciation Fund' be reduced by Rs. 100."

As agreed upon this morning, we will take up Demand No. 1.

DEMAND No. 1—RAILWAY BOARD.

More adequate provisions for safeguarding the Person and Property of Passengers.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: (Madras: Muslim): I am moving it. Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Railway Board' be reduced by Rs. 100."

My object in moving this cut is to give my Honourable friend an opportunity to tell the House and the country the steps that he has taken and that are in force for the protection of the lives and property of the passengers. Generally speaking, the country is not aware of all that he has done in this respect. I am not going to dilate upon what has happened in the last three months. It is well known that life and property of passengers were unsafe for a considerable period of time on the railways, operating in northern India. There were a number of cases on almost all the trains working there. There were such cases in the G. I. P. line up to Jhansi and Bina. There were such cases on the B. B. and C. I. line, particularly on the meter gauge section, on the E. I. R. and probably on some other lines. I am sure, Sir, that my Honourable friend has done all that is possible for him under the circumstances to protect people but for a time all the measures that he might have taken proved of no avail. He can now tell the house what the position is at present. As far as I know, it appears that even today to travel by railway lines in these particular areas is not at all safe. This morning's papers reported a case of a woman being thrown out of a running train in the vicinity of Delhi near about Ghaziabad. That, Sir, envisages a position which is dangerous and which we cannot look upon with equanimity. I am sure certain measures have been taken. I wish he issued a statement to tell the country what he has been doing and what the present position is.

We in the South read in the papers that an experiment was tried in the U. P. of setting apart certain carriages and compartments in trains for passengers belonging to a particular community and having those carriages and compartments heavily guarded. I do not know whether that experiment has proved a success. I do not know officially. A friend of mine, and an esteemed Member of this House, told me that it has been working well, and if that is so may I suggest to him that this experiment should be extended to other parts of the country also. Then, Sir, there are cases of railway officials who have risked their lives in trying to protect some passengers. I have heard such stories. But in regard to that I have heard of no encouragement given for doing such services. I have heard of a Railway Officer who lost his life in trying to protect some passengers. I have not heard of what was done to help the family of that officer who lost his life, so that that would be an encouragement for others to follow in his footsteps. The same thing can be said of the military and the police who are sent along with these trains. Every thing should be done to encourage them so that they might even risk their lives to save the lives of passengers. My difficulty is that I am speaking without any knowledge of what my friend might have done and therefore he may be in a posi-

[Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Sethi]

tion to enlighten me and the House and remove some of our misunderstandings.

In the South on the M. S. M. Railway the section south of Bezvada is nowadays disturbed. It is necessary that this should be brought to the notice of my Honourable friend so that he might do whatever is possible. With this object in view I move this cut.

Mr. Chairman: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Railway Board' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur (Madras: Muslim): Sir, in supporting this cut motion I would just like to bring home to the Government the great importance of the matter with reference to which this cut motion has been moved. Sir, you know that the elementary right of every citizen in this country is that his life and property are protected by the Government, whatever the Government might be. If any section of the people in this country feel that their life is not secure either while travelling or otherwise, I say that the Government is not worth its name, if it cannot secure and guarantee to the people the right to be protected, particularly in a railway journey. What has been happening during the last few weeks or months is well known. People who have been going in a railway carriage are not sure of their lives. They are not sure whether they will reach their destination. Innocent women and children and men have been slaughtered for no fault of theirs and that too in a very brutal manner. I do not want to dilate upon all this. Certainly it is the madness of some people that is responsible for it. I say the Government cannot take protection on the ground that it is the madness of those murderers that is responsible for it and therefore the Government is not to be blamed for it. I say the Government certainly has got a duty to discharge. If these people are mad they are mad only at the time of the killing but in all other respects they do not show any sign of insanity. I say it is the fundamental and elementary right of every citizen to be protected, his life and property to be protected whether he is in a railway train or otherwise. I do not know whether the Government has taken the matter sufficiently seriously so as to guarantee the lives of persons who are travelling by railway. I do not wish to dilate beyond this, because it is only a railway demand. So far as the railway is concerned when the passenger has paid his fare it is a contract to take him safely to his destination and if sufficient safeguards are not given for the protection of the lives of these passengers, whoever is the authority, they certainly have to bear the blame. I submit that if the answer is that such things are done elsewhere in another Dominion, my answer is certainly it is no defence at all. That makes the crime more heinous. If a heinous crime is committed by another Dominion that certainly deserves to be condemned and doubly condemned but certainly that is not a justification for repeating such things here. If such a defence is advanced I say that makes the crime much more heinous than it otherwise would be. I submit that it is very necessary that in the interest not only of the fair name of this country but it would also do great harm to the civilization of this country and of the whole world if we allow such things to be done in this country, which has gained its independence only a short time ago. Just after achieving our independence if such things are allowed to be done I submit that we are doing a grave wrong not only to the people of this country as one of the nations of the world but we are doing a great deal of harm even to the progress of civilization of the world.

As to the measures to be taken for the protection of these people I dare say that the Government has not made sufficiently serious attempts. No doubt the members of the Constituent Assembly have been advised to travel by air and for our protection we are thankful that some guard is given to us. But so far

as railway journey is concerned it is still very unsafe. I do not know how far the experiment that is being tried in the U. P. is successful but for a long time to come, that is until we are out of this danger of being killed in running trains, it is the bounden duty of the Government to make sufficient arrangements to protect each and every passenger.

There is no doubt that the matter began with a communal colour but it is passing beyond that. As was stated by my Honourable friend you see in this morning's papers that a lady was killed in a train and thrown out by dacoits and other ladies were robbed of their jewels. Now what began as a communal technique of killing people in running trains has gained ground and that is being utilised by robbers to kill and rob other people also. Before this gets stronger ground, it is necessary that such things should be nipped in the bud with the strongest measures taken by the Government. I thought that the Government would have taken very strong measures as soon as they found that such things were happening but I am sorry to note that sufficiently strong measures were not taken. The Railway Minister might say that it is the concern of the Minister for Law and Order. I say it is not merely the concern of the Minister for Law and Order but it is also the concern of the railway authorities to see that passengers are sufficiently protected.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sir, I will reply briefly to the question that the Honourable the Mover and seconder have raised. As far as the railways are concerned before this period of civil disturbances began we depended entirely upon the railway police for protecting the life and property of our passengers. The railway police, as the House knows, consists of two sections. One is concerned with crime and the other is concerned with the maintenance of order. But since civil disturbances started about the middle of 1946 the railways have taken certain special steps in order to meet the problem. It has taken the form of the organisation of a special armed police force for the protection of railway traffic. The position at present is that in Bengal we have something between 1,200 and 1,500 police constables specially organised into this armed force. In Bihar there are 1,100, in the U.P. there are 1,250, in Orissa there are about 350 to 360. I believe Assam is going to have a force organised shortly. The basis on which we are doing it is this. The railways undertake the financial liability for the maintenance of this force but we depend on the provincial government for the recruitment, training and administration of the force. But the whole bill is met by the railways.

When these very serious disturbances started in the Punjab it was found necessary to organise something more than this and we called in the assistance of the army. During the worst period of the Punjab disturbances no train was allowed to move within the disturbed area except with the assistance of strong army escorts. During the two months, September and October, the strength of these armed escorts reached as high a figure as 65 men for a train of 13 or 14 coaches, generally armed with automatic weapons. That is as far as we have been able to go in the way of meeting this new situation. Although as the Honourable Member pointed out we still have attacks upon trains, the arrangements made by Government—both by the railways and by the army—have been to a substantial extent successful in meeting the new problem. I do not believe that we shall find a complete solution of the problem until the general atmosphere in the country has improved and the forces of law and order are generally strengthened in the country. It does not seem to me possible for the Railways to do anything more in the matter.

A certain experiment which is being tried in the United Provinces has been referred to. I would watch that as an experiment, because when you segregate people belonging to one particular community in this way on trains, however heavily you escort and protect that section in the train, it seems to me

[Dr. John Matthai]

it involves the danger of providing a target for those who have evil intentions. I would not try to adopt that system until I am satisfied that the experiment has worked satisfactorily.

[At this stage Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) resumed the Chair].

I may say that the Railway Ministry has in mind also the organisation in the near future, if the Defence Ministry would agree, of a railway auxiliary force, something on the lines of the Territorial Force for the protection of railway property and the lives of railway officials. But that, I think, will take a little time to materialise. I think we have done what we possibly could be expected to do in this matter.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, the cut motion moved by Mr. Aney has not yet been disposed of. I want to have half a minute to speak on it. It has not been put to the House.

Mr. Speaker: The agreement was that at 4-30 of the Clock, whatever discussion was going on in the House must end and the other motion was to be taken up. Hence Mr. Aney's motion was left unfinished. The motion must be taken to have been talked out.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, before the budget speech we have got about ten minutes.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry I cannot allow it.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Sir, my cut motion was meant only for a discussion of the subject and a statement from the Honourable Minister in charge. Since my purpose has been served, I seek the leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion.

The cut motion was by leave of the Assembly withdrawn.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, the Honourable Member in charge has not replied to Mr. Aney's cut motion at all.

Mr. Speaker: That motion has been talked out, not in pursuance of any rules of the House but in pursuance of the agreement arrived at between the parties.

Now I would put the demands for grants collectively if the House has no objection.

Demand No. 9 is disposed of. All other Demands except Demand No. 9 are now put to the House together.

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper, except in case of head of Demand No. 9 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947, to the 31st March, 1948, in respect of the corresponding heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: That disposes of Demands for Grants. We will begin at 5 o'clock. The House, if it likes, may adjourn for five minutes and reassemble at 5 o'clock.

[As directed by the Honourable the Speaker, the motions for Demands for grants which were adopted by the Assembly are reproduced below.—Ed. of D.]

DEMAND NO. 1.—RAILWAY BOARD.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,80,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to the 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Railway Board.'"

DEMAND NO. 2.—AUDIT.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,02,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to the 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Audit'."

DEMAND NO. 3.—MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 44,33,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to the 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Expenditure'."

DEMAND NO. 4.—WORKING EXPENSES—ADMINISTRATION.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,60,93,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to the 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Administration'."

DEMAND NO. 5.—WORKING EXPENSES—REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 29,48,81,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to the 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Repairs and Maintenance'."

DEMAND NO. 6.—WORKING EXPENSES—OPERATING STAFF.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 18,05,07,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to the 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Operating Staff'."

DEMAND NO. 7.—WORKING EXPENSES—OPERATION (FUEL).

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,61,34,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to the 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Operation (Fuel)'."

DEMAND NO. 8.—WORKING EXPENSES—OPERATION OTHER THAN STAFF AND FUEL.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,44,95,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to the 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Operation Other than Staff and Fuel'."

DEMAND NO. 10.—PAYMENTS TO INDIAN STATES AND COMPANIES.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 81,57,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to the 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Payments to Indian States and Companies'."

DEMAND NO. 11.—WORKING EXPENSES—APPROPRIATION TO DEPRECIATION FUND.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,81,51,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to the 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Appropriation to Depreciation Fund'."

DEMAND NO. 14-A.—WITHDRAWAL FROM RESERVE.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,29,08,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to the 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Withdrawal from Reserve'."

DEMAND NO. 15.—CONSTRUCTION OF NEW LINES.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,23,73,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to the 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Construction of New Lines'."

DEMAND No. 16.—OPEN LINE WORKS—ADDITIONS.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 14,00,00,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to the 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Open Line Works—Additions'."

DEMAND No. 17.—OPEN LINE WORKS—REPLACEMENTS.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 16,00,00,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to the 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Open Line Works—Replacements'."

DEMAND No. 18.—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON VIZAGAPATAM PORT.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 14,15,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August 1947, to the 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Vizagapatam Port'."

The Assembly then adjourned till 5 in the Afternoon.

The Assembly re-assembled at 5 in the Afternoon, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

THE BUDGET FOR 15TH AUGUST, 1947 TO 31ST MARCH, 1948

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (Minister for Finance):

Sir, I rise to present the first Budget of a free and independent India. This occasion may well be considered an historic one and I count it a rare privilege that it has fallen to me to be the Finance Minister to present this Budget. While I am conscious of the honour that is implied in this position, I am even more conscious of the responsibilities that face the custodian of the finances of India at this critical juncture. I have no doubt that in the discharge of my responsibilities I may count on the sympathetic and wholehearted co-operation of every Honourable Member in this House.

2. It is not necessary to dwell at any length on the political developments which have led to the momentous changes that have taken place since the Budget for the current year was presented to the Legislative Assembly last February. The partition of the country has cut across its economic and cultural unity and the growth of centuries of common life to which all the communities have contributed. The long-term effects of the division of the country still remain to be assessed and we are too near the events to take a dispassionate view. When the ashes of controversy have died down, it will be for the future historian to judge the wisdom of the step and its consequences on the destiny of one-fifth of the human race. Whatever might be the immediate political justification of partition, its economic consequences must be fully appreciated if the two Dominions are to safeguard the interests of the ordinary man in both the new States. Regions which have functioned for centuries on a complementary basis have been suddenly cut asunder. To have had as a single economic unit a sub-continent peopled by a fifth of the human race meant by itself a great advantage for the teeming millions of its population—an advantage not fully realised, and perhaps not properly utilized while the unity was a fact. While it may be comparatively easy matter to make the necessary political

adjustments resulting from partition, it would require time, patience, goodwill and mutual understanding to effect the adjustments necessitated by the economic consequences of partition. Economically India and Pakistan have each points of advantages and disadvantages. In general, it may be said that, while India is much the stronger at present in industrial production and mineral resources, Pakistan has some advantage in agricultural resources, especially foodstuffs. But the complementary character of their economies is even deeper than is indicated by this generalisation. The compelling forces of economic necessity must create a friendly and co-operative spirit between the two Dominions and I trust that, when the present passions subside and normal conditions of life return, our people will work together to secure that, notwithstanding the political division, the economic life of the common man is not injured. So far as we are concerned, the Indian Union with its population of nearly 300 millions will be the second largest country in the world next to China. Our economy is more balanced than that of most countries and, in spite of the set-backs resulting from partition, our large natural resources and sound financial position will enable us to launch a vigorous economic plan for substantially raising the living standard of our people.

3. The Budget Statement that I am presenting today will cover a period of 7½ months from the 15th August 1947 to the 31st March 1948. I may briefly explain the circumstances in which it has been necessary to present a fresh Budget for this period. With the division of the country and the emergence of two independent Governments in place of the old Central Government, the Budget for the current year 1947-48 passed by the Legislature last March ceased to be operative. Although under the transitional provisions of the constitution, Government could authorize the expenditure necessary for the rest of the financial year, it was felt that it will be in accordance with the public wish that a Budget should be placed before the representatives of the people at the earliest possible moment. There is nothing spectacular about my statement and there will be no surprises associated with a Budget. I shall place before the House our estimate of revenue and expenditure for this period and I shall try to indicate in broad outlines the pattern of the economic life of the country and the problems that we will have to face in the immediate future.

Partition Arrangements

4. Before I proceed to deal with the estimates for the year, the House would doubtless wish to have a brief account of the broad details of the partition and its immediate financial and economic results. As soon as the decision to divide the country was taken, a Partition Council, consisting of the representatives of both the future Governments, was set up to implement the decision. A number of Expert Committees, on which both the future Governments were equally represented, were appointed under the aegis of the Partition Council to work out the administrative and other consequences of the partition. These Committees, some of which were assisted by a number of departmental sub-committees, dealt with all aspects of the problems arising out of the partition such as the transfer of staff and organisations, the division of assets and liabilities, the arrangements for the coinage and currency in the two Dominions, the trade and economic relations between them, the continuance of economic controls and so on. These Committees had to complete their work in a matter of four to six weeks and the House will appreciate that in the short time available to deal with these issues, some of which were of the utmost complexity and importance, it was not possible to reach an agreement on all matters before the 15th August 1947 when the two Dominions came into existence and took over the Government of their respective territories. A number of important points were accordingly left over for further consideration by the two Dominions and, in the absence of an agreement between them, for reference

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The situation would not have been so bad if the unbalance between money and goods was confined to these factors only. The most disturbing factor which affects the situation today is the unspent balances of individuals and institutions accumulated during the peak years of inflation which are being spent on the deferred wants of individuals, repairs to industry and on the building of trade inventory. In other words, the money demand for goods is colossal compared to their local production. While the inflation in war time was due to the large increases in currency circulation (which rose from Rs. 172 crores in 1939 to over Rs. 1200 crores at the end of 1945) without any tangible increase in the supply of goods the present inflation is not due to further increase of currency but to a steady fall in the supply of goods. Although the total available money, whether currency or bank deposits, has slightly fallen it has spread out more among a wider circle of people in the form of wages and salaries and thus the actual purchasing power in the hands of those who spend it on ordinary goods has greatly increased. But the supply of goods has meanwhile fallen and has resulted in an upward trend of prices. To take only a few examples of the marked fall in internal production, it may be mentioned that as against a production of 4,000 million yards of mill-made cloth and 1,500 million yards of handloom cloth in 1945 the production this year is estimated at 3,900 million yards and 1,200 million yards respectively. The production of steel in the current year is also expected to show a drop of nearly 400,000 tons compared with the peak production of 1,200,000 tons during the war. The production of cement has also grown steadily worse, the estimated production this year showing a drop of 700,000 tons over the capacity of over 2½ million tons. In recent months the production of coal has shown some improvement, but so far as the consuming public is concerned, this has been more than neutralised by difficulties in transport resulting in large accumulation of coal at the pit heads. Transport and other difficulties explain the drop in production to some extent, but this is also partly due to labour unrest and strikes.

9. If the economy of this country is to be placed on a sound footing and maintained in a healthy conditions, it is of the utmost importance to increase internal production. The chances of increasing the supplies of commodities by imports are not very bright. Until recently we had a fair chance of sizable imports of consumer goods from the British Commonwealth countries from accumulated balances, but with the blocking of the major part of these and the growing adverse balance resulting from the large scale importation of foodgrains, the hope of procuring supplies from abroad is growing weak. We have therefore to fall back on our own resources. Government have recently announced their scheme for increasing the production of cotton textiles which, if worked in a spirit of co-operation between industry and labour, will result in the production of an additional 1,000 million yards over the estimated production of the current year. It is intended to explore the possibilities of restoring the level of production in other fields in a similar manner. I am fully conscious of the fact that any policy of stabilisation must aim not merely at the increase of production of both consumer and producer goods but also at the pegging of money incomes at an agreed and accepted level so that the increased volume of trading resulting from the increase of production may neutralise the inflationary effects of the large volume of uncovered money income. If this policy is to be carried out successfully, it would require an appreciation of the situation by labour and its wholehearted co-operation.

Revenue

10. I shall now proceed to a brief review of the financial position for the rest

of the current year. But I must warn the House that the estimates now presented must be treated as very tentative as it has not been possible to assess with any measure of accuracy the effects of the partition on our revenue and expenditure. I hope it will be possible to present a more accurate picture when the revised estimates are placed before the House along with the budget for the next year.

11. I have budgetted for a revenue of Rs. 171.15 crores and a revenue expenditure of Rs. 197.39 crores. The net deficit on revenue account in the period covered by these estimates will be Rs. 26.24 crores. But the final figure may be higher because the actual amount likely to be required for meeting the expenditure in connection with the relief and rehabilitation of refugees is still very uncertain and some help may also have to be given to the new Provinces of West Bengal and East Punjab for which, in the absence of any reliable data, no provision has been included.

12. The revenue receipts, as I have said, are estimated at Rs. 171.51 crores. Customs receipts have been placed at Rs. 50.5 crores and take into account the effect of the recent restrictions on imports for conserving our foreign exchange resources. Income-tax is expected to yield Rs. 29.5 crores on account of E.P.T. and Rs. 88.5 crores on account of ordinary collections. Although the Niemeyer Award has now ceased to have effect it is proposed to maintain the share of the Provinces in the income-tax revenue at approximately the same level as now after making an adjustment in respect of the Provinces and parts of Provinces now included in Pakistan. The Centre will retain Rs. 3 crores out of the Provincial moiety as provided in the original budget. On this basis, the divisible pool of income-tax is estimated at Rs. 66 crores and the Provincial share at Rs. 30 crores.

13. Revenue from the Posts and Telegraphs Department is expected to amount to Rs. 15.9 crores and the working expenses and interest to Rs. 13.9 crores leaving a net surplus of Rs. 2 crores. The outright contribution of the department to general revenues will be three-fourths of the realised surplus, the department retaining the balance. The department will get a rebate of interest on its share of the accumulated profits in the past which, after allowing for the portion of the department transferred to Pakistan, is expected to amount to Rs. 7½ crores. As regards the contribution from Railways we do not expect anything in the current year. The House is already aware of the reasons for this from the Railway Budget.

Expenditure

14. The total expenditure for the year is estimated at Rs. 197.39 crores, of which Rs. 92.74 crores is on account of the Defence Services, the balance representing Civil expenditure. Following the customary procedure, I shall first deal with the Defence Estimates which remain, as in the past, the largest single item of expenditure.

Defence Services

15. The reconstitution of the Armed Forces in India into two Dominion forces was an inevitable consequence of the partition of the country. This decision came at a time when the Armed Forces were in the process of rapid demobilisation. While a substantial measure of demobilisation had already been achieved, the process was arrested as a consequence of the decision to divide the remaining forces between the two Dominions on a communal-cum-option basis. The strength of the Army at the time stood roughly at 410,000 troops. After the completion of the reconstitution of the Army, India will have roughly 200,000 troops. An organisation under a Supreme Commander, acting under the direction of the Joint Defence Council, was set up and made responsible for carrying out the reconstitution, and for general administrative control of the entire

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to an Arbitral Tribunal which has been set up. Among the important issues on which it has not been possible to reach an agreement, I may mention the allocation of debt between the two Dominions, the method of discharging the pensionary liability, the valuation of the Railways, the division of the assets of the Reserve Bank and the division of the movable stores held by the Army. Some of these issues are likely to go before the Arbitral Tribunal and the House will not expect me to say anything further about them at this stage. It was also found impossible to reconstitute the Armed Forces between the two Dominions and allocate the military stores, equipment and installations between them before the 15th August 1947. For the completion of this work, and for clothing, feeding and paying the Armed Forces till their reconstitution had been completed, a Joint Defence Council representing the two Dominions with an independent Chairman and with a Supreme Commander responsible to the Council, has been set up. This Council was originally expected to complete its work by the 1st of April 1948 but it is now hoped that this may be mostly achieved by the end of this month.

5. The long range fiscal, financial and economic relations between the two Dominions still remain to be considered, but for the rest of the current year the intention is to maintain, within the framework of the agreements arrived at, the *status quo* before the partition. For the present both the Dominions will continue the existing taxes and duties, there will be a free movement of trade between them without any internal barriers and the import and exchange controls of the two Dominions will be co-ordinated. It has also been agreed that till the end of September 1948 the two Dominions will remain under a common currency system managed by the Reserve Bank, although from the 1st April next Pakistan will have its own over-printed notes and coin. So far as revenue is concerned, each Dominion will ordinarily retain what it collects but in respect of income-tax on assessments for 1946-47 and earlier years and uncollected demands on the date of the partition an arrangement for sharing the receipts arising in both the Dominions has been arrived at. In the matter of the division of assets and liabilities, it has not been possible, as I have explained earlier, to reach an agreement on a number of important points including the allocation of debt and the discharge of the liability for pensions. But the responsibility for the outstanding liabilities of the old Government could not, for obvious reasons, be left vague and undetermined and the only practicable course was for one of the Dominions to accept the initial liability to the creditors and settle with the other the contribution to be made by it. The initial liability for the outstanding loans, guarantees and financial obligations of the late Central Government at the time of the partition and for the pensions chargeable to it has been placed by law on the Indian Dominion subject to an equitable contribution from Pakistan. I am sure the House will welcome this decision because in the interests of the credit of both the successor Governments it is obviously undesirable to leave those who had lent money to the previous Government or had earned pensions under it in any doubt as to the Government they should approach for their dues.

Review of economic conditions.

6. There has been a marked deterioration in the economic situation in the country since March last. The situation has been aggravated by the large scale disturbances which burst out suddenly, more specially in the Punjab and the North-West Frontier Province. Apart from the serious economic consequences arising out of these disturbances, the human misery that it has caused cannot be measured in terms of money. Thousands of innocent lives have been lost in the two Dominions and migration on a scale unprecedented in history has

taken place. The total number of people involved in this mass migration of population has reached colossal figures on either side giving rise to problems of great magnitude affecting the economy of the country. The immediate effect of these tragic developments has been to divert the attention of the Government almost completely from normal activities. There has been an almost total breakdown of the economy of the East and West Punjabs. While Government have done and are doing everything possible to relieve the immediate distress and suffering of the refugees, the formulation of long-range plans for their rehabilitation raises formidable issues both in the financial and administrative fields. These problems have imposed a heavy burden on the Central exchequer, the magnitude of which it is not possible to assess at present. The budget of the Central Government for the next few years will be materially affected by this unexpected development in the country. Our whole programme of post-war development will have to be reviewed in the light of this context.

7. The food position has continued to cause grave anxiety both to the Provincial Governments and the Central Government. The country has just weathered a serious threat of a breakdown of its rationing system. The results of the "Grow More Food Campaign" have been on the whole disappointing. During the three years 1944-45, 1945-46 and 1946-47 we had to import from abroad 43.80 lakhs of tons of foodgrains at a cost over 127 crores of rupees. During the current year from April to September we have already imported 10.62 lakhs of tons of foodgrains at a cost of over 42 crores of rupees. Apart from its being a constant source of anxiety, the reliance on the import of foodgrains from abroad of such magnitude imposes a heavy strain on the finances of the Government. In recent years our exchange difficulty is almost entirely due to the import of foodgrains on such a large scale. The meagre exchange resources available to us are consumed by the purchase of foodstuffs abroad with the result that we have to impose the most stringent restrictions on the import of many other essential articles. The various steps necessary for making the country self-sufficient in foodgrains must now claim the highest priority. The implementation of this policy must largely depend on the Provincial Governments though the Government of India has been and will always be prepared to afford all possible help in this direction. We have sent a mission to Australia for the purchase of the surplus wheat of that country and we are hoping that we might be in a position to get from Australia a substantial quantity of wheat during the next year. An expert committee under the Chairmanship of Sir Purushottamdas Thakurdas has been examining the food position in the country and the Committee has submitted an interim report which is receiving the attention of the Government.

8. The deterioration in the economic situation has been particularly noticed in respect of prices which have shown an unchecked upward tendency. Between the 5th April and the 9th August this year the Economic Adviser's index number of wholesale prices rose by 7 points while the Bombay cost of living index advanced by 14 points. Taking the Bombay cost of living index number, while it was 243 in August 1945 it rose to 267 in August 1946 and reached 284 in August 1947. The chief factor which has contributed to this development is the general decline in agricultural and industrial production in the country due partly to the wide prevalence of communal disorders and generally to the increasing industrial unrest. While the supply position has been deteriorating, increases in wages and salaries given by private employers and the Government had the effect of augmenting the purchasing power of the people and widening the gap between current money income and production of goods.

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Armed Forces until the completion of reconstitution. From the 15th August 1947, however, the operational control of the troops in each Dominion was transferred to the Dominion Government. It was originally expected that the reconstitution would be completed by the 31st March 1948. But the Armed Forces Headquarters of each of the Dominion have been able to take over administrative responsibilities in a greater measure and earlier than was originally anticipated and the reconstitution of the Forces has in consequence been accelerated. It is now expected that this will be completed in the more important fields by the end of this month when the Supreme Commander's organisation will be disbanded.

16. The future size and composition of the Armed Forces have been engaging the attention of Government, as it is obvious that they must be related to the altered strategic needs of the country as well as to its reduced financial resources. Under the pre-partition demobilisation plan the Army was to be reduced to about 230,000 men for undivided India by the 1st April 1949 against which we shall have about 260,000 men for our share alone after the reconstitution of the Armed Forces. Due to the widespread communal disturbances in the Punjab and the sporadic outbursts of disorder in other parts of the country, there has been an unprecedented call on the Armed Forces in aid of the civil power. Government have accordingly come to the conclusion that the existing forces should be retained until the 31st March 1948 but the position will be reviewed next month. The financial effect of this is that in spite of a reduction of revenue resources the expenditure on Defence Services will be running higher than it normally should during the year. In the present fluid conditions it is impossible to forecast the position in 1948-49.

17. India had never an adequate Navy or Air Force and the effect of the partition has been to reduce them still further, so far as the Dominion of India is concerned. It is obvious that even without the disturbances there could be no question of an overall demobilisation of these services. The future development plans of these services are now under consideration.

18. The complete nationalisation of India's Armed Forces in the shortest time possible is the accepted policy of Government. Due, however, to various reasons which are now a matter of history, we have had a shortage of Indian officers for filling some of the posts in the technical services and the senior appointments. This holds good to a varying degree for all the three services. It was therefore decided to employ a number of British officers who volunteered to stay, for one year in the first instance, from the 15th August 1947. As these officers hold the King's Commission they were transferred to a special list of the British Army and the Supreme Commander assumed control over them. When the subsequent developments indicated that the Supreme Commander's office may not continue beyond the 31st December 1947 it was decided to terminate the services of these British officers by the same date, leaving it to the two Dominions to offer fresh terms to any British officers they may wish to employ. The British officers have, therefore, been served with three months' notice, as laid down in their present terms of service, with effect from the 1st October 1947. The number of British officers whom it is essential for India to retain and the terms of service to be offered are now under the active consideration of Government and the actual terms under which they have been employed have now been agreed upon between the Government of India and H.M.G. in the U.K. It may, however, be stated that the number of British officers to be retained will be relatively small and it is hoped that all operational Commands, at least in the Army and the Air Force, will be filled by Indian officers.

19. As has already been announced, an agreement was reached with the United Kingdom Government that the withdrawal of the British Forces from

India should commence immediately after the transfer of power and completed as early as possible. The first detachment of British troops actually left India on the 17th August 1947. It was hoped at one time that the withdrawals would be completed before the end of 1947 but due to shipping difficulties it now appears that this may take up to April 1948. The British troops remaining in the country have, however, no operational functions. Except two R. A. F. Transport Squadrons the rest are merely awaiting repatriation.

20. The rapidly changing conditions this year have made it difficult to frame a close estimate of Defence expenditure and the position is further complicated by the fact that the proportion in which the joint expenditure incurred by the Supreme Commander's organisation should be allocated between the two Dominions is yet to be decided. On the best estimate that can be made at this stage, the net expenditure on Defence Services during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March 1948 is estimated at Rs. 92.74 crores. The following main factors have contributed to an increase in the expenditure:—

(1) The decision to suspend demobilisation and to withdraw troops from overseas.

(2) The implementation of the Post-war Pay Committee's recommendations in respect of Defence Services personnel. No provision for this was included in the original estimates.

(3) The movement of troops and stores in connection with the reconstitution of the Armed Forces.

(4) The calling out of troops in aid of the civil power during the disturbances in the Punjab and elsewhere.

The withdrawal of British troops from India earlier than was anticipated originally has resulted in a saving but this has been to some extent counter-balanced by expenditure in moving them to the United Kingdom and other destinations.

Civil Estimates

21. Details of the estimates under individual heads are given in the Explanatory Memorandum circulated with the Budget papers and I propose to draw the attention of Honourable Members to only the more important items included in them. As I have explained elsewhere, the initial liability in respect of the outstanding debt of the late Central Government and the pensions chargeable to it has been placed on the Indian Dominion subject to the levy of an equitable contribution from Pakistan. This contribution still remains to be settled and, for the present, no credit has been taken in these estimates for any recovery from Pakistan. The estimates also include Rs. 22½ crores on account of subsidies on imported foodgrains and a lump sum provision of Rs. 22 crores for expenditure on the evacuation, relief and rehabilitation of refugees from Western Pakistan. I have briefly referred elsewhere to the problems raised by the widespread communal disturbances in the Punjab and the North-West Frontier Province and the mass migration of refugees between the two Dominions. There are two aspects to this problem viz. the short term one of giving immediate relief to the refugees pouring into this country from Pakistan, practically destitute, and the long term one of resettling them in India. All the resources at the disposal of the Government of India have been mobilised in arranging the evacuation and relief of these refugees and the railways and the Armed Forces have been utilised to the maximum extent possible on this work. It is not possible to estimate the expenditure likely to fall on Central revenues on account of these developments and I have provisionally included a sum of Rs. 22 crores on this account in the Revenue Budget. In addition, a sum of Rs. 5 crores is being included in the ways and means budget for advances to the East Punjab Government. But I must mention that this does not give any idea of the magnitude of the burden that may be placed on Central revenues by these developments. Indeed, the basis on which the expenditure on relief and

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rehabilitation should be shared between the Centre and the East Punjab, the province most vitally affected, still remains to be decided and may take some time to decide. Whatever the final arrangement in this behalf may be, I have no doubt that it is the desire of all sections of the House that financial considerations should not stand in the way of affording relief to these unfortunate people and in alleviating their sufferings in one of the most poignant human tragedies that could take place outside a war.

22. Before I leave this subject I should like to give a brief analysis of the total provision included for civil expenditure, so that a balanced view of the position may be obtained. Of the total provision of Rs. 104½ crores, Rs. 44½ crores are accounted for by the expenditure on refugees and the subsidising of imported foodgrains, leaving Rs. 60 crores for normal expenditure. This includes Rs. 5 crores for tax collection, obligatory expenditure of Rs. 22½ crores on payment of interest and pensions and provision for debt redemption, Rs. 2 crores on planning and resettlement and Rs. 12 crores for expenditure on nation building activities such as education, medical, public health, the running of scientific institutions and scientific surveys, aviation, broadcasting, etc., in which the Centre largely supplements the work of the Provincial Governments by providing valuable assistance by way of specialised services and research, leaving a balance of Rs. 18½ crores for the ordinary expenditure on administration, civil works etc. This expenditure only constitutes 18 per cent. of the total civil expenditure included in the budget. In addition to the expenditure of Rs. 12 crores on nation building activities mentioned above, provision has also been made in the Capital Budget for a grant of Rs. 20.39 crores to Provincial Governments for development and Rs. 15 crores for loans.

Ways and Means

23. I shall now turn to give a brief account of the ways and means position. The budget for the current year provided for a borrowing of Rs. 150 crores but this target will not be reached. Owing to the communal disturbances in the country and the uncertainties of the political situation, the securities market was very unsettled in the opening months of the year and no loan was actually floated before the 15th August 1947. After the doubts about the political future had been cleared by the decision to partition the country, there was some improvement in the position and although the market has been fairly steady in recent weeks, there is not as yet any large sustained demand for investment. Government issued early this month a fifteen year loan for Rs. 40 crores carrying interest at two and three quarter per cent. with facilities for holders of the 3½ per cent. Loan, 1947-50, falling due for discharge on the 15th of this month to convert their holdings. The loan was issued at the beginning of the busy season and was not expected to be oversubscribed. But the public still seem to be hesitant in taking up Government loans and if their holding off is due to any lingering doubts about the responsibility for the repayment of the outstanding debt, I hope they will be reassured by what I have stated that the Indian Dominion remains responsible to the bond-holder. The need for money is now as urgent as ever if Government are to finance their own development plans and assist the Provincial Governments to implement their plans for development. There is also the short-term aspect to this problem, viz. the urgent necessity to counter the inflationary forces which are still present by withdrawing from the public as much surplus purchasing power as possible through Government loans.

24. Honourable Members must have noticed that in recent months there has been some criticism in certain quarters of the cheap money policy of Government. At the last Annual General Meeting of the shareholders of the Reserve Bank the Governor of the Bank made some observations on this question. Under the influence of that eminent economist the late Lord Keynes, cheap

money has been the cardinal feature of the monetary policy in many countries. It is no wonder that the Government of India fell in line with this trend in monetary policy. The House will realise that there is no absolute criterion by which to judge the propriety of rates at which Government borrow in the market. In the long run it is mainly a question of keeping a balance between the demands of Government on the market and the demands of industry so that the available funds in the country are used to the best advantage. In the United Kingdom where the pursuit of this policy culminated in the issue of a 2½ per cent. irredeemable loan last year, attempts are being made to consolidate the progress made so far and not to proceed further in the same direction. I realise that if there is the need for such a cautious policy in a country where the economy is mature and the money and capital markets are highly developed, it is all the more necessary in the case of an economically backward country like India. Our efforts will now be directed towards consolidating and stabilising the position so far gained. There is no intention on the part of the Government to reverse the policy and thereby jeopardize the interests of those who have trusted the Government with their money. Our borrowing programme will be such as will enable us to obtain the funds required by Government as cheaply as possible without in any way affecting the flow of investment into industry. It is also my intention to reorganise the small savings movement which was considerably expanded during the war years, so that it might be retained as a peace-time organisation with the primary purpose of encouraging savings among the middle classes. In co-operation with the Provincial Governments, steps will be taken to place the movement on a permanent footing. I take this opportunity of appealing to the chosen representatives of the people in this House to co-operate with Government fully in their borrowing programme. If the standard of living of our people is to be substantially raised by undertaking large schemes of development, both the rich and the middle classes should come forward to place their savings at the disposal of the Government.

Sterling Balances

25. The House will, I am sure, be interested to get some information on the subject of the sterling balances, the recent agreement regarding which between ourselves and His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom I placed on the table of the House a few days ago. The peak figure which the sterling balances reached was Rs. 1,733 crores on the 5th April 1946. Thereafter, they have declined very rapidly. At the end of March 1947 they stood at Rs. 1,612 crores showing a reduction of Rs. 121 crores in twelve months. In the middle of July 1947, from when our new agreement became effective, they stood at about Rs. 1,547 crores. We had thus drawn as much as Rs. 65 crores in a little over six months. These large decreases were due largely to heavy imports mainly of foodgrains and of consumer goods, of which the country had been starved during the period of the war. They also reflected some movement of capital from India, largely British.

26. This rapid depletion of the sterling balances caused some anxiety to the Government of India. These balances represent the entire foreign exchange reserves of this country and it is of the utmost importance that they should not be lightly frittered away on the import of unessential and luxury articles or on luxury living in foreign countries for they thereby reduce *pro tanto* the capacity of this country to finance capital and developmental expenditure abroad. The view of the Government of India is that these balances should not be used to finance deficits in the balances of payments on what may be called normal current account. Our aim should be to meet our normal day-to-day requirements from abroad through the earnings of our current exports and we should draw upon these accumulated reserves, broadly speaking, only for the purpose of purchasing capital goods, the import of which is necessary for developing the agricultural and industrial productivity of this country.

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27. With this aim in view, the Government of India decided to follow a more restrictive import policy from the second half of the calendar year 1947. Broadly speaking, that policy consists of dividing imports into three categories: free, restricted and prohibited. Imports of food, capital goods, the raw materials of industry and certain essential consumer goods are free and no exchange restrictions are placed upon their import. Consumer goods which are not absolutely essential are licensed on a quota basis, while others which in the context of the economy of this country must be regarded as totally unessential and luxury imports have been altogether prohibited. Together with the restrictions on imports were introduced certain restrictions on remittances abroad, in particular on the transference of Indian capital. These new policies are now showing the effects which they were calculated to have and the reduction in the sterling balances between the middle of July and the beginning of November 1947 has only been Rs. 21 crores. I should like to point out, however, that in one substantial respect the import policy now in force differs from that in force previously, in that in the licences issued for the licensing period June to December 1947 no discrimination has been made between currencies and imports from the dollar area have been allowed on the same basis as imports from the sterling area. This position, which the House will no doubt welcome, has been brought about by the terms obtained by us in our interim negotiations on the sterling balances. The main features of this agreement, which holds good to the 31st December 1947, are that the Indian sterling balances have been divided into two accounts which may well be likened to a deposit account and a current account. The current account has been opened with a credit of £65 millions. All fresh earnings of foreign exchange are credited to the current account and all balances in the current account are available for expenditure in any part of the world including the United States of America. The deposit account is not available for ordinary current transactions but can be drawn upon only for certain limited purposes such as the repatriation of British capital from India, the payments of pensions, provident funds and gratuities outside India and certain other defined categories of payments.

28. Shortly after this agreement had been signed there arose the dollar crisis. The strain on the dollar reserves of the United Kingdom Government was felt by them to be so great that they were compelled to break their agreement with various countries regarding the free convertibility of sterling into dollars. I am glad to be able to report to the House that our agreement stands unaltered and intact and that as long as we have any balance to our credit in the current account we shall be able to spend it without question in any currency area. The United Kingdom Government have, however, appealed to us for our co-operation in the matter of saving dollars and we have promised them this co-operation. We are now engaged on a review of our import policy and are investigating other means to save dollar expenditure and we may have, I fear, to reintroduce in the next licensing period the discrimination in favour of imports from the sterling area which we removed only so short a time ago. We trust, however, that it will be possible so to arrange this discrimination as not to injure the vital needs of the country's economy.

Empire Dollar Pool

29. The country has always displayed an interest in the arrangement commonly known as the Empire Dollar Pool. As has been explained before, the arrangement is that the countries of the sterling area hold all their foreign exchange reserve in sterling, selling currencies which they do not need to the Bank of England and buying from the Bank of England currencies of which they are in short supply. As a consequence, there is always in the custody of the Bank of England a pool of foreign exchange from which members of the sterling area can buy for sterling the currencies which they need. A more

correct name for this arrangement would be "the Sterling Area Pool of Foreign Exchange." It has come to be known as the Empire Dollar Pool only because the most important of the foreign exchanges in the pool is the United States dollar.

30. Figures have been published by Government from time to time of India's earnings of dollars and other hard currencies and of her expenditure of these currencies and I shall now bring these figures up to date. From September 1939 up to the 31st March 1946 we earned Rs. 405 crores worth of United States dollars and spent Rs. 240 crores worth of United States dollars, leaving a surplus of Rs. 165 crores. On the other hand, in the same period we spent net Rs. 51 crores worth of other hard currencies, namely those of Canada, Switzerland, Sweden and Portugal so that our net surplus on hard currency account was Rs. 114 crores. During the year 1946-47 we had a deficit in the balance of payments with the United States of Rs. 15 crores, having earned Rs. 83 crores and spent Rs. 98 crores, and a deficit in the balance of payments with other hard currency countries of Rs. 7 crores. It may therefore be assumed that we contributed net to the pool between September 1939 and March 1947 Rs. 92 crores worth of hard currencies, which is the equivalent of 275 million dollars. During the quarter April to June 1947 we have had a net deficit on hard currency account of Rs. 15 crores. It will be observed, therefore, that since the financial year 1946-47 we have been consistently drawing on the pool for our dollar requirements and that we are at the moment also in heavy deficit with the United States and other hard currency countries. Generally speaking, however, I would say that, thanks to our policy of foreign exchange restriction, we hope to end the year in a fairly comfortable financial position externally. What definite policy we will follow from the next year I am not now in a position to say because our agreement terminates at the end of this year and we do not yet know what kind of agreement will replace it. I fear however, that in view of the dollar crisis which has threatened not only the United Kingdom but the entire world, we may be in somewhat greater difficulty in the matter of dollar exchange than we are now. We hope to enter shortly into further discussions with the United Kingdom Government on the subject of the sterling balances. An official delegation from the United Kingdom is coming to our country very shortly for this purpose.

Post-war Planning and Development

31. The House will remember that in the budget for the current year provision of Rs. 100 crores was made for development expenditure, including a provision of Rs. 45 crores for grants to Provinces. The partition of the country has naturally affected the scale of this expenditure as the Government of India are no longer concerned with the expenditure on development in the Provinces and areas now included in Pakistan. When the partition of the country was decided upon, Provincial Governments were informed last July that so far as the period up to the 15th August 1947 was concerned, the Government of India would make advance payments to cover expenditure on approved schemes up to the maximum of the proportion of the budget grant for this period. The Provinces were also advised not to enter into any major commitments that were likely to embarrass either of the successor Governments. It has since been decided that for the remainder of this year grants will be available to the Provinces now remaining in the Indian Dominion on the same scale as was originally planned subject to a proportionate adjustment on account of the division of the Punjab and Bengal and the transfer of most of the Sylhet district to East Bengal. In the estimates now placed before the House a provision of Rs. 20.39 crores has been included for grants to Provinces and a sum of Rs. 15 crores for loans to them.

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32. In the last budget speech my predecessor drew attention to the fact that the resources available to the then Central Government for planning and development were likely to be less than was originally estimated. What he said then for the then Central Government is equally applicable to the present Government of India would make advance payments to cover expenditure on and in the light of the reduced resources likely to be available it may be necessary to redraw the development plans and rearrange their priorities. This does not however mean that there has been any change in the Government's policy of giving all the assistance in their power to the Provincial Governments for implementing their development schemes. It merely emphasises the need for the Provinces mobilising all the resources for this purpose and I have no doubt that this is recognised by the Provinces themselves. The House will appreciate that there is a large measure of uncertainty about the future allocation of resources between the Centre and the Provinces and till this is decided it will be difficult to make any forecast of Central resources or determine the extent to which they will be available for development and I hope to take this question of re-examining the development schemes with the Provincial Governments shortly. Meanwhile, all the approved schemes of development will be continued and the necessary funds will be made available for them. Having given this assurance on behalf of the Central Government, I would earnestly urge on the Provinces the need for conserving all their resources and securing the most rigid economy in expenditure. As I have stated, the whole basis on which post-war development plans were conceived has now been upset. The substantial revenue surpluses which were anticipated in the Central budget will now be turned into substantial deficits. In the context of this new development, the need for utilizing all the available funds in the most effective manner possible should be appreciated by the Provincial Governments.

33. In the Central field the progress on development schemes is being maintained and we are going forward with all the sanctioned schemes particularly those schemes of river development with long range benefits to the country. In this connection, the House will be interested to know that an agreement has been reached between the Central Government and the Provincial Governments concerned regarding the setting up of the Damodar Valley Authority. Another scheme which is likely to be taken up very shortly is the construction of the Hirakud Dam in Orissa at an estimated cost of Rs. 48 crores, the benefits from which will include irrigation for over a million acres, 350,000 kilo-watts of power and a considerable degree of protection from floods to the coastal districts of Orissa. It is hoped shortly to reach an agreement on this project with the Orissa Government and the Orissa States after which the actual work of construction would begin early in 1948. It is also proposed to concentrate on the construction of the Bhakra Dam in the East Punjab.

The Deficit

34. I will now come to the problem of deficit. I have carefully considered if any part of the deficit for this year should be covered by additional taxation and I have come to the conclusion that it should be left largely uncovered. If, for any reason, our ordinary expenditure threatens to outrun our revenue there will be a clear case for either reducing the expenditure to within the available revenue or raising additional revenue to meet the expenditure. But the circumstances during the period under review have been abnormal and the deficit is entirely due to these abnormal factors. The expenditure estimates include Rs. 22 crores for the evacuation and relief of refugees while subsidies for imported foodgrains are expected to cost Rs. 22½ crores. Defence expenditure is also considerably inflated due to the slowing down of demobilisation following

the partition of the country and the necessity to maintain larger forces than would normally be necessary. It must also be remembered that no credit has been taken in the estimates for Pakistan's share of the expenditure on pensions and interest. If these factors are allowed for the budget deficit of Rs. 26.24 crores will be converted into a surplus. Notwithstanding this I feel justified in tapping any available source of income if it could be done without adding to the burden of the ordinary man. After a careful consideration of all the available sources I have decided to replace the existing export duty of three per cent. on cotton cloth and yarn by a duty of four annas per square yard on cotton cloth and six annas a pound on cotton yarn. In a full year this will yield Rs. 8 crores but in the current year the net additional revenue will amount to only Rs. 166 lakhs leaving a final deficit of Rs. 24.59 crores. A Bill to give effect to this proposal will be introduced at the end of my speech.

General Financial Position

35. This is the eighth consecutive deficit budget and the House may well ask itself if our revenue position is sound. I have myself no hesitation in answering that question with in emphatic 'yes'. The years covered by these budgets have been overshadowed by the greatest war in history and no country, whether neutral or belligerent, has been able to escape its economic effects or its aftermath. The deficits in the war years were wholly due to the high level of Defence expenditure and were met as far as possible by raising additional taxation. The return to peace time conditions has been slower than we anticipated and even this tardy progress has been retarded by the recent partition of the country and the unhappy developments in the Punjab. I have just mentioned the large burden thrown on this year's budget by the unavoidable expenditure on refugees and the payment of subsidies for foodgrains. In addition, the expenditure on Defence is much higher than it would be in a normal year. If these special factors are taken into account it will be seen that we have not been living beyond our means or heading towards bankruptcy. I do not wish in any way to minimise our present difficulties or to underrate the effort required to surmount them but I have no doubt that once we reach fairly normal conditions and are able to reduce our Defence expenditure to peace-time proportions and curtail our reliance upon import of foodgrains we should be able to balance our budget. It will be too optimistic to expect normal conditions for the next year but I feel that with a determined all-round effort we should be able to achieve this result in 1949-50.

36. And what about the general financial position of the country? Here again while there is no room for complacency there is equally no reason to take a pessimistic view. There is no doubt that economically and strategically the partition of the country has weakened both the Dominions created by it and it is a truism that an undivided India would have been in every way a stronger State than either. But the Indian Dominion with its acceding States would still cover the larger part of our country, with immense resources in men, material and industrial potential. Our debt position is also intrinsically sound and for a country of its size, India carries only a relatively small burden of unproductive debt. Our external debt is negligible and we have considerable external resources in the accumulated sterling balances. At the beginning of this year the total public debt and interest bearing obligations of undivided India stood at roughly Rs. 2,531 crores of which only Rs. 864 crores represented unproductive debt and Rs. 36 crores external debt, while her external reserves amounted to over Rs. 1,600 crores. The share of Pakistan in these has not yet been determined but it is unlikely to affect the broad proportions of this picture.

37. The only disturbing features in the position are the persistence of inflationary trends and the unsatisfactory food position to both of which I have drawn

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The only real answer to inflation is to increase our industrial production and thereby close the gap between the available supplies and the purchasing power in the hands of the community which in present circumstances is impossible to bridge. Till this position is reached the community must co-operate in its purchasing power by lending it to Government. As regards food, I am sure the House will agree that the country cannot indefinitely rely on imports. For one thing this places us at the mercy of foreign countries for our vital necessities and for another large scale imports of food grains seriously affect our foreign exchange position and threaten to consume the bulk of the available resources which are badly required for the industrialisation and development of the country. We must concentrate all our energies on producing as much food as possible within the country. I suggest that this is not an impossible task, for after all the total imports from abroad, which have never touched more than 2½ million tons in any year so far, represent only a fraction of the total food grains amounting to 45 million tons that we produce, although they make a large hole in our available foreign exchange.

I should like to make a few observations on the criticism made in certain quarters that the level of taxation introduced in the last Budget has seriously affected the incentive for investment. In the last Annual Report the Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India have observed "There seems little doubt now that the severity of the last Budget is defeating its own purpose and is hindering the formation of capital for productive purposes. Unless corrective measures are applied without delay, there is a danger of the very foundations of society and economic life of the country being undermined by deepening penury and despair." A pronouncement of this kind coming from such an authoritative source must receive serious notice. I have no doubt in my mind that it was not the intention of the Government to so arrange its taxation policy as to stifle the growth of industry in the country. On the contrary, it is of the utmost importance that the country should be industrialised rapidly so as to secure increased production and a widening range of employment for our people. There is no need for any serious difference of opinion based on mere ideologies. Whatever might be the ultimate pattern of our economic structure, I hold the belief that for many years to come there is need and scope for private enterprise in industry. We cannot afford to lose the benefit of the long years of experience which private enterprise has gained in the building up of our industrial economy. I believe that the general pattern of our economy must be a mixed economy in which there is scope both for private enterprise and for State enterprise. Before I present the annual Budget to this House next February, I shall make a careful examination of the consequences of our taxation policy and endeavour to make any adjustments that may be necessary to instil confidence in private enterprise. In the meantime, I may assure the House that it is not the policy of the Government to hamper in any way the expansion of business enterprise or the accumulation of savings likely to flow into investment.

Conclusion

Mr. Speaker, I would now conclude the Speech with an appeal to this House and through the House to the country at large. For the first time in two centuries we have a Government of our own answerable to the people for its actions. It is the duty and the privilege of such a Government to render an account of its stewardship to the representatives of the people, but the Government has also the right to ask for the co-operation of the entire community in the carrying out of the accepted policies. Events of the last few weeks have unmistakably shown that the political problems arising out of our status have not yet been fully solved. While we have

secured freedom from foreign yoke, mainly through the operation of world events and partly through a unique act of enlightened self-abnegation on behalf of the erstwhile rulers of this country, we have yet to consolidate into one unified whole the many discordant elements in our national life. This can be achieved only by the rigorous establishment of the rule of law which is the only durable foundation on which the fabric of any democratic State can be raised. Respect for law is essentially a matter of political training and tradition and transition from a dependent to an independent status always makes it difficult in the initial stages to secure that unflinching obedience to the rule of law which always acquires a new meaning in a new political context. If the fabric of the State is not built on durable foundations, it will be futile to try and fill it with the material and moral contents of a good life. If India, just risen from bondage, is to realise her destiny as the leader of Asia and take her place in the front rank of free nations, she would require all the disciplined effort her sons and daughters can put forth in the years immediately ahead. The willing help and co-operation of all sections of the community is required in maintaining peace and order, in increasing production and in avoiding internecine quarrels whether communities or between capital and labour. I am sure my appeal for this help and co-operation will not go in vain.

INDIAN FINANCE (SUPPLEMENTARY) BILL

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Minister for Finance): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to give effect to the supplementary financial proposals of the Central Government for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to give effect to the supplementary financial proposals of the Central Government for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1948.

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 27th November, 1947.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Thursday, 27th November, 1947.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

(a) ORAL ANSWERS.

INDIAN DELEGATION TO GENEVA CONFERENCE ON WORLD TRADE RELATIONS

374. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any interim reports regarding the work and achievements of Indian Delegation to Geneva Conference and World Trade relations;

(b) whether India has been invited to become a permanent member of the Executive of I. T. O. and whether she has accepted the invitation;

(c) whether India has reached any provisional Trade agreements with any European or American countries and if so, with which countries and for what commodities; and

(d) whether the important points of the agreements will be placed on the table of the House, and if so, when?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) I presume the Honourable Member is referring to the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment, if so, the answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The question of an invitation being extended to India to become a permanent member of the Executive of International Trade Organisation does not arise at this stage as the Charter that would give birth to the International Trade Organisation is still in the draft stage and is being discussed at Havana.

(c) and (d). The information required by the Honourable Member has since been released to the public, *vide* Press Communique of the 18th November 1947, a copy of which has been placed on the table of the House.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Government be pleased to state, Sir, on what basis are they taking part in the Havana Conference?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: On the same basis on which other nations are taking part in the deliberations of the Havana Conference.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That does not give any indication at all. Does it mean that this Havana Conference work is only in continuation of the work carried on in Geneva, and has the Geneva Conference reached any definite conclusion?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The Geneva Conference has made a Report and passed what is known as the Final Act. That Final Act will be the basis of discussion at Havana and the main principle on which all these Conferences have proceeded is multilateral international trade.

†Not printed in these debates. A copy placed in the Library of the House.—*Ed. of D.*

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What steps were taken, Sir, by Government to ascertain the public opinion prevailing among the agricultural, commercial and trade communities in this country, before they formulated their instrument of accession to the Delegates to Havana?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Several consultations were held with the representatives of the commercial community here and in Bombay, at every stage before our representatives went to Geneva for the first time and for the second time. These principles were observed. As regards consulting the agricultural classes I plead guilty that the Government has not consulted the Honourable the questioner.

Shri S. Nagappa: As regards the selection of personnel to these delegations, will Government consult at least hereafter the interested parties, especially when they send delegations on behalf of agricultural labour will they consult the labour organisations?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Well, as far as possible all these factors are taken into consideration. However, I promise to bear in mind the suggestion made by the Honourable Member.

ECONOMIC ADVISER TO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

375. *Shri B. A. Mandloi: Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

- the name of the present Economic Adviser to the Government of India;
- his present scale of pay;
- whether the post is held on a contractual basis for a limited term or whether it is a permanent one; and
- whether Government propose to keep the post on a permanent basis hereafter?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) The post is vacant at present.

- Does not arise.
- The post is permanent.
- Yes.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: How long has the post been vacant?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Pretty long.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: If it has been vacant for pretty long, will the Government consider the advisability of abolishing it altogether?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The post is a permanent one. The matter of appointing a suitable person is under active consideration.

DEVELOPMENT OF INDIAN MERCANTINE MARINE

376. *Shri B. A. Mandloi: Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state the various steps taken by Government to develop the Indian Mercantile Marine after the year 1944-45 and with what results?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: During recent years Government's efforts to develop the Indian Mercantile Marine have been directed towards the acquisition of additional tonnage and the expansion of the activities of Indian shipping. A Sub-Committee of the Policy Committee on Shipping was appointed in 1945 to suggest ways and means of promoting the above objectives and the main recommendations of the Committee have been accepted by the Government. In regard to acquisition of tonnage, Government's assistance has hitherto mainly taken the form of sponsoring applications for building new tonnage in the U.K., etc., and also of rendering necessary assistance to Indian Companies in the purchase of ships from overseas countries, including

the release of the foreign exchange required. As a result of these measures, Indian registered shipping has increased from 1.3 lakh tons in 1946 to about double this figure and further additions are being made. Government have also supported the efforts of Indian Companies in entering additional trades and have given special consideration to Indian ships in allotting cargoes moving on Government account. With a view to explore the possibility of further expansion in this direction by negotiation and understanding with the interest concerned, an officially sponsored Shipowners' Delegation visited the U.K. last summer. Government are at present also considering a scheme for the rapid acquisition, on a joint State-cum-Private ownership basis, of additional tonnage and for the expansion of the activities of Indian Shipping in the various trades.

Shri B. A. Mandloi: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether any progress has been made in the ship building industry in India and if insufficient progress has not been made, what are the impediments in the way and what steps Government propose to take?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Assuming, Sir, that this supplementary arises out of the question, I require notice.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: Have Government ascertained to what extent the British shipping companies are prepared to forego their tonnage to accommodate Indian shipping interests?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I have no information just at present; I will give it later on.

Shri B. Das: May I know, Sir, if the Indian mercantile marine is getting facilities in U.K. ports just as the U.K. shipping companies are getting facilities in Indian ports?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The answer is that there is no reciprocity as such at present, but Government are making every effort to push the Indian shipping interests as far as possible on the lines already indicated in my reply.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: May I know, Sir, whether the Government have fixed any target which they propose to achieve within a fixed period.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Notice.

Shri Biswanath Das: Sir, it has been published in the Press that the British shipping interests refused to see and discuss with representatives of the Indian shipping interests who were deputed by the Government of India to U.K. Has the Government seen that report, and if so, what steps have they taken?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The report that has appeared in the Press has certainly been seen by the Government. As regards what the Government proposes to do, the matter is receiving active consideration.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know, Sir, if the Honourable Minister is aware that the facilities for mercantile officer training are inadequate and will he state what steps Government propose to take to remedy this defect.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I require notice.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: In view of the extreme importance of this industry, will the Honourable Minister please state in what manner Government propose to develop it rapidly?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The shipping industry as such or the marine personnel?

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: The marine personnel.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: It will be one of the items of the programme which has been chalked out by the Policy Committee.

Shri Biswanath Das: There is no definite reply from the Honourable Minister to my question, Sir. Will he further state or place on the table the correspondence that has passed between the Government of Britain and India on this question?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I cannot say "Yes" just now, but I will bear the suggestion in mind and, if possible, I shall keep the correspondence on the table of the Library.

HANDLING OF EXPORTS AND IMPORTS OF INDIA BY INDIAN MERCANTILE MARINE

377. *Shri B. A. Mandloi: Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state the total exports from and imports into India in the years 1944-45, 1945-46 and 1946-47, and what proportion of it was handled by the Indian Mercantile Marine?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The total value of exports including re-exports from British India on both private and Government account during each of the years 1944-45 to 1946-47, in crores of rupees, were 228.9, 266.4 and 320.1 respectively. Corresponding figures for imports were, in crores of rupees, 231.7, 292.1 and 333.8 respectively. It is regretted that information regarding the percentage share of the Indian Mercantile Marine in the quantum of trade is not available. I place, however, on the table a statement showing the net registered tonnages of Indian vessels, other than country craft which entered or cleared from Indian ports with cargoes and the percentage of such tonnages to the total tonnages which entered or cleared from Indian ports during the three years in question.

Statement showing the net registered tonnage of Indian vessels, other than country craft engaged in foreign trade and their percentage of the total tonnage entered or cleared during the three years 1944-45 to 1946-47.

Year	Tonnage of Indian registered ships which entered Indian ports with cargoes	Percentage of Indian tonnage to total tonnage which entered with cargoes.	Tonnage of Indian registered ships which cleared with cargoes	Percentage of Indian tonnage to total tonnage which cleared with cargoes.
1944-45	152,869	2.5%	146,890	4.1%
1945-46	152,383	2.4%	155,607	4.2%
1946-47	128,118	2.4%	125,668	2.6%

Shri B. A. Mandloi: Will the Honourable Minister be pleased to state the steps Government have taken and propose to take to ensure greater business for the Indian shipping?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I think that is already covered by the question that was just answered by me.

Seth Govinddas: Will the Government see that as far as imports into this country are concerned, consumer goods are not imported to the extent they are being imported or have been imported, so that our dollar credit may not dwindle?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid this is outside the scope of the present question.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saxena: Will the Honourable Minister tell us by what date the entire Indian sea-borne trade will be carried by Indian mercantile?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Not being a prophet, I cannot give a particular date, but there is a programme for 5-years within which there will be a considerable increase in the Indian-owned tonnage.

Shri B. Das: Has the Government started patronising Indian shipping for the business of carrying mails to foreign countries and *vice versa* as well as for carrying Government cargo from and to U.K. and other countries?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Government is considering the proposition.

TERMINATION OF SERVICES OF INDIANS BY GOVERNMENT OF BURMA AND THEIR ABSORPTION BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

378. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the Government of Burma have asked their Indian servants to leave their services?

(b) Have the Government of India received any request from the Indians who are in the service of the Government of Burma, about the termination of their services?

(c) What action do Government propose to take to absorb these servants of the Government of Burma in India?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) No, Sir. On the contrary, the Government of Burma have announced that their policy is not to discharge all Government servants of Indian origin; that those Government servants who are eligible for and are prepared to accept Burma citizenship under their new Constitution will be accorded equal treatment with Government servants of Burma origin; and that while Burma citizens will be preferred for appointment to posts and for retention in posts in the event of retrenchment in particular services, endeavour will be made to cause as little hardship as possible to those who are not citizens of Burma.

(b) Government have received representations from Burma Government employees of Indian origin, both direct and through the High Commissioner for India in Burma, asking that they should be absorbed in Government services and commercial undertakings in India.

(c) Urgent attention is being given to this question, and information about the numbers and categories involved is being collected in order to draw up a definite plan for their re-employment in India.

Seth Govinddas: May I take it, Sir, that no Government servants from Burma are discharged on the ground of their being Indians?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Is the Honourable Member talking of the past, the present or the future?

Seth Govinddas: I mean the past, recently.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I cannot say definitely that not a single case has occurred without making express enquiry. What I have stated is the policy laid down by the Burma Government, but it is quite possible that in spite of that policy, its implementation may not be wholly in keeping with it.

APPOINTMENT OF NON-OFFICIAL LEGISLATORS TO CABINET SUB-COMMITTEES

379. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several Sub-Committees of the Cabinet have been appointed for more detailed and urgent consideration of certain subjects and for offering advice to the Cabinet, and if so, for what departments or subjects;

(b) whether Government propose to attach 3 or 4 non-official legislators and others to each one of these Sub-Committees in order to enlarge the experience to be utilised by the Cabinet for Advisory purposes; and

(c) whether Government propose to appoint similar committees for other departments also?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (c). An Emergency Committee of the Cabinet was set up in August last to deal more specially with the Punjab situation and connected matters. A Defence Committee of the Cabinet has also been formed. In addition *ad-hoc* committees of the Cabinet have been appointed from time to time to make recommendations on specific problems requiring detailed examination. These Committees are not restricted to particular departments and generally cover a larger field.

(b) Cabinet Committees consist of members of the Cabinet only. Apart from their advisory capacity they are sometimes charged with executive powers to deal with any particular matter. The purpose which the Honourable Member has in mind will be served by the setting up of Standing Advisory Committees of the Legislature for which steps have already been taken.

COMPENSATION TO INDIAN SHIPPING COMPANIES.

380. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether the losses of ships suffered by Indian Shipping Companies during the war have been made good by the purchase of ships or construction of new ones;

(b) what steps are being taken to assure that at least coastal shipping comes completely into the hands of Indian shipping industry; and

(c) whether any steps are being taken under private or public auspices to start ocean liners between India, Europe, the United States of America and China?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Government have already declared that it is their intention to secure the entire coastal trade and reasonable shares in the overseas trades for Indian Shipping in accordance with the recommendations of the Reconstruction Policy Sub-Committee on Shipping. Certain Indian Companies are already participating in the trades with U.K. and U.S.A. Before Indian Shipping can participate however in other trades and meet the entire coastal requirements, Indian tonnage must increase sufficiently and Government are at present considering certain proposals for the rapid acquisition, on a joint State-cum-Private ownership basis, of additional tonnage.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Does that answer cover my question here, part (c), regarding ocean liners?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I think so.

Mr. Speaker: He is not talking of overseas trade but of passenger traffic.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Yes, Sir. That is what I meant by "ocean liners".

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I again repeat, Sir, that my answer covers that.

TRADE WITH U.S.S.R.

381. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) the steps that are being taken to increase our trade with the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics;

(b) the main commodities which today enter into our trade with the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics and the prospect of its improvement; and

(c) whether any report has been received by our Representatives in Russia in regard to this matter and if so, when and what are its main suggestions?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member in this connection to my predecessor's reply to para. (a) of Question No. 301 put by Mr. Manu Subedar on the 7th November 1946 and to Mr. Dani's Question No. 717 of the 3rd March 1947. It may be expected, however, that with the opening of the Indian Embassy in Moscow the development of our economic relations with the Soviet Union will soon be taken up for active consideration.

(b) Raw jute, jute goods and groundnut oil constitute at present the principal items of export to Russia. Imports from that country are negligible, however, presumably in view of the lack of surpluses of manufactured and consumer goods in that country.

(c) No, Sir.

Shri K. Santhanam: On a point of order, can a Minister refer to proceedings of the previous Legislatures. This Legislature is not a continuation of the previous Legislature and we cannot claim that the old Assembly is a predecessor, and I do not think he will be entitled to refer to the answers given by a former Member?

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member raises a very large question, and it is very difficult to decide just on the spur of the moment; but I am inclined to think that this Legislature coming as a successor to the previous one inherits everything and therefore the previous answers to the questions are included in the inheritance. As incidentally the question has been raised, there is one point to which I might invite the Honourable Member's attention generally to the nature and the substance of questions put, whether original or supplementaries. I have found ever since I am here that, practically the same questions are being asked over and over again and the questions are new only because the session is a new one. If this is borne in mind, and questions put accordingly, a lot of other important work could be put through and information on grounds not covered by previous questions may be obtained by fresh questions. I am saying, this incidentally and the Honourable Members are entitled to put any questions they like. If, therefore, a question has been answered previously, I think the Honourable Minister is entitled also to refer to those previous questions. There is continuity of administration and Legislature.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it admissible that when a question that was answered as long ago as November last is referred to that the Honourable Minister concerned, if the former answer is not a very long one, should try to give out that answer now and is it also advisable that Members should be exhorted not to repeat a question or a part of a question that must have been given a year or two years ago?

Mr. Speaker: Nowhere: The Honourable Member was a Member of the last Legislature. It is difficult to say categorically and lay down a general rule for all these cases. Every question will have to be judged on its own facts. I do not now want a further discussion on this. All I would say with reference to this question is: "The later developments have already been referred to by the Honourable Minister when he said that an Embassy has been recently established in Russia."

Shri Mohan Lal Saxena: May I know, Sir, what are the imports from Russia?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Apart from impracticable ideas which enter in spite of custom barriers, the imports are negligible.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The Honourable Minister has said so far they have not received any report at all from their representatives in Russia. How then do Government expect to receive reports from Russia?

Conference	Place	Date	
32. International Tin Conference	Brussels	April	47.
33. The Combined Tin Committee Meetings	Washington	May—Aug.	47.
34. 13th Congress of the Universal Postal Union	Paris	May—July	47.
35. International Radio Communications Conference	Atlantic City	May—October 1947.	
36. Plenipotentiary Conference Tele-communications	Atlantic City	July—October 1947.	
37. Administrative High Frequency Broadcasting Conference	Atlantic City	August—October 1947.	
38. Meeting of the Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization	Montreal	May	47.
39. Meeting of the Commonwealth Air Transport Council	Montreal	May	47.
40. Conference of Directors of the Meteorological Services of the World	Washington	Sept.—Octr.	47.
41. Conference on a Multilateral Air Transport Agreement	Geneva	November	47.
42. International Conference of Military Medicine and Pharmacy	Switzerland	June	47.
43. Conference on Medical History of War.	Ottawa	October	47.
44. International Red Cross Committee	Geneva	April	47.
45. International Conference of Military Surgery	USA	July	47.
46. First Special Session of the General Assembly of the U.N.	New York	April—May	47.
47. Second Regular Session of the General Assembly of the U.N.	New York	September—Nov.	47.
48. 4th Session of the Economic and Social Council	New York	Febry. —March	47.
49. 5th Session of the Economic & Social Council	New York	July —August	47.
50. First and Second Session of the Economic and Employment Commission	-do-	Jany.—Feb and June 1947.	
51. Sub-Commission on Economic Development	-do-	November	47.
52. Transport and Communications Commission	-do-	February	47.
53. First and Second Sessions of the Statistical Commission	-do-	Jany-Aug.	47.
54. Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling	-do-	September	47.
55. Commission Human Rights.	-do-	Jany-Feb.	47.
56. Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities	-do-	November	47.
57. Commission on Status of Women	-do-	February	47.
58. Commission on Narcotic Drugs	New York	July—August	47.
59. Fiscal Commission	-do-	May	47.
60. First and Second Sessions of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East.	Shanghai Manila	June 1947. November	47.
61. Conference of Experts on Passports and Frontier Formalities	Geneva	April	47.
62. Conference of British Commonwealth Countries to consider the Japanese peace treaties	Caberra	August	47.
63. Special Committee on Palestine	New York Jerusalem etc.	June — August	47.
64. Committee on the Progressive Development of International Law and its Codification	New York	May—June	47.
65. Conference on Social Welfare in South East Asia (only an observer attended).	Singapore	August	47.

Conference	Place	Date	
66. Second session of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment	Geneva	April —October	47.
67. International Conference on Trade and Employment	Havana	from November 1947.	
68. Study Group of European Customs Union Meeting	Brussels	-do-	
69. Provisional Maritime Consultative Council	Paris	June	47.
70. International Wheat Conference	London	March	47

PAKISTANI BADGES FOR SCHEDULED CASTES AND HARASSMENT OF HINDU EVACUEES IN EAST BENGAL.

383. *Shri Debi Prosad Khaitan: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether Government are aware that in East Bengal badges are being, or are promised to be distributed to those members of the Scheduled Castes who are willing to get themselves converted to Mohamadanism on the promise that no harm will be done to their life and property if they wear them for identification?

(b) If so, what steps do the Government of India propose to take in regard to this matter?

(c) Are Government aware that there is continuous harassment of Hindus leaving East Bengal, and that both at trains and steamer ghats men posing as Muslim League volunteers, under threat of violence, examine the boxes and other packages of the Hindu passengers, taking away their clothes, valuables or anything that such volunteers can lay their hands on?

(d) What steps do Government propose to take to keep the belongings of Hindus coming from East Bengal in safe custody?

(e) Are Government aware that the attitude of the Muslims in East Bengal has created great panic, specially when the Hindus find that no steps are being taken by the East Bengal Government to punish the Muslim offenders when definite incidents are reported?

(f) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of inviting information on definite incidents to be reported to them which can be placed before the East Bengal Government?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Government have no information.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government have received several complaints of this nature.

(d) The High Commissioner for India at Karachi has made representations to the Government of Pakistan to stop such harassment to non-Muslims in East Bengal but has not yet received any reply.

(e) Government are aware that some panic has been created among the non-Muslims of East Bengal by the attitude of Muslim volunteers and National Guards.

(f) Action is being taken on specific cases brought to the notice of the Government of India, but Government do not consider it desirable to invite complaints from the non-Muslim public of East Bengal.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The question may be more appropriately directed to the Honourable the Prime Minister.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I wish to submit that the reports are expected to be received by Government from their Commercial Attachés that are attached to the Embassy.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: There are no Commercial Attachés.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know, S'r, whose responsibility is it in regard to our Embassy in Soviet Russia to send reports in regard to our commercial prospects for trading in that country?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Nobody. No one is there, because there is no trade there.

REPRESENTATION OF INDIA AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

382. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the International Conferences at which India has been officially or semi-officially represented since January last;

(b) whether there is a separate Directorate in the Ministry of External Affairs or any other Ministry which keeps itself in touch with all these delegations, their work, their reports and the contacts made by Indian delegates with the statesmen, experts and others of other countries;

(c) if not, whether Government propose to create such a Directorate; and

(d) what steps are being taken or are proposed to be taken to consult the former representatives of India at these Conferences in regard to India's attitude to be adopted about the Agenda of the new Conferences or further sessions of the old organisations and their Conferences?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) A statement has been laid on the table.

(b) and (c). There is in the Ministry of External Affairs a Branch which handles matters connected with International Conferences, and in particular work connected with the United Nations Organisation. While the selection and briefing of delegations is done by the Ministry which is primarily concerned with the subject matter of a particular Conference, the briefs are normally discussed at inter-departmental meetings and the Ministry of External Affairs sees that divergent instructions are not issued to different delegations. This procedure is not generally followed in the case of meetings of experts on technical subjects unless it appears that any general question of foreign policy is likely to be involved.

Reports submitted by delegations are circulated to the Ministries which are likely to be interested. Members of delegations are encouraged to report any matter of interest in the international sphere which comes to their notice, and where necessary a meeting of representatives of the various Ministries concerned is called to receive their observations.

(d) Reports received from previous delegations are invariably referred to when instructions are drawn up for any new delegation to a conference. Personal consultation with former delegates is arranged when necessary.

List of International Conferences etc., at which India has been represented since January 1947.

Conference	Place	Date	
1. The Sterling Area Conference	London	September — October 47.	
2. World Power Conference to consider "Fuel Economy"	Hague	September 47.	
3. Meeting of Executive Committee of International Commission on High Dams.	Hague	September 47.	
4. International Labour Conference	Geneva	June—July 47.	
5. Asian Regional Labour Conference	New Delhi	Octr—Novr. 47.	
6. Committees of I. L. O.			
i. Industrial Committee on Coal Mining.	Geneva	April-May 47.	
ii. Industrial Committee on Inland Transport	-do-	-do-	
iii. Industrial Committee on Iron and Steel	Stockholm.	August-Sept. 47.	
iv. Industrial Committee on Metal Trades.	-do-	-do-	
7. Meetings of the Governing Body of the I.L.O. and Permanent Agriculture Committee.	Geneva		
8. 10th International Dental Congress	Boston (USA).	August 47.	
9. 4th International Cancer Research Congress	St. Louis (USA).	September 47.	
10. Commonwealth and Empire Health and Tuberculosis Conference	London	July 47.	
11. 25th Session of the International Statistical Institute	Washington	September 47.	
12. World Statistical Congress	-do-	-do-	
13. 3rd and 4th sessions of the Interim Commission of the World Health Organisation.	Geneva	March—August 47.	
14. FAO. Preparatory Commission on World Food Proposals	Washington	Octr. 46—January 47.	
15. Conference on control of Infestation of stored foodstuffs	London	Octr. 46, August 47.	
16. International Rice Study Group	Trivandrum	May—June 47.	
17. 3rd session of the F.A.O.	Geneva	Aug.—Sept. 47.	
18. 1st Meeting of the World Food Council	Washington	November 47.	
19. Conference of British Commonwealth Survey Officers			1947.
20. 5th British Commonwealth Forestry Conference	U.K.		1947.
21. International Conference for Tourism	Paris	October 47.	
22. Special Cereals Conference	Paris	July 47.	
23. 10th International Conference on Public Education	Geneva	July 47.	
24. UNESCO Summer Seminar (A study conference for member States of the UNESCO)	Paris	July—Aug. 47.	
25. UNESCO Regional Conference on Fundamental Education	Nanaking	September 47.	
26. UNESCO Second General Conference	Mexico	Novr.—Dec. 47.	
27. Meeting of the American Society for Engineering Education	Minnesota	June 47.	
28. International Conference in Physics	Paris	November 47.	
29. Conference of the International Railway Congress Association	Lucerne	June 47.	
30. International Congress of Administrative Science	Switzerland	July—Aug. 47.	
31. International Management Congress	Sweden	-do-	

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know from the Honourable the Prime Minister if there is any procedure whereby the wishes of the Members of the House here are gathered if any of them want to serve in any of these delegations abroad?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I should have personally thought that that was not a suitable procedure to adopt. The idea of applications from Honourable Members is neither in consonance with their dignity nor with the dignity of the work.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know if the Honourable Prime Minister will consider the desirability of issuing an annual resume of all the conferences and their results, so that the Members may be kept informed?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: If the Honourable Member wants a kind of compendious resume that would be done, but I think it is much more advantageous for each Ministry to deal with the particular subjects which it can deal with and issue their resume. As far as the summary which is dealing with commerce or trade, people interested in commerce and trade can get the information in one full book. It may be difficult to compile. It may take much more time, because so many people are concerned in compiling it, and the people who wish to read might be interested in one chapter and not the rest. I think such summaries can be issued by the different Ministries and on further consideration, if need be, they can be more methodically done.

GRANT OF POLITICAL PENSIONS.

384. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement giving the names of the political pension-holders, the amounts of pensions paid to each of them and the reasons for the grant of such pensions?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Minister of States. It has accordingly been transferred to the list of questions for the 3rd December 1947, when it will be answered by the Honourable Minister of States.

INDIAN EMBASSIES ABROAD.

385. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to make a statement about the various Indian Embassies that have already been established and the names of the persons who are in charge of them?

(b) What is the expenditure incurred on account of each Embassy?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to the Honourable Prof. N. G. Ranga's Question No. 31 on the 18th November 1947.

EXPENDITURE ON DELEGATIONS SENT TO U.N.O.

386. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state as to how many Delegations have been sent to U.N.O. since the Interim Government was formed?

(b) What was the total expenditure incurred on each Delegation, in respect of transport allowances and parties?

(c) Is it a fact that four thousand Dollars were spent by India at a New York reception in the first week of October last, when the leader of the Indian Delegation to U.N.O. entertained representatives from other countries by way of courtesy?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Six.

(b) Full information is not readily available. It has been called for from the Accounts authorities and a statement will be laid on the table of the House when it is received.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: Mr. Speaker, may I suggest that the statements may be circulated to the Members at least after the questions are answered here, because, Sir, so many statements are said to be laid on the table and we get them only when official reports are sent two or three months later. So it will be better if these statements are circulated at least in the evening after they are laid on the table.

Mr. Speaker: The same question was raised a few days back, and then I had stated that it is impossible to circulate each and every item laid on the table of the House. It will not be a practicable proposition. We get a few copies and circulation will imply multiplying the number of copies. We must either go to the Press or they have to be cyclostyled and a good deal of unnecessary expenditure will be involved in that. If there be important statements—just the other day Dr. Pattabhi requested, for example, the printing and circulation of the Instrument of Accession—then I shall certainly order those papers to be printed and circulated to the Members. In the interest of economy of time and money, I do not think it is desirable to print every statement and send it round to the Members. The Honourable Member knows that the statements are laid here on the table. Any member, desirous of having a look at them or wishing to study them, will have them from the Secretary here and now, and then they are placed on the table of the Library. He can go to the Library after the Assembly session is over and see those statements; and ultimately, after some time, if he wants to read them at leisure, say after a month or two, he will find these printed in the report. So all reasonable facilities, to my mind, which are required for the purposes of making the statements available to the Members are there. Of course, in the case of statements of exceptional importance they can be printed and circulated.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I inform you that I went to the Library and enquired about certain statements and I found no statements there as some one had removed them!

Mr. Speaker: I do not know what reasonable steps I could take to prevent the statements laid there from being removed in an unauthorised manner. All I can do is that I can request Honourable Members who visit the Library not to remove the statements from there. However, this does not require any further discussion.

Shri Biswanath Das: I personally went and requested the Librarian to hand me those statements. He told me that those statements were not available as they had not been supplied.

Mr. Speaker: If that is so, I will enquire into the matter. My information is the other way.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: The general practice is that statements laid on the table of the House are not then and there laid in the Library.

Mr. Speaker: I will enquire and then settle the matter. These are matters of small inconvenience. If any Member feels any inconvenience about any matter, he can get into touch with the Secretary and get the convenience he wants.

APPOINTMENT OF SCHEDULED CASTE. CANDIDATES TRAINED UNDER BEVIN SCHEME

387. *Shri V. O. Kesava Rao: Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state the number of Scheduled caste candidates trained under the Bevin Scheme during the last war and how many of them were appointed by Government?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: No information is available as to the number of Scheduled Caste Bevin trainees sent in the first six batches. The number of such candidates sent in the subsequent batches is 41.

As regards the latter part of the question, all the trainees were found employment by Government, except in the case of five who have just returned from the United Kingdom.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: May I know if Indians are still being trained as Bevin Boys under that scheme in England?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: The answer is in the negative.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: How much money was spent by India for the training of these boys in Europe in the last war?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I want notice of that question.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know whether the Government is continuing the scheme of sending boys, and if so, how many have the Government sent in the latest batch?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I think I have already answered that question in reply to Mr. Tajamul Husain's supplementary.

Shri S. Nagappa: In view of the fact that a free India needs more technical personnel, does not the Government think it necessary to send people to foreign countries for training?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: There is now a difficulty in foreign countries. In spite of our best efforts, industrialists and factory owners there are not in a position to take our candidates and train them at the cost of a reduction in their own production. But we are making all possible efforts to induce them to take some of our trainees there.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know whether these trained personnel are appointed to any administrative posts or are they put there to train other Indians?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: In both positions as feasible and practicable.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: Does the Honourable Minister while sending these people for training or choosing them for their appointments, do so on a communal basis?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Not necessarily.

Shri V. I. Muniswami Pillai: Arising out of the answer of the Minister, does the Government propose to start similar institutions in India to give training to those people who are willing to take it?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: We have already started training centres under the Director of Resettlement and Employment and ex-service personnel are being trained in handicrafts and arts.

REFUGEES REGISTERED IN DELHI AND EAST PUNJAB

388. *R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state the total number of refugees registered in the Delhi Province and the Province of the East Punjab, separately?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The number of refugees registered in Delhi Province upto 24th November 1947, was 2,75,800.

In the East Punjab, instructions regarding registration of refugees have been issued by the East Punjab Government, but actual registration will begin next week.

At Kurukshetra the registration has commenced with effect from the 25th November 1947.

ज्ञानी गुरुमुखसिंह मुसाफर : क्या आनरेबल मिनिस्टर यह बतलावेंगे कि रिफ्यूजीज को बसाने और कारोबार में फिर से लगाने का क्या इन्तजाम किया गया है ?

Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: Will the Honourable Minister please state what steps have been taken to resettle and rehabilitate the refugees?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am afraid that does not arise out of the question.

ज्ञानी गुरुमुखसिंह मुसाफर : साहबे सदर, मेरा मतलब यह सवाल पूछने से यह है कि देहली में रेफ्यूजीज को बसाने का इन्तजाम क्या किया गया है, क्योंकि जो प्रोसीजर अस्तियार किया गया है और जो महकमा उसके लिये बनाया गया है उसका काम बिलकुल निकम्मा है और उसका कोई डेफनीट प्रोसीजर नहीं है और वह efficiently काम नहीं कर रहा है ।

Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: Mr. Speaker, what I mean in putting this question is to ask what steps have been taken to resettle the refugees in Delhi; because the procedure which has been adopted and the work of the Department set up for the purpose is absolutely hopeless. Further that Department has got no definite procedure and it is not functioning efficiently.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The Honourable Member is not permitted to argue. He must ask for information. If the Honourable Minister is able to supply it, he will do so.

ज्ञानी गुरुमुखसिंह मुसाफर : मैं तो सिर्फ यह सवाल करना चाहता था कि क्या इस महकमे की इनएफीसियेन्सी inefficiency की कोई शिकायत पंजी है कि नहीं ?

Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: I simply wanted to put this question: "Whether any report regarding the inefficiency of this Department has been received or not?"

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Does the Honourable Member wish to put a question.

R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar: Could the Honourable Minister say how many refugees still remain to be registered in the Delhi Province?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I expect that the registration of refugees in Delhi Province will be completed within the next few weeks.

NUMBER OF EVACUEES STILL IN PAKISTAN

389. *R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state the total number of persons who still remain to be evacuated from:

(i) Pakistan, and

(ii) Insecure areas in India?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The Honourable Member is referred to my answer to clauses (b) and (c) of Starred Question No. 9 and clauses (d) and (f) of the Starred Question No. 12, on the 18th November, 1947.

Shri K. Santhanam: Has any progress been made since then?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am afraid definite figures are not yet available.

COMPENSATION FOR LOSSES AWARDED TO EVACUEES

390. *R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state the amount of compensation, if any, so far paid to the evacuees for the losses suffered by them?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The Honourable Member is referred to my answer to clause (e) of the Starred Question No. 23, on the 18th November, 1947.

PROPOSED ANTI-INDIAN IMMIGRATION LEGISLATION BY FIJI GOVERNMENT

(1) whether the Fiji Government have introduced an Immigration Bill forfeiting domiciliary rights of Indians if they are absent from Fiji for more than twelve months;

(2) whether the Fiji Indians have appealed to the Government of India for support in resisting this legislation; and

(3) whether the Government of India have taken any steps in the matter?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (1) The Government of India received on the 11th November, 1947 a telegram from the Acting Governor of Fiji stating that a further amendment to clause 3 of the previously published Fiji Immigration Ordinance had been introduced, under which a person absent from Fiji for twelve months or more would lose exemption from the provisions of the Ordinance and would have to apply for an entry permit. Under the Bill as it originally stood, a British subject or a British protected person domiciled in the Colony would be exempt from the provisions of the Immigration Ordinance subject to the condition that if such a person wished to leave the Colony with the intention of returning thereto, he would have to obtain a permit to re-enter the Colony from the Principal Immigration Officer, which would be valid for a period of two years.

(2) We have received a telegram from the Indian members of the Fiji Legislative Council asking for the Government of India's intervention in preventing the proposed amendment from becoming law.

(3) Yes. We have already taken up the matter direct with the Governor of Fiji in order to save time and are making suitable representation to the United Kingdom Government.

Seth Govinddas: Is the Government aware that wherever such restrictions of permits are introduced, they are always used for stopping Indian Immigration back to those countries. Under these circumstances will the Government see that such restrictions are not imposed.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The Government will certainly see. In fact it has been continually seeing but the Honourable Member has not suggested what to do about the seeing.

HIRAKUND DAM PROJECT

392. *Shri K. Santhanam: Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power please state:

(a) whether the Hirakud Dam Project of the Mahanadi Valley Development scheme has been finally sanctioned by the Government of India;

(b) the total cost of the project;

(c) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the criticism of the project by Mr. M. G. Rangaiya, retired Chief Engineer of Mysore; and

(d) whether Government have examined those criticisms with the help of experts not directly connected with the project?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) The Hirakud Dam Scheme was discussed on the 14th November, 1947 at an Inter-Provincial Conference, consisting of the representatives of the Central Government and the Governments of Orissa and C. P. and Berar and some representatives of the States; and it was agreed to proceed with the project as fast as possible.

(b) Rs. 45.5 crores roughly.

(c) Yes.

(d) Government propose to appoint a high level Committee consisting of (i) Dr. J. L. Savage, Consulting Engineer and international authority on large dams, formerly, Chief Designing Engineer, U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, (ii) Mr. L. N. MacLellan, Chief Electrical Engineer and Mechanical Engineer, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, (iii) Mr. M. Narasimhaiah, Chief Engineer, Mysore, and (iv) Mr. S. A. Gadkary, Chief Engineer, Electricity, East Punjab—to advise on the scheme in general and its detailed features of design etc.

It is further proposed to request Sir M. Visweswariaya to give his advice on the scheme in general and on matters referred to him by the Committee mentioned above.

Shri K. Santhanam: Will this Committee have power to advise whether this scheme at least in a particular form should be proceeded with or altered on fundamental matters or will it advise merely on the method of carrying out the project?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: It is open to the Committee to advise on any matter incidental to and connected with the carrying out of the scheme.

ACCESSION OF JUNAGADH TO PAKISTAN AND OF KASHMIR TO INDIA

393. *Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to make a full statement on the discussions that took place between him and the Governor General of India on the one hand, and the Prime Minister and the Governor General of Pakistan on the other, on the issue of the accession of Junagadh to Pakistan and of Kashmir to the Dominion of India?

(b) What was the outcome of these discussions?

(c) Do Government propose to hold further discussions with the Pakistan authorities on these questions? If so, where and when?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) No such discussion has taken place.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government of India are prepared to have friendly discussions on these issues with the Pakistan Government.

INVASION OF KASHMIR BY FRONTIER TRIBESMEN

394. *Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the Government of India have made any detailed report to the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom about the invasion of Kashmir by the Frontier tribes?

(b) If so, have the circumstances leading to the accession of Kashmir State to the Dominion of India and the subsequent intervention of the Government of India on behalf of Kashmir been brought to the notice of the other Dominions of the British Commonwealth also? If so, with what results?

(c) Do Government propose to bring the whole matter before the United Nations Organisation? If not, why not?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) I sent a telegram on the 25th October 1947 to the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom regarding events in Kashmir. To this I received a reply and there has been some further correspondence since.

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

(c) I would refer the Honourable Member to my statement in the House on the 25th November on Kashmir.

INDIA'S COASTAL AND OVERSEAS TRADE

†395. ***Shri M. C. Veerabahu Pillai:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state the names of the Shipping Companies whose Steamers regularly ply between India and her neighbouring countries like Burma, Malaya and Ceylon, carrying passengers and cargo?

(b) How many of them are Indian Steamer Companies and how many foreign?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of reserving for Indian Steamer Companies at least the passenger services as a first step towards reserving for them the India's entire coastal and overseas trade with her neighbouring countries?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) and (b). The names of the Shipping Companies and their nationality are as given below:

INDIA/BURMA/CEYLON:

Indian.—The Scindia Steam Navigation Company Limited.

Non-Indian.—The British India Steam Navigation Company Limited.

The Asiatic Steam Navigation Company Limited.

INDIA/MALAYA:

Indian.—Nil.

Non-Indian.—The British India Steam Navigation Company Limited.

The Indo-China Steam Navigation Company Limited.

(c) It is not feasible to reserve the passenger services as suggested, particularly in the overseas trades. Government have, however, already announced their intention ultimately to secure the entire coastal trade as also reasonable shares in the overseas trades for Indian shipping.

EXPORT OF ONIONS AND OILCAKES TO CEYLON

†396. ***Shri M. C. Veerabahu Pillai:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the export of onions from Madras Province to Ceylon, has recently been stopped and if so, for what reasons?

(b) Are Government aware that with the stoppage of the export of onions and oilcakes, the export trade of South India with Ceylon has practically been crippled?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Yes, Sir. Export of onions from the Province of Madras to Ceylon was suspended with effect from the 26th August 1947 on a representation from the Madras Government that the crop position was unsatisfactory and that prices had gone up as the result.

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

(b) The Honourable Member would appear to be misinformed with regard to this matter. The total volume of trade in onions and oilcakes does not, from the information readily available, represent more than 10 per cent. of the total trade of South India with Ceylon. The stoppage of exports of these two commodities cannot therefore be said to have materially affected South India's trade with that country.

MISAPPROPRIATION OF INCOME BY HINDU CHARITABLE AND RELIGIOUS TRUSTS

†397. ***Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Law be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the extent of waste and misappropriation of the income from Hindu Charitable and Religious Trusts?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of introducing legislation for abolishing all these Trusts so as to utilize the properties for nation-building purposes?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Quite apart from the question whether legislation abolishing all Hindu religious and charitable trusts is necessary or even desirable, such legislation falls within the provincial field under entry 34 of the Provincial Legislative List, and the Central Government cannot, therefore, initiate the suggested legislation.

ANTI-INDIA ACTIVITIES OF GOVERNMENT OF GOA

398. ***Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of Goa (i) has recently imported nearly 2,000 European and Negro troops in addition to their normal military force of 3,000;

(ii) has been storing for sometime a large number of American-made arms, ammunition and trucks;

(iii) has been carrying on propaganda against the Indian Union and in favour of Pakistan;

(iv) has regularly been smuggling arms and ammunition out of Goa, with the assistance of certain influential merchants of Panjim; and

(v) has been allowing the Portuguese cruiser to enter the docks at Mormugo and to take fresh arms and ammunition to Diu which is next door to Junagadh?

(b) If the answer to any of the sub-parts (i) to (v) above be in the affirmative, what steps have been taken by Government so far, to prevent and counteract these activities?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The Government of India are aware—(i) and (ii) that the normal peace time strength of the military force in Goa has been recently augmented. They have no official information about the exact numbers.

(iii) and (iv). The Government of India have no precise information on this subject.

(v) Both Mormugao and Diu are part of the Portuguese Possessions in India and from time to time Portuguese ships touch at these places.

(b) The Government of India do not consider that any action in regard to these matters is called for at present.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Do not Government make inquiries through their Ambassador or Agent as to these allegations, soon after the question is tabled, or keep in touch with developments on the frontier from time to time?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: This answer was framed after due inquiry.

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

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(c) The Government of France has agreed to consider with the Government of India the future of French Establishments in India with due regard to the interests and aspirations of the populations of these territories. Discussions have been going on with the French authorities in this connection.

The question of the Portuguese Possessions is also receiving attention.

Shri M. S. Aney: May I know whether the Mandapam health camp is in the possession and control of the Ceylonese Government or of the Government of India?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know how that comes in; we are dealing with the French possessions.

Mr. Speaker: The question relates to "foreign settlements in India". Is this a foreign settlement?

Shri M. S. Aney: Yes. Mandapam camp of the Ceylonese Government is in India. I asked the question for getting that information whether that camp is under the control of the Ceylonese Government or of the Government of India.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know if the Honourable Member wants to draw me out. I suspect some motive about that question because the Honourable Member knows more about it than I do.

Shri M. S. Aney: Sir, I have no such motive. I do not want to pursue it either also.

APPOINTMENT OF GOVERNORS, AMBASSADORS AND HIGH COMMISSIONERS

104. ***Shri S. Nagappa:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state the policy of Government in appointing Governors, Ambassadors and High Commissioners?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: No fixed policy or rules are laid down for appointment of high officers of State. Merit, capacity and suitability are the criteria for such appointments.

Shri S. Nagappa: In view of the fact that no Andhara and no harijan is appointed, is it the view of Government that they are unfit for such posts?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I must say that I strongly deprecate such insinuations. So far as this Government is concerned, no appointment is going to be made to any high office on provincial or other considerations.

Shri S. Nagappa: In view of the fact that no offices are going to these people may I know what the practical policy of Government is in making such appointments, specially those of Governors, Ambassadors, High Commissioners, etc?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The practical policy is to appoint a person who can serve the cause of India most efficiently.

Shri S. Nagappa: Do Government mean to convey that people or Harijans coming from Andhradesha are incapable of discharging these duties most efficiently?

Mr. Speaker: That is a matter of opinion.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know if Government have decided to retain European Governors and the Indian I.C.S. Governors till the next election?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Till when? They are there: they are functioning there and they will function till the end of their term or till something else happens. There is no question of any fresh decision by Government on the matter. The decision was taken when they were kept on. As to how long they will continue the answer is till further change takes place or till some of them retire.

Mr. B. Poker Sahib Bahadur: May I know how long the present European Governor of Madras is to continue in office?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Biswanath Das: While agreeing with the principles underlying the reply given by the Honourable the Prime Minister, may I know what method is being adopted by the Government of India for their own information to ascertain men of capacity and their availability in every province?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: We are discussing at the present moment appointments of very high officers of state. You cannot apply any particular rule of thumb for their appointment. After all the persons who are responsible for the appointments—whether a committee or a board or the Cabinet or individual—have to exercise their judgment.

Shri Biswanath Das: I have not desired that any rule of thumb should be applied but what I wanted to know was that since the Government of India do not know the availability of persons necessary for certain specified appointments, have they any basis or principle which they have been following to ascertain the availability of such persons from different provinces in India? They must be consulting provincial ministries, premiers or Governors in the matter.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: So far as the appointment of a Governor is concerned he is only appointed after consulting the provincial government—at least the Prime Minister.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: May I know how long the Government propose to keep the present British Governor General in India?

Mr. Speaker: These are all questions relating to individual cases: I should not permit them.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: The question under reply is with regard to Governors, Ambassadors and High Commissioners.

Mr. Speaker: That may be. The question refers to the general policy of the Government and not to individual cases. I should not allow questions to be raised as regards individual appointments.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: My question was with regard to policy only. How long do the Government propose to retain a Britisher as Governor General in India?

(No answer was given)

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know if the Government have accepted it as their policy not to appoint a man, however qualified he may be, as Governor of his own province?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: There is no final fixed policy: it is generally considered desirable not to appoint a person as Governor in his own province, except perhaps temporarily.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know why it is not considered desirable to appoint a man as Governor in his own province, in view of the fact that the office of Governor is going to be an elected one under the new constitution?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Simply because the functions of the Governor then would be somewhat different from what they are now. In appointing a person as Governor it is better to appoint an outsider. In case of election another party is responsible for putting him in.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: May I know whether the Honourable the Prime Minister is aware that there is a very strong feeling in the country against the continuance of Europeans as Governors and will he take steps in this matter?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am totally unaware of this.

RELEASE OF MUSLIM COMMUNAL RIOT CONVICTS BY GOVERNMENTS OF
WEST PUNJAB AND SIND

†399. *Shri Ram Chandra Gupta: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the Government are aware that the Sind and West Punjab Governments have released from Jail all those Muslim prisoners who were convicted in Communal riots?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: As far as can be ascertained, an unknown number of prisoners including several convicted in communal riots before the 15th August 1947 were released from jails in Sind in celebration of the establishment of Pakistan. Government are not aware of any such releases in the West Punjab.

PRIME MINISTER'S ADDRESS TO CONGRESS WORKERS IN NEW DELHI

400. *Shri Biswanath Das: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the report of his address made to the Congress workers in New Delhi on the 3rd October 1947 and published in the Moffusil edition of the *Hindu*, dated the 6th October 1947;

(b) whether the same is correctly reported; and

(c) the basis for his conclusion that "it was generally forgotten, that the New State of Pakistan was not capable of waging any war"?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes.

(b) The address referred to was delivered at a private gathering and was not reported fully. The very brief report published in the *Hindu* is likely to create a wrong impression of what was said at some length.

(c) There was no such conclusion.

INCLUSION OF FRENCH POSSESSION IN INDIAN UNION

401. *Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the handing over of small French pockets in India by French authorities to the Government of India is a prelude to the handing over of all French possessions in India; and

(b) what is the attitude of the Government of India in regard to the request made by a number of prominent citizens and Mayors of various places in French India to include those places in the Indian Union?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b). The French Government have declared the transfer of the areas known as the French Loges in India to be "a token of their will to settle all questions pending between the two countries in the most friendly and comprehensive manner". The French Government have also agreed to explore, with the Government of India, ways and means of a friendly regulation of the problems of French Establishments in India, with due regard to the interests and aspirations of the population of these territories. Discussions have been going on with the French authorities on the subject.

Seth Govinddas: To facilitate such negotiations and for the sake of better relations in future with countries like France, are Government thinking of sending an Embassy to that country?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: It has already been decided to exchange diplomatic representatives with the French Republic. We have heard a French Embassy functioning and it is proposed in the near future to send a Charge d'Affaires for the Indian Embassy in Paris. But that has no parti-

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

cular relation to this subject. We are dealing with the subject and as soon as our Ambassador or Charge d'Affaires goes there no doubt he will take it up immediately.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have the Government of India received any representations from any responsible organisations of the people of these French possessions in India that the Government of India should initiate discussions to get these French possessions also to join the Indian Union?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Then what line of action are the Government of India pursuing in order to get these possessions also to join the Indian Union?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: We are discussing the subject.

'BLOOD AND IRON' TALK BY GOA GOVERNMENT

402. *Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Goa Indians are anxious to join the Indian Union;

(b) whether Government are aware of the talk of 'blood and iron' by the Governor of Goa; and

(c) the action the Government of India propose to take to meet the challenge of the Portuguese Goan Governor, and to save Portuguese Indians from slavery?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) According to the information received by Government, large numbers of the residents of Goa are anxious to join the Indian Union.

(b) Government have seen no report of any such speech by the Governor-General of Goa. But the Portuguese Minister for Colonies said something to this effect in June last.

(c) The Government of India propose to deal with the question of Goa as well as of other foreign territories in India at an early date.

ABSORPTION OF FOREIGN SETTLEMENTS IN INDIAN UNION

403. *Shri B. A. Mandloi: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state what are the foreign settlements in India with the area and population of each such settlement and whether the population in each settlement is predominantly Indian?

(b) Have the people in these settlements expressed their intention and determination to join the Union of India?

(c) Have any steps been taken by the Government of India to do away with these foreign settlements and to absorb the territories in different units of the Indian Union and make them parts of the Union of India?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) There are two foreign settlements in India namely:

(1) The French Establishments in India comprising Pondicherry, Chandernagore, Karikal, Mahe and Yanam with a total area of 196 sq. miles and a population of 323,295 (in 1941).

(2) The Portuguese Possessions in India comprising Goa, Daman and Diu with an area of 1,537 sq. miles and a population of 624,177.

The population in these places is predominantly of Indian descent.

(b) A large number of people in these settlements have expressed these sentiments.

PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION, AND EXPORT OF TEA

405. *Shri V. I. Munishwami Pillai: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state what was the total output of tea in the several tea producing provinces in the Indian Dominion during the years 1936-37 and 1945-46 and how much was consumed locally and how much was exported?

(b) Is it a fact that due to the operation of the Indian Tea Restriction Act, small growers are working at a loss?

(c) Do Government contemplate not to revive the Tea Restriction Act after 31st March, 1948?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Sir, statistics regarding the total output of tea manufactured in India are compiled for the calendar year and not the financial year. Moreover no separate figures exist in regard to production of the areas which now form a part of the Dominion of Pakistan. I, therefore, lay on the table of the House a statement showing the output of made tea in the several tea producing provinces of India as a whole for the calendar years 1936, 1937 and 1945 and the estimated all-India tea crop for those years as well as for 1946. I also lay on the table of the House a statement showing the quantity of tea consumed in India and exported outside India during the financial years 1936-37 and 1945-46.

(b) Government have no information on the subject.

(c) The question of the continuance or otherwise of the Indian Tea Control Act after 31st March 1948 is receiving the consideration of Government.

Statement showing the total output of made tea in the several tea producing provinces of India for the calendar years 1936, 1937 and 1945 and the estimated all-India tea crop for those years as well as for 1946

Province	1936 lbs.	1937 lbs.	1945 lbs.	1946
*Assam.	224,250,518	241,807,853	288,107,740	All - India
**Bengal	97,537,102	107,550,144	140,779,538	580.21
Bihar	854,230	944,509	1,912,203	million lbs.
United Provinces	1,830,518	2,003,837	1,524,941	(estimated)
Punjab (Kangra)		Not available		
Madras & Coorg	32,152,300	34,523,987	46,152,580	
All-India total including Indian States and Nepal	390,433,393	423,408,776	527,555,599	580.21 million lbs. (estimated).

*Includes Sylhet which is now part of Pakistan and for which no separate figure is available.
**Includes Chittagong and Chittagong Hill Tracts, which are now part of Pakistan and for which no separate figures are available.

Statement showing the quantity of tea consumed in India and exported outside India during the years 1936-37 and 1945-46

Year	Quantity consumed in India (estimated) Million lbs.	Quantity exported outside India lbs.
1936-37	79.0	301,866,146†
1945-46	160.0*	362,769,834†

*Preliminary.

†Including 10,268 lbs. and 54,811 lbs. representing the share respectively of Sind and Burma.

‡Including 20,931 lbs. representing the share of Sind.

Shri V. I. Munishwami Pillai: Is the Honourable Member aware that on account of this Act the small growers are greatly affected and much of the suitable for tea cultivation is lying fallow because of the existence of this Act?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The Government does not think that the Act has affected the small tea growers at all.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government be good enough to make proper enquiry in regard to this particular point made by Mr. Pillai—whether this Act is working to the injury or harm of the small tea grower?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The answer to the question is that the Act was undertaken in order to implement the International Tea Agreement which itself was the result of a desire to have somewhat restricted production and to keep production in proportion.

Shri V. I. Munishwami Pillai: Is the Government aware that middlemen have to export at a very small rate quota thereby the small growers as well as the big ones are greatly affected?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Middlemen are known to do these things only in the matter of tea but in all commodities.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that it was the influential bigger growers who were responsible for getting this Act passed and getting the Government to be a party to that agreement as well, will Government consider the advisability of instituting enquiries into the fact that the small growers suffering today and to what extent this agreement can possibly be modified if the Act amended?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: It is a very large question to answer. As regards the first part the Government does not agree with the view that the tea growers have influenced the decision made either here or in the matter of the International Agreement. As regards the advisability of instituting enquiries, I may inform the Honourable Member that this Act expires on the 31st March, 1948 and the matter is receiving active consideration.

PROTECTION OF PROPERTY AND FUNDS OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AT LAHORE

406. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state what steps, if any, were taken for the protection of the property and funds of various educational institutes at Lahore which were founded and maintained by Indians who have been forced to evacuate to India?

(b) Have Government considered the advisability of arranging for their being shifted to India till existing conditions improve?

(c) Have Government any information regarding the funds of such institutions?

(d) Have the buildings of any of the educational institutions been requisitioned by the Government of Pakistan? If so, whether they are paying any rent for the same and to whom?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) The whole question of the future of Educational Institutions of Non-Muslims including those maintained by Trusts and Societies is proposed to be discussed with representatives of Pakistan Government shortly.

(b) Shifting of these Institutions will be one of the points to be discussed.

(c) No precise information is available.

(d) The Sohanlal College, Lahore, was looted and about three weeks later some time in September, 1947, the building was taken over by the West Punjab

Government. It is understood that it is now known as the Madrassa Tul Bat and was for some time used as a Muslim Refugee Camp.

The buildings of Sir Ganga Ram Girls' School and Training College, D.A.V. High School and Middle School and Sanatan Dharam College and School and the Fateh Chand College are also known to have been taken over by the West Punjab Government for different purposes. No information is available in regard to the procedure adopted by the West Punjab before the buildings were taken over.

Definite information regarding requisitioning by the Government of Pakistan of buildings of other educational institutions is being collected and will be placed on the table when available.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know if any protests were made by our Government to the Pakistan Government?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Oh, yes.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: With what result?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I do not know of any definite result having been achieved. But this question, as I have already stated, has been included in the list of points that will come up for discussion with the Pakistan Government, and it occupies a prominent place in the memorandum that we have already sent to that Government.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Minister consider the advisability of utilising the services of our Nationalist Muslim members or the Muslim members of this House in persuading the Pakistan Government to release these buildings?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I do not know exactly how the services of these gentlemen could be usefully employed. If my Honourable friend were in a position to give me a more specific suggestion I would certainly consider it.

UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

EXPORT OF COMMODITIES FROM MADRAS TO CEYLON DURING THE YEARS 1937-38 AND 1946-47

6. Shri M. C. Veerabahu Pillai: Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to place on the table of the House a list of the commodities with their tonnage and value, which were exported from the Province of Madras to Ceylon during the years 1937-38 and 1946-47?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The information is being obtained and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

DETENTION AND PILFERAGE OF GOODS IN TRANSIT ON E. B. RAILWAY AT SANTAHAR AND PARBATIPUR IN EASTERN PAKISTAN

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that foodstuffs and other essential goods despatched by through booking from Calcutta and other parts of India to Assam are detained at Santahar and Parbatipur Railway Stations of Pakistan, that most of them are not allowed to proceed further and that the major portion of those goods is pilfered at these stations?

(b) If so, what steps Government propose to take to see that the goods under through booking reach the destination within a reasonable time?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Although there have been rumours to the effect that goods despatched from Calcutta to Assam are delayed or lost on the journey over the E. B. Railway, no report as such has reached this office officially. It is understood, however, that the Assam Government are finding great difficulty in obtaining their goods from Calcutta via the E. B. Railway.

Santahar and Parbatipur are both transshipment points from broad to metre gauge and it is quite possible that owing to the E. B. Railway system not having yet settled down since partition, delays are occurring at these transshipment points—both of which are in Pakistan. On the question of pilferage it is also possible that essential goods like food and cloth are purloined and do not reach destination in Assam.

(b) The only step which the Government of India can take in this matter is to make a representation to the Pakistan Government and bring the matter to their knowledge and to ask the Pakistan Government to assist in avoiding detentions and pilferage.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: In the meantime may I know what will be the condition of the Province of Assam if it does not get the foodstuffs which are booked from other parts of India?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: There is nothing that we can do in the matter except the course that I have suggested. There is of course the possibility of our trying by some means to expedite the completion of the new through rail connection that we have in view, but that will take a certain amount of time. Apart from that I think there is nothing else that we can do.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Will the Government consider the question of requisitioning the services of a few cargo steamers and have the goods despatched from Calcutta?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I take it that these cargo steamers will also pass through the Pakistan area.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: The Honourable Minister said that he did not have any report about the delays. May I know whether he actually called for any report from the railway administration?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes, I have since called for information.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Apart from the question of Assam, is the Honourable Minister aware of complaints that foodstuffs despatched from the Indian Union to Darjeeling and Dinajpur districts are either held up in transit or they do not reach the destination at all?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is quite conceivable that happens.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is it also within the knowledge of the Honourable Minister and has he any positive information that foodstuffs, particularly rice which is in short supply in Bengal in the Indian Union, despatched from Dinajpur had not been delivered to the Indian Union by the Pakistan portion of B. A. Railway?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I have had reports from the railway administration.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is he aware that tremendous smuggling is going on of food commodities and rationed articles at railway stations in Pakistan, for instance Ranaghat and is the Honourable Minister's Department taking effective steps to stop this surreptitious smuggling?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: This occurred in an area over which my Ministry has no jurisdiction.

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Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: In the signal yard of the Ranaghat station itself they have an arrangement by which to remove commodities. Will the Honourable Minister kindly look into the matter with the assistance of the G.R.P. assisted by the local police?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: We have the matter in hand already.

Prof. Shibban Lal Sakseña: Has the Honourable Minister represented the matter to the Pakistan Government?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes, we have made a representation to the Pakistan Government.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Is the Government aware that the wagons which are despatched from Assam with goods are not returned to the Assam Railway by the Pakistan Government?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That has occurred not only in regard to Bengal-Assam Railway but in regard to the North Western Railway as well. That is not however going to present any serious difficulty because in the case of excess wagons they have to pay hire charges to the wagon pool, and that acts as a deterrent.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is the Honourable Minister hopeful that he will get back the wagons at all?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: We have sufficient sanctions in our hands for that purpose.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Do Government propose to depute some of their own responsible Officers to these stations of Parbatipur and Santahar and ask them to give a correct report of these matters, so that the Pakistan Government may be made to co-operate in the matter of despatch of these goods?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The important thing is not the question of obtaining information but to be able to act upon information we already have.

Shri Biswanath Das: As the Honourable the Railway Minister has admitted that there is smuggling and also expressed the view that it does not relate to his Department I should like to know whether he has sought the co-operation and co-ordination of his brother Ministers in this regard—particularly of Ministers who have got jurisdiction on this subject—or of the Provincial Government with a view to stopping this smuggling?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The first thing is for the Railway Ministry in India to take this matter up with the railway authorities in Pakistan. That obviously is the first step.

Mr. B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur: May I know whether the Government has received any reply from the Pakistan Government to the representations made to them by this Government in this behalf?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Not yet, Sir.

EVACUATION OF HINDUS AND SIKHS FROM SIND

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the summary of the speech of Professor Ghanshyam, Leader of the Congress Party in the Sind Assembly, published in the *National Call*, dated the 19th November 1947 to the effect "that 30,000 Hindus and Sikhs anxious to leave Sind were living on the premises of the Congress Office in Hyderabad Sind alone and more were coming in. As against this only 260 persons could leave daily by train"?

(b) Do Government propose to provide greater facilities for the evacuation of the said refugees? If so, what?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) Yes. Indeed Professor Ghanshyam discussed this matter at length with the Secretary of the Ministry and immediate action was initiated.

(b) As desired by Professor Ghanshyam, efforts are being made to run one Refugee Special per day for a month from Hyderabad Sind to Marwar in addition to the Bombay Mail. The High Commissioner in Pakistan has been requested to take up the matter with the Pakistan Government so that the Refugee Special may start running as soon as possible.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: Have the Government made any effort to find out how many of the non-Muslims anxious to leave Sind for India are panic-stricken and how many are in real danger? What steps do Government propose to take in respect of people who want to leave Sind out of panic?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: It is rather difficult to give a definite reply to this question. There is a general desire on the part of the non-Muslims who are still in Sind to leave that province. I am sure that our High Commissioner in Pakistan is doing all that is possible to allay the panic that the Honourable Member refers to.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: Have the Government prepared any scheme for the resettlement of those who are coming from Sind? If so, what is that scheme?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: So far as the people who have been coming from Sind are concerned, they are mostly coming to Bombay and to the Kathiawar States. We know that the Bombay Government as also the Kathiawar State administrations are making all possible arrangements for their reception. Quite a number of them have also come to Ajmer-Merwara and we are doing what is possible for the purpose of providing them with accommodation and other amenities.

Shri Jainarain Vyas: Has the Honourable Minister come to know that rations are not being supplied to refugees from Hyderabad to Marwar Junction and that protection also is absent?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: So far as rations are concerned, I do not exactly know whose responsibility it is at that particular point. I may mention that although the railway concerned belongs to the Jodhpur State, it traverses quite a distance of Pakistan territory. So far as protection goes, it is the Pakistan Government alone that can provide that protection over that bit of territory.

Shri O. V. Alagesan: Will the Honourable Minister please state what is the position in respect of Madrasis in Sind who were anxious to be evacuated?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I remember having seen a reference to the Madrasis who were living in Sind and who have come away. I understand most of them are now in the Madras Presidency.

Shri Mohan Lal Saxena: Is the Honourable Minister aware that a large number of Sindhis have come to Alwar State and they are having no facilities either of boarding or lodging there?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I have no information about Sindhis in Alwar State, but I know that the refugee population in Alwar consists of a large number of people from the Frontier, but I shall make enquiries into the point raised.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: What is the capacity of the special train to which the Honourable Minister referred to evacuate refugees in one trip?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: It would be in the neighbourhood of 4,000.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: Has the Government any information about the Harijan residents of Sind who are ready to be evacuated but the Sind Government is obstructing them and is forcibly converting them into Islam?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I know that certain special difficulties are being felt by the Harijans in Sind in the matter of their evacuation and we have just decided to appoint a special officer from among Harijans to proceed to Karachi to look after their interests in this matter.

Mr. B. Poker Sahib Bahadur: May I know, Sir, whether it is the definite policy of the Government to discourage evacuation from Pakistan to India and from India to Pakistan, and if so, what steps Government are taking to give effect to that?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The policy is to provide facilities for those who are anxious to come away. This applies also to those who are anxious to leave India for Pakistan.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyaya: What is the policy that has been adopted by the Government of India to protect the properties left behind by refugees?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I do not know whether my Honourable friend raises this as a general kind of question or he limits the question to Sind.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyaya: To Sind. We have been talking of Sind.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: So far as Sind is concerned, I have no definite information as regards the attitude of the Sind Government in the matter of the protection of property left behind by the evacuees. At one stage I knew that the Sind Government had not adopted a law corresponding to the law that we have on this side and also the West Punjab Government had, as regards the appointment of a Custodian of evacuee property. I do not know the latest position.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyaya: Will the Government pursue this matter with the Pakistan Government?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I know this much that our High Commissioner in Karachi is in constant touch with the Pakistan Government and this is one of the specific points he has raised with that Government.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Does my Honourable friend get periodical reports from our High Commissioner in Pakistan on this question?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: We do receive reports. We have asked our High Commissioner in Pakistan to keep us informed as regards all important matters relating to refugees.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: May I say, Sir, that we receive full information from the High Commissioner in Pakistan, not only full reports but also daily reports on all these issues.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: Will Government be pleased to inform us the method by which we can find out whether a particular individual is a citizen of Pakistan or is of India?

Mr. B. Poker Sahib Bahadur: May I know, Sir, whether the Government has accepted the policy underlying the resolution passed by the All-India Congress Committee recently as regards evacuation of persons from Pakistan to India and from India to Pakistan?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Certainly Sir.

Shri V. I. Munishwami Pillai: Will the Government be pleased to acquaint Members of this House with the result of the enquiry the Harijan member will be making in Sind?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Yes certainly, if that is desired.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: Do Government propose to fix a date by which all those who want to leave this country for Pakistan and *vice versa* can do so, and then we will know as to who is a Pakistani and who belongs to India?

Mr. Speaker: Next short notice question.

CREATION OF NEW PROVINCES ON LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL BASIS.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the resolution on linguistic Provinces adopted by the joint session of the Union Constitution Committee and the Provincial Constitution Committee of the Constituent Assembly to the effect that as soon as the Dominion Constitution comes into operation (on or before August 15, 1947), the Dominion Government should appoint a Commission to examine the question of creating certain new Provinces on linguistic and cultural basis?

(b) What is the policy of Government with regard to the said resolution and what steps do Government propose to take to implement that resolution?

(c) What is the policy of Government with regard to the incorporation of Andhra as a separate Province in the new Constitution?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The attention of Government has been drawn to the resolution referred to in the question.

2. Government are fully aware of the demand in some parts of the country for new provinces to be formed primarily on a linguistic and cultural basis. Many years ago this demand was recognised by the Congress and Government accept the principle underlying that demand. In giving effect to that principle however many other considerations have to be borne in mind. Apart from linguistic and cultural aspects sometimes also there is no clear demarcation and cultural and linguistic areas overlap. Hence a very careful enquiry is necessary before a decision can be arrived at. Government are anxious not to delay the enquiry or the decision. But, as the House is fully aware, the country has had to face, ever since the new order started functioning, a very critical situation resulting from partition. A living entity had a part severed from it and this unnatural operation resulted in all manner of distempers which have naturally affected the political, social and economic structure of the country. Reactionary forces took advantage of this situation to consolidate themselves and to raise separatist cries. The old equilibrium having been shaken up, disruptionist tendencies came to the fore. To a large extent we have faced this crisis and overcome it. But many dangers still surround us. There are numerous urgent demands in the economic and other spheres. When there are a multitude of such demands a certain priority has to be observed, otherwise there would be dispersion of effort and ineffectiveness. First things must come first and the first thing is the security and stability of India. Before we can undertake any major schemes we must have a strong state and a smoothly running governmental machinery. The first essential therefore is for India as a whole to be strong and firmly established, confident in her capacity to meet all possible dangers and face and solve all problems. If India lives, all parts of India also live and prosper. If India is enfeebled, all her component elements grow weak.

3. I suggest to the House that every problem must be viewed in this context today.

4. It is necessary to have a reconstitution of the provinces, or some of them. But if we tackle this problem in a large way at present, there is grave danger of our energies being diverted from some of the more urgent tasks. In the case of some provinces the problem may be relatively easy, in the case of others it would be very difficult and very controversial.

[Mr. Speaker.]

- (6) Shri U. Srinivasa Mallayya.
- (7) Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.
- (8) Shri Sarangdhar Das.
- (9) Shri M. R. Masani, and
- (10) Begum Aizaz Rasul.

II. Standing Committee for the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

- (1) Shri Arun Chandra Guha.
- (2) Shri Ramnath Goenka.
- (3) Shrimati G. Durgabai.
- (4) Dr. Dharam Prakash.
- (5) Shri Ram Sahai.
- (6) Rai Bahadur Sri Narain Mahtha.
- (7) Pāndit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava.
- (8) Raja of Bobbili.
- (9) Shri Feroze Gandhi, and
- (10) Mr. Abdul Kadar Mohammad Shaikh.

III. Standing Committee for the Ministry of Labour.

- (1) Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena.
- (2) Shri Chunilal P. Shah.
- (3) Shri V. C. Kesava Rao.
- (4) Shri Khandubhai K. Desai.
- (5) Shri C. Subrahmanyam.
- (6) Shrimati Renuka Ray.
- (7) Shri Gokulbhai Daulatram Bhatt.
- (8) Shri Nand Kishore Das.
- (9) Shri Gopikrishna Vijayavargiya, and
- (10) Shri Harihar Nath Shastri.

RESOLUTION RE ORGANISATION OF A NATIONAL MILITIA

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed with the Resolutions tabled by the Honourable Members.

Shri H. V. Pataskar (Bombay: General): In view of the statement of policy and the steps proposed to be taken to implement the same made by the Honourable the Prime Minister, I do not propose to move the Resolution standing in my name.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir the Resolution that stands in my name and which I have the honour to move before the House, runs as follows:

"This Assembly is of opinion that with a view to ensuring the effective defence of the country in all circumstances, assisting the Provincial Governments to maintain law and order in emergencies, enabling law-abiding citizens to defend themselves against lawless and anti-social elements and removing the fear and feeling of helplessness produced by the policy of disarming and emasculating the people pursued under foreign rule, immediate steps be taken to organise a national militia and to provide on a country-wide basis facilities for training in the use of arms and the arts of self-defence."

This Resolution, I may at once state, is self-explanatory and I venture to hope that it is one which is also non-contentious, although the word "militia" may require a little bit of explanation. The expression "National Militia" has been so much in vogue in the country that it hardly requires a definition. It is

more or less of an axiomatic nature. "Militia" comes from *miles* meaning a soldier, and militia means military service. It is a term applied to forces which are doubtless organised but are not professional. In ancient times, all the armies were recruited like this, except the personal guards of their leaders. They were under arms during times of war and they resumed their normal occupations in life soon after the war was over. In America you have got this Militia well organised. All able-bodied citizens between the age of 18, and unless the law otherwise states, 45 years, are brought under the scope of the National Militia and they are known as 'National Guards' or 'Naval Militia' or 'Unorganised Militia'. The scheme came into existence in the year 1903 under what is called the Dick Act, which provides for the organisation, armament and discipline, pay, transportation and subsistence, encampments and training, all at Government expense—on the same scale and in the same manner as are applicable to the Regular Army.

Now, it is but right to consider whether in our country where there is always a Standing Army almost on a war footing this Militia is necessary. I shall deal with the question of composition of the Army as it exists today, as it has existed till recently and as it may be modified very soon, presently. But let me tell you the condition in which we find ourselves today. The Honourable the Prime Minister, in answer to the question on linguistic provinces, gave certain indications of the present state of the country. He stated and rightly that the attainment of liberty by India on the 15th August has released all kinds of reactionary forces in the country. The fact that the British Government has terminated its paramountcy among the 562 States of India—a thing which came to us as a surprise—has created a false impression that each of these States, petty and small, middling and big, is an independent area and local, parochial provincial and communal considerations and ideas of patriotism have predominated over the national element. In Dholpur and Bharatpur, the Jat consciousness has been kindled; in Udaipur and in Jodhpur, particularly in Jodhpur and Alwar, the Rajput consciousness has been kindled; in Patiala, in Nabha, in Faridkot, in Jhind and in Kapurthala the Sikh consciousness has been kindled. Thus some want Jatsthan, others want Rajputsthan, and few Sikhsthan. This is a wholly fissiparous process. Instead of developing a centripetal tendency in order to establish the Central Government on a firm basis, these centrifugal tendencies have been released and the result is that unless adequate care is taken betimes, the position of India may become exceedingly dangerous and become a matter for anxiety. While this is so, recent experiences have revealed the astounding fact that private armies and arms are being organised in almost all parts of India.

I shall refer to the private armies later but would invite the attention of the House to statements in the Press which have occurred from time to time disclosing the discovery of arms dumps. I shall give a few extracts from one such report. In Subzi Mandi in Delhi, a simple and old-fashioned building which has the appearance of a *Beedi dukan*, has concealed behind it three quadrangles of huge palatial quarters which were inter-connected underground. It contained an oil engine in a subterranean room, fire-proof bricks and cement, oxygen cylinders and gas pipes and a tube-well and some machinery for manufacturing munitions. Again, in Jubbulpore a handcart proceeding from a godown met with an accident which revealed that ammunition was being transported concealed under pieces of cloth. When the godown nearby was searched, there were cartridges weighing over eleven tons and lead pellets weighing about 26 maunds. A cartridge-filling machine, several fire-arms and a huge quantity of ammunition were discovered at Borgi near Jubbulpore in some Muslim houses. Searches at Patna have yielded also similar results. A car held up near Government House contained ten bottle bombs, 77 cartridges, some sulphur, a phial containing mercury and some paper bombs. Twenty-three dynamites in long

5. The final determination in regard to the creation of new provinces appropriately rests with the Constituent Assembly. Government propose to take up this matter in the Constituent Assembly and ask for steps to be taken for preliminary enquiries to be made on this subject. One or more boundary commissions may also be appointed. It would be desirable not to complicate the issue by having too many simultaneous enquiries.

6. The demand for the province of Andhra, which, if I may say so, is a perfectly legitimate demand, raises relatively few difficulties and it can be included among the provinces in the constitution as was done in the case of Orissa and Sind under the Government of India Act of 1935. This decision can be implemented soon after the constitution is adopted.

7. The creation of the provinces of Mahrashira and Karnatak involve greater difficulties as any marked change will powerfully affect the structure and economy of the provinces concerned. This question will require very careful consideration in all its bearings so that the final decision may be a just one and acceptable to the parties concerned.

8. It must be remembered that the creation of a new province inevitably affects all the neighbouring provinces and the interests of these will have to be considered. Every decision must of course be considered from the point of view of the country as a whole.

9. There is no reason why enquiries referred to above may not be completed within a year or so.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Sir, may I enquire of the Honourable Prime Minister whether the Government will consider the question of re-distribution of the boundaries of existing provinces on the same principle of cultural and linguistic affinities? If so, will he kindly keep in view this aspect of the question when he thinks of the creation of new provinces?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Naturally, Sir, all these questions can be considered at the right time.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: Arising out of the answer given by the Honourable Prime Minister that the question of re-distribution of provincial boundaries will be considered by a boundary commission set up by the Constituent Assembly later, is Government aware of the fact that although strong arguments do exist and there is a strong demand for the re-alignment of the Provinces of Bihar and Bengal on linguistic lines, this demand has not been put forward because of the very reasons that the Honourable the Prime Minister has put before the House, namely the difficulties the Government face at present? Will he give us an assurance that if this question does come up, the fact that this demand has not been put forward before this House in the form of a tabled resolution of amendment, will not mean that this matter of the re-alignment of the Provinces of Bengal and Bihar on linguistic basis will go by default?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I must express my appreciation of the fact pointed out by the Honourable Member that because of wider considerations, they did not press a certain demand that they had in their hearts or minds. But I must say that the grace of all that has been taken away by a fresh demand for an assurance.

Dr. N. B. Khare: May I know under what section of the Adaptation Act will this boundary commission be appointed?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I cannot mention any particular Act but without any Act I am quite sure we can appoint any number of boundary commissions.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: May I know, Sir, if the Honourable Prime Minister is aware that Kannada people are the greatest sufferers under the present dispensation being distributed over several administrations?

ELECTIONS TO STANDING COMMITTEES FOR MINISTRIES OF INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY, INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND LABOUR

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I certainly realise the feelings in Karnatak and the desire to take action on this matter.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: May I know, Sir, if it would be possible under the circumstances to see that Karnatak becomes a Province before the New Constitution Act comes into operation?

Mr. Speaker: Here I want to make a suggestion to the Honourable Members. This is really to my mind a question to be decided by the Assembly when it is functioning as a constitution-making body. And therefore instead of raising questions which really imply arguments in favour or against a particular kind of action, the questions may be limited only to the intentions of the Government which have been amply clarified by the Honourable the Prime Minister. So questions may only be limited to facts and not arguments.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: Excuse me, Sir, simply because the matter came up here I asked this question.

Mr. Speaker: But that would be going beyond the scope of the limitations within which questions can be put in a legislature.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: While considering the formation of Provinces on cultural and linguistic basis, will the Government be pleased to keep in view that there is a demand from the people of the C. P. (Mahrathi) and Berar for a separate Mahakoshal Province?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The Government has so much to remember that it is very hard to forget anything.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar: With reference to the answer given in regard to Andhra, when is the commission likely to be appointed? Is it before the meeting of the Constituent Assembly or after that?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: As the Speaker has already pointed out, the right course is to proceed through the constitution-making body.

Shri H. V. Pataskar: Will the proposed enquiry include the question of Maharashtra?

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: Is the Prime Minister aware of the fact that Tamil Nad is equally, if not more, anxious than Andhra for separation?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. We are now getting into arguments.

ELECTIONS TO STANDING COMMITTEES FOR MINISTRIES OF INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY, INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND LABOUR.

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the Assembly that upto the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committees for the Ministries of Industry and Supply, Information and Broadcasting and Labour, 11 nominations in the case of the first two and 10 nominations in the case of the last one were received. Subsequently one member in case of each of the first two withdrew his candidature. As the number of the remaining candidates was thus equal to the number of vacancies in each of the three Committees, I declare the following members to be duly elected:—

I. Standing Committee for the Ministry of Industry and Supply.

- (1) Shri A. B. Latthe.
- (2) Shri Bikramlal Sondhi.
- (3) Shri C. Subrahmanayam.
- (4) Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar.
- (5) Shri Ramnath Goenka.

[Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya]

paper tubes were also recovered. Eight bottle bombs, some revolvers, ammunition and paper bombs were recovered from two persons going in a car. A sealed cigarette tin picked up from a dust-bin near Patna Secretariat exploded. Likewise illegal arms in the Central Provinces were discovered, arms in Agra Hotel; a Bren gun, a complete wireless receiving apparatus was discovered; a powder magazine was unearthed by the Calcutta police; seizure included one double barrelled gun, 24 bombs, about 40 cartridges and a large number of bullet cases; the Bomb Squad of the Bombay C. I. D. raided a miniature arsenal in South-West Bombay and 19 crude bombs; an Ammunition factory was unearthed near Vincent Hill area and so on. It is a sad tale of unending length. Why have all these come into existence? In Delhi, in some of the most fashionable bungalows such as in 6 Keeling Road and in the Barakhamba Road, arms were discovered. What may be the cause of all these arms? What may be the purpose? Were they meant to be used at a particular point of time for a particular purpose or was it an accident that all these bombs and ammunition were discovered there? Thus you see that the condition of the country is extremely dangerous. I do not wish to strike a note of panic or alarm, but at the same time, if any Government were to rest in a state of complacency, I should say that panic is much better than complacency.

That being the case, you may well ask the question: "Why, we have got an excellent army? Are we not able to cope with the needs of the country and overcome all the dangers that may lie imbedded in the future?" The Indian element in the army was 150,000 and the English element till recently was 61,000 which has recently been reduced by 10,000. Altogether we had 210,000 men in the Army. Yesterday the Honourable the Finance Minister was saying that the present strength of the Army is 260,000 and perhaps there is no immediate prospect of reducing this strength unless conditions permit it. Now we were also told the other day that the European soldier cost us Rs. 3,600 *per capita* against an Indian soldier costing Rs. 1,200. In any case, by the departure of the European soldiers, which will presently take place, we shall save a lot of money. We are lucky if we get rid of these English soldiers, in getting rid of them much sooner than Canada which had Self-Government in 1840 and Government on a Federal basis in 1867 but the British Army left only in 1905. In South Africa the British Army left only in 1922. In Australia, however, it had left in the year 1870. Thus we should be unexpectedly lucky if these gentlemen quit India by the end of this year. Now, that being the case, we shall have to take care of this country ourselves. But an Army is a means of distant protection. It is like a Reserve fund or a fixed deposit in a bank and is not a current account. When a danger breaks out, you will have to send for the Army. The Civil authorities have to move first and the Civil authorities have then to move the Military authorities and the Military authorities must reach the Railway Station; the station people must arrange the transport and wagons must be available and the Military then moves and perhaps all these may take four or five days and within these five days all the necessary destruction will have successfully taken place and those who are bent upon mischief, you may rest assured, know their calculations fairly well.

Thus an Army cannot be depended upon for times of emergency, especially when there are numerous cases of disturbances scattered over the whole country and the figures that I have shown and the dumps that I have revealed fairly prove that there are secret spots of danger which are interspersed over the whole area. The only means, therefore, of protecting people is by setting up centres of Military training here, there and elsewhere. Within easy reach. If India is to protect herself, India must not only protect herself by a centralised Army placed at a distant centre, but India must be able to command the services of duly armed people, well trained in the use of arms, at a moment's notice, which

means that each province must be self-sufficient, each district must be self-sufficient, each tahsil, each town and village, each street and each home. It is only then that India can rest secure and not till then. How is this to be brought about? Only by organising what is called the National Militia. I do not for one moment suggest that we should all be conscripted. I am afraid that the population is far too large and the expenditure involved is far too prohibitive and the staff required is far too numerous, to make possible such a scheme of compulsion. In our country the enthusiasm of the youth is so great that without any conscription or compulsion the young people are quite willing to come forward and sacrifice their lives in the cause of the nation. Their inborn enthusiasm, their nascent patriotism and their love of the country can always be counted upon by the Government of the day for the necessary measure of sacrifice for the protection of the country. The spirits of the youth so long pent up, so long cribbed and cabined under foreign rule, are waiting to burst out. The youth is bubbling with enthusiasm everywhere. It wants an opportunity to express itself, express itself not merely in the Civil, but also in the Military line, a line which has been forbidden to the mass of population so far. You know that the armies of India have largely been recruited from the professional classes, chiefly confined to the Punjab and other places. Not only this, a stigma has been cast moreover since the report of Lord Roberts that the South Indian people are unfit to be recruited into the Army but the slur has been cast off in the recent war. There is no such thing as a man being born brave. It is a training like training in music or painting which creates the faculty or the quality.

An Honourable Member: Will the Honourable Member please address the Chair?

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Being a Congressman of 50 years standing, I have forgotten the rule. Moreover the position of the Mike does not enable me to face the audience.

Mr. Speaker: I was just thinking of communicating that point by a note addressed to the Honourable Member, but I did not wish to interfere.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: I am very grateful for your considerateness, but, . . . however, let me not explain.

The South Indian has been stigmatized as wanting in the martial spirit. After all the strong man is not a brave man, you may rest assured. I have asked many strong soldiers and they are sometimes funks. They do not want to go to the Front. It is the lean, thin, wizened and withered, half-starved, semi-cadaverous looking man that is really energetic and brave, that does not hesitate to sacrifice his life. So bravery and strength have nothing to do with each other. It is the spirit that animates a person that really counts and that spirit is predominantly present in the youth of the Nation. Therefore, it is time now to canalise that enthusiasm into the proper channels by means of which the dangerous spots can be made safe. It is for this purpose that I plead for the National Militia now.

I may tell you also that already private organisations are coming into existence and people prompted by narrow ideas, provincial or communal, have thus organised themselves. The R. S. S. is there. Then there is the Akali Dal; then one or two Muslim National Guards. All these have taken time by the forelock, but if you want to deal with the question on a national basis and make it necessary for the nation to look into the matter aright, then you must envelope all these organisations which is the only way of engulfing them and thus absorbing them and assimilating them into the National Militia. Of course it will be a costly affair, but you have saved a lot by the British people—60,000 of them having gone—who have been costing us thrice the amount which the Indian soldiery was costing us; at the same time self-Government itself is costly; two brothers are joint; the elder brother is taking care of the family; all expenditure is minimised, but they break up; partition is effected and then

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their expenses are reduplicated. Independence means responsibility; Independence is not a bed of roses, but a bed of thorns and we are already beginning to feel the pricks of these thorns. Therefore we must be prepared to bear the expenditure and bear the burden which independence inevitably means to us; and the only way of dealing with these private armies which have come into existence is by the formation of a national militia.

An Honourable Member: There is no compulsion.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Moral force is much higher than physical force; otherwise you could have easily prohibited these bodies by law. But I have a better remedy and that remedy is to make a better organisation which they will consider it a matter of pride to join and not joining which they will consider a matter of humiliation. Thus you see that the national militia does not require any deep argumentation to support it. It is like an umbrella in hand to protect you against rain as against your home which may give you a safe canopy at a distance. It is like a hand-stick with which to beat a snake across the path, as against a snake-charmer who is far away. It is like an overcoat to protect you against cold rather than the home fires that are burning ablaze in your own home at a distance. This is the right weapon which will qualify you for liberty. Most of the Honourable Members here may or may not perhaps—have seen the beautiful inscription on the biggest arch in the southern block of the Secretariat; it says, "Liberty will not descend to a people. A people must raise themselves to liberty. It is a blessing that must be earned before it can be enjoyed." I say that a national militia is the right means of earning this Liberty and it will be the symbol and proof of such liberty. Sir, I move.

Mr. Speaker: Resolution moved:

"This Assembly is of opinion that with a view to ensuring the effective defence of the country in all circumstances, assisting the Provincial Governments to maintain law and order in emergencies, enabling law-abiding citizens to defend themselves against lawless and anti-social elements and removing the fear and feeling of helplessness produced by the policy of disarming and emasculating the people pursued under foreign rule, immediate steps be taken to organise a national militia and to provide on a country-wide basis facilities for training in the use of arms and the arts of self-defence."

I will remind the House that the time limit for speeches prescribed under the rules is 15 minutes and no more. For the Mover it is 30 minutes as also for the Government reply, though that period may be extended if required.

I will now call upon the Honourable Members who have given notice of amendments to move them and after that there will be a general discussion.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U. P. General): Sir, I am not moving my amendment.

Shri B. M. Gupte (Bombay: General): Sir, I am not moving my amendment.

Mr. Speaker: Then the general discussion will proceed.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Sir, today is a great day when this important Resolution is being moved in this Sovereign Parliament of free India. For the last 200 years we have been a slave nation, and after the first war of Indian independence, which has so long been called the Great Mutiny, we were disarmed in 1878, and the Arms Act is still on the statute-book to remind us of that day of humiliation when the arms of the whole nation were deposited in the British armoury. From that day—perhaps the day of our greatest humiliation—our nation has felt as if it would never again rise to freedom. But through the efforts of our great leader Mahatma Gandhi and through the sacrifice of innumerable heroes, we today find ourselves again a free State. I think our Prime Minister said only this morning that first things must come first; and the

first thing is that our country and our new free State must become secure; and that security can only come when the emasculation of the last 200 years is done away with. I must congratulate the Mover of the Resolution on having brought this motion and I hope it will be adopted and given effect to in the spirit which is necessary to bring the country back to its proper state of preparation for meeting its new obligations. The Finance Minister told us yesterday that India is the second greatest nation in the world. We have got 30 crores of population next only to China which is in the throes of a civil war, and so we must be the greatest, and the most powerful nation of the world today. But today unfortunately Russia and America are mentioned as the greatest powers; India is not even a member of the Security Council of the U. N. O. I therefore think that we must come into our own and for that we must have a planned programme. I hope that will come soon; but, as the Prime Minister just said, the first thing is to secure what we have already got. That can only be done when we have converted the whole nation into an army which will protect this newly-won freedom. I therefore commend this Resolution to the House so that the spirit of Free India which is now abroad may be harnessed for the great task that lies ahead. I have been in contact with the masses for a very long time; even during the last two or three months I have been going about and meeting thousands of people; and I know what eagerness is there among the people for military training. Recently the U. P. Government has brought out a scheme to enrol 12 lakh national guards. Out of every 500 men in a village 11 persons will be trained in the use of arms; and in that way out of one hundred and ten lakh villages in the province there will be 12 lakhs of men who will be trained in the use of arms. There was a selection of officers for training them; perhaps 45 men will be selected, but on the day of selection about 3,000 young men with bubbling spirit came forward to be selected as instructors for imparting this military training. There were I. N. A. men and demobilised personnel. And I found there that if that enthusiasm can be really harnessed we can very soon become the greatest power on earth. Today no country can live unless it has got the means to defend itself. Russia and America have all got virtual conscription, and every student in school there becomes a fine soldier; whereas, in our country our health is perhaps the worst in the whole world, our rate of mortality is also very high and our average age is only 23 years. I think all this will be a thing of the past if this resolution is given effect to and acted upon in the spirit in which it is brought. I have just heard a reference to reactionary organisations which threaten our existence. I think we should not be afraid. A reference was made to the *Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh*. I think the Sangh was a logical product of the psychology of frustration created by the bureaucratic Government of the past; when that Government was not making any provision for utilising the martial spirit among the people and people had no other way to learn military training, they started these clubs and societies. The *Sangha* has done very useful service during the last 25 years of its existence and recently during the Punjab massacre it rendered miraculous service to the people. If now the Government comes forward to give universal military training and to raise a national militia, I am sure every Indian youth and every member of the R. S. S. will come forward and take military training. I know none of them is inimical to the State. Every one of them wants that the State of Bharatvarsha must be the strongest and the mightiest State in the world. If this same purpose inspires the Government in the forming of its national militia, then, whether these people are in the *Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh*, or in the *Sikh Akali Dal*, they will come forward and join the National Militia whole heartedly. I am glad that these volunteer organisations have been in existence. Probably they will spur the Government to take up this question seriously. I now hope it will be done in a proper and systematic way and very soon India will be able to boast of the fact that out of 30 crores of people, every adult man and woman has training in the

[Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena]

use of arms. We are now in the new age. We know that in this last war, every man and woman in other countries did his bit for the war. Our great hero, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, organised the famous Rani of Jhansi Regiment as part of the great Azad Hind Fouz. We must not let our women be forgotten. Napoleon used to say that unless there are great mothers, the nation cannot be great. Our women must imbibe the discipline and the spirit of chivalry and all that military training gives. By passing this resolution and by putting it into effect I hope that very soon our country, will be a nation of young men, fully trained and fully disciplined. Our country today is said to be an indisciplined country. Probably this resolution, if given effect to properly, will discipline our nation. When I read about and when I think of the horrors and tragedies which have occurred in the last few months, in the Punjab, I am surprised if anywhere else in the world in history such things have happened. Why did such things happen in our country? If our country had arms and people knew how to use arms, they would not have suffered the torture, rape and other humiliation which they have had to undergo. I do not think policemen can be present on every street nor can the military protect everyone everywhere. If everyone has arms no one will dare to molest anybody or threaten him or kill him. By giving this resolution full effect, you can thus solve all your problems. Yesterday we learnt that a standing army of 260,000 soldiers will cost us Rs. 98 crores. Well, two lakhs is a small drop in the ocean. Such a small army cannot safeguard the interests of a nation of 30 crores in the modern world. The only way to protect ourselves is to arm every individual citizen. It will not cost anything and it will give in return discipline, health and less mortality. We shall then have a great national army in reserve and we shall be respected according to its strength. I feel mortified that our candidature to the membership of the Security Council of the U. N. O. was contested. We were not given a seat there, although we are the second greatest nation in the world. And that is because today we are not as strong as Russia or America. But tomorrow if we have 30 crores of people trained under conscription in a national militia and this huge national militia is kept in reserve to be called to arms when necessary, then I am sure our great leader in the U. N. O. will not have to withdraw her candidature and explain the reason for it. If we have to rise to our full stature, we must give effect to this resolution with our full heart. If the Government works it properly, the people will co-operate wholeheartedly. There is latent longing in the people for use of arms. When I go into the country-side, they say: "Will we get arms"? They are so anxious about arms. Recently in our province it was said that people could apply for licenses for arms, and we had hundreds of applications coming in our committees. I think if this scheme is put into effect, then there will be no part of the country which will be said to be inhabited by non-martial races. The Mover said that his part of the country is a non-martial area. I do not think so. Everyone in the country has a latent faculty in him to become a well-disciplined soldier and who knows that there may be many great warriors and leaders of arms in those provinces which are called non-martial. In the last great war the Madrasis became very good air pilots; Bengalees also were very efficient. And who knows in this great continent, where every part of the country has its special aptitude, we may not be able to supply all the requirements of a great army. By this conscription or compulsory military training we will be able to know who are those who have special aptitudes for particular jobs in the army. Out of these men of special aptitude for the army we shall choose the standing army which will have to be kept at a much higher figure than 260,000. Then we shall have in the army chosen men after their aptitudes have been tested. We shall then know who are fit for which career of the army. Then we shall be able to find the best men to officer the army, and then our army will become the finest army in the world. Today the results have shown that our army fought with very great bravery compared

with other armies and among its ranks have been the best fighters in the world. If everyone is given a chance, and his capabilities tested and a selection made, our army will become the finest in the world and people will not have to spend much because the chosen men will be in the army and the rest of the nation will be in the reserve. If any nation casts its eyes upon us, we can mobilise the whole nation and probably nobody will be able to stand against us. Then alone we can come to our full stature and give to the world what we want to give. We have a great culture, and a most ancient civilisation. But a slave nation could not give these things to the world. Now when we have become a free nation, and are fully prepared to hold our own before any other nation in the world, we will give to the world all that our country has got to give—its culture, its heritage and its civilization.

Dr. N. B. Khare (Alwar State): Sir, I have great pleasure to give my humble support to this very important resolution and it gladdens my heart very much that my friend and fellow-medico of the Congress persuasion of a very high Congress status—almost approaching that of the President of the Congress—has moved this resolution. Congress, Sir, always preached *ahimsa*. It is still doing it. Some say that there was no such creed of *ahimsa*, but only a policy. Whatever that may be, I am so glad that a high-placed Congressman like that has at long last come forward to move this very essential resolution. We in this country have been the slaves of the British for so many years, for over a century and a half, and the British deliberately, as all imperialists do, have kept us absolutely away from anything and everything pertaining to military. That is the reason why we are as we are today. We have been very systematically emasculated and I think if we want to be men again we must not only support strongly this resolution but also act up to it. I hope the Government will accept the resolution without any hesitation.

My Honourable friend has also said that freedom has descended upon us. It has descended upon us when perhaps we were unprepared in more ways than one and if we are wise people and want to maintain our freedom I have not the slightest doubt that unless we do some such thing as detailed in this resolution we will not be able to maintain it for long. They say in Sanskrit:

वीर भोग्या वसुधैरा which means those who are brave can alone enjoy the earth or the Kingdom of the earth. But we are always talking of the Kingdom of Heaven as has been our wont for generations. I hope we will stop forever doing it. We have to live on this mundane earth and for that purpose we must have an army. Besides that, I see that our race is deteriorating physically. We see in every generation that we are deteriorating and unless we compel our young men to take military training, I do not suppose there is any other way of either increasing our capacity or improving our health. I am one of those who believe in conscription. I am absolutely certain and I warn my friends on all sides that at present we are passing through very critical times and in the future, in the very immediate future I think this country will pass through anarchical times. I do not like it and I do not want it but I cannot shut my eyes to what I see before me. I hope the Government will accept this resolution and immediately try to implement it and ask every young man to enlist in this national militia. Sir, I do not want to say much more, because you have been very kind to give me some time fixing the outside limit of 15 minutes I think it will please you to know that I have finished my speech much before that.

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

The Assembly reassembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

श्री गोपीकृष्ण विजयवर्गीय : श्रीमान् अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं डा० पट्टाभि साहेब के रखे हुये प्रस्ताव का समर्थन करने के लिये खड़ा हुआ हूँ। वास्तव में मेरा खुद खयाल था कि इस तरह का प्रस्ताव यहां भेजूं लेकिन समय पर नहीं भेज सका। इस वक्त जो प्रस्ताव नेशनल मिलिशिया (National Militia) बनाने के बारे में डाक्टर पट्टाभि साहेब ने पेश किया उसका हार्दिक समर्थन करने के लिये मैं खड़ा हुआ हूँ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह सवाल सिर्फ प्रान्तों का ही नहीं है बल्कि रियासतों की जनता के इन्टरेस्ट (interest) का भी है। हम चाहते हैं कि हिन्दुस्तान में इस तरह की संस्था, मिलिशिया, होनी चाहिये जिसमें नागरिकों को तालीम दी जाय, सैनिक शिक्षा दी जाय जिससे हिन्दुस्तान की रक्षा हो सके। यह सवाल धीरे धीरे करने का भी नहीं है। आज हिन्दुस्तान में जितनी खराब बातें पैदा हो गई हैं और हो रही हैं वह इस मिलिशिया के बनाने से दूर हो सकती हैं। इस लिये जितना यह प्रश्न आवश्यक है उतना ही जल्दी इसको करना भी चाहिये।

हिन्दुस्तान को सारी जनता ने मिलकर स्वतंत्र किया है और हमें सबको मिल कर ही इस लोकतंत्री भारतवर्ष की रक्षा करनी चाहिये। जब जनता ने इसको स्वतंत्र किया है तो उसकी रक्षा का भार भी जनता के ऊपर ही होना चाहिये। जनता को उसकी रक्षा करने के लिये उस चीज की ट्रेनिंग (training) दी जानी चाहिये। ब्रिटिश साम्राज्यवाद ने हमारे देश को आर्म्स एक्ट (Arms Act) वगैरा जैसे कानूनों के जरिये निशस्त्र कर दिया। उन्होंने हमारे देश को कमजोर और निर्बल बना दिया। उन्होंने हमारे हृदयों को और हमारे हाथों और पैरों को बिल्कुल कमजोर बना दिया। मैं समझता हूँ कि अगर यह असेम्बली और हमारी गवर्नमेंट आज मिलिशिया बनाने का निश्चय करती है तो हम में फिर वही ताकत पैदा हो जायगी, फिर बल पैदा हो जायगा और आत्मविश्वास पैदा हो जायगा। इसके अलावा हम इस मिलिशिया के जरिये ट्रेनिंग हासिल करके हिन्दुस्तान की रक्षा करेंगे, निर्बलों की रक्षा करेंगे और समाज का हित करेंगे।

सभापति महोदय, गांधी जी ने हाल में ही कृपाण के बारे में बोलते हुये कहा था कि यह बेगुनाहों के खून वहाने के लिये नहीं है, बल्कि निर्बलों की रक्षा करने के लिये और समाज की सेवा करने के लिये है। मैं समझता हूँ कि यही सच्चा क्षत्रिय धर्म है और क्षत्रियत्व है। जब हम इस तरह की ट्रेनिंग हासिल करें तो उसका इस्तेमाल हम निर्बलों के रक्षा के लिये, समाज की रक्षा के लिये और देश की रक्षा के लिये करें। जैसा कि हमारे यहां साहित्य में क्षत्रियधर्म के बारे में कालिदास ने कहा है “क्षतात्किल त्रायत इत्युदधः क्षत्रस्य शब्दो भुवनेषु हृदः”। फिर दूसरी जगह कालिदास ने बतलाया है कि : “आर्तत्राणाय वः शस्त्रं न प्रहर्तुमनागसि”। अर्थात् निर्बलों की रक्षा की जाय,

समाज की सेवा की जाय, यही सच्चा क्षत्रियत्व है। यह मैं इसलिये कह रहा हूँ कि आजकल हम क्षत्रिय संगठन का नाम बहुत सुनते हैं। भरतपुर में गेट संगठन शुरू हो रहा है। उधर पटियाला में सिक्खों का संगठन हो रहा है। उधर जोधपुर में राजपूतों का संगठन हो रहा है। अलवर में भी इसी तरह के संगठन बन रहे हैं। इसी तरह के साम्प्रदायिक संगठन सब जगह हो रहे हैं। पाकिस्तान में मुस्लिम नेशनल गार्ड (Muslim National Guards) के नाम से संगठन किया जा रहा है। हैदराबाद में भी मुस्लिम गार्ड (Muslim Guards) के नाम से संगठन किया जा रहा है। हमारी जो मिलिशिया होगी वह शस्त्र का दुरुपयोग करने के लिये नहीं होगी, बल्कि हमारा आदर्श समाज की रक्षा करना, शोषण का अन्त करना और देश की रक्षा करना होगा। इन चीजों के लिये यह शस्त्र इस्तेमाल होने चाहिये। लेकिन हो क्या रहा है कि ‘वीर भोग्या वसुन्धरा’ के गलत नारे लगाये जा रहे हैं। अगर इस नारे का मतलब ‘जिसकी लाठी उसकी भैंस’ है तब तो यह फासिस्ट (Fascist) नारा है। एक गलत नारा होगा लेकिन सचमुच भावना यह होनी चाहिये कि हम अपने हथियार और वीरता को समाज की सेवा के लिये, हिन्दुस्तान की रक्षा के लिये, इस्तेमाल करें। हमने जो नई आजादी हासिल की है वह लोकतन्त्रात्मक और डेमोक्रेटिक (Democratic) होनी चाहिये। अगर यह नारा इसके लिये इस्तेमाल होगा तो उपयुक्त होगा। आजकल के जमाने के अनुकूल होगा, और हमारे पुराने आदर्श के अनुसार होगा।

इस विषय में बड़ा साम्प्रदायिक खतरा चारों तरफ फैल रहा है। हमारी केन्द्रीय सरकार और देहली के आसपास अनेक राजे रजवाड़े हैं। इस समय वहां साम्प्रदायिकता की भावना बहुत फैली हुई है, और इस समय कांग्रेसके असूलों की तरफ, कांग्रेस गवर्नमेंट के असूलों के बारे में, बहुत सी गलतफहमियां फैलाई जा रही हैं। कांग्रेस को मिस-रिप्रेजेंट (mis-represent) किया जा रहा है। कांग्रेस के अहिंसावाद के असूल के गलत माने लगाये जा रहे हैं। इस तरह की बातें फैलाकर राजे और सामन्ती व्यक्ति लोगों को बहका कर अपना स्वार्थ सिद्ध करना चाहते हैं। इस चीज से नौजवानों को बचाने के लिये उनको सैनिक काम दिया जाना बहुत जरूरी है। हम नौजवानों का संगठन करें और हर स्त्री, पुरुष को शिक्षा दे कर मिलिशिया में ले लें। इस तरह से जो साम्प्रदायिकता का खतरा है वह दूर हो जायगा। बहुत सी गलतफहमियां जो देश में फैली हुई हैं वह इस तरह की मिलिट्री ट्रेनिंग (military training) जारी करने से दूर हो जायंगी।

१५ अगस्त से पहिले हमारे देश में ब्रिटिश साम्राज्यवाद का राज्य था। अब वह बात नहीं रही है। मगर जब यह मिलिशिया बनाई जाय तो इस बात का जरूर खयाल किया जाय कि इसमें उन लोगों को न लिया जाय जो राष्ट्रवादी विचारधारा के नहीं हैं। दरअसल सच बात यह है कि हमको इस बात का ध्यान रखना चाहिये कि जो राष्ट्रियता चाहते हैं, देश में एकता चाहते हैं और तिरंगे झण्डे के नीचे काम करना चाहते हैं उनको

[Shri Gopikrishna Vijayavargiya]
used only for such things. But what we find today is quite otherwise. False slogans of "Only the brave can enjoy the terrestrial pleasures" are being raised. If this means 'Might is Right', it is nothing but a Fascist slogan. It is wrong. Our real feeling and desire should be to use our arms and valour for the service of our society and for the defence of our country. The freedom that we have recently achieved should mean a people's Government here; it should mean a democratic country. If this is our slogan, we are right, and it would be what the modern times demand and what our ancient ideals stood for.

Seeds of such factious organisation are being sown all round us. The seat of our Government and the Province of Delhi is surrounded by many native states. Communal feelings are the most tense there at this time. The ideals of the Congress and the present Congress Government are being misconstrued in these states. The Congress is being misrepresented. Wrong explanations are being given for the Congress idea of non-violence. To gain their selfish ends, the princes and the feudal lords are exploiting the masses. We must, therefore, give military work to the youth of our country if we want to check them from swallowing this bait. Let us organise our youngmen and women let us give them military training and then absorb them in the militia. This will allay the danger of communal trouble which exists today. The military training that will be given to the public will remove the present misconceptions which are prevalent among the people.

Before the 15th of August we had here the Government of the British Imperialists. Things have changed now. When, however, this militia is raised care must be taken to see that no such persons are recruited who do not hold national views. As a matter of fact, what we should see is that this militia takes up only those who want nationalism, who want union in this country and who are prepared to work under our National Tricolour Flag. We must turn them out who are found to be disloyal to this country.

One thing more, I would like to say. So far as it is a question of raising a militia in the states we must not leave it to them. It is imperative that we do not entrust this responsibility to the princes alone. It is because the communal feelings are at their highest pitch in these places. We can, however, consider it from a different point of view in the case of those states which have Governments responsible to the people.

About the railways, I have to say that many Indian railways pass through a number of native states. The smouldering fire of communal feelings is fanned here. This Resolution solves this problem. There would be no room left for communalism if we raise this militia. This would amount to what we call in English "taking wind out of their sails". Communal Organisations will not be able to flourish if we take steps of this kind. Not only the princes and feudal lords but even the capitalists have joined to make this baneful propaganda of Communalism. We must make a strong National Militia if we want to remove this danger. I want to tell it in clear terms that our Congress is being misrepresented. This Organisation will go a long way in combating these misrepresentations. It should, therefore, be the duty of every congressman, today, to see that for the defence of India he keeps with him a pistol just as he keeps a spindle and that he keeps with him a machine gun as he keeps a 'Charkha' (spinning wheel). In this way alone we will be able to save our country.

Just as there has been an infiltration of tribesmen into Kashmir and just as the forces of Pakistan have gone there, dangers of similar kind can also crop up before us. An ordinance for conscription has been promulgated in Pakistan and we in India are sitting merely in the form of a Constituent Assembly. We do not know how much value does Pakistan attach to legislature. We do not know when will its Constituent Assembly meet and along what lines will it

proceeds. But we here are moving along the lines of democracy. We must, therefore, be on the alert; we must watch carefully what is going on in Pakistan. It is necessary that every Indian should know how to handle arms and, if need be, how to use them lest we are taken unawares. Let us always be on our guard lest there is an infiltration into India as there has been into Kashmir. For the defence of our country, for the protection of our freedom and for the upkeep of the ideals of democracy it is absolutely necessary that we should raise a militia. With these words, Sir, I strongly support this Resolution.

Shrimati G. Durgabai (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have great pleasure in rising to support the Honourable the Mover of this resolution. Coming as it does at an opportune time, I hope that it is welcome to all sections of the people of the country irrespective of caste, creed or religion. Sir, I think that the subject matter of this resolution has got closely to deal with the very fundamental rights of the individual, that is the right to live. It is not quite sufficient if such fundamental rights are simply incorporated in the constitution and guaranteed by the constitution of any country. But it is equally the duty of the State to see that conditions are created to see that individuals are enabled to exercise this right, that is the right to live. Therefore it is the duty of the State to see that this kind of training as contemplated under this resolution is provided and organized by the State in order to afford facilities for the men and women of India.

I would, Sir, concentrate only on one aspect of this resolution, that is if it is considered that it is necessary to give training for men, it is equally necessary to provide facilities for women also to be trained. We have got great traditions of the past. We have got very thrilling and inspiring stories and examples set by the great daughters of India. We have the thrilling example of the very notable part played by the Rani of Jhansi who had taken up arms against the enemy who invaded her country, and also we have the illustrious examples set by Rani Samyukta, Rani Ahalyabai and Rani Rudramma, queens who had taken up arms whenever occasions demanded that they should take up arms. The daughters of India have got to live by those examples and keep the great traditions of this great country, India. I do not know whether we are, in the name of civilization, proceeding onwards or backwards, that is to conditions of some centuries ago. The very gloomy conditions which were prevailing some centuries ago have now come back; we have got stories of how women are thrown into wells and how they have been killed; how women have been pulled out of trains and how they have been butchered; how these women have been made to run from place to place when they have become helpless widows having lost their husbands in various struggles. Sir, the country is full of communal passions now; they are rising very high. So, women have got to defend themselves. They have got to rise to the occasion. They have also to defend their person whenever their chastity and their modesty are at stake.

Sir, we have to train our women to follow the examples of such historic and heroic queens and live as they lived. Neither the home nor the school has given us the training. We have stories of Jijabai, the mother of Shivaji, who used to sing lullaby to her son reminding him of all the great parts played by heroes and heroines. But now, instead, our mothers have begun to sing only to tell us "Don't go out, my dear child; there is thief", and "Don't go out after it is dark; please return home before it gets dark". Such is the training we have received in our homes by our mothers, and such is the training which we have received in the schools from our teachers. The teachers and the professors themselves are cowards; what is it they can give to the students?

Therefore, now we look to the Independent India and to our State to see that we have become again men as men, and women have become women in their true sense; that we must be strong and be able to protect our country

[श्री गोपीकृष्ण विजयवर्गीय]

इस मिलीशिया में लिया जाना चाहिये। जो वफादार न पाये जायें उन्हें हटा दिया जाय।

एक बात मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि जहां तक रियासतों में मिलीशिया बनाने का सवाल है उसको रियासतों पर नहीं छोड़ देना चाहिये। इस बात का खयाल रखना जरूरी है कि रियासतों में जब यह मिलीशिया बनाई जाय तो वहां राजाओं के हाथों में ही नहीं छोड़ देनी चाहिये। इसका कारण यह है कि रियासतों में साम्प्रदायिक भावना भरी हुई है। मगर जहां उत्तरदायी सरकार है वहां दूसरी तरह से इस प्रश्न पर गौर किया जा सकता है।

रेलों के बारे में भी मुझे यह कहना है कि हिन्दुस्तान की रेलें बहुतेरी देशी रियासतों में से जाती हैं, और वहां साम्प्रदायिकता भड़कायी जाती है। इस प्रस्ताव से समस्या का हल हो जाता है। अगर हम अपनी मिलीशिया रैज (raise) कर लेते हैं, तो साम्प्रदायिकता के लिये कोई जगह ही नहीं रहती। जिसको अंग्रेजी में कहते हैं "taking wind out of their sails" इस तरीके के कारण साम्प्रदायिक संस्थाएँ पनप नहीं सकेंगी आज कल साम्प्रदायिकता को बढ़ाने में न सिर्फ देशी राजा, रईस बल्कि पूंजीपति लोग भी अपना जहरीला प्रचार कर रहे हैं। इसको दूर करने के लिये हमको एक स्ट्रांग नेशनल मिलीशिया (strong National Militia) का निर्माण करना चाहिये। मैं यह बात स्पष्ट कहना चाहता हूँ कि हमारी कांग्रेस को आज misrepresent किया जाता है। यह गलतफहमियाँ इससे बहुत दूर हो जायेंगी। इस लिये हर एक कांग्रेस भक्त का आज यह कर्तव्य है कि हिन्दुस्तान की रक्षा के लिये जैसे वह एक तकली रखता है उसी के साथ वह एक पिस्तौल भी रखे और जैसे वह एक चरखा रखता है उसी के साथ उसको एक मशीनगन (machine gun) भी रखनी चाहिये। सिर्फ इसी तरीके से हम हिन्दुस्तान को बचा सकेंगे। जिस तरीके से काश्मीर में इन्फिल्ट्रेशन (infiltration) हुआ और पाकिस्तान की फौजें वहां आ गयीं इसी तरह का खतरा हमारे सामने भी आ सकता है वहां तो उधर एक कान्सक्रिप्शन ऑर्डिनेन्स (conscription ordinance) लगाया गया है। यहां तो हिन्दुस्तान में हम धारा सभा के रूप में बैठे हुये हैं। मालूम नहीं पाकिस्तान लेजिस्लेचर (Legislature) में कहां तक विश्वास करता है। उनकी कान्स्टीच्यूएंट असेम्बली (Constituent Assembly) कब बैठेगी, किस पद्धति पर चलेगी मालूम नहीं। लेकिन हम तो यहां डेमोक्रेसी (democracy) की पद्धति पर चल रहे हैं। इस लिये हम लोगों को यहां उससे खबरदार रहना चाहिये जो कि पाकिस्तान में हो रहा है। यह जरूरी है कि हिन्दुस्तान का हर एक आदमी हथियार चलाना और जरूरत पर इस्तेमाल करना सीख जाय और ऐसा न हो कि हम बेखबरी में पकड़े जायें। और काश्मीर की तरह यहां इन्फिल्ट्रेशन (infiltration) हो जाय। यह आवश्यक है कि हम अपने देश की रक्षा कर सकें। इस लिये अपने देश की आजादी और डेमोक्रेसी की रक्षा के लिये यह अत्यन्त आवश्यक है कि मिलीशिया बनाई जाय। इतना कह कर मैं इस प्रस्ताव का पूर्ण समर्थन करता हूँ।

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri Gopikrishna Vijayavargiya (Gwalior State): Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Resolution moved by Dr. Pattabhi. As a matter of fact I personally intended to bring before the House a Resolution of this kind, but I was not able to send it in time. I have stood up now to give my heartiest support to this Resolution regarding the National Militia which has been moved by Dr. Pattabhi.

This thing concerns not only the provinces, but it is also vital to the interests of the people of the states. We want that India should have an Organisation, a Militia, of this type which should impart military training to the civilians so that the defences of our country may be made strong. And this is a question which can brook no further delay. All such undesirable things as have recently happened and are still happening in India can be combated by this militia. This question, therefore, needs as quick a solution as it is important.

It is the people who have freed India from the shackles of slavery, and we must all unite to defend this democratic government against any aggressors. When it is the people who have brought independence to this vast sub-continent, the responsibility of its defence must also be entrusted to them, and the public must be given adequate training for it. By means of laws and Acts, like the 'Arms Act' and others, the British Imperialism had disarmed our men. They had made our country weak and dependent on others. They had injected weakness into our hearts, into our hands and feet, in fact, into every part of our body. If this Assembly and our Government decide today to raise a militia, I am sure, we can, recover our lost strength and vigour, we can become strong, and we can, once again, develop our old self confidence. Over and above that the training imparted by this militia will enable us to make our defences strong; it will enable us to protect the weak and to render service to the society.

Mr. Speaker, recently, referring to the use of Kirpan, in one of his speeches, Mahatma Gandhi told us that this weapon was not meant to murder the innocent; its right use lay in the protection of the unprotected and in the service of humanity. I believe that this is the real duty of a *Kshatriya* and in this alone lies his respect. When we receive a training of this type, let us also learn to use it for protecting the weak, for safeguarding the society and for defending our country. Writing about the duties of a *Kshatriya*, Kautilya says in one of his literary works:

“क्षतात्किल त्रायत इत्युदग्रः क्षत्रस्य शब्दो भुवनेषु रूढः ॥”

At another place he says:

“आर्तत्राणाय वः शस्त्रं न प्रहर्तुमनागसि ।”

These two quotations mean that in the protection of the weak and in the service of the society lie the real duties of a *Kshatriya*. I am referring to it because these days very often we hear about the various organisation of the *Kshatriyas*. The organisation of the Jats is going on in Bharatpur while the Sikhs are busy organising themselves in Patiala. Rajputs are being organised in Jodhpur, and Alwar is not immune from the fever of this activity. Such communal organisation are springing up almost everywhere. Pakistan is organising one under the name of Muslim National Guards. Hyderabad is also raising a militia under the garb of Muslim Guards. But our militia would be trained not to misuse the arms; our idea would be to protect the society, to quell the disturbances and to defend our country. Arms should be

[Shrimati G. Durgabai] whenever it is in danger. Some kind of efforts have been made by some organisations, namely the *Hindustan Sevadai*, which started giving some kind of training under the organisation of the Congress. Some Universities had also started schemes like the U.T.C. training. The Scout organisation has also sought to impart some kind of training in this direction. But we know what the fate of these organisations was; they were all to prosper and then do their part under a foreign domination. The foreign Government was really afraid of any one of these organisations playing its part well, because they thought that these organisations and the individuals trained under these organisations, might prove dangerous to them any day. Therefore we have instances when these organisations, from time to time, have been declared unlawful and had to be closed down. Now that the conditions are different, now that we have got our independence and our own State, it should consider this as its preliminary duty—to make every man a man and to make every woman a woman.

Now that we have got alarming stories coming from the borders of Kashmir and from the borders of Hyderabad—and I do not know how many more instances of this kind we may have to face—having been reminded of the past and of how the great daughters of India have played their part, now since the times are similar to those, it is all the more our duty to see that we get some kind of training in the use of arms, which is contemplated by this Resolution. I am glad that Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya has brought forward this Resolution which has the support of the whole House—I am sure, not only of the House, but of the country at large; it has support from every quarter in this country. With these words I commend the Resolution for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. Tajamul Hussain (Bihar: Muslim): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I cannot but offer my humble congratulations to Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya for the very important resolution that he has so ably moved. There was an amendment to the effect that there should be compulsory military training. The learned Mover, Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, did not see his way to accept it, and ultimately it was not moved at all. I, Sir, personally would have preferred the amendment to the original resolution, but since there is no amendment I have no alternative but to accept it and I accept it and support it in its entirety.

Now, Sir, this is a resolution which I think every Member in this House accepts and I am sure Government too will accept it. As regards the cost, I think, Sir, this is such an important measure that whatever be the cost, Government should be prepared to meet it. Sir, one of the worst features of the British rule in India for 150 years has been that we had no military training; we became lazy and indolent and in a sense a nation of cowards. Now, Sir, that time has gone; we are now an independent nation; we are as great as any other nation in the world.

It is necessary that there should be compulsory military training and conscription; that everybody from the age of 18 to 21 should be under training. It does not matter to what religion or caste or creed one belongs—after all he is an Indian; it is his duty to defend his country against any foreign country—it does not matter whether that foreign country is *Pakistan* or any other *stan*. It is the duty of every Indian to shed his blood and to die for his country. I know, Sir, how in independent countries like England and other countries, everybody came forward to lay down his life to defend his country. In the same way I want my country to be

Now, Sir, what will happen if with this compulsory military training or with a national militia, everybody is trained? Our moral character will develop; we will become a nation which can be proud of her character. As our population is one of the largest in the world—perhaps the second or the third—and as we are in intelligence superior to many other countries, I have

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no doubt that in times to come, we will become the greatest nation in the world—greater even than Great Britain or the United States of America.

I do not want to speak at length on this motion. There is nothing much to say; this is not a contentious resolution—this is a resolution which has been supported and which will be accepted by the whole House. With these words, Sir, I support the resolution. I would request the Honourable Minister for Defence to accept it wholeheartedly and give us the promise that within a very short time he will see that every Indian is a soldier and is fit and capable to defend his country against any other country. Sir, I support the resolution.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma (U. P.: General): Sir, Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya's motion before the House is just the sort of motion which many of us wanted to move and I am happy that his resolution found the second place in the ballot. The fundamental question before us all is how shall we protect the Revolution which we have been instrumental in bringing into being? Every one of us who has read anything about the history of revolutions in various countries in the world knows that invariably revolutions bring in their trail tendencies of counter-revolution. The French Revolution brought counter-revolutionary tendencies with it. The German Revolution brought the seeds of Nazism with it. The Russian Revolution also brought counter-revolutionary tendencies along with it. In the countries where those who had worked for the revolution were wide awake, their efforts were not nullified by counter-revolutionary forces, but in the countries where the makers of revolution were not alert, their revolution was swamped by counter-revolution. The same tendency is visible in our country today. Only yesterday the Finance Minister of India, while referring to the causes that led to the independence of the country, studiously avoided mentioning any part which the nationals of this country had played in bringing about this happy end to our efforts. He mentioned only the international developments and the supreme spirit of self-abnegation by the Britishers as the two causes which brought about Indian independence. It is useless to join issues with a Finance Minister who has perhaps very little acumen to understand political developments in the country, but anybody who scans over the pages of Indian history for the last 25 or 30 years, will not fail to see the immense amount of effort which was put in by the Congress organisation under the inspiring leadership of Mahatma Gandhi to achieve Indian independence.

When we have achieved independence, we are seeing before our very eyes forces of reaction rearing their heads in various forms and in various ways. It is therefore necessary that we should take heed befitting. A trite saying has often been quoted: "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty", but, Sir, though the saying be trite yet it cannot be repeated too often. If the Indian nation today appears to think that all is well with the world and that Lord God is in his Heaven, well, I think we shall come to grief. We have to keep eternal vigilance in order to protect our freedom, and how can we do it unless we make every son and every daughter of India strong enough and fit enough to defend the freedom of the country. Dr. Pattabhi's Resolution is a step in that direction. Long before it came before this House, various provincial governments had launched upon schemes of creating Home Guard organisations, but as I pointed out in a supplementary question, difficulties are being experienced. The Defence Department for many days could not see their way to provide arms—ordinary rifles—for our Home Guards. At long last in my province, the requirements have been satisfied and we are going ahead with our organisation. Most of the members of the House must know that there is a scheme before us in the United Provinces whereby we shall be in a position to create as many as 12 lakh volunteers whom we shall give military training and they will be at the beck and call of the Central Government whenever a national crisis arises.

[Pandit Balkrishna Sharma]

It is just possible, Sir, that when we are discussing this Resolution, somebody may twit us by the remark "What has happened to your non-violence after all?" And somebody else might as well ask "Are you all of a sudden turning yourself into a bellicose nation?" I respectfully beg to submit—that neither we have given a go-by to non-violence nor are we turning India into a bellicose nation overnight. Even while passing this Resolution, even while we are wholeheartedly supporting this Resolution, let it be clearly understood that in no way are we against disarmament. In no way are we against collective security. In no way are we giving a go-by to our cherished principle of non-violence. What we are doing today is that we are courageously facing a reality which has become too obnoxious. What we are doing today is that we are not permitting ourselves to be entwined into ideological cobwebs so that whenever a critical situation arises in the country, we may be found wanting. That is all we are doing, but as a previous speaker has said, the amount of strength that we thus will be in a position to gather and the capacity that we will acquire to defend ourselves will never be used for aggressive purposes. India traditionally has never believed in oppression. Even though she has been a prey of aggressions for centuries on end, she has never thought of marching her armies, her hordes, against any of her neighbours. So, while we are passing this Resolution, I want the Pakistan Government to understand that it is not in a spirit of war-mongering that we are passing this Resolution. We are only trying to create a nation of strong men and strong women and nothing more. Let nobody outside the House understand the aim and object of this Resolution of Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya to be any other.

Sir, I do not know when that happy time will come when men will begin to believe in that great and noble principle which 2,500 years was preached in this land.

अक्रोधिन् जयति क्रोधम

"Anger should be conquered by non-anger". I do not know when the world will actually realize and will be in a position to act up to this principle. More than once I have stated that today, constituted as we are, it is impossible for us to accept in toto the principle of non-violence. Perhaps at the stage of evolution at which human society today finds itself, acceptance of non-violence in every form is a difficult thing, and therefore some sort of preparation to meet the violence of the aggressor is necessary and it is in that spirit that we are offering our wholehearted support to the Resolution of my Honourable friend, Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya.

पण्डित ठाकुरदास भार्गव : माननीय स्पीकर साहब, इस रेवोल्यूशनरी रेजोल्यूशन (Revolutionary) Resolution के बारे में डाक्टर पट्टाभि साहब को अपनी दिली मुबारक बाद पेश करता हूँ डाक्टर पट्टाभि साहब हमारे देश के नेशन बिल्डर्स (nation-builders) की उस लाईन में से हैं, जो निहायत प्रोमिनेंट (prominent) हैं और कोई ताज्जुब की बात नहीं है कि उन्होंने इस मौके पर इस देश पर बड़ा भारी अहसान इस रेजोल्यूशन को पेश करके किया है।

जनाब ने बहुत सी तकरीर इस रेजोल्यूशन के बारे में सुन ली हैं। मैं उन सब बातों को दोहराना नहीं चाहता, लेकिन जिस नुस्खे खयाल से मैं इस रेजोल्यूशन की तार्ईद करता हूँ और इस रेजोल्यूशनको वेलकम (welcome) करता हूँ। इसके सम्बन्धमें इशारतन दलील पेश की जा चुकी है, लेकिन मैं एक नये पैराये से उसको पेश करना चाहता हूँ। आज तक हजारहा

[वर्ष से हिन्दुस्तान में जो असूल काम करता रहा है और जो सिविलाइजेशन (Civilization) रही है, वह बहुत अरसे दराज से कास्टसिस्टम (Caste System) की बेसिस (basis) पर रही है अगर मुसलमानों ने दसवीं सदी में हिन्दुस्तान पर हमला किया, तो उस वक्त बहुत से क्षत्री देशभक्तों ने अपने देश के वास्ते अपनी जानें कुरबान की दूसरी जातियों ने नहीं। जब से ब्रिटिश गवर्नमेंट आई, तब भी हमने देखा कि इस मुल्क पर राज्य करने के वास्ते उन्होंने सोसायटी (society) को मार्शल (martial) और नान-मार्शल (non-martial) जातियों में बांट दिया और काश्तकार और गैर-काश्तकार की तमीज खड़ी कर दी। इस तरह से सोसायटी के टुकड़े टुकड़े कर दिये। सोसायटी में इस तरीके से काम बंट गया कि किसी को व्यापार मिला, किसी को खिदमत का काम मिला और जाति की बुनियाद पक्की हो गई। आज जो कि कान्स्टीच्यूएंट असेम्बली ने ओब्जेक्टिव रेजोल्यूशन (objective resolution) मंजूर कर लिया है जो हमारे प्राइमिनिस्टर (Prime Minister) ने पेश किया था और जिसका ध्येय अनडाइल्यूटेड डेमोक्रेसी (undiluted democracy) है हर एक आदमी को खाह वह किसी जाति का हो, एक सा हक देता है। बिल्कुल आज हम उस असूल का एक्सप्रेशन (expression) इस रेजोल्यूशन के जरिये देखते हैं, जिसकी रूह से हर एक शख्स चाहे वह चमार हो, क्षत्री हो, वैश्य हो, सिक्ख हो, अकाली हो, सनातन-धर्मी हो, मुसलमान हो, पारसी हो, हर एक आदमी को दावत दी जाती है कि वह इस देश के वास्ते कुरबानी करे। और फौजी खिदमत में हिस्सा लेवे। आज सुबह ही अखबार में देखा कि हमारे प्राइम मिनिस्टर सीहब ने ईस्ट पंजाब गवर्नमेंट (East Punjab Government) को एक डाइरेक्टिव (directive) भेजा है कि अकाली दल, राष्ट्र सेवा संघ तथा और कम्यूनल लाइन्ज (Communal lines) पर आर्गनाइज्ड (organised) की हुई फौजें डिस्बैंड (disband) कर दी जायें। उस वक्त जब मैंने रेजोल्यूशन की तरफ देखा और उस खबर की तरफ ध्यान किया तो मैंने एक ही ख्याल के दो फेसेट्स (facets) देखे। एक तरफ यह ताकीद थी कि जितनी कम्यूनल संस्थाएँ हैं उनके जितने आर्मी बैंड्स (army bands) हैं, उनको खत्म किया जाय और दूसरी तरफ यह प्रस्ताव। असल में वह डाइरेक्टिव उनको दावत थी कि अब कम्यूनल बातों को छोड़ कर आप अपने देश की आजादी की रक्षा के लिये अपनी एक नेशनल मिलीशिया आर्गनाइज करें जिसमें सबके हक बराबर हैं और जिस पर महात्मा गांधी का वह क्लासलेस सोसाइटी ड्रीम (Classless Society) (dream) जिसके अन्दर सब कौमों एक सा हक रखेंगी जल्द से जल्द हमको कार्य रूप में परिणत करना नसीब होगा। मैं आम तौर पर और साफ तौर पर अपने दोस्तों को बतलाया करता हूँ कि मैं हर एक कौम का सेवक हूँ, लेकिन मैं इज्म (ism) का एक बड़ा भारी दुश्मन हूँ। जाटिज्म, सिक्खिज्म और बुनियाद इज्म, ब्राह्मनिज्म, यह एक ऐसा हलाहल जहर है जो हमारे देश की हर एक कौम के अन्दर चला गया है।

असलियत यह है कि हमारी सृष्टि में यह चीज दाखिल हो गई है कि हर एक सवाल को चाहे वह इकोनोमिक (economic) हो, पोलिटिकल (political) हो, इस नुस्ते

[पण्डित ठाकुर दास भार्गव]

खयाल से देखते हैं कि वह हमारे खास सम्प्रदाय और जाति विशेष पर क्या असर रखता है। यह रेजोल्यूशन उस खयाल पर काफी ज़बर्दगामी और आइन्दा के वास्ते देश के अन्दर जितने ऐसे दल और संस्थाएँ हैं, उनको सीधे रास्ते पर ले आवेगा। लफ्ज फकत मिलीशिया की बजाय नेशनल मिलीशिया इस्तमाल किया गया है।

दूसरी भलाई जो मैं इस प्रस्ताव में देखता हूँ वह यह है कि पिछले ५-६ महीनों में इतने अत्याचार हुये जिनका कोई ठिकाना नहीं, देश के अन्दर निहत्थे आदमियों और औरतों वच्चों पर जुल्म दिये गये, उनको बेदरदी से कतल कर दिया। हमें सबसे पहले देश के अन्दर से इस बुजदिली की भावना को हटाना है जो इस सारे हत्याकांड की जिम्मेवार है।

मैं चाहता हूँ कि कोई शख्स अगर किसी शख्स को मारने के लिये आये, किसी पर हमला करे, तो वह अपनी जान चुपचाप न दे दे और बेचारगी महसूस न करे। सन १८६० में जब 'इण्डियन पीनल कोड' (Indian Penal Code) बनाया गया उस वक्त 'इण्डियन पीनल कोड' बनाने वालों ने उसमें 'सेल्फ डिफेन्स' (Self defence) के सेक्शन (Section) रखे और साफ तौर से बयान किया कि उसमें कुछ मामूली से ज्यादा रक्षा करने के सेक्शन्स इस देश के लिये रखते हैं क्योंकि यहां के लोग अपने आप लूट मार को मारधाड़ से नहीं बचा सकते और डरपोकपने से अत्याचार का मुकाबला नहीं करते। मैं नहीं जानता कि ऐसे सेक्शन्स क्यों रखे जब कि ब्रिटिश सरकार की सारी पालिसी लोगों को हर तरह से कमजोर करने के, बुजदिल बनाने के वास्ते थी। लेकिन शायद जिन्होंने यह कानून बनाया था, उनके दिमाग में यह पालिसी न थी।

मैं आज इस रेजोल्यूशन के अन्दर ऐसी फिजा देखता हूँ कि जिसकी रू से व्यक्तिगत तरीके से हर एक आदमी बहादुरी हासिल करेगा, हर एक आदमी उस किस्म का बन जायगा जिसके अन्दर हर वक्त हर तरह से लूटमार से बेखोफी होगी और मुकाबले का उत्साह होगा और खतरे से न सिर्फ अपने आपको बचा सकेगा बल्कि सभी निहत्थों को बचा सकेगा। इस प्रस्ताव पर अमल करने से हमारा जो स्पैन जिन्दगी (Span of life—२३ साल का है वह जरूर लम्बा हो जावेगा और फौजी डिसिपलन (discipline की वजह से हमारी तन्दुरुस्ती व करेक्टर Character) पर बहुत अच्छा असर पड़ेगा। जो बहादुरी की मिसालें हम 'मार्शल क्लासेज' (martial class) के लिये सुनते आये हैं वह हिन्दुस्तान में सब जगह सब कौमों में मिल सकेंगी। हमारी आज तक जितनी फौजें योरोप में गई हैं उनकी बहुत सी तारीफें हम अपने मास्टर्स (masters) यानी अंग्रेजों से सुनते रहे हैं लेकिन आयन्दा जो इस हिन्दुस्तान देश के सिपाही अपने देश की खातिर लड़ेंगे वह बहादुरी के ऐसे काम करेंगे कि जिसके अन्दर जापान की जो पिछली दुर्ग दुफा कथाएँ हम सुनते आये थे वह सब मंद पड़ जावेंगी और उससे कई दर्जा ज्यादा हिन्दुस्तान की कथाएँ दुनिया में प्रचलित हो जावेंगी।

मुझे कोई शक नहीं है कि यह रेजोल्यूशन हमारे देश के लिये अति लाभदायक है और मैं इसकी जोर से तार्द करता हूँ।

(English translation of the above speech)

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (East Punjab: General): Mr. Speaker, I heartily congratulate Dr. Pattabhi on this revolutionary resolution; Dr. Pattabhi belongs to that line of nation-builders of our country, which is very prominent and there is no surprise that by presenting this resolution at this time he has obliged the country very much.

You have already listened to a number of speeches on this resolution. I do not want to repeat what has been said before, but I desire to place the point of view with which I support and welcome this resolution, in a different way, before the House, than as a mere allusion of it in our arguments. The principle, we have been following in India for the last thousands of years and the civilisation we have had, were based on the caste system. In the tenth century when India was attacked by Mohammadans, many devoted *Kshatriyas* only and people of no other caste, sacrificed their lives for the sake of their motherland! When the British came into power we saw, that they divided our society into martial and non-martial races, to rule over the country. They also made a distinction between agriculturists and non-agriculturists. Thus they split up our society into different groups. One group of the society took to business, another was allotted service, and thus the roots of the caste system were strengthened. The objective resolution which was passed by the Constituent Assembly and which was presented by the Honourable Prime Minister, aims at undiluted democracy and provides equal rights for all, irrespective of their caste or creed. We find, in this resolution, the expression of that principle which invites every individual whether he is a *Chamar*, *Kshatriya*, *Vaishya*, *Sikh*, *Akali*, *Sanatan Dharmi*, *Muslim*, or a *Parsi* to make sacrifice for the love of this country and join the military services. We also saw in the papers this morning that our Honourable Prime Minister has sent a directive to the Government of the East Punjab directing them to disband the *Akali-Dal*, the *Rashtriya Sevak Sangh*, and other military bands organised on communal lines. As I reflected on the resolution and thought of the news I had read, I found the same thing appearing in two ways. On the one hand it was desired to ban the army bands of all the Communal Organisation, while on the other it was the resolution itself. In fact, this directive was a signal for them to give up all communal prejudices and to form a National Militia, in which all have equal rights and which will protect the freedom of the country. With the foundation of that militia we shall have very soon, obtained the objective of Mahatma Gandhi, in a practical shape, *viz.*, his dream of a classless society in which all castes have equal rights. I generally and specially tell my friends that I am a servant of all classes and sections, but I am an enemy of "ism". Names such as *Jatism*, *Sikhism*, *Baniaism*, *Bhahmanism*, are like a deadly poison and have penetrated our classes. In fact, it has become our nature to see every problem, whether it is economic or political, from the point of finding its effect on our particular community or class. This resolution will dispell all such narrow thinking and will bring them in line with one another. The difference lies in the word which will be used *viz.*, the word National Militia has been adopted instead of bare militia. The second thing that we gain by this resolution is this that during the last five or six months there was so much of blood-shed and oppression in the country that men, women and even innocent children were subjected to enormous atrocities and were mercilessly killed. We have to remove the weakness first of all which was behind all this, the weakness which is responsible for this chapter of murder and loot in our country. I wish if a man is attacked he should not die the death of a coward; he must have courage and should not feel helpless. When in 1890, the Indian Penal Code was being prepared and when some

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

sections of Self defence were being included in the Code it was clearly stated by the compilers that they were including some sections for special defence since the people of this country are unable to defend themselves and do not offer any resistance against oppression through their weakness. I cannot understand why these sections were kept there when the policy of the British Government was only to make people weak and timid. May be that the people who were compiling the Code had not that policy in their mind.

Further, in this resolution, I find that spirit, which will make people brave individually and no man will have any fear of loot or murder. Thus he will not only be able to save his life from danger but will be able to protect those who are helpless and poor.

Moreover, by following the resolution in a practical way our "Span of Life" which is now of 23 years will also increase. The military training will also have a very good effect on our health and character. Examples of chivalry that we have known and heard about the martial races of other countries will be found everywhere in this country. So far we had heard only our masters, the Britishers, praise our forces for their gallant part overseas but henceforth our forces will fight for the cause of their own country and will set such glowing examples of bravery as all the best examples of Japan that we hear will fall short, and examples of Indian Chivalry will be heard instead all over the world.

I have the least doubt of the usefulness of this resolution for this country, and I fully support it.

Shri M. S. Aney (Deccan and Madras States Group): Sir, I do not wish to record a silent vote on this Resolution. My Honourable friend Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya has not moved it a day too soon. The need for a National Militia is recognised by all sections of this House. From the speeches that have been delivered up to this time, we see that there is not one who has expressed any kind of dissent whatsoever to this Resolution. My object in getting up is to give support to it from a particular point of view. My Honourable friend Mr. Thakur Das Bhargava has partially touched the aspect which I wanted to speak of. I think the duties that any man is expected to perform fall under four categories,—intellectual, martial, economic and manual. In the past Hindu society used to allocate each one of these duties to a separate set of people, and in that way *Varnashrama* came into existence. It might have served a useful purpose at that time; but the history of India during the last two thousand years and more has shown that that order of things has perhaps outlived its utility and a radical change is now necessary. In my view this allocation of special duties to a different class of people, leaving one class indifferent to the duties of another class, creates a dangerous situation, and we sometimes find ourselves unable to meet an emergency or a grave situation. The result is that we succumb. That is what has happened in India. That is one of the reasons which can account for the prolonged state of captivity of India under the domination of different people. If we have to get over that there is no other way of meeting it. In fact this four-fold classification of duties is a permanent thing in this world. But if we find that the allotment of one of these duties to an individual or a set of people has not tended to create stability and continuous march of progress in the country but on the other hand has created serious difficulties and even danger, we must revise our methods. And one of the ways of revising it is that each man should be capable of performing all or any of these fourfold duties. I look upon this Resolution from that point of view. No man should be merely an intellectual or economic or manual or martial worker. Each man should be capable of performing any of these duties as occasion demands. Unless that is done a man's education should not be considered as complete. I consider a man's education as complete when it enables him to perform all these four-fold duties efficiently when he is called upon to perform it. If he

fails to perform any of these duties to that extent his education is defective and so it requires to be supplemented. I regard this Resolution as starting a new epoch of education in this country by calling upon people to learn the most important duty of a citizen, namely, to be a soldier. No one can be a proper citizen unless he is a soldier also. So the Resolution in my opinion gives an opportunity to the country to open a new leaf in the pursuit of education. The creation of a national militia will not bring into existence a large force of people with a martial spirit but it opens a new school for the complete education of the people of India. I therefore regard this as an epoch-making Resolution and the beginning of a very important and new phase in the progress of our country.

Sir, there is one point to which I wish to refer. One of my Honourable friends for whom I have very great respect made in his eloquent speech an unfortunate reference to the Finance Minister. He took certain passages from his speech and tried to show that on that bench he represents something in the nature of a reactionary element that is raising its head. I do not know what justification there was for making that statement, but I have no hesitation in saying most emphatically that it was a most improper occasion for him to make that reference. He could have ample opportunity for that in the budget debate when the Finance Minister also could have given him a proper reply.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: Sir, on a point of personal explanation, when I said that reactionary elements were rearing their heads here it did not necessarily mean that I was directing my remarks against the Finance Minister. If my Honourable friend Mr. Aney thinks so he is wholly wrong.

Shri M. S. Aney: I am glad to hear it. I thought it my duty to tell him what impression was created on certain parts of the House; and I am happy to find that nothing was meant against the Finance Minister.

Sir, this is a Resolution which does not require a long speech to support it. I hope it will be carried unanimously.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (West Bengal: General): Sir, I am deeply grateful to you for giving me this opportunity at long last of speaking in this session, particularly on this memorable occasion when a prominent leader of the Indian National Congress has, on behalf of the whole country, brought forward a motion for voluntary, militarisation of India. I call it a memorable occasion in more senses than one, for it is the first occasion in the history of the Indian legislature when such a measure has been brought forward for consideration. Speaking today, I am reminded of a somewhat similar occasion more than a decade ago, when in Simla we had a very much milder Resolution on the subject. We only requested the Government of the day to abolish the invidious distinction between martial and non-martial classes then prevalent in the army, and we requested them to throw open the ranks of the army to all provinces and classes of people. I realise today the difference in the atmosphere, then and now. On that day half a dozen speakers were put up, after I spoke to undo the so-called mischievous effect of my speech, which was in their opinion calculated to foster indiscipline and insubordination in the ranks of the army. Today it is a pleasant thing to see that Honourable friends from different parts of the country have stood up in support of the Resolution, which is the need of the hour.

Sir, my Honourable friend, Dr. Pattabhi, the Mover, has, in his beautiful speech, detailed his own reasons for the raising of a national militia in this country. I do not think the grounds he put forward can be challenged by any one,—not even by those who are conscientious objectors and do not believe in the cult of warfare. But there are certain things to be considered by the National Government that is now in the saddle. I am told this Government is going to accept this resolution. But what does the acceptance mean?

[Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra]

Does it simply mean that the Honourable the Defence Minister will stand up and say, "Yes, we are in full sympathy with this resolution but our hands are full. So many things have to be done. We will do all that is humanly possible in the circumstances."? If such a reply is forthcoming, I shall be very much discouraged, and I am sure the House will receive his speech with profound disappointment. I am giving him this warning. He is a lovable personality. But let him not be misled. Let him stand up here and now and tell us that he has up his sleeve a scheme which will go to implement the resolution immediately, within a month of its acceptance.

I am told, Sir, that the Government is now over-burdened with all manner of things. I agree. But next to the question of rehabilitation of the unfortunate refugees of the Punjab and of other people who have been uprooted from their homelands, this matter should have the highest of all priorities. If you want to be spared further worries with regard to rehabilitation and relief on a much larger scale than at present, then you should have no complacency now. Therefore, what is proposed is more a preventive than a remedial measure. Sir, I can well anticipate the objections that will be trotted out: "Where is the requisite personnel for giving the necessary training? Where is the equipment?" There will be so many difficulties to train men in this art of self-defence on such a gigantic scale, so on and so forth. But, Sir, I want to remind my Honourable friend that he who excuses himself too much accuses himself. After the cessation of hostilities in 1945, there was such a tremendous upsurge—I mean national upsurge—in the country particularly among the young people—when the I.N.A. trials started in this country—that if the Government of those days had not really understood and grasped the significance of that tremendous upheaval, they would not have come down on their knees as they did before they left this country. Do you now want this emotional upsurge to be frittered away in simple volunteer organisations, such as *Hindu Sevak Sanghs*, Home Brigades or Peace Brigades, or this or that? You must have a well-planned drive for educating the people of this country to carry arms, to use them for self-defence and, if necessary, for attack. I am not merely concerned with 'defence' business. I am also in favour of offensive, if need be, for armed preparedness, and armed offensive is sometimes the best form of defence. You may ask: Where are you to get the funds and arms? The normal size of the army used to be 260,000 of which 60,000 were Britishers, which was reduced before the war. Of this, 200,000 were Indian personnel. Now by the end of this year we shall be able to eliminate the British troops. So we shall effect substantial savings on that account. We can utilize this huge savings for this purpose.

Mr. Speaker: May I request the Honourable Member to address the Chair?

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: I am sorry. I was feeling the glare in front of me. I did not mean any offence to you.

With regard to training and personnel, may I tell my Honourable friend that there are thousands of I.N.A. officers at large. Government has not yet any clear definite policy about them. Many of them can be excellent trainers. Their services can be procured. If there is any technical difficulty in their recognition and in taking them back in the army for the reasons that they will have to be treated as prisoners of war, I may say that given this opportunity, these I.N.A. people would forego their demands and volunteer their services and give excellent training to our young men and women.

Now comes the question of arms. I know it is a terrific problem. At the moment, arms are in short supply and there is very great want. Go to any shop in a town or city and you will see that you cannot have a gun or rifle for less than Rs. 1,500 to Rs. 1,600. Then how is it possible to have national

military training unless you have firearms? Are you going to do it with small daggers, knives, *dandas* and *lathis*? I want to know from the Defence Minister whether he has closed down the Ordnance Factories that had been brought into being during the last war. What are they doing? Are they functioning? Are they producing armaments? If not, cannot they be re-conditioned and made to produce small arms in abundance which would also be cheap and within the easy reach of people? Unless in this country you can buy arms at Rs. 50 or Rs. 60, all talk of militarisation or national militia will be bunkum,—mere idle talk. At the moment I am told that the Cossipore Gun Shell Factory, the Ishapur Rifles Factory, have practically closed down. Nothing is being manufactured. Everyday you will read in the newspapers three or four reports from different places where you find huge hauls of firearms. I am left wondering where these people get these Bren guns, Sten guns etc., whereas we civilians cannot get any guns in any shop? The position is that there are disposals departments of the Government of India which we thought were simply disposing of useless material. But they have very valuable war material. I would request the Defence Minister to stop this business immediately and to salvage and rescue as many firearms as possible, so that they may be made available for training our youngmen.

Now as regards my province of West Bengal, which has now been reduced to a-third of its original size, thanks to the Radcliffe Award, it forms the boundary of the Indian Union on one side. Now on either side of the border line between West Bengal and Eastern Pakistan, there is a huge belt of population which is not very friendly, if not positively hostile, to the Indian Union. In this area we have not got any effective arrangements for defence or for safeguarding all this boundary line. My friend, Mr. Baldev Singh, has not enough of troops to spare. He has many a call on him.—Kashmir, Jammu, Junagadh, Tripura, and what not, wherever my Pakistan friends want to create trouble. What is necessary, at the moment, for us to realise is that he cannot go on indefinitely sending troops everywhere on the scale that he is doing. Therefore, we should have a second line prepared. The second line should be this national militia, for which this resolution has been tabled. With regard to equipment, in Bengal, there are several military organisations such as the Frontier Rifles, the East Indian Railway Auxiliary Force, the Bengal Nagpur Railway Auxiliary Force and such like. (*Some Honourable Members:* "They have been disbanded".) They have already been disbanded? Then where have all their equipment and arms gone? Have they gone to Pakistan?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: To the Ordnance depots.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Thank you very much. Then, you may be sure, they have been smuggled. Then I am afraid they have been smuggled away either to Karachi, Lahore or to Hyderabad. I am not in a jesting mood: I am very serious, because I feel there are fifth columnists at work around us. Sir, I live on the border. I have seen with my eyes the day to day miseries that are being inflicted on our people who have been running away from the districts of Eastern Bengal. I know the threatening attitude which the people on the Eastern frontier and Eastern Pakistan continue to maintain and we have no defence against it. Hence we feel the utmost necessity for a well-trained militia in every province. If the Government at the Centre send a directive to all the provincial governments immediately to the effect that they should organise their own militia and the Government of India would give the necessary help, I am sure such a force will soon come into existence. Within the next two or three months the Budget sessions of most of the provincial assemblies would be held and they would also make some provincial contributions for this purpose under Central direction and guidance. I hope my Honourable friend the Finance Minister will not grudge a few additional crores for this purpose in the initial stages. I would also suggest to the Honourable Defence Minister that if at the moment he is not in a position to supply the

[Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra]

arms, I mean small arms,—not machine guns, trench mortars, flame throwers and things of that sort,—but ordinary double-barrelled guns, pistols and rifles, he should at once get into contact with foreign countries and see that a sufficient quantity of arms of these categories is imported for this purpose. I feel that if the Indian Ordnance factories are made to work full blast they can give the necessary equipment in a short time. My information from different quarters is that they are practically idle now. I have got several questions on the subject. Some of them have not been reached, and others are pending. I do not know what the reply would be. But I have drawn the attention of the Honourable Defence Minister particularly to this point.

When we talk of a militia it does not mean that we should simply have a land force. In every province there are air fields which were brought into existence during the last war. They should be renovated and brought into working order. They should be kept in such a condition that they can be easily or immediately put into use as soon as any emergency arises.

It is a constant complaint in these days that with the advent of freedom after long bondage, there has followed a sphere of irregular activities, of lawlessness, restlessness and exuberance of animal spirits among our youngmen. I do realise that and appreciate it. But what is the remedy? The remedy is not to penalise the restlessness of those people but to canalise it into positive and constructive channels like this military training. That will give them sound training in discipline. You can begin at once with the top classes of educational institutions. You can compel the colleges and the educational institutions and I am sure a sufficient number will forthwith volunteer. I would suggest to the Honourable Defence Minister that he should take positive steps in this direction. He should make the policy of the Government clear in this respect. Besides, there are dozens of military establishments in different parts of India, which are gradually getting dilapidated by disuse. They are becoming ruins. There is a big one near Kancharapara, another at Krishnagar. These are important strategic points. My Honourable friend Dr. Matthai seems to have decided not to establish the Locomotive factory near the Kancharapara workshop. These are places which are being neglected. I want the authorities to pay serious attention to them. I would be willing to give my Honourable friend a lot of details about the location of these aerodromes, air fields, and other military installations in different parts of my province. Meanwhile I would request my Honourable friend to have a thorough investigation into the whole matter and make a clear and unequivocal declaration of the policy of the Government in this matter as to what practical steps the Government is going to take. I should think my Honourable friend Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya for giving this House this opportunity. I was personally thinking of tabling such a motion but had I sent it from Calcutta, in these days of postal delays the motion would not have reached Delhi in a fortnight. This resolution should receive its due weight from the Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh. I am anxiously awaiting his reply. I hope it will not be in the usual way "every thing humanly possible is being done." Let it be inhuman but let something be done to make possible what is otherwise impossible. Please do something at this crisis. The whole India looks up to the Central Government at this crucial hour. If yesterday, all could vote for a Wages Bill of 22 crores in the shape of implementation of the Pay Commission's recommendations, is there anyone in this House who would grudge 25 crores for a scheme of practical military training of our youngmen? I am sure not a single member would object to it. We are prepared to vote the money provided the Government show sufficient determination. Nothing can be more useful and profitable than this expenditure on the military training of our people, as by this they will be able to defend the honour of themselves, their women folk and their country. Sir, I support the Resolution with all my heart.

Pandit Govind Malaviya (U.P.: General): Sir, I rise to support the resolution and the appeal, which has been made by my Honourable friend who preceded me, to the Honourable the Defence Minister. This is a question on which India has been agitating with one voice for several decades that we should have a national militia in this land. I am happy that we are now under changed circumstances and I hope that the Government today will do the needful with regard to the resolution which has been so ably moved by my Honourable friend and leader Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya.

Sir, the resolution has referred to the need of the defence of the country, maintenance of law and order, self-defence and removing of fear from the minds of the people. All these are very important things: but I submit that it is not necessary only for these reasons, but it is necessary for the entire future of this country, for the success of its government and for the well-being of our people that we should do something on the lines of the resolution which is before us today. It is well known that in no country is any progress or life possible without a proper arrangement for defence. Therefore there are large standing armies in every country which are maintained at whatever may be the cost, so that the people may be able to live and progress in peace and tranquillity. Similarly it is necessary that we also should have a suitable standing army not for any conquest but for the peace and tranquillity and safety of our land. We have one. It is quite large. But who can say with all the experience that we have had even in these few months that it is sufficient for our purposes? What are we then to do? Are we going to increase that army? During the last 200 years we have been exploited; we have been ruined; the country has been bled white in every direction. We have therefore today to think of the rehabilitation of our life in every sphere. We have to think of development, we have to think of providing these things which are essential to make the country live and to grow. All that means money. We listened only last night to the Finance Minister's Budget as to what huge amounts we have to provide for our military budget even today. I do not know from where we will get all that money. On the contrary if we do not provide it, we may have no peace, and no tranquillity and therefore we may have no progress and no prosperity. Therefore the only course for us to adopt is that while we should make the fullest provision for defence we should have to pay as little for it as possible. The basis of all military organisation, the scientific basis of all armies in every country is that their standing army should be reduced to the lowest possible level, so that expenditure on the army which is so essential and yet expenditure which is so totally unproductive, should be brought down to the very minimum possible. Yet there should be provision within the machinery of that army and the defence scheme of the country for a rapid, immediate and efficient expansion of the army to whatever limits may be required at any time of emergency. That is the system of armies in all modern countries which have to think of making their budgets meet their requirements. Similarly, we should also do so in this country. For long we have been talking of a second line of defence and of a national militia. It is time for us now to act on those lines. Even the British Government in India had a reserve militia in the past. They improved upon its constitution and made big provisions for it. They did all that in order that they should be able to have a reserve upon which they might fall back in times of need. Today our need is greater. Therefore I submit that the Government should take immediate steps and appoint a Committee to go into the whole question and prepare a defence scheme for the country in which our standing army should be reduced to the minimum possible. Our expenditure on the army should be brought down as low as may be consistent with the requirements of safety of the country, and yet we should have a second line of reserve. We should have compulsory military training in all schools and colleges to begin with. We may extend it as soon as we might to all the eligible sections of the population, so that, having received that training at low cost

[Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad]

if this resolution is carried into effect, as Pandit Maitra has insisted, if it is really given effect to, then the virus which has poisoned our life so long will largely and quickly be eliminated.

Then the Militia has another importance. A large standing army in peace time should be too costly and therefore would be ruled out. In these circumstances a Militia should be raised which, in times of war, can take the place of the regular army, and therefore, for that reason also I support the resolution.

Then, if the United Nations' Organization comes into effect, if they are in a position to implement their resolutions, then they will have an international army and they will call for quotas and India will be asked to contribute her quota of man power. Where would you get a sufficient quota unless you trained young men from now on?

Therefore, judging the matter from every angle, it seems that the resolution should be accepted, and what is more important, should be actually given effect to.

Then, along with this militarization of our young men, there should be the development of armament industry. That must go hand in hand with the militarization of our country. That would solve largely the question of unemployment, and also, as I have already suggested, cure much of the communal misunderstanding and bitterness among the various communities. So from every conceivable point of view I think the whole House should not only accept it, but press the Honourable Minister for Defence for actually giving effect to it, and as Pandit Maitra has pointed out, the entire House as well as, I believe, people outside this House will support him in any expenditure which the real and proper acceptance of this resolution will entail. With these few words I support the resolution.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh (Minister for Defence): Sir, I am very glad that Dr. Pattabhi has moved this resolution as it gives me an opportunity to explain the present position. All of us had expected that after the division of the country we would have peace, and would go ahead with our constructive programmes. Unfortunately due to the communal disturbances, we had to face a problem which the world had not seen before. Unfortunate occurrences of communal nature, steps taken in our neighbouring country, and the cowardly attack on Kashmir upset all our plans and raised doubts in the youth of the country and the public began to fear that the Government was sitting quiet and doing nothing. It is, Sir, I think this fear that is in the mind of the public. Dr. Pattabhi in moving this resolution wants to bring to the notice of Government that we should do all we can to train the youth of this country and to get ready to protect it from any aggression.

Before I go ahead, Sir, with some of the criticisms that have been made and the points that have been raised by other Honourable Members, I wish to make it clear that we are perfectly alive to our responsibilities. I can tell the House not as a mere formality but sincerely that we shall protect the honour of this country by all possible means. The days when the Members from these seats used to give false hopes and evasive replies have gone. We are responsible to the legislature and through this legislature to the country. Bearing this in view we have to share our responsibility with the House.

Sir, before I tell the House what my views are about this resolution, I want to put before you certain facts which we have to bear in mind. In the last Budget session when we discussed the military expenditure, as the House will remember, the total strength of the army was fixed at 2,80,000, and the total expenditure that we had to incur on all our Armed Forces was Rs. 107 crores. Now, after the division, and after taking out the Pakistan share from the Indian Armed Forces, the total strength of the army that we have is between 2,60,000 and 2,70,000. That means the expenditure on the Armed

Forces that we have at present is bound to be much more than what we had originally anticipated. I do not wish to minimise the importance of maintaining the present strength of the Army; and the House already knows that the Government has decided not to reduce it. I think this is a right decision in present uncertain circumstances when it is not possible for us to take risks. Although I personally feel that we have nothing to be afraid of, we have just attained our freedom, we have just got rid of the foreign rule after 150 years or more, we must take every precaution that our country remains safe from any kind of danger. It is for this reason that we have agreed to maintain the present strength of the Army, and this is far in excess of what the finances of this country can afford.

Some Honourable Members have stressed the desirability of having Home Guards. Home Guards organisation is the second line of defence and it is also necessary. But that is not a Central responsibility; it is the responsibility of Provincial Governments. All that the Central Government is required to do is to provide officers for the training of Home Guards and also make available the requisite arms. My friend Mr. Maitra pointed out that there was delay in the supply of arms to the Provincial Governments. May I point out that up till the 30th of this month the distribution or supply of arms does not rest in our hands? As the House will remember, according to the decision of the Partition Council, Ordnance Factories and Ordnance Depots were under the joint control of both Pakistan and India. That is why there was delay in the supply of arms. I am glad to say however that whatever demands were made on us by the Provincial Governments have all been met by now.

Sir, Mr. Maitra also asked about the Ordnance Factories. He wanted to know what had happened to them. The Ordnance Factories will be under the joint control of Pakistan and the Government of India up to the end of this month. Only yesterday it was agreed that from the 1st of December the Ordnance Factories and the Ordnance Depots will pass under the administrative control of the Government of India.

As regards the manufacture of arms, we have a scheme which I am discussing with my colleagues. The scheme is not only that these Factories should work in full swing but that we should make India self-supporting as far as her requirements of arms and equipment were concerned.

This point, Sir, I hope the Honourable Members will appreciate. I am one with them as regards the need of a National Militia or Territorial Army for the defence of the country. But we should not forget that mere numbers do not count. For instance, if we decide today that India must have, say, about a million men, and we do not have arms or do not make arrangements to manufacture them, what use will a million men be on our registers? The greater need is that all our requirements must be manufactured in this country. Unless that is done simultaneously, the raising of mere numbers will not help.

Then, Sir, another point was raised which is a little out of date. That is about the martial and non-martial classes. This point was in fact settled during the last war. I would only say that the policy of the present Government is that we do not stand in the way of anybody who wants to serve his country, every one who is suitable is at liberty to join the Defence Forces. We do not want to reserve the right of serving in Armed Forces to some select classes—the policy of the Government is to give an opportunity to every citizen who wants to serve his motherland.

An Honourable Member: It is not being done in the States, Sir.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: As regards the States we will try our best to impress upon the Rulers to adopt the same practice; but as the House knows it is not possible for us to enforce in the States the same policy we have in India.

[Pandit Govind Malaviya]

they will be able not only to inspire confidence among our people, not only to drive away the fear and the panic which has permeated our society, today, but also be able to feel and act in the spirit that whenever there might be need they would be able to stand up as one to lay down their lives for the defence of their motherland. For that alone will be the most invincible armour, that alone will be the guarantee, that nobody, no country, no state near or far, small or big, will even dream of acting towards India in manner that may not be right or fair, that may not be in keeping with the dignity and the honour of this great land. At a time of need Lord Birkenhead once said in England that in the old days the principle used to be that there should be "No representation without taxation".

Shri M. S. Aney: It is the other way, Sir.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: No, Sir, Lord Birkenhead said that in the old days the principle used to be that there should be "No representation without taxation". He said that the new principle should be that there should be "No representation without military service". Lord Birkenhead said that in England. I submit that if England, with all its efficiency and old organisation and experience, felt that such a thing was needed, for a new state like our own, with all the problems that face us, with all the eyes of avarice and malice that seem focussed upon us from many quarters, it is all the more necessary that we should do something of that sort. I therefore submit that the only right thing for this Government to do is to go into this whole question most carefully and expeditiously and to reorganise the entire defence system on the lines of this resolution. I hope the Honourable the Defence Minister will rise equal to the occasion by appointing a Committee to go into the matter and report on these lines, and that he will by quickly giving effect to its recommendations lay, well and truly, the foundations upon which alone the peace and the progress, the happiness and the prosperity of our motherland will depend.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the resolution wholeheartedly. It has been pointed out by the Honourable the Mover of the Resolution that there are private armies already in being. They should be harnessed for the service of the country. It is also well known that arms are found everyday, almost everywhere, in the most unlooked for places. Dr. Pattabhi was inclined to think that they were collected for aggressive purposes. But I have reason to believe that they were sometimes for defensive purposes too. When the trouble arose in Calcutta I was within about sixty miles from the place and I knew that there was a regular scramble for securing guns as well as for housing in various families people who have guns. Shot gun cartridges were sold in the Black market at over Rs. 100 for 100 cartridges. There was the panic collection and the arms collections. There are of course the collections for offensive purposes. Firearms of the most modern types were largely used during the Calcutta killings. The resolution, if carried into effect, will be a very important step in the national life of this country. There are riots and murders taking place everywhere; there are the civic jobs which require attention and serious troubles may arise anywhere at any time. There is the ardent desire of our young men to be of service to our country. In these circumstances, if that desire could be harnessed for the service of the country then it would be directing them to a useful channel. If not they will probably be directed to wrong channels.

I view the situation from another point of view also, that of another war. A war on a world-wide scale is not out of the question. Wars take place without any open warning and in spite of all the best men in the world trying to prevent them. But when war will come there will always be the apologists

for it. On the last occasion there was the attractive slogan that it was a 'war to end war', as if there could be such a thing as malaria for the preventing malaria or the use of purgatives for curing diarrhoea. So we had the last war 'to prevent war'. Now the U.N.O. is a result of the experience of the failure of the League of Nations. They want to unite the Nations in a common confederation with sufficient arms and ammunition and army to give effect to their decisions. There would be sanction behind their decisions. But everything depends on an international understanding. We however find that the big powers are not agreeing with one another. There is plenty of misunderstanding and rivalry on the stage and behind the scenes between the big powers. The smaller powers are moving like satellites. In these circumstances, although they are pacifists by their professions, there is secret and open preparations for war in every quarter. The possibility of another world war cannot therefore be ruled out. An organised militia would be important to preserve order in the country and to prepare for a switchover from the militia to the regular army if and when that is necessary.

Then there is the old adage that if you want peace you must make preparations for war. That was said by Napoleon, and even modern authorities say that peace is nursed in the cradle of superior armaments. Militarisation of the country does not mean that we are on the war path, but rather that we are on the peace path.

[At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (one of the Panel of Chairmen)].

One of the speakers, Dr. Khare, said in a moment of bitterness that the Congress was banking upon *ahimsa* so long and it has now given it up altogether. I believe that the Congress adopted *ahimsa* so long as that was necessary. In fact *ahimsa* was a proper weapon to get rid of the British and get *swaraj* without bloodshed, and that has been achieved. But new situations are now arising and it is a happy sign that we find that the Congress is living up to the times and to realities. The fact that a Congress leader of high rank has sponsored this resolution shows that the Congress is a living organisation, for which I heartily congratulate it.

Then, as to the so called distinction between martial and non-martial races, I think we have heard of it for the last time before the last war. During the last war, necessity drove the authorities to throw open the military profession to Bengalis, Madrasis, and other so called non-martial races. It is on record that these so called non-martial races have risen up to the mark and have received tremendous praise and good recognition from all quarters. I once met a high military official of the Baluch Regiment who was a Baluchi, a Muslim, and from him I heard that the Bengali soldiers and officers were wonderfully brave and resourceful, and they were ideal soldiers. There are no more non-martial races in India. Gone are the days when war was fought by physical force alone. War is now an intellectual business as well as the business of highly specialised scientific weapons. The distinction is gone and we have heard the last word about it.

Then there is another aspect of the resolution. We have in our country considerable misunderstanding on communal matters. Although we are not yet out of the wood, we have turned the corner and things are improving. But I think that militarization of our young men would be all to the good. I have moved among some of the Indian military personnel during the last war and I have found there is a considerable amount of brotherliness among various soldiers or officers of various castes. I asked the reason, and one of them explained the situation thus: 'We have to die by the hands of the same enemy; we have to kill the same enemy; we have to face common dangers; questions of castes or communities do not at all enter because in matters of life and death such things do not count. If you want to get rid of communal misunderstandings, just join the army.' I submit that in these circumstances,

[Sardar Baldev Singh]

There is another difficulty to which I wish to draw the attention of the House and that is about the officer position. The House knows that we have decided to nationalize the Armed Forces; every officer in the Armed Forces of this country will be an Indian; and those British officers whom we retain after the 1st of January 1947 or a little longer will be entirely in Training Centres or on non-operational duties. All operational commands will be held by Indians. To get more officers we have tapped every possible source of supply to meet the requirements of an Army of 2,70,000. A big effort is being made but even then we will not be able to find all the officers that we need. That is why we are pressing to employ British officers for the time being.

Sir, in this connection, as the House will remember, we had Air Force training courses in the Universities. These courses had to be given up because we have been short of officers. As far as the Navy is concerned, the position is worse. As for the army this too is difficult now but if the conditions return to normal after a few months then we will have some officers available for the job. Government has definitely decided that it is no use having amateur officers for the training of a militia or territorial force. If we want to have a well-organised force, it is essential that it be trained by efficient officers. We do not want to give half-hearted training.

Sir, as I said in the beginning, we have not been sitting idle in all the difficulties which exist. The Government has taken active steps to give training to our youth. Although the Government has not been able to come to a final decision, the scheme has been discussed informally. Though every colleague of mine is of the opinion that India should have the smallest possible Army consistent with the safety of this country, we agree at the same time that we must have a Territorial Force. What the strength of this force should be or whether it should be called a national militia is yet to be decided. The need of a territorial force is fully realised. We will, in the near future, when we have fixed the peace time size of the Army, begin to organise a territorial force alongside the Army.

Then, Sir, about the training of young men in the schools and colleges. Sometime in 1946 a Committee was appointed under the chairmanship of the Honourable Pandit Hriday Nath Kunzru. The Committee submitted its report sometime at the beginning of this year. On account of the political changes and the division of the country, the Report of the Committee could not be examined and no decision could be taken earlier; it came up for discussion before the Defence Committee of India only a few days ago. I am glad to inform the House of the Government's entire agreement with the Committee that it is absolutely essential to give military training to the youth of the country, people may think that by giving military training to the youth of the country, we are making warlike preparations. Nothing of the kind. We want to have adequate forces to protect our country against aggression. I do feel that such training to the youth builds up their health and character.

The National Cadet Corps Committee has recommended that, to begin with, we should start with a Junior Division and a Senior Division. Junior Division is meant for school-going children, the 9th or 10th class students in the schools and the Senior Division for college boys. The number of the boys to be trained under this scheme will be 1,75,000. The total expenditure that is to be incurred, if it is accepted wholly and the responsibility is taken either by the Centre or by the Provincial Government, will be Rs. 3½ crores initial and Rs. 2½ crores recurring. If we assume total number of the school-going children between the age of 15 and 21 to about a million, the total expenditure required to give training will be Rs. 21 crores initial expenditure

and Rs. 15 crores recurring. I am not mentioning these figures to frighten the House but just to show the nature and extent of the expenditure likely to be involved if this scheme is accepted. The Government have accepted the principle of the scheme and we have addressed all the provinces to enquire how far they are prepared to share the burden of this expenditure. We have fixed four weeks within which they must reply. Thereafter the Government will take definite steps to get on with the scheme.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta (Delhi): May I interrupt the Honourable Minister and make a suggestion that if it is a question of funds, let the Prime Minister issue an appeal. I am sure he will get Rs. 15 crores or 20 crores—any amount—within a month.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: As I have said before, I did not give these figures to frighten the House. It was intended to give an idea of the nature of the expenditure likely to be involved. I hope when the scheme is matured and put before the House, the House will accept it with the same willingness with which it has expressed its views on this particular Resolution.

Now, Sir, a lady member pointed out about the desirability of giving military training to girls. I wish to inform her that the scheme of the National Cadet Corps Committee includes training for the Girls' Division also.

Then, Sir, there are one or two other points to which I want to reply. One of them is that about private armies, to which so many Honourable Members have referred. In regard to these, Sir, it is just possible that in the old regime there was some necessity. But after the 15th of August when our country became free, I do not see the necessity of any such private organisations. The defence of the country is the responsibility of the Government and Government must make adequate arrangements to protect the country. No private army, of whatever nature it may be, can give adequate protection to the country or be of use to it. For instance, Sir, take the case of our neighbouring country, Pakistan. Honourable Members must have read about the raid or invasion of the tribesmen in Kashmir. The other day the Prime Minister made a clear statement. I do not want to say anything in that connection. All I will say is that tribesmen form a part of that territory—Pakistan. I cannot imagine that these tribesmen can come fully armed in another country without the knowledge of that State. Now, take the case of those tribesmen. They are fully armed; they have got rifles; they have got machine guns; they have got mortars and so on. Such irregulars, irresponsible people, if they are not kept under proper check under a proper organisation, instead of being a help to the country, have proved a great danger to the country. That is how private armies function. I am not afraid of private armies or such organisations, but I hope our countrymen will themselves realise their responsibilities and will not indulge in such unlawful activities.

Coming to the Resolution before us, I find it difficult to agree to the whole of the Resolution as it stands. As regards the Home Guards, as I have stated before, it is the responsibility of the Provincial Government and I have not the least doubt that the Provincial Government will go ahead with their scheme and whatever help is necessary from the Centre, it will be given willingly and without any hesitation.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: What about the Centrally Administered Areas?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: About the National Guards, of which there is a specific proposal in this Resolution, I want to say that the Government accept its principle. The Government have not yet decided whether we should have a National Militia or a Territorial Force and what

[Sardar Baldev Singh] should be its strength. If there is no intention on the part of the Mover of the Resolution to bind the Government to a specific thing like National Militia and his purpose is that Government must take steps to do something for the military training of our youth. I wish to assure the House beyond all doubt that Government have already taken steps and I will not be found lacking in implementing these steps as far as possible.

Sir, Pandit Govind Malaviya suggested the appointment of a Committee. May I suggest it to him that this is not a matter for a Committee of this House. I know that among the Honourable Members of this House there are those who have some experience of the Armed Forces and have made very good suggestions. But as regards the scheme itself we have now left this to our Military Advisers. The scheme is already before them and is receiving their attention. After they have formulated their views, their report will come before the Defence Committee of India and will be considered by it. I think that is the correct procedure which should be followed.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is the report likely to come up before the Defence Committee?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: It has gone to the Provinces and we have asked them to send in their views within four weeks.

Now, Sir, this is what the Government has done and I hope that in view of what I have said, the House will be satisfied that Government has not made only vague promises, but have taken definite steps to make a move in the right direction.

Now, Sir, in the end, I would warn the House about the several suggestions that have been made that this State is preparing and that State is preparing for war. In fairness to the Armed Forces of India, I have to request the House not to magnify these things. Our Indian Armed Forces are not afraid of the armed forces of any particular State. If I may put it in another way, I say that it is an insult to the Armed Forces of India to ask them to get ready, because of the preparedness of a State here or there. We are absolutely alive to our duty and our Armed Forces are in a position to meet any danger from any quarter.

I would suggest to the House not to get panicky. I get a large number of anonymous letters and representations about the Ordnance Depots, about the Ordnance Factories and about our Armed Forces. Sir, if I were to believe all that is said in these nothing would be left in our Ordnance Depots or Ordnance Factories! In the past, the management of these factories and depots was under joint control. I want to inform the House that rumours and thefts, etc., which are current and which appear in the papers from time to time are highly exaggerated. There is no doubt that arms have been stolen from here and there, but these thefts are nothing of the kind as has been mentioned in these representations to us and what is said in public. There is not much of truth in these rumours.

In the end, Sir, I would suggest that in view of the proposals that are before the Government at present, and in view of the decisions and the steps which the Government have taken, the Honourable Mover of the Resolution should not press the Resolution at this stage. If in one or two months' time he is not satisfied with the arrangements or the steps which the Government takes, then he can put it in a definite form whether India should have a Militia or whether India should have a territorial force, or whether we should have some other kind of organisation. At present my difficulty is that I do not want to bind the Government to the creation of a National Militia as we have schemes of other types such as the territorial force under consideration. As I told you

in the very beginning of my speech I do not want to give any vague promises; I do not want to state on the floor of the House that I will accept this scheme and find myself in difficulty later on especially as we have the formation of a Territorial Army under our consideration. This is my difficulty, Sir, and if the House will accept my assurances and the suggestion that I have made, I will request the Mover not to press this Resolution. Sir, I hope the Honourable the Mover of the Resolution will accept my suggestion.

An Honourable Member: Could we get any idea when the Government scheme will be ready?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: As already stated we have referred it to our Military Advisers; they are examining it and we expect that it will come before the Government within the next few weeks.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Mr. Chairman, I have listened with great attention to the lucid statement of the Honourable Member of Defence.

An Honourable Member: Honourable Minister of Defence.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Perhaps the mistake is not unjustified, for I am taken back to the days when Members were sitting on the other side, not Ministers. The reply that he has vouchsafed to us is not a reply of a Minister. I was thinking whether we were in the days of Sir Andrew Skeen or Lord Esher or Sir Archibald Wavell in the Military Department answering the questions in the Legislature. I never had the good fortune of being a Member in this House in those days. I thought I would never be in a Legislature, but this hardship is forced upon us against our will, and therefore, I am surprised Government should have taken this kind of attitude. I should have expected Government to come forward with a definite reply, and if they were not prepared to accept my proposition, they should have tabled an amendment and then stated their difficulties, but they have certainly transported themselves to ten years ago and that is what I cannot really appreciate. It is no use my being merely courteous and all that. I must say that in a House which is enjoying democratic self-Government on the basis of responsibility, this is not the way in which a Member ought to be treated. Of course, I have no desire to embarrass the Government. I can appreciate the difficulties of Government. I can appreciate in particular the difficulties by which Government is embarrassed, being confronted with so many complications and complexities everywhere. I know they have no peace of mind for even a quarter of an hour. They do not know what the next telegram brings, whether it is the invasion of the Eastern Punjab or Western Bengal or whether it is a recrudescence of trouble in Kashmir or whether it is something worse. I perfectly sympathise with them for they have not the equanimity, the balance of mind, and a clear judgment and therefore, I should have liked them to have tabled a suitable amendment and then that would have been easy. As things stand, what is the position? People who read these debates are transported into heights of emotion; they would feel that the millennium was nigh; and now they are suddenly taken to the depths of disappointment. Well, the whole matter says the Government requires examination; they add that the Government has been quite mindful of all these matters raised in the debate and suggest that the Resolution should not be pressed. Of course I am not pressing it. I shall withdraw, but I am not withdrawing it with grace. I must say that.

Before doing so, I would only like to invite the Honourable Member's attention to the fact that lots of arms are sent to the States and in the States they are distributed to these very people who are organising these fissiparous forces—the *Jagirdars*. So the Honourable Member may make a note of this point and then see that we are not supplying weapons to our possible enemies. There have been during the days of peace, instances of firms in Europe and perhaps in England which sold weapons to Japan and with these very weapons Japan

[Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya]

fought them. So let us not make such mistakes. As for the rest, I have, I do not say, great pleasure, but great pain in withdrawing this Resolution.

Mr. Chairman: Has the Honourable Member leave of the House to withdraw the Resolution?

The Resolution was by leave of the Assembly withdrawn.

RESOLUTION *re* AMELIORATION OF THE CONDITION OF SCHEDULED CASTES

Shri V. I. Munishwami Pillai (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Resolution that stands in my name:

"This Assembly is of opinion that the Government of India should spend at least one crore of rupees each year for the next ten years for the amelioration of the condition of the Scheduled Castes by way of providing them with house sites and drinking water and also by way of supplementing the educational grants sanctioned by Provincial Governments."

Sir, seeing what has happened around us it may be thought that I am not responsible to this House or the country in bringing a Resolution of this kind asking for alms from the National Government which was set up on the 15th August last. I know as a matter of fact that if I go before this Government with a begging bowl to safeguard the interests and also to improve the conditions of a community which represents one-fifth of the population of this great land, I am not going against the established laws of this land. We know as a matter of fact that Mahatma Gandhi, the Avatar who has spent and is spending all his time for the betterment of the Indian nation day in and day out, is extending his hands for charity not for the aggrandisement of himself or his colleagues but to improve the condition of a community that has been kept away from the pale of society and undergoing hardships for several centuries. When this Charter of Freedom was drawn by the Constituent Assembly the other day it was said therein:

"Wherein shall be guaranteed, granted and secured to all the people of India justice—social, economic and political—and equality of status."

Again when the Advisory Committee's report was presented to the Constituent Assembly it was clearly stated there:

"We wish to make it clear, however, that our general approach to the whole problem of minorities is that the State should be so run that they should stop feeling oppressed by the mere fact that they are minorities, and that on the contrary they should feel that they have as honourable a part to play in the national life as any other section of the community."

Sir, yesterday when the Finance Minister presented his budget he made a very long speech and I was wondering whether he would give effect to what was stated in the Charter or what was approved by the Constituent Assembly in the Minority Committee's report. I failed to see one word to the effect that the interests of the scheduled castes and untouchables will be safeguarded to some extent at least by providing amenities for this community. It may be asked why it was necessary for me to bring forward this Resolution at a time like this. I may tell the House that recent events in provinces where Acts to remove their disabilities have been passed, a great agitation has been started whereby the landlords and zamindars have taken upon themselves to evict the *harijans* from their lands. As you are aware, Sir, the scheduled castes form the bulk of agricultural labour and now they are being deprived of the habitation which they have been enjoying for years. Recently I have been touring Malabar and South Canara and I saw how the *Jenmies* have given notice to the tenants to evict them from their habitation. At a time when we feel that we have entered the arena of an independent India, one section

of people is told that they have no habitations. It is a sad thing and I think it is time for Government to take up this matter. Yesterday during the budget speech the Finance Minister told us that they are going to have great national industries, and he also told us that in the matter of 'Grow More Food' the result was disappointing. Now, Sir, agricultural labourers, dock workers and industrial labourers who are mostly drawn from the scheduled castes have no habitation; and how can these industries and the 'Grow More Food' scheme succeed? These are matters of vital importance and Government must come to the rescue of the depressed classes and safeguard their interests.

Sir, my Resolution is a very modest one. I ask for the provision of housing sites. According to Mahatma Gandhi's scheme of independence a man must at least have a habitation and he must have at least one square meal a day. Without a habitation what will be the fate of these people? The agricultural labourers who mostly live in the villages are practically in the clutches of the landlords, and if these people are told to vacate what will be their fate? Moreover, recently suggestions have been made for making co-operative societies of house building, and the depressed classes have been left alone. We know that for centuries the agricultural labourers in the villages have been suffering, and it is a matter of infamy for any Government that it is only the middle and the upper classes who should have a habitation.

Secondly if you go to any village in the south and in Malabar you will find that the villages are not provided with ordinary facilities for human existence in the way of drinking water. The wells are meant not only for the use of human beings but pigs and animals all go to the same well. This is the state of affairs in most of the provinces. It is high time that Government should take up the question of habitation as well as that of drinking water. Moreover, when the Poona Pact was signed one of the terms was that the Central Government should give an allotment to the various provinces so that the education of the depressed classes may be more advanced. It is in this view that I have taken up this matter, and I am sure that Government, composed as it is today of men like Honourable Pandit Nehru and Honourable Deputy Prime Minister Sardar Patel and the Minister for Public Health who come under the aura of Mahatma Gandhi and live under his inspiration will see that something is done for the *Harijans* so that they also may feel that they are living in an independent India where all their interests are safeguarded by Government. Sir, I move.

Mr. Chairman: Resolution moved:

"This Assembly is of opinion that the Government of India should spend at least one crore of rupees each year for the next ten years for the amelioration of the condition of the Scheduled Castes by way of providing them with house sites and drinking water and also by way of supplementing the educational grants sanctioned by Provincial Governments."

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur (Minister for Health): Inasmuch as the Resolution before the House refers to certain aspects of the general question of amelioration for the scheduled castes, I would like to say that Government is wholly in sympathy with its spirit and its aims. It is the clear and definite policy of the Government that living conditions for all those who today live in hovel's—and it is not only scheduled castes—should be ameliorated. Naturally, the scheduled castes will benefit as well as anyone else. Development grants, as is known to the House, are made to the provinces. They can use them for any purpose and doubtless no province but keeps the needs of the backward and the poor classes in the forefront of all their programmes.

As far as the Centrally Administered Areas are concerned and for which the Centre is responsible, the Improvement Trust in Delhi has decided to clear all slum areas, and I would like to assure the Mover of the Resolution that those slum areas in which the scheduled castes live will be the first to go. All the poor that will thus be displaced will be given new sites.

[Rajkumari Amrit Kaur]

There is also a poor class housing scheme, which will also benefit the scheduled castes. In this scheme the criterion is not going to be community: it is going to be income. This is only correct, because it is the earnest desire of the Government not only to banish untouchability, root and branch, but also to give to the backward and poor classes all the help that they need for improvement of their living conditions and for their general uplift.

As far as the water-supply is concerned, all public sources of water are legally open to the scheduled castes, but we are all aware that custom and usage deal harshly with them. Recently, therefore, the provisions of the Bombay Removal of Social Disabilities Act of 1946 have been extended to the Delhi Province and they are going to be extended to the other Centrally Administered Areas also.

Any schemes for the amelioration of the condition of the scheduled castes will certainly have the full sympathy of the Central Government. Supplementary grants to provinces for any schemes of such amelioration or uplift will obviously depend on what the provinces have ready in the way of schemes and what they are able to work out, and I may assure the House that it will be the policy of the Central Government to help the provinces all they can to ameliorate the condition of these unfortunate people.

It is, however, difficult to accept any specific figure for such grants at this stage. The House may rest assured that the uplift of the scheduled castes is in the forefront and will remain in the forefront of this Government until such time as there is no such class as scheduled castes in our society.

Shri S. Nagappa (Madras: General): I was not convinced with the statement made by the Honourable Minister for Health. But now, Sir, I do not want to say anything about the Resolution, that was moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Pillai. I move the amendment that stands in my name. Sir, I move:

"That in the Resolution for the words 'at least one crore' the words 'a minimum of ten crores', be substituted."

I know my responsibility in moving this amendment. For a Congress Government which has pledged itself to elevate its *Harijans* in the shortest time possible, to the highest level, I think it is a meagre figure, if you take into consideration the vast numbers of these down trodden people, and the miseries they have undergone for all these centuries. Now, I think, Sir, if this Government is sincere, if it wants to do it, it can do it. But my Honourable friend, the Minister for Health has been kind enough to say that they have been kind enough to bring in some legislation. No amount of legislation will change the heart of people unless and until they make it a point to change their hearts and treat the *Harijans* as human beings. Without this nothing can make these people come to the higher level, no matter how many years may pass. Mahatmaji himself has been trying to uplift these people for the last 15 years. I am certain not even 15 per cent. of the untouchability has disappeared to-day. So at this rate, I do not know for how many years more in a free India will these poor down trodden millions have to toil. I am glad to bring to the notice of this House that the Madras Government during the regime of Shri Prakasam was kind enough to earmark one crore for the speedy elevation of these *Harijans*.

Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan (Madras: General): Was one pie spent out of that one crore!

Shri S. Nagappa: I do not think that simply because funds have been allotted therefore we can spend whatever be the need. We must see that every pie that has been allotted is spent in the best interests of these people. So if one province goes ahead it is no use to other *Harijans*

in other provinces who are lagging behind. So this Government can direct each and every province to look after the interests of these people. They can say if you take up the question we are here to give you Rs. 100,000,000 more, as you do in the case of the 'Grow More Food' and as in the case of the Rural Water Supply. Therefore you can also do something for these people if you are really interested in their elevation. No amount of lip sympathy will help. It is material sympathy that is required. I want the Congress Government which has pledged itself to elevate these people to spend the money and see that the people are brought forward. We have been finding fault with South Africans for ill-treating Indians in South Africa. Do not you think the South Africans will find fault with you if you treat these people like this here? You must keep yourselves always above all such things. We have been asking you because we have nothing. When we ask, you say why do you ask? Why do you separate yourself from us? Where is the need if you separate us? It is you who have to change your way of treatment and your hearts. As regards legal sanctions, many Governments have been moving in this matter. But what is the good? Do you expect that every *Harijan* is legally minded enough that he can go to court and seek redress at the courts of law? Let me give you my own personal experience. So many temples have been thrown open to *Harijans*. That is all right when the right man especially a man in the lime light comes along. But the next moment when the local *Harijan* of the villages comes, he is not permitted to enter. They say that it was intended for the people who came from outside and not for the local men. They would say "You fellow are toiling under me, you are serving under me, you are my servant. You want to enter the temple and worship with me? How dare you are?" Some have been even beaten.

I will narrate another experience of mine. In a village of a population of 2,000, there are only two public wells. There are 300 to 400 *Harijans* there and they are not allowed to draw water from the public wells. They can pull the string but the touching of the pot is done by a caste Hindu and he pours the water into the pot of the *Harijan*. So even if there is legal sanction they cannot make use of it. They cannot assert themselves. I had to go myself personally. I had to represent to the police and with a police escort I went and saw in my own presence that these people were allowed to draw water from the wells. The village folks came with lathies and other weapons 5 P. M. and threatened me. I said "You kill me if you want but I am not going to budge an inch. I am going to draw water from the well." So I was able to draw water.

Shri H. J. Khandekar (C. P. and Berar: General): Sir, may I point out that the time is up. I would request you to take up this Resolution on the next non-official day and give it priority.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (U. P.: General): Let the Honourable Member finish his speech.

Mr. Chairman: Under the rules this Resolution would get priority on the next non-official day. I wished to give you opportunity for moving your amendment. But as you are not anxious to speak now the House will be adjourned when the member speaking has finished his speech.

Shri S. Nagappa: The Honourable the Health Minister was kind enough to say that we are having legal sanctions but may I point out that no amount of legal sanction is any use until and unless you create the machinery to put it into practice. Bills are passed but who is there to enforce them? If these people go to draw water their heads will be broken the next moment.

[Shri S. Nagappa]

My Honourable friend Mr. Munishwami Pillai was kind enough to bring in the Resolution and if the Government is also equally kind enough they could easily grant the ten crores. Is ten crores a big sum? We are not a few in number, we are some crores. Ten crores for five crores of *Harijans* mean Rs. 2 per head per annum. Cannot this Government, which is a Congress Government, the people's Government, which wants to give equal opportunities to everybody, grant this sum? I expected the Honourable Lady Minister to be more kind to the *Harijans* than the 'Lord Ministers'. Even now I expect the Minister for Health will reconsider her position and try to grant us this sum. She cannot only grant the ten crores but she can also ask the Provincial Governments to see that legislations are passed, not only passed but also translated into action by an administrative machinery. Then alone we will be able to come up to the level to which you expect us to come at the earliest possible time. If you are really sincere spend something on us in an organised way. No amount of sympathy will solve our problem; we want material sympathy. I want the Honourable Minister to come forward and accept this Resolution with the amendment.

Mr. Chairman: Amendment moved:

"That in the Resolution for the words 'at least one crore' the words 'a minimum of ten crores', be substituted."

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Saturday, the 29th November, 1947.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Saturday, 29th November, 1947.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

SUSPENSION OF QUESTION HOUR

Mr. Speaker: In view of the importance of the subject of today's motion and the desire of a large number of Honourable Members to participate in the debate a request has been made to me to suspend the Question Hour so that the House may get one more hour for discussion of the motion. The practice, as I said on the last occasion, has been that the Question Hour is suspended by me only if the House is unanimous on that—not that the Chair has not got the power otherwise, but generally the power is not exercised, if there is a single dissentient voice. It appeared to me that the request was a very reasonable one in view of the importance of the subject; and in view of the very small number of questions we are able to put through everyday the Question Hour may as well be suspended. Honourable Members should know that the effect of the suspension is that the questions will be treated as unstarred questions and will find a place, along with their answers, in the proceedings, so that there is not much of a loss by suspending the Question Hour. Are Honourable Members agreeable for the suspension?

Several Honourable Members: Yes, yes.

Mr. Speaker: Then the Question Hour is suspended.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: What will be the time-limit for speeches Sir?

Mr. Speaker: I thought I would mention that after the Honourable Minister has made his motion. So far as he is concerned I do not want to prescribe any time limit. Before I call upon the Honourable Minister to make his motion there are some formal motions to be made which we shall take up first.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS†

(a) ORAL ANSWERS.

EXPENDITURE AND NUMBER OF GENERAL HOSPITALS IN INDIA

407. ***Shri S. Nagappa:** Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the number of general Hospitals with the number of beds in each of the following categories of hospitals (i) tuberculosis hospitals (ii) ophthalmic hospitals (iii) maternity hospitals (iv) sanatoria and (v) mental hospitals throughout the Indian Union—province wise and State wise;

(b) the number of specialists in the different categories;

(c) the number of candidates that are sent abroad for specialisation in different medical subjects; and

(d) the amount of money spent on the training of each specialist?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) Attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the tables given on pages 41 and 43 of Volume I of the

†Answers to these questions laid on the table, the question hour having been dispensed with.

Report of the Health Survey and Development Committee, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House. The figures relate to India as a whole, excluding the Indian States, before partition. Particulars regarding the Indian States are not available.

(b) Accurate figures regarding the number of specialists in different categories are not available. A statement is laid on the table showing the membership of certain specialist Associations.

(c) A statement showing the number of candidates so far selected for study abroad in medical and allied subjects is laid on the table.

(d) The amount of expenditure varies in individual cases according to the duration of the course. Ordinarily a two years' course costs approximately Rs. 16,000 per student.

Statement showing the Membership of Certain Specialist Associations

ASSOCIATION	Membership
Association of Surgeons of India	339
Association of Physicians of India	140
Radiologists	150
Obstetricians & Gynaecologists	261 (Excluding Punjab).
Dermatologists and Venereologists	26 (this relates only to the province of Bombay).
Ophthalmologists	200
Specialists in mental diseases	52
<i>Leprosy</i>	
Number of doctors who have received special training in leprosy under the auspices of British Empire Leprosy Relief Association	1,121

Statement showing the number of students selected for study abroad in medical and allied Subjects.

Subject	Number of Candidates selected in each year								
	1945			1946			1947		
	Cen.	Prov.	States	Cen.	Prov.	States	Cen.	Prov.	States
Biochemistry	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Pharmacy	4	4	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
P. H. Engineering	2	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..
Medical Librarian	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
Medicine & its Branches	..	..	..	..	8	..	5	9	1
Public Health	..	..	..	1	3	..	..	1	..
Surgery	..	..	..	4	5	..	4	6	1

Subject	Number of candidates selected in each year.								
	1945			1946			1947		
	Cen.	Prov.	States	Cen.	Prov.	States	Cen.	Prov.	States
Obstetrics & Gynaecology and Maternity & child welfare.	..	..	..	2	5	..	7	1	1
Maternity & child welfare	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	3	..
Anatomy	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	..
Physiology	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Pathology	..	..	..	1	2	..	1	..	..
Pharmacology	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..
Industrial Health	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	2	..
Tuberculosis	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	1	..
Venereal Diseases	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	..	..
Ear, Nose & Throat	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..
Radiology	..	..	..	2	..	..	2	2	2
Anaesthesia	..	..	..	2	..	..	1	1	..
Epidemiology	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Orthopedics	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmology	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	..
Medical Statistics	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Psychiatry	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
Dentistry	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	3	..
Nutrition	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	6	..

PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES.

408 *Shri S. Nagappa: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state what percentage of the population of India can be looked after medically with the present technically trained medical staff?

(b) Is there any scheme under the contemplation of Government to reorganise present public health and medical services?

(c) If so, when do Government propose to give effect to the scheme and if not, why not?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) The Health Survey and Development Committee in their report submitted in 1945 calculated that there was one doctor for every 6300 persons in British India.

(b) and (c). The Health Survey and Development Committee made comprehensive recommendations for the reorganisation of the present medical and public health systems in India. The Provincial Governments have these recommendations in view while framing their post-war medical and public health

MANUFACTURE OF AEROPLANES IN INDIA.

409. ***Shri S. Nagappa:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state the number of aeroplanes owned by the Royal Indian Air Force?

(b) Have Government any scheme or proposal under contemplation for manufacturing aeroplanes in India?

(c) If so, when will it be given effect to?

(d) If not, why not?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) It would not be in the public interest to disclose this information.

(b) and (c). Arrangements have been made for the assembly and manufacture of Percival Prentice Elementary Trainer Aircraft by the Hindustan Aircraft Ltd. with the assistance of the Percival Aircraft Company, Ltd., England, but work will commence only when the proto-type which is now undergoing tests in England has been approved. In due course manufacture of other types of aircrafts will be undertaken.

(d) Does not arise.

LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY DUE TO COMMUNAL DISTURBANCES

410. ***Shri S. Nagappa:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the names of the places where communal disturbances broke out during the last 2 years?

(b) What is the estimated loss of property and life?

(c) How do Government propose to prevent such disturbances and safeguard the lives, property and honour of the people?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b). The information is not readily available and the special effort involved in collecting it will not be commensurate with the result achieved.

(c) Government are taking all appropriate steps.

BRITISH PERSONNEL IN SERVICE OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

411. ***Mr. R. K. Sidhwa:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state how many British personnel were in service of the Government of India upto the end of October 1947, giving separate figures for each Department?

(b) Is there any period of service agreed upon in the case of those who are still in service?

(c) If so, what are the conditions and period of their service?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) The number of British personnel in service on the 31st October 1947 under the Government of India (excluding the Armed Forces Personnel) is 2032. A statement giving separate figures for each Ministry is placed on the table of the House.

(b) and (c). The Government of India have guaranteed to all their employees including Europeans that they will be continued in service on the same conditions of service as before the Transfer of Power.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Number of British personnel in service under the Government of India on the 31st October 1947 (excluding Armed forces personnel).

Name of Ministry	No. of British personnel employed		
	Permanent	Contract for a specified period	Temporary
1. Ministry of Agriculture	23	2	2
2. Ministry of Commerce	10	5	4
3. Ministry of Communications	45	7	10
4. Ministry of Defence	209	22	135
5. Ministry of Education	1	3	2
6. Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations	395	6	296
7. Ministry of Finance	57	8	3
8. Ministry of Food	2	1	5
9. Ministry of Health	2	6	1
10. Ministry of Home Affairs	2	..	..
11. Ministry of Industry and Supply	7	7	93
12. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	..	2	11
13. Ministry of Labour	1	22	2
14. Ministry of Railways	562	2	10
15. Ministry of States	4	..	1
16. Ministry of Transport	24	..	7
17. Ministry of Works, Mines and Power	7	3	2
18. Cabinet Secretariat	..	..	1
Total	1,351	96	585
TOTAL	2,032		

UNAUTHORISED POSSESSION OF MODERN WEAPONS SURREPTITIOUSLY OBTAINED FROM BRITISH AND AMERICAN FORCES

412. ***Mr. R. K. Sidhwa:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the sources through which unauthorized, but most modern type of guns, rifles, ammunition, were obtained by some persons who have been responsible for using them during the recent disturbances in certain parts of India?

(b) Is it a fact that these modern weapons have been surreptitiously obtained from the American and British armed forces in India during and after the last War?

(c) What is the number of such weapons obtained from those forces?

(d) Do Government propose to make thorough searches for all such concealed weapons, in different parts of India?

(e) What is the number of such weapons found in the possession of unauthorized persons and confiscated?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b). As far as Government of India are aware illicit arms of modern type have been obtained from various sources including some members of the American and British forces operating in India during the war. But I regret any detailed disclosure of these sources would not be in the public interests.

(c) and (e). Special effort would be necessary to collect this information all over India and I do not consider that the time and labour involved would be justified by the utility of the information.

(d) If the Honourable Member has carefully followed Press reports he will realise that large scale searches are being made all over the country.

CLOSING OF SUPREME COMMAND HEAD QUARTERS

413. *Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence please state whether it is a fact that the Supreme Command Headquarters will be closed before the date originally fixed?

(b) If so, what is the date now fixed for its being closed?

(c) What are the reasons for closing this headquarters?

(d) What are the views of the Dominion of Pakistan in this matter?

(e) Is it a fact that the closing of this headquarters is the result of the disagreement between the Supreme Command and the Dominion of India?

(f) If not, what is the relationship which so far existed with regard to their functions between the Supreme Command and the Dominion of India?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 30th November, 1947.

(c) to (f). I would refer the Honourable Member to the Press Communique on this subject published on the 13th November, 1947.

BROADCASTING OF THE PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT NEWS BY B. B. C

414. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the facilities given by All-India Radio to B.B.C. authorities for broadcasting news of the Pakistan Government to foreign countries?

(b) Are Government aware that the B.B.C. has been using these facilities for doing anti-Indian propaganda?

(c) If the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what action Government of India propose to take in the matter?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

DIRECT COMMISSION IN THE I. A. O. C.

415. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether Government are aware that under Army Instruction (India) No. 23/S of 1947 fresh University Graduates are eligible for direct commission in the I.A.O.C.?

(b) Do Government propose to consider Ordnance Civilian Gazetted Officers' claims in this respect?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (b). Yes.

REGULAR COMMISSION FOR ORDNANCE CIVILIAN GAZETTED OFFICERS IN THE I.A.O.C.

416. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether Government are aware that in a recent press communique of the Government of India, it has been stated that owing to the

shortage of Indian Officers in the Army, some direct Regular Commissions will be granted to V.C.Os and also to Emergency Commissioned Officers who were graded in category VI and VII?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the cases of well-educated and technically experienced Ordnance Civilian Gazetted Officers of the I.A.O.C. also for such direct Commissions in the I.A.O.C.?

(c) In case it is not found possible to grant direct commissions, do Government propose to utilise their services in their present cadre on a permanent basis, or to find suitable posts in other departments for those not required in the I.A.O.C.?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). These suggestions will be considered.

DIVISION OF LOAN BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

417. *Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of Government loans of various denominations, in both the Dominions, India and Pakistan;

(b) how these loans will be divided between these two Dominions; and

(c) whether a holder of a loan in the Dominion of Pakistan can cash it or transact it in the Dominion of India and *vice versa*; if so, under what terms and conditions?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) The outstanding rupee loans on the 31st May, 1947, the latest date for which figures are available, amounted to Rs. 1,781 crores roundly.

(b) Under the Indian Independence (Rights, Property and Liabilities) Order, 1947, the liability for the outstanding loans of the late Central Government has been placed on the Indian Dominion subject to Pakistan making an equitable contribution. The amount of this contribution has not yet been determined.

(c) If the Honourable Member desires to know whether a Pakistan holder can transfer his holding to the Indian Dominion for drawing interest or encashment when the loan falls due, the answer is in the affirmative. Such transfers can be made at any time. Drawal of interest and encashment in Pakistan will need special arrangements with the Pakistan Government and it is therefore contemplated that the privilege should be limited to present holdings and any encashments transferred on or before the 31st December 1947. No transfers of encashments to Pakistan will be made after that date.

RADIO STATION FOR ANDHRA PROVINCE

418. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open a separate Radio Station for the Andhra Province; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to consider the advisability of opening the radio station in Rayalaseema (Ceded Districts) either at Guntakal or any other central place in Rayalaseema?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Station for Andhra area is proposed to be established at Bezawada on the recommendations of the Government of Madras.

SUBSIDY TO ORISSA FOR DEALING WITH LEPROSY

419. *Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state the number of cases of leprosy in the different Provinces of India?

(b) Are Government aware that out of every 70 cases, one belongs to Orissa?

(c) Do Government propose to give larger subsidies to Orissa for dealing with leprosy?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) Government have no information beyond what is stated on pages 186-188 of the Health Survey and Development Committee's Report, Vol. II.

(b) It is estimated that the number of people suffering from Leprosy in Orissa Province is about 120,000. The Special Committee on Leprosy appointed by the Central Advisory Board of Health in 1941 estimated that the total number of cases of leprosy in the whole of India was probably about one million.

(c) It should be possible for the expenditure on their anti-leprosy schemes to be adjusted by the Orissa Government from the Central Government's over all contribution towards their general development programmes.

RECOMMENDATION re CONTROL OF LEPROSY BY ALL INDIA LEPROSY WORKERS CONFERENCE HELD AT WARDHA

420. *Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the All-India Leprosy Workers' Conference at Wardha in their recommendation relating to the control of leprosy has stated that isolation is the only sure way of controlling leprosy and that agricultural or occupational colonies for lepers are the most suitable methods of applying isolation?

(b) What action Government propose to take in this direction?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) Government have not so far received the recommendations of the All India Leprosy Workers' Conference held at Wardha, but it is understood that one of the recommendations of that Conference is on the lines indicated by the Honourable Member in his question.

(b) Government propose to bring the recommendations of the Wardha Conference to the notice of the Provincial Governments, if and when received from the authorities of the Conference.

TRANSFER OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES FROM PAKISTAN TO INDIA

421. *Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state the expenditure incurred on transfer of Central Government employees from the Dominion of Pakistan to the Dominion of India?

(b) Have travelling allowance and other expenses of their families been paid to the employees? If so, how much?

(c) Does the total cost include the expenditure on travelling of their families?

(d) Do Government propose to pay their full salary from the date of their being relieved by the Dominion of Pakistan until their joining the service of the Dominion of India?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a), (b), (c) and (d). Staff of the Central Government serving in the Dominion of Pakistan and opting service in India are on transfer entitled to travelling allowance under the rules for themselves and their families. Such staff on transfer will also be entitled to joining time pay. In the circumstances in which evacuation from Pakistan has taken place it is not possible to say whether all India opted staff have drawn advances towards their travelling expenses. In some cases as personnel have been evacuated in Government transport the exact expenditure incurred on their account is not ascertainable. The exact figure of cost on account of the transfer or evacuation of Government personnel and their families is not

available and unlikely to be available for a considerable time even after the transfer of personnel is completed. The collection of the information will in the present circumstances involve time, labour and expense, which Government would like to avoid.

LOAN FROM INTER-NATIONAL BANK

422. *Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Inter-National Bank is chiefly concentrating on investments to be made for the speedy recovery of Europe;

(b) whether Government are aware that such preoccupation is likely to detract attention from the rehabilitation of the Far East and industrial expansion of India;

(c) whether the Government of India propose to press for proper help by the Bank to the countries of the East; and

(d) do Government propose to apply to the Inter-National Bank for a loan in order to implement many schemes of India's post-war reconstruction which require immediate investment for the good of the people of India?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) and (b). Under Article III Section I of the Articles of Agreement of the Bank for Reconstruction and Development the resources and facilities of the Bank shall be used exclusively for the benefit of members. The number of members of the Bank in the Far East is small compared with those in Europe; and, among the latter, a considerable number have made applications for loans, while, among the former, none has up to date. As the Bank can grant a loan only on application made by a member, and not *suo moto*, the present position can only be remedied by action on the part of the member-countries themselves. The Bank is, however, fully aware of the position and I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the Second Annual Report of the Bank, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House, where it is stated that it should not be very long before the financing of development projects in other areas, including Asia, will tend to become its primary concern.

(c) India's representatives on the Bank will use their best endeavours to ensure that, when applications from member-countries in the East are under examination, and consistent with the Rules and Regulations of the Bank, such requests for financial assistance are examined with sympathy.

(d) Government will consider this matter at the appropriate time as necessity arises.

EXPENDITURE re GUN CARRIAGE FACTORY, JUBBULPORE

423. *Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence please state:

(a) the articles manufactured in the Gun Carriage Factory, Jubbulpore during the period from 1st October 1946 to 1st October 1947;

(b) the total cost of maintaining the Establishment of the Gun Carriage Factory, Jubbulpore, during the above period; and

(c) the cost of production of the articles referred to in part (a) above with their market value?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a), (b) and (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

CIRCUIT HIGH COURT AT DELHI

424. *Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that great inconvenience is being caused to the people of Delhi on account of the location of the High Court of the East Punjab at a place like Simla;

(b) whether Government have considered the desirability of asking the Government of the East Punjab to make immediate arrangement for providing a Circuit High Court at Delhi; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to do so now?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) I appreciate that the location of the High Court at Simla has caused inconvenience to the litigants but I am sure Honourable Members realise as also the general public, that it is a comparatively minor part of the general dislocation and consequent manifold major inconveniences that have attended partition.

(b) and (c). The question of a Circuit High Court in Delhi has been engaging the attention of Government independent of the point made by the Honourable Member but it is obvious that a matter of this kind must await until conditions settle down.

RECOVERY OF UNLICENCED ARMS FROM MUSLIMS

425. *Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number and description of fire arms and other unlicenced arms and the quantity of ammunition that has been recovered during the last two months by police from the possession of Muslims in the province of Delhi;

(b) how many persons have been arrested and are being prosecuted in that connection; and

(c) why timely steps were not taken to prevent this accumulation of unauthorised arms?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b) 110 persons were arrested and 112 are being prosecuted.

(c) The accumulations appear to have been made over a long period when communal tension was at its highest and when the so-called coalition Government was in office. I am sure the Honourable Member will appreciate the difficulty of instituting large-scale searches under such conditions and without such searches it would have been impossible to unearth these accumulations. Moreover the Honourable Member must bear in mind the communal composition of the Police during this period.

Statement of Fire arms, ammunition, bombs, acid, lethal weapons etc., recovered with a very few exceptions from Muslims in September and October, 1947 in the Delhi Province

Description	Unauthorised
Guns D.B.B.L.	41
Shot Guns	10
Rifles	21
Pistols or Revolvers	32
Cartridges rifle	1950
Stengun Cartridges	243
Ammunition	3 boxes
Swords and Kirpans	63
Guptis (Sword sticks and gun sticks)	14
Mortars etc.	45
Bombs	154
Wireless Transmitter Sets	13
Petrol	Gallons 15
Kerosine Oil	" 14
Spears	32
Empty Cartridges	869
Khukhris	3
Mould for the preparation of cartridges	13
Sulphur	9 seer and 15 chhataks
Gun Powder	8 seers
Lead Shots	4 Maunds

DIVISION OF DELHI PROVINCE IN FOUR DISTRICTS

426. *Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government propose to divide the Delhi Province in four districts and appoint a separate I.C.S. Officer as District Magistrate and a separate Superintendent of Police for each such District for the maintenance of law and order?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The answer is in the negative.

SCHOLARS SENT TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

427. *Shri Jadubans Sahay: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state the number of scholars who have been sent by the Government of India to foreign countries for receiving training or higher Education during the period from January, 1946 to April 1947?

(b) What is their number province-wise and is there any disparity in selecting candidates from the Provinces?

(c) If so, what steps Government propose to take to create parity in selecting candidates from the Provinces?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) A statement showing the number of scholars sent by the Government of India to foreign countries during the period from January, 1946 to April, 1947, arranged province-wise, is placed on the table of the House.

(b) No, Sir. The Selection Board, Overseas Scholarships, selects Central scholars who are drawn from Provinces also on consideration of merit on an All-India competition basis, though attention is paid to the rights of minority communities in accordance with the communal ratio prescribed by the Ministry of Home Affairs for purposes of recruitment to services.

(c) For provincial scholarships for which selections are recommended by Provincial Governments, every province is allocated a definite quota in accordance with the requirements of the province and the question of disparity does not arise.

Statement showing the number of Scholars sent by the Government of India to foreign countries for Training or higher education during the period January, 1946 to April, 1947 and the Province (or State) to which they belong

S. No.	Province (or state)	Govt. of India Overseas Scholarships Scheme			Scheduled Castes Scholarships Scheme	Central States Scholarships Scheme	Scheme for promotion of Cultural contacts with China	Total for all Schemes
		Central	Provl.	Total				
1	Assam	3	5	8	Nil	Nil	Nil	8
2	Bengal	43	20	63	2	Nil	Nil	65
3	Bihar	2	7	9	Nil	Nil	Nil	9
4	Bombay	6	27	33	1	Nil	Nil	34
5	C.P. & Berar	2	14	16	Nil	Nil	Nil	16
6	Delhi	1	1	1	Nil	2	Nil	3
7	Madras	36	28	64	1	Nil	Nil	65
8	N.W.F.P.	2	1	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	3
9	Orissa	2	16	18	Nil	Nil	Nil	18
10	Punjab	26	29	55	1	Nil	Nil	56
11	U. P.	19	23	42	Nil	Nil	Nil	42
12	Sind	Nil	5	5	Nil	Nil	Nil	5
13	Cochin State	2	...	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	2
14	C. I. Agency	1	...	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
15	Hyderabad State	1	...	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
16	Indore State	1	...	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
17	Kashmere State	1	...	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
18	Jaipur State	1	...	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
19	Travancore State	7	...	7	Nil	Nil	Nil	7
20	Mysore State	16	...	16	Nil	Nil	Nil	16
TOTAL		172	175	347	5	2	Nil	354

MAINTENANCE OF AERODROMES CONSTRUCTED DURING WAR

428. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are being taken to keep in working order all the aerodromes and landing places which were constructed during the war, in view of the prevailing uncertain conditions of world security;

(b) what will be the maintenance cost of these places; and

(c) whether the Defence and the Communications Ministries of the Government of India have come to any agreement as to their respective shares in their maintenance?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) No, Sir. Only those aerodromes and landing grounds are maintained which are required by the Government of India in the post-war organisation.

(b) Expenditure incurred on the maintenance of airfields by the Defence Services is as follows:—

1946-47 Rs. 1,68,31,000
(actual)

1947-48 Rs. 99,68,000
(estimated)

Expenditure incurred on the maintenance of airfields transferred to the Director-General of Civil Aviation is as follows:—

1946-47 Not available.

1947-48 Rs. 23,00,000
(estimated)

(c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Defence has transferred to the Director-General of Civil Aviation such aerodromes and landing grounds constructed by the Defence Services during the war as were considered to be necessary for the implementation of post-war plans for the development of Civil-Aviation in India.

NILGRIS ANTIQUITIES IN THE MUSEUM FOR VULKERKUNDO, BERLIN.

429. *Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether Government are aware that there is an excellent collection of antiquities in the Museum for Vulkerkundo, Berlin, from the megaliths of the Nilgiris of South India?

(b) Can the Museum authorities at Stersinan Strasse, Berlin, be approached for information regarding literature or photographs about these?

(c) Are Government aware that the scholars in India working on this subject of megaliths are greatly handicapped for want of the above-mentioned literature or photographs?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) It is understood that there is or at least was a collection of antiquities from South India in the Museum for Volkerkundo at Berlin, but the character and extent of the material is not known.

(b) Government have under their consideration a proposal to depute a small delegation of experts to the United States of America, the United Kingdom and other countries of Europe to gather all information regarding the existence of antiquities and other material of cultural interest to India. If the proposal materialises the Berlin Museum will also be visited in due course.

(c) As megalithic material is very abundant in South India and Indian scholars working upon the subject are not seriously handicapped by the temporary absence of the information referred to.

TRAINING OF HOME GUARDS.

430. *Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether Government propose to train Home Guards on the lines on which Home Guards were trained in England during the War?

(b) If so, do Government propose to give full information regarding the scheme?

(c) What is the number of Home Guards proposed to be trained?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a), (b) and (c). Most of the Provincial Governments have already passed necessary legislation to raise and

train forces known as Home Guards to augment the police. The question of raising similar forces in the Centrally administered areas is under consideration. The question of raising an auxiliary force to serve as a second line of defence is being examined.

EXPANSION OF ARMED FORCES BY PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT.

431. *Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the decision of the Government of Pakistan to raise National Guards under the control of the Commander-in-Chief of the Pakistan Army?

(b) Are Government aware that this decision is tantamount to a breach of Agreement with the Government of India in so far as the Partition Council had agreed that during the period of reorganisation of the Army neither Dominion would directly or indirectly increase its Armed Forces?

(c) If the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what steps have Government taken to combat this open breach of the Agreement?

(d) Are Government aware of the danger to the safety of India if large scale militarisation of Pakistan is allowed to proceed unchecked in this manner?

(e) What measures, if any, have Government taken or propose to take to counteract this menace?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, but the Pakistan Government do not accept this contention.

(c) Government have made their own views known to the Pakistan Government.

(d) The Honourable Member will appreciate that it is not within the power of this Government to foster or restrict the scale of militarisation in Pakistan.

(e) Government have in view dangers which may arise. It will not be in the public interest to disclose further details.

RELEASE OF STERLING ASSETS.

432. *Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of the £35 million released to India under Clause 1, Article IV, of the Interim Agreement on Sterling Assets concluded between the Government of India and the British Government in August last, £15 million was spent between 15th July and 14th August of this year;

(b) whether the balance available to India up to the end of December this year would be only £20 million; and

(c) whether any portion of the working balance of £30 million under Article V of the Interim Agreement on Sterling Assets, would be available for normal commercial transactions, in view of the condition that the "balance may be drawn upon, from time to time, to meet any temporary shortage in India's available means of payment abroad"?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) and (b). It is not in the public interest to give current information relating to operations in the No. 1 Account.

(c) Yes.

INDIA'S POSITION IN "DOLLAR POOL".

433. *Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state what was the position of the Dollar Pool and India's

interest therein since the convertibility of sterling earned in current transactions came into force from 15th July?

(b) What was the position of India's Balance of Trade with the United States of America as well as other hard currency countries during the year 1946?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to my answer to question No. 270 given on the 25th November 1947, and to my Budget Speech.

(b) The balance of trade in merchandise between India and the United States of America and other countries is shown in the Accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of British India which are published every month. Copies of these are available in the library of the House. Statistics regarding India's balance of payments have been given in my Budget Speech.

TAXATION ENQUIRY COMMITTEE.

434. *Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of announcement made by the Minister of Finance, Government of India, in his Budget Speech in March, 1946, regarding the appointment of a Taxation Enquiry Committee to review the whole taxation system of the country and to make recommendations;

(b) whether this enquiry was postponed pending the constitutional developments;

(c) whether Government propose to appoint such a Committee in the near future; and

(d) whether Government propose to make such Committee a broad based one by including representatives of Indian commercial and Industrial interests as well as representatives of the Indian States?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). The appropriate time for the appointment of such a Committee will be after the financial provisions of the new constitution regarding allocation of the resources as between the Centre and the Provinces have been settled. At that time the suggestion of the Honourable Member given in part (d) will be borne in mind.

COINING OF INDIAN MONEY BY MEXICAN TREASURY.

435. *Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a press report stating that Mexican Treasury is going to undertake the coining of Indian money and if so, the reasons for assigning this work to the mints in Mexico?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The press report is without foundation.

ALLOTMENT RELEASED FROM STERLING BALANCE TO PAKISTAN.

436. *Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have agreed to spare Rs. 9 crores for the Government of Pakistan out of the total amount of Rs. 85 crores which Britain has agreed to release from the sterling balances;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Government of Pakistan's legitimate demand did not exceed Rs. 6 crores and that the Government of India had previously agreed to release Rs. 6 crores to Pakistan;

(c) the basis on which the allotment of the amount of Rs. 9 crores to the Government of Pakistan, has been agreed to; and

(d) the reasons for the Government of India agreeing to increase the amount from Rs. 6 crores to Rs. 9 crores?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a), (b), (c) and (d). The answer to all the parts of the question is in the negative. The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the release of sterling as a result of the recent Interim Agreement with His Majesty's Government and the distribution of the £. 65 million placed in the No. 1 Account. The sterling balances are the property of the Reserve Bank and any releases now obtained are shared between the two Dominions for the financing of their import trade. The two Dominions have agreed to follow the same import policy as was in existence before the partition. Under this procedure each Dominion issues its own import licences imported articles being devided for the purpose of allocating foreign exchange into three categories—(a) those for which there is no exchange restriction, otherwise known as "no-limit" items; (b) those for which a definite allocation of foreign exchange has been made, called "Limit" items; and (c) those for which no foreign exchange is available, the imports of which are totally excluded.

For (a) both Pakistan and India issue import licences freely. For (c) no licences are issued by either Dominion. As regards (b), it was decided by the Partition Council that India and Pakistan should issue licences after partition to the extent of Rs. 16 crores and Rs. 4 crores respectively. On a review of the position it was subsequently decided to increase India's allocation in this respect to Rs. 26 crores and Pakistan's allocation to Rs. 6½ crores for the period ending 31st December, 1947.

USE OF PLANES FOR OPERATIONS IN KASHMIR.

437. *Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state how many planes of the Indian Air Force and Royal Air Force and transport planes belonging to the Ministry of Defence were requisitioned and put into use by the Ministry of Defence for repelling the invasion of Kashmir by the raiders?

(b) How many planes of the Indian Air Force were in mechanically perfect condition for immediate use?

(c) Is it a fact that many of the fighters, bombers and transport planes were not in order?

(d) How many planes belong to the Civil aviation companies were requisitioned and put into use in Kashmir?

(e) What is the loss, if any, caused to the planes, Civil and Military, in the whole operation?

(f) What is the number of casualties of the air personnel, if any?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) to (f). It is not in the public interest to disclose the information asked for, but I would make it clear that no Royal Air Force aircraft have been used in the Kashmir operations.

PERMANENT COMMISSIONS TO I. E. C. O.'s.

438. *Pandit Hriday Nath Kunzru: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state what was the number of Indian Emergency Commissioned Officers who attended the camp which was held at Yole last summer?

(b) How many of them have been declared fit to be granted Permanent Commissions?

(c) How many of them will receive Permanent Commissions in the Indian Artillery, Signals, Engineers and Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers respectively?

(d) Is it a fact that many technical officers have left the Army during the last two years?

((e) Have Government taken any steps to persuade them to re-enter the Army?

(f) If so, how many of them have agreed to do so?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) 1783.

(b) The number selected for the Indian Army is 563.

(c) Royal Indian Artillery. 58.

Indian Signal Corps. 35.

Royal Indian Engineers. 24.

Indian Electrical & Mechanical Engineers. 10.

(d) No. not many.

(e) and (f). Government have announced that officers who took their release may again apply for re-commissioning in the Army.

DEMobilIZATION OF COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

439. *Shri S. Nagappa: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of King's Commissions, Emergency Commissions and Viceroy's Commissions that were granted during the last war;

(b) how many of those Commissioned officers have been demobilised;

(c) how many of such demobilised Commissioned officers have been provided with jobs; and

(d) what Government propose to do with regard to those who are not provided with jobs?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) King's Commissions to Indians

Emergency Commissions to Indians Nil.

Viceroy's Commissions 15,460

(b) Released up to 1st October 1947: Commissioned Officers: 34,500

V. C. Os. 6,070

(c) The information is not readily available. There are many ways in which employment has been found for demobilised officers and it will not be possible to answer this question fully without considerable labour and delay.

(d) Government have created an employment organisation to help demobilised officers in obtaining re-employment.

RECRUITMENT FOR ALL INDIA SERVICES.

440. *Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the system of recruitment in Government services in the Bombay Presidency?

(b) If so, do Government propose to evolve a similar scheme of recruitment for the All India Services?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) No.

(b) Yes. All such machines are of obsolete type and have been carefully inspected by technical experts. Before an armoured vehicle is disposed of, it is rendered useless under Military supervision.

(c) Government have seen many reports to this effect.

(d) Government are fully alive to the situation in Hyderabad.

FORMATION OF PAKISTAN NATIONAL GUARD UNDER ARMY CONTROL.

447. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Partition Council had agreed that during the reconstruction period none of the Dominions of India and Pakistan will increase its armed forces?

(b) If so, are Government aware of the recent Ordinance promulgated by the Governor-General of Pakistan, announcing the formation of the National Guard in Pakistan under the control of the Commander-in-Chief of the Pakistan Army?

(c) If the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what action do the Government of India intend to take in this connection?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) I would refer the Honourable Member to my answer to Starred Question No. 431 asked by Shri Deshbandhu Gupta a short while ago.

ELECTION TO CENTRAL BOARD OF EDUCATION

— آنریبل مولانا ابولکلام آزاد - جناب مجھے یہ تجویز پیش کرنی ہے —

وہ اس اسمبلی کو چاہئے کہ ایسے طریقے سے جیسے آنریبل سپیکر منظور کریں اپنی

تعداد میں سے پانچ شخصوں کے چناؤ کی کارروائی اختیار کرے یہ پانچ شخص

(Central Advisory Board of Education India) کے ممبر قرار پائیں گے اور

جس تاریخ کو انکا چناؤ ہوگا - اسی تاریخ سے انکی ممبری شروع ہوگی۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (Minister for Education): Sir I

move:

"That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the Speaker, five persons from among their own numbers to be members of the Central Advisory Board of Education in India with effect from the date of election"

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the Speaker, five persons from among their own numbers to be members of the Central Advisory Board of Education in India, with effect from the date of election."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform Honourable Members that for the purpose of election by means of the single transferable vote of members to the Central Advisory Board of Education the programme of dates will be as follows:—

(1) Nominations to be filled in the Notice Office upto 12 noon on Wednesday, the 3rd December.

(2) Election, if necessary, will be held on Saturday, the 6th December in the Assistant Secretary's room (No. 21) in the Council House between the hours of 10.30 A.M. and 1 P.M.

ELECTION TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR MINISTRY OF LAW

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the Assembly that upto 12 noon on Thursday, the 27th November, 1947, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Ministry of Law, five nominations were received. As the number of candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare the following members to be duly elected:—(1) Shri Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar, (2) Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand, (3) Dr. P. K. Sen. (4) Shrimati G. Durgabai, and (5) Mr. B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur.

INCOME-TAX AND BUSINESS PROFITS TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Minister for Finance): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, and the Business Profits Tax Act, 1947.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Income-tax Act 1922, and the Business Profits Tax Act, 1947."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

INDIAN ARMY AND THE INDIAN AIR FORCE (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh (Minister for Defence): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Indian Army Act, 1911 and the Indian Air Force Act, 1932, for certain purposes and to make certain consequential amendments to the Administrator General's Act 1913, be extended upto the opening day of the next session of the Assembly."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Indian Army Act, 1911 and the Indian Air Force Act, 1932, for certain purposes and to make certain consequential amendments to the Administrator General's Act 1913, be extended upto the opening day of the next session of the Assembly."

The motion was adopted.

MOTION RE RELIEF AND REHABILITATION OF REFUGEES

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy (Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the problem of the relief and rehabilitation of refugees be taken into consideration".

I am grateful for this opportunity to place before the house a picture of the refugee problem in so far as I am able to envisage it. The House, I am sure, will understand that the magnitude of the problem has been such that there has been no historical parallel to it. Nowhere in history has a transfer of population of such dimensions taken place in such a short time and under such conditions. The House will also realise that the Government was faced with this problem at a time when the administrative machinery was partly out of joint as a result of the Partition, and we had hardly settled down to the task of the governance of Free India. The problem that faced us in so far as refugees are concerned was not really one problem, but literally scores of problems each one having an importance and urgency of its own. I would like to tell the House of our shortcomings, of our frustrations and of our failures for which the blame is not entirely ours but must be shared in a large degree by

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) No.

NAMES AND CASTES OF SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS SENT ABROAD.

441. *Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state the names and castes of all persons who have received scholarships for studies abroad from the Government of India and the Provincial Governments for each year beginning from 1940 up to the present day?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: †The statements showing the required information are placed on the table of the House.

STATEMENT *re* SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED FOR STUDIES ABROAD.

442. *Shri Mohan Lal Saxena: Will the Honourable Minister of Education please lay a statement on the table of the House giving the names of those to whom over-seas scholarships have been awarded, the respective amounts of money, the duration of scholarship, and the place of study?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: †Statements showing the required information are placed on the table of the House.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST COMMANDER OF BOUNDARY FORCE.

443. *Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state who was in charge of the Boundary Force for the Indian Union when the partition was effected in the Punjab?

(b) Is the allegation that the European Chief of the Boundary Force for Indian Union did not care to protect the people of the Union living in the area of the Boundary correct?

(c) Is the allegation that the same Commander sided with the Pakistan troops to create disturbance in the Punjab correct?

(d) Is the allegation that the Dogra troops of the Union Boundary Force were removed from the Hindu localities in order to aid the Pakistan Boundary Force correct?

(e) Is it a fact that the Indian Forces left in Pakistan were disarmed in many places by orders of the Military Commander?

(f) Will Government be pleased to reveal the strength of the Military used by the Union for the Boundary Force?

(g) How was the Boundary line ascertained?

(h) What action Government have taken to demarcate the Boundary?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) The Punjab Bombay Force was under the control of the Supreme Commander and the Joint Defence Council representing both India and Pakistan. It was commanded by Major General T. W. Rees. Brig. Digambar Singh Brar was attached to him in an advisory capacity on behalf of India.

(b) to (e). No, Government are aware that there have been allegations of partiality against this Force, which had a very difficult task to perform. Government do not however consider that any investigation of these is now possible or of any real use.

(f) Approximately 16,000.

(g) and (h). I am afraid, the Honourable Member is under a misapprehension. There was no question of demarcating any Boundary in regard to this Force. The Punjab Boundary Force was formed as a special joint military com-

†Not printed in these Debates. A copy placed in the Library of the House.—*Ed. of D.*

mand to help the civil authorities in East and West Punjab in maintaining law and order in the disputed border districts of Sialkot, Gujranwala, Sheikhpura, Lyallpur, Montgomery, Lahore, Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Hoshiarpur, Jullundur, Ferozepore and Ludhiana.

STATES WITH AND WITHOUT RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENTS.

444. *Shri S. Nagappa: Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of States where there is full responsible Government; and
- (b) the number of States where there is no such responsible Government?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b). The information is not readily available. It is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

PURCHASE OF BRITISH WAR MATERIALS BY PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT.

445. *Shri Phool Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Pakistan Government are buying 50,000 Mark V Rifles from the Supreme Commander out of the surplus stocks of British War materials lying in India?

(b) Does any agreement exist between the Indian Union and the British Government regarding the disposal of such materials?

(c) If the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to lay on the table of the House a copy of the same?

(d) Are Government satisfied that the British Government are not violating the terms of the agreement?

(e) Are the Indian Government in need of Arms?

(f) What steps have Government so far taken to make good the deficiency?

(g) What steps Government propose to take to meet the menace from the Pakistan Government?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) No.

(b) There is no formal agreement but the British Government's stocks or stores in India which were not acquired by the old Government of India are intended to meet H.M.G.'s requirements outside India and Pakistan. They are therefore being shipped out under H.M.G.'s instructions.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

(e) No.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) Government are alive to the dangers from inside or outside the borders of India. It will not be in the public interest to disclose further details.

PURCHASE OF BRITISH WAR MATERIAL BY HYDERABAD STATE.

446. *Shri Phool Singh: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hyderabad State is purchasing 300 armoured Sherman tanks as scrap from the British war material stocks lying in India;

(b) have Government satisfied themselves that the machines represented as scrap in the Supreme Command are really so;

(c) are Government aware that the Hyderabad Government are fast increasing their Armed Forces and are arming the League National Guards; and

(d) what steps do Government propose to take to meet the menace from the Hyderabad State?

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Pakistan authorities, and, against the background of a bleak picture, of our modest achievements.

Today we have recovered over 4 million non-Muslims from West Pakistan. The M. E. O. started active operations on the 4th September and has evacuated so far by rail, by road transport and by foot convoy 25,83,000 persons. Some 5 lakhs had come out before 15th August and it is estimated that another 8 lakhs came out between 15th August and 4th September. It may be said that about five lakhs still remain to be evacuated, but no accurate figures are yet available, and this is a matter which is still the subject of investigation. Amongst those that remain to be evacuated about 50,000 are in N. W. F. P.

From Sind out of a total non-Muslim population of 13 to 14 lakhs, 2½ lakhs have already come out. We provided all available shipping to promote evacuation from Karachi. With the assistance of the Jodhpur Government we had arranged for Refugee Specials to be run from Hyderabad-Sind in addition to the scheduled trains.

In regard to the non-Muslim population still left behind in Pakistan, I would like to emphasise that there are three classes of persons, who have been engaging our serious attention. These are abducted women, persons forcibly converted to Islam and the Harijans.

In regard to abducted women, we have to depend on the active assistance of Military authorities, District authorities, women social workers and prominent persons of the locality concerned. Such activity must be organized on both sides of the border and must be complementary. A machinery for this purpose is already in operation and further proposals have been made to the Pakistan Government for the enlarging of such machinery, and in the light of the reports we are receiving I am hopeful of some co-operation.

The problem of the Harijans still remaining in Pakistan is engaging the earnest attention of the Government. The Government recognise that the economic position of this class of people is such that they could not themselves move in the matter of leaving Pakistan and getting over to India without special assistance. It also seems likely that the services that they have been rendering to the people in the area in which they are living would make the Pakistan authorities unwilling to assist in their evacuation. I can assure the House that everything that is possible for this Government to do in this connection will be done.

Broadly speaking, the question of Relief and Rehabilitation of refugees can be classified under the following heads: Reception to Refugees at the time of their arrival from Pakistan; Provision of adequate shelter; Provision of food; Provision of clothing; Medical Relief; Dispersal of Refugees; Resettlement of refugees in rural areas and finding employment for them; Settlement of urban refugees, not to speak of other ancillary problems that baffle classification.

I now turn to the question of affording relief to the Refugees and would at once admit that the magnitude of the task with which we were faced was such that it was impossible to achieve any high degree of perfection. I do not claim that the present arrangements are anywhere near being as good as I would like them to be. All I claim is that we and the East Punjab Government have put out our maximum effort. After making allowances for the disorganisation and disruption of governmental machinery in the affected areas and the abnormality of conditions under which the Government were working I feel that the East Punjab Government have done their best. The House will remember that the late rains and the consequent floods in the rivers considerably added to our difficulties. The refugees that were in transit and in some of the camps were badly exposed to the weather. The breakdown of communications over

the greater part of East Punjab hampered our work. We were and are still badly off in the matter of providing suitable arrangements for the reception of refugees at the time of their arrival from Pakistan. This defect is partly due to the fact that the ultimate destination of railway trains from Pakistan in East Punjab are determined by the Pakistan M. E. O. who are responsible for drawing up the programme for evacuation of Muslims from East Punjab into Pakistan. With the assistance of my esteemed colleague Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar and the collaboration of the East Punjab Government we are endeavouring to remedy our shortcomings in this matter.

The provision of adequate shelter for the incoming refugees is proving one of the most baffling of our problems. All available educational religious and charitable institutions were impressed into service for the accommodation of refugees. Surplus military barracks, wherever available, were utilised for this purpose. It is needless for me to add that a large proportion of refugees have found accommodation with friends and relatives. Tents that were available were, or are being, put out for this purpose to provide accommodation by some amount of squeezing to about 7 lakhs of persons. The present position is that there have been and now still are concentrations of refugees in East Punjab towns on the main railway line from Amritsar to Karnal. Accommodation is, however, still available in tehsil headquarter towns and other small towns in the interior of the districts. Attempts have been made to house refugees in such tehsil towns, but they have not always met with success as the refugees prefer not to move out of headquarter towns. Some of the refugees prefer to remain at the platforms of railway stations in the hope of being able to travel and reach the houses of their friends and relations living in other towns.

As soon as it became apparent that exchange of population between East and West Punjab had become inevitable and that many of the refugees entering India were coming in with nothing except the clothes that they had on, Government took immediate steps for securing blankets, quilts and such other warm clothing as were available in the market. Orders were placed for the supply of nearly 10 lacs of quilts and over 3 lacs blankets for free distribution amongst indigent refugees. Orders were also placed for the supply of 2½ lacs cotton-filled coats and 3½ lacs jerseys. About 1,25,000 lbs. of knitting wool has been issued to the Provincial Governments for distribution to the various voluntary committees and societies in their areas for knitting jerseys. This, it is expected, will enable Government to secure 6 lacs jerseys and *bandis* ready by the end of this month. Arrangements have also been made for the supply of about forty lacs yards of various kinds of cloth for the use of refugees. Ready-made garments such as shirts, shorts, trousers numbering about 20 lacs pieces have been obtained from the Director-General of Disposals and are being rushed to East Punjab for the use of refugees. A few thousand of blankets have been despatched to the Chief Liaison Officer, Lahore, for the relief of non-Muslim refugees in Sargodha and some other areas in West Punjab. Apart from the efforts of Government in the matter of obtaining clothing, large quantities of old and new ready-made garments, blankets, etc., are being received from all over India and abroad. In Delhi the Cloth Collecting Committee of the United Council of Relief and Welfare is collecting clothing and organizing knitting parties. Government have also waived the levy of customs duty on gift parcels received from abroad and also exempted such parcels from the payment of railway freight and postal charges.

Government in consultation with the East Punjab Government has prescribed a standard ration scale for refugees who are in camps. For the use of refugees in the Kurukshetra Camp Government is sending approximately 80 tons of atta per day. On account of the damage to Kharif crop, the food position of East Punjab has deteriorated considerably. In order to assist the

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Punjab Government in the matter of food the Central Government allotted 10,000 tons of food-grains in October, and 16,000 tons in November. These allotments are exclusive of the despatches to the refugee camp in Kurukshetra. On receipt of information that our refugees in some places in West Punjab were starving, government had on several occasions to rush food supplies to them by air or road. Splendid efforts on the part of Delhi public made it possible on three such occasions to fly several aeroplanes loaded with cooked food for the starving Hindus and Sikhs in different refugee camps in Pakistan.

Up to the 16th November, medical stores to the extent of over 76,000 lbs. have been supplied not only to East Punjab, Kurukshetra and Delhi but also to non-Muslim camps in West Punjab and Kashmir. Over 70 lacs doses of vaccines have been supplied to East Punjab. Thanks to the energetic steps taken by the Health Ministry, and the personal attention given to the matter by my colleague Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, there was no serious outbreak of any epidemic. As in other fields, here also voluntary organisations have been of immense help to Government. A large number of doctors and nurses have been provided by such organisations and they are doing splendid work in many parts of the country.

Immediate dispersal of refugees if not on the basis of resettlement, at least on the basis of temporary shelter and care, is our first object. On the 24th November, a Conference of Prime Ministers of a number of Provinces and representatives of a number of Indian States was convened and measures for the immediate provision of shelter in different parts of the country were discussed. I would be failing in an elementary duty if I do not acknowledge in this connection the splendid response of people all over India to our call for help to accommodate refugees which has been the most heartening feature in an otherwise tragic situation. We have decided on implementing almost immediately a programme of dispersal to various places such as Gwalior, Bharatpur, Kotah, Ratlam, Alwar, Indore, Bombay, Central Provinces, Bihar, Orissa and Madras. The pace of dispersal is, however, limited by the number of trains that are available for the purpose. I have requested the Ministry of States to investigate immediately the possibility of finding accommodation in Indian States in East Punjab. I am not satisfied that the accommodation available there has been fully taken advantage of. A conference of the Rulers of these States is likely to be held shortly to discuss this matter.

The natural desire of Punjabis not to move too far away from East Punjab, partly explains the congestion in East Punjab, and the influx of a very large number of persons in Delhi and in U. P. The stage has now been reached when dispersal must take place, if lives are to be saved during the next two or three months and any progress is to be made with the tasks of resettlement and rehabilitation.

There are several States which are prepared to absorb agriculturist refugees in their economy. While East Punjab is expected primarily to undertake the rehabilitation of refugees from West Punjab, men from N. W. F. P., Sind, Baluchistan and Bahawalpur State have no special place to go to. It has, therefore, been decided that accommodation in some of the States and Provinces outside East Punjab should, as far as possible, be reserved for refugees from N. W. F. P., Sind, Baluchistan and Bahawalpur. It is estimated that over one lakh persons will be absorbed by Provinces and States outside East Punjab, in addition to those that have already found refuge in those areas—and their number runs into several lakhs.

It is estimated that out of the 42 lakhs refugees arriving in India, about 30 to 32 lakhs will be from rural areas. They must be settled in villages so as to enable them to pursue the occupation they are accustomed to as agriculturists.

as agricultural labourers or as artisans. It has been decided that lands vacated by Muslims in East Punjab should be allotted to non-Muslim refugees for the period upto Rabi 1948. The allotment is to be made on a group basis. The Deputy Commissioners are, however, authorised to make a departure from this general rule in the case of gardens and well-irrigated lands. It has also been decided by the East Punjab Government that refugees arriving from certain districts in the West Punjab are to be allotted lands situated in particular districts in East Punjab, though it has not been possible to adhere to this scheme in all cases.

So far 20 lakh acres have been allotted to over two lakhs of families. It is obvious that agriculturists and village artisans who have been deprived of all that they possessed, will need assistance from Government in the matter of purchase of cattle, implements and seed. They will also require help for the repair of houses which have been left by the previous Muslim occupants in a dilapidated condition. For these purposes, Government would desire Provinces and States to advance loans to such people; and if the Provinces and States are unable to bear the financial burden, the Central Government will give them financial help. It is obvious that refugees who will settle down on land will stand in need of food for themselves and fodder for their bullocks till the next crop is harvested. It is our intention in such cases, to give free grants to refugees, and the Centre and the Provinces and States will share the financial burden. The East Punjab Government have already sanctioned the distribution of *taccavi* loans amounting to 1,57,50,000 rupees. Of these, Rs. 32½ lakhs is for the purchase of bullocks, Rs. 25 lakhs for the repair of houses and Rs. 50 lakhs for the purchase of fodder.

One of the principal problems in the settlement of evacuees, particularly in rural areas, is that the occupational structure of the groups of evacuees is largely dissimilar between the non-Muslim evacuees who have come in and the Muslim evacuees who have left the area. I would like to observe in this connection that it might be necessary to make skilled artisans give up their hereditary craft and take to something new because of the fact that there are already in the areas in which they are to be settled quite a large number of skilled artisans plying the craft with which the refugee is familiar. As an example, I would like to tell the House that in the East Punjab while the carpenters are generally non-Muslims, the blacksmiths were by and large Muslims. The position in East Punjab is that there are a large number of carpenters available and more have come in from West Punjab, while the blacksmiths who were Muslims have migrated, and there are few non-Muslim refugee blacksmiths to take their place. It is really a question of either training non-Muslims in the blacksmith's craft or making some non-Muslim carpenters take to blacksmithy.

On account of inadequacy of staff, rehabilitation in rural areas has not proceeded according to plan. Instances have come to our notice where the permanent inhabitants of East Punjab took possession of more land than they were entitled to. Instances are not also lacking where refugees have taken possession of land in more than one District. These are some of the difficulties which are but inevitable, in dealing with a problem of this magnitude.

Government are faced with the problem of rehabilitation of about 12 to 15 lakhs of people from urban areas belonging to all sections of the community. It is obvious that existing towns in East Punjab are incapable of absorbing this large number of urban population from West Punjab. With a view to accommodating refugees, steps have been taken to carry out repairs to houses and Bungalows which were damaged. It has also been decided that allotment of residential accommodation will be made only to those who have come from urban areas in West Punjab. It is estimated that there will be about 5½ lakhs

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of non-Muslim urban refugees for whom no accommodation is immediately available. These refugees will have to remain under canvas and in refugee camps for a longer period than others, until arrangements are made to absorb them in urban areas. In this context, schemes such as urban redevelopment of large cities, building of new capital for the East Punjab are being examined. We have addressed all Provincial Governments and Indian States to consider immediately and report on the possibilities of suburban development in the vicinity of large towns and cities all over India. We have also requested certain States to give priorities to refugees in the matter of exploitation of business opportunities created from the evacuation of Muslims from those States.

According to an Ordinance promulgated in Delhi, a refugee must register himself within a specified period from the date of his arrival in Delhi. So far 2,64,000 refugees have thus been registered. The registration work in the East Punjab will commence shortly. While registration and tabulation results will take time to complete, plans for rehabilitation have not been held up on that account.

The registration of refugees at Delhi has revealed that there are a large number of highly educated, qualified and experienced refugees, suitable for being placed in employment all over the country. The task of bringing the talented refugees together and providing Central and Provincial Boards to find them employment throughout the country, is now engaging the attention of the Ministry, and we propose to accept the offer of help that has come from the Tata organisation in this connection.

Employment Exchanges have been opened in Delhi and Simla. Exchanges have also been opened in East Punjab and West U. P. at places where large concentration of refugees has occurred. A large number of refugees have already been registered by the Exchanges and many of them have secured employment. A Transfer Bureau has been opened by the Ministry of Home Affairs and instruction issued to all Ministries that vacancies should not be filled until it has been ascertained that suitable candidates cannot be supplied by the Transfer Bureau. Up to the middle of November, over 8 thousand refugees secured employment under the Government of India and in certain Provinces.

I would like to draw the attention of the House to one feature running through all the schemes that I have dealt with above. That is, the plans that have been devised are largely in the nature of *ad hoc* plans and some of them have a short-term validity. The question of the refugee rehabilitation must be dove-tailed into a bigger all-India plan of reconstruction. For the time being my Ministry has to concentrate on the immediate needs of the situation, but we have not lost sight of the fact that a permanent settlement of this issue will only be possible as a part of an all-India plan of Reconstruction and development.

Training of semi-skilled and skilled persons is of the utmost importance in any programme of rehabilitation. The programme of industrial development requires that supply of trained man-power should be substantial. With this object in view it has been arranged that over 4 thousand men will be immediately trained in Labour Ministry centre for ex-Servicemen in a number of technical and vocational trades. Large stocks of goods available in the Disposals Directorate have been frozen with the idea of utilising them for rehabilitation of refugees. The stocks cover equipment required for 27 different trades.

Government has sanctioned an advance of a sum upto Rs 300/- to an individual in order to facilitate resettlement. These loans are meant for traders, businessmen, artisans, persons wishing to set up their own workshops or

cottage industry. This scheme will be brought into operation almost immediately in the Centrally administered areas. The Central Government will be prepared to render financial assistance to any Province or administration which decides to adopt a similar scheme with such modifications as it may consider necessary.

A scheme for granting loans to students and trainees abroad whose guardians are no longer in a position to finance them, has been sanctioned. An extension of the scheme to students in India is also under consideration. For helping big industry and business, proposals to have a Rehabilitation and Financial Corporation are under consideration in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India.

In order to provide facilities for refugees coming from Pakistan who have been unable to transfer their savings bank accounts to Post Offices in India, it has been decided to allow withdrawals from postal savings Banks in respect of investments made prior to 14th August, under certain conditions.

The payment of advances to Central Government Civil pensioners who have come as refugees from Pakistan has been authorised. Indian military pensioners have also been permitted to draw pensions subject to certain conditions.

All the various schemes of rehabilitation may help in mitigating the hardships to which refugees have been subjected, but there is no denying the fact that these are merely palliatives. Many of these refugees who were in affluent circumstances have been reduced to a state of penury. It is inconceivable that they will contentedly settle down to a standard of life which is far below that to which they have been accustomed in the past. The Government will undoubtedly try to do their best to salvage as much as possible of the assets left behind by such people in Pakistan. But there is a limiting factor to Government's efforts in this direction; and that is that full and hearty co-operation on the part of Pakistan Government cannot be taken for granted.

Now, let me turn to some of the ancillary activities of the Ministry. We have an Information Bureau, which despite difficulties, defects and short-comings is now organised to render good service. We have a Fact Finding Organization which is collecting authentic details of difficulties and hardships which non-Muslims in Pakistan had to endure. A large number of cases have been investigated and a number of witnesses have been examined. We have an organization for registration of property claims. An Enquiries and Search Service working under the Indian Red Cross Society and St. John's Ambulance Unit, is beginning to produce useful results.

We have a Custodian of Evacuee's Property in Delhi. There have been many complaints about the functioning of this organisation. I am aware of these complaints. The personnel running this organization might not be all as it ought to be. The fact has, however, to be borne in mind that the task of this Organization is of some magnitude and the very nature of its work is bound to give cause for complaints. Applicants for residential and other accommodation number several times the units available. A large residue of discontent cannot thus be avoided under the most perfectly conceived management. While I recognize the genuineness of some of the complaints, I would like to emphasize that complaints as such cannot be eliminated when we are faced with a simple but none the less inexorable economic factor of a state of short supply in the face of a large demand.

Sir, no account of the activities of the Ministry will be complete without special mention of the Women's Section. All activities pertaining to women and children amongst refugees are now the special concern of the Women's Section, which is in charge of Mrs. Rameshwari Nehru as Honorary Director, who is not likely to spare either time or effort to start Homes for unattended

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women and children, place orphan children in Foster Homes, and take every measure for securing rehabilitation of these classes of persons. The organization is already busy working on these problems.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru (U. P.: General): May I know whether the rehabilitation of women and children is going on in Delhi or in East Punjab?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Primarily in Delhi but the influence of this organisation is likely to pervade the whole of the East Punjab. As a matter of fact, certain schemes of the East Punjab in this context are already under the consideration of our Ministry.

I cannot pass on without a reference to the work of the United Council of Relief and Welfare and the bodies affiliated to it. The bringing together all these various voluntary bodies has been mainly the work of Her Excellency Lady Mountbatten. Apart from this, she has personally rendered great service in the cause of refugees, and assisted the Ministry in many ways for which she deserves the gratitude of the country. Some of the prominent bodies affiliated to this Council deserve mention. They are the Indian Red Cross Society, St. John Ambulance Unit, Friends' Service Unit, Marwari Relief Society and National Christian Council. In addition to these bodies, the Ramakrishna Mission has been doing useful work at the Kurukshetra Camp.

The Congress workers have brought into being another organisation styled the Central Relief Committee, which under the inspiring leadership of its President, Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani has rendered very useful service by organising certain camps in Delhi, besides looking after the reception arrangements of refugees arriving in Delhi.

Assistance has come from all quarters and in many shapes. I am very thankful for the useful suggestions I have received from individual members of this House and from individual refugees themselves. I cannot adequately express my gratitude to the Advisory Committee attached to my Ministry for the valuable help I am continuously receiving from them.

Sir, I have tried in a small compass to give the House a glimpse of the nature of the problems and an account of what has been done. Much has to be done still. As I have said before, the response of the country has been magnificent so far but the final and satisfactory solution of the problems created by this huge transfer of population can only be arrived at by the nation's representatives exercising a diligent and continued interest in the matter. I am aware that there have been criticisms of the Ministry. I welcome all criticisms. I do hope that this debate will reveal to the Ministry the wishes of the House in the shape of concrete suggestions, so that the Ministry can go forward to the bigger and more serious task ahead with the assurance that it has the House behind it and through it, the confidence of the nation.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the problem of the relief and rehabilitation of refugees be taken into consideration".

I have already referred to the time limit for the speeches—10 minutes ordinarily, which may be extended to 15, in case the Honourable Member is giving useful information or suggestions.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya (Madras: General): May I request you to arrange the Mike in such a manner that the speaker standing behind it will face the whole House. One of the mikes may be placed there (pointing to a place below the dias) as in the Constituent Assembly.

Several Honourable Members: No, no.

Mr. Speaker: The convention here is, has always been and should be that every speaker scrupulously addresses the Chair, and of course, the Chamber is so constructed that wherever he stands he will be facing the House practically.

Diwan Chaman Lall (East Punjab: General): The House is grateful to my Honourable friend and colleague, Mr. Neogy, for the bird's eye view of the problem facing the refugees of the Punjab, which he has placed before the House. He has told the House of the work done by the Ministry; He has told the House quite rightly of the great efforts made by individuals and organisations, by the States and the Provinces, as regards the solution of the problem of rehabilitation and relief of the refugees. I hope he will not misunderstand me when I say that he has prepared an inventory of the activities of the Ministry in regard to the refugee problem, and as he has said quite rightly, that it is a colossal problem. The words he used were: "It is unprecedented in the history of the world". But 'colossal' as it is, my Honourable friend will pardon me if I suggest that there is a great deal yet to be done before we congratulate ourselves on having arrived anywhere near a solution of this problem. I probably am the only refugee, may I say the only genuine refugee in this House, and as such I have a claim to the attention of the House in regard to the problems which have faced us day in and day out.

Let me to begin with, Mr. Speaker, congratulate the Head of this Government, the Prime Minister, for the deep attention, care and anxiety that he has always shown in the matter of the refugee problem. As soon as the disaster was upon us, he took it upon himself to visit the Punjab, not once, but frequently. Immediately after the 15th of August, he visited Ambala, Amritsar and Lahore and thereafter on many an occasion he went to see for himself what the problem was like and attempted to bring some measure of relief and comfort and succour to those who have been the victims of this great disaster. Not only did he show a tenderness of heart, but with his characteristic leonine courage he tackled the problem and he asked my friend, Mr. Neogy, to take charge of this Ministry, which he created for this special purpose. Not content with this, when he saw how colossal the problem was, he asked one of the most able administrators that this country knows, one of the finest administrators that this country has ever known—I refer to Mr. Gopalaswami Ayyangar—to take charge, of the Ministry without Portfolio. I take it, I do not quite know what exactly the designation means, but I take it that in this terrible disaster facing the East Punjab Government which had neither files, nor office, nor staff at any rate to meet this great need; it was found by the Prime Minister that it was necessary that there should be a Minister at the Centre; who might co-ordinate the activities of the East Punjab Government with the activities of the Central Government. It is to his credit, Mr. Speaker, that he has soon after taking charge of this Portfolio set up an organization for the rapid evacuation of the refugees who still remained in Western Punjab and the colossal figures pointed out by my Honourable friend, Mr. Neogy, in regard to the evacuation and the methodical manner in which that evacuation was taken charge of with the assistance of my Honourable friend in charge of the Defence Department, bears testimony to the ability, the experience and the courage with which he undertook this problem. Today it is stated that there may be possibly 5 lakh refugees still left in Western Punjab.

Now, Sir, I will not proceed with my speech without making a reference also to the Great Man, who is now rightly known as 'the Father of the Nation'—Mahatma Gandhi—for the great and keen interest that he has consistently displayed in the refugee problem and the guidance and advice that he has always given us for the good of this nation.

Having said all this, we must realize that the problem is not so easy as it seems after hearing the speech of my Honourable friend. I do not want

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Honourable members to go away with the impression that everything possible that can be done has been done for the refugees. My Honourable friend said so, but the difficulties that face the refugees—I only wish my Honourable friend had referred in detail to those difficulties—are colossal and whether they can be tackled in this manner without proper co-ordination between the two Governments, whether it can be tackled without a plan is a matter not for me to decide; but it is quite patent that unless and until we can take full powers in our hands at the Centre to deal with this problem, this problem will never be satisfactorily settled to the refugees who came away from West Punjab. Take the question, Mr. Speaker, of the figures alone. We have been given different sets of figures, in regard to the numbers of refugees who have come away. I ask how is it possible for any Government to rehabilitate these refugees unless you are aware at least of the approximate numbers of these refugees? It is for this reason that we asked the Prime Minister, and he very rightly consented, that he should appoint an Advisory Committee attached to the Office of my Honourable friend, Mr. Neogy, and I am very grateful to Mr. Neogy for the references that he has made to the work of this Advisory Committee. We also suggested to the Prime Minister that he should introduce, as far as this area is concerned, an ordinance for the purpose of compulsory registration of every refugee. Unless and until you compulsorily register every refugee, you will not be in a position to know what type of refugee has come away, and if you are not in a position to know what type of refugee he is, you will certainly not be in a position to rehabilitate him. We have been begging the East Punjab Government for the last 2½ months asking them to do what has been done very efficiently in Delhi. Within a period between the 14th of October and the 31st of October this little organization set going by my Honourable friend for the compulsory registration of every refugee, was able to register one lakh ten thousand refugees, within a period of a few days and that organization, Mr. Speaker, you will be amazed to know, consisting of 19 experts from Bombay and 12 experts lent by the Government of India—31 experts—have today practically completed the registration of all the refugees, numbering practically 300,000. If all this could be done in Delhi within a few days at the Centre, why could it not be done equally efficiently by the East Punjab Government, so that we could know exactly what is the type of refugee who has come away, instead of merely guessing that urban refugees are more than rural refugees, and therefore stating that we shall not be able to rehabilitate them in East Punjab.

Now I submit, Sir, that if we look at the figures we find, for instance, that in the Lahore Division the Hindus and Sikhs who have come away are about 24½ lakhs, from the Rawalpindi Division about 6½ lakhs and from the Multan Division about 10½ lakhs. Taking out the figures of Gurdaspur and Amritsar this gives us a total of about 37 lakhs. This is the figure according to the census reports. We have not got the figures according to the actual facts as evidenced by this exodus; We would have had the figures if the registration had been compulsory. To this day we are being told that the registration to be done in East Punjab will not be compulsory but on a voluntary basis. I do not know what that means. If you are going voluntarily to register these refugees you have still got to have some sort of organisation for that purpose; and if you are going to have an organisation why not have that organisation for compulsory registration? It may not cost anything much more. Now out of these 37 lakh refugees—and in this figure is included the refugees from the Frontier Province and Baluchistan—what have we got on the other side? How many people have gone out of East Punjab as compared with the numbers who have come into East Punjab? The figure totalled up according to the census reports is not less than 53 lakhs; 53 lakhs have gone, accord-

ing to the census figures, out of East Punjab and the Delhi area into West Pakistan.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar (Minister without Portfolio): Including the States.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Yes, including the Punjab States.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Sir, may I correct my Honourable friend? He does not suggest that all the 53 lakhs have actually gone out yet? That is the figure which had to go out if the evacuation was complete.

Diwan Chaman Lall: I speak subject to correction. I quite see that these are the figures that had to go out. Can my Honourable friend say how many have still not gone out? Have Government got any figures to that effect? Let me inform my Honourable friend that out of seven lakhs in Kapurthala State and Patiala State there is not a single Muslim who remains there; they have all gone out of these States. It may be that there are certain pockets in East Punjab and a certain number of Muslims who have not gone out. I hope they will not go out; I am one of those who do not believe in this compulsory and forcible exodus of our own nationals. But let me see how many remain. It may be possible—of course it is just guess work—that out of 53 lakhs there will be 3 lakhs. That is a figure which I hope my Honourable friend will accept.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I hope to be able to give some figures when I speak.

Diwan Chaman Lall: My Honourable friend will accept this argument that many more Muslims have gone out of East Punjab than Hindus and Sikhs who have come in from West Punjab into East Punjab. My figure is this, that even if you take it at 50 lakhs there is a very large difference between the two. Mian Iftikharuddin, speaking at Lahore a few days ago, put it at 20 lakhs; I put it at 15 lakhs. Let us take it that it is 15 lakhs. Then why, I ask, has this policy been adopted by the East Punjab Government of asking the Punjabis to get out of East Punjab? The Punjabis have no doubt been ruined; the Hindus and Sikhs of West Punjab have been ruined. But why try to ruin them further by scattering them all over the country, instead of letting them settle down in this land of the Punjab? What is the idea of scattering them all over and saying to the world, "We have not got room in East Punjab for these people", when actually 15 lakh more Muslims have gone out of East Punjab and in whose place the Hindus and Sikhs can be accommodated? Why is it that Government are so eager and so keen that there should be this second exodus after the first exodus that has taken place and that there should be a dispersal of the Punjabi race to the four winds of the world? I submit that this is the problem that my Honourable friend will have to face and face it with the East Punjab Government. It is said that a large number of refugees have come in who are of the urban type. Actually the figure as given by my Honourable friend is 5½ lakhs. It is quite possible that the figure is much higher according to the statistics that have been given to us. There are at least three lakh urban families that have to be provided for, which means nearly 15 lakh people if you take a family unit at five which it is as far as the Punjab is concerned. Now where are you going to provide them? My Honourable friend would like to turn a carpenter into a blacksmith. I should like him to give us an idea as to what this Government's plans are for the rehabilitation of these urban refugees from West Punjab. Why is it not possible for Government to try thinking in terms of building a new series of towns and townships where these people will be housed and where they can lead a corporate life? Take the case of Rawalpindi; if the Rawalpindi people can be settled in one new town built for this particular purpose, their own social

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and homogeneous life will continue. The same is true of every city. I see no reason, then, why Government should not think in these terms rather than the easier term which is to disperse them wherever anybody is willing to have them, whether in the Indian States or whether from here right down to Madras. It must be realised, Sir, that the Punjabi is used to a particular type of life and a particular type of climate; and it will not be possible for the Punjabi to go and settle down in any large numbers in a place where his language is not known, where his food is not the same and where the climate is not the climate to which he is used. Therefore it is a problem which has to be faced not in terms of ten crores, not in terms of 25 crores but in terms of hundreds of crores. If really Government are anxious to rehabilitate and build the life of the Punjab refugee there are many things that can be done. For instance, we must realise that there is great need at the present moment of thinking in terms of a big plan; my Honourable friend referred to it. Yes, that is the only manner in which we can do the right thing to the Punjab refugees. We see today hundreds and thousands of them lying on railway platforms not because they are anxious to catch trains but because there is no arrangement made for them. And I am glad that my Honourable friend paid this tribute to Lady Mountbatten. I think it was her interest which brought about the necessity of turning Kurukshetra into a camp run by government. I suggest that every relief camp and refugee camp and transit camp should be taken over by the Central Government. You have in the Punjab today an administration which has broken down, not through the fault of our administrators but because of the exigencies of the circumstances. You have got one Minister running the portfolios of nearly three Ministers and running all sorts of departments. It is impossible for these Ministers running all these important departments to pay any attention to the problem of rehabilitating these refugees. It is necessary that the Central Government should take over all this task and not only be responsible financially as they eventually will be—but to take over the execution of the administration of this particular problem in order that they may be able to build a new country for those of us who have lost the country which belonged to our ancestors. I suggest that there are a few things that they can do. Take the case of properties.

Huge properties have been left, the other side and practically lost. May I suggest to the Government that they may take this matter up with the Pakistan Government and settle it on a Government to Government basis, meanwhile allowing exchanges and sales of property—hundreds of crores worth of property. This matter can be settled by the Government taking it in hand and making an assessment of the value of the property left in Pakistan and an assessment of the value of the property left this side. This is an urgent and important problem.

Take the case of the problem of relief of refugees. It is no use dumping these refugees as if they were bags of ordure to be carted from one dump heap to another. It must be done on a proper scientifically systematised basis, and it can only be done, because of the difficulties in East Punjab, by the Central Government. I give credit to my Honourable friend's department and officers. They are doing a grand job of work. But it is necessary to expand this department, and I suggest that my Honourable friend may set up a Board which may be in charge not only of the finance for relief and rehabilitation but have the power to execute whatever decisions are arrived at, consisting of a Minister from East Punjab, my Honourable friend, Mr. Gopalaswami Ayyangar and a few others here may be appointed on this Board so that from day to day this problem of the refugees, their relief and rehabilitation remains before the country and before the Government, and proper plans evolved for the purpose of giving them adequate relief.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Mr. Speaker, today we are to discuss the refugees and the refugee problem. At the outset I take objection to that word 'refugee'. It is an abominable word. The people that come to us in India in a helpless state from West Punjab are not refugees. They are natives of this country, born of the soil, brought up in the midst of surroundings in which we grew. They have title and a right to live in these portions of the country. It is not as if they are strangers, coming to seek refuge and shelter at your hands. I would therefore like to warn the Government to avoid the word 'refugee' and not hurt the sense of self-respect of those who have come here and I may say many of them have objected to that denomination.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyaya (West Bengal: General): What do you suggest?

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: I would call them *pravasis* or evacuees. A *pravasi* is one who is exiled, and they have been either voluntarily or involuntarily exiled and if my phraseology is not adequate, I would like you to consult a dictionary!

But the word used carries with it a tinge of inferiority and humiliation and that must be removed. The other day in the course of the answers to a question on 'Refugees' I put a supplementary question and asked whether the Government had any scheme of building a town at Kurukshetra. I believe the answer was in the negative.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I said the matter was under consideration. But personally I was not very hopeful of the practical possibility.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Yes, there was a tinge of pessimism about it. That is what lingered in my mind.

I have gone to Kurukshetra. There were 150,000 people when I went and I was informed that another 50,000 were expected. There were tents to accommodate only 20,000 people. They were not tents but apologies for tents—two sheets of cloth on either side, with the front and back open, furnishing hardly any shelter against the growing cold. I do not blame the Government. The Government has to readjust itself to the requirements of an emergency for which it was not prepared, although it should have been able to foresee these things, having once assented to the partition of the country.

On close examination I found that what was ailing the people was not the absence of protection against the cold—and certainly not food, because there was no complaint against food. And when one person complained against food, ten persons pounced upon him and said, 'You should not say that. There is adequate food'. That was indeed gratifying to hear. But it is the note of despair and despondency, the feeling of helplessness, and of irritation, and the feeling of revengefulness that was visible in the people there that drew my attention. If you mentioned anything about work, they got wild and rose like a cobra on its tail. 'What do you mean? We are not going to work. You have destroyed us. You have divided the country against our will. Who asked you to divide the country?' And then they began to make wild gestures as if they would, if only they could see the persons responsible for the partition, assail them physically. This feeling of irritation, this feeling of wild revengefulness, was their only animating feature. Of course, there was good excuse for that kind of feeling in their state of helplessness, exposure to cold, want of blankets and of other conveniences.

I was told that there were 2,700 blankets there and they were to be assigned to the inhabitants on a medical certificate. There were nineteen doctors, and each of them had to be approached by the people there. It was a very good arrangement. I do not object to it although it was somewhat departmental. But in the end there were not enough blankets and when I enquired here I was

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told that samples of blankets sent to the Supply Department were under examination on the sixteenth day of despatch.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Who gave this information to the Honourable Member?

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: If you want the name of the person I will find out and write to you. But I shall be glad to be assured that there was no delay in the Supply Department in the purchase of blankets. I shall be more than gratified if you can assure me of that. These things have to be done as if in war time—quickly, and without regard to the economies of peace time. Time is the essence of relief and people exposed to cold are apt to catch pneumonia and die. That is the real difficulty. But what struck me in Kurukshetra was that a beautiful city could be erected, and you know the urban population, as my Honourable friend, the earlier speaker has stated, is finding it difficult to be provided with suitable means of accommodation and settlement. The urban population can only be accommodated and easily accommodated in an urban area, and to bring them to Delhi or to Lucknow or any other place would be to congest places already crowded and to introduce an element of competition which is most undesirable. The best thing is to build a town. They will feed themselves. What do we all do in the city? We feed upon one another. That may look extravagant, when so stated, that may be even comic looking, but that is a fact. I am a doctor, I treat a patient. I have a legal case I go to the lawyer and give him a fee. The lawyer goes to the teacher: the teacher goes to the printer: the printer goes to the publishers: the publishers pay the manufacturers of machines: the manufacturers pay the sellers of galvanised sheets: and so on.

Thus it is an economy which circulates and which rotates and it would be the best economy if the money is conserved within the area. That is the kind of economy which we are trying to establish in the village economy scheme, and therefore I say that the best thing is that once you start the construction of a town each man will get some occupation. All that the Government has to do is to provide the necessary money and the material.

I think we are spending some thing like a couple of lakhs or 3 lakhs a day. You are spending a crore a month and in a year twelve crores. With this money you can build four towns easily and there nearly two million people can be accommodated. Of course I am not an expert. I am not an engineer. I am not an architect. Perhaps I am only a little bit of a mason, a carpenter, a smith, a weaver and perhaps a good spinner. But the fact is that the suggestions that are made by laymen should be examined by Government with some care. There are three tubewells in Kurukshetra which give abundant water supply. There is a beautiful tank which is traceable to the time of the Pandavas and it would provide a lovely scenery to the new town. I do not swear by Kurukshetra. Anyway, as my Honourable friend Diwan Chaman Lal has said, bring into existence some towns.

I do not want to emphasise other points, as I have not the time, but I want to invite pointed attention to this one suggestion.

Mr. Speaker: Mrs. Sucheta Kripalani.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani (U. P. : General): Sir, I would prefer to speak in the afternoon.

Mr. Speaker: Preferences are not given to speakers. Whosoever is called upon to speak must address the House at the time, otherwise the Honourable Member would lose the opportunity to speak.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: Sir, I have heard very carefully the case placed before the House by the Honourable Mr. Neogy and I do appreciate the work that has been done by the Government in bringing out people from the Punjab and the N.-W.F.P. Though much has been done, a great deal remains to be done, particularly with regard to the rescue of abducted women. I myself have not much personal knowledge about the rescue of these women but I have heard from people who have been doing rescue work in the Punjab and other places that that all is being done is not enough. For instance about 300 women were rescued from Sheikpura and taken to a place called Sheritpura but no trace of these women can be found. We have brought them out from West Punjab but have not succeeded in restoring them to their homes.

Another instance that was given to me was that in Sheikpura there used to be a women's section in the Camp. Under the orders of the Deputy Commissioner it was decided that this section should be shifted to the women's camp in Amritsar proper. When these women were brought over to the women's camp in Amritsar only old women and children were found but young women could not be traced. What I want to emphasise is that not only our women are having a bad time in the West Punjab but when they are brought over here no proper arrangements exist to give them the protection they need.

I have heard of other cases also. In the Gujranwala camp an old Sikh leader who was running the camp had to organise special guards to protect the women there. Not only are there difficulties in rescuing women but there are difficulties of protecting them after rescue. Government should take care to see that after women are rescued they do not fall into bad hands. I am told on very reliable authority that there is a very heavy traffic in women going on in the Punjab. Therefore I suggest that after women are brought over here they should be registered and should only be handed over to reliable organisations or reliable persons who would look after them. In this connection I am glad to learn that a women's department has been opened in the Secretariat. I hope the department will work quickly. I know that there are considerable difficulties in the way but camps should be started as early as possible, so that the women rescued are not ruined for ever and lost to society.

There is another difficulty. Many of these abducted women, even when our parties go to rescue them, do not wish to come, because they feel that they have no place in Hindu society. They feel that their lives have been almost ruined and that they would rather continue where they are than return back. I believe these women can be brought back provided the Government can give them an assurance that they would be the charge of the Government and that the Government would give them all the necessary protection and look after them, if their families are not prepared to take them back. In Bengal too we had like difficulties but as the number was very small, and we were able to manage the thing privately and induced the original families to take back the women. Here however the number is very large and some more appropriate measures will be necessary. I do not know if Mr. Neogy can give us an idea of the number of abducted women. I do not know if this aspect of the rescue work has been realised. As a matter of fact I myself had not realised that women were being harassed like this after they came to our own country. I can give more instances but I do not like to take more time of the House on this one item.

As regards evacuation in general I congratulate the Government for the work that they have done but at the same time I think there is lack of co-ordination and a great deal of confusion. Trains are sent to all kinds of places without any previous arrangement for the reception of the evacuees. As a matter of fact sometimes trains start without knowing where they are going. For instance, I got a telephone message yesterday from Ambala to the effect that the refugees boarded the train under the impression that they were being taken to Rohtak and Karnal while actually they were taken only to Ambala and were asked to

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get out there. 5,000 people who were to go to Rohtak and Karnal had then to lie on the platforms without food or shelter. The relief workers had a very bad time of it: they were able to look after them with very great difficulty. Another train which was supposed to go to Gurdaspur also came to Ambala. I do not know if Ambala is on the route to Gurdaspur from West Punjab. There are other similar instances. Not only does this create confusion but it adds to the very great misery already existing.

Again people from the West Punjab as also refugees from Delhi have been sent to other places without knowing what sort of reception they would get at the other end. We are told that the U.P. could take no more refugees. I know for a fact that a refugee train had to go to the U.P. without any previous intimation to the U.P. Government. I have heard of one instance in which a train started from Abdullapur. It was a goods train and the doors were closed. When it came to Kalanaur station and the doors of the train were opened it was found that the wagons contained refugees and not goods! What miseries and sufferings the poor refugees would have undergone in the goods wagons could easily be imagined. A few of them had died in the wagons. Such things are happening, not because the Government does not wish to help them but there is a lack of co-ordination between the departments. I had to suffer myself in Delhi during the days of the riots. Government passed orders that no more refugees were to come to Delhi. In the Emergency Council our President told me that my troubles were at an end and that I had not to bother about reception at Delhi. For a day or two I thought that I had got some relief but soon refugees were pouring in at the rate of three to four thousands per day. Daily refugee trains were coming into Delhi. So you can very well realise that there is enough scope for better co-ordination in this work. The Government must see that proper reception arrangements are made for the refugees.

As regards reception too I would like to point out the magnitude of the work that is before us. For instance in Ambala there are 40,000 refugees in the camp—there are about 20,000 outside the camp, 10,000 at the station and another 10,000 here and there. The refugees in the camp are given their rations and clothes, whereas the refugees outside the camp do not get either their food rations or clothes. How are these people to go on? We have similar cases in Delhi also. We did not have adequate reception arrangements and we did not get any food for the people whom we had to feed outside the camp and the amount of confusion and human misery that was caused to the refugees as a consequence can easily be imagined.

About relief itself I want to point out one or two things. I know much is being done but something more can be done. Accommodation is the biggest problem in any refugee work. I understand that there are a very large number of military barracks, most of which are not in use. There are lots of barracks in East Punjab, round about Delhi area, in the U.P. and also in Bombay and several other places, where the refugee problem is very great. But these barracks are not available for the accommodation of the refugees and I do not know for what reason. For instance, in Bombay, where I was recently, I saw the Worli Barracks, which can easily accommodate 20,000, whereas the refugees were lying on the roads and at the docks living in the most inhuman and miserable condition. Here in Delhi too we had very great difficulty with regard to accommodation, though I was fortunate enough to secure military barracks through the kind help of the Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh. But I would like to point out one or two small things here. Sardar Baldev Singh very kindly gave me an order that I could get 1,000 military tents and although three months have passed up to this day I have got only 50 tents. Then I saw I could not get any more. I therefore hired whatever tents I could from the Delhi shops for which I had to pay a few thousand rupees. It was a waste of

money, but there was no other course. I feel that the Defence Department should be very willing to give these barracks. They are available. But for some reason or another we are not getting them, and the consequence is that people have to suffer. Many of them are being dismantled when there is terrible housing shortage. I do not know for what reason they are being dismantled. If all the Departments put their heads together we can still create greater facilities to do the work.

There is another point about relief and that is food. We usually give food only in the camps. I can only quote from my own experience of the arrangements in Delhi. In Delhi we have about 20 thousand refugees in camps. The rests are in houses. All of them are not rich and more than 50 per cent of them require help in some form or another. We are not giving them any help with regard to rations. It is a tremendous task, I know, and there can be lot of corruption, but we must set up some machinery by which we can give help to these people also. As it is the refugees in the houses, are not getting any help.

The same thing can be said with regard to the distribution of clothing and quilts. In Delhi, whatever we get from the Government we distribute in the camps and whatever we get from private organisations we distribute to refugees who are not living in the camps. It is a tremendous task and we cannot get through it merely through private help. I would like the Ministry to consider this point of the need for helping refugees who are not living inside the camps.

Regarding rehabilitation I am very glad to learn from the Honourable Minister that they have decided to give loans to the refugees. I remember more than a month back I went to the Honourable Minister in this connection. We were trying to settle some refugees in the rural areas of Delhi and give them some lands. But the condition that the Custodian of Evacuee Property imposed was that if the refugees had enough money and resources to get ploughs and the other necessary implements, then alone the lands could be given to them. But as they were destitutes they could not do so. We did not also have any resources and so I approached the Honourable Minister, Mr. Neogy, for loans. At that time he said that he could not take up the matter. Now I am glad to find that they are in a position to give loans, though I do not know whether they have actually started giving loans or not. Hundreds of people flock to me everyday asking for loans. The people who have come from the Punjab are not people who like to go and beg; they are very self-respecting and self-reliant and anxious to do something by themselves. But because our rehabilitation measures are taking such a long time they are not getting the opportunity to establish themselves.

In this connection I would like to suggest that for the rural people to whom we wish to give loans we can start new settlements and co-operative societies, and through the help of these societies they can get land and start working. We have got an opportunity for reconstruction. Mr. Neogy just now said that our rehabilitation plan should be dove-tailed with the all-India reconstruction plan. If we are planning to start a new society for these people why not do it on a new basis? If you eliminate exploitation and the middleman in this matter it will be a very great work done. It will be a very great experiment for which we have a golden opportunity today, and I would ask the Ministry to think over it and institute measures by which we can start new societies on this basis.

For cottage industries also we can proceed by establishing small co-operatives. I have myself started a very small experiment in one of the villages of Delhi where we are taking up 10 cottage crafts. We shall see how we succeed. The result of our experiment will of course be before the Ministry.

Somebody mentioned that a new town should be brought into existence. I quite agree with him because if this large urban population that is coming in cur

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hand is not settled soon there will be too much discontent and the entire problem will be so complicated that we won't be able to meet the problem. I took a census of the refugees coming to Delhi. 70 per cent of them are small or big traders. It is very difficult to settle them because all these traders will not find enough work in East Punjab or in Delhi. Therefore, if we want to give them an opportunity to live, new towns have got to come into existence. Even this can be done on a co-operative basis. We could have finance corporations and these finance corporations can produce enough funds to give them an opportunity to work.

Housing also is a very big problem. Something was said about the work of the Delhi Custodian of Evacuee Property. As I am a member of the Advisory Committee of the Custodian I know how difficult is his task. The best of men would get lot of blame even if he tried to do the work as fairly as possible. But I would say that the work is not being done as it should be. I do not wish to go into the details of the difficulties that face the work, but the difficulties that they have had to face in connection with this work can be minimised. Other Members of the Advisory Committee may be able to tell you—some of them are Members of this House—that some of us have stopped going to the Advisory Committee meetings because we feel it is useless to go there. Our advice is accepted only on paper; it is never given effect to. I feel that the greater the time we take in doing this work the greater will be the corruption and other evils that will creep in. If we had finished allocation of the houses within a month the work could have been done easily. But unfortunately there is too much red-tapism and too much of the official method of working with the result that nothing is quickly done. What is happening is that as we are taking more and more time, houses are being forcibly occupied. When a house is already forcibly occupied it is very difficult to oust the man. You can oust him only if you can give him alternative accommodation. As we have not got so much accommodation, the houses are now more or less occupied by people as they want. Sometimes people who have strength are able to occupy two houses: the man occupies one house and the other is occupied in the name of his brother. Houses are being occupied in this chaotic fashion and not kept vacant. In the meantime we are doing all the work on paper. By the time our paper work is completed I am quite confident that occupation of houses in Delhi would have been over.

Sir, as I have reached my time limit I do not wish to say more. I hope the Ministry will consider the several points made by me.

Shri K. M. Munshi (Bombay: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also join in the chorus of congratulations offered to the Honourable the Minister in charge of the refugee problem for having done the best that could possibly be done under the circumstances. But I only want to make a point which is perhaps to my mind the most important and without which I am sure his best efforts are not going to succeed to the extent to which they should. The Honourable Minister himself has said the refugee problem is a matter of all-India importance. It has come as a great calamity. It is an emergency almost as great as the war. Why, may I ask, has not the refugee problem been taken over as a Central subject for all purposes? I am not quite familiar from personal knowledge about the East Punjab situation and I would not like to rely upon hear-say evidence that has been coming to me from time to time, but I would like him to give an answer to the questions which I propose to put to him. Is the East Punjab Government in such a position as to handle locally the refugee problem in East Punjab? Has its machinery been set up in such an efficient manner that it can tackle all the very vital problems which deal with refugees and rehabilitation? Is it not a fact that complaints after complaints are being heard even in Delhi with regard to the complete lack of efficiency

so far as the East Punjab Government is concerned? I am saying this subject to correction. Is it not a fact that in the Kurukshetra Camp, which is intended for 2 lakhs of refugees, the East Punjab Government has sent more than 3 lakhs of refugees, making it impossible for the camp to function in an efficient manner? I further ask him to enquire and let the House know whether refugees are not being dumped in East Punjab in villages and left to shift for themselves. I do not blame the East Punjab Government. It is a new government. It has not got yet in its stride. It has not yet set up a complete machinery of government, and to leave such an important and vital problem as of the refugees to such a machinery is, if, Sir, you will excuse me, almost a sin. This can only be tackled at the high level of the Government of India and with all the resources of men and materials at its disposal. Is it not possible, Sir, may I ask, for this government to make the refugee problem a Central subject both for legislation and administration, not merely in East Punjab but in the whole country? I think it is a very vital question. It is all very well for the moment, with all the resources at the command of the Government of India to have brought back so many lakhs of people: but their rehabilitation will create problems of a very wide character which no provincial government can every hope to settle. For instance we are now only concerned with their housing problem, with their food problem: very soon their economic problem will stare the country in the face: the social and moral problem of their being absorbed in new surroundings will be a problem which simply cannot be tackled by any provincial government. Therefore, I would again request the government to consider seriously whether the whole problem, including rehabilitation, should not be taken over by the Centre. I may give an instance of my own personal knowledge so far as Bombay is concerned. Sir, I do not want to criticize any provincial government; they are all doing their best. But the consciousness which exists in Delhi that the refugee problem is an all-India problem of the most vital importance generally has not penetrated into the provincial capitals, and the result very often is that the refugees are left to shift for themselves and to make their own arrangements. Sir, I may give a few instances. In Bombay about 5 or 6 months ago a camp was opened for Sindhi refugees at a place called Chimur. Curiously enough for 5 days there were no ration cards issued to them. They had applied but some local machinery somewhere was creaking and the result was that there were no ration cards and they had to do with whatever little neighbours could supply. Ultimately Ministers were approached, a Minister visited it and then things were straightened out. But had there been a Government of India officer sitting there in Bombay to look after the Sindhi refugees' needs, he could have immediately walked up to the Prime Minister and these difficulties would not have arisen. A small officer of the Bombay Government who is looking after refugees naturally finds it very difficult to have that weight and that influence which would enable the official machinery to move faster or at least move fast enough to save a lot of inconvenience. Another thing of which I know is that the refugees who have come to Bombay are not needy refugees. They are what we call upper middle class people, business men in a large way, men with money, landed proprietors who have got means. They for the last six months are going from place to place trying to acquire a few hundred acres in the suburb of Bombay where they can put up a large suburb in order to house themselves in a comfortable manner. Sir, they just go about like an ordinary purchaser. If they want to approach a Government department, they have got to approach at the lowest possible level and the result has been that purchases take a long time. Here is money, here are men prepared to put up a large amount of money and there is any amount of space outside Bandra even in Greater Bombay which the Bombay Government could easily acquire and make available for them. I do not say there is no will to do it. The only question is Govern-

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ment machinery moves just in the same red-tapist manner as if an ordinary purchaser trying to acquire land for himself. This is a very unfortunate state of affairs and therefore unless the Government of India takes it up as a Central subject, this difficulty will continue. Sir, during the days when the war began I remember that a very large property belonging to a school was acquired by the Government of India. I happened to be a trustee. In about half an hour's time the Government of India had a deal with me and within 48 hours we vacated and gave possession of it. I wish something of this kind might be done by the Government of India. The Government of India alone can do it. The provincial government, as I said, cannot possibly do it and therefore the only appeal that I make to the Honourable Minister is though he has done his best, the best requires to be bettered still and that better can only be achieved if through out the whole of India the refugee problem is made a Central subject at any rate if the Government of India representatives are in each province to look after the needs of these refugees. That is all I have to submit, Sir.

Shri Khurshed Lal (U.P. : General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no doubt that the problem which is before the House today is one of immense importance and great complexity, and the only reason why I have ventured to take part in this debate is that I come from a district namely Dehra Dun, which outside Eastern Punjab has one of the biggest concentrations of our refugee friends from West Punjab and the North-West Frontier Province. My district, along with the neighbouring district of Saharanpur which includes the town of Hardwar, has got a refugee population of about a lakh. Sir, my honourable friend Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya objected to the use of the word 'refugee' I can assure him that this word is as much disliked by those to whom it is applied as it is by my honourable friend here. The reason, Sir, is that the word 'refugee' implies as if they were some foreigners, some aliens who have come to our land to take shelter, and they resent this word for this reason. I think, Sir, the correct attitude to look at this problem is that they are people who till yesterday belonged to our own country, sharing in the fight for freedom with us, and who have been driven from their hearth and home simply because they belonged to a part of the country which had to be torn asunder so that India may be free. They have paid the real price for freedom and they have suffered for it, and it is time that we tried to share this burden with them and did not leave it to them alone to pay the price of freedom.

Sir, it was about the month of March or April that bands of refugees began to arrive in my District. That was after the happenings in the Districts of Rawalpindi and Hazara. So even before the 15th of August, their number had swelled; they had come in great numbers and actually the towns of Dehra Dun, Mussorie and Hardwar had a far larger number of refugees than we should possibly accommodate. My District is the smallest in the Province; we have no trade and no industry; Hardwar is important only as a centre of pilgrimage. These refugees could not find any occupation there and throughout the long summer months nothing was done for them. They simply drifted with the result that they grew more and more desperate every day.

Sir, the complexion of the whole problem changed after the 15th of August, because after that date it did not remain a question of a portion of the Hindu or Sikh population of this or that District shifting here or there, but of the entire Hindu and Sikh population of the Western Punjab moving over to the East Punjab or the western districts of U.P. Sir, all credit is due to the Government of India for the great organisation and the remarkable manner in which this large exodus of population, unprecedented perhaps in human history, was accomplished. In about three months time, Sir, over four million

people have been brought from the Western Punjab to the Eastern Punjab and the great amount of organisation and all the details that had to be worked out can only be imagined. The very fact that this vast migration was accomplished at a time when there was civil strife, floods and other disorders, is itself a great tribute to the Government of India; that was done without leaving behind it any trail of large epidemics like cholera, malaria or typhoid, speaks volumes for the organisation which was set up.

Having said that, Sir, I must say that in the matter of evacuation there was not that amount of co-ordination between the various Provincial Governments, and the Central Government and the Provincial Governments, which should have been there. Mrs. Sucheta Kripalani referred to one incident at Kalanour railway station. Sir, that incident was not the only one of its kind. The United Provinces Government passed an order prohibiting the incoming of refugees from Eastern Punjab to the United Provinces; for I all know, there was ample justification for that order. But after that order, one would have expected that no more refugees would arrive in the U. P. and that some control or check would be initiated to prevent their coming in. But, Sir, the fact is that one day there were as many as seven trains arriving at Kalanour station containing thousands and thousands of refugees. They were left there on the station platform with only the sky over their heads; they could not go forward, they could not go backward; and they did not know what to do. Sir, after all the sufferings, horrors and trials which these people from the Western Punjab had experienced, an incident like this should definitely have been avoided. Even now, Sir, I understand that refugees are still coming to Kalanour; there is a sort of check at Jagadhri, the last station in the Eastern Punjab on the U.P. border. And what happens at that station. Some official is supposed to check all the passengers who arrive by trains. Day before yesterday a train arrived at Delhi 18 hours late; one of the factors which contributed to its late arrival was that it had to wait 12 hours at Jagadhri for the pleasure of that officer to come and check. And that checking, Sir, is such a farce; after the checking is done practically nobody is excluded and they all come to the United Provinces.

In a way, Sir, the problem of evacuation is now practically over and there is not much use discussing its shortcomings. As I have already said, in spite of shortcomings a great task has been truly achieved. Now the question is, what next? The more important question is rehabilitation. Up till now, quite rightly, the energies of the Government were devoted to bringing out our brothers and sisters whose very lives were in danger in the Western Punjab; but now we have to settle them down. The winter is now upon us. In the Eastern Punjab even now there are thousands and thousands of men and women lying on the railway stations—men and women who have no shelter or accommodation. I submit, Sir, that we have got to see that in this cold weather—during the next two or three days—everybody is put under some sort of roof. The Eastern Punjab Government have done well in closing down all schools and colleges and accommodating in them refugees. I submit we have to go beyond that; there should be a rationing of accommodation and people should be billeted in houses. During the last war in European countries soldiers were billeted in houses with families. Where is the reason that people now having big houses and having more accommodation than they need, should not part with it and share it with the refugees? I submit this is a problem which brooks of no delay; immediate steps should be taken to provide at least shelter and food to all those who are now left under the sky.

Thereafter, Sir, comes the question of permanent rehabilitation. We are told that there would be about three lakhs of agriculturist refugees who cannot find a place in the Eastern Punjab and that they have to be accommodated somewhere else. If we look at the problem it is not a problem which

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ought to be difficult of solution. My own Province, the United Provinces, has got over a lakh of villages. Sir, India before partition had about seven lakhs of villages and even now I think we have got about five lakhs. If we could organise with the help of the vast Congress organisation, all the District Congress Committees, the Mandal Congress Committees and the Village Congress Committees, and persuade them to arrange to take at least one family in each village, and to adopt that family and provide it with the land needed by it, the whole problem could be solved quite satisfactorily. Instead of one village even groups of five villages could take one family. The question requires tackling on an all-India basis and putting drive and energy into it.

The more difficult problem is that of the urban refugees. They have been entirely uprooted. Among them are businessmen, professional men, lawyers, doctors, teachers and others. They have lost all they had. They cannot find another occupation and are going about from pillar to post getting more and more desperate every day. Sir, they have lost huge properties in the Western Punjab. I do not know, Sir, as to how matters stand with the Pakistan Government so far as any compensation to these people is concerned; I believe it may be possible to get some compensation for them. Why is it that they alone should pay the price of liberty? After all they have been turned out from there because India had to be free. Therefore, why is it that we should all not share the privations and hardships together? I would suggest that if it were possible, there should be a *per capita* levy on the whole of the country, so that these people could be compensated to the extent to which they have lost. I suggest that an estimate should be made of the money and property that they have lost there and some part of it, one-fourth, one-fifth or one-sixth, with an upper limit should be advanced to them for the present against the compensation they get some day, so that they may at least make a start in life. Something has got to be done.

I understand that in the U.P. our Prime Minister has got a scheme to set up a new industrial city some where between Lucknow and Kanpur, and let the refugees develop it. I suggest, Sir, that not one city but any number of cities which can be set up in this manner should be set up and more important than that, something which can be done easier and earlier is the development of our small towns and of their suburbs where these people can be accommodated.

Sir, I know that the Government would do all that it can for our friends from the Western Punjab who have come here, but there is another aspect of this problem to which I wish to draw the attention of the Government. During the last three months, my district and the district of Saharanpur have been the scenes of violent disturbances. The reactions of happenings in the Punjab have been there and the result has been that some thousands of our Muslim citizens have been displaced from their homes. Their houses have either been burnt or looted. They are our citizens and speaking for my district and the district of Saharanpur, I say they have a particular claim on our sympathies because they were the people who voted for the Congress during the last elections and we won our seats against the Muslim League. When we are thinking of rehabilitation, when we are thinking of affording relief, let us not forget these people who have suffered, may be as a reaction for the happenings in the Western Punjab but for no fault of theirs. They have suffered, Sir, for the fault of those who preached the hymn of hate and violence. I hope, Sir, when the Honourable Minister thinks of rehabilitation and relief, he will also bear in mind people who have been displaced in this manner.

श्री० देशबन्धु गुप्ता : जनाब सदर, मैंने इससे पहले की गई तकरीरों को बहुत गौर से सुना। मुझे अफसोस है कि अब तक इस मसले की नजाकत का सही अन्दाजा नहीं किया जा रहा है। जो तजवीज मेरे एक दो लायक दोस्तों ने रखी है उससे जाहिर होता है कि उनके ख्याल में यह मसला इतना आसान है कि ईस्ट पंजाब के गवर्नमेंट के बजाय अगर सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट उसे बराह रास्त अपने हाथ में ले लेगी तो जादू की छड़ी से वह मसला हल हो जायगा। हकीकत यह है कि यह मसला इतना संगीन है, इतना नाजुक है कि चाहे सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट हो चाहे कोई प्राविन्शियल गवर्नमेंट हो इसे इतमीनान बक्श तरीके पर हल नहीं कर सकती। जरूरत आज इस बात की नहीं है कि आप पंजाब गवर्नमेंट के बजाय सारा काम सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट के हाथ में दे दें और एक नया झगडा सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट और पंजाब गवर्नमेंट के बीच खड़ा कर दिया जाय। जरूरत इस बात की है कि आज सेंटर और प्राविंस के दम्यानि को-ऑर्डिनेशन (Co-ordination) हो। और आज पंजाब गवर्नमेंट की जो खामियां हैं, रिसोर्सेज (resources) की जो कमी है, तजुबों की जो कमी है, उनको पूरा करने की कोशिश की जाय। आज यह कह देने से कि पंजाब गवर्नमेंट के वजीर नालायक हैं पंजाब गवर्नमेंट कमजोरी का सुबूत दे रही है पंजाब गवर्नमेंट को जो कुछ करना चाहिये था नहीं किया और समझलें कि हमारा कर्तव्य पूरा हो गया तो मैं समझता हूं कि हम न केवल पंजाब गवर्नमेंट के साथ बेइन्साफी करेंगे अपितु इस मसले को हल करने में कोई सहायता नहीं देंगे। मेरी राय में इस प्रकार का क्रिटिसिज्म (criticism) करने का वक्त चला गया। आज देखना यह है कि हमें आगे क्या करना चाहिये। मैं उस काम के लिये जो मेरे लायक दोस्त मि० नियोगी व मि० गोपाल स्वामी आयरंगर और दूसरे भाइयों ने जो इस महकमे से बाबस्ता है किया है उसकी तारीफ करता हूं लेकिन अगर गौर से देखा जाय तो क्या वह लोग कह सकते हैं या कोई और कह सकता है कि सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट ने दिल्ली में जहां के लिये वह डाईरेक्टली (directly) जिम्मेदार थी जिस तरीके से काम किया है वह ऐसा था कि जिससे हर शख्स को इतमीनान हो।

मैं समझता हूं कि उस बात का सही अंदाजा करने के लिये हमें रिफ्यूजीज (refugees) की जो हालत यहां है उसे देखना पड़ेगा। अगर आप चांदनी चौक में चले जाय जो यहां का सब से बड़ा बाजार है, तो आप देखेंगे कि बाजार के बीच में चार-चार पांच-पांच कतारें ऐसी होती हैं जहां रिफ्यूजीज छोटी छोटी दुकानें लगाए बैठे हैं। यह लोग सुबह चार बजे आते हैं और इनमें जमीन के एक एक फुट के टुकड़ों पर झगडा होता है यह शाम तक वहां छावड़ी लगाकर सामान बेचते हैं। बदइतजामी की यह हालत है कि चांदनी चौक में आज "अंडा दो-दो आने" की आवाजें हमारे कानों में आती रहती हैं। यही हालत कनाटप्लेस की है।

मैं पूछता हूं कि क्या इस तीन महीनों के असें में सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट ने इस मसले का हल सोचा, और क्या इस के मुखतलिफ पहलुओं पर गौर किया। जो शरणार्थी हैं, इतने

[श्री देशबन्धु गुप्ता]

मुसीबत जदा होने के बावजूद फिर भी मांग कर नहीं खाना चाहते और अपने हाथ से कमाकर खाना चाहते हैं क्या उनको यहां काम मिला। या इन दो लाख ८५ हजार शरणार्थियों की जिनके नाम रजिस्टर हो चुके हैं आजीविका की समस्या को हल करने की कोशिश की गई। अगर सरकार हिंद अभी तक इनकी समस्या का कोई हल नहीं कर सकी और सोच कर कोई कन्सट्रक्टिव (Constructive) तजवीज नहीं कर सकी तो ईस्टर्न पंजाब के इंतजाम को संभालकर जहां तीस लाख से अधिक रूरल ऐरियाज (Rural areas) के आदिमियों को बसाने की जरूरत है, क्या कर सकेगी। मेरा यह मतलब नहीं कि सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट की कोशिशों में कमी है। वास्तव में जरूरत इस बात की है कि हमारे पास सेल्फलेस वर्कर्स (Selfless workers) की एक आर्मी (army) हो। जब तक ऐसे वर्कर्स आगे नहीं आयेंगे तब तक कोई गवर्नमेंट इतने बड़े काम को अंजाम नहीं दे सकेगी। आज मैं देखता हूं कि पंजाब के जो लोग तबाह होकर आये हैं, हजारों की तादाद में दिल्ली में मौजूद हैं, सुबह से शाम तक बीस बीस मर्तबे इधर से उधर चक्कर लगाते हैं कि सर छुपाने के लिए कहीं एक मकान मिल जाय, कभी किसी एडवाइजरी काउन्सिल (Advisory Council) के मेंबर के पास पहुंचते हैं, कभी कस्टोडियन आफ इवेक्वीज प्रापर्टी (Custodian of Evacuees' Property) के पास पहुंचते हैं, अगर हम इस मसले को हल कर सकते और इन तमाम लोगों के वक्त को और इनकी एनर्जीज (energies) को एम्प्लाय (employ) कर सकते तो बहुत बड़ा काम कर सकते लेकिन हकीकत यह है कि हमने इस तरफ ध्यान नहीं दिया।

मेरे लायक दोस्त ने कहा है कि हमें शहरी वाशिंग्टन के मसले पर गौर करना है। लेकिन मैं पूछता हूं कि दिल्ली में जो दो लाख पचासी हजार या तीन लाख के करीब शरणार्थी आ चुके हैं वह आज तीन महीने से यहां पड़े हैं क्या कभी हमने सोचा कि हम दिल्ली से दो या चार मील के फासले पर कोई जगह उनके लिए रिजर्व (reserve) कर दें और उन्हें बसाने के लिए एलीमेंट्री (elementry) आसानियां दी जायें। यह तजवीज एक कमेटी ने जिसका मैं भी सदस्य था की और एक से ज्यादा मरतबे हमारे सामने यह मसला आया लेकिन अभी तक हमने इस तरफ कोई अमली कदम नहीं उठाया। अगर हम दिल्ली से तीन चार मील के फासले पर सड़क के किनारे जो जमीनें पड़ी हैं उनमें से हजार या पांच सौ एकड़ का कोई प्लॉट (plot) रिजर्व (reserve) कर दें और वहां मकान बंगले वगैरह बनाने में सहायता कर सकें लोगों के लिए ट्रांसपोर्ट आदि का इंतजाम कर पाते तो यह कोई अमली काम होता। लेकिन ऐसा नहीं हुआ। आज हालत यह है कि कस्टोडियन आफ इवेक्वीज प्रापर्टी की जो सलाहकार कमेटी है जिसकी ओर मिसेज सुचेता कृपलानी ने हाउस की तबज्जह दिलायी है मैं भी उसका एक मेंबर हूं और यह समझता हूं कि उसके काम में जो वक्त लगा बहुत कुछ जाया हुआ क्योंकि आज लाहौर आदि से दिल्ली में बहुत से बड़े बड़े डाक्टर, वैद्य, रेडियोलॉजिस्ट (Radio-

logists) और होमियोपैथ आए हुए हैं, दो ढाई महीने से यहां मौजूद हैं लेकिन हमने एक को भी अभी तक मकान नहीं दिया। एक्सरे (X-Ray) के एक डाक्टर यहां आए हैं उनके पास एक्सरे का प्लान्ट (Plant) है इसके लिये डाइरेक्टर जनरल आफ हेल्थ ने कस्टोडियन आफ इवेक्वीज प्रापर्टी को लिखा कि उसे उस काम के योग्य जगह दी जाय। उसे दो महीने हो गए हैं और वह प्लान्ट बेकार पड़ा है लेकिन दिल्ली में अभी तक उन्हें जगह नहीं दी जा सकी। आज हमारे यहां गंगाराम हास्पिटल के डाक्टर जिन्होंने अपनी जान को खतरे में डालकर रिफ्यूजीज की मदद की वह मारे मारे फिर रहे हैं। और हम उनको जगह नहीं दे सके। लायक से लायक वैद्य हैं, होमियोपैथ हैं उनको जगह नहीं दे सकते। जो मकान रायट्स (riots) में मुसलमान छोड़ कर गये हैं उनकी मरम्मत कराकर रहने लायक बना सकते हैं। लेकिन अभी गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से ऐसा कोई अमली कदम नहीं उठाया गया। मैं समझता हूं कि अरबन ऐरियाज (Urban areas) के जो लोग आ गए हैं उनके लिए कनाट प्लेस के मैदान में एक आर्केड (arcade) बना सकते हैं, जहां लकड़ी की दूकानें बना कर उन्हें शीघ्र खड़ा किया जा सकता है और इस प्रकार उन्हें काम दिया जा सकता है। लेकिन इस तरफ भी कोई तबज्जह नहीं हुई। हालत यह है, जनाब कि लगभग दो हजार बिजनेस प्रेमिसेज (business premises) दिल्ली में खाली हुई हैं उनमें से १८०० ऐसी प्रेमिसेज पर लोगों ने खुद कब्जा कर लिया। करीब दो सौ प्रेमिसेज ऐसी हैं जिनको हम दे सकते थे लेकिन आज तक ऐसा नहीं हो सका।

मैं समझता हूं कि सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट का काम यह नहीं जिसकी तरफ मेरे वाज दोस्त उसे ले जाना चाहते हैं। सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट का काम यह है पाकिस्तान गवर्नमेंट से जो फैसले करने हैं उन्हें जोर देकर करे। आज सेफ डिपोजिट्स वाल्ट्स (Safe deposits Vaults) का मसला इसी तरह लटक रहा है। बहुत रिफ्यूजीज ऐसे हैं जो अपने रुपये से अपने को आवाद करना चाहते हैं, और दूसरों की मदद नहीं चाहते लेकिन हमारी सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट आज तक इस काविल नहीं हुई कि जिन लोगों का सामान वेस्ट (West) पंजाब में पड़ा है और लूटने से बच गया है, या ९० फी सदी लुट चुका है लेकिन दस फी सदी जो बच गया है उसे इधर लाने के लिए कोई अमली काम करे। लाहौर में हालत यह है कि कोई सिक्ख या हिंदू नहीं जा सकता, पुलिस के प्रोटेक्शन (protection) में भी जाकर अपना सामान नहीं ला सकता। सेफ डिपोजिट्स में जो सामान पड़ा है वह भी अभी तक नहीं लाया जा सका और यह मसला हल नहीं हुआ। यह काम है सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट के करने का। यह हो जाय तो आज रिफ्यूजीज को महसूस हो कि उनकी सरकार मजबूत है। और उनको धीरज हो। आज दिल्ली में हम एक नमूना पेश करें और उन्हें कारोबार में लगा सकें और उन्हें आराम देने की कोशिश करें तो मैं समझता हूं कि ईस्ट (East) पंजाब के लिए एक मिसाल बन जाय। ऐसा न करके केवल पंजाब गवर्नमेंट पर निर्भर रहने से काम नहीं चलेगा। हालत यह है कि वह खुद अभी तक पूरी तरह जमी नहीं है।

[Shri Deshbandhu Gupta]

I am afraid it cannot fair better in handling the problem of the East Punjab where it is a question of settling down more than thirty lakhs of people of the rural areas. I do not mean to say that the Central Government is not taking enough pains, what we need today is an army of selfless workers. And unless these men are coming forth no Government can accomplish such a heavy task. There are thousands of people in Delhi today, who have come from the Punjab, completely ruined. They have to go over place to place at least 20 times a day, in order to secure a house or some place of shelter for them. They go and see a member of the Advisory Council, then they go to see the Custodian of Evacuees' Property, and so on and so forth. We had indeed done a bit of solid work if we could have saved all their time and had employed their energies in a better way. We must admit that we paid no attention to it.

My able friend has said that we have to consider the problem of the urban population. But may I ask, "What is being done about those refugees who are already here for the last three months? They number about three lakhs now. Did we ever consider to reserve any plot for them say at about two to four miles from Delhi, and ever thought to give them the elementary facilities to live there? This was actually the proposal of a Committee, of which I was also a member, and the question came before us several times, but so far no practical step has been taken in that direction. It would have been a piece of our practical work if we had reserved a plot of land for refugees at a distance of about three to four miles from Delhi, measuring about 500—1000 acres in length, out of the land extending on the sides of the road; and had given them the facilities to build houses and bungalows etc. there, and had provided them with transport facilities. But that is not the case today. I must say that most of the time spent on the Advisory Committee of the Custodian of Evacuees' Property has been wasted, the committee of which I am also a member, the committee to which Mrs. Sucheta Kriplani drew the attention of the House; as we see today, that there are many doctors, vaidyas, radiologists and homeopaths who arrived from Lahore, and are here for the last 2 months but they have not so far been provided with a house. Another doctor who is an expert in X-Ray treatment and has an X-Ray plant with him, has also not yet got a suitable house. The Director General of Health wrote to the Custodian of Evacuees' Property, that a suitable house be allotted to him. This has taken two months now, the plant is kept idle and the man is without a house. Even that famous doctor of the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, who helped refugees at the risk of his own life has to wander about today from place to place in search of a house. We have not provided a house for him either. There are many more eminent doctors, vaidyas and homeopaths who are still without a house. We could at least, after necessary repairs make those houses inhabitable for them that were vacated by Mohanunadans during the riot period. But the Government has not taken any practical steps towards that end too. For those coming from the urban areas we could have arcades erected on the plot in Connaught Place, and had provided them with shops there made of wood. This too did not receive the attention of the Government. The present position is that about two thousand business premises were vacated in Delhi, about one thousand eight hundred of them have actually been occupied by men at their own will. So there were only about two hundred left now that were to let, but this has also not been done.

It is perhaps not the task of the Central Government towards which some of my friends have been drawing it. The task of the Central Government is to bear its pressure on the Pakistan Government to come to decisions on the matters that have to be settled now. The matter relating to Safe Deposit vaults is still pending. Many refugees have the desire to establish themselves again on the strength of their money and they do not want any outside help. But

our Central Government has not proved itself equal to the task of bringing the whole or even the part of the belongings of the people from the West Punjab. There is such a bad state of affairs going on in Lahore now that a Hindu or Sikh cannot go there to collect his belongings even under a police escort. The entire contents of the Safe Deposit Vaults are therefore there and could not be brought here so far. Thus the problem of the Safe Deposit Vaults remains unsolved. This is of course one of the tasks of the Government. If she can do it, the refugees will feel that their Government is strong and they will have much satisfaction. Therefore let us set an example in Delhi, let us give comforts to our refugees; let us provide them with suitable work. We will thus set an example before the Punjab Government. While if we cannot do this, our mere depending on the Punjab Government will not help us a long way. The position is such that that Government is also not yet fully established. It has its offices, one at Simla, another at Jullundher and yet another at a third place. We cannot therefore expect much from that Government either as we who have all the resources at our disposal here have not been able to do anything practical so far.

Sir, I do not propose to take much time, but I suggest that the Honourable Prime Minister may appeal to the Honourable Members of this House, as well as to those of the Provincial Legislatures that they should volunteer their services for this task. We should sit together for 2 months at a time at each centre, thus our work will be speeded up and will be done more systematically. Today the Central as well as the Provincial Governments are functioning through the P. C. S. and the I. C. S. They can get work out of them in a better way. And this is how we can do it. Members of this House and those of the Provincial Legislatures should come forward in numbers say one hundred, two hundred or five hundred, and volunteer their services. Let them take charge of one Camp each. Then the other public workers also will join them and give them their help. The Central Government should issue the orders that men from the provinces must volunteer their services.

It is more than 3 months now when we wrote to the Government of India, through the Custodian Advisory Committee, that the former should negotiate with the Government of Pakistan and settle the question of those factories and concerns etc., that were abandoned by the people going to Pakistan, so that we could either dispose of those concerns or demand their eviction, and thus provide employment for those who come from the West Punjab. These are the matters which deserve the very first attention of the Government and should be solved immediately in consultation with the Pakistan Government. There is no use criticising the Punjab Government or having a "postmortem" of these matters. There is no doubt that the two Governments are doing their best. I therefore wish that their hands are further strengthened so that they can do much better. I shall appeal to the Government once more that only the essential matter should be taken up first with Pakistan Government. Next, I speak to those refugees who have been always criticising the Government. They should try to help the Government in every way possible, and should not impede the work of the Administration. I have never seen the leaders of the West Punjab who are in Delhi ever going personally to the place of refugees that are near at hand; it is of no help if they have flown over these areas once or twice before.

We have today to pay more attention to the Refugee Problem. Responsible workers should therefore go to Refugee Camps and help the officers there in the task of giving aid to the refugees. They should thus help the Government now.

With these words I close my speech.

[श्री देशबन्धु गुप्ता]

उसका एक दफतर शिमला में है एक जालंधर में है एक कहीं और है उससे हम क्या तबक्कोह कर सकते हैं। जब कि यहां जहां सब कुछ मौजूद है वहां हम अमली तौर पर कुछ नहीं कर सके।

जनाब, मैं ज्यादा वक्त नहीं लेना चाहता। मेरी तजवीज यह है कि आज प्राईम मिनिस्टर (Prime Minister) साहब अपील करें और इस हाउस के मੈम्बरों से और दूसरे सूबों की एसेम्बली के मੈम्बरों से कहें कि अपनी सर्विसेज (Services) वालन्टीयर (Nolunteer) करें। और हम लोग दो दो महीने के लिए एक एक सेंटर (Centre) में बैठें तो काम अवश्य आगे बढ़ेगा और कायदे से होगा। आज सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट हो या प्राविन्शियल गवर्नमेंट हो दोनों आई० सी० एस० (I. C. S.) और पी० सी० एस० (P.C.S.) के जरिये काम करती हैं, उनसे ढङ्ग से काम लिया जा सके।

इसका तरीका यह है कि इस हाउस के मੈम्बर और दूसरे सूबों के मੈम्बर एक सौ, दो सौ या पांच सौ जितने भी आगे आएँ अपनी सर्विसेज पेश करें और किसी न किसी कैम्प की जिम्मेदारी को अपने हाथ में लें। दूसरे पब्लिक वर्कर्स भी इस काम में सब जगह लग जाये और वह हर कैम्प में काम अपने हाथों में लें। आज सेंटर को इस तरह का आर्डर जारी कर देना चाहिये ताकि सूबों से भी लोग अपनी खिदमत दे सकें।

आज तीन महीने से ज्यादा हो गये कि हमने कस्टोडियन एडवाइजरी कमेटी के जरिये गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया को यह लिखा था कि जो लोग अपने कारखाने और बिजनेस छोड़कर पाकिस्तान चले गये हैं उनके बारे में पाकिस्तान गवर्नमेंट से बातचीत करके जल्द तय किया जाय ताकि हम उनको डिस्पोज आफ (dispose of) कर सकें या आक्शन (auction) कर दें ताकि उन लोगों को काम दिया जाय जो यहां वैस्ट पंजाब से आये हुए हैं। यह वह चीज है जिनकी तरफ सरकार को अपनी पहली तवज्जो करनी चाहिये और इन मामलों को पाकिस्तान के साथ शीघ्र तय करना चाहिये। यहां पर सिर्फ पंजाब सरकार पर नुकताचीनी करने से फायदा नहीं पहुंच सकता या पोस्ट मार्टेम (postmortem) करने से कोई फायदा नहीं पहुंचेगा। दोनों सरकारें अपनी शक्ति भर काम कर रही हैं इसमें कोई शक नहीं है। मैं यह चाहता हूं कि उन लोगों के हाथ खूब मजबूत किये जायें ताकि वे और भी अधिक और अच्छा काम कर सकें। मैं एक बार फिर गवर्नमेंट से यह कहूंगा कि पाकिस्तान से उन बातों के बारे में पहिले बात चीत की जाय जोकि बहुत जरूरी हैं। दूसरी बात मैं उन रिफ्यूजीज से कहूंगा जो कि हर समय गवर्नमेंट को क्रिटिसाइज (criticise) करते रहते हैं। उनको इस बात की कोशिश करनी चाहिये कि वह हर तरह से गवर्नमेंट के हाथों को मजबूत बनाये और उसके एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन (administration) में किसी किस्म की ट्कावट न डालें। मैंने नहीं देखा कि वेस्टर्न (Western) पंजाब के जो लीडर यहां दिल्ली में हैं वे कभी किसी आसपास

के इलाके में जहां शरणार्थी हैं जाकर बैठे हों। सिवाय इसके कि एक दो दफा वे हवाई जहाज से देखने चले गये वह दूसरी बात है। आज हमें रिफ्यूजीज के मसले की तरफ ज्यादा तवज्जो देने की जरूरत है इसलिये जिम्मेदार वर्कर्स को इस काम के लिए कैम्पों में जाकर अफसरों को सहायता के काम में कोपरेशन (cooperation) देना चाहिये और इस तरह से सरकार का हाथ बटाना चाहिये। इन अल्फाज के साथ मैं अपनी तकरीर खत्म करता हूं।

(English translation of the above speech).

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta (Delhi): Mr. Speaker, I have very attentively listened to the speech made by the last speaker. I regret to say that the delicacy of the subject has not so far been estimated properly. From the suggestion put forth by one or two of my able friends it appears that they take this subject to be such an easy matter that it could be solved in no time—as if by a magic—if it was entrusted to the Central Government instead of the Government of the East Punjab. In fact, it is such a difficult problem that no Government whether Central or Provincial can solve it in a really satisfactory way. It is not necessary today that the work should be handed over to the Central Government in place of the Punjab Government; this might set up a quarrel between the two Governments. Our present day need is to establish perfect co-ordination between the Centre and the Province. We must really try to make up for the present shortcomings of the Punjab Government, for their inadequacy of resources, and for their lack of experience. It would not suffice for us to say today that the Ministers of the Punjab Government are incompetent, that the Government is giving a proof of its weakness, that the Government has not discharged its duties; and should we, thereby, think that we have done our duty, then, in my opinion, we are not only doing an injustice to the Punjab Government, but are also not giving any help to that Government in solving the present problem. I, think, the time for such criticisms has now passed. We must think what are the steps we have to take now. I quite appreciate the work done by my able friends the Honourable Mr. Neogy and the Honourable Mr. Gopalaswami Ayengar and those attached with that department. But if the matter is looked into carefully, can they say, or can anybody else say, that the work done by the Central Government in Delhi, the place for which it is directly responsible, is to the entire satisfaction of all?

I think to have an exact idea of this, we shall have to look into the very condition of the refugees here. If you go to Chandni Chowk—the most important street of Delhi—you will see many refugees sitting in rows right in the middle of the bazar with their small shops before them: and there are at least 4 or 5 such rows. They reach there in the very early hours of the morning and have to quarrel over small pieces of space. They sit there and sell their articles till late in the evening. Mis-management is visible to that extent today that we will hear a hawker selling his eggs in Chandni Chowk at 2 annas each. It is the same way in Connaught Place.

I may ask the question, “Did the Government during the period of the last three months, think out a plan to solve this problem? Did they examine the different aspects of this problem? Have the Government secured an employment for those refugees, who inspite of being in a very distressed condition still prefer to earn their bread themselves rather than resorting to begging? Have the Government also attempted to solve the question of employment of those 2 lakhs 85 thousand refugees whose names have been registered?” If the Government of India have not so far been able to solve their problem and have not suggested any constructive measures to overcome the difficulty then

श्री अजीत प्रसाद जैन : जनाब बाला, आज हम एक निहायत मुतासिब मसले पर बहस कर रहे हैं। यह एक ऐसा मसला है जो लाखों इंसानों की मुश्किलों से ताल्लुक रखता है। उनके खाने के उनके कपड़े के और उनको मुस्तलिफ जगह आबाद करने के सवाल से ताल्लुक रखता है। मुझे इस बात की खुशी है कि आज इस ऐवान में इस मसले पर एक अमली तौर से बहस हुई और हम एक अमली तौर से बहस करके ही किसी खास नतीजे पर पहुँच सकते हैं।

मैं पंजाब के मुताल्लिक तो बहुत ज्यादा अर्ज नहीं करूँगा बल्कि सूबे मुतहदा के मगरबी हिस्से के मुताल्लिक अर्ज करूँगा। हमारे यहां मेरठ डिवीजन में करीब २ तमाम रिफ्यूजीज जो सूबे मुतहदा में हैं उनके आधे वहाँ बसे हुए हैं। हमारे जिले सहारनपुर में जहाँ से मैं आया हूँ वह पंजाब की सरहद पर बाक्या है और पंजाब से जो लोग वहाँ आ रहे हैं उससे हमारे शहर में काफी असर पड़ता है। यही वजह है कि मैं पंजाब के बारे में कुछ अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ। आज हर स्टेशन पर करीब दस हजार और पंद्रह हजार रिफ्यूजीज पड़े हुए हैं। वहीं पर वह लोग खाना बनाते हैं और वहीं पर रहते हैं। कभी कोई मर जाता है तो कई कई दिनों तक वहाँ पर लाश पड़ी रहती है। जगाधरी पर करीब तीन चार हजार रिफ्यूजीज पड़े हैं और सब के सब आसमान के साये तले हैं और उनके लिए कोई दूसरा साया नहीं है। पंजाब में कोई निजाम नहीं रहा पंजाब में कोई तरीका नहीं रहा। पंजाब में किसी रिफ्यूजी को मालूम नहीं कि कहां जगह मिलेगी और कहां हमको रहना होगा।

मैं अपने जिले सहारनपुर का जाती तजुर्बा इस सभा के सामने बतलाना चाहता हूँ। तीन सितम्बर को सहारनपुर में बड़े जोरों से बलवा हो रहा था। हिंदू मुसलमान को और मुसलमान हिंदू को कत्ल कर रहा था और वहाँ पर करफ्यू लगा हुआ था ऐसे में एक मालगाड़ी पंजाब से आई। माल गाड़ी में उम्मेद यह थी कि माल और सामान आयगा, लेकिन उस माल गाड़ी के ऊपर १५०० रिफ्यूजी पंजाब से आये जब कि यू० पी० गवर्नमेंट ने बिला परमिट आना रोक दिया था। हमारे सामने दिक्कत पेश हुई कि अगर वह रिफ्यूजीज सहारनपुर में आजाते हैं, तो ईश्वर जाने उनकी क्या गति होगी। सहारनपुर से पंजाब की तरफ एक छोटा सा स्टेशन है, वहाँ पर हमने उस रेल को २४ घंटे तक रोक रखा। मर्दे, औरत, बच्चे, छोटे, बड़े बूढ़े सब के सब इस गाड़ी में बैठे रहे। हम चाहते थे कि इस गाड़ी को पंजाब वापिस भेज दिया जाय चूंकि हमारे शहर की हालत ऐसी न थी कि वह वहाँ ठहराये जाय और हमने अम्बाला के डिप्टी कमिश्नर को टेलीफोन किया कि मेहरबानी करके आप इन लोगों को वापिस

बुला लीजिये चूंकि इनकी जिंदगी यहां पर खतरे में रहेगी। डिप्टी कमिश्नर अम्बाला ने फरमाया कि वह अहकाम जारी कर सकते हैं, लेकिन उसको अमल में लाने के लिए उनके पास पुलिस या और कोई दूसरी ताकत नहीं है जिससे वह अपने जारी किये हुए अहकाम पर ठीक तरह से अमल करा सके। हमने उनसे कहा कि पंजाब गवर्नमेंट और यू० पी० गवर्नमेंट में तय पाया गया है कि वह बिला परमिट के रिफ्यूजी नहीं भेजेंगे तो यह पन्द्रह सौ यहां कैसे आगये। उन्होंने फरमाया कि मुझे इसका इल्म नहीं है। रेलवे के मुलाजिम जिस तरीके से भी चाहते हैं करते हैं, हमारा कहना नहीं मानते। यह हालत हमारे डोमिनियन के एक सूबे में हो रही है जहां कि कोई administration ही नहीं है। इसके बाद भी हमने देखा जैसा कि अभी यहां मेरे एक लायक दोस्त ने बतलाया था कि गाड़ियों में औरतों के बच्चे होगये, कई आदमी कई कई रोज तक खाना न मिलने से भूखे मर गये। यह बतनी भाई जो मगरबी पंजाब से आये, इस मुल्क में लाकर फेंक दिये गये।

मेरे लायक दोस्त श्री मुंशी ने यहां पर यह तजवीज पेश की कि रिफ्यूजीज के मामले को सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट खुद अपने हाथ में लेले। मैं समझता हूँ कि इससे कोई बात हल होने वाली नहीं है। असल चीज यह है कि किस तरीके से हम काम करना चाहते हैं और किस तरह से सूबे और सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट में मेल जोल हो सकता है आखिर सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट भी इस मामले को अपने हाथ में लेगी, तो काम उन्हीं आदमियों से करायेगी जो वहाँ हाकिम या मुलाजिम की हैसियत से या दूसरी तौर उन जगहों पर आबाद हैं। सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट को उन्हीं डिप्टी कमिश्नर अम्बाला से काम लेना होगा।

(English translation of the above speech.)

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain (U.P.: General): Sir, here we are today discussing a very proper subject. It is related with the difficulties of lakhs of people today. It is a matter connected with the question of their food, the question of their clothing, and the question of their settlement in different places. I am glad to see that the subject has been discussed in a very practical manner 1. P.M. in the House today; as only by discussing a matter in a practical way we can arrive at a certain conclusions.

I have not to say much about the Punjab, but I would like to say something about the Western parts of the United Provinces. In the Meerut Division alone, there are about half the number of refugees settled in the whole of the province. The district of Saharanpur where I belong to, is situated on the boarder of the Punjab province and has been directly affected by the influx of refugees from that side. For this reason, I might here say something about the Punjab as well. On every railway station there, there are about ten to fifteen thousand refugees staying on the platforms living there and cooking their food (on the platforms). If any one dies there the body is not immediately removed and continues to lie there for days together. On the Jagadhri Railway station alone, there are about three to four thousand refugees lying without any cover

[Shri Ajit Prasad Jain]

or shelter over their heads. That is the state of the Punjab now, there is no management, there is no system prevailing there. The refugees there do not even know where they will have to stay and where they will get a place to stay.

I wish to place before the House my own experience of the Saharanpur district. Saharanpur was in the grip of serious riots on the 3rd of September, 1947. Muslims and Hindus were killing one another recklessly. The city was under curfew order. Just then it was learnt that a goods train had arrived from the Punjab. Naturally it was thought that it must have brought some goods, but it brought 1,500 refugees instead; though the U. P. Government had stopped the entry of refugees without a permit. We were, therefore, immediately faced with the question of their safety if they were allowed to enter the city. We had the train halted at the nearby station next to Saharanpur on the Punjab side, and kept it there for 24 hours. There were men, women, and children, of all ages among the passengers. As the conditions in our city were not satisfactory and their bringing into the city was not free from danger we wanted the goods-train to be sent back to the Punjab. We, therefore, communicated to the Deputy Commissioner, Ambala, on telephone and requested him that those men should be called back as their lives were not safe there. The Deputy Commissioner, Ambala, replied that while he could issue the orders he had neither the police nor any other force to see that the orders were carried in the right spirit. We referred to him and asked him that though it had been agreed upon by the Government of the United Provinces and the Government of the Punjab that the latter would not send refugees without obtaining a permit, how then the present number of 1,500 was sent over? And he replied that he had no knowledge of it; and said that the railway people were doing all that as they liked to do, and did not listen to them. This is the state of affairs in a province of our Dominion; there is no administration there. And this is not the only one example. Even after this we heard, as pointed out by one of my learned friends, that the mothers gave births to the babies while they were on the trains. In other instances, people died of hunger for not receiving anything to eat, for days together. Therefore our brothers and fellow countrymen who came from the Western Punjab have been thrown open in this part of the country.

My learned friend, the Honourable Mr. Munshi, has suggested before the House that the matter of refugees should be taken up by the Central Government itself. I do not think this will help very much. In fact, it is the spirit with which we do a work and the way how we can establish co-ordination between the Centre and the Province. Even if the Central Government takes over the matter into her hands the work will have to be done by the same team of officers and men who are serving there or living there and the same Deputy Commissioner will be required to function.

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN

Mr. Speaker: Before we adjourn for lunch, I have to make a couple of announcements. One of them refers to the request made to me by the Honourable Home Minister for permission to make a statement on the Hyderabad situation. I have permitted him to make it and he will make that statement at 2.30 p.m. Honourable Members may note so that they may be present if they want to.

The other is about the Panel of Chairmen. I have received a communication from Shri Munishwami Pillai who, was one of the Panel of Chairmen in which he says that "in view of the Leader of the House having pointed out the propriety of a Member not continuing as a Member of two legislative bodies.

he feels inclined to resign his Chairmanship in the Panel". I have accepted this resignation and I appoint Shri Ananthasayanam Ayyangar in his place. That leaves one vacancy still to be filled up because I have only nominated three and not four; in the fourth vacancy I nominate Shrimati Durga Bai.

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

*The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock
Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair*

STAND-STILL AGREEMENT WITH H. E. H. THE NIZAM OF HYDERABAD

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhai Patel (Minister for Home, Information and Broadcasting and States): With your permission, Sir, I should like to make a statement on the result of the negotiations with the Hyderabad Government on the future relationship between that State and the Government of India. The House will recall that I stated on the floor of this House that this was the last phase of these negotiations. I am happy to say that an agreement has been reached and I lay on the table of the House a copy of the Agreement signed this morning, as well as a copy of the Collateral letters exchanged between H. E. H. and H. E. the Governor-General.

As the House is aware, it was in July last that we initiated negotiations with the States for their accession to the Dominion of India, which due to the spirit of co-operation evinced by the Rulers resulted in the accession before the 15th August of all States except Hyderabad, Kashmir and Junagadh. We had negotiations with representatives of His Exalted Highness the Nizam also at the same time. I do not wish to take the House through the many phases of the negotiations. I need only say that when 15th August came no agreement could be reached. At the same time, His Exalted Highness the Nizam was anxious not to break off negotiations and accordingly at his request we decided to give him an extension of two months within which to finalise his attitude. When the negotiations were resumed, His Excellency the Governor-General, with the concurrence of the Cabinet, undertook to continue them on our behalf. He had several meetings with the Delegations sent by His Exalted Highness and about a month ago a complete agreement had resulted but owing to developments of which the House is aware the old Delegation resigned and a new one was sent by His Exalted Highness the Nizam in its place. During the negotiations with the new Delegation we adhered to the stand we had already taken up and finally the agreement which we have now succeeded in obtaining from the present Delegation is exactly the same as we had negotiated with the old one.

Under this settlement, all agreements and administrative arrangements on matters of common concern which formerly existed between the Crown Representative and the Hyderabad State, except the Paramountcy functions are to be continued as between the Government of India and the Hyderabad State for a period of one year. These agreements and arrangements cover a wide variety of matters including the three subjects on which accession of all the States has been accepted, *viz.*, Defence, External Affairs and Communications.

I know that Honourable Members would have been much more gratified if as a result of these talks His Exalted Highness had found it possible for the State of Hyderabad to accede to the Indian Dominion. Such an accession would have been in accord not only with our cherished desire but also with the interests of both the Indian Dominion and the Hyderabad State. We, however, fully appreciated the internal difficulties in the State and consistent with

[Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel]

our policy to secure agreement, not by coercion, but as far as possible with the maximum degree of goodwill on both sides and with due regard to the overall position in India, we felt that an agreement of this nature, even for a limited period, would have considerable advantages over the absence of any agreement whatsoever. The period of one year would enable both of us to forge closer relations and would, it is hoped, pave the way for a permanent accession.

The settlement makes it clear that Hyderabad does not propose to accede to Pakistan. This, if I may say so, is only right, for, placed as Hyderabad is, its destiny is inextricably bound up with that of India.

I fully realise that Honourable Members of this House as well as the public outside have been considerably concerned over the happenings in the State in recent months. Now that accord has been reached, I am sure it will have a wholesome effect on the existing situation and will exercise a beneficial influence on the relations between the two communities, both in the State and outside. We can thus put these happenings back in the past and look forward to a relationship in which amity and cordiality will prevail. An atmosphere will thus be created which will enable people who have left the State to return to their homes. I am also certain that as this settlement is intended to serve as the basis of friendly and cordial relations it will be worked in that spirit. We on our part will do our best to secure this end.

I would also like to refer briefly to the fact that proposals for constitutional reforms are now engaging the attention of His Exalted Highness. On this, as well as on the question of final accession, I hope he will readily agree that in the ultimate analysis it is the will of the people that should guide his judgment. There are unmistakable signs in several other States of the triumph of this principle and I feel certain that His Exalted Highness will, as becomes a Ruler of his pre-eminent position, set an example which others can follow.

Finally, I am sure the House would like me to place on record our sense of appreciation of all that His Excellency the Governor-General has done in bringing about such a happy conclusion to the prolonged negotiations.

AGREEMENT.

Agreement made this Twenty-ninth day of November Nineteen Hundred and Forty-seven between the Dominion of India and the Nizam of Hyderabad and Berar.

Whereas it is the aim and policy of the Dominion of India and the Nizam of Hyderabad and Berar to work together in close association and amity for the mutual benefit of both, but a final agreement as to the form and nature of the relationship between them has not yet been reached;

And whereas it is to the advantage of both parties that existing agreements and administrative arrangements in matters of common concern should, pending such final agreement as aforesaid, be continued:

Now, therefore, it is hereby agreed as follows:—

Article 1.—Until new agreements in this behalf are made, all agreements and administrative arrangements as to the matters of common concern, including External Affairs, Defence and Communications, which were existing between the Crown and the Nizam immediately before the 15th August 1947 shall, in so far as may be appropriate, continue as between the Dominion of India (or any part thereof) and the Nizam.

Nothing herein contained shall impose any obligation or confer any right on the Dominion

(i) to send troops to assist the Nizam in the maintenance of internal order,

(ii) to station troops in Hyderabad territory except in time of war and with the consent of the Nizam which will not be unreasonably withheld, any troops so stationed to be withdrawn from Hyderabad territory within 6 months of the termination of hostilities.

Article 2.—The Government of India and the Nizam agree for the better execution of the purposes of this Agreement to appoint Agents in Hyderabad and Delhi respectively, and to give every facility to them for the discharge of their functions.

Article 3.—(i) Nothing herein contained shall include or introduce paramountcy functions or create any paramountcy relationship.

(ii) Nothing herein contained and nothing done in pursuance hereof shall be deemed to create in favour of either party any right continuing after the date of termination of this agreement, and nothing herein contained and nothing done in pursuance hereof shall be deemed to derogate from any right which, but for this agreement, would have been exercisable by either party to it after the date of termination hereof.

Article 4.—Any dispute arising out of this agreement or out of agreements or arrangements hereby continued shall be referred to the arbitration of two arbitrators, one appointed by each of the parties, and an umpire appointed by those arbitrators.

Article 5.—This Agreement shall come into force at once and shall remain in force for a period of one year.

In confirmation whereof the Governor-General of India and the Nizam of Hyderabad and Berar have appended their signatures.

Mir Osman Ali Khan,
Nizam of Hyderabad and Berar.
Mountbatten of Burma,
Governor-General of India.

Copy of a letter from H. E. H. the Nizam to H. E. the Governor General, dated the 29th November 1947.

I regret that we have not been able to reach a final agreement as to the eventual nature of the association between Hyderabad and the Dominion of India. As Your Excellency knows, I have not been prepared to contemplate accession to either Dominion, but short of this, I have been ready to negotiate with your Government upon any other basis. I am now enclosing a Standstill Agreement which I am prepared to execute if Your Excellency's Government are also prepared to sign it. It is a disappointment to me that after such protracted negotiations we are unable to do more for the present than carry on existing arrangements subject to such changes as the departure of paramountcy imposes. On the other hand it is essential to put an end to the present state of uncertainty and the fact that the Agreement now to be executed is to endure for a year means that both Governments will be able to turn their attention more fully to the problems of administration without constant preoccupation with the question of our constitutional relationship. To that question we shall eventually have to return, but I am confident that, if during the next year our association in accordance with the terms of the Standstill Agreement is marked by goodwill on both sides, we shall be more likely at the end of that period to reach a satisfactory agreement as to the nature of our longterm association. I regard this Standstill Agreement accordingly as founded upon the principle of good neighbourliness and I am sure that Your Excellency and Your Government will approach it in the same spirit. By executing this Standstill Agreement I am in no way permanently prejudicing my rights as an independent sovereign, but I am of course conscious that I am in some important respects suspending the exercise of certain of these rights during the currency of the agreement.

2. It is plain that an Agreement in this general form will necessitate a good deal of adjustment in regard to particular arrangements. In this connection I learn that Your Government is prepared as soon as possible to negotiate with mine arrangements for the posts, telegraphs and telephones within Hyderabad to be worked as a Hyderabad system in harmony with the Dominion system. There are, in addition, problems about the Hyderabad Forces, both in regard to the troops and their equipment, which our Government will need to discuss in the light of the fact that on the 15th August 1947, the Hyderabad Forces and Police available for the maintenance of internal order could no longer rely upon the backing of the troops stationed in and near the State by the Paramount Power. This question has already been discussed with the late Military Adviser-in-Chief and with his successor and I have no doubt that Your Excellency's Government will have no objection to making any necessary adjustments in these respects and indeed in other cases of the same character, (having their origin in the exercise of paramountcy functions) which are already apparent or which may come to light in giving effect to the general provision contained in Article I of the Standstill Agreement. So far as arms and equipment are concerned, I understand Your Excellency's Government are ready and willing to provide Hyderabad with the necessary requirements of its Forces and Police. It is only if for any reason the Dominion Government cannot supply such requirements within a reasonable time that I shall approach other sources of supply, and then only after previous intimation to your Government.

3. There is also the question which has been much discussed between my Delegation and the representatives of your Government about diplomatic and trade representatives for Hyderabad abroad. I am prepared to execute the Agreement on the understanding that

the Government of the Dominion will take no objection to the maintenance of the Hyderabad Agent-General in U. K. or to the appointment of similar representatives in any other country. I shall be prepared to arrange for the complete co-ordination of the work of these representatives with the diplomatic and commercial representatives of the Dominion of India in such countries and to inform you in advance of any representatives whom I may decide to appoint. I am confident that Your Excellency's Government will be equally ready to co-operate with mine in regard to the import and export trade of Hyderabad.

4. There are several matters which have been outstanding between us for some time and which I should like to see cleared out of the way as soon as the Agreement comes into force :

(I) No Paramountcy functions remain to be exercised nor was the Hyderabad Residency retained except as a house for the British Resident when there was one in the past. In these circumstances I should be glad if your Government would now hand it over to Hyderabad. Suitable arrangements can be immediately made about the Treasury and your Treasury Officials.

(II) It is urgently necessary that arms, equipment and, in particular, ammunition should be immediately made available to Hyderabad. We have had no supplies since July and the shortage is interfering with the training of the Hyderabad Army.

(III) In the same way, there has been difficulty in securing the importation of 'soft' vehicles for the use of the Army and, in the special circumstances of Hyderabad you will appreciate the importance of mobility having regard to the areas to be covered.

(IV) I understand that the last of the Dominion troops stationed in Hyderabad will be removed in the course of the next month and I shall be glad of confirmation of this matter.

(V) The transfer to Hyderabad of all jurisdiction within the State was agreed in principle before the 15th August 1947 and was largely effected before that date and has continued since. There are however some points still outstanding in this regard in relation to Police jurisdiction on part of the Railways which run through the State. I assume that such jurisdiction will be immediately restored to Hyderabad.

5. It is of course manifest that my rights in regard to such matters as currency, coinage and postal rights are in no way impaired by the Standstill Agreement, but I should be glad if Your Excellency would give me an express assurance that the rights to which I have just referred continue undiminished.

6. I should like to take this opportunity of suggesting that, in relation to passports, the Dominion of India should agree, as a matter of convenience in a question which is becoming urgent, to the Chief Secretary of my Government or some other appropriate officer issuing passports to Hyderabad subjects which would be countersigned by the Dominion.

7. I am sure that in entering into this Agreement both our Governments intend to do all they can to prevent subversive movements and propaganda in the territory of the other.

8. I know well Your Excellency's interests in all steps taken to abate communal antagonism. It may therefore, be of interest to you to know that, in conformity with earlier declarations on my part, I propose to issue a *Firman* in the immediate future expressing my firm resolve to protect the lives, rights and interests of all my subjects alike, irrespective of caste or creed.

Copy of a letter from His Excellency the Governor-General to His Exalted Highness the Nizam, dated the 29th November 1947.

I acknowledge with thanks the receipt of Your Exalted Highness's letter dated the 29th November and the Agreement. While my Government and I note that Your Exalted Highness has an intention of acceding to Pakistan, we very much regret that you should have been unable to execute an Instrument of Accession with India. Both my Minister for States in his Statement of the 5th July and I myself in my speech of the 25th July to the representatives of the States have made it clear that it is the earnest desire of the Government of India to maintain the sovereignty of the States and to work with them as full partners in the administration of the three subjects proposed for accession. My Government cordially reciprocate your hope that, given goodwill on both sides, the working of the standstill agreement will provide a basis for a satisfactory long term solution. Placed as Hyderabad is its interests are inextricably bound up with those of India; and my Government hope that before the present agreement expires, it will be possible for Hyderabad to accede to the Dominion of India.

2. My Government will be prepared to discuss with your representative as soon as possible the question of handing over the posts, telegraphs and telephones; and also the future strength and equipment of the Hyderabad Forces.

As regards the supply of arms and equipment, the Dominion Government will be able to supply your legitimate requirements.

3. My Government have no objection to your maintaining an Agent-General in London and appointing similar representative elsewhere, if necessary. In this connection they are very glad to have your assurance, to which you will appreciate that the Government of India attach great importance, that the activities of such representatives will be fully co-ordinated with those of the representatives of the Dominion of India and will be confined to matters properly relating to trade and commerce.

The Government of India are certainly prepared to co-operate with Hyderabad fully in regard to its import and export trade.

4. As regards the points raised in para 4 of your letter, my Government have authorised me to say as follows :—

- (1) My Government gladly agree that the Residency buildings at Hyderabad will be returned to your Government as soon as alternative accommodation promised by you is made available for our Treasury and officials employed there.
- (2) My Government will take the necessary action in regard to the early supply of arms and ammunition for which an indent has been received from your Government.
- (3) My Government will help your Government in securing the vehicles that they require.
- (4) It is the definite intention of my Government that the troops at present stationed inside Hyderabad territory should be progressively withdrawn according to an agreed programme and that the withdrawal should be completed by the end of February 1948 at the latest.
- (5) On the points remaining to be settled regarding the retrocession of jurisdiction, these can be discussed with my Government by your representative as soon as he is appointed.

5. I am authorised to assure Your Exalted Highness that your rights in regard to currency, coinage and postal matters will in no way be impaired by the standstill agreement.

6. My Government will take up the question of passports mentioned in paragraph 6 of your letter. They are fully prepared to assist you in this respect.

7. With reference to paras 7 and 8 of your letter, the Government of India desire to assure Your Exalted Highness that it is their earnest desire to promote communal harmony and to maintain peace and security, and they will co-operate wholeheartedly with you to that end.

8. I enclose the agreement duly signed by me.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta (Delhi): May I seek your permission for a motion of appreciation to be recorded on behalf of this House for the able manner in which Ministry of States has conducted these negotiations?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid the motion is not permissible. But the Honourable Member has expressed the same and the House accepts it.

MOTION RE RELIEF AND REHABILITATION OF REFUGEES—cont.

श्री अजीत प्रसाद जैन : मैं कह रहा था कि अगर रिफ्यूजीज (refugees) के काम को मर्कजी हुकुमत ने अपने हाथ में ले लिया तो आखिर उसे मुकामी अफसरों के जरिये से ही करना होगा, और अगर आपने कोई अपना मर्कजी अफसर भी मुकर्रर किया तो उससे कोई बड़ी बेहतरी पैदा नहीं हो सकती।

एक दो चीजें और हैं जो मैं कोआर्डिनेशन (Co-ordination) के सिलसिले में अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ। धनवाद के अंदर एक कैम्प खोला गया जहाँ स्त्री और बच्चों का खासा

[श्री अजीत प्रसाद जैन]

इन सबसे बड़ी समस्या है इन लोगों को मुस्तकिल तौर से आबाद करने की। आखिर में खाना कपड़ा और आर्जी मकान थोड़े दिन के लिए ही दिये जा सकते हैं। दिल्ली के अंदर शरणार्थी लोगों को रक्खा गया। इसका नतीजा बहुत अच्छा होगा। लेकिन यह जरूरी है कि तमाम पूर्वी पंजाब के अंदर और दूसरे हिंदुस्तान के हिस्सों में जहां शरणार्थी मौजूद हैं उनको जल्द से जल्द रजिस्ट्रेशन किया जाय क्योंकि इससे इसका अंदाजा कर सकते हैं कि कौन आदमी किस काम को चाहता है। किस सूबे में बसने की काबिलियत रखता है और कहां उनको भेजा जाय। बगैर रजिस्ट्रेशन के कोई चीज चल नहीं सकती। और साथ ही साथ हमको यह भी देखना होगा कि कितने आदमी कहां भेजे जायें। कैसा शहर बसाया जाय। और किस तरह से लोगों को बसाया जाय। हमारे यहां यू० पी० के अंदर इस बात की कोशिश हो रही है कि एक शहर आबाद किया जाय। लेकिन हमारा अंदाजा यह है कि जो हमारे इस वक्त छोटे छोटे शहर मौजूद हैं उनके आस पास की जमीन देकर हम उन शरणार्थियों को आबाद कर सकते हैं। मैं महज इतना ही अर्ज करना चाहता हूं।

(English translation of the above speech.)

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: I was saying that even if the Central Government takes over the task of rehabilitation of Refugees, the work ultimately would have to be done by the local officers. Even if we appoint an officer under the Central Government, we cannot make much improvement.

Besides this, there are one or two more things which I like to say in connexion with the work of co-ordination. A camp was opened at Dhanbad where special arrangements had been made for ladies and children. But inspite of this, women and children in thousands are wandering from door to door in different places. No arrangements have been made to transport them to this camp. My friend, Seth Govinddas, said before this House that the Central Provinces Government were prepared to absorb ten thousand refugees. But even these have not been sent there. As a matter of fact what is required is such as close co-ordination of the Central and the Provincial Governments as would enable them to solve adequately the problem of all these refugees. That is the only way which can bring us success.

The Honourable Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation has told us what things are necessary for the refugees and for their reception. The question of evacuating them is over. Almost all of them who wanted to come out of the West Punjab have been evacuated. Now we must attend to their immediate requirements. The problems of accommodating them in the houses; of providing them with food rations; and of giving them clothes are the most pressing at this time, and may I say that they need improvement.

With regard to the problem of housing the Honourable Minister has told us that a Custodian of Evacuees' Property has been appointed to do this work. There was a time when I also thought that this would improve matters. But experience has shown us otherwise. Instead of improving, the conditions have worsened. I have seen at many places that nearly one thousand to twelve

hundred houses are lying either in the possession of the Custodian of Evacuees' Property or the refugees have forcibly occupied them. One day my friend Mr. Deshbandhu Gupta said in this Assembly that the occupation of the evacuees houses in Delhi by the refugees from Pakistan was illegal. He added that this occupation, though illegal, was recognised by the Government as authorised, for there was no other alternative. Where such occupation was not allowed, it was found that all the wooden and iron fixtures in the houses were removed. Because the Custodian of Evacuees' Property could not manage it properly, the public dismantled these fittings and made off with them. The result was: the houses became dilapidated. I want to point out that on the one hand we have so many houses unoccupied while, on the other, the refugees, men, women and children, who have come from the West Punjab, are lying on the roadside along with their belongings. Both these things are quite queer. In a resolution recently passed by the A.I.C.C. it was said that the policies of the provincial Governments were not to allot the Muslim evacuees' houses until and unless it was ascertained that these premises had been abandoned by the Muslims voluntarily. I beg to submit, sir, that it is an improper policy not to allow a refugee to occupy a house which a Muslim thinks he has not vacated willingly. The result is evident. On the one side we find many houses which are unoccupied whereas, on the other, the refugees, women and children, are lying in the open, shivering in the cold. This looks strange. If not permanently, these houses should be allotted provisionally. And this, I think, will also help in solving the problem of looking after these houses. Not only will the refugees get shelter, but these houses will also receive a better care than they do at present. A friend of mine, who has gone to Pakistan, asked me what he should do with his house. I advised him that it would be better for him to give it to a refugee. And if he returned, the house would be given back to him. That would ensure the safety of his house.

It is said that people in big numbers, and as far as I think, not less than seven lakhs of men, are such as are living in the camps. About the camp in the Punjab, the one at Kurukshetra, I have heard that one and a half times the people for whom the camp was intended have been squeezed into this place. Except for an ordinary routine there are no other proper arrangements for meals. Conditions are different in the U.P. Many military barracks are available with us. I brought this thing to the notice of the Honourable Minister for Defence; I told him that in our Western district of Badshah Bagh there are as many vacant barracks as can accommodate thirty to forty thousands of people. But upto this time neither have they been used by the military authorities nor have they been given to the refugees. I want to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to it so that he may be able to carefully examine this position regarding the barracks.

The Honourable Minister told us in the course of his speech that the refugees put up on the railway stations because they hope to catch trains. With respect to this I want to tell him that he is wrong there. About three thousand to three thousand and a half of men were putting up at the railway station of my city. These people lived there, cooked their meals, and tried to live what may be called a domestic life. I made a small camp. All these men, who were living at the station, rushed to it and passed their days in a hutment made of straw. These men have to live at the railway stations because they have no other place to go to.

The same applies to meals. Some of the refugees had some money with them. They settled at Mussorie, some tried to accommodate themselves in Dehra Dun while others took shelter at Hardwar. But those who are coming now have nothing but the clothes they are wearing. Eight to ten such families came who had nothing with them. Even at this time the United Provinces are feeding a big number of refugees. I have to request the Honourable Minister that he should carefully consider the question of giving meals to a good number of men.

[श्री अजीत प्रसाद जैन]

इंतजाम था, लेकिन अब तक वावजूद इसके जगह जगह हजारों की तादाद में स्त्री बच्चे दरबदर डोल रहे हैं, उन्हें वहां भेजने का इंतजाम नहीं किया गया। इस सभा-गृह के अंदर मेरे दोस्त सेठ गोविन्द दास ने एक सवाल किया था कि मध्य प्रांत की हुकूमत दस हजार शरणार्थियों को लेने के लिये तैयार है लेकिन अभी वह भेजे नहीं गये। असल चीज यह है कि सूबों और मर्कज के अंदर इस किस्म का मेल जोल होना चाहिये कि जिससे तमाम शरणार्थियों की समस्या अच्छी तरह से हल हो सके और इसी तरीके से हम लोग कामयाबी हासिल कर सकते हैं।

मिनिस्टर साहब ने अपनी तकरीर के अंदर उन तमाम चीजों को बतलाया जो शरणार्थी लोगों के रिसेप्शन (reception) के सिलसिले में जरूरी हैं। उनके इस्तकबाल का मामला खत्म हो चुका क्योंकि करीब करीब जो शरणार्थी पश्चिमी पंजाब से आने वाले थे वह आ चुके। अब जो उनके फौरी मामलात हैं यानी उनके लिए रहने को मकान के, खाने और कपड़े के यह तीनों चीजें हैं जिनकी फौरन बेहतरी जरूरी है।

मकान के सिलसिले में मिनिस्टर साहब ने फरमाया कि जितना मकानों का काम है वह कस्टोडियन ऑफ इवेक्यूई प्रापर्टी के हाथ में है। एक जमाने तक मेरा भी ख्याल रहा कि इससे कोई बेहतरी होगी लेकिन तजुर्वे ने बताया कि इससे हालात बेहतर नहीं बदतर होती है। कई जगह मैंने देखा कि हजार और बारह सौ मकान कस्टोडियन ऑफ इवेक्यूई प्रापर्टी के हाथ में हैं या उन पर शरणार्थियों ने कब्जा कर लिया है। और इस सभा के अंदर मेरे दोस्त देशबन्धु गुप्ता ने एक रोज यह कहा था कि दिल्ली के अंदर जिन शरणार्थी लोगों ने मकानों के ऊपर कब्जा कर लिये हैं कब्जा नाजायज था, पर उसे जायज बना दिया क्योंकि इसके अलावा कोई चारा नहीं था। जहां इस किस्म का कब्जा नहीं होने दिया गया वहां देखा गया कि मकानों में जितने लकड़ी के दर्वाजे, किवाड या लोहे का सामान लगा हुआ था क्योंकि कस्टोडियन ऑफ प्रापर्टी इसके लिये इंतजाम नहीं कर सकते थे इसलिये सब का सब सामान उखाड़ कर ले गये, और उन मकानों की हालत बदतर हो गई। मैं अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि एक तरफ कितने ही मकान खाली पड़े हुए हैं दूसरी तरफ शरणार्थी मर्द और बच्चे जो पश्चिमी पंजाब से आये हैं वह तमाम सड़कों पर आसमान के साये में पड़े हुए हैं। यह दोनों चीजें अजीबो गरीब हैं। अभी ए०आई०सी०सी० (A. I. C. C.) ने एक रेज्योल्यूशन पास किया कि सूबों की हुकूमतों की पालिसी है कि जो मकान मुसलमानों के खाली हैं जिस वक्त तक उन्होंने रजामन्दी से अपने मकान खाली न किये हों वह शरणार्थी लोगों को न दिये जायें। मैं अदब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि यह पालिसी गैर मुनासिब है कि कोई ऐसा मकान

शरणार्थी को न मिले जिसको मुसलमान ने रजामन्दी से खाली न किया हो। नतीजा यह है इसका कि एक तरफ मकान खाली पड़े हैं, दूसरी तरफ औरत और बच्चे और शरणार्थी इस ठंडक के जमाने में पड़े हैं। यह चीज अजीबो गरीब मालूम होती है। अगर मुस्तकिल तरीके पर नहीं तो आजी तौर पर मकान उन्हें दिये जायें और मैं समझता हूं इससे मकानों की समस्या हल हो सकती है। न इन शरणार्थियों को मकान ही मिलेंगे बल्कि उनकी बेहतर हिफाजत हो सकेगी। मेरे एक दोस्त जो पाकिस्तान गए उन्होंने मुझसे सलाह मांगी कि अपने मकान का क्या करें, तो मैंने कहा कि आपके लिए बेहतर होगा कि आप मकान किसी शरणार्थी को दे जायें। और अगर आप वापिस आएं तो ऐसी सूरत में आने पर वह आपको वापस दे देंगे। इससे आपका मकान महफूज रहेगा।

कहा जाता है कि एक काफी तादाद में और जहां तक मेरा ख्याल है कि सात लाख आदमी ऐसे हैं जो कैम्पों में मौजूद हैं। पंजाब के कैम्प के बारे में कुश्नेत्र के बारे में, मैंने सुना कि वहां पर करीब करीब जितनी जगह थी उससे ड्योढ़े आदमी मौजूद हैं और वहां पर सिवाय एक मामूली तौर के कोई खाने का माकूल इंतजाम नहीं है। यह हालत हमारे यू०पी० की नहीं है। बहुत सी फौजी बैरकें इस वक्त भी मौजूद हैं। मैंने डिफेन्स मिनिस्टर से इस बारे में अर्ज किया था कि कुछ हमारे पश्चिमी जिलों में, बादशाह बाग में इतनी बैरकें मौजूद हैं कि जिसमें तीस, चालीस हजार आदमी आबाद हो सकते हैं। लेकिन अब तक वह बैरकें न फौजी काम में लायी गईं न उनमें शरणार्थी बसाये गये। मैं मिनिस्टर साहब की तवज्जह इस तरफ दिलाना चाहता हूं कि वह इन बैरकों के मसले पर अच्छी तरह से गौर फर्मायें।

मिनिस्टर साहब ने अपनी तकरीर के अंदर यह बात फर्माई कि स्टेशन के अंदर शरणार्थी इसलिए रहते हैं कि उनको गाडी मिल जाय। मैं कहना चाहता हूं निहायत अदब से कि उनका ख्याल गलत है। मेरे स्टेशन पर तीन साढ़े तीन हजार आदमी पड़े थे जो वहां रहते थे, खाते पकाते थे, जिन्दगी बसर करते थे। मैंने एक छोटा सा कैम्प डाला जिसमें सब भाग कर आए और एक चटाई के झोपड़ों में तमाम शरणार्थी वहां रहे। स्टेशनों पर वे इसलिये रहते हैं चूंकि उनके लिये कोई इंतजाम नहीं है।

खान के संबंध में भी यही बात है। कुछ शरणार्थी आए, जिनके पास पैसा था वह मसूरी में आबाद हुए। कुछ देहरादून में आबाद हुए। कुछ हरिद्वार में आबाद हुए लेकिन इस वक्त जो शरणार्थी आ रहे हैं उनके पास सिर्फ बदन के कपड़े रहते हैं। आठ दस परिवार आए उनके पास कोई चीज नहीं है। इस वक्त भी हमारे यहां कम से कम यू०पी० के अंदर बहुत काफी तादाद में लोगों को खाना दिया जा रहा है। मैं मिनिस्टर साहब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि वह इस मसले पर गौर करें कि काफी तादाद में लोगों को खाना दिया जाय।

[Shri Ajit Prasad Jain.]

But the greatest of all these is the problem of settling these persons permanently. After all, meals, clothing and temporary accommodation can be given only for a few days. The refugees have been 'stationed' at Delhi. This will have very good result. But it is essential to register, as soon as possible, all these refugees who are living in the East Punjab and other parts of India. We can, in this way, have an idea as to what sort of work suits them. What province would suit him, and where he should be sent. Without registration it is difficult to proceed. Along with this we must also see how many men should be transported and to what places, what kind of a city should be built and how the people should be settled!

We, in the U.P., have been endeavouring to build a new city. But what we think at present is that we can settle these refugees on lands that lie in the vicinity of small towns. I have only to say this much.

पंडित ठाकुरदास भार्गव : माननीय स्पीकर साहब, मैंने अभी तक जो तकरीरें हुई हैं उनको बहुत तवज्जो के साथ सुना। इस हाउस में करीब २०० से ज्यादा मेंबर हैं मगर उन ३० लाख शरणार्थियों का जो रूरल एरिया (rural area) से आये हैं कोई रिप्रेजेन्टेटिव (Representative) मुझे नजर नहीं आया मैं यह भी जानता हूँ कि जो यहां मौजूद हैं उनमें से किसी ने गांव में जाकर नहीं देखा कि इन शरणार्थियों को कहां बसाया गया है और इनकी हालत क्या है। पंजाब गवर्नमेंट ने उनके बारे में क्या इंतजाम किया है। मैं जानता हूँ कई साहवान जो यहां मौजूद हैं वह शरणार्थियों से जो दहली में आए हुए हैं वाकिफ हैं और मुझसे ज्यादा वाकिफियत रखते हैं लेकिन मैं यह अर्ज करने से तामूल नहीं करता कि जो ये तीस लाख शरणार्थी रूरल एरिया (rural area) वाले हैं वह किस हालत में हैं, उनकी क्या क्या जरूरत है उनके साथ कैसा सलूक हुआ है और उनके साथ क्या सलूक होना चाहिये इसका ज्ञान उनको नहीं है।

मैं आपकी खिदमत में यह अर्ज करूंगा कि मैंने अपने जिले में तकरीबन आठ दिन तक शरणार्थियों के पास जाकर उनकी तकलीफें देखीं, और यह भी देखा कि पंजाब गवर्नमेंट के अफसरान किस तरह से उनसे पेश आ रहे हैं। मुझे यह भी मालूम है कि मुस्लिम सूबों में यानी भावलपुर और वेस्टर्न पंजाब (Western Punjab) में यहां से जो गए हैं उन के ऊपर क्या क्या मुसीबत आई है।

असल बात यह है कि जो लोग बहुत नुकताचीनी करते हैं वह इस बात से वाकिफ नहीं हैं। मैं मानने को तैयार हूँ कि हमारे कैबिनेट (Cabinet) में मि० नियोगी हैं वह इस काम के लिये मुकर्रर किये गये हैं उनसे बेहतर आदमी हमको नहीं मिल सकता था मैं अहसास करता हूँ कि पंजाब कोआरिडीनेन्स (Punjab Coordinauce) के लिए गोपाला स्वामी आयरंगर से बेहतर आदमी नहीं मिल सकता था। मैं उनसे मिला हूँ

और उनको जानता हूँ किस तरह वे सवालों को सोचते और समझते हैं। मैंने खुद देखा है किमिस्टर नियोगी साहब के पास लोग जाते हैं और उनको धमकाते हैं और बंदसलूकी से पेश आते हैं मगर फिर भी उनके माथे पर बल नहीं आता। मैं उनकी मुसीबतों को जानता हूँ। लेकिन मैं अदब के साथ अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि अगर इन दो साहबों की जगह पर दो देवता मुकर्रर कर दिये जाते तो तब भी यह रिफ्यूजीज (refugees) का सवाल वे हल नहीं कर पाते जो इतना बड़ा मुश्किल है।

हमारी इस गवर्नमेंट में बड़े बड़े नेता मौजूद हैं, ऐसे नेता हैं जिनके ऊपर हमारा पूरा विश्वास है और जो अच्छी तरह से सब बातों पर तवज्जो देते हैं। मैंने खुद सरदार पटेल के वहां सुबह के वक्त कितने शरणार्थियों को मुसीबत का जिक्र करते देखा। मैं खुद कितने एक डैपुटेशन (deputations) के साथ पं० जवाहरलाल नेहरू जी के वहां गया। उन्होंने बड़ी अच्छी तरह से हमारे दुःखों को हमदर्दी के साथ सुना।

कोई भी गवर्नमेंट क्यों न हो इतने भारी रीहैबिलिटेशन (Rehabilitation) का काम इतनी जल्दी नहीं कर सकती। क्योंकि इस काम में बहुत कठिनाइयां हैं। जिस तरह से हमारी गवर्नमेंट ने रिलीफ का काम किया उससे बेहतर तरीके से कोई इतने थोड़े समय में नहीं कर सकती। इससे बेहतर भी हो सकता है वह इस तरह से कि गवर्नमेंट ने जो गलतियां की हैं उनको न दुहराया जावे। मैं एक अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ। वह यह है कि गवर्नमेंट को जो चीज पहले करना चाहिये थी, और वह अब तक न कर सकी, तो उसको अब जल्द से जल्द पूरा करना चाहिये। मिसाल के तौर पर पंजाब के अंदर तीन बैंक हैं सिवाय पंजाब नेशनल के, न्यू बैंक, ट्रेडर्स बैंक, और लक्ष्मी कमशियल बैंक। यह तीनों बैंक पंजाब के अंदर बड़ी अच्छी तरह से काम कर रहे थे उनके हिस्सों की कीमत बड़ी ऊंची थी— उनकी पूंजी और रिजर्व (reserve) बहुत काफी थी लेकिन उनके पांच करोड़ के एसेट्स (assets) पाकिस्तान के अंदर मौजूद हैं। इन बैंकों में करीब ६० हजार परिवारों के एकाउन्ट्स (accounts) हैं। यह बैंक सरकार से अपने एसेट्स (assets) पाकिस्तान वालों पर ७० फी सदी कर्जा मांगते हैं। अगर सरकार ने कर्जा न दिया तो इन बैंकों को काफी नुकसान उठाना पड़ेगा इन बैंकों के सेफ डिपोजिट वाल्ट्स (Safe deposit vaults) में इन परिवारों के स्त्रियों के जेबरात हैं और सिक्युरिटीज (Securities) हैं जो उनकी जिन्दगी भर की कमाई है। घर से और जायदाद से तो शरणार्थियों को हाथ धोना पड़ा है, और सिवाय इस रकम के अब उनके पास कोई चीज नहीं है। अगर यह बैंक डूब जाते हैं तो इन शरणार्थियों को ऐसी मुसीबत का सामना करना होगा जिसका कोई ठिकाना नहीं।

१५ अगस्त के बाद जिस वक्त पंडित जवाहर लाल नेहरू जी पंजाब गये थे उस समय हमारे लीडरों ने यह कहा था कि "डटे रहो"। सो इन लीडरों के कहने पर

[पंडित ठाकुरदास भार्गव]

वे बैंक वाले, जब तक उनका एक नौकर भी रहा, वह काम करते रहे। जिसकी वजह से लोगों के वहां से भागने के पहिले ही भागना शुरू नहीं किया और न अपनी किताबें व माल हटाया। अगर बैंक वाले चले आते तो उनके चले आने पर लोगों में डर फैल जाता। बैंक वाले वहां अन्त तक काम करते रहे जिसका नतीजा यह हुआ कि बैंक वालों की किताबें सब पाकिस्तान में पड़ी रहीं। वहां से अब जो सेफ डिपोजिट वाल्ट्स (Safe deposit vaults) में धन है वह शरणार्थियों को नहीं मिल सकता और न उनका हिसाब मिल सकता है। हम अपने धन पर हाथ नहीं लगा सकते हैं और पाकिस्तान वाले जब चाहेंगे उस माल को ले लेंगे।

मैं अदब से पूछना चाहता हूं कि इन दो तीन महीनों के अर्से में इन तीनों बैंकों ने गवर्नमेंट से कर्जा मांगा था और कहा था कि जब तक हमारा रुपया वसूल न होगा तो हम अपने शेयर होल्डरों (Share holders) को तब तक पैसा नहीं देगे रिजर्व बैंक को हमारा हिसाब देखने के लिये मुकर्रर कर दिया जाय। मगर इन तीन महीनों में अब तक कोई इमदाद उन बैंकों को नहीं मिली। यह सब रेड टेपिज्म (Red-Tapism) की वजह से हो रहा है। फाइनेंस डिपार्टमेंट (Finance Department) से पूछा जाता है तो वहां से जवाब मिलता है कि रिजर्व बैंक में मामला गया हुआ है। जब आगे जाते हैं तो कहा जाता है कि ईस्ट पंजाब (East Punjab) की गवर्नमेंट के पास मामला गया है। मैं जानता हूं कि फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर (Finance Minister) हमदर्दी रखते हैं तो भी मामला जल्द तैय नहीं होता।

दूसरी बात यहां रिलीफ व रिहैबिलिटेशन (Relief and Rehabilitation) के बारे में कही गई है। रिहैबिलिटेशन (Rehabilitation) के माने हैं शरणार्थियों को जमीन और मकान दिया जाना। जब तक पाकिस्तान से जायदाद की मिलकियत का फैसला नहीं किया जाता तो कैसे इन चीजों को पक्की तौर से शरणार्थियों को दिया जा सकता है, तीस लाख आदमियों को सिर्फ छः महीने के लिए जमीन और घर दिया जाता है तो उसको रिहैबिलिटेशन नहीं कहते। रिलीफ (Relief) के माने यह हैं कि उन लोगों को इस तरह की इमदाद दी जाय जिससे जब तक वह बस नहीं जाते हैं उनको तकलीफ न हो इसका भी पूरा इंतजाम नहीं हुआ।

रजिस्ट्रेशन (Registration) के बारे में भी एक बात अर्ज करना चाहता हूं और वह बड़ी अहमियत रखती है। मार्च से लेकर अगस्त तक ५ लाख शरणार्थी वेस्ट पंजाब (West Punjab) से ईस्ट पंजाब (East Punjab) में आगये और दूसरी जगह चले गये। इतने आदमियों का रजिस्ट्रेशन (Registration) कैसे हो सकता था। अब गांव में बसे हुए रिफ्यूजीज (refugees) का रजिस्ट्रेशन भटवारी सुविधा से कर सकते हैं

मैं जनाब की तवज्जो एक बात की तरफ दिलाना चाहता हूं, जो शरणार्थियों के दिलों पर बहुत खराब असर करती है। मैंने बहुत सी शिकायतें सुनी हैं कि वेस्ट पंजाब (West Punjab) से आए हुए लोगों ने सहारनपुर, देहरादून में ऊधम मचाया। इसी तरह से दिल्ली के लोग पंजाब से आये हुये शरणार्थियों से नाला हैं। यह जितनी पापूलेशन (population) वेस्ट पंजाब (West Punjab) से आई है वह गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया (Government of India) की रेस्पॉन्सिबिलिटी (Responsibility) है, किसी प्राविंस (Province) को यह हक नहीं है कि वह यह कह सके कि हम शरणार्थियों को अपने प्रांत में नहीं आने देंगे। तुम्हारी तो जगह ईस्ट पंजाब (East Punjab) ही में है, वहां से बाहर नहीं जा सकते। मैं बिल्कुल अदब से पूछना चाहता हूं कि किस कानून की वजह से यह कह सकते हैं कि वेस्ट पंजाब (West Punjab) से आये हुए लोग ईस्ट पंजाब (East Punjab) के अंदर ही स्क्वीज (Squeeze) कर दिये जाय। कोई सवाल पंजाबियों की सोलीडैरिटी (Solidarity) तोड़ने का पैदा नहीं होता रावलपिंडी और गुरदासपुर के लोग मुरादाबाद तथा गुडगांवा में एकसां तौर पर स्ट्रेंजर्स (strangers) की तरह रहेंगे। उनका खान-पान रहन सहन जैसे रोहतक, हिसार वालों से नहीं मिलता वैसे ही आगरा व लखनऊ वालों से नहीं मिलता। लेकिन इसका मतलब यह नहीं है कि हम (East Punjab) वाले उनको वेलकम (welcome) नहीं करते हैं। हम उनको अपना भाई समझते हैं और हमें कितनी ही तकलीफ हो, हम उन्हें बसाने को तैयार हैं।

इधर कहा जाता है कि एक आदमी को इतनी जमीन दो जिसकी इकोनोमिक यूनिटी (economic unity) हो और दूसरी तरफ जब जमीन का हिसाब बतलाया जाता है, तो सिर्फ तीस लाख एकड़ जमीन पंजाब में ऐसी है जो कि मुसलमानों ने छोड़ी है हालांकि हिंदू-सिख ५७ लाख एकड़ छोड़कर आये हैं इसलिये जमीन पर्याप्त नहीं है।

पंजाब गवर्नमेंट के बड़े रिहैबिलिटेशन अफसर (rehabilitation officer) हिसार में तशरीफ लाए उन्होंने एक कमेटी बिठाई। उन्होंने पूछा कि इकोनोमिक यूनिटी (economic unity) के मुताबिक हम एक कुनबे के वास्ते कितनी जमीन दें। हमने बतलाया कि आपको इस कदर जमीन देनी चाहिये, उसके वगैर एक कुनबे का गुजारा मुमकिन नहीं है। लेकिन उन अफसर साहब ने बहुत कम जमीन दी जिससे वैसा गुजारा तो क्या जैसा पंजाब में था पूरा गुजारा भी नहीं चलेगा। यह तो अब असंभव है कि वह लोग ऐसे रह सकें जिस तरीके से वह लोग पाकिस्तान के अंदर रहा करते थे। क्योंकि वहां पैदावार बहुत थी यहां तक कि दो जिलों की पैदावार लायलपुर और मिटगोमरी की हमारे यहां के तेरह जिलों की पैदावार से ज्यादा थी। यह दरअसल एक अच्छे और खुशहाल कस्म की जिंदगी के ऐकस्टमड (accustomed) हैं।

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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) [29TH NOV. 1947]

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava.]

taken hold of the people if the bankers had come out first. Upto the last moment the bank employees were working there. The result was that at the eleventh hour they could bring nothing out of Pakistan, not even their records. The refugees can neither get their money lying in the safe deposit vaults of Pakistan, nor can they know anything about their accounts. We cannot even touch our money, and Pakistan will have it whenever it likes.

With respect, Sir, I want to say, that for the last two or three months the three banks have been requesting the Government for a loan. They offered that they would pay no dividends to their shareholders till the debt they owed to the Government was cleared. They even offered to let the Reserve Bank of India be empowered to examine their accounts during this period. But no help has so far been given to these banks. And this is all due to the 'red tapism'. When enquiries are made at the Finance Department offices it is said that the case with the Reserve Bank of India. When we proceed further, it is said that the case has been referred to the East Punjab Government. I know that the Honourable Minister for Finance is very sympathetic, but in spite of that things are not expedited.

The second point is concerned with the Relief and Rehabilitation. The latter word means that the refugees should be given lands and houses. So long as it is not settled with the Pakistan authorities as to who should be the owner of the evacuees' property, how can we permanently give it to the refugees. Lands and houses have been given to them only for six months. But that is not what we call Rehabilitation. By relief is meant that refugees should be given such help, till they are settled, as would lessen their difficulties. But proper arrangements have not been made even for this.

About the registration of refugees also, I have to say one thing, and that is very important. Between the months of March and April, about five lakhs of refugees migrated from West Punjab into the East Punjab and other parts of India. It was difficult to register them then. Now when many of them have been settled in the villages, the *patwaris* can easily register these immigrants.

Sir, I want to draw your attention to one thing which is having a very bad effect on the minds of the refugees. Many people have complained to me that the refugees from the West Punjab are responsible for the disturbances in Saharanpur and Dehradun. Similarly, the Delhi public is fed up with the refugees who have come from the Punjab. May I say, Sir, that it is the Government of India which are responsible for all this influx of the West Punjabis into Delhi. No province has a right to say that it would not allow Refugees to come in. No province is entitled to say that the East Punjab is meant for them and that they could not come out of it. With due respect I want to ask, Sir, where is the law by means of which it is desired to squeeze the refugees from the West Punjab in the East Punjab. There is no question of dissipating the solidarity of the Punjabis. People from Rawalpindi and Gurdaspur will be strangers alike in Moradabad or Gurgaon. Their habits and their manners differ as much from those of the people of Rohtak and Hissar as they do from the residents of Agra and Lucknow. But it does not mean that people of the East Punjab do not welcome the refugees. We look upon them as our brethren, and we are prepared to embrace them at all costs.

On the one hand it is said that a refugee should be given as much land as has an 'economic unity'. And on the other hand, when we look to the land left by the Muslim evacuees, we find that it is only thirty lakhs of acres whereas Hindus and Sikhs have left in Pakistan about 57 lakhs of acres. The land with us, therefore, is insufficient.

The Chief Officer of Rehabilitation of the Punjab Government visited Hissar. He convened a meeting of the people and asked them how much land should be

given to a family according to the 'economic unity'. We suggested a minimum measure and told him that with a land less than that it was difficult for a man to meet the bare expenses of his family. But that officer sanctioned a measure of land, which could not suffice even for bare *dal and chapati*, leave aside the question of the previous standard of the refugees. It is not possible for the refugees to live a life they had been accustomed to in Pakistan. The harvests on that side were great, so much so that the produce of only two districts of Lyallpur and Montgomery was more than that of all our thirteen districts put together. These refugees, as a matter of fact, are accustomed to a happy and well to do life.

The same is the case with the urban refugees. We can give them all the houses that are available with us. But from the point of view of accommodation, they are neither good, nor sufficient nor are they fit for the people who have come from the cities. Moreover, the mere allotment of houses does not mean rehabilitation. So long as they are not made economically fit for earning their livelihoods, it is difficult for them to pull on.

Until and unless we do that this problem will remain unsolved. I want to ask, Sir, if we give even a palatial building in a lane of Hissar to a fellow who has come from Lahore, do you think he will be able to live there? Impossible! Those who have lived in the cities cannot live in the villages. It is easy to say: let us build many towns. It is easy to wish to have a town near Kurukshetra and another between Lucknow and Cawnpore. But it is not a holiday excursion. It is not so easy to build a town as people think. Bricks are selling at sixty rupees a thousand. Other building materials are not available. In the face of all this, it is not a child's play to have a new town built, as with Alladin's lamp. I, therefore, submit that there should be a Planning Committee which should include representatives of the Punjab Government and the Government of India. Let it sit for a week and bring out an agreed plan to settle these refugees. It would not at all be difficult then, to send these refugees to particular places according to a plan. Let, therefore, a Planning Committee sit in Delhi for a week and evolve a plan once for all. That will make the task of Rehabilitation very easy.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the Honourable Minister and the Government for the splendid feat of organization which they have displayed in tackling the enormous refugee problem during these very difficult and anxious times. The statement of the Honourable Minister is notable for its sobriety, its temperateness and its dispassionate note. Criticisms have been made in this House. It is very easy to criticize, but I would like to ask any Honourable Member to tell the House whether any thing better or more splendid could have been done by any human hand. One of the honourable speakers has justly remarked that even the Gods would have failed if they had come and taken charge of the refugee problem. Let us compare the achievement of the present Government with what we saw at the time of the last Burma evacuation—and insignificant problem in comparison to what we have now experienced. On that occasion a population of a few thousands came by pre-arrangement, there were huts made before-hand for their reception, ample funds were ready, honorary and paid organizations were built before-hand, but waves of Burma refugees could not be met adequately and the scheme miserably failed, and what is more, lakhs and lakhs of rupees were misappropriated in course of those operations. We have yet to learn that the organization that has been set up to meet the present refugee problems, has shown any weakness in action of any dishonesty in the execution. I think the amount of money involved in giving full effect to the refugee scheme is insignificant in comparison with the gigantic problem which the Government have to face. The difficult task has been so

[पंडित ठाकुरदास भार्गव]

उसी तरह से पंजाब से आई हुई अरबन पापुलेशन (Urban population) की मुसीबत है। हम उनको मकान दे सकते हैं जितने मौजूद हैं लेकिन वह ऐकॉमोडेशन (accommodation) के हिसाब से न अच्छे हैं और न काफी हैं और न बड़े शहर के रहने वालों के लायक हैं। इसके अलावा सिर्फ मकान देने से रीहैबिलिटेशन (rehabilitation) नहीं होता। जब तक उनको इकोनॉमिकल्ली (economically) इस काबिल न बनाया जाय कि वह अपना गुजारा कर सकें, उनका निर्वाह होना कठिन है।

जब तक हम यह नहीं करते, उस वक़्त तक इस मामले का हल नहीं हो सकता। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि अगर आप लाहौर के रहने वाले को हिसार की किसी गली में बिठा दें और उसको वहाँ चाहे महल दें, तो भी हरगिज उसका गुजारा नहीं हो सकेगा। शहर के रहने वालों का देहातों में रहकर गुजारा करना मुमकिन नहीं है। यह कहना आसान है कि बहुत सारे टाउन (towns) बना दिये जाय। दिल्ली में कुरुक्षेत्र के करीब एक नया टाउन (town) बना दिया जाय। एक लखनऊ कानपुर के बीच बना दिया जाय। लेकिन टाउन (town) बनाना उतना आसान नहीं है जितना इसका कहना। साठ रुपया की हजार ईंट की कीमत पहुँच गई है और बाकी इमारत का सामान नहीं मिलता ऐसी हालत में यह काम ऐसा आसान नहीं है कि फौरन कहते ही नया टाउन (town) अलाउट्डीन के लेंप की तरह बनकर तैयार हो जाय। इसके लिए मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि एक प्लैनिंग कमेटी (Planning Committee) जिसके अंदर पंजाब और गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया (Government of India) के आदमी हों, एक हफ्ते बैठकर एक ऐग्रीड प्लेन (agreed plan) तैयार करें कि इन आदमियों को कहां बसाना है और कैसे बसाना है। यह हरगिज मुश्किल नहीं होगा कि उन आदमियों को खास जगह प्लेन के अनुसार भेजा जावे। इस वास्ते एक प्लैनिंग कमेटी (Planning Committee) एक हफ्ते बैठकर यहाँ दिल्ली में एक दफा प्लेन (plan) तैयार कर ले तो रीहैबिलिटेशन (Rehabilitation) का काम आसान हो जावेगा।

English translation of the above Speech

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (East Punjab: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have carefully listened to all the speeches that have so far been made. Nearly two hundred members are there in this House, but I have not so far come across any one who may have said that he represents those thirty lakhs of refugees who have come from the rural areas. I wonder how many of us present here have gone for ourselves to the villages to see where these refugees have been settled; what is their condition; and what arrangements the Punjab Government have made for them! I know many of us, who are present here, have acquainted themselves with the refugees who have come to Delhi. They may be knowing more about them than I do myself. But I do not hesitate to say that few know what is the condition of these 30 lakhs of rural refugees, what

are their requirements, what treatment has been meted out to them and what treatment they deserve.

I would like to submit, Sir, that for eight days I have been visiting the Refugee Centres in my district. I saw with my own eyes what their difficulties were, and how the officials of the Punjab Government were treating them. I am not unacquainted with the troubles that those Muslim refugees had to face who have migrated to the Muslim majority provinces i.e., Bahawalpur and the Western Punjab. The fact is that they know very little who criticise much. I am prepared to accept that our Cabinet includes the Honourable Mr. Neogy; that he has been deputed specially for this work and that it would be difficult to find a better man than him. I realise that it was difficult to find a better man than Mr. Gopalaswami Ayyengar who looks after the Punjab Co-ordinance. I have met him and I know him personally. I know also how well he comprehends the various problems and how he considers them. I have seen for myself how people rush to the Honourable Mr. Neogy, how they threaten him, how badly they behave towards him, and how, in spite of all that, he never betrays even a sign of irritation; he rather tackles these men with a cheerful disposition. I know what difficulties he has to surmount. With respect, Sir, I beg to state that even if these two gentlemen had been replaced by two gods, the problem of refugees could not have been solved better. It is so colossal and so difficult.

This Government of ours includes many very big public leaders, leaders in whom we have the fullest confidence and who give their best attention to all things. I saw with my own eyes how the refugees narrated their tales of woe and misery to Sardar Patel when they used to meet him in the morning hours. I have accompanied many deputations to Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and I know with what sympathy he listened to the sorrowful tales of these refugees.

No Government, whatever its composition could do such a big work of rehabilitation in so short a time for it is full of difficulties and complications. No other Government could have done better and so quickly this relief work which our Government have succeeded in doing. We can, nevertheless improve upon it, and that can be by avoiding a repetition of the mistakes our Government have already made. I would like to say, Sir, that the Government should do, and do as quickly as possible, all such things which it should have done earlier but which it has failed to do. For example there are three banks in the Punjab besides the Punjab National Bank. They are: the New Bank, the Traders Bank and the Laxmi Commercial Bank. They were all functioning very well in that province. Their shares were quoted at very high prices. Their subscribed capitals and the reserve funds were sufficiently big. Their assets worth five crores are still lying in Pakistan. They have on their ledgers accounts of about sixty thousands of families. These banks have asked for a loan from the India Government upto a maximum of 70 per cent. of their total assets lying in Pakistan. And if the Government do not come forward with the necessary advance, these banks are bound to suffer a tremendous loss. In the safe deposit vaults of these banks are lying Jewellery, Ornaments and Government Securities belonging to their clients. They are the life time savings of these families. The refugees have already been deprived of their homes and of their property. They have nothing else left except these things which are lying in the lockers of these banks. If the latter go into liquidation these refugees will have to bear untold miseries.

After the 15th of August, when Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru visited the Punjab, our leaders had been advising the people not to leave their homes. Depending upon them, these banks continued functioning even though they were left with just a few men on their staff. It was on the assurances given by these leaders that, in spite of the fact that people were running away, these bank employees did not leave their places, nor did they remove their books. Panic would have

[Shrimati Renuka Ray]

Sir, I am not a politician. I am only a social worker and it is only from my limited experience that I would like to make one or two suggestions to the Honourable the Relief Minister. In my own Province in the aftermath of the famine, we had to tackle the problem of rehabilitation. It had to be done on a voluntary basis by voluntary workers, because the Government of the time was unconcerned and at that time many eminent Congress workers were in jail. It was a very difficult problem that had to be tackled and we came to the realisation that if we went in for relief measures and put our emphasis only on the protection and shelter of those who were unfortunate victims and did not lay equal emphasis on the re-absorption of these people into productive and useful channels, then the chances were that as time went on they would lose their sense of self-respect and become degraded. This did start happening. As a result of this experience after the Noakhali happenings the rehabilitation side was equally stressed. It was of course a very small problem in numbers as compared to the problem that the Central Government is tackling today, but on the other hand, it must be admitted that it was tackled merely by voluntary effort. We neither had the facilities of the Central Government or the East Punjab Government or any other Government. In fact, there was a great deal of hindrance. I asked the Honourable the Relief Minister a question in the House as to what was being done at least in regard to the trained personnel that had come over from the Western Punjab and whether any schemes had been started by Government of a nation-building nature, schemes such as training centres for schools, for nurses etc. One of the greatest impediments in the path of nation-building in this country is the lack of trained personnel. Surely, Sir, when a number of trained personnel have come to Delhi they could have been placed straight away in charge of such schemes and from amongst other refugees some could have been selected and trained in such centres. Later persons trained at such centres could be sent to the provinces to start other training centres. If this is done even today, Sir, such persons would be not a liability but an asset to the nation.

Turning to the housing difficulty, Sir, I realise it only too well, but I would like to have some enlightenment from the Honourable the Relief Minister on one point. Have all the hutments and other structures which the military authorities had set up during the war between here and Simla and in East Punjab and other parts of this province been utilised now, and if not, would they not be very suitable for training schemes of the kind I have mentioned, though they may not all be big enough to form refugee camps as such? I hope the Honourable the Relief Minister will enlighten us on this point.

Sir, the Honourable Minister might say: "It is easy to say: 'Start nation-building schemes' but difficult to work". I am glad, Sir, that he himself said that it was his desire to start nation-building schemes and ally them with the problem of evacuees. But the reason that I have brought this question up is because I feel that it is necessary to do so without any delay, because if time is lost the sense of self-respect will be lost among large sections of those who have come over and then problem will become very much more difficult than the problem we are facing now. I know the class of refugees we are now dealing with are of different categories, but I do hope that the Honourable the Relief Minister will try to tackle this matter from the aspect I have pointed out.

There is one other point which I should like to mention. My Honourable friend, Mrs. Sucheta Kripalani has gone into the problem of the abducted women in great detail. I only want to say that this problem is one of great importance and immense dimensions. When the problem of general evacuees

has been tackled—and there are not many general evacuees left—all the energies of the State should be directed towards the rescue of these unfortunate women victims. I feel, Sir, that the most degrading and bestial behaviour that has emerged out of recent happenings is the treatment of women. It does not matter whether women who are victims are Hindus or Muslims. I do feel that a campaign of "Hands off women and children" irrespective of whether they are Hindus or Muslims should be launched as soon as possible, not merely as a paper campaign but intensively, and that the highest priority should be given to this work. To bring these unfortunate women back to normal, and to restore them to society is a problem which too must be shouldered, and the help of experienced women volunteer workers sought in this respect.

Lastly, I wish to say that it is quite true that there are many who criticise the Government today because they feel that the Government has not allowed itself to be swayed by the passions of the moment. The Government of India has kept its judgment clear and its balance of mind even in spite of the greatest provocation. Whatever some people may think or say, this much is true, that history will pay a tribute to the present Ministry in India for this. If Undivided India for which we fervently hope is to become a reality, at least at some future time when the present biliousness and strife is forgotten, then, it would have been impossible for the Government of India to achieve that ideal if they had allowed themselves to be swayed by passions kindled by the desire for rehabilitation. I am glad, Sir, that they have not fallen into the trap of those who desire to prove that India is not a democratic secular state and thus help to encompass our final ruin. The underlying unity of this country must eventually emerge with the willing concurrence of all—including those who have sought to stand aside in suspicion and distrust as the result of subtle propaganda.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Two of my friends who went to work in the very outset tell you that every one of us here is conscious of the unprecedented nature of the catastrophe that has befallen India and that the problems arising therefrom are manifold, intricate and colossal. We are also aware that any Government even with greater administrative experience or larger resources would have been baffled by these problems and therefore we feel proud of the valiant manner in which our Government has faced and tackled these problems. We know that the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation is only 9 weeks old and the Minister without Portfolio was appointed only recently. We also know that most of them have been working day and night and trying their best to bring succour and relief to the destitute and suffering brethren of ours in West Punjab and elsewhere. All the same, Sir, we shall be failing in our duty if we do not bring to their notice how the people feel about the work that has been done by the Ministry.

Sir, the uppermost feeling among the people is that the machinery which has been set up to work this Ministry is not inspired by the same amount of sympathy and idealism as the Honourable Ministers. From my own personal experience, I can tell you something which will give an idea as to how the work is carried on. Before the Custodian of this Ministry was appointed, there used to be a Refugee Officer with an Assistant. One Refugee Officer of the relief workers who was the Secretary of a Relief Committee in Delhi told me that when he approached the Assistant Refugee Officer for certain advice, he was at once directed to go to this office for this work, to go to that office for that and to go to another office for another. Then this gentleman asked him: "Kindly tell me for what work should I come to you" and he said: "My only business now is to register whatever applications come to my office. But since that work does not take more than half an hour, I sort them out subject-wise and that is all."

[Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad]

far managed efficiently, honestly and without any avoidable hitch. If therefore I have to say anything by way of criticism, it is only by way of constructive suggestions. I do not in these difficult times wish to embarrass the Government by criticism of a hostile nature. It has been stated in the House that the Government should have started with a plan. I do not know what cut and dry plan the Government could have before the gigantic nature of the problem could have been visualised. How could the Government, unless it was a divine government, have anticipated the actual extent and magnitude of the on-rush of the refugees. Can evacuees be made to come at regular intervals according to any plan; and can any human agency meet that emergency according to a plan when any preconceived blue print was out of the question? Evacuees, it has been complained in the House, came in an irregular fashion; they came in much larger numbers than there were arrangements for. But the criticism begs the question. The real difficulty of the situation was that refugees came without any system or order. What is the business of the Minister without Portfolio? He was to step in where there were none ready and handy. His duty baffles any attempt at the definition, and it is for this reason he has been aptly described as Minister without Portfolio. In fact he had to do everything that could not be defined and which was not provided for, and I believe he has done his duty efficiently, silently and to the satisfaction of all. The evacuees came to India just like irregular and repeated gigantic waves of flood or the intermittent eruptions of a volcano and you could not anticipate how the danger would come, and therefore could devise measures to check it in time.

Then, Sir, it has been pointed out that there are some troubles about the East Punjab Government. I hear, private comments freely made here and there. There are delicate matters about the working of the East Punjab Government in this connection and it would not be proper to give fullest publicity to the circumstances and considerations prevailing there. I hear of discriminations. I would only add my feeble voice in requesting the Honourable Ministers to look into the matter very carefully—perhaps all is not well in the East Punjab. I am sure the two able Ministers would do their best to find out a *via media* and give satisfaction to the public who are anxiously awaiting the solution of the tangle.

There is much force in the plea that men from the Western Punjab should be rehabilitated in the Eastern Punjab and should not be scattered throughout the Dominion. If the Punjabis are taken over to Bihar or Bengal or Assam, they will not be happy there; their language is different, their food is different, their habits are entirely different. It would not be solving a problem but creating fresh ones. In these circumstances, I hope and believe that the Government will look carefully into the matter and do the needful.

But then the question of rehabilitation remains to be solved urgently. We cannot look at the situation dispassionately and without comment. In fact, the large influx of population is already in India and these people have been scattered in different places. It is difficult to fit them in the villages or towns. A suggestion has been made that a new town or new towns should be set up in Kurukshetra or in some other suitable place or places. The idea may be terrifying to an expert, but to us lay people the problem is not really so difficult. In fact, if we could set part land—suitable areas—for different families to build their houses, I think that would solve the problem to a large extent by providing a psychological comfort which this announcement would at once provide. If lands are thus allocated then bricks can be supplied or even manufactured by some of the evacuees themselves; some of them are I am sure experts in this line and others could be trained. With regard to iron, I think

there should be ample iron available, but even if there is any real paucity of iron there is enough wood in India to provide the necessary quantity of timber. There are masons, carpenters and other skilled workers among the refugees themselves and they can be encouraged to build houses in the different plots set apart for them. The refugees will get an occupation and can make their own living. The problem is not insoluble and is urgent and imperative. What the evacuees now feel is that they are forlorn and friendless and are thus disorganised and demoralised. An urgent announcement would at once produce a psychological consolation and moral strength to sustain them in their troubles. They can thus be made to help the Government in solving the problem and help themselves in settling down more or less permanently in areas allotted to them. The question deserves to be considered favourably and very urgently. If we go to an expert, he will wait for years; so, an expert will not do. If houses are planned on a rough-and-ready plan now, later on a town improvement scheme could be set up to improve the layout at leisure. If we give them this start, the problem would automatically begin to be solved. An unsolved refugee problem is a menace to society in more ways than one.

Then, Sir, with regard to the money that scheme may involve, I clearly feel the sense of the House that no amount of money would be grudged by this House or by the public at large outside the House. The plight of the refugees is sickening, absolutely heart-rending and everybody is anxious that something should immediately be done to solve it. No Honourable Member has raised the question of expenditure, and the Honourable Minister can take it that the money would be made available; no amount of money spent on this urgent constructive programme would be considered too much for the purpose.

Sir, the large scale problem of the future of these evacuees should be taken up at once; if we tackle the problem at once, I think its solution would follow quickly. We have now a breathing space, and rehabilitation must be taken up at once. With these few words, I support the statement made by the Honourable Minister, with the hope that the constructive suggestions which I have made should be summarily gone into and urgently given effect to.

Shrimati Renuka Ray (West Bengal: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, after listening to the statement made by the Honourable the Minister for Relief, I am sure the House is convinced, if conviction was yet necessary, that the Central Government is putting forth a great endeavour to tackle this tremendous problem that has come upon us. This problem, in spite of the ultimate sacrifice by the division of the country and the dismemberment of the Provinces, has not been averted, but has been enhanced a thousand-fold.

Sir, if there are one or two points that I bring up, it is not in any spirit of carping criticism, for I am aware, as the rest of the country is aware, of the tremendous magnitude of the problem that the Honourable Minister and his colleagues in the Government are faced with today. Sir, one or two Honourable speakers said that they did not like the use of the word "refugee". There is nothing much in a word in itself, but the word does symbolise an attitude of mind, and I am inclined to agree with them. The speech of the Finance Minister the other day, in which he has budgeted for Rs. 26 crores for refugees implied that this was an unproductive expenditure. I do not see, Sir, why this expenditure on those who are really our nationals, need be unproductive, why this should be a national liability and why it cannot be turned into a national asset. I feel, Sir, that if the Jews, who went to Palestine and settled there, could have started co-operative schemes and made the land productive, it is not impossible for those who are termed "refugees" and whom I would prefer to call "evacuees", who come to East Punjab; if such schemes are taken in hand I do not see why that expenditure should not become a productive one as well.

[Shri Mohan Lal Saksena]

So far as my experience goes I think the I.C.S. and the civilian machinery cannot tackle these problems which have been unprecedented in history and this has been admitted by the Honourable Minister. They can neither understand them nor handle them with efficiency and despatch. In view of the fact that the Military have had experience in the Burma evacuation, I had suggested to Government that they should install machinery on that basis, but I do not know why that suggestion was not accepted. Even before this Ministry came into being the social workers were doing the work. As a matter of fact before the Government of India took it up the work mostly fell on the shoulders of these public workers. I know in the Congress circles as well as outside it, we have got men who have had experience of dealing with such catastrophes and with such calamities and having had experience of that kind. I think their services should have been utilized, but I am sorry to say that had not been utilized. There are men like Dr. Satish Chandra Das or J. C. Kuma-rappa in India who have had experience of dealing with such calamities, but still their services and their experience have not been utilized. In the month of July there was difficulty about housing the refugees and then I went to see one of the Secretaries of the Defence Department and asked him how many of these military barracks could be spared; and he replied that on account of the Joint Defence Council he could not spare even one of them. Then I told him: "What is the meaning of our Prime Minister saying that we are proceeding on a war basis". That meant that whichever building is vacant we are entitled to take possession of it and if you are not going to spare these building for the refugees who are lying in the open in Hardwar, we are entitled to take possession of the camps in the neighbourhood and you may turn us out afterwards. However subsequently I was advised that some of them consider the question that they will be placed at our disposal and our request would be favourably considered. One of the League workers came from Roorkee told me that a camp was vacant; and I saw the Secretary, and the Ram Nagar camp was placed at our disposal and he gave a copy of a letter which was sent to the Chief Secretary, U.P. Government. Later on when I saw the Chief Secretary ten days later I was told no such letter had been received with the result that the possession of the camp could not be taken and the refugees had to suffer. Even round about Delhi there are military barracks which are lying vacant and are not being utilized. Yesterday Mr. Puri from N.W.F.P. narrated to me the difficulties of evacuees who are being brought from N.W.F.P., from Bannu and other districts. The aeroplanes bring them only as far as Ambala. They are not brought to Delhi because there is a ban that no refugee should come here. The Government thinks that the refugees are not coming, but they actually come by buses and find their way into Delhi. It is simply cruel. I think a better course would have been if some arrangement is made round about Palam or some other aerodromes where tents could be pitched. Suchetaji has told us that the Defence Minister had offered to place 1,000 tents at her disposal but she could not get more than fifty so far. While people are put to unnecessary trouble the aeroplanes are coming to Delhi without any passengers.

We know that while evacuating by aeroplanes officers are known to have taken bribes in the selection of passengers and I want to know how many of these officers were prosecuted or punished for that. Corruption has crept into the organization of the officer-in-charge of the evacuee property. Suchetaji has told me that there is corruption there and there are cases where applications have been taken out and others introduced on payment of money to the clerks or to the officers. And again I am told that whatever decisions were taken a week or ten days ago are not promptly carried out on some flimsy excuse or other. At the very instance I suggested to the Honourable Minister that I am one of those who feel that our Ministers are greatly hampered by the I.C.S. machinery which is wooden and not sympathetic. I

wanted that at least this Ministry should be manned by non-officials who had sympathy for the suffering humanity. I was told that for a week the Honourable Minister could not get any Secretary for no Department was prepared to spare an I.C.S. Secretary. I placed some of my friends working in our Party and I understand there were offers from big businessmen like Tatas and Birlas who were prepared to place the service of their staff.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The Honourable Member is wholly misinformed. I did try to obtain men from big trading houses, but all of them declined to spare any suitable personnel.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Two of my friends who went to work in the Ministry, after waiting for three days had to come away—either there was no work for them or officials would not like non-officials to come in.

My Honourable friend has told us that States have offered to co-operate. Has he cared to find what sort of co-operation they are giving? Suchetaji again here told me that she had received a communication from the States Department that Bharatpur had offered to take 15,000 refugees. She had correspondence with Bharatpur State as to how they were going to provide for the refugees and what avocation they were going to give them. They replied that they would be providing all of them. So she sent 450 and two or three persons accompanied them and they were there for three or 4 days very well looked after. But afterwards the State authorities neglected them with the result that all of them had to come away disappointed. This State had offered to take 15,000. In Alwar I found recently 1,75,000 Meos had left the rural side. 15,000 Muslims have left the city. The Ruler had offered to take first 1 lakh refugees and had said that even if he had one loaf of bread he would share it with the refugees. Afterwards they wrote to the Government of India that he will take about 60,000. I went there and found that 6,000 are there and they are not being looked after. Although they are getting rations in food the refugees are not getting any cloth and whenever they come to Delhi they are told that the provision is made there. Even the flour sent by the Government of India was not sold to them unless it became infested with worms and then it was sold at Rs. 17/- a maund instead of 14 rupees a maund. The Rajah is supposed to be the champion of the Hindus and the Premier also goes about talking much about Hindus and yet this treatment is being meted out to refugees who are all Hindus. These Hindu refugees have not been provided with suitable accommodation. I think it is necessary that the Government of India should tackle this problem on a basis of national calamity just as we deal with war. I do not mind whether or not the Government of India take up the whole work but there must be their representative in each and every State and Province to see that the refugees are properly looked after. As for Bahawalpur I am informed that there are 70,000 non-Muslims still there. These persons have sold their belongings and they are now concentrated in camps. No doubt since the Nawab has come, there is some improvement of the situation; but so far as these persons are concerned they are not prepared to stay on, because once bitten they are twice shy. Some of them have been forcibly converted, their relations have left and so they are not prepared to stay there. I think immediate steps should be taken to evacuate these persons and provide for relief while they are there, because the Government camps have been disbanded and the Nawab has asked these people to go back to their villages. Their lands and cattle have been disposed of and they have nothing to fall back upon, and they must be helped. Not only that, the State servants when they came here and went to the Labour Exchange were told that there was no provision for them and their names were not even considered for vacancies. What is therefore needed is that the Honourable Minister should see that the machinery works with greater sympathy and vision. In fact our aim was to feed

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and educate and clothe 40 crores of people. We must now prepare a band of workers for this great task. Among the refugees there are engineers, educationists and businessmen whose talents and resources should be utilised. And if Government wants it can raise a loan of a hundred crores to rehabilitate them. We must have a band of selfless workers who will work in a missionary spirit of sympathy instead of merely carrying out orders that are issued from the head office, and that too half-heartedly.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Sir, if I intervene in this debate at this late stage it is not because I feel that I can make any substantial addition to the very comprehensive account which has been placed before the House by my Honourable colleague Mr. Neogy. That account, if I may say so, is a very modest description of the great work that he and his staff—not excluding the I.C.S. members of it—have been doing during the last three months. (An Honourable Member: In spite of the I.C.S.) I would not agree to that amendment. The work has been done and has been so well done because of the very active and enthusiastic assistance he has received from his staff and the other officers who work under him.

Now, Sir, if I wish to place anything before this House it will not be in connection with matters with which my Honourable colleague is more intimately connected; it would rather be matters which I have had to do something with after I came into the Government. Very soon after I assumed office and after I had had a little time to study the problems connected with East Punjab I felt that one of the most urgent needs to be attended to was the speeding up of evacuation of people from one dominion to the other. That was forced upon me by more than one consideration. The first consideration was the large numbers that were involved; the second consideration was that the winter was near us; and therefore I thought that the best way in which I could be of assistance to my Honourable colleague on the one side and the East Punjab Government on the other would be to take off their shoulders some of the burden that this particular aspect of the refugee problem forced upon the attention of Government. And therefore with the assistance mainly of our armed officers, very largely of my Honourable colleague the Minister for Transport and the Railway Board, with the assistance also of the Ministers of the East Punjab Government, we evolved an organisation which was calculated to organise this movement on a regular basis and to bring about a complete transfer of population between the two dominions in the quickest possible time. This movement after it had been organised, started on the 21st October. On the 20th October the position was that about 28 lakh Muslims were in India awaiting evacuation and about 11 lakh non-Muslims had to be brought over to India from West Punjab and the Frontier Province. After that date we divided up the period that was before us into ten-day sections, and in each section arrangements were made both for evacuation by rail and for evacuation by foot and motor transport. And the House will be interested to hear how this scheme has worked. In the first ten-day period—21st to 31st October—six lakhs of Muslims entered Pakistan and about 5.5 lakhs of non-Muslims entered India. From 1st to 10th November 6.5 lakh Muslims and 1.3 lakh non-Muslims; 11th to 21st November, 3.8 lakh Muslims and 1.8 lakh non-Muslims. Between 21st and 25th November there were 7.7 lakh Muslims on the move and in transit to Pakistan and there were 1.4 lakhs of non-Muslims on the move and in the transit to India from the other side. So that about the 25th November the balance that remained to be moved was somewhere about 4 lakhs of Muslims from this side and about 3 lakhs of non-Muslims from the other side. After those dates the movement has been even

more rapid. I must warn the House not to be too meticulous about examining the accuracy of these figures; I can only say that they are approximately reliable and we have obtained these figures from persons who might be considered to know most about the numbers involved.

But this particular figure which I am giving you now, as to what the state of things was yesterday, will prove a very agreeable surprise to you, assuming that the figures supplied are entirely accurate. This is from our Special Officer in Lahore. The latest information indicates that in West Punjab there are only 40,000 refugees in concentration camps awaiting evacuation. There is some difference of opinion about the number of refugees in pockets. The military evacuation organisation estimates it to be 50,000 and our Chief Liaison Officer thinks it is about a lakh. Whatever the accurate figure may be that shows that we have practically reached the end of the evacuation of all non-Muslims from West Punjab who were concentrated in camps either of a large size or of a small size. The figures as regards Muslims awaiting evacuation, I have not got those figures as late as yesterday. But this is the figure which we got for the period ending 22nd November, 1947. The Muslims that remain to be evacuated—the estimate of their number—was about 13 lakhs and the estimate of the time within which they would all reach Pakistan was as follows:

Between 21st and 30th November—5 lakhs.

Between 1st and 10th December—5 lakhs.

Between 11th and 20th December—3 lakhs.

As a matter of fact a good many of them have moved in already by today. In order to speed up the movement of Muslims into Pakistan, as also to help the sick, infirm and old people to travel, not by foot, but by rail, it has been decided to keep the trains running till all of them have been cleared from this side.

That gives you an idea of the amount of work that has been done in this direction and the bulk of the credit for it should go to the military evacuation organisation of India. Their efficiency in this respect has been beyond praise and I wish to take this opportunity of publicly thanking them for the enthusiasm and energy they put into this matter. But what is more to their credit than their mere efficiency is the manner in which they have obtained the co-operation of the military evacuation organisation of Pakistan, and that has considerably helped in making a success of these movement operations.

Now, Sir, one matter was mentioned by my Honourable friend, Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena, and that related to the Bahawalpur State. He stressed the need, and very rightly too, of evacuating from Bahawalpur all those Hindus and Sikhs who wanted to get away from there to what they considered to be places of greater safety. We have had this very actively under consideration. We recently had a conference at which a deputation of Bahawalpur refugees now in Delhi met me together with a Minister of the Bahawalpur State, and we discussed the whole matter with them. But at the time, in view of the offers of assurance which had been made by their Nawab, the representatives who met me were not in a position definitely to say whether those who had come out of Bahawalpur wanted to go back there, or whether those who were in Bahawalpur wanted to be evacuated from there. Time was given to them for the purpose of ascertaining the wishes of their own people and within the last day or two we have been informed that they would rather come out than go back. The matter is under consideration and we are evolving arrangements for the purpose of speeding up evacuation from there. In this connection you will be

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interested to hear what our military evacuation organisation has said on this point:

"We have at last succeeded in sending trains with Indian escort through Bahawalpur State. The first train carrying non-Muslims from Multan reached Fazilka on 21st November. We have been told that the State will in future collect non-Muslims at the various railway stations where the Pakistan military organisation will be asked to send empty rakes to carry them to Fazilka".

I hope this is a definite commitment on the part both of His Highness of Bahawalpur and the Government of Pakistan.

Taking that to be so, I think we should be able to run the necessary number of trains for the purpose of getting out those now in Bahawalpur desirous of getting out in the quickest possible time.

There was one important suggestion which was made by my Honourable friend, Mr. Munshi, and that was that it would be desirable to make refugees and all the problems connected with them a Central subject and practically the administration of all the measures that we undertake in connection with this problem, should be in the hands of the Centre. Now, Sir, in a matter like this it is necessary for us to proceed with caution. It is not always wise to do what for the moment and on momentary considerations we consider would bring about a better state of things than exists now. We have got to remember that whatever policy we may decide on at the Centre with regard to these problems, a great portion, the bulk of it, will have to be implemented by machinery for which we shall have to depend on the Provincial Governments, in order to make the scheme work. Now in a problem like settling people on land, it involves an amount of investigation and enquiry and the exploiting of the information which is in the hands of the Provincial Government, and the Centre is not equipped for the task of doing that work with as much efficiency as a Provincial Government can, if only it went about its business in the proper way.

Now, you may say, it has been suggested in the course of this debate, that there are legitimate complaints against the manner in which the East Punjab Government have gone about this business.

I would only ask the House to judge the East Punjab Government and the complaints that have been made against it with a certain amount of care and caution. The East Punjab Government got into office in a period of what I would call turmoil and it had to begin almost from the scratch. In spite of it and having been intimately connected with the manner in which it has been discharging its obligations, I have no hesitation in saying that they have given an account of themselves which no Government which started its career under similar disabling conditions could bettered. I ought to insist on this, because I am afraid it is too easily taken for granted that all that the refugees are now suffering from can be traced to the inefficiency of the East Punjab Government, if not something worse. I am not here to say that the administration of the East Punjab Government has been perfect, nor is our administration here altogether perfect. It is necessary to remember that the numbers they had to deal with, the crowds that poured into East Punjab during the weeks that have passed since the 15th August and the kind of problems that they had to face would have shaken any Government, even if it had been a well-established one which had been functioning for years. Therefore I thought it was my duty to stand up for that Government in this House but, in doing so, I am not unmindful of the fact that the working of that Government is capable of considerable improvement.

I think my Honourable friend Diwan Chaman Lall referred to the manner, in which business had been distributed amongst the Members of the East Punjab Ministry. I think he said that more than one minister was doing the work of two and a half ministers. I rather think that one or two of them have been doing the work of four ministers. At a time like this, when they are faced with problems of this colossal magnitude, there is room for a reshuffling of the subjects amongst the different ministers of the East Punjab Government so as to make the burden of each man something which he can tackle with efficiency. There is also room, in my opinion, for an expansion of this Ministry and for placing the most important subjects of law and order and of rehabilitation in the hands of ministers who are not hampered by burdens of a heavy character in other directions and whose policy and competency will be above cavil. Having said that, I still would reiterate my position that with the resources at their disposal and in the conditions in which they had to work they have done well on the whole. The condition of East Punjab today is much better than it was two or two and a half months ago and a great deal of the credit for that should go to the Ministry and, if I may say so, to the Governor, who gives them an amount of guidance which is drawn from his wide and large experience as an administrator in this country.

There were a few other points which were referred to in the course of this debate and on which I would like to say a few words. The first is the controversy regarding safe deposit vaults, banks and property. With regard to safe deposit vaults the House is in possession of what did actually occur. The question of banks is now under active consideration both in the Relief and Rehabilitation Ministry and the Finance Ministry. As regards property that also is under active consideration of all of us. All these three subjects which are of the most important character have been set down for discussion with the representatives of the Pakistan Government at an inter Dominion conference. This was to have been held more than a month ago but owing to the illness of more than one minister of the Pakistan Government it has had to be postponed. The House will be interested to hear that I took advantage of the opportunity afforded by Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan's visit to Delhi to have a preliminary talk with him two days ago on all these problems and I might say that on the whole his reaction was favourable to a proper and just settlement of all these three issues. The present idea is first to have an Inter-Dominion Conference at the Secretariat level, that is to say our officers will meet their officers and explore possibilities of settlement, and their report will come up before an Inter-Dominion Conference of Ministers, at which we will take decisions. At the end of that it is hoped that the two Dominions will be able to issue a statement of policy, which will be the same as between the two Dominions and which would be implemented by them without any reservation thereafter.

There was one matter connected with railway movement—a small matter—which was referred to by two representatives from the United Provinces and that was the ineffective kind of screening that was done at Kalanaur.

[At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Shri Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (one of the Panel of Chairmen).]

Mr. Chairman, let me refer to the criticisms that were levelled, I take it, partly against the Railways, partly against the East Punjab Government and partly against the Army department. Kalanaur was fixed as the screening point after all the Governments and interests concerned had been consulted, because it was felt that that was a convenient point for getting down people from trains which had been invaded by unauthorised persons and keeping them at Kalanaur and allowing to proceed further on only those people who had to

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proceed to Delhi. But, as generally happens, and I believe as the Honourable the Railway Minister has so often pointed this out to the House, these are not altogether under our control. People do storm and swarm over these trains and somehow find their way to places to which they want to go. Crowds thus gathered at Kalanaur; but after a discussion with the Premier of the United Provinces, who said that at Kalanaur there was no arrangement even for feeding the people who were detained there, we shifted the screening point to Jagadhri, because it was thought that, if people were detained there, they could get something to eat and some place to sleep in. I do not say that the system has worked very well. There have been complaints that quite a large number of permits had been issued by district authorities in East Punjab—so many indeed that the trains went crowded and nobody could do anything for stopping people at places and preventing them from proceeding forward. We have asked the East Punjab Government to do their best to prevent such unauthorised travelling. They protest that they are doing their best, their officers protest that they are doing their best and it is hoped that something will come out, perhaps in the way of easing the situation. Now that evacuation will be completed soon and we shall have made arrangements for temporary sheltering during winter of all the refugees that have come over, it might be possible to put on more trains and disperse people to the localities they want to go to.

There was mention of the fact that tens of thousands of refugees were now without a roof over their heads, that they were staying on railway platforms or on open ground. That certainly has been the state of things in many places. But recently we have tackled this problem in consultation with the representatives of the East Punjab Government. I do not know if I can vouch for its entire accuracy, but I have been told that the officer who is responsible for refugees in East Punjab now claims that there is not a single place where you will find a refugee without some kind of roof over his head—even if it were merely the corrugated iron sheet on a railway platform. That is the claim he has made. This much I can inform the House and that is that the East Punjab Government took kindly to a suggestion which I made at our last discussion with them, and that was this that when they are allotting groups of refugees to villages and allotting land and houses to them, they might simultaneously ask them to make provision for housing during winter urban population amounting to 10 per cent. of themselves, so that even if 20 houses had been allotted to them they might huddle up in 18 houses and make two available for people who were urban refugees from West Punjab and who therefore could not be allotted land in those villages. That is the kind of billeting which I suggested and which I think ought to work, and I was interested to hear that the officer responsible for accommodating the refugees in East Punjab thought that it could be easily implemented.

Sir, I have little more to say. All the other criticisms fall within the province of my Honourable colleague who I have no doubt will deal with them.

Shri M. S. Aney (Deccan and Madras States Group): Mr. Chairman, we have listened to a debate in which many points have been made out, to some of which my Honourable friend Mr. Gopalaswami Ayyangar has given a reply also. My object in rising in this debate is to categorically invite the attention of the Honourable Ministers, Mr. Neogy and Mr. Gopalaswami Ayyangar, to two points. Some refugees happened to see me the other day. They were from the North Western Frontier Province. The story they were telling me was about the refugees detained there in the district of Bannu and some parts of that Province. The number of people there is about 24,000 according to them. Under the arrangements which I am told exist at present between the Government of India and the Pakistan Government the responsibility of protecting the refugees in Bannu is undertaken by the Government of

Pakistan and it is they who have to bring them up to a certain place called Muri. I think. The complaint of those gentlemen is that under the protection of the Pakistan Army these 24,000 people or so, whatever be their exact number, do not feel that they will have what may be called a safe journey up to that point as they are not sure of their own security under the protection of the Army or Army Officer who will be accompanying them from Bannu. They ask whether it is not possible for the Government of India to send any part of the Indian Army which may either be on this side or which may already be working on their behalf in Pakistan to this place and entrust it with the custody of these persons during their journey from Bannu to Muri, and that the army officers working for them in India will take charge of them thereafter. That is one point that they brought to my notice. They think that if this is not done they are not quite sure about the fate of those 24,000 persons. It is a matter of urgency and I am sure that the Honourable Ministers will see whatever they can do to give relief to them as promptly as possible.

There is also another point that was brought to my notice. That was in connection with the affairs of the officer who is known as the Custodian of Evacuee Property. A new office like that has come into being and I am told that a considerable part of the property of the refugees who have left India for Pakistan is in charge of this Custodian. That property must be there. It is stated that very often persons who come and make representations are able to get some part of that property without the Officer being in a position to make due enquiries about the identity of the man or about his being the proper claimant. It is on the recommendation of some other person and through some extraneous influence that the man gets it, and the Custodian who is in charge of it or the Deputy Custodian is unable to stop this thing. I have heard reports of that kind. I do not myself know what it means and I was confounded. I bring this matter to the notice of the Honourable Minister Mr. Neogy so that he may see if there is anything like that. If there is, it is a very serious state of thing. Then the Custodian will be there only to sign the papers without being able to trace the property and give it back to the proper claimants when they come.

Sir, many Honourable Members have made several useful suggestions. Many of them have said that it would be necessary for you to think of building a new town or suburban towns with a view to making permanent arrangements for these men. My own impression of this matter is this. In connection with this refugee question the Government of India must first determine upon some definite policy. The kind of advice that is being given to people nowadays looks to me to be moving in cross-currents. Some persons are thinking in one way while other persons are thinking in another way. There are very responsible persons who maintain that those who have come here must go back. That is one view. That is the ideal state of thing which is being insisted upon, while there are others who say that these people have come here under certain conditions and it is not humanly possible for us to think that those fundamental conditions which forced them to leave the land and migrate to this country will be changed within a reasonable time, and therefore the problem before the Government of India is to have some permanent scheme to absorb them in this country and to provide them a decent living here. I do not know which policy the Government of India is following. I hear pronouncements made by responsible members—not necessarily of the Government but those who can be credited to be in close touch with the Government—who speak on this question and give advice.

I am not sufficiently conversant with all the details to be in a position to give any definite advice, but it is necessary that our present Government of India, consisting of the ablest of the public men that this country could have given, should now be in a position to decide what exactly is the responsibility

[Sbri M. S. Aney]

they are to bear in this matter. They should be in a position to know whether the problem is one of absorbing all those evacuees who have come over to this country or whether it is only a problem of making temporary arrangements for them, leaving the question to be dealt with at a later stage, thinking in the meantime there might be a possibility for them to go back in which case the Government would be relieved of their responsibilities in the matter. It is time for them to come to a definite conclusion. My own conviction is that, colossal and immense as the magnitude of the problem is, it is a problem which has to be tackled once and for all and they must proceed on that basis. If I may venture to make a suggestion on the data that is available to me, I feel they should start on the conviction that it is a problem of making permanent arrangements for them in this land, they have migrated from their part of the country, they have come here and we must be prepared to absorb them and make the best use of those who have come here now as a permanent part of the Indian population here. On this basis, if they once do that, I have no doubt—we have got able statesmen and very able thinkers who can be relied upon to provide us with suitable remedies to deal with the situation, difficult as it is—the problem would be solved once and for all.

Sir, there is one more point which I would like to touch on. I am told that important questions of policy are yet to be settled. I entirely agree that probably the proper enunciation of the policy will also largely depend upon coming to some agreement on these important points between the Government of Pakistan and the Government of India. That might take its own time, but if there is any way to expedite decisions, I have no doubt the Honourable Ministers in charge will give their best attention to the matters and reach decisions as expeditiously as possible.

Having dealt with these points, there is one other point to which I have to make a reference. The problem of evacuees with which the present Government has to deal is no doubt of a very colossal and unprecedented nature. One of my friends who spoke earlier made a reference to the problem of Burma evacuees which it was my misfortune or good fortune to tackle, and in the course of his remarks he made reference to the fact that the then Government was not able to deal with it. It would be improper of me to say anything on that point, being myself then in charge of the particular portfolio. I had to deal with that but this much I can say as regards arrangements for refugees that so far as they were concerned, a well thought out plan was laid down, to be continued even till the end, and a good deal of material was collected as to how the arrangements were to be made in those days. Seven big volumes of reports are in the secretariat in charge of the Department of Commonwealth Relations. For reasons best known to the Government of India, they were not published. But though the problem was no doubt of a comparatively smaller magnitude *vis-a-vis* the one which the present Government has to face, those reports might probably be of some use to my honourable colleagues Mr. Neogy and Mr. Gopalaswami Ayyangar in getting some clue in laying down their policy to deal with the numerous details of these requirements of these refugees.

With regard to the criticism of a particular officer, I have no desire to say anything at this stage. The matter is sub-judice.

Knowing a little of the difficulties which a problem of this nature necessarily involves I sympathise with my honourable friends Mr. Neogy and Mr. Ayyangar: but I am glad that in making the selection of these two able statesmen of India, who have large experience not only as legislators but also as administrators in various capacities, the Government of India deserves to be complimented, and I think the interests of the refugees are safe in their hands. Of course we should be there ever ready to give all assistance

and advice that they may need, but I have no doubt they are there to do the work in such a manner that the refugees who are the worst sufferers will get redress of their grievances and will feel later on that under the most difficult conditions they had the best administrators who have done justice to them.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (Prime Minister and Leader of the House): Sir, The experts have spoken and others who have intimately been in touch with this problem have given us the benefit of their advice and criticisms. There has been some praise of Government and plenty of criticism, and I think probably there is a great deal of truth in both. For my part I feel, not only for myself but speaking on behalf of the Government, a certain inadequacy in having to deal with this problem, because however efficient or however able or competent a Government we might be the problem is so big that one is apt rather to quail before it. I do not know what in future might be said about the handling of this problem not only by this Government or by the East Punjab Government or by this House or by all our officials and others: but I do think that in that future history it will be said that vast and colossal as this problem was, something which might shake the very foundations of Government and the social order, the people of India stood up to it bravely, tackled it, and, I hope, ultimately, solved it to the advantage of the nation, for after all, no government, however good it may be, can tackle such a problem without a vast amount of public support. It is essentially a problem in which the co-operation of vast numbers of people is required. We have got into the habit in past days or past periods of thinking too much in terms of a Government doing this or not, doing it, of blaming a Government for this or that. Now I do believe that a Government must shoulder their responsibility. My honourable friend Mr. Aney asked the question whether we want to make ourselves responsible for the rehabilitation of all these people fully or just temporarily. Well, if he wants an answer I should say that any Government of India should make itself responsible for the well-being of every Indian in this country, and not temporarily responsible but permanently responsible. But it is all very well for me to say that but I know that in this country vast numbers of people are starving or have no houses, are poverty-stricken and all that: but the point is that we as a Government and we as a House must realise that it is our responsibility that every Indian should have food to eat and a house to live in, and education and opportunities of progress. If that is so for everyone in the country, certainly it is so for these unhappy countrymen of ours who have suddenly found themselves lost in the storm that arose. We recognise that responsibility fully. How far we shall discharge it is a matter of our ability and strength, and the country's strength, and it is a little difficult for me to be definite and precise about it.

We have heard in today's debate a great many points raised on the practical aspect of the question; I should like to draw the attention of the House to certain other and psychological aspects; if I may say so. When any great catastrophe comes, a Government or a country tries to ameliorate the lot of the sufferers; they address themselves to their task with all their strength. The process of healing starts immediately after the catastrophe. Here we have been dealing with a very peculiar state of affairs; the catastrophe was a man-made catastrophe—not a natural phenomenon like an earthquake or a fire or some other calamity like that—and all the evils or man's passions followed it throughout and follow it still so that while we tried to heal, the process of destruction went on. On the one side there was a process of building, on the other, of breaking up, actually, physically and even more so in men's hearts. All the time many of us thought in terms of helping certainly, but also in terms of hurting others, and when you mix up these two feelings the result is that the helping part suffers. You do not create that proper atmosphere of helping and

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rehabilitation and building up, when half your mind is turned to breaking down and hurting others.

There has often been talk of retaliation. In fact all this sorry and terrible business that has happened in these three or four months everywhere, might be put in one word—"retaliation". Each person, each group, apparently thinks of retaliating so as to protect one's own interests. Now it passes my thinking and imagination how anybody can think that in the state of affairs that we have to face in India today, we can help any cause by widespread or smallscale retaliation. I have not a shadow of doubt that if, as soon as the catastrophe overwhelmed us most people thought in terms not of retaliation but of healing and stopping it, 75 or 80 or 90 per cent. of this business would have been stopped. But we did not—I am not talking about this House of course; I am talking about the passions that were roused in this process. People thought that they would protect their interests or the interests of their dear ones by hitting out and hurting others and thus by this process of retaliation possibly bringing pressure on the other party. Exactly the same feeling worked all over the place on both sides with the result that every act of retaliation brought further retaliation and the vicious circle went on.

And yet I find people talking in terms of retaliating, and yet I find newspapers and others blaming this Government for not adopting a retaliatory policy. I want to say quite clearly that so far as this Government is concerned it is not going to adopt the method of retaliation. Of course every Government has to protect the interests of its citizens, of those who look to it for help. We are going to protect them by every means; if they are attacked or if they are injured it is our business to protect them in every way. But we do not think—leaving out any higher plane of action—even in the narrower plane of expediency and self-interest that the way of protecting is the way of retaliation and injuring others.

I do not know if Members of this House or others outside when they talk or think about these problems give much thought to any future picture of India that they may have before them. After all, unless we have some such picture what are we aiming at, what are we working for, and what kind of edifice are we constructing? It is important that we should do so because when we are dealing with millions of people who have lost everything and are trying to help them and rehabilitate them, we must have some picture. I am not merely talking in terms of actual rehabilitation which is very important, but something even further than that. What exactly are we aiming at? We have seen a terrible operation—the cutting up of the living entity of India—and we have seen the still more terrible consequences of it. We may blame this or that individual—and no doubt many persons and groups have been terribly blame-worthy—but the something that has happened has been on such a cataclysmic scale that it passes human blame. It is in the nature, if I may say so, of some mighty tragedy of which the Greek dramatists have written, which comes and envelopes and overwhelms a nation and where human virtues and human failings somehow count for little. This is a big thing that has happened, so that mere blame does not help nor saying that it is the result of so-and-so's ill-will or action.

In tracing these events it is easy enough to know, and we all know, what are its major causes. Nevertheless the thing that has happened has been so big and so all round in its evil nature that it does little good to excuse oneself by blaming this or that person. Let us be quite clear about this: that whatever the origin, whatever the initial errors and crimes that may have been committed, what has happened on either side in the Punjab has been terrible in every sense of the word. And the most terrible part of it has been the psychological

part—far worse than injury to property, injury to all manner of things, even injury to life. The terrible thing is how it has perverted men's minds and perverted the minds possibly of the younger generation that is growing up seeing these horrors.

Now, what is the kind of picture that we have in our minds? What are we building for? Are we building for conflicts, wars, destruction and the rest, to satisfy a feeling of vengeance which may be justified? Or are we building for some other type—building for peace and ordered progress? For my part, I have no doubt at all about this. Again, not from any high moral ground but from the narrowest ground of expediency and the national good and the individual good, if we try to lay stress on the destructive part, on the vengeful part, on the retaliatory part, we shall build nothing at all; we shall carry on this misery and this trouble till some time or other at last the nation turns to progressive and constructive endeavour.

Looking round, personally I see definitely signs of the healing process starting. Probably that is a more hopeful thing than all the work that this Government or anybody else might have done. That healing process has started—no doubt every process starts because of individuals working to that end—but probably it has started by the reaction to the shock of events, ultimately and gradually; as the passions of the moment have cooled, people have begun to think a little more deeply and realise the folly of much that has been done. May I say one thing rather personal, if I may say it? It has been a terrible time for those who have to shoulder any responsibility. It has been, no doubt, a terrible time for any sensitive human being who lives in India. The name of India—and when I say 'India' I am not referring to the Dominion of India but this country of India which will remain India, whatever political divisions may take place—became mud because of what many Indians had done—and Indians still live in Pakistan and they continue to be Indians, whether they call themselves so or as Pakistanis. The curious position arose that those of our detractors and enemies who live abroad and who often have to manufacture all manner of stories and tales against us did not have to manufacture anything. All that they had to do was to quote one person against another. All that they had to say was what certain persons in Pakistan wrote about India and what certain persons in India wrote about Pakistan. Now, we need not balance that. I am merely saying that, what appeared in foreign countries, just quotations from what Indians said against each other. Now, it may be, and I believe it is, that when such things occur, there is a measure of right on one side, more right and perhaps a measure or less evil, and more evil on the other. I need not tell the House what my opinion on this subject is, as to where more right lies or more evil. But the point is that so far as the outside world is concerned, it is there—this mud-slinging, these acts, these horrible acts. What could they think of India then? We may have been interested in clearing our honour as against Pakistan and the Pakistan people no doubt wanted to show that they were not evil-doers, but the fact remained that whatever the rights and wrongs, the whole reputation of India suffered and it became a dreadfully difficult thing to clear that reputation. Blood had flown and many millions of people had shed tears in this country. It was not easy to wipe ourselves clear of that blood till at last we approached the question, not in the way we had been approaching it, but in a spirit of healing, and not in a spirit of revengeful retaliation or of recrimination. Although recrimination may have been justified. Retaliation does not help. That is the first point which I venture to place before the House regarding the spirit in which we should deal with this problem.

The second point—and it is also related to the first one—is that in these days when we lived fevered lives—speaking personally,—I do not think I could have carried this burden at all but for one fact, and that fact was the magic

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presence of our great Leader, Mahatma Gandhi. I have not a shadow of a doubt in my mind that just as he performed a miracle in Bengal, so also he performed his miracle here. The obvious miracle may not have occurred here, but none the less there was the miracle of his presence which affected the situation tremendously. I would beg of you, therefore, to consider this problem in this context, in regard to the future of India.

Now, coming to the problem directly, I would mention two essential facts of it which I consider most important. We have to look after the refugees, do this and that for millions of people, but whenever there is a huge problem one inevitably has to give certain priorities. Talking about everything, trying to do everything, means sometimes that you do nothing at all. What are the obvious priorities in this problem? I say the obvious priority is that the youth, the students, young boys and girls should be saved, because after all the future of India depends upon them. All honour and respect to the older generation who are suffering, but the first priority must go to the youth who should be saved not only from the point of view of life, but saved from the point of view of broader things. They must be educated, they must be looked after and they must be made proper citizens of India. I think, if I may, even as a Member of the Government criticise our own government, that we have not paid sufficient attention to this aspect of the problem. We have, of course, generally speaking, but I think far more attention should have been given to this aspect. We should concentrate our attention, even though evil may befall others, as in a war or some other calamity, to the saving of these children—boys and girls and students—and provide for their education and their future. That, of course, is also a big problem, but it must be tackled because the whole future of India depends upon them.

The second, though it is not second really, it is at least as important, is the saving of our women folk who have been abducted, and when I say that, let me repeat again, this is not an one-sided problem. Women have been abducted in both the Punjabs and elsewhere. Women have been abducted by the thousand, not a few cases. Nobody knows the exact figures, but if you knew the estimated figures, both for West Punjab and East Punjab, you will be staggered at the number. Therefore, one of the highest priorities should be given for the relief of these women. Of course, attempts have been made and thousands have been rescued, but tens of thousands still remain. Now, this work cannot be done easily without full co-operation of the two Governments in the Punjab. It cannot be done otherwise. You can take an army and march in, and you may conquer and defeat the enemy, but you do not rescue anybody thereby. Therefore, we have to approach this problem from the point of view of co-operating with each other and naturally, all parties are concerned in that co-operation, and in a certain measure we have achieved that co-operation, but not enough yet. I hope that within the next few days a more efficient organisation will grow up in co-operation with both Governments for the rescue of these abducted women. These two aspects I place specially before the House for consideration.

One thing more. We want to render all possible help to these people who have suffered. Members of the House have pointed out that if you can spread out the families in all the 700,000 odd villages of India, you can absorb them. That is very interesting, this mechanical calculation, but I do not think it takes us any distance. One way of looking at it would have been, which, I think has not been considered in that way obviously, is to tackle this question of temporary shelter for people. What did they do in war-time in various countries where they had to deal with vast numbers of refugees? They were in the military fashion spread out to various families; each family had to take one or

two members. The burden was distributed just like armies are distributed in that way. No particular attempt has been made to think of that problem that way. Take the East Punjab. It has suffered greatly, but they have their millions of people living there. Why should not each family in the East Punjab accommodate one other or one, two or three persons? Accommodate a million or two million persons. Let the Government help them if necessary. Let them help them by money or by food or whatever it is, but immediately millions should be accommodated or be helped to spread out and then you may think about permanent arrangements. Unfortunately to some extent our social conditions do not fit in with this kind of thing. People do not like these difficulties to arise. They can accept somebody and not somebody else. You cannot do it at the same time as they did in Europe during the War. It is a matter worth pursuing. Your problem of temporary accommodation becomes less, not only lesser if you spread out these people, these vast camps that have grown up need not have grown up. Secondly, there is this business of large numbers of refugees going into the rest of India. Now the rest of India ought to do everything in its power to help them; that is true. Apart from vague statements and heroics, let us examine the problem from the merits. If you look at the East Punjab population—I won't go into all these figures, I will give you the result of these figures—the post migration population of the East Punjab is likely to be one million and a half less than prior to the migrations. For various reasons, whatever the population was, there were more Muslims going out and less Hindus and Sikhs coming in, and further about 6,00,000 Hindus and Sikhs from the West Punjab have spread about over the rest of India, and unfortunately large numbers of people have died and so on and so forth. The result is that at the very least the population of the East Punjab after these migrations will be one million and a half less than it was before; it may be more or less. Now, therefore, if that is so, then the question of large numbers of refugees from the Punjab not finding room in the East Punjab does not obviously arise. The question arises in another way. Punjab used to be in a sense the most prosperous Province of India, from the middle-class point of view, from the peasant proprietors point of view. In the West Punjab, the average holding was, let us say 20 or 25 acres of very good land—they have not got that in the East Punjab, neither good land nor the big holding. They are providing with I believe ten acres, not so good land and there is complaint: "We cannot do with 10 acres". When friends suggest that land should be given in the United Provinces or in the C. P. or Bengal, or wherever it may be, certainly if land is available it should be given, it has to be remembered that the average holding of the United Provinces is 2½ acres; so it comes to this; that in order to provide two persons with a room you put people in a room where they are already ten persons. You are putting two more in it. We cannot be vicariously generous; we cannot put a greater burden on the poverty-stricken people of any place merely because you want to be generous. Let us be generous, but not obviously because apart from everything else this is going to give rise, as it is giving rise, to grave discontent in various ways and an unfortunate tendency to dislike these refugees coming there. We do not want that to happen; this kind of thing sows seeds of bitterness for the future. Therefore, the problem has to be examined in all its aspects in this way and the burden has certainly to be spread out, the financial burden and the burden in many other ways is, of course, being borne by the whole of India today and it will be borne. But this business of taking land where there is no land and giving the land to somebody is not a proper way of giving relief. So far as the question arises, I see no difficulty. I think the land in the Punjab including, of course, the States in the Punjab is enough. The problem will arise in regard to the urban dwellers and I think we should try to absorb them and help them in every way in other parts of India also. In fact cities can be built in East Punjab and will be built which will absorb them, so that the problem, if analysed, is not so big or difficult of solution. People seem to think

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that somehow the East Punjab is a tiny little place where people have not got room to stay. Therefore they should spread out all over the place. The East Punjab from any Indian standard is not only enough but bigger from the population of India point of view to absorb those who come. But from another point of view, the Indian and the urban point of view, it is not big enough to absorb it. It is perfectly true at the same time because it has been shaken up—the big cities cannot absorb the population in a few villages in the East Punjab. That is a big problem and we must at any rate act promptly and we shall be able to solve it by not only building cities in the East Punjab, but by taking them to cities in the rest of India having colonies, suburban areas etc. As a matter of fact the Punjabees fortunately are a very enterprising people, more so than, if I may say so, the people in most parts of India. To them is due the prosperity of their province and with the help that they are obviously going to get from the State, I have no doubt they will make good far more rapidly than probably any other people in India might have done. So, big as the problem is, I do think that there is nothing in it which should really frighten us. But if I may come back to what I began with and say that if we tackle this problem in a spirit of retaliation, we get into trouble. Here in the City of Delhi there are lakhs of people who are refugees and all the time we are having trouble in the housing and there is a continuous pressure on Muslim houses where Muslims still dwell here to push them out. Now from any point of view, Governmental or other, it is highly improper to think that residents of Delhi, because they are Muslims, should be pushed out. It is unbecoming to put up with it. It is unbecoming for the Delhi Administration. No nation, no Government, no country can carry on if it follows that kind of policy. If a nation requires protection he must be given that protection, whether he is a Hindu or a Muslim or anybody. Now it is true that there is pressure of refugees coming in and difficulties arise which in some cases are insoluble unfortunately. We must be clear about it and the Administration must be quite clear about it, that you do not solve the difficulty by creating another difficulty. That is not the way of solving the difficulty. May I finally say that in regard to some of these problems, as Members will no doubt know, the All-India Congress Committee met some days back. They gave thought to that and they passed certain Resolutions. Some of those Resolutions may be termed 'unrealistic' in part, may be, nevertheless they wanted to emphasize that outlook and I want to say that we as a Government entirely adhere to that policy and will try to follow it.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I would very much like not to spoil the effect of the speech of the Honourable the Prime Minister. There were many points that were raised by my honourable friends and I should have very much liked to give my points of view in reply to them, but I have to restrain myself in this matter. I can only give the assurance to the House that all the suggestions that have fallen from my Honourable colleagues would be given the utmost weight and will have our best consideration. There are, however, one or two matters to which I cannot but refer. The first relates to the complaints that have been made against the Custodian of Refugee property. I have already referred to the matter in my opening speech. I want to assure the House that the complaints that have been voiced on this occasion have reached 5 P.M. us also, and that a suitable inquiry into the administration of the organisation is shortly going to be undertaken. I would only ask my Honourable colleagues to wait for a few days.

Rather an unkind reference was made to my staff. I am deeply obliged to my Honourable colleague Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar for having defended my staff. All that I need say in addition to what he said in that connection is that

they have given me and Government their whole-hearted and loyal co-operation, and that the cause of the refugees is very dear to them.

Sir, there has been a general discontent about the pace of the progress made. Let me tell the House that I am thoroughly dissatisfied with myself. I feel that my shoulders are not broad enough for bearing the burden that has been laid on me; and let me give one final assurance that I shall not stick on to office the moment I feel that I do not enjoy the confidence of this House.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 1st December, 1947.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Monday, the 1st December 1947

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS.

CULTIVATION OF LAND

448. *Shri R. R. Diwakar: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a target of ten million acres of land has been fixed for bringing new lands under cultivation;

(b) when the target was fixed;

(c) the extent of lands that has been brought under cultivation in each province since the inauguration of the scheme;

(d) the total yield from these lands;

(e) the details of the aid that the Central Government have given to the provinces in the matter of—(i) irrigation—minor and major, (ii) supply of improved seeds, (iii) reclamation of fallow lands;

(f) the major irrigation schemes in the province of Bombay which have received financial help from the Central Government; and

(g) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the observation made by *Commerce* of Bombay in its issue of the 20th September 1947 on page 510 under the caption "Food situation in India Grim", particularly in the last paragraph about Government statistics?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) and (b). No target has been fixed for the areas of new lands to be brought under cultivation. Targets were, however, fixed in January 1947 for the production of four million tons of additional foodgrains during 1947-52.

(c) and (d). Statements showing the area under culturable waste and the production of the area cultivated as compared with the normal pre-war period were placed on the table in reply to questions 199 and 132 on the 20th November 1947. Separate statistics are not maintained for yield from new lands brought under cultivation.

(e) A statement giving this information was placed on the table in reply to question 132 on 20th November 1947. Details of financial aid to be given for major irrigation projects have not yet been settled.

(f) So far financial assistance has not been given for any major irrigation scheme to Bombay. It has been suggested to the Government of Bombay that the following three major irrigation schemes should be financed from loan money—(i) Vir Dam Project, (ii) Meshava Canal Project, (iii) Gangapur Dam Project.

(g) Government have seen the article in question but the allegations made are not accepted.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it a fact that the Madras Government wanted a lump sum grant for improving the minor irrigation projects, instead of giving subsidies for the sinking of wells?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: The system we have followed so far is to ask provinces to prepare plans. Those plans are received here, examined and sanctioned and the money is allotted on the basis of those sanctioned plans.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know, whether so far as the Madras Government is concerned, the Central Government has promised to give contributions for the sinking of wells by individual ryots in their holdings, but not for major projects?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: Whatever projects have come from the Madras Government have been accepted.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Are these projects in addition to the grants for subsidies for sinking wells and putting dams across rivers?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: As I have said all these projects are regarded as irrigation projects, whether for sinking wells, or tubewells or for opening up irrigation channels. They are all considered together. So whatever plans are received, they are considered and sanctioned.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What is the basis of subsidy in the case of wells: the Government contributes four annas, the ryot four annas and the Central Government eight annas. What is the basis for major irrigation projects?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: Those are considered on their merits. I think it is on a basis of half and half.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: What is the total amount of deficit of food-grains needed to be made up by this new cultivation?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: The deficit that is sought to be made up is 3.2 million tons in India.

Seth Govinddas: Is it not a fact that the Central Provinces have submitted a plan about irrigation in that province, particularly with respect to tube wells, and is Government making any plan to help that Government?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: All such plans are examined here and then sanctioned. I do not know at what stage the particular plan the Honourable Member is referring to is at the present moment.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know whether the Government is aware that most of the land brought under cultivation by the poor agriculturist labourers has been snatched by demobilized soldiers, because they are ex-soldiers? And if so, what steps are Government taking to prevent such snatching?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I submit that it does not arise.

Mr. Speaker: I agree with the Honourable Member.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Is the Government taking care to see that besides the extension of the area under cultivation, efforts are being made to see that the average yield per acre is also being increased?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: The whole scheme is to increase the average yield per acre and also for bringing fresh land under cultivation.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Have any results been achieved so far?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: Of course!

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Since the food scheme was launched, what have been the results?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I have given the figures in answer to another question. But it is difficult to say what increase is attributable to these efforts and what is due to other causes.

REQUIREMENTS OF CAUSTIC SODA.

†449. ***Shri Debi Prosad Khaitan:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state what are the present and prospective requirements of caustic soda in the country?

(b) What is the quantity of caustic soda likely to be available in the years 1947 and 1948 respectively?

(c) What steps are Government taking to obtain supply of the deficit quantity, in order that the economy of the country may not be disturbed for want of caustic soda?

(d) What steps are Government taking to increase the manufacture of caustic soda in the country, and what are the prospects of increase in manufacture as regards quantity and period?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Approximately 50,000 tons and 100,000 tons per annum respectively.

(b) About 23,000 tons in 1947. As there is at present a world shortage of Alkali Chemicals, it is not possible to estimate with any degree of accuracy what imports can be expected in 1948. It is, however, hoped that the present indigenous production of 4,500 tons a year will increase in 1948 to about 14,400 tons.

(c) Anyone is allowed to import who can obtain reasonable offers from abroad. Government is also exploring other sources of supply through diplomatic channels.

(d) Three plants of a total capacity of 4,500 tons per annum have been ordered from the U.S.A. Two of these have arrived and are under erection. These have a total capacity of 3,000 tons a year, and are expected to go into production by March, 1948. Import licences have been issued for further plants with a total capacity of about 30,000 tons per annum. It is expected that these will be in production in about 2 years time.

PROTECTION, SUBVENTION OR SUBSIDY TO INDUSTRIES.

450. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) when Government expect to formulate their policy in regard to the offer of protection, subvention or subsidy to industries;

(b) whether Government propose to appoint any committee to advise them in this regard before they take final decisions;

(c) if so, whether representatives of rural people, peasants and workers will also be consulted;

(d) whether Government propose to appoint a permanent Tariff Board;

(e) the period for which the present Tariff Board is appointed and its terms of reference; and

(f) whether any Cabinet Sub-Committee has considered these terms of reference?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The question has been transferred to the List of questions for the 5th December 1947, when it will be answered by the Honourable Minister for Commerce.

Mr. Speaker: I will request Honourable Members not to change their seats often. I was almost about to call the next question, thinking Professor Ranga was absent!

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I observe that we are not masters of our seats!

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

Mr. Speaker: Once the occupation is there, let it not be disturbed for this Session. We will see about the allotment of seats for next Session.

DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRIES.

451. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

- (a) what consideration has been given to the Neogy Planning Board;
- (b) whether any scheme of priorities has been decided upon for the active development of our industries—small and big;
- (c) when Government propose to begin work for the development of power production, transport, iron and steel, metallurgical industries and plants;
- (d) what steps are being taken to obtain capital, machinery and experts from abroad and also from our own private enterprises for the development of State enterprise in India; and
- (e) what are the plans of Government for the promotion of industrial development of our resources?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) The Ministries concerned are examining the recommendation made by the Board. The Cabinet have also appointed a Special Economic Sub-Committee, which will take the Board's Report into consideration. The principal recommendations in the Report will also be discussed at the forthcoming Industries Conference to be held on the 15th and 16th December 1947, at which Provinces, important States, and industries will be represented.

(b) Urgent problems relating to the development of Industries in India will be discussed at the Industries Conference. Priorities to be accorded to different schemes will also be considered.

(c) The work relating to the development of power production and transport has already been taken up by the Ministries concerned. As regards steel, metallurgical industries and plants, plans for their development are already under Government's consideration, and a special meeting of experts is being convened shortly in respect of the proposed steel plants.

(d) and (e). Government issued a statement on Industrial Policy in 1945 which referred, among other things, to the nationalisation of industries. The position will be reviewed in the light of the recommendations of the ensuing Industries Conference and of the Economic Sub-Committee's report.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the important functions that are being laid on the forthcoming Industries Conference, will Government consider the advisability of inviting some representatives of cottage industries also?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Yes.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know if the Government have come to any conclusion as to the field that should be reserved for direct development by the Central Government?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That matter is under consideration.

Shri K. Santhanam: When is Government likely to come to some decision in the matter?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Early next year.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if this matter also will be placed before the Industries Conference that is to meet?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Yes.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if the proposals in this regard of the Department itself will be placed before the Standing Committee of this House attached to the Industries Ministry before this matter is placed before the formal conference, which would consist not only of Members of the Committee but outsiders also?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The agenda is being circulated today to the members of the Standing Committee.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government considered the question of making suitable developmental grants and also floating necessary loans during the next year in order to speed up the developmental plans?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That matter also will be considered.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: May I know if the Government will be prepared to take into confidence the Standing Committee attached to the Industries Ministry at the time when the Industries Conference begins?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I am issuing letters of invitation to the members of the Standing Committee and I am also calling a meeting of the Standing Committee to discuss the agenda.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will Government consider the advisability of inviting Mr. Vakil who served on the Planning Commission and who resigned stating that experts were not wanted in the previous regime, that the Government had no place for them and that they had place only for I.C.S. men and members of other services? May I know whether his services have been requisitioned and he has been invited to attend this conference?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid I should not allow these questions. They refer to individual cases.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: In view of the very acute shortage of cloth in the country have Government considered the question of giving any fillip to the hand spinning industry?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That matter also will come up for consideration. If there is any specific suggestion that will be considered.

ALL-INDIA HANDLOOM BOARD.

452. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) when the All-India Handloom Board was constituted;

(b) whether it was constituted only for one year in the first instance and whether it was done in pursuance of the resolutions of the Handloom Fact finding Committee;

(c) why it has not been re-constituted for so long;

(d) when it is proposed to re-constitute it;

(e) whether Government are aware that it is the only authoritative quasi Government organisation to consider and advise on handloom problems of all India importance;

(f) whether Government propose to increase the quota of representation given to handloom weavers and their organisations to enable them to form the majority of the Committee; and

(g) whether Government propose to give adequate representation to the All India Handloom Weavers Congress?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the Kirloskar Plant has been producing this machinery for sometime and some of these drums have already come into use in certain parts of the Bombay Presidency?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I am not aware of that.

FOOD REQUIREMENTS OF VARIOUS PROVINCES

454. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the food requirements of the various provinces, their maximum and minimum capacities for food production, their maximum and minimum food procurement and their maximum and minimum food shortages or surpluses, in the light of the last 4 years working of the Food Department; and

(b) how Government propose to help the deficit provinces to maximise their food production?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) A statement showing the requirements, for foodgrains (calculated on the basis of the population and an assumed consumption *per capita*), the estimated production of foodgrains by 1951-52 (if the goods and services required for the execution of the grow more food campaign are available), the maximum and minimum food procurement and maximum and minimum net imports or exports (excluding the figures for Assam, West Bengal, and East Punjab which are not separately available) for the provinces only is placed on the table.

(b) Five-year targets of food production have been drawn up for each province and it is proposed to give financial and technical assistance to Provincial Governments for achieving these targets. Every effort will also be made to see that the materials required to intensify the Grow More Food Campaign are made available to the Provinces.

Food Requirements, Maximum Capacity for Food Production, Maximum and Minimum Food Procurement and Maximum and Minimum Net Imports or Net Exports.

Provinces	Estimated Requirements of foodgrains for 1947-48	Estimated Production of principal foodgrains in 1951-52	Food Procurement		Net Exports		Net Imports	
			Maximum during last 4 years	Minimum during last 4 years	Maximum during last 4 years	Minimum during last 4 years	Maximum during last 4 years	Minimum during last 4 years
Assam	1,221	1,616	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bihar	5,812	5,062	178	64	..	..	241	28
Bombay	3,407	3,222	606	394	..	..	567	499
Central Provinces	2,641	3,627	440	290	234	..	158*	..
East Punjab	2,200	2,925	..	..	689	..	..	..
Madras	7,884	7,636	1,550	773	..	..	587	104
Orissa	1,370	1,555	136	118	105*	59	..	..
United Provinces	8,994	9,458	502	291	..	..	259	95
West Bengal	3,527	3,400	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	37,056	38,501	..	..	..	..	..	..

* Relates to current year and is subject to revision.

† Estimated production is based on the actual average for the five years 1942-47, viz., 35.3 million tons plus the increased estimate of production, viz., 3.2 million tons for the provinces.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) The All-India Handloom Board was constituted in February 1945.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). The question of reorganising the Board was considered in February 1946, and was referred to Provincial Governments. The reorganisation of the board is still under consideration by the Government of India.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Yes, Sir, Government propose to increase the quota of representation given to handloom weavers.

(g) This question also is under consideration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that it is more than one year and eight months since this reorganisation commenced, will Government consider the advisability of expediting the consideration and coming to a definite decision at an early date?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Certainly.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know if the Honourable the Minister will consider the advisability of instituting an All-India Institute of Research for the handloom industry?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I think the Honourable Member is aware that there is a fund called the Cotton Textile Fund which has now reached about 210 lakhs of rupees and out of that fund Government has decided to establish a Cotton Technological Research Institute in Bombay and one of the objects of that institute will be the subject that has been mentioned by the Honourable Member.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the advisability of starting a Central Handloom Goods Emporium in Delhi in order to popularise the various kinds of patterns, designs and other fabrics produced by the handloom weaving industry?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Whether Government should do it or whether it will be done by the representatives of the industry itself will be considered.

Shri M. S. Aney: Am I to understand that the scope of the work of the Central Cotton Research Committee includes also research of handloom industry?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It is not a Research Committee but a Research Institute which Government has decided to establish and it will be financed partly out of this fund.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: Are there any rules for the guidance of this Handloom Board and if so, will Government place a copy of those rules on the table of the House?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I have with me a copy of the resolution passed by the Government of India on the 12th February, 1947 which indicates the different functions which will come within the purview of the Board.

Shri A. P. Pattani: May I inform the Honourable Minister that the first thing essential is not plans but yarn for the handloom weavers?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That information we possess already.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will Government consider the advisability of promoting handspinning?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We propose also to have their representatives on the Board.

453. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether cowdung gasplant has been devised by one of the scientists of the Indian Institute of Agriculture;

(b) whether a descriptive account of it has been published in the Annual number of "Indian Farmer";

(c) whether it is a fact that its use can enable our farmers to freely extract from cow-dung both manure and gas for home use as fuel and lighting; and

(d) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of starting the manufacture of cheap cowdung gasplants and their distribution through Village Panchayats to our farmers in order to prevent the present wastage of cowdung as fuel and its loss as manure?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. Descriptive accounts have been given in the issues of Indian Farming for February, 1945 and for July, 1946.

(c) This is the claim put forward in the above articles.

(d) It is considered premature to start a factory for the manufacture of cowdung gas plants as the process has not yet been tried out under village conditions. Mr. N. V. Joshi who was formerly at the I.A.R.I., has taken out a patent and proposes to make small scale plants. These will be tried out when available and if the results are encouraging the question of their manufacture in larger numbers and their distribution to villages will be considered in consultation with Provincial Departments of Agriculture.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know what is being done by Government to encourage this gentleman to produce these things at an economic price?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: The gentleman has taken out a patent: he is going to try it. When we see the results we shall consider what can be done in the matter.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why is it that the Government themselves do not wish to make this experiment and see that the thing is produced at an economic price instead of leaving it to the gentleman concerned with the possibility of his making profits thereon at the cost of the general public?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: We do not think that the experiment has reached a stage when the Government can take it up. We are waiting to see how far it will succeed and then we can take it up, not at this stage of the experiment.

Shri M. S. Aney: Is this plant not exhibited somewhere?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I cannot answer that off-hand.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it a fact that it is exhibited in the Institute at Delhi?

Shri Balkrishna Sharma: May I know if the Government are aware that cowdung is of great manure value and that the installation of such gas plants is likely to take away a large part of cowdung which is essential for manuring the fields?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: The claim is that gas would be produced and the manure part will also be available.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is this gentleman sure that he will be able to make a success of his experiment and does not want any aid during the experimental stage?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: He has not asked for any help.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know what attempts are being made by Government to invoke the aid and active co-operation of the agriculturists themselves in order to further this Grow More Food campaign, in addition to simply giving them some subsidies?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I do not know what else the Government can do. Government ask them to grow more food and they are giving them aid in the form of monetary assistance for purchasing manure and better seed and providing facilities for irrigation.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are not Government aware of the fact that in England the Government takes active steps to encourage the farmers to organize themselves and to invite the co-operation of the farmers' organizations to further its Grow More Food campaign?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: That is being done. I understand in the Provinces the Agriculture Department gets assistance from such organizations as are available there.

Shri S. Nagappa: In view of the fact that large tracts of cultivable waste land are still lying waste almost in all Provinces, has the Government any scheme or plan to bring almost all the land under cultivation at the earliest date in order to solve the food problem?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: So far as this Five Year Grow More Food Plan is concerned it is intended that a great deal of land which is now lying waste will be brought under cultivation. As regards the rest of the land which is now waste, it will require bigger projects, and those are contemplated in projects like what we are now having in Bihar and Bengal, the Damodar project, the Kosi project, the Hirakud project and so many other projects.

Mr. Tajamul Hussain: May I know whether any law has been introduced in the Provinces to reclaim waste lands?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I understand there has been a law passed in Bihar and I believe there is some law in Bombay also. I am not aware of the position in other Provinces.

Mr. Tajamul Hussain: Will the Government advise the Provincial Governments to introduce such law?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: We are going to introduce a Bill in this Assembly to cover the Chief Commissioners' Provinces which are directly under the Government of India. It is expected that other Governments will follow suit.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it expected that if this five year plan is worked out fully, the entire deficit will be covered up, or is another five year plan necessary to make up the deficit?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: The expected yield from these plans in India, apart from the States, is 3.2 million tons by 1952. But, as I understand, the increase in the population will result in an increase in the demand there will still be a deficit after that, of anything between 1 and 2 million tons.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know if the Government is aware of the increase in the prices of sugarcane, and if so whether it will not affect this five year Grow More Food plan?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: Land under sugarcane is small in area as compared to the entire land under food crops, and if there is any increase in sugarcane area it will not very substantially affect the production of food. It has also to be remembered that sugarcane gives us sugar which has really more calorific value than any other food produced on the same land.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: In view of the fact that in spite of so much effort in the direction of the Grow More Food campaign by the Government the results have not been satisfactory, is it intended to institute an enquiry to find out as to why the desired objective has not been reached?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I do not think we have reached a stage when an enquiry is called for.

Shri C. Subrahmanyam: In view of the fact that the lessons of the Grow More Food Campaign have on the whole been disappointing, may I know whether any alternative scheme has been formulated?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: The results have not been as good as they ought to have been or as they had been expected, and to that extent they have been disappointing. But we have not any alternative scheme as the time has not come for that.

Seth Govinddas: As far as the waste lands are concerned, when they are brought under cultivation, will Government see to it that they are brought under cultivation under conditions of some sort of co-operative farming, and will Government advise the Provincial Governments to have such a scheme in view?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: It will depend upon local conditions, but the policy of the Government is to encourage co-operative farming wherever possible.

STANDARDIZATION OF RAILWAY EQUIPMENT

†455. ***Shri Debi Prosad Khaitan:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a Standardization section in the Railway Board for standardizing railway equipment;

(b) how far the standardization of railway equipment has been completed and what parts of railway equipment still remain to be standardized; and

(c) whether Government are aware that manufacture in India of such equipment can be facilitated if it is standardized?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes. The Central Standards Office for Railways was established in 1930.

(b) During the last 17 years of its existence, standard designs have been prepared for the following:

(i) Locomotives for all gauges.

(ii) Carriage underframes and bodies for broad and metre-gauge.

(iii) Goods stock such as covered wagons, open wagons, oil tanks, hopper trucks, brake vans, etc.

(iv) Bridge girders of different spans and types.

(v) Various types of structures such as platform roofs, goods sheds, etc.

(vi) Track components and fittings such as rails, sleepers, fastenings, turnouts, etc.

(vii) Signals and interlocking.

As Railway equipment covers such a wide range and the progress in the Engineering field in this age is so rapid, it is impossible to reach finality and standardization has inevitably to be a progressive process.

(c) The Government is well aware of this advantage. Equipment and stores are purchased against a standard drawing and specification. There are 23,827 Loco, Carr. and Wagon standard drawings and 17,000 Civil (covering bridges, station buildings, track, etc.). Central Standards Office has also issued 150 specifications of its own and has also drafted many issued as I.S.D. Specifications.

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

SLAUGHTER OF CATTLE

456. *Shri B. A. Mandloi: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether the slaughter of cattle is on the decline in the past two years as compared with the year 1944-45?

(b) What kinds of cattle are generally slaughtered and whether the meat of such slaughtered cattle is consumed locally or exported to places outside India?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) No data about the number of cattle slaughtered in India for Civil consumption after 1945 is available. The slaughter of cattle for military consumption is however considerably on the decline. Only 125 cattle were slaughtered during the first six months of 1947 as against 2,87,445 in 1944.

(b) Generally useful cattle are not slaughtered. The meat is consumed locally and is not exported outside India.

Seth Govinddas: Is it not a fact that though an age limit has been fixed by various Provinces and municipalities for the slaughter of these cattle, it is never adhered to and there is still indiscriminate slaughter in many municipalities and towns?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I know that an age limit has been fixed and certain other limitations have also been laid down for the slaughter of cattle. But to what extent they have been disregarded or disobeyed I do not know.

Mr. Tajamal Hussain: Are Government aware that slaughter of cattle has considerably declined since the 15th of August 1947?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I have no information about that.

Shri B. A. Mandloi: Will the Government consider the desirability of prohibiting by legislation the slaughter of cattle fit for agriculture and for giving milk?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I have appointed a Committee of people who are interested in the preservation of cattle. We shall await the report of that Committee before taking any decision in the matter.

Shri M. S. Aney: May I know when this Committee was appointed and when Government expect to receive the report of the Committee?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: The Committee was appointed only a short time ago—just about a fortnight or so ago—and the report of the Committee can be expected in due time.

श्री रामसाहय : क्या माननीय मिनिस्टर साहब यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि जो कमेटी वे बना रहे हैं उसमें एग्रीकल्चर (Agriculture) के स्टैंडिंग कमेटी (Standing Committee) के मेम्बरों को भी शरीक किया जायगा या उनको कान्फिडेंस (Confidence) में लिया जायगा ।

Shri Ram Sahai: Will the Honourable Minister please state whether the members of the Standing Committee for Agriculture will also be included in the new committee or will they be taken into confidence and their opinions considered?

आनरेबिल डा० राजेन्द्रप्रसाद यह सवाल जब कमेटी की रिपोर्ट आ जायेगी तब देखा जायगा ।

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: It will be considered when the report of the Committee is received.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: Does the Committee consist of official members or non-official members?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: It consists largely of non-officials.

Seth Govinddas: Will the Government give powers to this Committee so that when it thinks it advisable it can co-opt more members who are interested in this subject?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I do not exactly remember the terms of reference, but I suppose there is provision for that.

PROHIBITION OF SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS.

457. *Shri B. A. Mandloi: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government have taken any steps to prohibit the slaughter of animals of all kinds in well-known places of Hindu pilgrimage?

(b) If not, do Government propose to do so now?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) No.

(b) It has been decided to set up a Committee of experts to consider the whole question of slaughter of cattle in India and to recommend practical measures for the conservation and development of the cattle wealth of the country. This committee will be asked to consider the question raised by the Honourable Member. I have got the names of the members of the Committee of experts here in case the honourable member who put a supplementary question about it is interested in it.

Mr. Speaker: Let the list of names be placed on the table of the House.

Resolution.

It has been brought to the notice of the Government of India that large numbers of cattle are annually slaughtered in this country for meat, that this slaughter is often indiscriminate, that it includes animals of all ages and qualities and that the slaughter results in short supplies of milk and work bullocks and in the depletion of the country's cattle wealth. There has been considerable agitation in the press, on the platform and on the floor of the Legislature in regard to this matter, and Government has been urged to take immediate steps to prohibit slaughter by legislation. As this is a complicated socio-religious subject the Government of India have, after careful consideration, decided to appoint an Expert Committee of officials and non-officials to consider the question in all its aspects and to recommend a comprehensive plan of action which can be put into immediate effect for preserving the cattle wealth of the country and for promoting its development.

In considering the subject the Committee will pay particular attention to the following:—

- The cause and the extent of periodical variation in the population of each class of cattle and the effect of such variation on the supply of milk and bullock power.
- Detailed examination of the available statistics of slaughter, proportion of useful animals therein and an estimate of the material loss caused thereby.
- Population trend of old and unproductive cattle and the problem of their maintenance and economic utilisation in view both of shortage of cattle feed and of prevailing sentiments against slaughter.
- Now agencies like Gausshalas and cattle Protection Societies and Salvage Centres can be utilised for preserving cattle wealth and for promoting its developments.
- Review of existing regulations regarding restrictions on cattle slaughter and of the administrative arrangements for the enforcement of the regulations.

The Committee will consist of :—

1. Sardar Bahadur Sir Datar Singh, Vice-Chairman, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, and Cattle Utilisation Adviser to the Government of India—Chairman.
2. Rai Bahadur P. N. Nanda, Animal Husbandry Commissioner with the Government of India.
3. Mr. N. B. Shahai, Director of Veterinary Services, C. P. & Berar.
4. Dr. Zai R. Kothawalla, Dairy Development Adviser to the Government of India.
5. L. Hardev Sahai, Secretary, Gau Rakishini Sabha, Hissar.
6. Rai Bahadur J. N. Manker, Honorary Secretary, Bombay Humanitarian League, 149, Shroff Bazar, Bombay.
7. Sardar Bahadur Harchand Singh, Agricultural Commissioner, Patiala.
8. Guru Partap Singh, Bhaini Sahib, District Ludhiana.
9. Shri Dharam Lal Singh, Secretary, Bihar Gowshala Federation, Sadaqat Ashram, Patna, P. O. Dighaghat.
10. Mr. Satishchandar Dass Gupta, Khadi Pratisthan, near Calcutta.
11. Shri Mahabir Parshad Pottedar, Gorakhpur.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are the Cattle Protection Conference organized at Kanpur and the Cow Protection League organized at Wardha represented on the expert committee?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: Yes.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: May I know if all the parties represented in the Legislature are on that committee?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I have submitted the list. I might make one little correction in the answer that I gave to Professor Ranga. I do not know about particular cattle organizations, but cattle organizations generally are represented.

Shri O. V. Alagesan: Will Government consider the question of prohibiting the sacrifice of cattle in holy places?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: As I have said, the whole question will be considered on the report of the Committee.

EXPENDITURE ON " GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN "

458. ***Shri B. A. Mandloi:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent by the Government of India on "Grow More Food" campaign in each of the years, 1944-45, 1945-46 and 1946-47;

(b) the amount allotted to the Provinces and Indian States in each of the above years;

(c) the measure of success achieved in this direction; and

(d) the Province or Provinces or the Indian State which showed appreciable progress in this direction?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: Information with regard to the assistance given to Provinces and Local Administrations for the Grow More Food campaign and the average and production of the principal foodgrains for the period 1943-44 to 1946-47 as compared with the normal prewar period was furnished to the House in reply to question No. 132 on the 20th November, 1947. Three statements giving similar information in respect of Indian States in so far as it is available are placed on the table.

STATEMENT I

Statement showing the total Amounts sanctioned by the Government of India to Indian States for GMF Campaign in the Years 1944-45, 1945-46 and 1946-47.

NAME OF STATE.	Total amount sanctioned by the Government of India in the Year.					
	1944-45		1945-46		1946-47	
	Loan	Grant	Loan	Grant	Loan	Grant
1. Baroda State	..	7,19,220	..	1,444	..	..
2. Charkhari State	..	2,000	..	..	..	..
3. Rampur State	..	8,698	..	..	..	..
4. Faridkot State	..	..	..	1,00,000	..	..
5. Kashmir State	..	..	..	17,025	..	..
6. Jasdom State	..	..	..	7,954	..	..
7. Joora State.	..	..	..	33,708	..	..
8. Ratlam State	..	..	..	3,331	..	..
9. Sirmur State	..	..	..	500	..	755
10. Travancore State	..	..	..	65,715	..	80,584
11. Gwalior State	..	..	..	3,952	..	..
12. Wandanai State.	..	..	..	50,000	..	..
13. Mysore State	..	..	..	..	..	16,118
TOTAL	..	7,29,918	..	2,83,629	..	91,451

Shri Rameshwar Prasad Sinha: Will the Government state if the amount earmarked for any of the provinces did lapse because of the non-submission in due time of the requisite list of projects proposed to be taken up in the provinces concerned?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: The information is contained in the statement that I have placed on the table.

MANUFACTURE OF VEGETABLE GHEE.

459. ***Shri B. A. Mandloi:** Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have got scientifically examined the various products manufactured on a large scale which are known as vegetable ghee;

(b) whether Government are aware that the volume of expert opinion on the subject is against the use of vegetable ghee for human consumption;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to prohibit the manufacture of vegetable or artificial ghee, as being injurious to human health on account of their deficiency in food values; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, what steps Government propose to take to prohibit the manufacture and sale of artificial or vegetable ghee?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) Yes.

(b) The results of the research carried on so far are not conclusive on the point.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

Seth Govinddas: Is it not a fact that a few months ago the Honourable Minister himself made a statement in this respect and said that wherever these experiments were held it was largely found to be injurious to health, and under these circumstances will Government see that no new licences are given for producing vegetable ghee?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I think the Honourable Member is referring to the statement which I made in the Council of State on the 11th of March 1947. I did not make the statement in the form in which it has been stated.

Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Member at least see that when the scientific enquiries in this respect are not conclusive so far, no new licences are given for producing vegetable ghee?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: But no new licences are being granted now.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Will the Government consider the advisability of colourizing artificial ghee which is already produced?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: Under the existing rules, colourizing is not made compulsory, but we insist upon a certain percentage of sesamum oil being mixed with all Vanaspathi products so that it becomes easily detectable with a simple chemical test.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Will Government consider the advisability of putting some colour to make it easily distinguishable?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: This question has been considered and it has been found impracticable partly because no colour is found to be such as to last, and partly because those who use Vanaspathi do not like the colour and the thing becomes unpopular.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: The Honourable the Minister in charge of Food has replied that no new licences are being given, my question is do Government propose not to grant new licences in future?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: The position with regard to Vanaspathi is this. From 38,000 tons per year before the war, the licences which have already been granted cover a production of 459,000 tons. This year the production has been something between 150,000 and 200,000 tons. The new factories will double present production and there can be no question of granting new licences so long as present licences have been operative.

Shri Balkrishna Sharma: May I know if the Government will take into consideration the suggestion that the process of hydrogenation is stopped and that Vanaspathi factories are only required to sell the oil in its pure form?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: That is a suggestion which may be taken into consideration.

Dr. V. Subrahmanyam: Have the Government found out whether in the process of hydrogenation oil loses vitamin properties or whether vegetable oil is injurious to health?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: As I have already stated, the whole matter is under investigation by scientists. It does lose its vitamin content. That is admitted by all.

Mr. Speaker: I may say that all these questions were put a number of times, of course not in this session but in previous sessions, and so instead of putting the same questions it would be better to go to the next question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: But the trouble is Government does not seem to be mending its way.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Is it not a fact that the vegetable product, which is known as vegetable ghee, is less harmful than adulterated ghee which is sold in large quantities in the country?

Mr. Speaker: This is a question of opinion.

IMPORTS OF PROCESSED FOODS.

†460. ***Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state whether any processed foods have been imported from abroad to supplement the food supply in the country?

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

STATEMENT II.

Statement showing area under principal foodgrains (rice, wheat, jowar, bajra, maize, ragi, barley and gram) in Indian States and increase or decrease during 1943-44, 1944-45, 1945-46, and 1946-47 as compared with normal period (Average 1936-37 to 1938-39).

Indian States	Normal Average 1936-37 to 1938-39	1943-44	1944-45	1945-46	1946-47	(Thousand acres)							
						Increase (+) or decrease (—) as compared with the normal during							
						1943-44	1944-45	1945-46	1946-47	Actual	Percent	Actual	Percent
Baroda	1,523	1,974	1,893	1,886	N.A.	(+) 451	(+) 30.0	(+) 370	(+) 24.3	(+) 363	(+) 23.8	..	..
Hyderabad	14,986	14,160	14,112	12,012	N.A.	(—) 826	(—) 5.5	(—) 874	(—) 5.8	(—) 2,974	(—) 19.8	..	..
Gwalior	1,553	1,344	3,148	2,807	N.A.	(—) 219	(—) 14.1	(+) 1,595	(+) 102.7	(+) 1,254	(+) 80.7	..	..
Mysore	3,665	3,893	3,566	3,291	N.A.	(+) 228	(+) 6.2	(—) 99	(—) 2.7	(—) 374	(—) 10.2	..	..
Rampur	170	145	150	163	N.A.	(—) 25	(—) 14.7	(—) 20	(—) 11.8	(—) 7	(—) 4.1	..	..
* Other Reporting States	13,270	14,690	28,120	27,530	N.A.	(+) 1,420	(+) 10.7	(+) 14,850	(+) 111.9	(+) 14,260	(+) 107.5	..	..
TOTAL	35,167	36,196	50,989	47,689	N.A.	(+) 1,029	(+) 2.9	(+) 15,822	(+) 45.0	(+) 12,522	(+) 35.6	..	..

N. A.—Not available.

*The figures for 1944-45 and 1945-46 in respect of Indian States include figures for jowar, bajra and maize for certain areas which started reporting only recently and are, therefore, not strictly comparable with the figures for previous years.

STATEMENT III

Statement showing production of principal foodgrains (rice, wheat, jowar, bajra, maize, ragi, barley and gram) in Indian States and increase or decrease during the 1943-44, 1944-45, 1945-46 and 1946-47 as compared with normal period (Average 1936-37 to 1938-39).

Name of State	Normal Average 1936-37 to 1938-39	1943-44	1944-45	1945-46	1946-47	(Thousand Tons)							
						Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with the normal during							
						1943-44		1944-45		1945-46		1946-47	
						Actual	Percent	Actual	Percent	Actual	Percent	Actual	Percent
Baroda ..	209	464	248	345	N.A.	(-) 255	(+) 122.0	(+) 39	(+) 18.7	(+) 136	(+) 65.1	..	..
Gwalior ..	371	327	766	636	N.A.	(-) 44	(-) 11.9	(+) 395	(+) 106.5	(+) 265	(+) 71.4	..	..
Hyderabad ..	2,390	2,031	2,074	1,613	N.A.	(-) 359	(-) 15.0	(-) 316	(-) 13.2	(-) 777	(-) 32.5	..	..
Mysore ..	860	972	885	539	N.A.	(+) 112	(+) 13.0	(+) 25	(+) 2.9	(-) 321	(-) 37.3	..	..
Rampur ..	36	36	33	27	N.A.	..	..	(-) 3	(-) 8.3	(-) 9	(-) 25.0	..	..
*Other Reporting States ..	3,549	3,650	4,893	4,315	N.A.	(+) 101	(+) 2.8	(+) 1,344	(+) 37.9	(+) 766	(+) 21.6	..	..
TOTAL ..	7,415	7,480	8,899	7,475	N.A.	(+) 65	(+) 0.9	(+) 1,484	(+) 20.0	(+) 60	(+) 0.8	..	..

N. A.—Not available.

*The figures for 1944-45 and 1945-46 in respect of Indian States include figures for Jowar, Bajra and Maize for certain areas which started reporting only recently and are, therefore, not strictly comparable with the figures for previous years.

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(b) If so, what are the varieties and quantities imported and what is their total value?

(c) How are they allocated to the different provinces and states?

(d) Are Government aware that large quantities of processed foods are manufactured in India?

(e) If so, what is the total output of such foods in India?

(f) Do Government propose to utilise these preserved food-stuffs for supplementing the usual food supply?

(g) If not, do Government propose to permit the export of these processed food-stuffs to foreign countries?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Condensed milk, whole milk powder, separated milk powder and dehydrated potatoes and vegetables were the varieties of processed foods imported on Government account during 1945-46 and 1946-47 of the total value of 606.94 lacs of rupees. Details are given in a statement placed on the table.

(d) Government are aware that some processed foodstuffs are manufactured in India.

(e) A statement is placed on the table showing the information as far as is available.

(f) They are being so utilized by the public; Government do not propose to distribute them themselves.

(g) Export policy of the Government in respect of processed foodstuffs is as under:

(i) *Milk and milk products; products of grain, pulse and flour; biscuits; chutney and pickles; sauces; curry powder; condiments; chocolate and confectionery; honey; yeast; golden syrup; canned vegetables; fish and meat; meat extract; ground, prepared and manufactured coconuts.*—Export is prohibited.

(ii) *Fruits canned and bottled.*—Export is allowed up to 10 per cent. of production.

(iii) *Fish dried and prawns.*—Export is allowed to Burma and Ceylon only upto a total of 26,389 tons; 5,413 tons to Burma and 20,976 tons to Ceylon.

(iv) *Vegetable Oil Product.*—Fixed quotas, which are very small, are allowed to be exported to Persian Gulf Shiekhdoms and Portuguese possessions in India only.

(v) *Flavouring Essences, bacon, ham lard.*—Export is allowed freely.

(vi) *Essence of chicken.*—Export allowed depending on merits of each case.

STATEMENT 'I'

Processed foods imported on Government account to supplement the food supply position

Serial No.	Year of Imports	Name of Foodstuff	Quantity Imported	Value in lakh of rupees	Details of Distribution or names of recipients
			Tons		
	1944-45	Condensed Milk	1500	16.73	Distributed through trade channels in the Regions falling under R.F. Cs., Bombay, Calcutta, Madras & Deputy R.F.C., Karachi
		Spray processed separated milk powder	1376	10.51	Bombay Government
		Roller processed separated milk powder	1507	20.10	Bombay Government & private firms.
	1945-46	Condensed milk.	3480	42.93	Distributed through trade channels in the regions falling under R. F. Cs; Bombay, Calcutta, Madras & Dy. R.F. C., Karachi.
		Dehydrated potatoes	7000	216.36	Bombay Government, 1000 tons Madras Government 2322 tons, Bengal Government 3800 tons (Approx.)
		Dehydrated vegetables	100	1.62	Bombay Government.
		Bread Biscuits	400	4.01	Bombay Government 200 tons. Madras Government 150 tons. Cochin State 50 tons.
		Spray processed separated milk powder	1705	13.76	Bombay Government 1415 Tons. Bengal Government 200 tons. Andaman Islands 90 tons.
		Whole milk powder	150	3.67	Indian Red Cross Society.
	1946-47	Spray processed separated milk powder	8150	112.61	Bombay Government 125 Tons. Madras Government 6925 tons.
		Whole Milk Powder	4894	164.64	Bombay Government 2334 tons. Madras Government 1259 tons. Bengal Government 1151 tons. Indian Red Cross Society 150 tons.

606.94

Name of Food Industry including beverages	Output during 1945-46 & 1946-47 (Tons)	Capacity per annum (Tons)	Remarks.
1. Sugar Confectionery	9000 (1946-47)	12,200	Actual production was less due to restriction on the supply of raw materials.
2. Liquid Glucose	320 (1945-46)	2,590	do.
3. Chocolate & Cocoa Powder	86 (1945-46)	150	do.
4. Starch	15,647 (1945-46)	57,300	During 1946-47, maize was not allotted and the production of starch was restricted.
5. Gelatine	12 (1945-46)	30	..
6. Malt	Not available.	3,100	..
7. Yeast Extract	15 (1945-46)	48	..
8. Biscuits	Not available.	40 to 50 per day.	Actual production not known; but it was less than the capacity owing to restriction on supply of raw materials which were in acute shortage.
9. Breakfast foods	do.	10 per day	do.
10. Fish, dried and salted	2,50,000 tons	..	..
11. Fruit products	5,700 tons	..	..
12. Milk Powder	..	100	Actual production not known.

CONSTRUCTION OF FERTILISER FACTORIES

†461. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) how many fertiliser factories have so far been licensed and constructed and in which provinces;

(b) how far the Sindri factory has progressed; and

(c) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of starting two co-operative factories in the Andhra area, one for Rayalaseema (Ceded Districts) and the other for the Circars?

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

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) As far as Government are aware, there is only one fertilizer factory, namely, Mysore Chemical and Fertilizers Ltd., Mysore. There are seven coal and steel concerns in Bihar which produce fertilizer as a by-product. A fertilizer plant in Travancore is also complete. The erection of a Government fertilizer factory at Sindri in Bihar has been started. No licence is required for starting factories to manufacture fertilizers.

(b) Agreements have been concluded with an American and a British firm for the designing of the factory and for procuring and erection of the plant respectively. Engineers of the two firms have arrived and technicians for the erection of the factory are beginning to arrive. Orders for the most important items of plant have been placed in India and abroad. Land has been acquired and a large amount of preliminary work like temporary housing, temporary water and power supply, levelling of the site, building of roads and installation of certain complicated reinforced concrete foundations, has been done. Most of the structural steel work necessary for the building has been ordered and fabrication is well advanced. Some steel work and a considerable tonnage of plant have arrived at site or are in transit. A temporary railway siding has been constructed for the receipt of plant. The permanent broad-gauge connection linking the factory with the E. I. R. system is nearing completion. A permanent township is being built for housing the staff and workmen, and necessary services such as water supply, electricity, etc. are being provided.

(c) At the time when it was decided to establish a factory at Sindri, it was agreed that the possibility of establishing a factory in South India should be examined. The matter has not yet been taken up for active consideration, but when it is, the suggestions put forward by the Honourable Member will be borne in mind.

CONSTRUCTION OF FOOD-GRAIN STORE-HOUSES

†462. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) whether grants are being made to Provincial Governments for construction of food grain store-houses, ware-houses and elevators and if so, what are the amounts of grants and the names of Provinces to whom they are given and the number of such constructions which have so far been completed;

(b) whether the Railways are being encouraged to construct grain elevators and if so, where; and

(c) whether any steps are being taken to spread the knowledge of better storage of grain among the rural people and also urban markets?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) Grants are made to Provincial Governments at 50 per cent of the cost of construction of godowns for the storage of the exportable surplus. Particulars of such grants made upto date are as under:—

Province	Grain Storage Godowns constructed.			Grain Storage Godowns under construction capacity (in tons)	Total capacity (in tons)
	No. of constructions	Capacity (in tons)	Estimated cost (Rs.)		
1	2	3	4	5	6
Orissa	40	18,500	6,36,000	12,500	31,000
C. P.	65	25,250	13,65,000	600	25,850
East Punjab	6	3,600	90,000	—	3,600
Total	111	47,350	20,91,000	13,100	60,450

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

The question of installation of elevator stores is under examination and no grants have so far been made for the purpose.

(b) The Railway Board were also approached with a view to investigating the advisability of constructing grain elevators in the Punjab and Sind but consequent upon the partition the matter has been dropped for the time being.

(c) The following steps are taken to spread the knowledge of better storage for rural and urban areas:

- (i) Broadcast talks in English, Hindustani and other Indian Languages.
- (ii) Advice to observe conditions of godown hygiene and maintenance of stocks.
- (iii) Practical demonstration of the methods of insect and rat control.
- (iv) Issue of posters depicting methods of proper storage.
- (v) Holding Central and Regional training classes.
- (vi) At the instance of the Ministry of Food, Legislation has been passed or is under contemplation in some Provinces and States to grant licenses only to those grain dealers who possess approved warehouses and take proper care of stocks.

CONTROLLED FOOD-GRAIN PRICES

†463. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) the level of controlled food grain prices prevailing in different provinces in the years 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946 and 1947;

(b) the prices that Government have been obliged to pay per maund of wheat and rice to Pakistan Government since the 15th of August 1947; and

(c) the quantities of food grains that were promised to be supplied by Pakistan Government every month and to what extent they have been supplied?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) A statement is placed on the table.

(b) Pakistan Government has charged the same prices for despatches after 15th of August as were approved of by the Government of India for despatches before 15th of August. These were for wheat Rs. 11.4-0 per maund f.o.b. Karachi and for rice (Sind Kangni) medium Rs. 11.4-6 f.o.b. Karachi.

(c) A statement showing despatches from Pakistan areas since 15th August is placed on the table. For outstanding balances which have not been supplied attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the statement placed on the table of the House in answer to part (a) of starred question 198 by Seth Govind Das on the 20th November, 1947.

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

STATEMENT I
Showing wholesale statutory and market prices of Rice in India since 1942

Province	1942		1943		1944		1945		1946		1947	
	Statutory Price	Market Price	Statutory Price	Market Price	Statutory Price	Market Price	Statutory Price	Market Price	Statutory Price	Market Price	Statutory Price	Market Price
Assam	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
	..	..	23 8 0 (a) 21 0 0 (b) (Since 15-10-43) 22 0 0 (a)	20 5 6 (Since 15-10-43) 19 8 0 (b) (Since 15-11-43) 20 0 0 (a) 17 8 0 (b) (Since 15-12-43)	20 0 0 (a) 17 8 0 (b) (Since 1-1-44) 18 0 0 (a) 15 8 0 (b) (Since 15-1-44) 16 0 0 (a) 13 8 0 (b) (Since 15-2-44) 15 8 0 (a) 13 0 0 (b) (Since 15-3-44) 15 0 0 (a) 12 8 0 (b) (Since 15-4-44) 14 12 0 (a) 12 4 0 (b) (Since 1-9-44) 14 8 0 (a) 11 8 0 (b) (Since 1-10-44)	15 1 6 (Since 1-1-45) 13 0 0 (a) 14 0 0 (b) (Since 1-7-45)	13 8 0 (a) 14 8 0 (b) (Since 1-1-45) 13 0 0 (a) 14 0 0 (b) (Since 1-7-45)	12 12 2 (Since 1-7-45)	11 10 0 (a) 12 6 0 (b) (Since 1-7-45)	11 11 2 (Since 1-7-45)	11 10 0 (a) 12 6 0 (b) (Since 1-7-45)	11 9 7 (Since 1-7-45)
Bengal	..	9 8 0	20 0 0 to 30 0 0 Up to 30-11-43 16 0 0 to 17 0 0 (Since 1-12-43)	20 14 8 (Since 1-12-43)	16 0 0 (Up to 14-1-44) 14 0 4 to 15 0 0 (Since 15-1-44) 13 12 0 (T) to 15 0 0 to 14 4 0 (Since 15-3-44) to 14-1-44	13 3 10 (Since 1-1-45)	13 8 0 (a) 14 12 0 (b) to 14 0 0 to 14 1 45 to 10 3 45	12 0 5 (Since 1-1-45)	12 14 0 (T) to 19 8 0 (A) to 12 12 0	13 3 7 (Since 1-1-45)	12 12 0 (T) to 13 8 0 (A) to 12 12 0	17 3 1 (Since 1-1-45)

(a) Other than Aus and Boro.

(b) Aus and Boro.

(T) = Traders.

(A) = Agriculturist.

Note. 1.—Market prices shown above are the arithmetical averages of the month-end prices of as many Producing centres as available in the Provincial Governments' reports covering the entire period.

2.—Statutory or ceiling prices, where the range is not shown relate to the basic maximum fixed for the main producing areas; normal differentials being allowed for other areas within the province to cover transport handling, etc.

Province.	1942		1943		1944		1945		1946		1947	
	Statutory Price	Market Price	Statutory Price	Market Price	Statutory Price	Market Price	Statutory Price	Market Price	Statutory Price	Market Price	Statutory Price	Market Price
Bihar	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Bombay	..	6 9 8	17 0 0 (from 20-9-43)	13 8 2	11 0 0 (Basic) to 14 12 0 (1-4-44 to 30-11-44)	9 15 4	9 0 0 (Basic) (15-1-45) to 13 8 0 (T) to 12 12 0 (A) (Since 11-3-45)	9 0 0 (Basic) to 14 11 10	9 0 0 (Basic) to 16 0 0	15 5 1	9 0 0 (Basic) to 16 0 0	15 5 1
C. P. & Berar	..	9 8 2	..	15 14 0	8 8 0 to 10-8-0 (Ceiling price) (from 8th April to 27th May)	8 11 10	5 3 6 to 16 0 0 (Since 24-3-45)	12 7 6 to 16 0 0	5 3 6 to 16 0 0	11 12 8	5 3 6 to 16 0 0	11 12 8
Delhi	..	6 5 1	..	8 13 10	8 8 0 to 10-8-0 (Ceiling price) (from 8th April to 27th May)	7 14 7	8 4 0 to 8 13 0 (If sort.) f.o.r.	8 12 1 to 10-8-0 (Ceiling price)	8 9 0 to 10-8-0 for (46-47)	8 14 8	8 9 0 to 10-8-0 for (46-47)	8 14 8
Madras	..	12 13 4	..	18 4 4	14 6 0	14 12 6	13 10 7	13 10 7	14 13 0	14 13 0	14 13 0	14 13 0
N. W. F. P.	..	6 11 0	..	7 15 0	8 4 0 to 8 13 0 (If sort.) f.o.r.	7 14 7	8 4 0 to 8 13 0 (If sort.) f.o.r.	8 2 6 to 8 13 0 (If sort.) f.o.r.	8 4 0 to 8 13 0 (If sort.) f.o.r.	8 12 1	8 4 0 to 8 13 0 (If sort.) f.o.r.	8 12 1
	..	..	..	..	13 8 0 to 14 2 0 (Since 5-4-44) 13 8 0 (Basic)	13 8 0	13 8 0 to 14 2 0 (Since 1-1-45) 12 4 0 to 12 12 0 (Since 29-10-45) (Basic)	13 8 0 to 14 2 0 (Since 1-1-45) 12 4 0 to 12 12 0 (Basic)	12 4 0 to 12 12 0 21st January 21 8 0 (Basic)	12 4 0	12 4 0 to 12 12 0 21st January 21 8 0 (Basic)	12 4 0

Orissa	..	5 4 10	9 0 0 (14th Nov.)	11 1 4	9 0 0 (since 1-12-44)	7 12 0	7 12 0	7 12 0	7 12 0	7 12 0	7 12 0	7 12 0
Punjab	..	11 0 0	..	15 15 0	13 8 0 (Basic)	12 4 0	11 8 7	12 4 0 (Basic)	12 4 0	12 4 0	12 4 0	12 4 0
Sind	..	..	8 8 0 (5th Jan. 43.)	8 0 0	8 8 0	8 2 0 (Upto 24-10-45) (25th Oct)	8 4 7	8 2 0 (Upto 27th Nov.) 8 6 0 (28th Nov.)	8 2 0	8 6 0	8 6 0	8 6 0
U. P.	..	9 7 0	..	14 3 10	13 8 0	15 4 6	14 3 11	13 4 0	14 10 9	13 4 0	14 10 9	17 10 1

(+) Price payable to Producers.
 Note I.—Market prices shown above are the arithmetical averages of the month-end prices of as many Producing centres as available in the Provincial Governments' reports covering the entire period.
 (†) According to district.
 (T) Traders.
 (A) Agriculturist.
 (*) Purchase price.
 (‡) Paddy prices according to districts and quality.
 (1) Statutory or ceiling prices, where the range is not shown relate to the basic maximum fixed for the main producing areas; normal differentials being allowed for other areas within the province to cover transport handling etc.

STATEMENT II.

Showing wholesale statutory and market prices of jowar in India since 1942.

(In rupees per maund.)

Province.	1942		1943		1944		1945		1946		1947	
	Statutory Price.	Market Price.	Statutory Price.	Market Price.	Statutory Price.	Market Price.	Statutory Price.	Market Price.	Statutory Price.	Market Price.	Statutory Price.	Market Price.
Punjab	Rs. A. P. ..	Rs. A. P. 4 11 0	Rs. A. P. ..	Rs. A. P. 6 8 3	Rs. A. P. 7 0 0 (21st Jan.) (Basic.)	Rs. A. P. 7 0 0	Rs. A. P. 7 0 0 (Basic.)	Rs. A. P. 6 7 2	Rs. A. P. 6 12 0* to 7 8 0 (18th Dec.)	Rs. A. P. 6 12 4	Rs. A. P. 6 12 0* to 7 8 0 (Basic.)	Rs. A. P. 8 9 2
U. P.	..	5 0 6	..	7 10 5	7 0 0 (Basic.)	4 12 5	7 0 0 (Basic.)	5 0 6	6 12 0 (Basic.) (22nd Feb.) to 7 2 0 (Basic.)	6 1 10	6 12 0 (Basic.) to 7 2 0 (21st Jan.)	7 12 2 13 0 0
S. W. P.	..	..	..	..	7 0 0* (19th April) (Basic.)	6 9 9	6 12 0* (29th Oct.) (Basic.)	6 10 3	5 1 6* to 8 12 0 (Purchase Price.)	6 4 3	5 1 6* to 8 12 0 (Purchase Price.)	6 9 9
Bombay	..	4 15 1	..	7 13 4	6 0 0* to 8 12 0 (4th Nov. Purchase Price.)	6 5 4	6 0 0* to 8 12 0 (Purchase Price.)	6 4 9	6 12 0 (Purchase Price.) (6th Jan.)	6 7 3	6 12 0 (Purchase Price.) (6th Jan.)	6 10 10
C. P. & Berar	..	4 9 8	..	8 10 2	6 4 0* to 7 0 0 (23rd Nov. Purchase Price.)	6 6 11	6 12 0 (29th Oct.)	5 15 8	4 0 0* to 6 8 0 (Purchase Price.)	7 7 11	4 0 0* to 6 8 0 (Purchase Price.)	8 7 11
Madras	..	4 13 7	..	7 6 11	7 0 0 (21st Jan.) to 5 9 0* (Purchase Price for 1944-45.)	7 5 6	6 12 0 (29th Oct.) to 5 9 0* (Purchase Price.)	7 5 8	..	..	..	..

(*) According to District.

NOTE I.—Market prices shown above are the Arithmetical averages of the month-end prices of as many producing centres as available in the Provincial Governments' reports covering the entire period.

NOTE II.—Statutory or ceiling prices where the range is not shown, relate to the basic maximum fixed for the main producing areas; normal differentials being allowed for other areas within the Province to cover transport, handling, etc.

STATEMENT III.

Showing wholesale statutory and market prices of bajra in India since 1942.

(In rupees per maund)

Province.	1942		1943		1944		1945		1946		1947	
	Statutory Price.	Market Price.	Statutory Price.	Market Price.	Statutory Price.	Market Price.	Statutory Price.	Market Price.	Statutory Price.	Market Price.	Statutory Price.	Market Price.
ab	Rs. A. P. ..	Rs. A. P. 5 1 8	Rs. A. P. ..	Rs. A. P. 7 2 4	Rs. A. P. 7 8 0 (21st Jan.) (Basic.)	7 1 11	7 8 0 (Basic.)	6 13 1	7 4 0* to 8 2 0 (18th Dec.) (Basic.)	7 7 2	7 4 0* to 8 2 0 (Basic.)	7 4 0
..	..	5 15 8	..	7 6 8	7 8 0 (Basic.)	6 4 9	7 8 0 (Basic.)	8 9 9	7 4 0 (Basic.)	7 13 2	7 4 0 (Basic.)	8 10 3
..	..	..	..	..	7 8 0* to 8 6 0 (19th April) (Basic.)	7 8 10	7 4 0* to 8 2 0 (Basic.)	7 7 4	7 4 0* to 8 2 0 (Basic.)	7 4 0	7 4 0* to 8 2 0 (Basic.)	14 13 9
..	..	5 2 4	7 0 0* to 10 0 0 (From 25th October.)	7 14 2	7 0 0* to 9 0 0 (4th Nov. Purchase Price.)	7 7 6	7 0 0* to 9 0 0 (Purchase Price.)	7 4 0	6 4 0* to 9 0 0 (Purchase Price.)	7 2 2	6 4 0* to 9 0 0 (Purchase Price.)	7 2 3
..	..	4 3 2	..	4 14 3	7 8 0 (21st Jan.) to 6 10 0 (Purchase Price for 1944-45.)	7 1 1	7 4 0 (29th Oct.) to 6 10 0* (Purchase Price.)	6 11 3	5 13 0 to 7 0 0* (Purchase Price.)	..	5 13 0 to 7 0 0* (Purchase Price.)	7 6 9

According to district.

NOTE I.—Market prices shown above are the Arithmetical averages of the month-end prices of as many producing centres as available in the Provincial Governments' reports covering the entire period.

NOTE II.—Statutory or ceiling prices, where the range is not shown, relate to the basic maximum fixed for the main producing areas; normal differentials being allowed for other areas within the Province to cover transport, handling, etc.

STATEMENT IV.

Showing wholesale statutory and market prices of Wheat in India since 1942.

(In rupees per maund.)

Province.	1942		1943		1944		1945		1946		1947	
	Statutory Price.	Market Price.	Statutory Price.	Market Price.	Statutory Price.	Market Price.	Statutory Price.	Market Price.	Statutory Price.	Market Price.	Statutory Price.	Market Price.
Punjab	Rs. A. P. ..	Rs. A. P. 4 15 0	Rs. A. P. ..	Rs. A. P. 9 14 10	Rs. A. P. 9 8 0 (Basic.)	Rs. A. P. 9 0 4	Rs. A. P. 9 8 0 (Basic.)	Rs. A. P. 9 1 3	Rs. A. P. 9 8 0 (Basic.)	Rs. A. P. 9 10 6	Rs. A. P. 9 8 0 (Basic.)	Rs. A. P. 9 7 10
Andhra Pradesh	..	..	7 0 0	..	9 8 0	7 13 6	8 10 0	8 9 1	8 10 0	8 10 0	8 10 0	8 10 0
Madhya Pradesh	..	5 11 9	..	11 1 10	10 4 0 (Basic.)	10 5 2	10 4 0 (Basic.)	10 3 6	10 4 0 (Basic.)	11 15 7	10 4 0 (Basic.)	14 3 0
Gujarat	..	6 11 0	17 0 0 (from 20-9-43) 16 0 0 (from 1-11-43)	13 5 3	15 0 0 (from 1-1-44) 14 0 0 (from 6-5-44) 13 0 0 (from 15-7-44) 11 0 0 (from 15-12-44)	12 8 9	11 0 0	11 6 7	11 0 0	13 15 1	11 0 0	13 9 0
P. and Berar	..	..	..	12 9 11	11 0 0 (ceiling price)	12 1 2	10 8 0 (ceiling price)	10 2 9	10 8 0 (ceiling price)	10 5 7	9 8 0 to 11 8 0* (ceiling price)	11 8 9

(*) According to district.

NOTE I.—Market prices shown above are the arithmetical averages of the month-end prices of as many producing centres as available in the Provincial Governments' reports covering the entire period.

II.—Statutory or ceiling prices, where the range is not shown, relate to the basic maximum fixed for the main producing areas; normal differentials being allowed for other areas within the Province to cover transport, handling, etc.

[1st Dec. 1947]

STATEMENT V.

Showing wholesale statutory and market prices of Barley in India since 1942.

(In rupees per maund)

Province.	1942		1943		1944		1945		1946		1947	
	Statutory Price.	Market Price.	Statutory Price.	Market Price.	Statutory Price.	Market Price.	Statutory Price.	Market Price.	Statutory Price.	Market Price.	Statutory Price.	Market Price.
N. W. F. P.	Rs. A. P. ..	Rs. A. P. ..	Rs. A. P. ..	Rs. A. P. 6 5 10	Rs. A. P. 6 10 0* to 6 14 0 (5th April) 6 10 0 (Basic.)	Rs. A. P. 6 5 8	Rs. A. P. 6 10 0* to 6 14 0 (Basic.)	Rs. A. P. 5 15 2	Rs. A. P. 6 10 0* to 6 14 0 (Basic.)	Rs. A. P. 6 6 7	Rs. A. P. 6 10 0* to 6 14 0 (Basic.)	Rs. A. P. 6 15 3
Punjab	..	4 4 0	..	6 15 3	6 10 0* to 7 10 0 (Basic.)	4 11 0	6 10 0* to 7 10 0	5 6 7	6 10 0* to 7 10 0	6 9 4	6 10 0* to 7 10 0	6 10 0
U. P.	..	5 12 1	..	7 15 1	7 2 10 (Basic.)	6 0 3	7 2 10 (up to 31-3-45) 7 3 0 (Basic.) (Up to 17th May).	6 10 9	7 3 0	7 12 8	7 3 0	8 10 0

(*) According to district.

NOTE I.—Market prices shown above are the arithmetical averages of the month-end prices of as many producing centres as available in the Provincial Governments' reports covering the entire period.

II.—Statutory or ceiling prices, where the range is not shown, relate to the basic maximum fixed for the main producing areas; normal differentials being allowed for other areas within the Province to cover transport, handling, etc.

STATEMENT VIII

Showing despatches of different foodgrains from Pakistan Areas after 15th August, 1947 to date

Name of Receiving Area	(In tons.)						Total grains cols. 6 & 7
	Ex-Sind (upto 9th October 1947)	Ex-Bhawalpur (upto 4th September 1947)					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Bombay	486	..	..	614	1,100	..	1,100
Madras (Malabar)	65	..	..	310	375	..	375
U. P.	15	..	..	60	75	..	75
C. P.	..	1,094	..	..	1,094	79	1,173
Ajmer	..	245	..	..	245	..	245
Baroda	47	..	..	101	148	..	148
C. I. States	276	1,307	..	..	1,583	99	1,682
Cutch	132	..	..	..	132	..	132
Deccan States	..	..	..	249	249	..	249
Eastern States	..	200	..	..	200	..	200
Mysore	..	..	..	1,461	1,461	..	1,461
Travancore	..	..	..	78	78	..	78
Cochin	..	..	..	31	31	..	31
Rajputana States	..	540	..	..	540	..	540
Total India	1,021	3,386	..	2,904	7,311	178	7,489
Hyderabad	..	..	..	5,167	5,167	..	5,167
Goa	..	..	..	226	226	..	226
Ships' stores	45	..	9	..	54	..	54
Hedjaz	180	108	..	..	288	..	288

NOTE

1. There have been despatches of 1,000 tons Seed wheat from Khairpur to C. I. States through Delhi for which intimation was received from Director of Civil Supplies, Delhi though no intimation has been received from Khairpur Durbar.
2. Returns from the Punjab have not been received after 24th July, 1947.
3. Baluchistan has not sent any returns after 14th August 1947.

PRODUCTION OF COTTON IN INDIA.

†464. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether the position of India in regard to production of long and short staple cotton has been reviewed in the light of the creation of Pakistan?

(b) What steps do Government propose to take in order to increase the production of long staple cotton in India and to develop the cotton spinning industry in such a way as to make greater use of our short-staple cotton, since much of the area under cultivation of long staple cotton has gone into Pakistan?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) and (b). Yes. The position was reviewed by the Indian Central Cotton Committee at the meeting held on the 21st November and the Committee's report is awaited. Suitable steps to increase the production of long staple and medium staple cotton in India will be taken on receipt of its recommendations.

The production of short staple cotton in India including the acceding States and Hyderabad exceeds the requirements of the mills in India but such excess is required for export. It is considered advisable to reorientate the cotton spinning industry to make better use of short staple cotton. Instead it is proposed to increase the area under long-staple cotton to reduce India's dependence on imports of long staple cotton as far as practicable.

MAINTENANCE OF PEDIGREE QUALITY OF COTTON.

†465. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that there are herd-books in Holland and Denmark and other Scandinavian countries for the maintenance of pedigree quality of cattle; and

(b) whether Government propose to make a similar effort in India in order to raise the quality of our cattle?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) Yes.

(b) The Government of India have already taken action for the initiation, maintenance and operation of Herd Books. There is a small Central Herd Books Organisation at the headquarters of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research which works in co-operation with the provinces and States for the registration of improved breeds of cattle in India. Herd Books now exist for six (Sahiwal, Sindhi, Haryana, Gir, Tharparkar, Kankrej) of the important Indian breed of cattle and one breed of buffalo (i.e. Murrah breed).

HARDSHIP OF THIRD CLASS RAILWAY PASSENGERS.

†466. *Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government propose to remove the present hardships of 3rd class railway passengers?

(b) When will 3rd class railway carriages be provided with bath-rooms?

(c) When will the corks that have been put in the First Class carriage bath-rooms be removed?

(d) Are Government waiting to remove the corks until similar facility is provided for the 3rd class passengers?

(e) Are Government aware that 50 per cent. of the carriages in which the First and Second Class passengers travel deserve to be condemned?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes. Government will use every means in their power to improve conditions of travel for III class passengers.

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

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

STATEMENT VI.

Showing wholesale Statutory and Market Prices of Maize in India since 1942.

(In rupees per maund)

Province.	1942		1943		1944		1945		1946		1947	
	Statutory Price.	Market Price.	Statutory Price.	Market Price.	Statutory Price.	Market Price.	Statutory Price.	Market Price.	Statutory Price.	Market Price.	Statutory Price.	Market Price.
Bihar	Rs. A. P. ..	Rs. A. P. 3 8 3	Rs. A. P. 9 0 0 (20th Sept.) 8 0 0 (1st Nov.)	Rs. A. P. 8 3 0	Rs. A. P. 7 0 0 (1st Jan.)	Rs. A. P. 5 9 6	Rs. A. P. 7 0 0	Rs. A. P. 5 13 7	Rs. A. P. 7 0 0	Rs. A. P. 7 13 4	Rs. A. P. 7 0 0	Rs. A. P. 13 2 11
U. P.	..	5 2 4	..	7 9 8	..	5 12 9	..	6 9 4	..	8 11 8	(Wet) 6 4 0 (Dry) 6 12 0 purchase price	10 3 3
Punjab	..	5 12 6	..	7 4 9	..	5 13 9	..	6 14 8	7 0 0* (18th Dec.)	7 12 8	7 0 0* to 8 2 0	8 15 6
N.W.F.P.	..	..	..	..	7 10 0* to 8 10 0 (19th April).	7 8 3	7 10 0* to 8 8 0	7 8 0	7 10 0 to 8 8 0	7 1 4	7 8 0* to 8 8 0 (21st Jan.)	9 14 3

(*) According to District.

NOTE I.—Market prices shown above are the arithmetical averages of the month-end prices of as many producing centres as available in the provincial Governments' reports covering the entire period.

NOTE II.—Statutory or ceiling prices, where the range is not shown, relate to the basic maximum fixed for the main producing areas; normal differentials being allowed for other areas within the province to cover transport, handling, etc.

[1st Dec. 1947]

STATEMENT VII

Showing wholesale statutory and Market prices of Gram in India since 1942.

(In Rupees per maund.)

Province	1942		1943		1944		1945		1946		1947	
	Statutory Price	Market Price	Statutory Price	Market Price	Statutory Price	Market Price	Statutory Price	Market Price	Statutory Price	Market Price	Statutory Price	Market Price
Punjab	Rs. A. P. ..	Rs. A. P. 6 4 0	Rs. A. P. ..	Rs. A. P. 8 1 3	Rs. A. P. 7 10 0* to 8 10 0 (3rd Apr.)	Rs. A. P. 6 8 6	Rs. A. P. 7 10 0* to 8 10 0	Rs. A. P. 7 7 6	Rs. A. P. 7 10 0* to 9 0 0 (29th July).	Rs. A. P. 7 15 3	Rs. A. P. 7 10 0* to 9 0 0	Rs. A. P. 7 9 3
U.P.	..	5 4 5	..	8 9 1	8 3 2 (Basic) (3rd April).	6 4 6	8 3 2 (Basic) (Up to 31st March) 8 3 0 (17th May) (Basic).	7 2 1	8 3 0	9 6 1	8 3 0	11 3 2
Bihar	..	5 1 10	12 8 0 (20th Sept.) 11 8 0 (1st Nov.)	9 14 10	11 0 0 (1st Jan.) 10 0 0 (6th May) 9 0 0 (3rd August.)	7 4 11	9 0 0	8 0 5	9 0 0	12 15 0	9 0 0	17 8 11
C. P. and Berar	..	8 1 7	..	9 7 10	..	8 15 0	..	8 3 0	..	9 3 5	8 8 0 (Deshi) 11 0 0 (Gulabi) (ceiling price)	8 13 1

(*) According to District.

NOTE.—1. Market prices shown above are the arithmetical averages of the month-end prices of as many producing centres as available in the provincial Governments' reports covering the entire period.

NOTE 2. Statutory or ceiling prices, where the range is not shown, relate to the basic maximum fixed for the main producing areas; normal differentials being allowed for other areas within the province to cover transport, handling etc.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(b) The provision of bathing facilities in III class coaches is not at present contemplated.

(c) and (d). The Honourable Member presumably refers to the plugging of water pipes in the bath rooms of some 1st class carriages. This has been necessitated by the difficulty of replacing stolen and damaged fittings owing to the limited supplies available. Deficiencies will be made good as rapidly as supplies become available.

(e) Government are aware of the unsatisfactory condition of much of the coaching stock in service. Every attempt is being made to repair existing stock as far as resources permit.

REPAIR OF BADNERA STATION APPROACH ROAD.

†467. *Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state the month and the year in which the approach road to the Badnera railway station was last repaired?

(b) Are Government aware that for over two years it needs extensive repairs?

(c) Do Government propose to have it repaired?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a), (b) and (c). The information is not readily available and is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course. However, instructions are being issued to carry out such repairs as may be necessary.

WIDENING OF OVERBRIDGE AT BADNERA.

†468. *Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the overhead bridge at the Badnera station is too narrow for the present traffic?

(b) Are Government aware that this causes immense inconvenience and is dangerous to the present increased traffic?

(c) Do Government propose to provide for its widening at an early date?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a), (b) and (c). Enquiries are being made and a reply will be laid on the table in due course.

CONSUMPTION OF PETROL.

469. *Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Transport please state the quantity of petrol available upto the end of October, 1947, in all ports and various stations of the Dominion of India?

(b) What is the normal total consumption of petrol in all parts of the Dominion of India?

(c) Do Government propose to remove the control on petrol?

(d) What is the yearly expenditure on maintenance of Control Department for petrol?

(e) What is the normal quantity of petrol received from various countries at all ports of the Dominion of India?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) 30.8 million gallons of motor spirit were held in stock in the Dominion of India by the established oil companies on the 24th September 1947. The figures subsequent to that date are not available.

(b) Since August 1941, civil consumption of petrol in the country has been on a rationed basis which is now of the level of 30 million gallons per quarter for the Dominion of India. The pre-rationing consumption would be in the neighbourhood of 22 million gallons per quarter for the Dominion of India.

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

(c) No, not for the present, but the position is constantly under review with a view to remove the control as soon as conditions permit.

(d) Rs. 9 lakhs approximately.

(e) The imports of petrol vary considerably from year to year. During the year 1946, 79.8 million gallons were imported through the ports in the Dominion of India from the Persian Gulf.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: What are the conditions that prevail, Sir, at present which do not enable Government to remove control?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The question of removing control depends primarily on two factors: First of all the question of the supply in the country, and secondly the question of distribution facilities and transport capacity.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Is it not a fact that in the year 1946 the then Government decided to remove control in the end of 1946?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Not to my knowledge.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Is it not a fact that at present some of the tankers which brought petrol were not in a position to discharge it because the tanks were overfull in the ports of Calcutta and Madras and therefore they were turned to another port? Is it not a fact that supply is abundant considering the requirements?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Taking the country as a whole, the supply is not sufficient.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Arising out of the answer to part (c), may I ask the Honourable Minister if further restrictions have been imposed in regard to petrol distribution during the last fortnight?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The position as far as that is concerned is, as the Honourable Member knows, there was restriction imposed on the 1st of November due to emergency conditions, particularly in relation to the Kashmir situation, and that restriction was imposed really for the purpose of bringing the stocks in Delhi and in the East Punjab areas up to the level necessary for meeting these emergency requirements. I am keeping the position very carefully under review, and although I am not in a position to state when this restriction will be removed, I think that at a very early date it would be possible for me to relax if not to remove it.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member be able to assure the House that he will instruct the Provinces not to curtail unduly the quota allotted to civilians who do not come under the category "essential"?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That is a matter entirely for the Provincial Governments.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: In view of the general inefficiency and inadequacy of the railway services now, will the Government be pleased to give a more liberal quota of petrol to transport vehicles?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: To both parts of that question, my answer is in the negative.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Sir, petrol is a necessity to the general public who travel by buses and also for the purpose of carrying goods by road. In view of this fact, will the Government reconsider this matter and remove the control as early as possible?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is because petrol is an essential commodity that it has been brought under control.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: That is not the answer to my question, Sir.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Is the Government aware, Sir, that there is a large quantity of petrol lying with the Assam Oil Company at Digboi, which

they are finding difficult to clear out on account of control, and that the Company has actually represented that they should be allowed to clear out this stock?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I have had representations from the Assam Oil Co. on questions of that kind but they have not raised the particular point.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: May I know, Sir, if the primary difficulty in regard to petrol is not so much the insufficiency of it as the immovability of it on account of the lack of tankers?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Well, that was the case a few months ago; but the supply position has become more difficult now.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: May we know what is the position of the Digboi oilfields and when we can hope to get petrol from those fields?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am not in a position to answer that question.

Shri C. Subrahmanyam: Are there any restrictions on the import of petrol?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The import of petrol is restricted by the world position.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Do we now get petrol from Burma?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Not so far as I now.

TRANSPORT OF REFUGEES.

470. *Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state the expenditure incurred by Government on account of transport of refugees from one place to another?

(b) What is the loss of railway earnings due to trains being engaged in evacuating refugees?

(c) What steps have Government taken or propose to take to check the ticketless passengers travelling as refugees on various Railways in India?

(d) What is the estimate of loss to Government due to ticketless travelling?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) It is presumed the Honourable Member refers to the expenditure incurred in the transport of refugees by rail. It is regretted this information is not available since the expenditure incurred in running refugee trains is included in the general working expenses of the railway and no separate accounts are maintained for running of refugee trains only.

(b) It is difficult to estimate the loss incurred in the ordinary transport of passengers and freight by railways on account of running of refugee trains since the conditions due to communal disturbances and breaches on account of floods would not have permitted carrying of normal traffic.

(c) No refugees are allowed to travel by ordinary trains except on purchase of tickets. Railways have been instructed to tighten their check on ticketless travel and steps have already been taken to intensify the campaign against ticketless travelling by the appointment of more Ticket Checking Staff and controlling entry of unauthorised persons on platforms.

(d) It is not possible to calculate this loss with any degree of accuracy, but as I mentioned in my Budget speech, I estimate it at 8 crores per annum.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Is it not a fact, Sir, that most of these T. T. Es. and T. T. Is. are themselves a party to this ticketless travelling by encouraging passengers not to buy tickets and pocketing some money themselves?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is quite conceivable.

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid all these questions have been sufficiently disposed of during the recent cut motion on this question. It is no use repeating the arguments now.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Sir, my point is what steps are being taken to remove this ticketless travelling? It is an important matter.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As this is an important point, I referred, to it at some length in my Budget Speech and I mentioned to the House the lines on which we would take action.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: Are Government aware that there are hundreds of refugees on the platform of the Old Delhi Railway Station, to their inconvenience and also perhaps to the inconvenience of other passengers; and whether Government propose to make suitable arrangements for their shelter, food and clothing outside the Railway Station?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The question does not arise.

LOSS OF GOODS IN TRANSIT DURING DISTURBANCES.

471. *Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state the number of packages and articles and the value of the same, booked as goods by goods trains, as also of articles booked by passenger trains, which have been destroyed, looted or burnt during the recent disturbances?

(b) Do Government propose to admit, for payment, the claims of the owners of these articles and packages? If so, to what extent?

(c) What amounts have so far been paid in meeting such claims?

(d) How many packages are still lying undelivered at various stations and what is their approximate value?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The information asked for will not be available in the ordinary course for some time.

(b) The responsibility of a railway for the loss, destruction or deterioration of animals or goods accepted for carriage by rail is that of a bailee under Sections 152 and 161 of the Indian Contracts Act, 1872. Claims for loss, destruction etc., which occurs in spite of the required amount of care being taken by railways, are not entertained. All claims arising from the present disturbances will be dealt with on their merits.

(c) and (d). No information is at present available.

SAFETY OF RAILWAY TRAVEL.

472. *Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state what arrangement Government have made for the safety of passengers travelling by various trains?

(b) Are Government aware that the present police and other force, travelling in trains is not sufficient to assure safety of passengers' lives?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take to ensure safety in travelling by railway?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) As my Honourable friend is aware, in the areas in which disturbances have recently occurred, military escorts have been provided. Other measures taken to ensure the security of passengers travelling by trains include the provision in Bengal, Bihar and U. P. of additional armed railway protection police recruited and trained by the Provincial Governments, but paid for by the railways.

Railways are providing improved fastening for securing doors and windows in compartments. These devices are of a type which cannot be manipulated

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

WINDING UP OF DISPOSALS DIRECTORATE.

474. *Shri K. Santhanam: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply please state:

(a) the total value of goods disposed of by the Disposals Directorate up to November, 15, 1947;

(b) the estimated value of goods still remaining with the Disposals Directorate on November 15; and

(c) whether any target date has been fixed for the winding up of the Disposals Directorate?

The Honourable Dr. Shama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Figures showing the total value of sales up to the 15th November are not yet available. Up to the end of October the total sales by Disposals amounted to Rs. 100.24 crores, against a book value of Rs. 297.86 crores. In addition, salvage worth Rs. 24.87 crores has been disposed of.

(b) The book value of stores, excluding salvage, awaiting disposal on the 1st November was Rs. 165.08 crores.

(c) No, Sir.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In view of the statement made the other day by the Honourable the Premier that we require a number of aeroplanes, is it a fact that many of these materials which have been marked off for disposal contain very decent and good material which can be used by the Central Government and various Provincial Governments? If so, will the Central Government and Provincial Governments look into this matter and re-mark those which are useful as against those which are useless and which can be scrapped and sold?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Sir, the system which is followed in regard to disposals is that there are priority indentors, and the first is the Government of India, the second the Provincial Governments and third the States. Then comes the public. Obviously, if there are materials which are useful to Government, they will certainly use them.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know, Sir, if the recommendations of the Committee which was recently appointed in regard to disposals have been accepted and implemented?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: They are being followed now.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it a fact that a number of aeroplanes which were to be sold away in Calcutta were found to be in good condition—about 100 or 150 of them—and they were used in the Kashmir expedition?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: What happened is this. There were certain planes which were declared unflyable. Later on, after we had a separate inspection made, we were satisfied that a number of them were flyable and they are now going to be used.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What action was taken, Sir, against those officers who were responsible for this wrong classification?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Several of them have left the Dominion of India. The case of others is being considered.

Seth Govinddas: Will Government take action against such officials as have not yet left for Pakistan and see that such things are not done in future?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: If this is at all possible, we shall certainly pursue the matter.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know if there are no officials who were responsible for this sort of classification still left in the service of Government?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: There are some and their cases are being considered.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Apart from taking action against the people concerned, will the Government in view of their disclosure, appoint a Committee or make thorough investigation into the matter in order to see whether all these articles which are remaining to be sold away, do not many of them contain useful material which can be utilised?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: In on cease a Committee had been appointed and so far as the use of aeroplanes is concerned, that report is before Government. I can give this assurance that the present Government has altered the policy of the previous Government. The policy of the previous Government was somehow quickly to dispose of the 'disposals', but now we would like to examine and we are examining how far the different stocks and goods which are available can be utilised for the best purposes of the country.

Seth Govinddas: Will the Government see that at least the personnel of that Committee which had examined these things before and declared them to be unfit, and which were subsequently found to be fit for use, is changed and new personnel is appointed to go into the matter?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: There was no Committee. There was one European officer.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: May I know the total number of aeroplanes labelled as scrap but were found fit for flying and the approximate cost of such planes?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Only four were declared to be flyable from one stock and on further examination we found 894 were flyable from two stocks. Each aeroplane which was declared as unflyable was being sold for Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 10,000.

Seth Govinddas: May I know, Sir, what would be the personnel of the Committee or any other machinery which the Government is thinking of appointing?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We cannot have one Committee to consider all these matters. We are having technical experts for various purposes.

Shri B. Das: Is it not a fact that part of this disposal is property belonging to U. S. A. and unless they are disposed of soon, the U. S. A. will not bear the losses?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: So far as U. S. A. is concerned, we have been handed over the surplus stocks, the book value of which was Rs. 170 crores; but on 1st November 1947 the book value of such surplus was only Rs. 70 crores.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Has the Honourable Minister taken care to see that no European is put in charge of the Disposals Organisation?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We shall certainly take good care to see that no dishonest officer is put in charge.

Mr. B. K. Sidhwa: Will Government see that no interested persons are appointed in that Committee?

Mr. Speaker: I think that question does not need a reply.

Shri B. Das: Will the Government be pleased to state if the U. S. A. has been paid and if so, has it agreed to share the losses that were incurred in the sale of goods disposed of by the Disposals Directorate.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We have been paid 50 crores of Rupees and up till now we have not exceeded that limit.

from outside. Iron bars are being fitted to windows of lavatories of compartments of all classes. Instructions have been issued to all railways to adopt any additional measures possible to ensure safety of passengers and train crews on sections where they are required.

(b) The Government have no reason to believe that the present arrangements are inadequate for the protection of passengers. More stringent measures will however be taken if necessary. The arrangements are being reviewed from time to time.

(c) The Government have taken and will continue to take all steps they consider necessary to meet the present wave of lawlessness which they believe is a temporary phase.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Is it not a fact, Sir, that some of the important scheduled trains including mail trains still do not run from Delhi to Ahmedabad via Ajmer, and if so, when are these trains likely to be restored?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The matter is under consideration.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: How long will Government take to finish their consideration?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Well, the question was raised a little while ago I think in the Press, but the reason for suspending that particular service is one which is very closely connected with the general political situation in this part of the country.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Is the Honourable Member aware that it is not possible to travel from Delhi to places in Meerut District by train on account of curtailment of services and stoppages at certain small stations, and will he take care to see that the trains and stoppages are restored there as soon as possible?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The question is bound up with the amount of rolling stock we are in a position to provide, after meeting the urgent necessity of rolling stock for the refugee movement which is still going on.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: May I know from the Government whether there was a military guard on the train when shooting occurred on the passengers in Bhopal Station about two months ago?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: If the Honourable Member will be good enough to give me the facts of the case, I should be glad to look into it. I cannot answer it straightaway.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: I want to know whether there was a military guard on that train when the incident happened.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I should like to make an enquiry.

Shri Jainarain Vyas: Sir, is the Honourable Member aware that passengers were taken out of the railway train in Alwar and Bharatpur territory and killed?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I have heard of these regrettable happenings occurring in the States concerned. I am having enquiries made, but since these events have occurred in areas which are outside the Dominion, namely the States, it has not been possible for me to get all the information that I would like to have.

Shri Jainarain Vyas: Have the Government themselves lost some trucks etc. in Bharatpur when a goods train was going through Bharatpur?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: If the Honourable Member means that wagons have been looted, probably it is true.

SURVEY OF SIND-GUJRAT RAILWAY.

473. *Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the then Government of India, before the 15th August, 1947, had asked for immediate survey of Sind-Gujrat Railway?

(b) If so, is it a fact that the survey was to be completed by July, 1947?

(c) Is it a fact that the then Government of India had given first priority to the construction of this Railway?

(d) What is the position of this project after the 15th August, 1947?

(e) Do Government propose to proceed with the scheme in consultation with the Government of Pakistan?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) It is not a fact that the then Government of India had given first priority to the construction of this railway. Priority had been given to the Survey investigations only.

(d) Such of the staff engaged on the survey of this Project, who opted for India, were transferred to the B., B. & C. I. Railway after 15th August 1947 to complete the Survey Reports. In view of the political changes that have taken place, the financial prospects of the following three alternatives are now being worked out:—

(i) a through Broad Gauge link between Bombay and Sind;

(ii) a Broad Gauge railway line from Viramgam to Lakhpat via Kandla; and

(iii) a Broad Gauge railway line from Viramgam to Kandla Port only.

(e) The question will be considered after the Survey Reports are received.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: When is the survey likely to be completed?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As the Honourable Member knows, there were two main routes that were being examined. The first is the northern route and the second one is the southern route. The survey report on the northern route is in our hands; the report on the southern route, I expect, will be here next month.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is the Honourable Member in a position to state what length of this line passes through Pakistan territory?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As far as the northern route is concerned I cannot give the exact mileage, but the greater portion of it would be in Pakistan.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Has the Pakistan Government intimated to the Honourable Member or to this Government its desire to have this line?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The survey was started at a time when the partition had not taken place. It was carried out entirely by the old N. W. Railway. Now, in view of the constitutional changes which have taken place, the whole question requires re-examination. We have not communicated with the Pakistan Government so far.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know, Sir, before the survey is taken, if the Pakistan Government will be asked to pay its proportionate share?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That is on the assumption that the line would extend to Pakistan.

IMPORT OF MAIZE.

475. *Shri K. Santhanam: Will the Honourable Minister of Food please state:

(a) the quantity of maize imported from 1st April, 1946 to 31st March, 1947;

(b) the rates at which maize was bought and its total cost;

(c) the price of maize at that time in (i) India, and (ii) U.S.A.; and

(d) the total subsidy borne by the Government of India in respect of maize?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(c) (i) The price of Maize in important surplus markets of India ranged between Rs. 6/8/- and Rs. 13/- per maund.

(ii) 1.36 dollars per 56 pounds, which in terms of Rupees works out to Rs. 6/10/- per maund f. o. b.

(d) 562.09 lakhs.

Statement showing Maize imported during 1946-47 from various sources.

Country of origin	Quantity in 000 tons	C. & F. Rate per maund	Total cost paid in lakhs of Rs.
		Rs. A. P.	
U. S. A.	116	9 9 0	343
Burma	5	9 8 0	13
Argentina	259	13 2 0	917
	380		1,273

IMPORT OF WHEAT.

476. *Shri K. Santhanam: Will the Honourable Minister of Food please state:

(a) the quantity of wheat imported from 1st April, 1946 to 31st March, 1947;

(b) the rates at which wheat was bought and its total cost;

(c) the price of wheat at that time in (i) India and (ii) U.S.A.; and

(d) the total subsidy borne by the Government of India in respect of wheat?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(c) (i) The price of wheat in important surplus markets of India generally ranged between Rs. 8/10/- and Rs. 11/8/- per maund.

(ii) 87.87 dollars per ton, which in terms of rupees amounts to Rs. 10/12/- per maund f. o. b.

(d) Rupees 264.91 lakhs.

Statement showing wheat imported during 1946-47 from various sources.

Country of Origin.	Quantity in 000 tons.	C. & F. Rate per maund.	Total cost paid in lakhs of Rupees.
		Rs. A. P.	
Australia	375	9 4 0	935
U. S. A.	558	13 12 0	2,069
Canada	165	13 11 0	611
Turkey	38	18 7 0	189
	1,136		3,804

IMPORT OF RICE.

477. *Shri K. Santhanam: Will the Honourable Minister of Food please state:

(a) the quantity of rice imported from 1st April, 1946 to 31st March, 1947;

(b) the rates at which rice was bought and its total cost;

(c) the price of rice at that time in (i) India, and (ii) U.S.A.; and

(d) the total subsidy borne by the Government of India in respect of rice?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) and (b). A statement giving the information is laid on the table of the House.

(c) (i). Price of rice in the important surplus markets of India ranged between Rs. 8/2/- and Rs. 13/2/- per maund.

(ii). During the period, no rice was imported from U.S.A. and no information is available with the Government of India regarding the prices of rice then prevailing in that country.

(d). Rs. 477.32 lakhs.

Statement showing Rice imported during 1946-47 from various sources, C. F. rate and total cost paid.

Country of origin.	Quantity in 000 tons.	C. & F. Rate per maund.	Total cost paid in lakhs of Rupees.
		Rs. A. P.	
Burma	299	14 10 0	1,186
Siam	26	9 7 0	67
Indo-China	11	16 11 0	50
Brazil	73	17 1 0	336
Indonesia	36	8 12 0	85
	445		1,724

TRANSPORT OF RAILWAY PERSONNEL TO EASTERN PAKISTAN.

478. *Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that during the last three months, a number of special trains were run by the Indian Dominion Railway authorities for transporting Railway personnel who opted for service in Pakistan?

(b) Are Government aware that some of these special trains which went from Calcutta and other stations on the Bengal-Assam Railway to Eastern Pakistan have not been allowed by the Pakistan Railway authorities to return to India?

(c) If so, how many such cases have come to the notice of the Government of India?

(d) What action, if any, has been taken by Government to recover these passenger rakes and wagons from the Eastern Pakistan?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). No special trains as such have been held up by the Pakistan Railway Authorities in Eastern Pakistan. However, 36 coaching vehicles sent by the East Indian and Bengal Nagpur Railways with railway staff to Eastern Pakistan have not been returned by the East Bengal (Pakistan) Railway Authorities as yet.

(d) Constant watch is kept by the Indian Railways concerned on rolling stock sent to the Pakistan Railway and when delays necessitate, reference is made to the Ministry of Communications (Railway Department), Government of Pakistan, by the Railway Board.

SURREPTITIOUS REMOVAL OF RAILWAY PROPERTIES TO PAKISTAN.

479. *Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways please state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the numerous Press reports which have appeared, from time to time, alleging surreptitious removal of Indian Union Railway properties to Pakistan by the Pakistan officials?

(b) How many such cases have come to the notice of Government and what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

(c) Are Government aware that in several such cases the culprits caught red handed in the act of removing such properties were released on bail? If so, under whose authority?

(d) What measures, if any, have been taken by Government to prevent further theft and removal of the Railway property of the Indian Union by Pakistan Railway officials going to Pakistan?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Government are aware of reports which have appeared in the press alleging surreptitious removal of railway properties belonging to this Government to Pakistan.

(b) 20 cases came to the notice of Government and 27 wagons containing kit of railway employees on transfer to Pakistan were searched.

(c) Government have received one report of an officer having been detained and later released on bail. The matter of bail is one for decision by Courts and falls outside the jurisdiction of Railway Administrations.

(d) Government consider the extent of any surreptitious removal of railway property is not sufficiently serious to warrant any special measures apart from the arrangements already existing for the prevention of theft of railway property.

SUPPLY OF COAL TO PAKISTAN.

480. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state how much coal has so far been sent to Pakistan?

(b) Are Government aware of the fact that India's industries are extremely short of coal?

(c) If so, what considerations necessitated the supply of coal to Pakistan?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) About 316,695 tons of coal were supplied to Pakistan during the period 1st September 1947 to 17th November 1947.

(b) Yes, Sir. For some time now there has been a shortage of coal at consuming centres, mainly on account of transport difficulties.

(c) For the period of the standstill arrangement, India has agreed to allot coal to Pakistan as far as possible on the basis adopted during the pre-partition period.

DECONTROL OF FOODSTUFFS.

481. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the demand for decontrol of foodstuffs in the country?

(b) If so, what action do Government propose to take in the matter?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) and (b). The Government of India have completed their examination of the interim recommendations of the F.G.P.C. They have taken decisions which have been communicated to the Governments of Provinces and States. The implementations of these decisions is under consideration by these Governments. This will be completed shortly, and I shall then make a statement to the House.

IMPORT OF FOOD.

482. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state how much food has been imported from other countries during this year and how much has it cost Government?

(b) Is it a fact that Government purchased food in other countries at blackmarket prices?

(c) If so, what steps have been taken by Government to stop this waste of money?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) Honourable Member is referred to answer to starred question No. 333 by Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra.

(b) Government have purchased foodgrains at the official prices prevailing in those countries where supplies are made on Government to Government basis. In respect of countries where official or controlled prices do not exist, purchases were made through the trade at the lowest rates obtainable from time to time.

(c) Does not arise.

INCREASING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE.

483. *Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what steps have been taken so far by Government to increase the agricultural produce in India to save the country from too much dependance on foreign help?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: In order to make India self-sufficient in food supplies the Government of India are giving Provincial Governments financial and technical aid and are helping them to secure necessary supplies.

of materials as far as possible. For details of financial help so far rendered to provinces and for details of plans for increasing food production the Hon'ble Member may kindly refer to my replies to Question Nos. 132 and 199 on the 26th November 1947.

CONTROL OF FOODSTUFFS.

484. *Shri Rameshwar Prasad Sinha: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state what action Government have taken on the majority report of the Food Grain Enquiry Committee?

(b) Has any decision been finally taken on the subject of continuing or lifting the controls on the supply and distribution of Food Commodities?

(c) Will the Central Food Reserve of the Government of India be able to send sufficient quantities of food grains to the deficit provinces or not?

(d) Have Government obtained any expert advice on the subject of continuance or otherwise of the controls on the supply and distribution of food stuffs? If so, what is Government's decision thereon?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a), (b), (c) and (d). Attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the answer given by me to starred question No. 481 by Seth Govind Das today.

DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

485. *Shri Rameshwar Prasad Sinha: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what financial aid, if any, has been given to each of the provinces of the Indian Union for agricultural development in their respective areas?

(b) Is there any Central Post-War fund for the development of Agriculture in the provinces; if so, what is the total amount in the fund available under this head?

(c) Has the amount earmarked for any of the provinces lapsed because of non-submission in due time of the requisite lists of works proposed to be taken up in the provinces concerned?

(d) Do Government propose to make the grants so lapsed available to the provinces concerned, if they submit a list of urgent works to be taken up for the development of agriculture in their respective zones even now?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a), and (b). Central Development Grants are given to each province for their development programmes as a whole and not for individual subjects. A sum of approximately Rs. 13 crores was paid to provinces towards their development schemes excluding Grow More Food Schemes for the year ending the 31st March, 1947. For the details of the financial assistance given to provinces for Grow More Food Schemes the reply given to question No. 132 on 20.11.47 may please be seen. For 1947-48, Rs. 45 crores have been allotted to provinces as Central Grants towards their development schemes including Grow More Food Schemes for this year.

(c) and (d). Grants allotted are maximum figures. Payments, however, are made only to the extent of expenditure actually incurred on approved schemes. There is therefore no question of any amount lapsing because of non-submission of lists of works.

TRANSFER TO INDIA OF GERMAN PATENTS.

486. *Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Minister for Industry and Supply be pleased to state how many German Patents have been transferred to India and what is the description of such Patents?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: There has been no proposal of transferring any German Patents to India. According to an agreement arrived at, at a Conference of delegates from various Allied Countries, it has

been decided to make German patents available for exploitation, free of royalty, to the nationals of all countries who have signed a document known as the "Accord". Besides India, 45 other countries are parties to this Accord.

It was decided that the Government of France would provide facilities for receiving and disseminating information of common interest under the Accord through a Central Office. That Office has not yet been established. As soon as it starts functioning we shall receive information about such German owned patents in other countries, as would be available for exploitation by the Indian nationals free of royalty. Such information, when received, will be promptly placed at the disposal of the Indian public.

INDUSTRIAL DELEGATIONS TO GERMANY.

487. *Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state how many representatives of Indian industries have visited Germany under Government auspices during the last two years?

(b) Have such Delegations submitted any reports to Government?

(c) If so, what action have Government taken on such reports?

(d) Have Government any definite programme of arranging such visits by Indian industrialists, businessmen and technicians to Germany; and if so, what arrangements do they propose to make in future, in this matter?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) 47 Experts representing 18 industries have visited Germany during the last two years under Government auspices. The visits were arranged by the late Planning and Development Department of the Government of India.

(b) The Experts sent by the late Planning and Development Department were not required to submit reports to the Government of India. They were selected to form part of the teams of technicians representing various industries sent out by the British Intelligence Objectives Sub-Committee, from time to time, to investigate and report to them on different German industrial organizations. Reports of B.I.O.S. teams are submitted to U.K. Government and are made available to Allied Governments. Under this procedure, the Government of India have received copies of about 3,000 reports submitted by these teams.

(c) The reports so far received are being examined with reference to their value to the development of Indian industries and copies of such of them as are likely to be of interest to the Indian industrialists are being made available to them.

(d) Yes, Sir. A limited number of Indian businessmen and industrialists are given facilities to visit Germany with a view to opening up trade with that country and to renew business contacts. It is proposed to continue this system.

OPERATION OF NON-INDIAN AIR LINES.

488. *Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether non-Indian Air Lines such as the Pan-American, TWA, BOAC, KLM and Air France, carry passengers between Indian Air Ports;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether Government are aware that such carriage by a non-Indian Line of internal air traffic constitutes a violation of the principle of "cabotage" and is contrary to the Air Agreements concluded with the countries concerned?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) No, except that passengers used occasionally to be booked between Delhi and Calcutta by British Overseas

Airways Corporation when no seats were available on Indian Airlines, under an old arrangement which is now being terminated.

(b) Does not arise.

AIR SERVICES BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN.

489. *Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the position in respect of air services between India and Pakistan;
(b) whether in the event of the existence of a standstill arrangement between India and Pakistan, internal air traffic between Calcutta and Karachi is permitted to be carried by non-Indian Companies such as the American, the British, the Dutch and the French Air Lines;

(c) whether the Government of India propose to take up this matter with the Governments concerned; and

(d) what arrangements Government propose to arrive at in regard to air services between India and Pakistan in future?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) and (d). The Government of India have agreed to the operation by a Pakistan airline of air services on the following routes:—

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Karachi—Delhi. | 4. Chittagong—Calcutta. |
| 2. Dacca—Delhi. | 5. Dacca—Calcutta. |
| 3. Karachi—Bombay. | |

In return, the Government of Pakistan have agreed to the operation of air services on the following routes by Indian Airlines:—

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Jodhpur—Karachi. | 5. Delhi—Lahore. |
| 2. Bombay—Karachi. | 6. Calcutta—Dacca, and |
| 3. Ahmedabad—Karachi. | 7. Calcutta—Chittagong. |
| 4. Bhuj—Karachi. | |

The arrangement is provisional subject to the conclusion of a bilateral air transport agreement between the two Governments or the 31st December, 1947, whichever is earlier. The terms of a long term bilateral air transport agreement between India and Pakistan are under examination.

(b) At present foreign air services, excepting B.O.A.C., do not carry traffic between Karachi and Calcutta.

(c) The question of B.O.A.C. continuing to carry traffic between Karachi and Calcutta is under examination by Government.

IMPORT OF FOOD-GRAINS.

490. *Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing:

(a) the total quantity of foodgrains imported into India during the years 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, and upto 30th September 1947, giving separate figures for each of these years?

(b) the total amount paid for such food grains during these years, giving separately figures of the cost of the food grains for each year; and

(c) the total amount paid by way of freight on the food grains imported during the period indicating the amount of freight paid in each of these years as also particulars of the freight paid in dollars, sterling and in rupees separately for each of these years;

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a), (b) and (c). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement showing imported foodgrains and their value

Year of Import.	Quantity. in 000 tons	Amount paid.				Total freigh in lakhs of Rupees.
		Cost in lakhs. of Rupees	Freight.			
			£	\$	Rs.	
1943	197	502	8,50,175	1,39,551	..	118
1944	649	822	36,27,124	..	..	484
1945	850	1,540	37,55,344	..	..	500
1956	2,330	6,144	49,73,132	2,58,99,181	1,57,913	1,484
1947 (upto 30th Sep- tember).	1,678	5,447	35,33,210	1,88,41,080	..	1,077

FISHERIES AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

491. *Shri D. Govinda Doss: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Fisheries and Research Institutes Province-wise; and

(b) the total number of candidates sent to foreign countries to study the subject?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) As there are no Fisheries Research Institutes maintained by any of the Provinces, except for a small unit of the Fisheries Department of the Madras Government, the Government of India have decided to set up a Central Institute to carry out research on various problems connected with the development of fisheries throughout the country. A start has already been made for establishing Research Stations of this Institute at (1) Palta near Calcutta in West Bengal for Inland fisheries—Freshwater and Estuarine, (2) Mandapam in the Madras Presidency for Marine fisheries and (3) Bombay, for Fish Technology and Pilot fishing.

(b) The total number of candidates sent abroad for training in Fisheries is 26. Of these 19 were sent out for advanced studies in the Biology and Technology of Fisheries to British and American Universities and 7 candidates to the Grimeby Nautical School for training in navigation and modern fishing methods.

SUPPLY OF STEEL TO 'JANMABHOOMI' GROUP OF NEWSPAPERS, BOMBAY.

492. *Shri Balwant Rai Gopalji Mehta: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government had received an application dated the 29th March 1947 from Saurashtra Trust, Proprietors of the 'Janmabhoomi' Group of Newspapers, Bombay, for steel required for their "Janmabhoomi House" to be built in Bombay;

(b) whether Government are aware that applicants had opened 2 letters of Credit Accounts one for \$1,17,000.00 and the second for \$39,000.00 for speed Rotary machines to be imported from the United States;

(c) whether it is a fact that under U. S. Dollar permit, 10 per cent. of the first L.C. has been paid by the said Group of Newspapers, and that for the second order the whole amount of \$39,000.00 has been paid and the machinery has already arrived;

(d) whether Government are aware that the said 'Janmabhoomi' Group of Newspapers are constructing their own building to accommodate the printing machinery and that they have applied for steel for that purpose;

(e) whether it is a fact that the application has been refused by the Iron and Steel Controller, Calcutta in his letter No. ISC/73/PID/PDIII/3982, dated the 27/28th May 1947;

(f) whether it is a fact that the proprietors of the 'Hindu' of Madras had also applied for steel required to build a house for their newspaper to be started at Bombay;

(g) whether it is a fact that the 'Hindu' has not yet received import licence or the dollar permit and has not paid any advance money;

(h) whether it is a fact that the above application of the Proprietors of the 'Hindu' for steel has been granted by the Government of India;

(i) whether it is a fact that a fresh application dated the 5th September 1947 has been filed by the proprietors of the 'Janmabhoomi' Group of Newspapers requesting the Government of India to give them steel on the same principles on which steel has been granted to the proprietors of the 'Hindu' of Madras;

(j) whether it is a fact that the building of the 'Janmabhoomi' Group of Newspapers is already under construction awaiting, for its further progress, the sanction for the supply of steel by the Government of India; and

(k) whether the second application dated the 5th September 1947, of the proprietors of the 'Janmabhoomi' Group of Newspapers has now been considered by the Government of India; if so, what is the decision thereon?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a), (i) and (k): Two applications from the Saurashtra Trust have been received. The Trust has now been allotted 64 tons of steel for Period I, 1948, which is half its total requirements.

(b), (c), (d), (e) and (j). Yes, Sir, but advance payment is 6 per cent.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) The 'Hindu' obtained licences for printing machinery, piecemeal.

(h) An allotment of one-fifth of requirements has now been made for Period I, 1948.

PASSENGER AND TONNAGE CARRYING CAPACITY OF INDIAN RAILWAYS.

493. *Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state the passenger and tonnage carrying capacity of all railways in India, except those now included in the Pakistan territories, in the years 1938-39 and 1945-46?

(b) What are the requirements of the country in respect of both the items at present?

(c) What is the programme of Government to make up the shortage, if any?
The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a), (b) and (c). A statement giving the information required is being prepared and will be placed on the table of the House.

BRITISH RAILWAY PERSONNEL.

494. *Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state the number of British personnel who were working on all the Railways in India excluding the territories now included in Pakistan, before the 15th August 1947?

(b) How many of the said employees have retired or left service in consequence of the independence of India?

(c) How many of the remaining employees Government propose to retain permanently?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Approximate figures based on the information available were given in my Budget Speech. More detailed and up-to-date information is being collected from railway administrations, and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

INCREASED PRODUCTION OF COARSE CLOTH.

495. *Shri Mahabir Tyagi: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state what steps Government have taken to persuade the textile industry in India to increase the production of coarse cloth?

(b) Did the representatives of the Textile Industry represent to Government that they would not be able to increase the production of coarse cloth unless Government granted them a subsidy of a few millions of rupees on this account?

(c) What is the percentage of difference between the actual costs of production and the retail prices on which the consumers obtain their supplies of fine and coarse cloths respectively?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the Government of India's Resolution No. 88(2)-Tex. I/47 dated 17-11-47.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Report of the *ad hoc* Committee on Textiles submitted to Government in June 1947 estimates the percentage of difference between the actual cost of production and the retail price of cloth of 14s warp and 10s weft as being 1.4 per cent. and the corresponding difference in the case of cloth of 40s warp and 60s weft as being 37 per cent. These will serve as examples of coarse cloth and fine cloth. Ex-mill prices are 25 per cent. below retail prices.

RICE AND WHEAT PURCHASED FROM OUTSIDE INDIA.

496. *Shri Profulla Chandra Sen: Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of rice and wheat procured for civil and military requirements from outside India during the period April 1946 to October 1947 and the respective prices at which they were obtained from different countries;

(b) the total value of rice and wheat purchased by the Government of India during the period April 1946 to October 1947 from outside India; and

(c) the total loss to the Government of India during the period April 1946 to October 1947, on the sale of rice and wheat purchased from outside India?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the table of the House. At the time of making purchases in overseas, the requirement of the country, as a whole, is kept in view.

Imports are not arranged separately for Civil and Military requirements.

(c) Rs. 6.35 crores on rice.

Rs. 5.88 crores on wheat.

Statement

(April, 1946 to October, 1947.)

Country.	Quantities in ,000 tons.	Average price per md.		Value in Lakhs of Rupees.
		April 1946 to March 1947.	April 1947 to October 1947.	
<i>Wheat—</i>				
U. S. A.	738	13 12 0	12 0 0	2,699
Canada	165	13 11 0	..	611
Australia	460	9 4 0	12 0 0	1,221
Turkey	98	18 7 0	20 0 0	510
East Africa	15	..	9 7 0	39
Abyssinia	2.6	..	8 0 0	5
Argentine	6	..	24 8 0	40
Total	1,484.6			51,25
<i>Rice—</i>				
Burma	568	14 10 0	17 0 0	2,442
Siam	41	9 7 0	15 0 0	130
Indo-China	13	16 11 0	21 0 0	61
Brazil	82	17 1 0	..	389
Indonesia	36	8 12 0	..	85
Egypt	30	..	24 0 0	198
Total	770			3,305

STATISTICS REGARDING PRODUCTION OF FOOD-GRAINS.

497. *Shri Prafulla Chandra Sen: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India propose to collect accurate statistics regarding production of rice, wheat, jawar, bajra and other cereals in the different provinces of India including the states which have acceded to the Union of India, with a view to obtaining proper data for determining the future policy of Government; and

(b) if so, whether, on collection of accurate data, Government propose to have a planned drive for the increase of the production of cereals?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) Yes.

(b) The Government of India initiated a drive for the increase of the production of cereals in April, 1942.

PROCUREMENT OF PADDY AND WHEAT.

498. *Shri Prafulla Chandra Sen: Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the rates for procurement of paddy and wheat from surplus areas of the country so as to cover the cost of production incurred by the cultivators; and

(b) whether Government propose to consider the desirability of fixing different rates for procurement of paddy and wheat respectively for different areas, in view of the varying cost of production in the various parts of the country?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) Provincial Government have now been given discretion to fix procurement prices for their respective areas in such manner as may be considered fair and feasible in prevailing local conditions and without danger of an undue increase in the cost of living.

(b) Does not arise.

PAY TO TEACHERS OF RAILWAY SCHOOLS.

499. *Shri Damodar Swarup Seth: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in 1929 the Railway Board decided that the scales of pay allowed to teachers of Railway Schools in various provinces will be the same as are applicable to teachers in Government schools of the province in which they are situated;

(b) whether it is a fact that in 1930 the United Provinces Government's provincial scales of pay were enforced in the Railway schools in that province, and in 1931 when the provincial grades were revised for future entrants, they were also made applicable to all new entrants in the Railway schools in the United Provinces subsequent to the year 1931;

(c) whether it is a fact that under minute sheet No. AS/36/Z, dated 1st May 1941, from the Secretary to the General Manager and Superintendent, East Indian Railway schools, Calcutta, of which copies were also circulated to all the members of the staff in the Railway schools, the Railway Board re-affirmed its policy of treating the teaching staff of the Railway schools on the provincial basis in respect of pay, qualifications and promotions;

(d) whether Government are aware that the Pay Commission have recommended the inclusion of Railway schools in the Centrally administered areas in which there is marked disparity between the scales recommended by the Pay Commission and those revised by the Government of United Provinces in 1947; and

(e) if the answer to the above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to look into the case of the teachers of the Railway schools and grant them the revised provincial scales of pay?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a), (b) and (c). Yes.

(d) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative: as regards the second part, Government are not aware of the scales having been revised by the Government of the U. P. in 1947 and it is, therefore, not possible to state whether there is any marked disparity between the two scales. Information on this point is being obtained.

(e) The recommendations of the Central Pay Commission in so far as they relate to Railway Schools are at present under examination. In coming to a decision all relevant factors will be given due consideration.

AIR MAIL POSTAL ENVELOPES.

500. *Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the inconvenience now felt in sending air mail letters, by having to affix a stamp and an air mail label in addition to the ordinary postage; and

(b) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of issuing Air Mail postal envelopes (thinner or lighter than the present ones) with the words, "Air Mail" printed thereon in bold blue or green letters and stamped with a 2½ anna stamp, thus saving paper and material to Government and at the same time removing the inconvenience caused to the public?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The question is already under consideration and as soon as the new stamp designs have been selected an air-mail envelope for internal use will be made available to the public.

REDUCTION IN TRAIN SERVICES.

501. *Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways please state:

(a) the total number of mail, express and passenger trains cancelled on Indian Railways as a result of the recent disturbances, on and from the 7th September 1947;

(b) whether there is any train running regularly between Delhi and Simla, daily, and if not, why not;

(c) when it is proposed to restore the cancelled trains on the various railways;

(d) whether armed guards are provided in trains on various sections of the different railways and if so, what are those sections;

(e) whether such provision of armed guards has been necessary on sections running through any Indian States and if so, the number of such Guards posted on those trains and their cost to the Indian Exchequer; and

(f) whether it is proposed to require such Indian States to reimburse such expenditure, and if not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Train services on E.P., G.I.P., B.B. and C. I. and E.I. Railways were mainly affected. Information regarding the number of trains cancelled is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

(b) There is no through train between Delhi and Simla for the present. Regular train services had to be suspended, because rolling stock was most urgently required for movement of refugees to and from Pakistan, which had to have first priority, and also to prevent indiscriminate movements of refugees to Delhi.

(c) Yes, as soon as the refugee traffic diminishes to an extent permitting the release of rolling stock.

(d) Yes; armed escorts are provided on passenger trains in U.P. and also on the Kotah/Muttra/Delhi and Agra/Bandikui/Rewari Sections of the B.B. and C.I. Railways.

(e) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. Information about the other parts is not readily available.

(f) The matter will be considered.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

ANNOUNCEMENT TO DECONTROL SUGAR AND CONSEQUENT RISE IN PRICES

Mr. Speaker: I received a Notice of an Adjournment Motion from Pandit Balkrishna Sharma, which reads as under:

"The announcement to decontrol sugar in near future resulting in upward trend of forward sugar prices from Rs. 19 per maund to Rs. 50 per maund, as also, the recommendations made by the Food Grains Policy Committee in regard to adaptation of the policy of progressive decontrol of foodgrains."

I do not know how this matter can be treated as so urgent as to be permissible for an Adjournment Motion. Further, it also involves more than one point. An adjournment motion must relate to one definite matter; I find it relates to two matters. Has the Honourable Member given notice of this to Government?

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma (U.P.: General): Yes, Sir. The fact that the question is urgent cannot be gainsaid for the very simple reason that during the last 3 or 4 days when the announcement was made that sugar will be decontrolled, I found to my surprise, that in my own Province and in my home Town, Cawnpore, which is the biggest sugar market in the country, the forward prices of sugar have risen from Rs. 19/12/0 (and not Rs. 19 as given wrongly in my motion) to Rs. 50 per maund and at the same time we read in this morning's papers certain recommendations of the Foodgrains Policy Committee. Knowing not that inclusion of two items would make my Motion in any way less important or less urgent, I put it there and therefore, I would beg of you to treat it as urgent and the two questions being inter-linked with one another are of the same nature, and therefore they cannot be said to be two questions. Moreover, Government is going to announce the policy regarding decontrol or control measures on the 10th of this month. Now, I wish that before the Government make up their mind, they must give an opportunity to this House to voice its feelings and its thoughts on the questions which are of great importance and therefore, I believe even the Honourable the Minister for Food will have no objection to this Motion, which is put before this House for consideration. One thing more; I do not in any way, by giving notice of this Adjournment Motion, wish to censure the Government. We only want to have an opportunity to voice our feelings and our ideas about the question, and therefore, I wish that you may be pleased to entertain it.

Mr. Speaker: Because an Adjournment Motion is tabled, it does not necessarily mean that, it is always a censure Motion. Without being a censure Motion, an Adjournment Motion can be brought for the purpose of discussing any matter which is urgent and it must be a definite matter of importance. The rules require that only one such matter can be raised and the Honourable Member's argument that the two are linked does not appeal to me. On the question of urgency, I believe it is clear to everybody that in the process of decontrolling prices were expected to shoot up and some time will be necessary for these prices to readjust. Therefore, the shooting up of prices by itself is not a matter of such urgency that requires any discussion. I do not think that I could give my consent to this Motion.

ELECTION TO STANDING COMMITTEES FOR MINISTRIES OF RELIEF AND REHABILITATION AND WORKS, MINES AND POWER

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the Assembly that upto the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committees for the Ministries of Relief and Rehabilitation and Works, Mines and Power, 11 nominations in the case of the former and 10 nominations in the case of the latter were received. Subsequently one member in case of the former withdrew his candidature. As

[Mr. Speaker] the number of the remaining candidates was thus equal to the number of vacancies in each of the two Committees, I declare the following members to be duly elected:

I. Standing Committee for the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation.

- (1) Ch. Ranbir Singh.
- (2) Shri Khurshed Lal.
- (3) Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand.
- (4) Shrimati Sucheta Kriplani.
- (5) Shri Basanta Kumar Das.
- (6) Prof. Shibban Lal Saxena.
- (7) Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor.
- (8) Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar.
- (9) Shri A. P. Pattani.
- (10) Mr. S. M. Ilahi.

II. Standing Committee for the Ministry of Works, Mines and Power.

- (1) Dr. Sir S. V. Ramamurty.
- (2) Shri Gokulbhai D. Bhatt.
- (3) Shri B. Das.
- (4) Shri O. V. Alagesan.
- (5) Shri Jaipal Singh.
- (6) Shri Kanayalal Nanabhai Desai.
- (7) Rai Bahadur Sri Narain Mahtha.
- (8) Shri Prafulla Chandra Sen.
- (9) Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar.
- (10) Mr. Tajamul Hussain.

THE BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION

FIRST STAGE

Mr. Speaker: Before we proceed with the General Discussion of the Budget, I have to inform Honourable Members that for Demands and moving Out Motions only one day was allotted; that period has been extended to two days.

I have to announce that under Rule 46, I fix the time-limit for speeches ordinarily as 10 minutes; as I find a large number of Honourable Members anxious to address themselves to the House the time-limit will not, in any case, exceed 15 minutes for each Honourable Member excepting the Honourable the Finance Minister for whom 45 minutes or more will be allowed, if necessary.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Minister for Finance): Mr. Speaker, before the General Discussion starts, I would like, with your permission, to make a Statement by way of personal explanation arising on of the Budget Speech that I delivered the other day. I have been told that considerable resentment has been caused in certain quarters in this House on account of my omission to mention amongst the causes that contributed towards Indian freedom the great sacrifice that was made by thousands of our countrymen and countrywomen. Now that this matter has been brought to my attention, I freely admit that it was a serious omission on my part. But I want Honourable Members to believe me when I say that the omission was

neither deliberate nor intentional. Even though I have not myself made any of those sacrifices, I have the greatest admiration and respect for all those thousands of our fellow-citizens who had the courage to make that sacrifice in the cause of India's freedom and I have no doubt that when the causes that contributed towards the attainment of Indian freedom come to be written, everyone will recognize that the major causes were the great struggle for freedom under the unique and inspiring leadership of Mahatma Gandhi and the great sacrifices made by our people. I hope, Sir, that the House will accept my statement in the spirit in which I have given it.

Shri K. M. Munshi (Bombay: General): Sir, in rising to make my comments on the budget I take an early opportunity of congratulating my Honourable friend the Finance Minister on the proposals that he has placed before the House. In the first instance they are very sober proposals; his approach has been very reassuring as the indications in the market clearly prove; and he has given the House a frank assessment of the desperate economic crisis through which the country is passing. The Honourable Finance Minister's analysis is one with which, I am sure, the House will agree. The contributing factors to that crisis are, as he has given us, widespread labour unrest, decline in agricultural and industrial production and inflationary pressure. But I am afraid he has dealt with all of them in a certain amount of conservative spirit. He has left many things vague; I do not blame him because the Government was formed with such lightning speed and we are passing through such difficult times that it was not expected that the Honourable Minister would have the time to go over the whole ground. If I may be permitted, Sir, I would like to mention that I expected in the budget some fore-shadow of the contribution which Government proposed to make to resolve the crisis to which the Honourable Finance Minister referred. I also expected—I am afraid in vain—that we would be told something about the economic implications of the changed conditions arising firstly from the partition, and secondly from the loss of staple exports by reason of this partition. At the same time I feel that I would be failing in my duty if I did not make my comments with regard to the policy which Government ought to pursue and which has already been indicated by the Finance Minister.

Sir, I admire him for the courage with which he has stood for economic realism in tackling this crisis. He has told us in unmistakeable terms that in order to tide over the crisis we must have a mixed economy and that private enterprise and nationalism must march together. I entirely agree with him that this is not the time when we can consider the theoretical pros and cons of nationalisation; this is not the time when we can indulge in the pastime of discussing any theoretical matter at all. As I said, we are passing through a crisis and it requires that we should utilise every single factor which is available to us. Nationalisation has proved inconclusive in the test of world experience. I may mention some notable instances which I daresay are known to most Honourable Members. We know of the State-controlled and State-owned German railways which had the highest efficiency in the world. At the same time the British transport system, lately in private hands, was equally efficient. In India we have State-owned and State controlled railways; their efficiency was discussed the other day, and we are still awaiting to see what results they have in the hands of our present State. At the same time we know that the Indian shipping industry as well as the iron and steel industry in private hands has had a fairly high standard of efficiency. In the United Kingdom again you find that the steel industry which is yet in private hands has been able to hit the target of post-war production; on the contrary, the nationalised Coal Board has failed to achieve that success which was expected of it.

An Honourable Member: It has the highest production now.

Shri K. M. Munshi: I can give figures to show that compared with the steel industry it has not been able to cope with the crisis.

I am not favouring one way or the other, but it is an inconclusive matter and we need not for the moment consider, as I said, the theoretical aspects of this question. What we really want is a purposive direction of all our economic affairs. We want that private enterprise should be encouraged in all the sectors where nationalisation is not possible for the moment; but we must reintegrate private enterprise with broad national objectives that may be settled by our Government. We have already got nationalised concerns like railways and posts and telegraphs; we want them to be raised to the highest possible standard of efficiency. Then again we have other schemes; we have the hydro-electric schemes, we have the Damodar Valley scheme and we can have many other schemes which are going to be State-owned and State-controlled. We have also other large spheres of economic activity; for instance, I read in one paper the great need for having an industry in ammonium sulphate, so highly essential for our agricultural purposes. These are spheres in which our Government can launch industries and in which I am sure, we will be able to make a success.

It is wrong to say that we have not got a controlled economy; there is sufficient control over private enterprise, and further controls, if need be, could be imposed in national interests. We have got taxation, we have already got security schemes and Government are embarking upon a scheme of fixing minimum wages; and I have little doubt the time may come when dividends may have to be controlled. For the present, we must give a purposive direction to the whole of our economic life in order that we may be able immediately and effectively to tide over the present crisis.

Sir, the Honourable Minister mentioned three factors of which the first is labour. I do hope that Government will be able to embark upon a comprehensive labour programme, or rather a programme for labour cacany in this country. We know that strikes and slowing down process are very popular among labour. We have to deal with them in the way that they have been dealt with—if I may mention it—in Ahmedabad and to a certain extent in Bombay. Since 1917 Mahatma Gandhi in Ahmedabad has tried a successful experiment of resolving industrial disputes between labour and capital by arbitration. As a result Ahmedabad has been richer and its labour has been more contented than in any other part of India or—for the matter of that—in the world. And the industrial laws which have been introduced by the Government in Bombay in 1939 as well as now show that very satisfactory results can be produced by similar legislation all over India and its strict enforcement. I know our labour is inefficient. Only the other day an expert said that the efficiency of an Indian worker is about 1/14th of an American worker and 1/7th of an English worker. We have also no scheme for redeployment of labour. Therefore, what I would urge upon Government is that the whole programme of labour reorganisation should be taken in hand. It is one of the most material factors and the programme cannot be carried out by patchwork reforms.

The next factor to which the Honourable Minister referred was inflationary pressure. This inflation, Sir, appears to be like the ghost in a haunted house. Everybody seems to know about it and no one knows what to do about it. The result has been that we fear to imagine what inflation will bring us next. The Honourable Minister has himself given the figures. Our inflationary conditions here are quite different from those which prevail in the United States, in the United Kingdom and Canada. There, the problem is to stabilize the present productive activity and the present income because there is practically full employment there and a large volume of spending power in private hands. Our case is different. We have got monetary inflation in a high degree and

material and manpower resources which are lying idle. Our problem is entirely different from theirs. We have to secure a spurt in production, and at the same time to keep inflation in leash. The only course—and I speak with some hesitation because I am not an expert—which appears to be obvious and essential is that the Government should embark a development by raising loans. A large programme of loan finances for the purpose of providing capital expenditure is the only thing which will promote real income. I am sorry to find that there was no indication in the speech of the Honourable Minister with regard to this matter. I know the difficulties. I know that economies are difficult to be carried out in such a short time. I equally feel that there are various factors working against it. But at the same time we must equally realize that the time within which we must do something to overcome this economic crisis is so little.

I may only mention one thing. You will forgive me Sir if I take a minute more of your time. So far as our taxation capacity goes, it has reached saturation point. The Honourable Minister has already mentioned that so far as business taxation is concerned, it will have to be reinvestigated in order that the margin of enterprise may not be hit as at present.

But there is one source, Sir, of revenue to which I should like to draw his attention, and that is death duties. All over the world it has come to be recognised that it has great distributive effects. It is innocuous so far as production efforts are concerned. Orthodox economists like Pigon consider it as an essential complementary to a progressive income taxation. The experience in England proves that death duties are borne much more easily than business taxation, and I have no doubt, when the time comes in next March, the Honourable Finance Minister will be able to see that those sources are tapped which will enable us to get the money so necessary for reconstruction—without hitting production.

I have only one word to add. We are going towards a socialist democracy. Whether we wish it or we do not, whether people theoretically approve of it or do not, is a small matter. The world forces are driving us towards that end. But for that purpose we require a highly trained and incorruptible bureaucracy which we have still to build up. Till that situation comes, what I would like to impress upon the Honourable Minister is that our urgent need is stability and security in the economic sphere as much as in the political sphere.

Shri M. S. Aney (Deccan and Madras States Group): Not incorruptibility!

Shri K. M. Munshi: Incorruptibility is a necessary ingredient of economic stability. You cannot have stability without incorruptibility, but it is no use trying to create a machinery which is corrupt first and then quarreling with it!

I hope that the few remarks I have been able to make at the short time at my disposal the Honourable Minister will bear in mind, and in his closing speech give us some inkling as to what contribution the Government proposes to make towards resolving this crisis.

Kazi Syed Karimuddin (C.P. and Berar: Muslim): I congratulate the Finance Minister on a very straight and frank statement of facts, but I do not entirely agree with his background and the outlook. It is more or less based on the antiquated idea of the past century. The theory of mixed economy is an exploded theory. Nobody disputes that there should be gradual industrialisation of the country. Nobody disputes that the standard of living in the country should rise. But that does not mean that the rich should grow richer and the poor should become poorer.

Sir, in supporting these budget proposals, Mr. Munshi has said that there should be economic realism and that the policy of nationalism in other countries has failed and has not been successful.

Shri K. M. Munshi: I did not say that. I said it was inconclusive.

Kazi-Syed Karimuddin: In a way generalizations without facts and figures are not convincing at all. He has admitted that dividends in this country will be controlled in future. The point that has to be decided is this. The Finance Minister in his speech has not laid down any definite policy as to what would be the economic pattern in this country. In para. 38 of his speech he has said: "Whatever may be the pattern of our economic system, I hold that there is need and scope for private enterprise in industry." Now the Prime Minister of this country in his speech on 'The Objectives Resolution' said: "I stand for Socialism and I hope India will stand for Socialism, and that India will go towards the constitution of a Socialist State, and I do believe the whole world will have to go that way." Is there any doubt that the Prime Minister of this country, the head of the Government has accepted that the future constitution of this country and the future economic pattern will be a pattern of a Socialist State? Then how is this indecision on the part of the Finance Minister that he is not definite of the economic pattern the country will have? If it is an established fact that this country is going to have a Socialist pattern, then we have to move towards socialization of the resources and nationalisation of the industries of this country. The only objection that has been raised is this, that because of last year's policy, there is penury and distress in the economic field, and so that policy will have to be revised. There are countries in the world where socialisation of the resources of the country is being practised. There are countries where nationalisation of industries has been done and the Advisory Planning Board in their report has accepted this principle which has been propounded by the Prime Minister of this country: It says:

"At the same time, it must also be recognised that, if Socialisation is adopted as a policy, it must be applied universally to all parts of the national economy, if it is to be a real success. Any restriction of the field of Socialisation, any exclusion from it of any section of the productive or distribution organisations, would mean very much less chance for a socialised plan to attain full fruition."

The Karachi resolution also states that in India we should make an attempt at socialisation of all resources and nationalisation of industry. The field should not be left to private enterprise mainly. The advantages of socialisation of industry are that there would be nationalised ownership; the surplus of profits would go to labour and there will be the fullest employment of the adult workers in the country. The Finance Minister has said "I believe that the general pattern of our economy must be a mixed economy in which there is scope both for private enterprise and for State enterprise." In the name of mixed economy private enterprise is likely to be encouraged and socialisation of the key industries will be delayed and hence it is to this part of his speech that I object. My submission is that there should have been a declaration in this Budget speech that the country will move towards the socialisation of the resources of the country and the key industries of the country would be nationalised. There is absolutely no declaration to this effect. On the other hand, the declaration that has been made is that last year's policy will be revived and private investments will be encouraged.

The second point which I want to stress is this. I am not very sorry for the deficit budget, because 26 crores have been spent on the refugees,—the people who have been rendered homeless and helpless: but I object to leaving the gap uncovered, as if this was only a temporary matter concerning this year. It is a stupendous task which will go on for at least five years and I do not see any wisdom in leaving this gap uncovered.

Another objectionable feature in this budget speech is that no proposals or measures have been proposed for the agricultural development of this country except the suggestion that dams in one or two provinces will be constructed. Unless and until collective farming on a very large scale is introduced there is

absolutely no possibility in the near future for the improvement of the food position. No measures have been proposed in the budget: no proposals have been made in the budget. Unless this food position improves there is no prospect of our country being self-sufficient. In the event of an international war, in the event of our country going out of the Empire, it would be most difficult to supply food to all the people in the country. This should be the first concern of the Finance Minister and proposals to this effect should be formulated so that the food position may improve in the near future.

It is said in the Advisory Board's report that there are no technicians, no engineers for the agricultural projects. The Finance Minister has not stated in his speech or in the Budget Estimates that any engineers have been trained or engineering colleges in addition are being opened and students in hundreds are being sent to outside countries or any foreign engineers are being engaged for this purpose. Unless these measures are adopted, unless the Central Government gives considerable subsidies to the provinces so that collective farming is practised on a large scale, there is absolutely no hope in the future of the food position improving.

There is another matter to which I want to make a reference and it is a matter of the sterling balances, which finds a place in the budget speech. Looking into the provisions of the Financial Agreement that has been entered into as between the United Kingdom and the Government of India, I find that the sterling balances have been divided into two accounts—Account No. 1 is current account and Account No. 2 is practically a fixed deposit. Instead of getting our deposits for investment in the industrial development of the country as also agricultural development, they have been kept in deposit with Britain to be used towards pension and so many other subjects which are given in Article 4. My submission is that when our capital is there, why should not the capital be brought and invested in the development of this country?

These are the criticisms which I want to lay before the House and I hope the Finance Minister will take them into consideration.

Shri R.-R. Diwakar (Bombay: General): Sir, I am very glad to welcome the first budget of Free India. Our Finance Minister has at the very outset asked for the co-operation of every member of this House and I do not think that he will lack that co-operation in any of the proposals that he has made. At the same time, I suppose we ought to offer our criticism or make remarks that we have to make on the proposals that he has made. I might say that any carping criticism is of no use and will be destructive. But if along with the remarks that we offer there are constructive suggestions I believe the Honourable the Minister will welcome them.

In fact today we are meeting and considering the finances of the country after a very great catastrophe. No doubt one of the most fortunate things that happened during the year was that we got our freedom but, at the same time, the most unfortunate thing that we got along with it was the division of our country on a communal basis. At this time I cannot but express the feelings of some of us that the reunion of these two Dominions alone will solve the problems that have arisen out of the division of the country. In fact there cannot be any permanent peace in the country unless there is some kind of permanent federation, as regards subjects like defence, commerce, foreign affairs and communications.

Before passing on to the budget itself, I am very glad to observe that the Finance Minister has made ample amends for some omission in his speech which he said was not deliberate. At the same time I shall not be wrong if I point out an act of commission. He has paid a compliment to our erstwhile masters or rulers that it was a unique act of enlightened self-abnegation to have left India. One feels that possibly, if there was no context as regards these words, they point out to some Buddha! Really speaking, I would say that this is an act not so much of enlightened self-abnegation as of enlightened

[Shri R. R. Diwakar] selfishness, because there is absolutely no generosity in this matter. It was a matter of choice and I think that they have made the right choice—rather than forfeiting the goodwill of a big nation like India they have forfeited the Indian Empire. There is nothing like spontaneous generosity in politics.

As regards the actual budget and certain of the proposals made, my friends have already covered one or two points. I would like to cover only such of the points as remain untouched. The finance or the budget of a country is really a highly technical affair so much so that I have come across Ministers in Provinces speaking of inflation as 'inflation' and that too repeatedly for a long time throughout their conversation. Therefore, it is very difficult for a common man like me to pass any observations on such a technical affair.

An Honourable Member: Was he a Finance Minister?

Shri R. R. Diwakar: To his credit, he was not a Finance Minister! However, the point of a common man like me will be useful and I think that if we pool the resources of expert knowledge and the experience of common men it will be for the good of the country. The budget presented to us is a general survey in addition to the estimates and facts and figures, and we must thank our Finance Minister for giving this general economic picture of the country just in the first Legislature which has met. Since as a result of partition there are a number of things which have yet to be decided I think the financial or economic picture of the country may change to a great extent. For instance our Railway Minister pointed out that when things go to arbitration the railway valuation may suffer by crores if the arbitration takes a particular point of view and we may stand to gain or lose tens of crores of rupees. So it might be that our observations will have to be modified in that respect.

Taking now an important question, namely of food, the Finance Minister has said that Rs. 22½ crores will be spent during the year as subsidies for buying food from foreign countries. This Rs. 22½ crores will be absolutely unproductive. Unless there is a kind of alternative suggestion to invest this amount or equal amounts or the amounts available for some constructive purposes whereby we can produce more food in our country, I think we are running down a very bad incline. During the last three or four years we have possibly spent something like Rs. 100 crores merely for paying more and subsidising for food imports. In fact we had to pay through the nose to Australia, America and Canada, irrespective of the prices prevailing in those countries. They saw to it that they got practically double the prices from us. For instance, Australia, I am told, charged us something like 88 shillings for 6 bushels of wheat, whereas they sold us 6 bushels in 1945 for 44 shillings. That means double the value.

An Honourable Member: What was the market value?

Shri R. R. Diwakar: It was not so much. In the same way, England bought wheat from Canada at the rate of \$1.60 per bushel whereas India had to pay at the rate of \$2.50. Now this difference between 1.60 dollars and 2.50 dollars is really inexplicable unless only by one consideration namely that that country took advantage of our dire need. But India has not acted in a similar manner, though I do not say that acting in a similar manner would be very desirable. All the same, her textiles today are looked upon as the cheapest in the world. My plea is if we have surplus textiles we should look for such countries which need our textiles and also have food to give us, so that we can have bargains on what may be called an equal footing with such countries. That may perhaps reduce the high subsidies that we have to pay today for food supplies.

The second point I want to make is this. The food deficit is really 6 per cent., at the highest. It is put down at 3 per cent. or 4 per cent. by some experts. 6 per cent. deficit of food is really not such an alarming thing. But

we who live especially in cities are as jubilant as Columbus and his crew, whenever any food ship arrives and most of the daily papers give this kind of news in block letters. That means that though the situation is not intrinsically so alarming it is made out to be so and possibly on account of a psychological complex. Therefore, if we can put our heads together and see that the psychological factor which will promote more production is encouraged and production improved in our own country. With the present resources, it should be possible for us to make up this 6 per cent. of deficit.

Another point about the Rs. 22½ crores that we are spending is that this kind of unproductive spending would land us in difficulties. Therefore we should have, as I said in the beginning, some alternative proposals for spending similar amounts on improvement of agriculture, seeds, and irrigation.

I may now pass on to the military expenditure. Military expenditure has been one of the targets of our attack for a very long time. Now we are faced with a similar situation, namely that about 50 per cent. of our revenues are being spent on military expenditure. Consistent of course with the efficient defence of the country, I think we must be able to reduce our expenses and that can be done only, if I may make a suggestion, by creating a kind of citizens' army so far as the land forces are concerned.

I quite realise that so far as a modern army is concerned, it is the air arm and the navy that really matter more than anything else, and therefore possibly we may not be able to curtail our expenditure under those two heads because we have no air arm and no navy as such of any magnitude, and therefore whatever curtailment of expenditure will have to be made will have naturally to be made as regards land forces, and that only by taking up seriously the question of organizing a citizen army.

Now as regards the 12 crores which have been sanctioned for nation-building activities, I am sorry to say that it is too meagre an amount because it has to cover education, medical, public health, running of scientific institutions, scientific survey, aviation, broadcasting, and a number of things. No doubt, some of these things are responsibilities of provinces. But still at a juncture like this I would press upon the attention of the Finance Minister the importance of what may be called mass-education, not mere literacy, which can create the right kind of atmosphere in the country and make every citizen conscious of the new responsibilities that have fallen on his shoulders with the attainment of freedom.

I would like to make one more suggestion about another matter and that is about national savings. As regards national savings the period of 12 years is there for national savings certificates. But I would suggest that that period may be reduced, or any period from 3 to 12 years might be fixed so that the common people or the middle class people might be tempted to put in their money in national savings certificates. The 12-year period is too long a period though the return is tempting enough, and I think even if the interest might be a little less, that does not matter. In fact interest ought to be a little less so that it may not divert money from industries and such other productive purposes.

With these few remarks, I thank again the Minister for Finance for giving us a very full overall picture of the economic conditions and I hope that he will welcome some of the suggestions that I have made, and also the suggestions that may be made by some friends of mine during the course of this debate.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is indeed an honour to be the first Finance Minister of free India, and I am glad that honour has fallen upon a friend. But, Sir, I am afraid that notwithstanding this I have some criticisms to offer on his budget.

[Shri T. T. Krishnamachari]

merely unsuitable but is positively disastrous. I agree with my Honourable friend in quoting the view of the Governor of the Reserve Bank in that particular matter, because not only is it a fact that we have put a blanket ceiling at a fairly low level in the matter of higher incomes, but we do not have the machinery which could implement our taxation proposals. Persons who have some experience of the tax administration of the Central Government know that the Sheehy tradition of tax administration that is still obtaining by which the small and honest man is squeezed and the taxes due from the richman are compounded can hardly be considered efficient. I believe that there is room for my Honourable friend to revise his taxation to take the blanket ceiling further up so that there will be something left to the person who owns and runs any industry; at the same time tighten up your methods of collection so as to concentrate on the people from whom you could get more rather than from the people from whom you could get less. In fact, I was surprised the other day when a friend of mine who is considered to be an expert on income-tax law, and perhaps also in the matter of how to administer it, told me that my estimate that only 50 per cent. of the taxes are collected was rather optimistic; his estimate was that it was much less than that. I believe that a variation in the taxation scheme is called for but at the same time I would ask my friend to be cautious. Sir, we know the rich are not only always with us, but they are always amongst us—their existence is something like the existence of God as comprehended by a *Vedantin*—they are everywhere, and rumour has it that they are very near the seat of power; and if it happens that there is an unnecessary emphasis on private enterprise and simultaneously an emphasis on the necessity to re-grade our taxation schemes, well, my Honourable friends from the former Muslim League and others will be enabled to have their own say more freely.

Sir, I think caution is very necessary; caution is also necessary by reason of the fact that the very reception by the Bombay Market of this Budget is a thing that will put the popular will against it. But I will re-affirm that however much of a socialist one may be, one cannot avoid a mixed economy for some time to come. I do hope that my Honourable friend would amplify his words referring to this question; mixed economy means what? It is going to be a mixed economy definitely in relation to what? How will it affect the future industrial policy of the Government which is going to be enunciated a few weeks later?

Sir, I could deal probably with a few other matters referred to in my Honourable friend's speech but there is very little time. But before I close I would like to deal with another matter not relating to the portfolio of my Honourable friend the Finance Minister. I am sorry to see that the Honourable the Prime Minister is not here. I would like to utter a word of warning to the Government in one particular matter. I see that the tendency to employ retired British civil servants by the British High Commissioner in India is on the increase. Sir, it is bad enough that our commercial magnates should employ retired officials as their executives—mainly, I have no doubt, for reason of the contacts that they possess with the Governments, Central and Provincial. It is a thing which is deplorable, but we cannot afford to have foreigners who have served in this country, who have perhaps been patrons in the past of certain people who now occupy posts similar to what they had occupied trying to use their influence, trying to have contacts with these officials when they are appointed Deputy High Commissioners or in charge of other high-placed positions in the various offices of the British High Commissioner in India. I think it is a matter which the Government ought to take up with the British Government at a very high level. Not that we have anything against these officers individually, but as a matter of policy it is a practice that has to be condemned.

Sir, before I close I would like to say that I hope my Honourable friend would accept the criticisms that have been offered in the spirit in which they were made, and secondly when he comes out with the Budget next February, that it would be a little more comprehensive in detail and that he would try to implement what he has touched on in this speech of his—particularly in the matter of the question of linking up prices with our economy. You cannot deal with the monetary aspect of it only and leave the other aspects just to allow the devil to take the hindmost. I do not know what the Government propose to do but if my Honourable friend still holds the view that prices must be reduced as otherwise wages will chase prices and if it happens that there is a further increase in the wage levels then woe to our industries notwithstanding Mr. Munshi and his efforts to save them. I hope we shall have something more tangible from the Honourable Minister when the next Budget comes out.

श्री लक्ष्मीनारायण साहू : सभापति जी, इस बजट में दो एक बातें बतलाना चाहता हूँ। पहिले मैं देखता हूँ कि इस बजट में मिलिटरी का खर्चा बहुत होता है। हम लोग पहिले ब्रिटिश गवर्नमेंट का बार बार क्रिटिसिज्म (criticism) करते थे कि मिलिटरी बजट बहुत होता है इतना नहीं होना चाहिये। लेकिन आज हम देखते हैं कि इसमें हम लोग ब्रिटिश से भी ज्यादा बढ़ गये हैं। यह मुझको अच्छा नहीं लगता है। इसमें इतना खर्चा होगा कि और दूसरा खर्चा हम लोग नहीं कर सकते।

दूसरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि हम लोगों का जो भारतवर्ष है हम लोग जब इसका बजट यहां बनाते हैं तब क्या बजट हर एक प्रान्त को लक्ष्य करके हम बनाते हैं या हम लोग यहां बैठ कर साधारण तौर से सब प्रान्त का एक जैसा तरीका है ऐसा ख्याल रख कर बनाते हैं। मेरी समझ में यह अच्छा नहीं है। हम लोग ऐसा बजट बनायें जिसमें हर एक प्रान्त जो गिरे हुए हैं, उनका ख्याल तो अवश्य रक्खा जाये। मैं आप लोगों को यहां कह सकता हूँ कि उड़ीसा एक प्रान्त है जिसमें ७० आदमी में एक आदमी कोढ़ी है, यहां गवर्नमेंट आफ इण्डिया जब बजट बनाती है तब उसमें इसका ख्याल रखना चाहिये कि ७० आदमी में से एक आदमी कोढ़ी बन गया है। हम लोग जब बजट बनायें तो देखना चाहिये कि तमाम मैडीकल (medical) खर्चा उड़ीसा में कितना करना चाहिये।

तीसरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि हिन्दुस्तान में जहां अकाल होता है उड़ीसा से चावल जाता है और उड़ीसा में आदमी लोग खाने को नहीं पाते हैं। अकाल होता है, उसका सबब यह है कि उड़ीसा में जो फूड प्रोडक्शन (Food production) होता है उसमें से भी हर एक पर्याप्त खाने को नहीं पाता। उड़ीसा में अबोरिजिनल (aboriginal) बहुत है जो अपना देश छोड़ कर आसाम और दूसरी जगह चले जाते हैं। इसका ख्याल हम लोगों को रखना चाहिये कि ऐसे कितने अबोरिजिनल्स (aboriginals) के वास्ते कितना खर्चा हमें बढ़ाना होगा। लोग यहां बहुत ऐसी २ बातें करते हैं, लेकिन जिस देश के भीतर हम लोग रहते हैं, उस देश के एक कोने के आदमी कितने आनन्द में रहेंगे, इसका भी जरा ख्याल रखना चाहिये। दिल्ली में हम लोग बैठ कर यहां भूल जाते हैं कि ऐसे कई प्रान्त हैं, जहां आदमी बहुत दुख में हैं। मैं खास तौर से यह बात कह कर अर्थ सचिव का

[Shri T. T. Krishnamachari]

In the first place I feel that the details of income and expenditure given to this House are not adequate. If it was the intention of the Honourable the Finance Minister to ask for an authentication of the expenditure of Government for 7½ months, I think the details that have been vouchsafed to us is quite all right, but the reason that has been mentioned in the explanatory memorandum that the figures that have not been furnished, which comprise of the figures relating to India before partition, would have no bearing on the figures that are being placed before us is, I think, fallacious. In fact we would like to know whether we ended after 4½ months. The Government has not started in *vacuo*. I think it is a very serious defect in the budget estimates that are before us.

Within the very short time at my disposal it would be impossible to cover many of the aspects of the budget speech, but I would like to say that while I recognize that my Honourable friend did not have enough time at his disposal, enough time during which he could get a good grip over the financial position of this country, the economic picture that has been presented to us is very incomplete. Sir, certain trends he has noticed and has brought to our attention—an upward trend in prices and the scarcity of consumer goods, scarcity of foodgrains and things of that sort. At the same time it does not seem to me that except for making a sort of overall suggestion as to what could be done, it does not appear that the realisation of these trends has had any bearing on the statement of policy made by him. Sir, I know that my Honourable friend believes in a reduction of prices. He has said so many times in public, but what is being done in that connection? Sir, we have had a summary of the report and the recommendations of the Foodgrains Policy Committee sent to us this morning. I must say that it is not very heartening. I do hope that the Government's ultimate decision will be slightly better. In effect all those recommendations, even if partially accepted, must perforce increase the prices of primary foodgrains for the consumer. The problem that the Honourable the Finance Minister has envisaged before us, the problem of the gap of inflation, is likely to get wider with any increase in the purchase price of foodgrains for the small consumer. Wages are bound to increase, and what does my Honourable friend propose to do about it? Sir, he has mentioned about the added momentum to the inflationary trends in this country of war years' unspent accumulation. But it is a fact, Sir, that is common all over the world that those people who are lowest down in the economic level have been spending any surplus they may have immediately on the cessation of restrictions on imported consumer goods. It is a fact that has to be recognized and something done to meet it. I would have liked to have known from my Honourable friend what is going to be his policy in regard to curbing inflation besides the question of putting additional effort behind the national savings schemes. It is true that so far as the Budget is concerned, it has been welcomed by big business of which I shall have more to say a few minutes later, but I find no indication of realisation of the rather serious situation that is facing us, and if the rumour that goes round is correct, it appears that Government would be favouring a policy of decontrol which with all the consequential psychological effects on the people, would only increase inflationary trends.

One aspect on which I would like to lay some stress is that portion of my Honourable friend's speech in regard to sterling balances. I have had the misfortune to have my knowledge of Central Government finances more or less to grow up with these sterling balances though the sterling balances have grown in geometrical progression and reached proportions approximating to the infinite and my knowledge of public finance is still infinitesimal. My Honourable friend's statement on this matter might probably have been more appropriate if they had come from Sir Archibald Rowlands. In fact I have before me here the budget speech of Sir Archibald Rowlands in which he has held up the

sterling balances as something which is sacrosanct, which has to be preserved there, the sterling balances that are in England, will have to be the backbone of the future development and who also doubted the wisdom of frittering away these balances all at once. I found an echo of these sentiments in the speech of my Honourable friend. But is it at all a fact to be so greatly deplored if the sterling balances are frittered away to the extent of 186 crores from the 5th April 1946 to the 5th July 1947? Is my Honourable friend quite sure that we are going to get quite a lot of what is remaining. Has my Honourable

friend looked at the other side of the picture of Britain's views on the matter? It is not a question of his regretting the frittering away of these balances on consumed goods, it is not a question of Sir Archibald Rowland's saying that it is all wrong to do so, but a question of what people in England feel about it. I have before me a copy of the *Economist* dated 19th April, in which there are some remarks in regard to the rapid manner in which sterling balances are being consumed by India, and it says, "It is hard to see how British Authorities can avoid imposing some restrictions upon the use of accumulated balances if the progression of depletion is kept up". Again, Sir, there is further down—a reference to the speech of the Chancellor of Exchequer of England which says—"As the Chancellor said in his Budget Speech, unrequired exports are a luxury of which we can afford very little for many years to come".

Sir, my contention is that if something has come even in the shape of imports which are practically useless, well that is something which has come into this country out of the sterling balances which are now almost semi frozen and I do not think we need regret it. But I do feel that the approach to this question of sterling balances by my friend has to be slightly modified. In fact, our negotiations have all along been on the Secretariat level. The Delegation went from India headed by the Finance Secretary because there was no responsible Member to go with it, and his achievements in the light of subsequent events, in the light of the existence of Article 7 of the Anglo-American Agreement is practically next to nothing. I urge upon my Honourable friend to remember that this matter is a matter vital for the future of this country, as he himself recognises. But it is also a matter where it would not be possible for us ultimately to realise in full, or even a greater moiety, this asset of ours; and if any further negotiations are to be carried on, I hope my friend would be careful about it: it has to be conducted at the highest of levels, has to be conducted with the aid of experts of unrepachable reputation. The matter cannot be trifled with. I would even suggest to my Honourable friend that if necessary he should have to use the only threat that he has in his hands. If Britain would not agree to make an equitable settlement of this matter it will upset all our calculations—the whole speech of my friend in regard to the economic future of this country has been based more or less on the ultimate realisation of those sterling balances of ours. I think it should be clearly stated that if nothing is done, well, the British assets in this country will first be adjusted against the debt that Britain owes to us.

Sir, I have a few words to say in regard to the policy enunciated by my friend in the matter of taxation and in the matter of Government's attitude towards private enterprise. I am sorry my Honourable friend Mr. Munshi who has had a lot to say about it is not here. Of course, I cannot be an advocate for private enterprise that he is, in fact, I hold certain views which probably may not meet with the approval of people who are advocates of private enterprise.....

An Honourable Member: I did not know you are a socialist.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:but so long as we allow private enterprise in some form to flourish, so long as we make the bulk of our taxation dependent on the output of industry, the present type of taxation is not

[श्री लक्ष्मीनारायण साहू]

ध्यान इस तरफ दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि अबोरिजिनल्स (aboriginals) के वास्ते ज्यादा खर्चा करना चाहिये। मेडीकल (medical) में उड़ीसा के वास्ते ज्यादा खर्च करना चाहिये और यह देखना चाहिए कि उड़ीसा के आदमी कैसे खाना पीना ज्यादा पायेंगे। मैं सिर्फ इतना ही कहना चाहता हूँ।

[English translation of the above speech.]

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu (Orissa: General): Mr. Speaker; I want to speak about one or two things in connection with this budget. Firstly I find that this Budget provides for a huge military expenditure. We people formerly used to level frequent criticism against the British Government that the Military Budget is very heavy and this should not be so much. But today we observe from this that we have surpassed the British even in this respect. This I do not like, this will include so much expenditure that we would not be able to incur any other expenditure. Secondly I would like to say that for this our India do we people prepare the budget after taking into account every Province individually or while sitting here do we prepare it in the usual manner keeping in view that a uniform principle is applicable to each Province. In my opinion it is not good. We people should frame such a budget which will keep in view every Province particularly the deficit Provinces. I can tell you people here that Orissa is a Province where one man out of 70 men suffers from leprosy. In the Budget framed by the Government of India, this fact should be borne in mind that one man out of 70 became leper. We should while compiling the budget visualize the extent to which the total expenditure under the head "Medical" should be incurred in Orissa. Thirdly I want to point out that Orissa supplies rice to the famine-stricken places in India and in Orissa itself people do not get anything to eat. The cause of famine is that out of the entire food production in Orissa, an individual hardly gets enough to eat. Orissa is inhabited by a large number of aboriginals who leave their places and settle in Assam and other places. We should keep the fact in view as to how much expenditure we shall have to increase for such aboriginals. We talk here of too many things, but we should also see whether people in a particular corner of our country are living in happiness. While sitting in Delhi, we people forget that there are so many Provinces where people are living in a miserable state. By referring to this particularly, I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister of Finance that more expenses should be incurred for the sake of aboriginals. Under the head "Medical", more money should be provided to help Orissa. It should also be seen how the Oriyas could be provided with more to eat and drink. I simply want to say this thing.

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

*The Assembly reassembled after Lunch at Half-Past Two of the Clock.
Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.*

DELHI AND AJMER-MERWARA RENT CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL.

[PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE]

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil (Minister for Works, Mines and Power): Sir, I present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to continue in force certain amendments of the Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara Rent Control Act, 1947.

DELHI PREMISES (REQUISITION AND EVICTION) BILL

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil (Minister for Works, Mines and Power).

Sir, I present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to confer certain powers in respect of premises in the Province of Delhi.

THE BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION—Contd.

श्री एच० जे० खण्डेकर : सभापति जी, बजट पर का भाषण मैंने माननीय फाइनेन्स मिनिस्टर साहब का सुना और पढ़ा। जो बजट हम लोगों को बांटा गया उसको भी मैंने काफी अच्छी तरह से देखा। इस बजट के कुछ मुद्दों पर मेरे पहले वक्ताओं ने कुछ प्रकाश डाला। मैं सिर्फ दो तीन बातें माननीय फाइनेन्स मिनिस्टर के ध्यान में लाना जरूरी समझता हूँ।

सभापति जी, आप जानते हैं कि किसी भी देश की सरकार का यह काम हो जाता है कि जो पिछड़ी हुई जातियाँ हों उनकी ओर वह ध्यान दे। और सिर्फ ध्यान ही न दे बल्कि उस जमात के ऊपर, उन लोगों के ऊपर काफी पैसा भी खर्च करे ताकि वह दूसरे लोगों के बराबर आ जाय। जब मैंने इस बजट को देखा और जब माननीय फाइनेन्स मिनिस्टर साहब का भाषण मैंने सुना तो उसमें कोई ऐसी बात नहीं पाई कि जिससे इस देश में रहने वाली पिछड़ी हुई जातियों की कोई तरक्की की गई हो। हरिजनों के बारे में अगर मैं कहूँ तो सिर्फ इतनी रकम इस बजट में रखी गई है जो पिछली सरकार ने रखी थी। और मैंने यह सुना है, अगर यह बात सच्ची हो, कि आज की सरकार इसको भी निकाल देने के लिये तैयार है। मुझे याद है, और सभापति जी, आपको भी याद होगा कि कन्स्टीट्यूएण्ट असेम्बली में माइनोरिटीज सबकमेटी (Minorities Sub-Committee) की सिफारिश के अनुसार एक क्लॉज (clause) पास किया गया जिसमें यह बताया गया कि पिछड़ी हुई जातियों के सामाजिक और शिक्षा सम्बन्धी उद्धार के लिये सरकार सदैव ध्यान रखेगी। मगर मैंने यह देखा कि इस ओर कोई कार्य और किसी प्रकार का भी पैसा इस बजट में नहीं है।

दूसरी बात, सारी पिछड़ी हुई जातियों को लेकर और खास कर जिस समाज से मैं आता हूँ उस हरिजन समाज को लेते हुये मैं आपके ध्यान में लाना चाहता हूँ कि इस समाज की इतनी बुरी हालत है कि हर एक सदस्य इस असेम्बली को जानता है कि हरिजनों के उद्धार की जरूरत है। हमारे दुनिया-मान्य नेता पूज्य महात्मा गांधी ने आज २७ सालों से इस चीज का आन्दोलन किया कि हरिजनों का उद्धार हो और वह दूसरी जातियों के दर्जे पर आ जाय। हमें यह उम्मीद थी कि गांधी जी, जिन्होंने आज तक हरिजनों के लिये अपने प्राणों की बाजी तक लगा दी थी, उनके नेतृत्व में अगर कोई राजकीय सत्ता आ जाय, उस समय हमारे हरिजनों का उद्धार हो जायगा। इस आशा से हम आज २७ सालों से बैठे हुये हैं। लेकिन देश स्वतंत्र हो गया, गांधी जी के नेतृत्व में चलने वाला राज्य शुरू हो गया पन्द्रह अगस्त से। मगर उस राज्य के पहले बजट में

[श्री एच० जे० खण्डेकर]

हरिजनों के उद्धार के लिये एक छदाम भी नहीं है। अब हम कैसे उम्मीद करें कि स्वराज्य आने के बाद जिस चीज के स्वप्न हम देख रहे थे वह सारे के सारे स्वप्न हमारे पूर्ण हो जायेंगे। ऐसी उम्मीद कभी हमारे सामने नहीं रही है।

अगर हमारे पीने के पानी की तरफ आप देखेंगे तो हरिजनों की यह हालत है, सभापति जी, कि उनको बारिश के अन्दर कोई कुएं का पानी पीने को नहीं मिलता। जो नाले और नदियां गन्दे पानी से बारिश में बहती हैं उसमें वह जाकर बेचारे पानी पीते हैं। या किसी सवर्ण हिन्दू की मेहरबानी हो जाय और किसी कुएं से वह पानी निकाल दे तो वह उसके घड़े में पानी डाल देता है और वह बेचारा दूसरों की मर्जी पर पानी पीता है।

उनके मकानों को देखिये, मुझे दूसरे प्रान्तों की बात नहीं मालूम है लेकिन जहां से मैं आता हूं यानी सी० पी० से, वहां मकानों की यह हालत है कि कोई भी जाति का हरिजन हो, उसका मकान पूर्व में गांव के बाहर होता है (एक सदस्य : सब जगह वही हाल है) मेरे मदरासी दोस्त कहते हैं सब जगह वही हालत है। तो क्या सरकार का कर्तव्य नहीं है कि अच्छे मकान उनके लिये बनाने के लिये कोई रकम बजट में रखी जाय ? मगर इस बजट में कुछ नहीं है।

यह सारी बातें पानी और मकानों की छोड़ दीजिये। जिसकी आज इस देश के अन्दर बहुत जरूरत है उस शिक्षा के लिये भी इस बजट में कोई बात नहीं है। सब कहते हैं और सब की शाब्दिक सहानुभूति हरिजनों की तरफ है परन्तु सच्ची सहानुभूति जनता के किसी नेता की है न जनता की सरकार की। जनता की पापुलर (popular) सरकार को यह चाहिये था कि हरिजनों की शिक्षा सम्बन्धी सामाजिक और दूसरे उत्थान के लिये उनके लिये काफी से ज्यादा खर्चा किया जाय और बजट में वह रक्खा जाय मगर बजट में उनके लिये कोई गुंजाइश नहीं है। दूसरी पिछड़ी हुई जातियों की तरफ मैं अगर सरकार का ध्यान खींचूं तो इस देश के अन्दर एक करोड़ के करीब ऐसी जाति हैं जिनको स्वराज्य मिलने के बाद आज भी क्रिमिनल ट्राइबज (Criminal Tribes) कहा जाता है। वह पैदा होते हैं उसी दिन से गुनहगार बन जाते हैं। ऐसी भी एक जाति इस देश के अन्दर है, जिनके न घर है न द्वार है। वह तमाम आज एक गांव में हैं, अगर पुलिस ने उन्हें निकाल दिया तो दूसरे गांव में जायेंगे, अगर वहां से भी पुलिस ने हंकाल दिया तो तीसरे गांव में जायेंगे। वह जातियां हिन्दू भी हैं, मुसलमान भी हैं और सब हैं। ऐसी पिछड़ी हुई जातियां, जिनके घर नहीं, जिनके द्वार नहीं, जिनकी शिक्षा का प्रबन्ध नहीं, जिनके लिये किसी प्रकार का प्रबन्ध नहीं है, उनके लिये भी इस बजट में कोई बात नहीं है। किसी तरह का खर्चा इस बजट के अन्दर ऐसी क्रिमिनल ट्राइबज के लिये, ऐसे गुनहगारों के लिये नहीं है।

Mr. Speaker: I may just point out one thing to the Honourable Member. He is entitled to lay before the House the condition of the *Harijans* and all that; but while criticising this budget, he should remember the distinction as to matters which are primarily the concern of the provinces and those which are the concern of the Government of India. It cannot be expected that the Government of India will budget for all that is primarily to be done by the provinces. I invite his attention to that because he referred to the questions of water-supply, wells, housing and education. These are all matters with which the provincial Governments are primarily concerned. If I am mistaken, I may be corrected by the Honourable the Finance Minister. The provision for these will have to be made by the provincial Governments. Of course the Government of India might give them such subventions or other help as they can; but the Honourable Member should remember that background and then make his speech.

श्री एच० जे० खण्डेकर : सभापति जी, मैं इस बात को जानता हूं कि सूबे की सरकार का क्या काम है और हिन्दुस्तान की सरकार का क्या काम है। उसको मद्देनजर रखते हुये ही मैंने अभी भाषण किया था। हिन्दुस्तान की सरकार का काम मैं जानता हूं कि सेन्टर के सम्बन्ध में आता है। हिन्दुस्तान सरकार में इसके पहले से भी शेड्यूलड क्लास स्कालरशिप बोर्ड (Scheduled Castes Scholarship Board) नाम की संस्था प्रस्थापित की हुई है, और इस संस्था के जरिये अछूतों के बच्चों को स्कालरशिप (Scholarships) देने का काम भी हिन्दुस्तान की सरकार कर रही है। मेरा यह कहना था कि पहली सरकार ने जो कुछ भी काम किया है उससे ज्यादा इस सरकार ने कुछ नहीं किया। और वह स्कालरशिप जो अब दिये जाते हैं हरिजनों के बच्चों को, वह स्कालरशिप इतना पूरा नहीं है जिससे हरिजनों में शिक्षा का प्रसार हो। यही तो मैं कह रहा था कि हिन्दुस्तान की सरकार के बजट में इसके लिये आज कोई प्रोविजन (provision) नहीं है, और इस तरफ मैं आनरेबल फाइनेन्स मिनिस्टर साहब का ध्यान खींचना चाहता था। क्रिमिनल ट्राइबज के बारे में मैं ध्यान खींचना चाहता था। यह सारी चीज हिन्दुस्तान की सरकार पर है और क्रिमिनल ट्राइबज ऐक्ट है, यह हिन्दुस्तान की सरकार का कानून है, और हिन्दुस्तान की सरकार का यह भी उसके साथ फर्ज हो जाता है। अर्थात्, यह बात बजट के वक्त कहने की नहीं है फिर भी, हिन्दुस्तान की सरकार का कर्तव्य हो जाता है कि इस ऐक्ट को फौरन दूर करे। भारत में वह क्रिमिनल ट्राइबज के लोगों को बसाने की कोशिश करे और उनके घर द्वार बनाने के लिये बजट में प्रोविजन (Provision) रखे। इस तरफ मैं सरकार का ध्यान खींचना चाहता था। हाउसिंग (Housing) और पानी के बारे में सिर्फ इतना कहना चाहता था। इसके लिये यद्यपि वह प्रान्तीय सरकार का काम है, फिर भी प्रान्तीय सरकार को इस काम में अगर पैसे की कमी हो, तो उसको ग्रांट (grant) देने के लिये हिन्दुस्तान की सरकार के बजट में कोई जगह नहीं है।

इसके अलावा मैं एक बात और कह दूं, और आपने जो टाइम दिया है उसके पहले ही मैं अपनी स्पीच खत्म कर दूं। दुर्भाग्य की बात

[Shri H. T. Khandekar]

village and if from there also they are shunted off by the Police, then they will move to the third village. Those communities comprise of Hindus, Muslims and others. This Budget also does not contain anything for such backward classes who have no homes, no management for their education and no arrangement of any sort. This budget does not provide for any sort of expenditure for such criminal tribes—for such culprits.

Mr. Speaker: I may just point out one thing to the Honourable Member. He is entitled to lay before the House the condition of the *Harijans* and all that; but while criticising this budget, he should remember the distinction as to matters; which are primarily the concern of the provinces and those which are the concern of the Government of India. It cannot be expected that the Government of India will budget for all that is primarily to be done by the provinces. I invite his attention to that because he referred to the questions of water supply, wells, housing and education. These are all matters with which the Provincial Governments are primarily concerned. If I am mistaken, I may be corrected by the Honourable the Finance Minister. The provision for these will have to be made by the provincial Governments. Of course the Government of India might give them such subventions or other help as they can; but the Honourable Member should remember that background and then make his speech.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I know what are the duties of the Provincial and Central Governments. Keeping this in view, I had just delivered my speech. I know the duties of the Government of India which relate to the Centre. The Government of India had already established before this an institution, namely "Schedule Castes Scholarship Board". The Government of India is already doing the work regarding the grant of scholarships to the children of the untouchables. What I meant to say was that this Government had not done anything more than what was done by the former Government. And the scholarships which are now granted to the children of *Harijans* are not so adequate so as to spread education amongst the *Harijans*. This is what I was saying that there does not exist any provision in the present Budget of the Government of India in this respect and I wanted to draw the attention of the Honourable the Finance Minister to this.

I wanted to draw attention towards the criminal tribes. This entire thing devolves on the Government of India. This is a legislation of the Government of India. And consequently it also becomes the duty of the Government of India, *viz.*, this matter need not be brought up at the time of the Budget. Even then it becomes the duty of the Government of India that it should repeal this Act immediately. They should try to settle the 'Criminal tribes' in India and make necessary provision in the Budget for building houses for their habitation.

I wanted to invite the attention of the Government towards this. I simply liked to say this much in regard to housing and water. Although it falls within the sphere of Provincial Subjects, yet there is no provision in the budget of the Government of India for grant to the Provincial Government if it lacks funds for doing this work. They should make provision for it.

Besides this I might say another thing and close my speech before the expiry of the time allotted by you. It is a matter of bad luck, Sir, that for many years we have been longing for this; our society has been yearning for this; there are many people now who do not like Hindu Society, even then their eyes have opened now and they began saying that they were Hindus. What did they use to say an year before? That you know. But I come from that society—I belong to that institution—which institution has always claimed that we are Hindus and shall remain as Hindus. We will mix up with the

Hindus and get our rights while living amongst the Hindus. I am one of those people who possess these views.

In spite of this, if I mention about the condition of *Harijans*, then the ten minutes' time which has been allotted to me is quite inadequate. I can go on describing the condition of *Harijans* continuously for three days and in course of my description, I can make those people weep who have real love for *Harijans*. I admit that I am not prepared to call myself a *Harijan*. I should like to tell the Government that we are Hindus and shall remain as Hindus. We also worship the same Ram-Krishna and shall go on doing so. If you want to treat us with humanity then elevate us as human beings. You may kindly bring us at level with members of the other communities and associate us with you. The Government has to shoulder more burden for this than that falls on the public. I would like to invite the attention of the Honourable Minister for Finance towards these matters and hope that he would make provision on this account in his ensuing budget even if he has not done in the present budget.

The Government of India have reserved 12½ per cent. and 16½ per cent. of posts in Gazetted and Non-gazetted cadres respectively for our community. The entire expenditure relating to the Establishment of the various Departments is included in this Budget. I expect from the Government that it would pay its attention to fill up the quota of *Harijans* under these posts.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam: General): Sir, I come from the province of Assam and I shall confine my remarks specially to the needs and interests of that province. Perhaps I need not have introduced myself to this House and said that I belonged to Assam because that is so obvious. On the first day I came to the Constituent Assembly my Honourable friend Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya told me straightway that I must be from Assam. "Assam is writ on your forehead", he said. An astute politician like him could read in the lines of my forehead the miseries and the age-long injustices that have been inflicted to the province of Assam; and I think other Honourable Members also can guess as accurately as he did.

Sir, I think the Honourable Finance Minister has been given a copy of a memorandum on Assam's Financial Position under the Government of India Act, 1935, and that he has also gone through a leaflet written by an eminent gentleman named Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao in which he has dispassionately and impartially discussed the whole question of financial injustice to Assam. If he has not already come across these pamphlets he may ask his Secretary or his Private Secretary to hunt them out from his waste-paper basket or from some shoved away table where they are lying. Whenever anyone from Assam has approached the Finance Ministers of the past and the present—and possibly it will be the same in the future—with folded hands and asked about the petrol excise duties which are entirely taken away by the Government of India, he is told, "Look here, how can you claim that? Where is this duty levied? What amount of petrol do you actually consume? Beggarly Assam consumes very little of petrol and the bulk of it is consumed by the rest of India. So the tax which is levied on the rest of India should go to India." That is the argument put forward. It is further said, "Who has tapped the source of petrol in Assam? Not you, not an indigenous company. It is the British allies of the Government of India, the Scotch allies of the Government of India, who have founded these companies. Not even a single officer of your country is allowed to serve in this company. Not even the labourers of

[श्री एच० जे० खण्डेकर]

यह है सभापति जी, कि हम लोग कई साल से यह चाहते हैं, हमारा समाज कई सालों से यह चाहता है, इस समय कुछ लोग ऐसे हैं जो हिन्दू समाज को नहीं चाहते हैं, फिर भी अब उनकी आंखें खुल गई हैं और वह कहने लगे कि वह हिन्दू हैं। एक साल पहले वह क्या कहा करते थे। वो आप जानते हैं। मगर मैं उस सुसाइटी से आता हूँ, उस संस्था से आता हूँ जो संस्था सदा के लिये यह कहती रही है कि हम हिन्दू हैं और हम हिन्दू रहेंगे। हिन्दुओं में मिलेंगे और अपने हक हिन्दुओं में रहते ही हम लेंगे। इस ख्याल के जो लोग आते हैं उन्हीं में से मैं हूँ।

इतना होते हुये भी अगर मैं हरिजनों की हालत का वर्णन करूँ तो दस मिनट जो मिले हैं वह बहुत नाकाफी हैं। मैं तो तीन दिन तक हरिजनों की हालत के बारे में बयान कर सकता हूँ और बयान करते करते जिनके दिलों में सचमुच हरिजनों के प्रति प्रेम है उनको रुला सकता हूँ। मैं मानता हूँ कि मैं अपने को हरिजन कहने के लिये तैयार नहीं हूँ। मैं सरकार से कहना चाहता हूँ कि हम हिन्दू हैं और हिन्दू ही रहेंगे। हम भी उसी राम-कृष्ण की भक्ति करते हैं और करते रहेंगे। अगर इन्सानियत का वर्तव्य हमारे साथ आप करना चाहते हैं तो हमें इन्सान बनाइये। जिस तरह से दूसरी जाति के इन्सान हैं उसी मार्ग पर हमको भी रखिये और अपने साथ मिलाइये। इसका जितना बोझ जनता के ऊपर है उससे ज्यादा सरकार के ऊपर है। इन बातों की तरफ आनरेबिल फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर का ध्यान खींचना चाहता हूँ और उम्मीद करता हूँ कि वह इस बजट में नहीं तो आगे आने वाले बजट में इन बातों का प्रोवीजन (provision) करेंगे।

गवर्नमेंट आफ इण्डिया ने हमारी जाति के लिये बड़ी नौकरियों में १२॥ प्रतिशत और छोटी नौकरियों में १६॥ प्रतिशत रिजर्वेशन रक्खा है। डिपार्टमेंटों के इस्ताब्लिशमेंट (establishments) का सारा खर्चा इस बजट के अन्दर पायेंगे। मैं सरकार से यह उम्मीद रखता हूँ कि सरकार इन नौकरियों में हरिजनों का कोटा पूरा करने के लिये ध्यान देगी।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं अपना भाषण समाप्त करता हूँ।

[English translation of the above speech.]

Shri H. J. Khandekar (C. P. and Berar: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have listened to the Budget speech of the Honourable Minister of Finance. I have also seen very carefully the copy of the Budget which was distributed amongst us. The previous speakers have thrown some light on the certain grants included in this Budget. I should like to bring to the notice of the Honourable Finance Minister only two or three subjects.

Mr. Speaker, you know, Sir, that it becomes the duty of the Government of any country that it should devote its attention towards the backward classes living in that State. Not only should they pay attention but they should also spend sufficient amount of money in order to bring those people of the community at level with others. When I saw this budget and heard the speech of the Honourable Minister of Finance, it did not contain

anything which meant to improve the condition of the backward classes living in this country. In referring to *Harijans*, I can say that the same amount as was provided for by the former Government exists in this budget, and I have heard, if this is correct, that the Government of today is even prepared to exclude this. I remember and Sir, you will also remember, that the Constituent Assembly has in pursuance of the recommendations of the Minorities Sub-Committee passed a Clause which stated that the Government will be careful towards the social and educational uplift of the depressed classes. But I saw in this Budget that neither does it contain any reference towards this nor does it provide for any sort of funds.

Secondly, taking the case of the entire backward classes and particularly the *Harijan* society to which I belong, I should like to bring it to your notice that this community is placed in such a bad state that every member of this Assembly knows that the conditions of the *Harijans* should be ameliorated. Our revered and the world-reputed leader Mahatma Gandhi has been agitating the cause of *Harijan* uplift for the last 27 years so that they be brought at level with other communities. We hoped that if any government works under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi who had staked his life even for the cause of *Harijans*, then only the condition of our *Harijans* could be reformed. We have lived in this hope for the last 27 years. The country has been freed, and Government set up under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi came into existence on the 15th August, 1947; but there is not a farthing provided for the *Harijan* cause in the first Budget of this Government. Now how can we hope that all our dreams which we had been visualizing would be realized. No such hope has ever been before us.

If you look towards the water which we drink, you will see, Sir, that the *Harijans* are placed in such a sad plight that they are not permitted to drink water from the well even during the rainy days. These poor people have to go to the streams and rivulets which flow with filthy water during the rains and drink water from there. If any caste Hindu does a favour he draws out water from the well, and puts it into the pitcher. These helpless people have to drink water at the mercy of others.

Then look to their dwellings—I do not know what is the position in other Provinces; but the place from where I come, viz., Central Provinces, the housing condition prevailing there is that the house of a *Harijan* to whatever class he may belong is situated towards the east—outside the village. (An Honourable Member: "Everywhere this is the condition"). My friend from Madras says "everywhere the same condition prevails". Then is it not the duty of the Government to provide some amount in the Budget for the building of good houses for *Harijans*? But this Budget does not contain anything.

Set aside, all these matters regarding housing and drinking water. This budget also does not contain any provision in regard to education which is most urgently needed in this country today. All profess and everybody's lip-sympathy is towards *Harijans*. But neither the leaders of the people nor their Government has got any real sympathy. It behoved the popular Government of the people to have spent more than sufficient amount for the educational, social and general uplift of the *Harijans* and that should be provided for in the Budget. But there is no room in the Budget for them. If I draw the attention of the Government towards the other backward classes, you will find that there lives in this country a community numbering about one crore who are still called as 'Criminal Tribes' even after the grant of freedom. They become criminals from the very day of their birth. There lives in this country another community who have no houses. They all are in one village today, if the Police turns them out, they will move to another

[Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri]

that company belong to your province. What reason is there to give any share of the petrol duty to Assam? That is the argument which is put forward in support of the denial of the petrol tax. When I go to ask for a part of the export duty on tea to which I am entitled, there is the same sort of reply. "Who are the tea-planters in your province? Not the indigenous people, but the European planters. Nowadays there may be a few capitalists from outside the province also. They have opened up those tea gardens. The bigger officers of those tea gardens do not belong to your province. Your people do not help in the tea estates. The labourers come from different parts of India and not from your province. Where then is your claim to the export duty on tea? The railways and the steamer companies which carry the oil and the tea to the ports do not belong to you. What claims have you got to the share of the export duty on tea?" That is the question which we are asked and it is in vain that we argue that the excise duty on this petrol is depleting incoverably the oil in the province and soon the oilfields will be dry. In vain do we argue that since you give 60 per cent. of the duty on jute to Bengal why should not the same treatment be meted out to Assam? If Bengal can claim a large portion of the excise duty on jute which is grown in that province, why cannot Assam claim the excise duty on tea which is grown in that province? There has been no reply to this in the past and I wonder if the present Finance Minister will follow suit or give us an assurance which will be more hopeful. I have in vain complained to him and to his predecessors that it was unjust and unthinkable and not worthy of any civilized Government to tax betel-nut grown in India and especially to tax the betel-nut which is grown in the province of Assam. There the betel-nut is not cured at all, but the officers of the Government of India do not listen to any argument or reason and they do not care for laws when they administer it in the province of Assam. The House will be surprised to hear that I belong to a community whose position is very much akin to that of the scheduled caste in India. There is not even a single officer in the Central Excise belonging to Assam. If they go about collecting betel-nut duty in the villages they do not understand the language of the people. We do not cure betel-nut there. But there is the ripe betel-nut. We call it "*bura tambul*". When the village people say this the officers think they are calling them old men. No body likes to be told that he is old. I would turn out my servant and take disciplinary action against my relation, if they said the old man was not in the house and I think every Member of this House will share my view. So when they say "*bura tambul*" there is a misunderstanding and fighting. Although I have mentioned the fact to the Honourable Minister, even then not a single officer from Assam is appointed, not even for the convenience of the administration.

Lest I make a mistake and forget to say things which I want to say, I would draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to page 6 of the leaflet to which I have referred. The minimum claim of the province is that there should be an increase in the ratio of income-tax receipts allotted to Assam. The provinces of Assam and Orissa are the only two who get only two per cent. of the income tax. Other provinces get more. The Central Provinces get five per cent. and more fortunate provinces like Bombay and Madras get 15 and 20 per cent. and so forth. Then there is the allocation of 75 per cent. of the export duty on tea: an allocation of 75 per cent. of the excise duty on petrol and kerosene: that special attention be paid to the fact that the whole of the excise duty on tea originates in Assam when determining Assam's share in the divisible pool of Central excise duties: a substantial increase in the Central subvention to Assam, to take into account not only the rise in prices since

1937 but also the extra expenditure which the Government of Assam has to incur in view of the largeness of its territory and the location thereof on a frontier separated from the Indian Dominion by Pakistan territory. In these circumstances, it is extremely important that the standard of Government efficiency in Assam must be of the highest order.

Assam has a small population, now estimated at 73 lakhs, but it has a large area measuring nearly 50,000 square miles after the separation of Sylhet. The expenses of Government services *per capita* in Assam must, therefore be necessarily higher than in other provinces with larger concentrations of population and a consequent smaller cost of overheads per unit of population.

Then again, Assam is one of the backward areas in India in respect of its existing supply of Governmental services. In fact, it is, in some respects, worse than most other areas in India in that it does not possess some of even the elementary insignia of an autonomous Government like a University, a High Court, a Medical College, an Engineering College, etc., and it is essential that these deficiencies should be corrected at the earliest possible moment. I am quoting freely from Mr. Rao's leaflet to which I referred before.

May I continue for two minutes?

I am speaking for the entire area of 50,000 square miles!

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member may take two minutes more.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Last night—I might take the House into confidence—I was reading the order papers and I dreamt a dream. You know, Sir, that Assam was at one time notorious for consumption of opium. Now in Assam you cannot get opium anywhere unless you are prepared to go to the smugglers and that is a risky job. In India it is available in plenty. The generous Government of India cultivates opium in Ghazipur and other places. The Government of India also maintains two quite good factories. The opium consumers of Assam if any now will be grateful to be able to come here provided Honourable Railway Member will give them a free conveyance. Having got so much opium, I took a little opium. And then, Sir, leisurely, leisurely, I was going along until I reached the gates of the residence of the Honourable Minister of Education. There was no Secretary either official or domestic in the compound. The *durwan* who saw me in *khaddar* allowed me to go in straightaway without any hindrance. I was taken in the presence of the Honourable Member for Education. He said: "Why have you come?" Fortunately his Secretaries were not there. If I had applied to the Private Secretary for an interview it would have taken me a week or ten days. He asked: "What do you want?" I said: "I want some grant for my University in

3 P.M. Gachati." "Why do you call it Gauhati University? Why not call it Assam University? If you pass from the Gauhati University you would say Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri, B.A. (Gau), which would suggest things like cow protection and the prevention of cow slaughter, etc., etc.; of which we fear so much nowadays? Why not Assam University? But that would also create some difficulties for in that case it would be Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri, B.A. (Ass)!" It struck me that if on that ground they did not give me a grant for the university it would be very unfortunate. So I said, "Sir, take for instance the case of B. C. Bose, M.A. (Oxon). If that is all right, why not B. C. Bose, M.A. (Gau). I am also reminded of another fact. There are so many illustrious educationists from Madras but there does not seem to be a single lunatic asylum in Madras, though you may have Muniswami Pilai, B.A. (Mad)."

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: There are two lunatic asylums in Madras!

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: I stand corrected. Though in dreamy

mood these arguments had the desired effect on the mind of the Education Minister. He said, "All right, if I have a free hand in the matter and if the very parsimonious Finance Minister does not stand in the way, I shall give you a suitable grant for the University of Gauhati." All this was in my dream but I do not know what the actual facts will turn out to be. In any case I ask the Finance Minister that the manufacture of opium or cultivation of opium by any civilised people should be stopped, so that no one may be placed in similar false circumstances as I was in my dream.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): Sir, we have just listened to a very interesting midnight sojourn by an Honourable Member to the house of a Minister, all in dream, but I hope my remarks will have nothing to do with dreams.

First of all I wish to congratulate the Honourable Minister for his excellent speech and his excellent budget. He has disclosed to the whole world the inherent and sound financial strength of the country at a very opportune moment. The budget has been very favourably received in all quarters and specially in the Stock Exchanges, which are composed not merely of a few gamblers and speculators but also of many very astute financiers and real practical economists who know the effect of the budget on business and the money market as also on the Stock Exchange.

One of the speakers has referred to the gap in the budget of 26 crores. This gap is due to the fact that the figures are all tentative: no accurate figures can be worked upon but it is believed that, other things apart, the estimated deficit would be the nearest approach to a correct guess. The fact that it is left uncovered may be due to the fact that the Honourable Minister is awaiting the result of the 7½ months working that lies ahead of him. However, a balanced budget is a necessity and I hope that the next budget would be a balanced one.

Then there is another kind of gap in the budget. It is about the inadequacy of grant for agriculture. In fact food should receive priority No. 1 and the supreme importance of agriculture from the national point of view is only too obvious and I hope that agriculture will receive greater and greater attention at the hands of the Government.

Much is nowadays said about the nationalisation of industries. It is a very fashionable and attractive catchword and the very mention of nationalisation has a charm about it. It saves people a lot of thinking. But I believe that nationalisation, if at all, should be introduced only very cautiously and gradually and only after long experience. Too quick a switch-over from private management to nationalisation may lead to disaster, as we find evidence of it in the United Kingdom.

Then there is the question of the sterling balances. The Honourable the Minister, it is complained, has merely trodden upon the old path. But it is necessitated by the consideration that sterling balances should be amply available in the United Kingdom for India for the purchase of capital goods, which are imperatively necessary for industrialising the country, which has long been accepted as a national policy.

The last point which I shall deal with is about controls. The blessed controls have created the infamous black markets and their working must have been very familiar to the Honourable Minister and to other members of the Government as to the public. The news of the lifting of the control on sugar has been received in only one quarter in the House with some amount of misgivings but I can assure the Honourable the Minister and the House that it has been received very well in all other parts of this House. Here in New Delhi, in the Western Court, sugar is absolutely scarce. We are supposed to be having our quotas but it is the experience of all that we are taking our porridge, our tea and coffee mostly without any sugar. It has been a new

experience and possibly if this state of affairs went on for sometime we should lose all taste for sugar, which perhaps may be for the good. That the price of sugar has gone up, as has been pointed out by you, Sir, is due to a momentary reaction from the normal state of affairs: it does not indicate a permanent tendency. There will be reaction in the opposite direction very soon. Honourable Members of the House would realise what is the actual price at which sugar is actually selling. It is something like Rs. 4 per seer in New Delhi in the black market. There is, it seems, ample sugar in New Delhi, provided you are willing to pay the price. The channels are well known. You pay your money through the recognised channel and the sugar would come. Sugar is dealt with in this way: The sugar quota is supposed to be distributed to a large number of people. Some of them do not want sugar and there are absolutely non-existent people who cannot want sugar. The quotas of people who do not want sugar and those of non-existent persons are collected together with other lots mysteriously procured, are regularly sold in the black market. In my native place, Burdwan, sugar is supposed to be extremely scarce. Yet the sweetmeat shops are very plentiful in their supply. The present District Magistrate went about several shops in disguise and bought some sweets and on careful enquiries he learnt that there was plenty of sugar available from sources not far removed from Government sources. In these circumstances I submit that the lifting of the control on sugar will be well received in the entire country, and sugar will be available to those who are in need of it and can afford to pay the price, but at any rate the higher price would be much lower than the black market price which they have got to pay now. With the elimination of the black market sugar will in due course be available to the public.

The other question is control of cloth. The continuance of cloth-control is a debatable matter, but I find with considerable amazement that the present Government is repeating the arguments of the past. In fact the argument of the members of the present Government when they were outside the Government was exactly the argument which is being advanced by us, namely, "relieve the controls and things will adjust themselves". But then the late Government used to say "there is not enough cloth to go round and therefore we must have control". This argument was then regarded as pure bluff and it is a wonder that the same arguments are repeated by the present Government also. There is I believe enough cloth. The only question is how to procure it. From the Control Departments in the mofussil in the Province of West Bengal people are allowed to get only 9 yards of cloth per head per annum, but by a strange anomaly the people in Calcutta get 25 yards. As to why this distinction exists nobody can say. But 9 yards of cloth, I submit, for the whole year is hopelessly insufficient. On the basis of the 9 yards quota people will have to go about almost naked. Yet we find people wearing cloth considerably over the 9 yards quota. How does this cloth come in, and wherefrom does it come? It comes from the black market, and it enters the black market from the factories and other sources through well established channels. The entire cloth that is manufactured is divided into two parts: one goes through ill-concealed secret channels into the black market and the other goes through the government channel and is supposed to be the entire cloth available. A large part of it again goes from here to the black market through well established channels. The 'available' supply is mathematically distributed per head impartially on paper amongst all. I submit that if cloth control is lifted, the cloth available will seek its natural level, the black market would go and probably on the whole things would become much better. Indeed, the controls have introduced a large variety of sins in the services and in our public life, and I believe that the cloth control should be removed as soon as possible and things should be allowed to adjust themselves in due course.

These are some of the general remarks which I feel called upon to submit at this stage.

Shri C. Subrahmanyam (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to congratulate my Honourable and esteemed friend Mr. Shanmukham Chetty on his becoming the first Finance Minister in free India and also on the opportunity afforded to him to present the first budget of free India. Sir, in his speech he has reviewed the financial position of our Government and has assured us that while there is no room for complacency there is absolutely no reason for despair or pessimism. We are glad about it. But the prosperity of a nation does not depend entirely upon its financial position or upon its having a balanced or a deficit budget. It depends entirely upon the production of wealth in the country. Viewed from that aspect I am afraid the picture is rather gloomy and dark. We are short of the most essential commodities such as food, cloth and building materials. As long as we are short of these essential commodities you may deflate your currency, you may withdraw the surplus money in the hands of the common man, but you are not going to solve the problem. Therefore the first problem before the National Government is to step up production of these articles and see that it is wisely distributed. That should be the concern of the National Government.

Regarding industrial production I wish to say a few words. It is agreed that since the war and during the war production has gone down on an enormous scale and that the question has become a matter of national importance. It is not merely the concern of the employer and the employee; it has become the concern of the entire nation. Because of the decrease in production we are faced with a grave economic crisis. How we are going to solve it is the problem. It is said that it is entirely and mostly due to labour unrest and strikes. It is true, but the stating of that problem does not solve it. The entire thing depends upon how you are going to tackle this labour problem. I am not going to enter into the controversial question of nationalisation of industry or private enterprise. I am content with taking stock of the situation as it exists now. Most of the industries are in private hands. There is decrease in production and the reason is said to be labour unrest. True. As far as I can see there is nothing unnatural in labour being discontented or there being unrest in their midst. In my opinion it is a legacy of the war. During the war enormous profits were made by the capitalists. Leaving alone the secret profits made, the legitimate profits alone that the capitalists made were very huge. On the other hand labour was not getting its due return. Because of the restrictions during the war they were not able to agitate and get their grievances redressed. Even after the war if the same state of affairs continued is there anything unnatural in their being discontented? We have therefore to solve the problem taking into account one fact that there is bound to be unrest in the state of affairs which now exists. To my mind the only way in which this problem can be tackled is by the introduction of some sort of a system by which profits can be shared by capital and labour. In the present industrial set up, however much a labourer may produce he is not in any way benefited. The only inducement therefore can be a sense of patriotism that in this national crisis it is the duty of every person to produce to his maximum possible capacity. Appeals have been made by the Finance Minister that labour should co-operate. I know that he is also connected with labour in the sense that he has employed labour in his mills and he knows their problems to a certain extent. But, however much we appeal to them and from whatever quarter the appeal might come, unless there is an inducement for labour to produce more, I do not think we can achieve any results. Therefore the only way this problem can be solved is to find out a way by which whenever there is an increase of production labour will be benefited to that extent, and not only the capitalist or the employer. That is why I said some sort of a sharing of profits system should be introduced. When I say that I realize the entire implications of the proposal. It is said

in some high quarters that if we accept this principle then comes the question of what would be the due share of the capitalist, what would be the share of labour, what should be allowed for reserves after which it is to be shared by the capitalist and labour. During war years capital has been making enormous profits, and if we take into account the dividends paid in war years we will find that each person who has invested capital has sometimes received more than twice the amount in dividends. That being the case, in a national crisis, in the face of the economic crisis which is facing us, cannot the capitalists sacrifice to the extent of saying "we will be content with a much smaller extent of the profits than to which we would ordinarily be entitled"? Certainly it is only those who are in a position to sacrifice should be asked to sacrifice and not the poor people who are not in a position to eke their livelihood even as it is. Therefore in fixing the return to be paid to labour, this circumstance should be taken into consideration.

Another thing, Sir. In view perhaps of the fact that some such thing is likely to come, the capital of many companies has been inflated to a great extent; reserves have been converted to capital and bonus shares have been issued, so much so that inflated capital is shown on the books now. So when we go into this question, all these things should be taken into consideration and a sort of profit sharing system should be introduced so that labour may have incentive to work to produce more. Therefore in working the existing plans to the maximum capacity, Sir, this is the only way in which we can give incentive to labour. The only way to increase production is to launch new schemes of industrialisation. It is only in this respect that the utilisation of sterling balances come. But certain sentiments were expressed by my Honourable friend Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari taking exception to the views expressed by the Honourable Finance Minister in his speech in the earlier part of the day. After his speech, I went through the Finance Minister's speech rather carefully and as far as I am concerned—and I may confess, Sir, I am not a financial expert—there is nothing exceptional in the views expressed by the Honourable Minister. In speaking about sterling balances, these are the words of the Finance Minister:—

"These balances represent the entire foreign exchange reserves of this country and it is of the utmost importance that they should not be lightly frittered away on import of unessential and luxury articles or on luxury living in foreign countries for they thereby reduce *pro tanto* the capacity of this country to finance capital and developmental expenditure abroad."

I do not see how anyone can take exception to this even though it may have come from the mouth of Sir Archibald Rowlands. So, Sir, unless the National Government tackles this problem with bold imagination, we will not be able to avert this economic crisis. Regarding agricultural production also, I would like to say one word. It is admitted not only by the Finance Minister, but by the Honourable Minister for Food also, that the Grow More Food Campaign has not yielded the expected results. Then why go on spending in the same old way? Why not we have some other scheme? In my view the Grow More Food Campaign and other things are only tinkering with the problem. The entire problem is uneconomic holdings which exist everywhere, the want of capital in the hands of the ryot to make further improvements. These are the main problems which we have got to tackle, and we have also got to decide whether we are going to apply the modern scientific appliances which are used in the West for the purpose of farming. All that the Government have got to take into consideration and see that the gap between requirement and production is filled up as soon as possible. My appeal to the Government is this: Ultimately they are not going to be judged by a balanced budget or a deficit budget, but the sole criterion of the judgment will be how far the standard of the common man has been raised. I hope the Government would deal with the problem with that factor in view.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru (U. P.: General): Mr. Speaker, the Finance Minister has, as we all expected, presented us with a deficit budget. The estimates of revenue and expenditure, which he has told us are tentative, show that a deficit of about 26½ crores may be expected at the end of the year. But as these figures are tentative, it is quite possible that the deficit may become greater. It is necessary therefore for us to consider whether the gap between revenue and expenditure can even in the present circumstances be bridged over or at least narrowed appreciably. My Honourable friend the Finance Minister said when presenting his budget that so far as interest charges or rather the interest and pensionary charges were concerned, he was debiting the entire amount to the Indian Dominion as no agreement had been arrived at between the Indian and the Pakistan Governments on this subject. If newspaper reports are correct, it appears that the Pakistan Government have agreed to be responsible for 17½ per cent. of this liability. This should reduce our tentative deficit by about 4½ crores.

Again, Sir, it is well known that the income-taxes are being systematically evaded. This matter has come repeatedly before the legislature in the past and attempts have been made by strengthening the staff of the Income-tax Department and in other ways to prevent this. But I do not think that the Government have yet either adequately strengthened their staff or taken such other measures as they could in order to stop the loss of revenue which takes place year after year. I am afraid, Sir, that the heavy tax on personal incomes which was imposed early this year has had the effect of increasing the previous marked tendency to the evasion of income-tax. It should have been obvious to the Government that apart from the effect of the taxation on the economic development of the country, it would increase the existing corruption if it was imposed before adequate arrangements were made to prevent the evasion of the taxes on income. This is a serious matter, and I have no doubt that my Honourable friend Mr. Shanmukham Chetty is perfectly aware of it. He understands the matter perhaps better than any other Member of this House, and I trust therefore that though he himself is a capitalist, although the other day he modestly denied that he was, he will take stringent and immediate steps to secure for the Government what is justly due to it.

Sir, the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech has repeatedly expressed the hope that the Defence expenditure would come down; and it seems to me that according to him the prospect of reducing the expenditure and thus improving our budgetary position depends mainly on the decrease which he expects in the expenditure on the Defence Services. I know, Sir, that if the expenditure continues at the present level, it will amount to Rs. 147 crores a year. This will certainly be a heavy burden for a poor country like India. But we are living in exceptional times and although I am one of those who have lost no opportunity of stressing in the past the need for bringing down military expenditure, I think that the matter should be dealt with in the present circumstances with the utmost care. I am personally glad that the Government of India have decided to have an Army of 260,000 officers and men at least till the 31st of March, 1948. I wish that the situation may so improve as to enable us to reduce our expenditure substantially, but I am strongly inclined to think that for at least a year or two more wisdom and expediency require that the strength of our Army should not undergo reduction.

Apart from this, Sir, I feel that our Air Force and Navy should be strengthened. I am glad to learn from the Finance Minister's speech that the matter is already under the consideration of the Government of India. If these Services are properly developed, I am afraid that the Finance Minister's hope of economy in Defence expenditure will vanish slowly. Both these Services are expensive. If we develop the Air Force alone adequately, as I think it should be developed, the expenditure on it will be heavy, very heavy indeed.

But whatever the expenditure, Sir, I think we should not shrink from it in the best interests of the country. I am not a militarist; I should not like to threaten the independence or security of any country in the slightest degree; but I do want that in these times of danger we should provide adequate insurance for our national existence.

Speaking about the Air Force, Sir, I venture to express the opinion that it badly requires an adequate number of bombers. Anyone who looks around himself at present and who takes an intelligent interest in Defence matters, will I think agree with me that the greatest deficiency in our Air Force is in respect of bombers and I think it ought to be removed as quickly as possible.

Just one or two points about the economic situation, Sir, before I resume my seat. My Honourable friend Mr. Shanmukham Chetty, discussing towards the end of his speech the future economic position of the country, emphatically assured us that it was healthy. The House, I know, was glad to have this assurance. I am not a pessimist, Sir, I am a believer and a whole-hearted believer in the future of this country. I know that it has immense resources both in men and money. But for the present my Honourable friend the Finance Minister will excuse me if I feel some hesitation in sharing his robust optimism. The economic position of the country will depend not on our budgetary position in the present year or the next year or the year after that, but on the level of production attained by us. Now, on this subject the remarks made by my Honourable friend do not inspire much hope of a rapid development; all that he hopes for is that by the end of next year the old level of production in respect of cloth, coal, steel and cement may be restored. Perhaps when he made this remark he had other commodities in view too. Sir, while it is something that an effort is being made to attain our previous levels of production by the end of the next year, one can scarcely regard it as part of a programme for the rapid development of the country. Now, if this is our position in respect of our economic development, it is not easy to be very hopeful about our position in the immediate future.

Again, Sir,—and this is the last point that I shall deal with—the Finance Minister, speaking of our economic development told us that increased production by itself would not enable us to make our future secure. He has stressed the need for the stabilisation of prices and “for pegging money incomes at an agreed and acceptable level, so that the increased volume of trade resulting from the increase of production may neutralise the inflationary effects of a large volume of uncovered money income”. I am sure, Sir, that every member who is interested in this subject will agree with the Finance Minister's views, but is the future very hopeful in this respect?

An Honourable Member: It is, theoretically, not practically.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: It seems that the policy of rapidly removing control over those commodities which the Government of India regulate at the present time has been accepted by the Cabinet. It is hoped that while certain articles might be rapidly de-controlled, control might be maintained over a few foodgrains so long as it may be necessary. According to the recommendations of the majority of the Foodgrains Policy Committee, the import of food from abroad should be discontinued by the end of 1948. Now, Sir, we are all aware of the corrupt practices that are going on and which have been produced by the existing controls. But two things are clear: that there is scarcity and that it is our duty to see that the poor man gets his food at prices within his reach, and that unless agricultural production goes up considerably, the discontinuance of the import of food would only mean widespread starvation. We might see once again the scenes that were witnessed in 1943 in Bengal.

An Honourable Member: It is a national government now, it will not happen.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Apart from that, Sir, it will be virtually impossible to maintain control over foodgrains while de-controlling other commodities. If you allow articles, which the cultivator needs, to be sold at any

[Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru] prices, it must be obvious to the meanest intelligence that the cultivator would put irresistible pressure on the Government to remove the controls on his produce. The policy which seems to me to have been adopted by Government is thus full of grave social risks. It is in addition fraught with grave economic risks. That crises are bound to arise no one doubts. The manner in which the price of sugar has shot up from Rs. 19-12-0 a maund to Rs. 50 a maund in Cawnpore

An Honourable Member: That is only temporary.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: shows the danger of the policy which the Government of India seem determined to follow. Now, it may be, Sir,—and there are I know some men who think—that this effect will be temporary. I do not know on what grounds this hope is based.

An Honourable Member: Past experience.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Past experience is completely opposed to this facile assumption.

An Honourable Member: The example of oil seeds is there.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: I have no time to discuss the question of oil seeds, but surely the case of oil seeds is not in favour of those who want the rapid removal of controls.

Now, to revert to my point, we have the example of America before us. It is a land of plenty, but de-control there was followed by inflation and now President Truman has asked the Congress to agree to the re-imposition of price control. Our position is much worse than that of the United States. How then do we hope that the inflationary effect of de-control will be only temporary? How then do we hope that it will not be lasting and far-reaching? And if my apprehensions turn out to be true, we shall be faced with irresistible demands from labour, from the employees of the various Government departments—the Railways, the Post Offices, the Telegraph Department and so on—for heavy increases in their salaries. The vicious spiral of inflation will then be set up and I do not know what will happen to the economic position of the country. For these reasons, Sir, while I agree with the Finance Minister that our resources in men and money are ample and that if a wise policy is pursued we can feel assured of a balanced and rapid development, I do not feel very optimistic about the future. Indeed, Sir, I view it not merely with deep anxiety but with anguish. I shall be happy if my apprehensions do not turn out to be true, but I shall be failing in my duty if I do not say that the policy of the Government is so full of risks as to be regarded as irresponsible by the people at large.

Shri O. V. Alagesan (Madras General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not for me to criticise the Budget. I only want to make a few suggestions which, I think, would be useful. The first Budget presented in free India by the Honourable the Finance Minister—and he took justifiable pride in being the first Finance Minister to present the first Budget of free India—is a deficit one. In fact the financial deficit in the Budget only reflects the deficit of food and the deficit of faith that we find in the country today. But for two important factors the Budget would not be a deficit one. First comes food. The Honourable Member that spoke previous to me alluded to decontrol and emphatically opposed it. It is by the way and I want to present the other side of the picture. Much is said about the fact that the price of sugar has shot up after decontrol. In Madras grams and pulses were decontrolled and the prices have gone down by Rs. 20 per bag. I am not urging the House to come to any conclusion just now, but I only place the other side before the House for whatever it is worth.

Now, Sir, food is the biggest question today. It is increasingly realized that we cannot depend upon foreign imports any more; we cannot go with the begging bowl to foreign nations and beg at their doors. Ours is mostly an agricultural country and it should be a matter of shame to us to go and beg at other's doors. We have been exploiting the grievances of the agriculturist before we attained freedom and now when we are just free, what is the treatment that we mete out to him? When I say, agriculturist, I mean both the small Pattadar and the agricultural labourer who works on the land though he may not possess land. I do not hold any brief here for big people who own thousands of acres and more. They may come under the category described by my Honourable friend, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, and I think they are not even as omnipresent as their counterpart, the industrial capitalist. The poor agriculturist who really feeds the nation and who is "the Mother of the Nation" is not properly looked after. The Government must go all-out to aid the poor agriculturists. That is the way to solve this food problem and not to export our money and import food of indifferent quality. Just as a son generally does after attaining majority,—he ill-treats the mother or does not look after her properly,—so perhaps free India behaves towards its mother. I am sorry for it. When Rajen Babu, one of the foremost among our leaders took the Portfolio of Food, all India rejoiced. We expected revolution in Agriculture, but the results are not quite satisfactory. I do not blame the Honourable Minister, but the fact is there. The Honourable the Finance Minister in his Budget speech adverting to the Grow More Food Campaign has spoken as follows: "The results of the Grow More Food Campaign have been on the whole disappointing". Several Honourable Members who preceded me also have touched on that subject. I want to place before the House one or two concrete instances. Under the Subsidy Scheme wells were sunk in Provinces. I can tell you that out of every ten wells sunk in the earth, one well was sunk in the pocket of the official concerned. By prosecuting the Grow More Food Campaign, in this manner the result has not been what we wished it to be.

With regard to the question of prices, the recommendations of the Food-grains Policy Committee are there before us. They were released just this morning and I think the House will debate it sufficiently and I am told that a day has been set apart for it. Then it will be time for us to thrash out all the aspects of the question, but before that I want to tell the Government that they who refused, because of red tape, to increase the prices; they are prepared to throw away crores and crores of rupees to foreign countries for food which, as I said, is of indifferent quality. This reminds me of what used to happen in foreign countries. In order to keep up prices they used to destroy their goods. You are not willing to pay your own cultivator, but you are willing to pay double the amount to the foreigner. You say the inflation will be there; you do not hesitate to punish your own cultivator who feeds you and you throw your money at the foreigner even without his asking for it. I think this is the worst spot in the administration of food in the country to-day. I do not want to discuss the index figures as I have no time but shall do so, if I am given time, during the Food debate. It is a shortsighted policy not to treat the agriculturist properly and to aid him in every possible way as the majority of the cultivators are people who own only five or ten acres and the big landlords can be counted on one's fingers ends.

Another important thing is the question of agricultural labour which also should be tackled without delay. Otherwise, there is the danger of food production being hampered to a very great extent.

I shall be failing in my duty if I do not refer to the 'deficit of faith' in the country. Of course we are not solely responsible for it; our neighbouring country; our erstwhile countrymen are greatly responsible for it; I do realize it. After we left Delhi after the last session of the Constituent Assembly, a

[Shri O. V. Alagesan]

storm as it were blew over Delhi. The whole foundation of the new State was shaken. For any democratic life or ordered progress law and order is absolutely necessary and we are fortunate in having a very strong man at the helm of affairs and peace was restored and everybody concerned can be proud of it. Mahatma Gandhi who, though as our Honourable the Prime Minister said the other day did not work the same miracle which he worked in Bengal, contributed mostly towards that miracle, but all the non-miracle part of it, I should say, was accomplished by the Madrased Troops. I wish to pay a tribute—and I have no doubt the House will join me in this—to these Madrased troops who accomplished a difficult and not quite a pleasant task. They saved the Capital, Delhi, and thereby saved the whole of India. We should be thankful to them. Instead I know there is a great prejudice against them and I think that prejudice to a certain extent is reflected even against the civil population, who hail from Madras, and in the present time I do not think it would be advisable to employ any more Madrased troop to put down disturbances in the North. I hope Government will consider it.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala (Bihar: General): Sir, I will deal with one point which I consider to be very important and which is standing in the way of all our production. The most important thing which should engage—and I think is engaging—the attention of Government is to have more production. In the last Budget speech we were given to understand that we are going to have nationalised industry and the budget was all framed in such a way as would stifle private industry.

[At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Shrimati G. Durga Bai (one of the Panel of Chairmen)].

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: I rise to a point of order. With due deference to the Chair but in all seriousness I should like to know if there is any precedent either in this House or in any other Dominion Parliament for a lady taking the Chair; it will be unthinkable in the British House of Commons which is the mother of all Parliaments.

An Honourable Member: That is a backward country.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: If there is no precedent we will create one.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (U.P.: General): Even in this House Mrs. Swaminadhan was on the Panel of Chairmen.

Mr. Chairman: The point raised has been answered by Mr. Saksena.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: I was saying that last year's Budget was so framed as to stifle private industry. In the present Budget speech the Finance Minister said that it was not the object of this Government to stifle private industry but to take them along with nationalised industries; and one of the hints that he has given is that he is going to revise the whole taxation policy. When the Congress Ministries came in 1935 we were discussing whether we should have more production through cottage industries or through large scale industrialisation. Our Governments were not united in their views and we could not therefore do anything. We had a Planning Committee appointed and plans were made, but this was only planning of ideas and nothing could be given effect to. I am not concerned as to whether we should have private or nationalised industries, but we must have some method by which we may have more agricultural as well as industrial production so that we could meet the demands of the people here and stop the import of foodgrains and other consumer goods. The problem is, as I said, of having more production and Government should decide whether we should have private or nationalised industries. One test of that should be that the fruits of the industries should be properly and equitably distributed among all people so that the common man gets the best advantage out of them. Another test is that we should have

most economic and efficient production. Judged by these two tests we should decide whether we should encourage private or nationalised industry. Not knowing which to adopt, we have not been able to make any progress towards any kind of production. People are under suspense as to whether they should take to any adventure not knowing as to what the policy of the Government may be. We go to the agriculturists and tell them that we are going to have co-operative farming, we are going to get tractors and manures from outside, and so on; and the psychological effect has been that the cultivators have been slow and indolent in their work. Not only that, but even our officers, our Ministers and our provincial Governments do not know whether things are going to be done in this way or in that way. Even the old methods of cultivation are not being carried out to their full extent. If we go to Government for help even for old type of agricultural implements and proper seeds and manures they say that these are very minor things and they have no time to look to these and these are neglected resulting in less production. Those things are neglected and those things which we want to have more and more on a large scale we are not getting. Now we are importing about Rs. 100 crores worth of foodgrains from outside. If this is three per cent. of the foodgrains produced in our country to meet the demands here, I can say, Sir, with confidence, even if no tractors are brought, if no manures are brought from outside, but proper care is taken to supply ordinary implements to the cultivators and proper seed is given to the cultivators, and if our provincial Governments take it into their heads to see that the wants of the cultivators are met in that way, then increase in production will not be a very heavy task. We can do it in two years time and stop the import of foodgrains worth Rs. 100 crores from abroad that is a great strain upon our economy.

Madam, as I have said before, the Government should make up its mind. It is no use saying we are going to have private industries; we are going to have nationalised industries; we are going to have tractors; we are going to have co-operative farming; we are going to have this and that. The Government must put before the House and before the public a concrete proposal as to which of the industries they are going to have as nationalised industries and which of the industries they are going to have as private industries, and whether they are going to have control over the private industries, and if it is for control, what kind of control they are going to have. Unless the Government makes all these points clear, I do not think there will be any impetus to the public to come forward with their money and invest them in industry or to take to any other kind of production.

Shri Upendra Nath Barman (West Bengal: General): With due respect to the Chair, at the fag end of the day, I would like to submit a few words to this House for the consideration of the Honourable Finance Minister and the Ministry as a whole.

The whole debate has hinged upon principally two matters: one is agriculture or grow more food: and the other is industry—either nationalised industry or private industry.

As regards the first, the Honourable the Finance Minister has given us a complete picture of the past, and has frankly admitted that for the last three years, it has been a failure. As a result of that, crores and crores of rupees have been spent, both on account of purchasing foodgrains and as a subsidy of foodgrains purchased from outside. He has given us that picture. But he has not given us the picture of the future. We are left in the lurch to think what is going to be done by the Government in this regard so far as the future is concerned. Are we going to spend huge amounts of money and deplete our sterling balances in England in this way for all time to come, or are we providing for the future so that we may be saved from this drain?

[Dr. V. Subrahmanyam]
viz., that when the state wants to take up that industry no compensation must be claimed by the owners of that industry. If rules or laws are made in this regard there will be no difficulty. The State can at any time socialise the industry if it wants.

As regards income-tax, we can increase our revenue through income-tax. The Income-tax Department is not properly functioning, that is to say, if our revenue from income-tax is 20 crores it can easily be doubled from the same incomes. Only 50 per cent. of the income is being charged by the officials of the department. Even though certain suggestions are brought to them they are not prepared to charge those people that amount of income-tax, supertax and excess profits tax that they should. I can give many instances. They will be brought forward during the time of the next budget but I say this only for the consideration of the Honourable the Finance Minister when he draws up the next budget.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar (Madras: General): Madam, at this late hour it would be difficult for me to say very much. There are two points I want to make. One is the situation of the capital of India which requires consideration. From various points of view I think this is the best opportunity for considering that question. Madam, Delhi is in one corner of India. Its climate is anything but satisfactory for the greater portion of the year.

An Honourable Member: Question.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar: There is no use of merely questioning because it is a fact. For four months in the year it is very hot and for three months it is too cold. It is too far away from most of the Provinces. I tried to find out the distances from the various Provinces to Delhi and I find that almost from every important Province two days will have to be spent for reaching Delhi. A more central place will be certainly necessary for more reasons than one, as I have said. Strategically I do not think the place has got any advantage—it is rather the other way. We have seen during the past few months the amount of trouble we had to pass through on account of the position which the capital occupies. For these reasons I should very earnestly request the Government to consider this matter. I do not expect an offhand reply from the Honourable the Finance Minister immediately. I am glad that the Honourable the Home Minister is also here. They may consider this question seriously. I will also say this. This is the opportunity for considering this matter.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa (C.P. and Berar: General): Which place will you suggest?

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar: I would suggest a place like Betul near Nagpur. It will be geographically a central place. It is said to have an equable climate throughout the year. It has got facilities for water supply and electricity. It is said to be in every way suitable.

I was just saying that this is the best opportunity for considering this question because the East Punjab is searching for a place for its capital. Then there is the question of the Military headquarters for which very costly buildings will have to be put up. There is also the question of putting up buildings for the North Western Railway. Madam, the cost of all these buildings taken together will more than compensate the expenditure that will have to be incurred in building a new capital at Betul or any other place like that. It is for these reasons that I want the Government to seriously consider this question before they finally make up their mind to give a contribution for building a capital for East Punjab or for putting up their own buildings for the Military and the Railway.

The only other question, Madam, about which I want to speak is the question of control about which my friend Mr. Kunzru showed so much anxiety. I come from a place which is probably not only the most deficit of all the Provinces in India but the most deficit of all the Districts in the Madras Province itself. So I know what it exactly means. The control has been the curse of the whole situation. It has also been the disaster because disaster comes this way, namely, that all those who were growing foodgrains before have taken to growing economic crops now because the economic crops pay better. That has been the disaster of this control instituted by the Government of India. Madam this idea of rationing organated in Madras. I for one had a part in proposing the rationing of towns which were likely to be affected by the Japanese attacks. There we thought only of supplying from the surplus areas to the urban areas which were likely to be affected. We chose about 58 places which were most likely to be affected by attacks from Japan. We kept two months' supply in each one of those areas. Otherwise we allowed the rural areas to manage for themselves. For two years we were able to manage like that. There was absolutely no sort of trouble in spite of the fact that there was some purchase made for the Military and there was some export of foodgrains to Ceylon. In spite of all that we were managing. I will assure Mr. Kunzru that if you go back to the old order of things there will be no sort of risk, there will be no sort of experiment or anything like that. We will be only going back to a state of affairs where everything was going on well without anxiety and without trouble. Now we have got this chance of getting supplies from outside countries as well. When we have got this chance and when we can make our own surplus areas to supply the towns, I think that the rural areas may very well be left alone to manage their own affairs. The surplus areas will be able to supply the needs of the urban areas. I do not suggest at present the decontrol of distribution in the urban areas, at any rate in my Province—because we have been so much used to this control that it will be difficult to take it away immediately. We will have to do it gradually. We will have to retrace our steps in the same gradual way in which we proceeded from the beginning. So I would suggest let us go back to the arrangements we were having in 1942 and 1943 before this overall control was instituted. As regards control itself I will say only this, namely that there is now no sort of guarantee that the villagers will get their supply. In my own district in the month of April for three weeks there was no supply given. In the month of June only 5 ounces were given for two weeks. In spite of it they were asked to manage themselves. Is this the proper way of controlling the distribution? I will only say this that if the Government will take away this control, keeping it only for ensuring the supply of foodgrains for deficit areas for the present and if the consumer's price is fixed, I am sure things can be managed. I made an enquiry quite recently in the Circars, one of the surplus areas in our Province. I was able to find that the producers there are prepared to get into direct touch with the deficit areas. They are prepared to send paddy and rice directly to the consumers' shops and thereby save a lot of money. The procurement price is now Rs. 10-8-0 a maund in our Province whereas the consumer's price is now Rs. 17-8-0. There is a margin of Rs. 7 on a maund. That is the sort of thing we have got, and that is the deplorable state of things which I want Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari and others to note—a difference of Rs. 7 between the producer's price and the consumer's price. Is that fair? If this control is taken away and if producers and consumers are allowed to make their own arrangements I am sure the producers will be satisfied with the margin of Rs. 5 or 6 which will be available to them and everything will go on well. I will assure Mr. Kunzru that no sort of calamity will happen if the control is taken away.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Madam Chairman, I must at the outset express my grateful thanks to my Honourable friends in this House for the generally cordial reception that they have accorded to my budget state-

[Shri Upendra Nath Barman]

The next point I would ask the Honourable the Finance Minister to make clear before the House is this: there has been much debate upon the question whether industry for the future India should be nationalised or whether it should be left to private industrialists. It is admitted by us all that there is scope for both but there is one sentence in this budget speech which I would like to read. Speaking about the "Ways and Means" the Honourable the Finance Minister says:

"Government issued early this month a fifteen year loan for Rs. 40 crores carrying interest at two and three quarter per cent. with facilities for holders of the 3½ per cent. Loan, 1947-50, falling due for discharge on the 15th of that month to convert their holdings. The loan was issued at the beginning of the busy season and was not expected to be over-subscribed. But the public still seem to be hesitant in taking up Government loans and if their holding off is due to any lingering doubts about the responsibility for the repayment of the outstanding debt, I hope they will be reassured by what I have stated elsewhere that the Indian Dominion remains responsible to the bond-holder. . . ."

On this point, reading between the lines of the two assertions, it is not clear to us what policy Government is going to follow so far as private industry is concerned. As regards big industries, it is admitted by one and all, both by the Government and the speakers in this House that they must be nationalised. But as I read out from the statement of the Honourable the Finance Minister, he finds it difficult to get them loans from the public because the public is hesitant to invest in Government loans. What is the psychological cause that, though India is independent today and speaker after speaker has said that during the war time crores and crores of rupees have been earned by the capitalists and other persons and associations, this money is not forthcoming to fill the Government coffers so that Government may launch on vigorous industrialisation? To my mind the main psychology of the investors is this. If they invest their money through Government or in Government loans, they will get a limited percentage of interest; but if they invest their money in private enterprise they can make enormous profits as they have done so long and certainly expect to do it in the future. Government should declare its policy so far as private enterprise is concerned. To my mind Government should make a considered declaration that so far as private industries are concerned—this is the maximum limit that Government will allow profits and no more and then it will be for the investor to think whether they should invest their capital in Government securities or they should invest their money in private enterprise. Until and unless that is done, the public will remain hesitant as they are today.

One point I would like to mention about the position of West Bengal today. There is very little time, and I need not recount before this House the position that West Bengal occupies today in the map of India and the circumstances under which she is labouring today. When I consulted the budget proposals, I found two items under which no allocations had been made yet. Possibly the Government had not come to any definite design yet: One is the duty that is levied on jute, and so long Bengal has been the main producer of jute. Now we find from page 4 of the explanatory memorandum that the share of jute duty assigned to the province is 80 crores. It is not known whether Government is going to change the quota that Bengal used to get so long. We hear that it is going to be done this time because Bengal has been partitioned.

There is another item as regards income-tax share. From the amount payable to provinces under the Nemeyer Award, Bengal had been enjoying 20 per cent. out of the 50 per cent. of the total collection which is provinces' share. Bombay gets 20 per cent. and other provinces the rest. Now that Bengal has been divided it is reported that Bengal's share of this income-tax is going to be reduced. I would ask this Government to consider the position of West Bengal. Even before the partition of Bengal 79 out of 80 rupees collected was from West Bengal and at Calcutta. So, though a major portion of Bengal has been now cut out yet West Bengal is really the source of this revenue, and con-

sidering the position of Bengal she needs so much subsidy from Government that her share, which she had been enjoying, so long, should not be reduced. I wish to mention one fact about the present position of Bengal. It has been said in this House that in order to supplement the civil administration military need not be provided but civic or home guards should be levied in every province to help the administration. Apart from that West Bengal has other needs. It stands to the credit of Bengal that at the time of the partition of Bengal by Lord Curzon she protested and succeeded in getting a settled fact unsettled. If Bengal has consented to the partition today it was because of circumstances over which she had no control. When the partition of India was agreed to in the high level, she had to consent to it and our brethren in Eastern Bengal, which is now a part of Pakistan, consented to the partition of Bengal, because they thought that if some part of it remains within Hindustan, then if any evil day comes, that part of Bengal which will remain in the Indian Union will be able to help her in her hour of need. It is on that ground that Bengal needs a second line of defence next to the military within her border. Bengal's sons and daughters are prepared for the eventuality. But Bengal requires money for that. There is a difference between West Bengal and her provinces. Other provinces are situated in a more comfortable position. East Bengal has contributed most in the cause of India's independence, she had sacrificed all and had never hesitated to put the neck on the gallows. If that was the contribution of East Bengal and if today East Bengal is in a helpless condition, the Centre must come forward with generous help and subsidies, so that at least West Bengal may be prepared not only to defend herself but also help her brethren in East Bengal. With these words, I resume my seat.

Dr. V. Subrahmanyam (Madras: General): Madam, when we are considering the budget today, the chief point I want to stress is this: I am not satisfied with the budget allotment for the military defence of our country. Though there is no impending war or danger yet it is our imperative duty first to safeguard our homeland, to save the honour of our women and defend every aspect of our existence. The 92 crores which has been allotted will be more or less sufficient in order to give salaries, pensions, compensation and other amounts necessary for our defence purposes. It is not actually the defence purposes for which we are spending but to maintain the army, to give pensions and pay other amounts which are necessary according to our agreements. But we will have to expand our air force, navy and even submarines, so to say. I do not know how many submarines we have. We require enormous numbers, to patrol our long shores. Even now there is a deficit of 26 crores; but if we begin to expand our armed forces—I do not mean in human power or cavalry or infantry—we should expand the air arm, the navy, submarines and other things including even atomic energy. Actually within six or eight months we will be forced to spend something more by sheer necessity. Also there is no provision for the creation of a national militia. I doubt if there is any provision or a plan for a national militia. We must first of all provide some large amounts of money for that department also.

As regards agricultural purposes the 'Grow More Food Campaign' is more or less a thorough failure in our country. Today the villagers are looking to the Central Government for more manure. If manure is supplied they are prepared to supply more food within six or even three months. The first duty of the Government must be to get large imports of manure from abroad. Instead of importing manure we are importing large amounts of foodgrains. I do not know whether all the consignments coming into this country are fit for human consumption or not. Considering all these things we must import large quantities of manure.

The other point which I desire to stress is whether private enterprise should be encouraged for industrial purposes. Here I am not going to enter deeper into the subject. On one condition we can even encourage private enterprise—

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ment. Notwithstanding the criticisms—and all the criticisms were really of helpful character—there has been in evidence ample appreciation—I would say a sympathetic appreciation—of the difficulties under which the new Dominion Government of India is working, especially the difficulties of its first Finance Minister.

A great many points were made during the course of the discussion, but I would like to touch upon two or three of the more outstanding points. My Honourable friend, Mr. Munshi, said that I had not given a clear picture of the consequences of partition. This sentiment was re-echoed by my Honourable friend Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, who said that a clearer picture of the economic situation in the country had not been given in the Budget statement. Straightaway I plead guilty to the charge. I am myself not satisfied with the picture that I have presented of the economic and the financial conditions prevailing in the country after partition. If I am not yet in a position to see the picture in clearer light, with all the light and shadow on the picture, it is not entirely my mistake. A fuller and clearer picture of the economic pattern of the Indian Dominion can be gained only after some of the outstanding economic and financial problems have been settled with the Pakistan Government. All evidence tends to show that there is every hope that all these outstanding differences would be amicably settled between the representatives of the two Dominions in the very near future. In fact I find for the last one week a conspiracy in which my Honourable friend the Home Minister is deeply involved, to take away the work of Sir Patrick Spens, the Chairman of the Arbitral Tribunal. I think the House should wish him success in his efforts, and if, as we all hope, some of these most intricate and difficult problems are settled out of court, it will redound to the credit of the two Governments and to those who are in charge of the two Governments. My Honourable friend Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari also said that I should have given some statement of the account of the undivided India before the 15th August. For one thing I still hold the view that even if it were possible for us to give these figures, they would not serve any useful purpose because those figures cannot form the basis for any comparison with the figures for the Indian Dominion that I have presented. Apart from the value of those figures, it was not possible for me to give them for the simple reason that the account of the undivided country for the period ending the 15th of August has not yet been closed. The joint account is still kept open, and a great many adjustments have to be made before our joint family account can be closed. Under these circumstances it was not possible for me to give even a rough idea of the state of account of the undivided Government as on the 15th August 1947. My Honourable friend Mr. Munshi again told the House that I had not given any clear indication of the loan programme of the Government of India. I have stated in my budget speech that it was not the intention of the Government to go to the market for any fresh loan before the close of the current financial year. Now that is a positive statement in one respect. But I agree that I have not given any clear indication of what our future loan policy is going to be. If I have not given any such clear indication it is because I am not yet in a position to do so. What confronted me when I took office on the 15th of August was the hard fact that the entire money market in India was seriously disturbed. There was a lack of confidence, with the result that there was no great demand for Government securities in the money market.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (West Bengal: General): Does the Honourable Minister think that the lack of confidence was the only factor in this?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: That is the main factor so far as I have been able to study the market.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: What about the reactions of the last budget, the crash in the stock-exchange?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Probably that is one of the causes of the loss of confidence, but the fact with which I was concerned was the fact that there was loss of confidence. I had therefore to hold my hand before I went to the money market for any large loan. Naturally the investing public wanted to know what the policy of the Government of India was going to be in the matter of the future industrialization of the country, in the matter of the economic development of the country, and more especially in the matter of the borrowing policy. There have been a great many plans and reports regarding industrial development. If the Government had not been preoccupied with the unfortunate events of the last few months, I have no doubt that the Government would have straightway applied their mind to coming to some definite and positive conclusions regarding these plans that have been made. Now that some sort of order and peace have been restored, I am hoping that in the very near future we would be in a position not merely to make up our mind regarding the future trend of our policy in industrialisation, but also take concrete decisions on the execution of some of the schemes which have been included in those plans. The market was also uncertain about our borrowing policy. One of my predecessors, Sir Archibald Rowlands, initiated the cheap money policy. He very successfully converted our 3½ per cent. loan into a 3 per cent. loan, and he aimed at securing a 2½ per cent. credit for the Government of India. He was lucky. In fact, now that I am on this subject, I am free to confess that the destiny of a Finance Minister is very often governed by the luck that attends him rather than his own cleverness.

An Honourable Member: It is true of everybody.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: More especially true of the Finance Minister. As I indicated in my Budget Speech, even the British Government which adopted this policy found that it could not be carried very far. The position that faced us was somewhat difficult. Evidently, as the Reserve Bank Governor had observed, the cheap money policy had been carried a bit too far in our country. But then my difficulty is this: when once a cheap money policy had been adopted it is extremely difficult to retreat from that policy. In fact a retreat from cheap money policy will always be disastrous to the Government on the money market. Therefore it was decided that without following the policy any further or extending it any further I would attempt to consolidate the position gained so far. And from all the evidence that I see in the money market, I think the market has taken this decision well. I feel confident that next time when I go to the Market it will be for a fairly big loan and we would appeal to our countrymen to come to the help of the Government by lending funds so that our vast programmes of development might be put through. In fact, I am thinking whether that first loan should not be an Independence Loan—a loan the success of which will assure the success of our economic policy and our stability. Knowing our people as I do, I have not the slightest doubt in my mind that when the Government makes an appeal to the money market the Market will respond. I know that the money market is a hard nut to crack; they are not easily moved by mere appeals—in fact the appeal must be to their pockets and not to their hearts; and the clear enunciation of our policy that it is our intention to consolidate the gains made so far would I think be a sufficient inducement for the Market to come forward to the help of the Government.

I want Honourable Members to realise how much the stability of a modern Government depends on its capacity to raise loans in the money market. We are apt to think that the stability of a budget depends only on the Revenue Expenditure side of it. There is one other budget which very often is ignored by Honourable Members in this House and by the public at large, and that is the Ways and Means Budget. If you analyse the budgets of any modern state you will find that the outgoings of the Government on the capital side are

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very often more than the disbursements on the revenue side. Take our own modest budget for these 7½ months. While our revenue expenditure is about 197 crores, our Ways and Means Budget discloses a disbursement of over 145 crores of rupees. If we launch a more vigorous drive in the direction of industrial and agricultural expansion, the outgoing in the capital budget will be infinitely larger, and there it is that we must get the entire co-operation and help of the investing public. My main object in presenting the financial picture of the country as I see it is to instil that confidence which had been lost. From the reaction on the stock exchange and on the money market in general, I feel confident that that objective of mine has very amply succeeded.

A great deal has been said, Sir, by various Honourable Members about the question of Nationalization *versus* private enterprise. Probably my observations on the scope and need for private enterprise in our country have not been sufficiently appreciated. One Honourable friend remarked that the emphasis on private enterprise has been laid a little too much. What I intended to say is this: that the scope for production in our country for the next many, many years is so vast that there must necessarily be scope for private enterprise even though we decide on a downright policy of nationalization. Sir, the other day I said I am not a capitalist and the House was fairly amused. Probably they will be more amused if I say today that I consider myself a socialist. And my own interpretation of socialism is this: that economy which ensures a fair and equitable distribution of national wealth is really the socialist economy. State enterprise or private enterprise are only the means towards achieving that end. What does it matter if our entire industrial structure has been nationalized and yet the standard of life of our people is low? You would not call that a socialistic economy in the real sense of the term. What has been ignored in the capitalistic economy of the world in the past is that sufficient emphasis has not been laid on distribution as that on production. What we in our country must aim at is to increase and increase a hundred-fold the national wealth of our country and distribute that wealth equitably amongst all the people of this country. I am clearly against the concentration of wealth in a few hands. In fact, the whole system and structure of taxation in modern society is intended to prevent that concentrated accumulation of wealth in a few individuals. If we utilise that mechanism wisely and with prudence we would, in effect, achieve a really socialistic economy. But in exercising that right of taxation we have to be cautious.

If private enterprise has got a place in the national economy of the country then you must create the incentive for investment in private enterprise and if your scheme of taxation hinders investment in industry and damps the enthusiasm of private enterprise, to that extent it has defeated its own purpose. In fact the wisdom of a Finance Minister in these days in any country in the world is just to reach beyond that point in taxation which will prevent the concentration of wealth in a few hands but which will at the same time not destroy the incentive to investment.

Speaking about the burden of taxation, probably the House will be interested if its monotony is relieved, if I narrate to them a story. Three Englishmen were one day having lunch. All of them were businessmen. When the lunch was over each one wanted to vie with the other in paying the bill. So one man said, "No, let me pay the bill, because after all I am going to charge the cost of this lunch to my company; already the company is paying 19s. 6d. in the pound as tax, and therefore it is only 6d. in the pound that the company will be paying and the rest will be Government money". The other man said, "No, let me pay", and he said, "You see, my company is paying Excess Profits Tax and the Excess Profits Tax is 100 per cent. I will also charge this bill for the company which means that the entire cost of this bill will be paid

by the Government." The third man said, "No, no. I am still in a better position." Everybody was surprised and this is what he said: "You know, 5 P. M. I am working for the Government on cost *plus* 10 per cent.

basis. I am going to charge the cost of this lunch to Government and I will get 10 per cent. of it from Government." (*Laughter.*) Now, that gives an idea of the burden of taxation today in the country.

But we should judge that burden from the criterion of how far it will encourage investment in industry. It is because I felt that there was some justification for the criticism that the taxation imposed in the last Budget has seriously interfered with the incentive to private enterprise that I gave the undertaking that I shall re-examine the whole structure of taxation to see that that incentive is not destroyed. After all, whatever might be the ideological differences amongst some of us, if we sit down and evolve a practical scheme for the economic development of our country, we will find that notwithstanding ideological differences there is a great deal of common ground amongst all of us. Let us, for the next few years at least, exploit every point of agreement and not unnecessarily emphasize points of difference. It is agreed on all hands that the future of India depends upon her industrial and agricultural production and with that common objective, about which there is no difference of opinion, there is no doubt that we might be able to evolve a practical scheme of economic development.

Now, Madam, more and more production is wanted not merely for creating the future wealth of this country but for fighting inflation. Mr. Munshi was right when he said that we all know about the existence of inflation but we really do not know how to tackle it. Well, we know how to tackle it, but the thing is our efforts do not succeed. I am clear in my mind that the inflation today is not so much due to monetary causes, but really to the very rapid fall in production. I gave index figures to show how the inflationary tendency has become more acute in spite of a considerable reduction in the volume of notes in circulation and in bank deposits. How exactly we must bring about that increase in the volume of production is a matter that lies entirely in our own hands. There are various bottlenecks. A special Committee of the Cabinet has been appointed, called the "Economic Sub-Committee" to study this problem in great detail. As a result of the preliminary study that we have made so far, I find that one of the greatest bottlenecks in our country which hampers production is the problem of transport.

Take, for instance, the position regarding coal. Production has increased and there is a danger of its coming to a standstill. Why? Because coal at pits mouth had accumulated and it cannot be quickly transported to the destinations because of the inadequacy of transport. And in transport, when you come to details our greatest want today is the want of locomotives. As my Honourable friend, the Transport Minister told us the other day, one of the greatest acts, amounting almost to criminal, by the previous Government is their ignoring the need for building locomotives in this country. I came into the Central Legislature in 1924 and I can even today recall the debates during the Railway Budget year after year when those of us sitting on the Opposition Benches tried to impress upon the then Government the need for establishing the locomotive industry in this country. 23 years have passed and still we are not in a position to manufacture locomotives in this country. That is the unfortunate legacy we have got, but we are trying to do our best to rectify this state of affairs. It will take time. As a matter of fact, to get over this difficulty, we are now seriously examining the possibility of buying or chartering a few ships and transporting coal, through sea, for the various places and thereby reducing at least the haulage of coal. For instance, instead of carrying coal by an all-rail route from the pits mouth to Madras, it will be easier to carry it to Calcutta and from there carry it to Madras by sea. I think a great deal

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could be done to overcome this difficulty if we succeed in this effort. I am only giving this as an example to tell the House that not only are we alive to the problem, but that we are taking all positive and concrete steps necessary to solve it.

My Honourable friend, Pandit Kunzru, very prudently asked me whether I was going to be satisfied with merely increasing the production on the existing plant and machinery. I say No. We have got plans which are going to be put into execution very soon for adding to our productive capacity. For example, a Steel Panel was appointed by the late Government and the Panel has submitted two Reports. The Panel has recommended the erection of two modern steel plants, one in North Bihar and one in the Central Provinces, each with a capacity of half a million tons but so constructed that they might easily attempt at doubling the productive capacity. I have asked my Honourable colleague, the Industries Minister, to go ahead with that plan and I am hoping that before I present the next Budget in February I might be in a position to announce that concrete steps had been taken to start these two schemes. That is only one illustration of the concrete steps that we are taking to actually add to our productive capacity.

While we can do everything that lies in our power to restore the diminished production and to add to our productive capacity, there is one other factor which I submit, namely labour, which also counts a great deal in the solution of this question. Here again, I am free to confess that by mere ordinances and orders we cannot persuade labour to produce more. We must get their wholehearted and willing co-operation. We must create an entirely new outlook in the relationship between labour and employer. A time has now come when the Government with the co-operation of employers must make labour feel that it is an integral partner in the whole industrial structure of the country. Some Honourable friends referred to the scheme of profit-sharing. Now, that is again one of the problems which is now engaging the attention of the Economic Sub-Committee of the Cabinet. Speaking personally for myself, even four or five years back, I advised my friends engaged in the industry to offer to labour a straightforward scheme of partnership and profit-sharing. I hope that the Cabinet would before long be in a position to evolve a satisfactory formula which will ensure the willing co-operation of labour in our enterprises.

Madam, a great deal has been said about the problem of control *versus* decontrol. My Honourable friend, Pandit Kunzru, naturally expressed serious apprehensions as to what will be the state of affairs if decontrol was effected and the price goes up. He was answered by certain other Honourable Members, who, like Mr. Ramalingam Chettiar, spoke with practical experience of the working of controls. There is no denying the fact that theoretically when there is a gap between supply and demand they should be controlled if everyone is to get an equitable share at a reasonable price. We must go one step further. If control is to be effective, it must be an integrated control. There is no use of tinkering with controls, controlling only one or two essential articles and leaving the rest unchecked, because an upward trend of prices with these other commodities will have serious repercussions on the commodities under control. Control to be successful should therefore be an integrated control, covering all essential commodities. As I said, no one questions the soundness of the statement, but what has been our practical experience?

Madam, I am myself a believer in the value and the need for integrated control, but my sad experience is that in our country our mechanism of control has completely failed. We talk of a controlled price. Let us take sugar. What percentage of the consumers of sugar do you think are really getting sugar at the controlled price? Similarly take any foodgrains; except the growers of food it is my belief that not more than ten per cent. of our people get really the

foodgrains at controlled price. Probably ten per cent. is an over-estimate. The rest really buy in the black market. Today we have got in our country an inflation which really is not reflected in the index figures that we have published. The index figures are published on the basis of our controlled prices. But if an index figure were prepared today at the black market price at which people have to buy these essential foodstuffs, you will find the index figure will be absolutely alarming. What is the use of keeping up this show of control then when you really cannot manage?

Sir, the question of decontrol has been engaging the Cabinet for the last few weeks. We have given most anxious thought to this problem. For meeting after meeting in the Cabinet we had to postpone because even though we came prepared to do something yet when we discussed the problem in all its aspects, we were frightened at the consequences of decontrol and yet we had to take a decision. We know we are fully conscious of the fact that we are taking a risk, but a stage has been reached when that risk has to be taken. It is our intention not to disband our machinery of control, so that if things go radically wrong, we would again come back to control. Subject to these precautions, it is our intention to gradually decontrol certain things and take the risk.

An Honourable Member: Then what happens to integrated control?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Integrated control, I wish freely to confess, has not succeeded in our country.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: May I ask, what happens to the idea of planned economy?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I know that decontrol and a very high inflationary tendency are control to planned development and they might ultimately even defeat all your planning. I am fully conscious of all these theories; I can write quite a thesis on the need of controls in India. The point is, can we, with the mechanism that we can control, really put these controls effectively into operation? So, I have made a clean breast of the thing. I have nothing more to answer. If control has failed this House and the public at large must share the blame with the Government and if the measures of decontrol that we propose to adopt gradually are to succeed, it will again require the co-operation of the public at large. After all you cannot legislate to a people unwilling to work that legislation in its real and true spirit. Let us, therefore, hope that the social consciousness of our people would be roused by the human misery that surrounds us and that with this gradual process of decontrol things might be better. That is all I can hope for and let us all hope for the best.

My Honourable friend, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari referred to the question of the sterling balances and he criticised my statement because it happens to coincide with a similar statement that Sir Archibald Rowlands made. Madam, I am sure the House will agree with me when I say that the validity of a statement is not necessarily destroyed because somebody else corroborates that statement or concurs with that statement. I firmly hold the view that the sterling balances must be wisely utilised for the economic and industrial development of this country and not be frittered away for the payment of current consumption of luxury articles. Whether Sir Archibald Rowlands agrees with me or anybody disagrees with me, I am prepared to hold to that view. My Honourable friend also referred to the negotiations that have taken place regarding the temporary settlement of the question of sterling balances. The last Delegation from India was purely on an official level because it was intended to bring about only a temporary settlement. The next stage of the discussion will also be on official level and I am glad to announce that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom have responded to our invitation to send some of their officials to Delhi to discuss this matter, and they are

[Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty] expected in the middle of this month. My idea is that we should make another interim settlement valid till June, 1948. Thereafter, we must think of a more permanent settlement which must really take place on ministerial level. When such a stage is reached, I am hoping to include in that Delegation private members who would be in a position to help the Government in coming to a satisfactory settlement with the British Government. These are some of the general matters, barring one. Having sat in this House for 12 years and having listened to the magnificent speeches that Pandit Kunzru used to make, attacking the Defence Budget in those days, it was so refreshing to hear from him that we are not spending enough on Defence. I welcome that attitude. That shows that there is a sense of realism amongst our responsible leaders. As Finance Minister I am naturally very nervous about the rate of Defence expenditure; but I might assure this House that whatever might be our financial position, I am sure we can find enough finance to maintain a strong and adequate army in our country.

Madam, these cover the general points. My Honourable friend from Assam spoke about the needs of his province. Only last week the Governor of Assam and the Prime Minister of Assam had discussions with me on this point and they went away satisfied. And this morning there is a report of a broadcast talk by His Excellency the Governor of Assam from the Calcutta Broadcasting station. This is what he says:

"During my recent visit to Delhi I was happy to get heartening proofs that our difficulties are understood and that our needs in the matter of overcoming them are now to be given the assistance required. It is now up to the people of Assam to rise to the height of opportunities offered. I have no doubt they will."

I am sure what has satisfied the Governor of Assam will also satisfy my Honourable friend Mr. Chaudhury and that he will not haunt me in my dreams; and if he does come to me in my dreams I will give him a dose only in dreams.

Madam, the right note regarding the appraisal of the budget was struck by my Honourable friend Mr. C. Subrahmanyam. He said rightly that the financial soundness of the country should not be judged by the deficit or surplus in the budget but by the deficit or surplus in the national income. That is the right way to study the budget and that is why I attempted to give as accurate a picture as I could of the economic and financial position of our country, and gave my emphatic opinion that the financial position of our country is perfectly safe and sound. It is quite possible that I might prove to be a false prophet. But if it came to that I would prefer to be a false optimistic prophet rather than be a prophet like Jeremiah; because "if hopes were dupes fears might be liars". I am one of those who believe that even faced with a difficult situation, with confidence in yourself and a stout heart you can certainly overcome your difficulties.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 2nd December, 1947.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Tuesday, 2nd December, 1947.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

(a) ORAL ANSWERS.

REORGANIZATION OF HIGH COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE IN LONDON.

502. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether any review has been made since 15th August, 1947, of the proportion of the Indian and other personnel employed in the High Commissioner's office in London with a view to increasing the number of Indians, and improving their conditions of service;

(b) if so, what improvements have been effected;

(c) the present percentage of Indians in the officers rank and also in the clerical staff; and

(d) whether any report has been received from Miss Ranga Rao, who has been sent to study the possible ways of reorganising the Educational Department of the High Commissioner's office and if so, what are its main recommendations?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The High Commissioner has kept under constant review since 15th August 1947 the question of the employment of Indians in his office.

(b) and (c). It is not possible to effect any marked increase in the number of Indians within a period of a few months but between 1946 and 1947 in the grade of heads of Departments the number of Indians has increased from 33 1/3 per cent. to 50 per cent., in the grade of other officers from 24.5 per cent. to 33 per cent. and in the grade of clerks from 14.5 per cent. to 15.7 per cent. Apart from officers sent on deputation from India, qualified Indians are being appointed whenever available.

(d) No report has yet been received from Miss Ranga Rao.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What steps do Government propose to take in order to increase the Indian proportion in the employees there? Do Government consider the advisability of sending any Indian personnel from India in order to augment the Indian personnel in the London Office.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I really do not know what kind of steps my friend thinks we can take except to augment them. The India House in London is a huge establishment with many hundreds of employees. It was an inheritance from the India Office and many of the people from the India Office were transferred to it. We have to begin really more at the top than from below; and as a matter of fact most of the senior appointments have come to Indians. A large number of others are clerks and other more or less subordinate employees. In fact it is more expensive and more difficult to take a large number of subordinate employees from India. But first what we have

aimed at is to have all the senior employees from India and of course gradually to change all others.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it a fact that Indian employees in India are many times more efficient than the lower paid or subordinate employees, whether English or Indian who are today employed in the High Commissioner's office?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I have no doubt there are many efficient Indian employees. It is not so much merely a question of weighing up a person's efficiency. I cannot do it. I am not in charge. Anyhow, our objective is to have Indians employed there. But in all these Embassies and foreign establishments inevitably a number are employed locally as a matter of convenience. The main thing is that all the important employees—the heads of departments—as well as many others, should be from our country, both to receive training there and to guide our policy there, and we have therefore to do that as rapidly as possible. In fact, the change has been fairly rapid considering everything last year.

Shri K. Santhanam: Is it not the practice in Embassies to employ their own nationals to ensure secrecy and prevent disclosure of their affairs?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I think that is generally the practice and undoubtedly to a large extent we shall have to follow it. But that practice involves far heavier expenditure than might otherwise take place.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Isn't it a fact that in the new office opened by the Burma Government even the clerks have been imported from Burma and they happen to be Burmese? Will Government consider the advisability of recruiting as many of those Indian students who are in England today and who are willing to be employed in the India Office after completion of their studies?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: As I have said this is our definite policy. We have to leave it to the discretion of the High Commissioner and Deputy High Commissioner there in London how to give effect to it. They have given effect to it fairly rapidly, but in an intricate organisation, it is difficult to upset things. There are certain terms of service and tenures of service. Undoubtedly, it is our object to employ suitable students also whenever possible. But we have to consider whether the Indian student there would like to get into the India Office or would like to come here and be employed in other avenues in this country.

Shri B. Das: Does not the High Commissioner in London control the Stores Purchasing Department which is entirely manned by Britishers and they all work to the detriment of Indian commerce and industry?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I believe so. That is so.

Shri B. Das: Isn't it high time that the Stores Purchasing Department in London should be completely Indianised so that no foreign influence works against India?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: That is our objective.

DEVELOPMENT OF EAST AFRICAN COLONIES.

503. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent programme of projects of the British Government to station a section of their Defence Forces in the East African colonies;

(b) how they are likely to affect the interests of Indians and the Africans themselves and whether any representations have been made to safeguard Indian interests in those colonies;

(c) whether British attempts to open up forests and to start big projects for the production of oil-seeds with the aid of special corporations have been studied by the Government of India;

(d) the share that may be allotted to Indians in the employment of personnel in the Technical and managerial sections and also in the cultivation work associated with these projects; and

(e) to what extent the development of these forests are likely to affect India's interests in the world oil-seeds market? .

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) No.

(b) The projects referred to by the Honourable Member are not the concern of the Government of India, nor has the Indian community in East Africa made any representations to us about them. If Indian interests are likely to be affected, the Government of India will take suitable action.

(c) Yes.

(d) There is no provision in the scheme for giving Indians any specific share of employment either in the technical and managerial sections or in actual cultivation work connected with the scheme.

(e) On present estimates, these projects are not likely to affect India's position in the world oilseeds market for some time to come, in view of the existing overall world deficit in oils and fats.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have not Government any officer or officers in their Commonwealth Department whose business it is to watch such developments and their possible reactions upon Indian trade and also Indians in particular?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: These developments are watched not only by the External Affairs but by our Commerce Department.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that plentiful information has already appeared in regard to these projects in the Manchester Guardian some months ago, how is it that the Government of India are not aware of the recent programme and purchase of so and so referred to in part (a) of this question?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: It is one thing for newspapers to publish stories of these projects which may or may not be put into effect but it is quite another thing to have official information. The point is how far they affect Indian interests there.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: May I know whether there is an efficient Indian Trade Commissioner at Mombassa?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am sorry I am unable to answer that question without finding out exactly how efficient a person is.

Seth Govinddas: Have the Government received any representation in this respect from the East African Indian Congress?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: On this particular subject I cannot straightaway give an answer but we are receiving representations from them frequently.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Is it a fact that there is an Indian Trade Commissioner in Mombassa?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am sorry I cannot say offhand.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: There is a Trade Commissioner who is doing excellent work!

IRRIGATION PROJECTS IN RAYALASEEMA.

504. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Rayalaseema (Ceded Districts) in the Madras province is specially liable to periodical famines;

(b) whether Government are aware that the Famine Commissions of 1897—1900 had recommended that irrigation projects especially the Sangameswar project should be developed in order to protect the five million people of this area from frequent famines;

(c) whether Government are aware that this is at present a deficit food area and there is great need for making it self-sufficient in food; and

(d) whether Government propose to develop the irrigation projects referred to in part (b) above?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The question pertains to the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture. It has therefore been transferred to the list of questions to be answered by him on the 8th December 1947.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has the Honourable Minister anything to say in regard to the irrigational aspect of this question?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: In so far as the irrigational aspect is concerned primarily it is a matter for the provincial government. I however promise to consider favourably any reasonable request that might come from the provincial government.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have the Government of India received any representation from the Madras Government in regard to the Sangameswar project that has been referred to in the question?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Not so far.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know whether the Government is not aware of the representation personally made by the Honourable Minister for P. W. D., Madras very recently to the Honourable Minister of the Central Government?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: In the representation made by the Honourable Minister in charge of Irrigation from Madras this particular project was conspicuous by its absence.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know whether it is not a fact that the Honourable Minister from Madras made a representation though not about the Sangameswar project but about the Krishna Pennar project, which is the only project that will solve the problem of Rayalaseema and this project was explained to the Honourable Minister, in regard to its importance, its utility value and its cheapness?

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member is arguing.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that I myself have made representations to the Honourable Minister in regard to this particular Sangameswar project?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: It is a fact and the other fact is that this representation of the Honourable Member has been referred to the P. W. D. Minister of the Madras Government.

Shri S. Nagappa: Will the Honourable Minister visit this place in the near future so that he might see for himself the importance of this project?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: If my visit is to convince me of its importance, I shall certainly undertake it.

EXPLOITATION OF MINERAL RESOURCES

505. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) what progress in mineral resources has been achieved after the Geological Survey Department was re-organised in 1945-46;

(b) how many survey parties are at present working and in what areas; and

(c) whether any definite policy has been formulated regarding the exploitation of our mineral resources in the interest of the public?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) The progress of investigations made by the Geological Survey of India in respect of the mineral resources, since 1945-46, when the reorganisation of that Department was started under the five-year plan, is shown in the †Statement I which is placed on the table.

(b) The number and disposition of the survey parties during the field-season which has just begun, is shown in †Statement II which is placed on the table. Treating each individual officer engaged independently in a particular survey, as a party, the total number of such parties is 93. A copy of the current year's field-season programme is also placed on the table.

(c) The policy formulated by the Government of India on the conclusions reached in the National Mineral Policy Conference held in January 1947 was outlined in the †press note dated the 11th April 1947, a copy of which is placed on the table.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Would the Honourable Minister give an early opportunity to this House either in this session or in the next to discuss the policy formulated by the Government?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I think it would be better for the Honourable Member to take the opportunity.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: Are the reports of the Geological Survey of India available to the Members of this House?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: They are available to the general public. If any particular member makes a request that will be granted.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if it would not be more desirable to intimate to the House from time to time any questions of major policy than that members should bring them up before the House? Will the Honourable Member try to bring such matters before the House himself?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I have full confidence in the vigilance of Honourable Members and I presume that they usually read the press communiques issued by the Government from time to time.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know if the Government have made a geological survey especially of Rayalaseema, which is full of mineral resources? If not, will Government undertake such a survey now?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I want notice of that question.

DAMODAR VALLEY AND MACHKHAND PROJECTS

506. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position regarding the Damodar Valley, Machkhand and Ramapadasagar projects;

(b) how much they are expected to cost; and

†Not printed in these debates. A copy placed in the library of the House. *Ed. of D.*

(c) in what proportion the Government of India and the Provincial Government propose to share their cost of construction?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) (i) *Damodar Valley Project.*—Surveys and investigations of three out of a series of eight dams in the Damodar Valley have been almost completed. A bill to provide for the establishment of a Corporation for the development of the Damodar Valley in the Provinces of Bihar and West Bengal will be introduced in the Central Legislature.

(ii), *Machkhand Project.*—Construction work on this project has been commenced by the Government of Madras. Land acquisition proceedings, detailed exploration for the construction of the diversion weir and channels, jungle clearance, construction of quarters and roads and reconnaissance of the Machkhand—Vizagapatam—Rajahmundry 110 K.V. line and construction of the Rajahmundry—Bezwada 110 K.V. line are in progress. Orders for additional thermal plant at Bezwada and Vizagapatam have been placed. Specifications for plant and equipment for the main hydro-electric power station are under preparation and it is expected that tenders for this plant will be invited shortly.

(iii) *Ramapadasagar Project.*—This project is primarily the concern of the Madras Government. It is understood that the investigations of the project, which is estimated to cost between Rs. 125 and 135 crores, are in a very advanced stage and that detailed designs of the dam have been almost finalised and vetted by the American Engineers. The canal investigation is in progress and the detailed plans and estimates of one of the canals will be ready in another 4 months but an estimate made for one of the canals has given sufficient information to enable estimate to be prepared for the whole project. The revenue prospects have to be worked out in detail. At a meeting of the representatives of the Madras Government and the Central Government held on the 20th and 21st November, it was agreed *inter alia* that the Government of Madras might work at the revenue prospects and the cost of the scheme in greater detail and send up concrete proposals for financial assistance to the Government of India.

(b) <i>Damodar Project.</i>	Rs. 55 crores
<i>Machkhand Project.</i>	Rs. 7.52 crores.
<i>Ramapadasagar Project between</i>	Rs. 125 and 135 crores.

(c) *Damodar and Ramapadasagar Projects.*—The allocation of cost as between the Government of India and the Government of West Bengal and Bihar in respect of the Damodar Project will be as proposed in the Damodar Valley Corporation Bill. The question of allocation of cost in respect of the Ramapadasagar Project is still under consideration.

Machkhand Project.—The Government of India will not pay any portion of the cost. It will be divided between Madras and Orissa Governments in the ratio of 70:30.

Shri Mihirlal Chattopadhyaya: Will the Honourable Minister please state whether the survey work on the Damodar Valley Project is over or not?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The preliminary survey is undoubtedly over.

Shri Mihirlal Chattopadhyaya: Will the Honourable Minister please state how many years it will take for the Damodar project to materialise?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The present estimate is that it will be completed in a period of seven to eight years.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know in how many years the other two projects, viz., Machkhand and Ramapadasagar, are expected to be completed?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: There are provisional estimates and they all extend from seven to ten years.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the advisability of expediting this Ramapadasagar project by stages?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That is the idea.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are we to understand that all the three projects—Machkhand, Ramapadasagar and Sangameswar—can be undertaken simultaneously without anyone of them blocking the way of any other project?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That depends upon the financial resources and the adequacy of the technical manpower.

Shri Mihirlal Chattopadhyaya: In view of the enormous shortage of food-grains all over the country, will the Honourable Minister consider the advisability of calling the assistance of experts from outside, so that these projects may be expedited?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Mere import of experts will not do. What is really impeding progress is lack of machinery and Government is seriously considering whether part of the construction of some of these projects should not be given to foreign concerns.

Shri Mihirlal Chattopadhyaya: Am I to understand that the importation of experts from outside is not considered necessary for giving effect to these schemes?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That does not follow from my answer.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: Have Government decided as to how many dams are proposed to be constructed in the Machkhand Project?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I cannot reply that question offhand, but if the Honourable Member is very anxious to have information on that point I shall certainly give it to him in the lobby after some time.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know whether, after meeting all this expenditure for the projects of Madras and West Bengal, anything will be left for the Brahmaputra Bharali or any such project for Assam?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Two things are reserved for Assam—goodwill and future.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know whether Government propose to borrow money from abroad, if necessary, in order to undertake these projects?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That is a matter which is receiving consideration at a very high level.

Shri B. M. Gupte: May I know in which cases the Central Government bears part of the cost in connection with these projects and in which cases it does not?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Each case is considered on its merits, but generally it is done in cases in which two Provinces are involved and in which the avoidance of famine is an important element.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Sir, may I say something about these various Projects which are proposed in order to throw some light on the situation? Government attach the greatest importance to the speedy working out of these various schemes, and we propose to take advantage of everything available, internal and external, experts here, experts from America and from every country—wherever we can get them from—the main objective being to get things done as quickly as possible both from the point of view of adding to our food resources and our power resources. Therefore we shall take advantage of all the assistance from outside which we can get in regard to this matter.

I might add that we are even now trying to get into contact with some American experts to discuss the question of major contracts being given over so that this might be worked out as speedily as possible on a contractual basis.

SMUGGLING OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION OUT OF GOA.

†507. *Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the statement issued by Mr. Joachim Dias, President of Goan Youth League, published in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 6th November 1947, pointing out that arms and ammunition are being regularly smuggled out of Goa with the assistance of certain influential merchants of 'Panjim' through a cruiser which is regularly moving between Goa and Diu, a port next door to Junagadh?

(b) If so, what action, if any, has been taken by Government to stop this illicit traffic in arms?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The Government of India have seen the report referred to but have no other reason to think that an illicit traffic in arms is being carried on with the assistance of a cruiser or similar war vessel.

(b) Does not arise.

ALL INDIA INDUSTRIES AND LABOUR CONFERENCE.

†508. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether any efforts are being made to reach an agreement with State to evolve a common policy and programme for industries and labour; and

(b) whether an All-India Conference is proposed to be convened with the representatives of States and Provinces to evolve such a policy and to avoid the present diversity?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) So far as labour matters are concerned, there is a Labour Ministers Conference consisting of Labour Ministers from all the Provinces and from important Indian States. The Conference meets twice a year, and discusses all important questions with a view to evolving a common policy.

It is also proposed to hold a Conference of Provinces and of important Indian States at Ministerial level on the 15th and 16th December 1947 to consider—

- (i) measures necessary for securing an immediate increase in industrial output to full capacity,
- (ii) planning for future industrial development,
- (iii) controls, and
- (iv) miscellaneous aspects of industrial policy.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopaldaswami Ayyangar: Sir, my colleague, the Honourable Mr. Neogy has been urgently called away, and with your permission I propose to answer the questions standing in his name.

REHABILITATION OF REFUGEES FROM PAKISTAN

509. *Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether Government have prepared any scheme for the rehabilitation of the refugees from Pakistan? If so, what are its main features?

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

(b) What arrangements have been made by Government for rehabilitation of the non-agriculturists among refugees?

(c) Will every officer of the Government of Punjab, who has elected to serve in the East Punjab, be absorbed in the various Government services in the East Punjab or elsewhere?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopaldaswami Ayyangar: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is referred to the answer to clause (e) of Starred Question No. 1 on the 18th November, 1947, and also to the statement made on the floor of this house on 29th November 1947.

(c) The responsibility for absorbing every officer of the Government of the Punjab, who has elected to serve in East Punjab, rests primarily with the Government of that Province.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: With regard to the answer to part (c) of the question may I know whether the Government of India has taken any interest in the matter?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopaldaswami Ayyangar: The Government of India have already informed the Government of East Punjab that the responsibility for finding employment for refugees from the North-West Frontier Province, Sind and Baluchistan will be taken over by them. The responsibility for finding employment for refugees coming from West Punjab is that of the East Punjab Government and that Government have already been written to establish adequate machinery for ensuring this.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Is it a fact that every officer was allowed the option to serve either in India or in Pakistan?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopaldaswami Ayyangar: Yes, that is so.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Does not that involve a responsibility on the part of the Government concerned to provide employment to the Government servant who chooses to serve within its jurisdiction? If so how will this be entirely a matter for the East Punjab Government, and how can the government servants who have decided to serve India be treated on the same footing as other refugees?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopaldaswami Ayyangar: The point is that there were government servants employed under the Provincial Government of the Punjab before the partition and many of them have got to be placed in jobs under the Provincial Government of East Punjab. The Government of India have asked the Government of East Punjab to set up machinery for placing such persons who have opted for India in jobs under them.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: May I take it that they will not be treated in the same way as the other refugees and that special arrangements will be made to see that they are absorbed either by the East Punjab Government or by the Government of India?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopaldaswami Ayyangar: Certainly. Every endeavour will be made to so absorb them.

Shri Mihirlal Chattopadhyaya: Taking Pakistan to mean both Eastern Pakistan and Western Pakistan, may I know whether the Honourable Minister is aware that several lakhs of people from East Bengal have come over to West Bengal, and may I know what steps have been taken by the Government of India for the rehabilitation of those people?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopaldaswami Ayyangar: So far as that is concerned, I have only read newspaper reports. I have no official information as to the numbers that have migrated from East Bengal to India.

Shri Mihirial Chattopadhyaya: Have the Government of West Bengal given any figures about the influx of refugees who have come into West Bengal from East Bengal?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I should like to have notice of that question.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: Have Government any information as to how many West Punjab officers have elected to serve in East Punjab?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I should like to have notice again of that question.

TRANSFER OF RECORDS AND PROPERTY OF NON-MUSLIM INSTITUTIONS IN PAKISTAN

510. *Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether there are any non-Muslim institutions in Pakistan, the directors of which desire to shift to the East Punjab?

(b) If so, what steps have Government taken to secure permission for them to transfer the books, appliances, apparatus, etc., to the East Punjab?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) Yes.

(b) The question of allowing facilities for the transfer of records, etc., of the banks and insurance companies, the head offices of which had been transferred to the Indian Dominion prior to the 15th August 1947 is under discussion with the Pakistan Government.

The Indian Dominion Government cannot intervene in cases of companies, the head offices of which are still in Pakistan.

In regard to cultural and other institutions, these must of necessity be governed by the conditions of their respective trust deeds. Where a transfer is desired and is possible, assistance will be given. All these points are likely to come up for discussion with Pakistan authorities in the near future.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Are Government aware that in the case of some institutions impediments have been placed in the way of their transfer to districts in East Punjab?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: There have been some impediments, Sir, but the Government of India are trying to remove those impediments.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Are Government taking any steps to obtain information with regard to the institutions that want to transfer from West Punjab to East Punjab and their requirements?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: We have collected a good deal of information about institutions of that character, but the general procedure according to which these transfers could be effected peacefully is now a matter of negotiation between the Dominion Governments.

HOMES FOR REFUGEE-WIDOWS AND CHILDREN

511. *Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state what arrangements have been made by Government for taking care of the widows and orphans among the refugees and educating the children?

(b) Have Government considered the desirability of starting Homes for them, bearing in mind their social and cultural background?

(c) If so, what is their decision?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a), (b) and (c). East Punjab Government propose to set up homes for destitute women and children

at several places. In the meantime, steps are being taken to set apart sections in refugee camps for them. Lady Trivedi's Relief Organisation for refugee women and children has set up a home in Jullundur and proposes extension of its activities. Offers from existing homes have been received from Hissar and Simla and these will be utilized.

A Home for unattached women and children is working at Kurukshetra, where 322 women and children were admitted between 5th November 1947 and 25th November 1947. A comprehensive plan for economic rehabilitation, including vocational training like knitting activity which has already been introduced, spinning, tailoring etc. has been set up. A proper Employment Bureau and a Marriage Bureau are also to be organised. A provisional dispensary has already been opened.

A Women's Section has been established at New Delhi under the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, for the welfare of refugee women and children. Schemes for training women in different Crafts and Professions are under consideration. Some of the crafts for which arrangements are being made are:—

- (a) Spinning and weaving.
- (b) Calico-Printing.
- (c) Dress-making.
- (d) Basketry and Willow-work.
- (e) Fretwork and wooden toys, including rag-dolls.
- (f) Hand-knitting and embroidery.
- (g) Soap-making.
- (h) Preservation of fruits and vegetables.
- (i) Making of tin and linen buttons
- (j) Bleaching and dyeing.
- (k) Weaving of nawar, tape and borders.
- (l) Typing.
- (m) Stenography.
- (n) Clerical and Commercial work.

Similar schemes for training children are also being considered. Arrangements are also being made for starting a Women's Home in Subzi Mandi at Delhi.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: With regard to part (b) of the question may I know whether it is the intention of the Government to mix up all the orphans indiscriminately or whether it is proposed to sort them out according to their mental development and the educational level reached by them?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I am not in a position to give a categorical answer to that question, but the suggestion implied in it will certainly be considered.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: I had asked a question specifically on this point. Do Government mean to say now that they are not ready with their answer to this question?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I do not see, Sir, that in the question itself the suggestion that the Honourable Member has made is expressed or even necessarily implied.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: What do the words "cultural background" mean then if not this?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I thought the Honourable Member was referring to mental development.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know, Sir, if any approximate estimates have been made of unattached women and children?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I am afraid, Sir, we are not in a position to say that all the unattached women have come over this side. It is not possible to give an accurate estimate of those that have come over.

Shri Khurshed Lal: May I know if Government also propose to include in their scheme women and children who have come from the West Punjab to the United Provinces?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: If they have come from West Punjab, the scheme will certainly include them.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Has any attempt been made to number the orphans and widows who have to be taken care of in this manner?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: The numbers I think, Sir, will be available only after some time. A census is being taken both in East Punjab and here, and it will take some time before the numbers are computed.

Diwan Chaman Lal: May I ask if it is done on a compulsory basis or is it on a voluntary basis?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: At present it is on a voluntary basis, but the question of introducing compulsion in this respect will be considered.

FOOD SUPPLIES FROM PAKISTAN.

512. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of Pakistan have refused to take our textiles in exchange of their food, and that they have offered their food to Australia in return of Australian textiles?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what action do Government propose to take to consolidate our position, so that we may not depend on food supplies from Pakistan?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) and (b). The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Minister of Food. It has accordingly been transferred to the list of questions for the 8th December 1947, when it will be answered by the Honourable Minister of Food.

INDIAN LABOURERS IN CEYLON.

513. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state what is the present position of Indian labourers living in Ceylon?

(b) Is it a fact that the Prime Minister of Ceylon is coming to India to have talks with the Government of India?

(c) If the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to consider the advisability of entering into a definite agreement with Ceylon regarding the position of Indian labourers in Ceylon?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The Honourable Member presumably wants information about the political and civic rights of Indian labourers in Ceylon. If so, the position is the same as that of other Indians in Ceylon and was explained by me in reply to question No. 214, asked by Prof. N. G. Ranga on the 21st November 1947.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) I hope to discuss with the Prime Minister of Ceylon the position of Indians generally, including Indian labourers in Ceylon with a view to reaching a satisfactory agreement concerning their rights and status.

SEATTLE CONFERENCE CONVENTIONS.

514. *Shri K. Santhanam: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Maritime and Labour Advisory Committee have recommended immediate adoption of the conventions passed at the Seattle Conference of the I.L.O. last year?

(b) If so, what steps have been taken to ratify these conventions?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) and (b). The Seattle Conference adopted 9 Conventions affecting maritime labour. All the 9 Conventions were placed before the Maritime Labour Advisory Committee which recommended the adoption of 7 of them. Consideration of the remaining two being deferred to a later date. Many of the measures enumerated in the Conventions are such that they must, in the first instance, be discussed between the interests concerned viz. the seafarer and the shipowner with a view to the conclusion of collective agreements. They have also to be examined by Government from a wider angle. It is understood that negotiations between shipowners and seafarers are already under way and that schemes intended to give practical effect to these Conventions are also under the active consideration of Government at present.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know, Sir, if the Honourable Minister is aware that there is today discrimination in the wages and conditions of service of Indian and European officers in British shipping companies operating in India?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Yes, Sir.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know, Sir, if the Honourable Minister is aware that a large number of Indian officers, particularly those trained in the 'Dufferin', have left these companies because of the treatment given to the Indian officers by the British shipping companies?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: This also is true.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know, Sir, if the Honourable Minister will take any steps to see that such discrimination is put an end to?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That is already covered by the reply that the matter is under the active consideration of Government.

Shri B. Das: May I enquire, Sir, if Government is for bringing in such highly salaried Europeans or are they going to devise scales of salaries suited to India's capacity for these Indian officers and Indian seamen?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The policy of the Government of India in that connection is well-known, and certainly well known to the Honourable Member who has asked this question.

515* and 516.* [Withdrawn.]

INDIAN PERSONNEL IN U.N.O. SECRETARIAT.

517. *Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state the amount of yearly contribution that the Indian Dominion has to make to the United Nations Organization?

(b) What is the number of persons employed on the permanent staff of the Secretariat of the United Nations Organization?

(c) Is any quota of personnel of the Secretariat staff fixed for the Indian Dominion and if so, what?

(d) Do Government propose to make a representation for increasing the strength of the Indian personnel therein having regard to the importance of the Indian Dominion and her contribution?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the answer given to part (a) of question No. 219 asked by Shri B. A. Mandloi in the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative) on the 21st November 1947.

(b) About 3,000, including those in posts of lower categories.

(c) No quota is fixed for any country under Article 101(3) of the United Nations Charter the paramount consideration in the employment of the staff and in the determination of the conditions of service shall be the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, and due regard shall be paid to the importance of recruiting the staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible.

(d) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the answer given to part (c) of the question No. 219 asked by Shri B. A. Mandloi in the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative) on the 21st November 1947.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I enquire of the Prime Minister, Sir, if he will kindly enlighten the House as to the practice that is followed in making these appointments in the Secretariat of the U. N. O.?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Appointments are made by the Secretary-General or his Staff—sometimes by reference to other countries. They ask us to nominate a panel or suggest some names, but the appointments are made entirely by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Sir, will the Honourable the Prime Minister kindly inform the House whether the Member Nations are particularly consulted when a particular vacancy arises or a particular type of post is created?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: In regard to appointments?

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Yes, Sir.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: That is entirely the discretion of the Secretary-General; he does, as a matter of fact, often consult them.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Do I take it, Sir, that the Government of India has never been consulted so far in connection with any appointments in the U. N. O. Secretariat?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Certainly not; they have been frequently consulted.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Do I take it, Sir, that in these consultations the Government of India is presented with some *fait accompli*, or that pending the receipt of their instructions the appointments are made?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Obviously these consultations are about senior appointments only and we have been repeatedly consulted; and our names have been sent. In the course of the last year, eight or ten appointments have been made from India—I think eight fairly senior appointments—after consultation with us.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact, Sir, that one of the instructions given to the Secretary-General is that he should keep in mind the geographical distribution also of the personnel that he recruits?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I cannot say, Sir; may be.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact, Sir, that before he makes any important appointment, the Secretary-General is expected by convention to inform all the Governments concerned and ask them whether they have any suitable persons to suggest?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Sir, this question has already been answered by me at the beginning; Mr. Ranga was evidently not following.

FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC EMBASSIES IN INDIA.

518. *Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister please give a list of the Diplomatic Embassies or Consular Offices that have been established by foreign countries in the Indian Dominion?

(b) Is there any Diplomatic Embassy or Consular establishment of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in the Indian Dominion?

(c) If not, has there been any proposal for such an institution in India by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) I lay a statement on the table of the House.

(b) and (c). No Soviet Diplomatic or Consular post has as yet been established in India. An agreement for the exchange of Ambassadors was, however, reached some months ago and an Indian Embassy is already functioning at Moscow. The Soviet Ambassador-designate to India M. Kiril Vasilevitch Novikov, is expected to arrive in India shortly.

Statement

The foreign countries which have so far established Embassies or Legations in India are :—

Belgium.	Nepal.
China	The Netherlands.
France.	Siam.
Iran.	United States of America.

2. The following countries have Consular Offices in India :—

Afghanistan.	Iraq
Argentina.	Italy.
Belgium.	Lebanon.
Bolivia.	Luxemburg.
Brazil.	Nepal.
China.	The Netherlands.
Colombia.	Nicaragua.
Cuba.	Norway.
Czechoslovakia.	Portugal.
Denmark.	Salvador.
Dominion Republic.	Spain.
Ecuador.	Sweden.
Egypt.	Switzerland.
France.	Turkey.
Greece.	United States of America.
Hayti.	Venezuela
Iran.	

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Do I take it, Sir, that the Government of India has provided accommodation for them or have they arranged their own accommodation?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: We are providing accommodation for them.

STATEMENTS BY INDIA'S AMBASSADORS ON KASHMIR AND JUNAGADH

519. *Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether India's Ambassadors in U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. have made any statements. In those countries, on behalf of the Government of India about the position and stand taken by the Government of India with regard to Kashmir and Junagadh?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, did they take the previous approval of the Government of India?

(c) If the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, do Government propose to advise the Ambassadors to make full statements about the real state of affairs so as to clear the position of the Government of India with regard to these matters? If not, why not?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a), (b) and (c). India's Ambassadors in the United States of America and U. S. S. R. have made no statements of the kind referred to by the Honourable Member in part (a). Our Heads of Missions, however, in all important capitals where we are represented, have been kept informed of developments in Kashmir, and where necessary, suitable action has been taken by them to clarify our position.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I know from the Prime Minister, Sir, whether he has taken steps to see that the tendentious reports which have appeared from time to time in the foreign Press are contradicted or set right by our representatives in those countries?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know what reports the Honourable Member specially refers to. I cannot give an answer vaguely as to which report has been contradicted and which has not.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Do I take it, Sir, that the Honourable Member's attention has never been drawn to adverse reports affecting India's honour and prestige?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I said I do not know which particular report he refers to. But it is the duty of our Ambassadors, and in this particular matter we have been in the closest touch with them to keep the Governments concerned on the other side fully acquainted with the true facts of the situation; and where desirable, also to take other steps to give publicity to our view-point. But it is not normally desirable for Ambassadors to rush to the Press.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Then do I take it, Sir, that these Ambassadors are not permitted to make any statement without full approval of those statements by the Honourable the Prime Minister?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Ambassadors have full discretion in the matter. They normally ask for our opinion or approval, but they can take action if necessary without that too.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I know whether the Honourable the Prime Minister's latest statement on the Kashmir situation has been supplied to the Ambassadors concerned to give them a correct idea of the situation here?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Before that statement was made, at least on ten different occasions those facts were placed before the Ambassadors and Ministers.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Have they made those facts public there?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Ambassadors function in connection with Governments, not so much on the public platform. They have their ways and means of giving publicity to things occasionally; but not, normally speaking, by holding Press conferences though sometimes that too is done.

INDO-BURMA IMMIGRATION ORDER

520. *Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state the present position in regard to the Indo-Burma Immigration Order?

(b) What steps are the Government of India taking in that connection?

(c) Have the Government of India received any representations from Indian employees of the Burma Government about their impending dismissal and if so, whether Government have taken any action in the matter?

(d) Do Government propose to invite the co-operation of the Government of Pakistan in regard to this question?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Immigration of Indians into Burma is now governed by the provisions of the Burma Immigration (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1947 enacted by the Government of Burma under which no person can enter Burma without an immigration permit issued by the Controller of Immigration, Burma or Immigration Officers of the Burma Government who are stationed at the ports of departure in India. At present only three such officers are functioning in India—at Calcutta, Madras and Vizagapatam. It has been arranged with the Government of Burma that holders of evacuee identity certificates will be issued permits as a matter of course, while holders of departure and residence certificates, which were issued some time back by the High Commissioner in Burma and the Government of Burma respectively, will be given permits after such further enquiries as the Immigration Officers may choose to make. In the case of the latter as well as *bona fide* tourists and businessmen intending to visit Burma, permits will be only for three months in the first place but this period can be extended by the authorities in Burma after they are satisfied of the justification for further stay of the permit holders in Burma.

(b) The Government of Burma have assured the Government of India that the Act of June 1947 is a purely emergency measure and will remain in force only until an agreement is reached between the two Governments on the general question of immigration of Indians into Burma. The Government of India hope to start negotiations on the subject with the Government of Burma at an early date.

(c) Government have received representations from Burma Government employees of Indian origin both direct and through the High Commissioner for India in Burma regarding their future in Burma. The Government of Burma in a policy announcement have stated that their intention is not to discharge immediately all Government servants of Indian origin. On the contrary, those Government servants who are eligible for and will accept Burma citizenship under the new Constitution will be accorded equal treatment with Government servants of Burma origin; and while Burma citizens will be preferred for appointment to posts and for retention in posts in the event of retrenchment in particular services, endeavour will be made to cause as little hardship as possible to those who are non-citizens of Burma. We are giving close and urgent attention to this question and are collecting information about the number involved and other details with a view to exploring the possibility of finding alternative employment for those persons in India.

(d) We communicated with the High Commissioner for Pakistan in India on the subject and were informed by him that the Government of Pakistan

did not propose to take on any of the staff retrenched by the Burma Government. We were also informed that if the Government of Pakistan decided to make any approach to the Government of Burma in regard to compensation etc., they would prefer to do so independently.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the procedure, Sir, that one has to follow in order to get permission to go to Burma to look after the Indian labour there? Is any passport or permit needed and who issues it?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: For a person who has not previously been in Burma?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Yes, Sir.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I could not give a precise answer to that without further enquiry.

Shri K. Santhanam: With reference to his answers to parts (c) and (d), may I know what is the position of those Government servants who are Pakistan nationals and who may not accept Burmese citizenship? Is the Government of India undertaking to absorb them in their own Government service or what is the position when the Pakistan Government have refused to have anything to do with them?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Of course, but it is impossible to say at the present moment who is a Pakistan national and who is an Indian national.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know if the Honourable the Prime Minister will consider an ordinary resident of Pakistan territories as a Pakistan national?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: We may presume that, but the Honourable Member is thoroughly aware that a few hundred thousand ordinary residents of Pakistan territory have walked across to the Indian Dominion.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister consider the advisability of placing some official at Gorakhpur to help people who came away from Burma during the war because a very large number of people from Gorakhpur have gone to and reside in Burma?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know, Sir, about it.

TREATY WITH HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

521. ***Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether Government have received any communication from His Majesty's Government for negotiating any Treaty with them?

(b) If not, do the Government of India themselves propose to take up this question with His Majesty's Government?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) No.

(b) Government have no such intention at present.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is there any truth in the Press report that appeared recently that our Prime Minister has been invited by the British Prime Minister for some special consultations?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: There is this truth, that I have been invited by the British Prime Minister—not for any special consultation on any particular issue. This matter really arose from the fact that an invitation had been issued to me to attend the Princess Elizabeth's wedding and as I was unable to go owing to various circumstances, it was stated then that they will be pleased if I could go at a later stage to discuss various matters. No particular matter was mentioned. In my answer to that, I said I shall be happy to go if opportunity offered itself. Nothing definite has been done so far about it.

INDIANS IN EAST AFRICA

522. ***Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state what action Government have taken in regard to the grievances of Indians in East Africa pertaining to immigration and their representation in the Legislature?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The Honourable Member presumably refers to the Immigration bills published in April, 1947, by the East African Governments and the revised proposals for Inter-territorial Organisation in East Africa contained in Colonial Paper 210 of 1947. Suitable representations have been made to His Majesty's Government in U.K. through our High Commissioner.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Is it a fact that the Indians in East Africa urgently requested the Government of India a few days ago to intervene in connection with the Immigration Bill, which was highly detrimental to their interests?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: But the Government of India did make representation thereon.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: But my question is whether the Government of India, a few days ago, received an urgent representation from the Indian community in East Africa in connection with this Bill which is being considered by the Kenya Council?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am afraid I cannot reply to that without enquiry.

RE-ENTRY OF INDIANS IN BURMA.

523. ***Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a notification issued by the Immigration Department of the Government of Burma on the 4th September 1947 in regard to permits for re-entry into Burma?

(b) Is it a fact that a sworn affidavit is now necessary to secure re-entry and that permits and documentary evidence also have to be furnished along with the applications?

(c) Have Government received any representations from Indians proceeding to Burma, or from Indians who are already in Burma, in respect of this notification?

(d) Have Government taken or propose to take up this matter with the Government of Burma?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a), (b) and (c). Yes.

(d) The matter was taken up by our High Commissioner with appropriate authorities under the Government of Burma. Sworn affidavits are being required under executive instructions issued under the Burma Immigration (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1947. As a result of the High Commissioner's discussions with the Government of Burma it has now been decided that an affidavit may be dispensed with at the discretion of the Controller of Immigration, provided other evidence is produced by the applicant for a re-entry permit in support of his statement about permanent residence or connections with Burma. I may add that the Government of Burma have assured us that the Burma Immigration (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1947 will be replaced as soon as an agreement is reached between the two Governments on the question of immigration, and we hope to start negotiations on this subject at an early date.

Number of Hindus and Sikhs in each district of West Punjab and N.W.F.P.

Province.	Name of district.	Hindu and Sikh population (as in 1941 Census).
West Punjab	1. Sialkot	3,73,773
	2. Gujranwala	2,08,471
	3. Sheikhupura	2,38,667
	4. Gujrat	1,54,896
	5. Shalpur	1,48,837
	6. Jhelum	65,718
	7. Rawalpindi	1,47,927
	8. Attock	63,323
	9. Mianwali	69,675
	10. Montgomery	3,66,295
	11. Lyallpur	4,25,067
	12. Jhang	1,42,034
	13. Multan	3,05,167
	14. Muzaffargarh	96,429
	15. D. G. Khan	68,571
	16. Bilcch Tribes Frontier Tract	162
	17. Lahore excluding Kasur Tehsil but including Kasur town	4,51,587
	18. Gurdaspur (only Shakergarh tehsil)	1,37,126
	TOTAL	34,63,725
W.F.P.	1. Hazara	39,487
	2. Mardan	22,515
	3. Peshawar	75,242
	4. Kohat	21,876
	5. Bannu	37,583
	6. D. I. Khar	41,557
	TOTAL	2,38,260

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION CHARTER.

527. *Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to lay on the table of the House a copy of the constitution (charter) of the United Nations Organization and that of several bodies under it?

(b) What is the annual membership fee?

(c) What amount have the Government of India agreed to contribute annually towards the cost of maintenance of the United Nations Organization?

(d) Who are the members of the present Delegation of the Government of India?

(e) What is the authority for implementing the decision of the United Nations Organization in the event of any member failing to execute its decision?

(f) What is the strength of the employees of the United Nations Organization and how many Indians are amongst the said employees?

(g) What steps Government propose to take to secure for India her due share in the United Nations Organization or in the several bodies created or established under it?

(h) What voice India has in the administration department of the United Nations Organization?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) A copy of the Charter of the United Nations Organisation which covers the constitution of that body and of its principal organs is already in the library of the House.

(b) and (c). There is no fixed "membership fee". The contributions of the member States are fixed on a percentage basis and I would draw the attention of the Honourable Member to the answer given by me on the 21st November to part (a) of starred question No. 219 asked by Shri B. A. Mandloi.

(d) A list is laid on the table.

(e) I would refer the Honourable Member to Article 2(2), Article 6 and Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.

(f) The total number of employees of the United Nations Organisation of all grades is about 3,000. As regards the employment of Indians I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the replies given by me to parts (b), (c) and (d) of the question asked by Shri B. A. Mandloi, to which I have already referred.

(g) If the Honourable Member refers to the representation of Indians on the staffs of the United Nations Organisation and its ancillary bodies I would invite his attention to the answer that I have given to part (f) of this question. If, on the other hand, the Honourable Member has in his mind the effectiveness of India's participation in the activities of the United Nations, I can tell him that we have always tried to support the principles of the Charter according to our independent judgement and that this continues to be our policy.

(h) The administration of the United Nations Organisation is under the control of the Budgetary and Administrative Committee, on which India is represented.

India Delegation to the second regular session of the General Assembly of the United Nations which opened in New York on 16th September, 1947.

Representatives:

1. Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit (leader).
2. Raja Sir Maharaj Singh.
3. Justice Sir Fazl Ali.
4. Sardar Dr. K. M. Panikkar.
5. Mr. M. C. Setalved.

NOTE:—Sardar Panikkar arrived in New York after the session of the General Assembly had begun. Dr. B. C. Roy acted as Representative in his absence.

Alternate Representatives:

1. Mr. M. K. Vellodi.
2. Dr. P. P. Pillai.
2. Mr. B. R. Sen.
4. Mr. Sri Narayan Mahtha.
5. Mr. B. Shiva Rao.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to circulate copies of that Bill, so that when the negotiations take place, we may be able to give our opinions on the subject?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am prepared to place it on the Table of the Library. It is not an easy matter to circulate copies of it to Honourable Members, because we shall have to get it printed and so on. I do not think that all members are interested. If any one wishes to refer to it, he can do so in the Library.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: At what stage, may I know, does the Honourable the Prime Minister propose to consult the External Affairs Standing Committee in connection with the proposed negotiations with the Burmese Government in regard to this matter?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: This is a matter in regard to which I do not think we have fixed any date or anything about consultation on a particular issue. I do hope that the Standing Committee will be able to meet at a fairly early date to consider various problems.

REFUGEES TRAVELLING BY SEA.

524. *Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: (a) Will the Honourable Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether Government have any information regarding the total number of refugees who have left Karachi by the sea route between 1st September and 31st October, 1947?

(b) How many of them went to the various ports in Kathiawar and how many to Bombay?

(c) How many Muslims have gone from Bombay and Kathiawar Ports to Karachi?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswamy Ayyangar: (a) The number of refugees who left Karachi by the sea route between 15th August and 31st October, 1947 was between 1,15,000 and 1,20,000.

(b) Of these 75,000 went to Bombay and the remainder to Kathiawar ports.

(c) Upto the 31st October 1947, 41,810 Muslim Civilians and 6,027 members of the Pakistan armed forces went by sea from Bombay to Karachi and 5,593 civilians from the Kathiawar ports to Karachi.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I enquire if the Honourable Minister has got any information in regard to those who left by air from Karachi and from Bombay?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswamy Ayyangar: We have information, Sir, but I am not in a position at once to give it.

STUDENTS EVACUATED FROM WEST PUNJAB.

525. *Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether Government have taken any steps to ascertain the number of Indian students evacuated from the West Punjab, who will need assistance in order to complete their education?

(b) If not, do Government propose to enquire into the matter now?

(c) Do Government propose to help deserving students as they helped some of the Indian students evacuated from Burma in 1942?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswamy Ayyangar: (a) No.

(b) Efforts will be made to collect the information.

(c) Yes, Government have sanctioned a scheme for giving loans to poor

refugee students and trainees in order to enable them to prosecute their interrupted studies or training in India or abroad.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Are Government aware that the Commonwealth Relations Department gave students from Malaya and Burma who were unable to receive remittances from their parents not loans but grants for the prosecution of their studies?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswamy Ayyangar: I believe that is correct, Sir.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Then, why are the Government in this case giving only loans and not grants?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswamy Ayyangar: Sir, the suggestion implied in the Honourable Member's question will be considered.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Will the Government of India really consider the question of the poor students not merely with sympathy but with generosity?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswamy Ayyangar: Certainly, Sir.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know whether the Government of India will consider the advisability of establishing a University town where all these students can be accommodated in proper institutions?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswamy Ayyangar: I do not know if the suggestion is for East Punjab. . . .

Shri K. Santhanam: Yes.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswamy Ayyangar: If that is so, the East Punjab Government is already engaged on the question of selecting a site for a new University town.

EVACUATION OF HINDU SIKHS FROM WEST PUNJAB.

526. *Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state the number of Hindus and Sikhs in each district of the West Punjab before the 15th August, 1947, and how many of them have been evacuated from each of these districts?

(b) Do Government propose to give similar information regarding the North West Frontier Province districts?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswamy Ayyangar: (a) and (b). (i) The figures of population of Hindus and Sikhs in each district of the West Punjab and N. W. F. P. before 15th August 1947 are not accurately known, but a statement, according to the last Census in 1941, showing the number of Hindus and Sikhs in each district of the West Punjab and N.W.F.P. is placed on the table.

(ii) The total number of Non-Muslims evacuated by the Military Evacuation Organisation from West Punjab and N. W. F. P., from 4th September, 1947 to 25th November, 1947 was 25,41,555. The figures for the period prior to 4th September cannot be accurately determined. Figures according to Provinces or districts for evacuation are not available.

Advisers:

1. Mr. N. Sundaresan.
2. Mr. Shavax A. Lal.
3. Mr. C. S. Jha.
4. Dr. K. S. Shelvankar.

Liaison Officer:

1. Mr. S. Sen.

Secretaries to the Delegation:

1. Mr. T. N. Kaul.
2. Mr. M. Gopala Menon.

Assistant Secretary to the Delegation.

1. Mr. B. N. Nanda.

Secretarial Staff:

1. Mr. P. N. Subramanian.
2. Mr. M. Viswanatham.
3. Mr. Harbanslal.
4. Mr. Sardari Lal Bhalla.
5. Miss Chandralekha Pandit (Private Secretary to the Leader).

Public Relations Officer:

1. Dr. Anup Singh.

LABOUR DELEGATIONS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

528. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state the total number of Labour Delegations that were sent to foreign countries during the years 1946-47 and 1947-48?

(b) Who are the Members of the Delegations?

(c) On what principles these members were selected?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) Delegations were sent to 4 International Labour Conferences and 8 Industrial Committees, meetings of which were convened under the auspices of the International Labour Organisation.

(b) A statement showing the names of the delegates and advisers is placed on the table of the House.

(c) According to the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation, Workers' and Employers' representatives should be chosen in agreement with the Industrial organisations which are most representative of Employers and Workers. The selection of workers' representatives was made in consultation with the All India Trade Union Congress or unions with a substantial membership of workers in the industry concerned. Employers' representatives were chosen in consultation with the two all-India Organisations of Employers, namely, (1) All India Organisation of Industrial Employers, (2) Employers' Federation of India. Government delegates and advisers were chosen according to their suitability for the purpose.

Statement of Labour Delegations sent to Foreign Countries from India during 1946-47 and 1947-48.

(A) *The Maritime Session of the International Labour Conference at Seattle (June-July 1946).*

Government Delegates:

1. Mr. M. K. Vellodi, C.I.E., I.C.S., Deputy High Commissioner for India, London.
2. Late Mr. S. R. Zaman, C.I.E., I.C.S. (Joint Secretary, Late Commerce Department, Govt. of India.).

Advisers:

1. Capt. Davis.
2. Khan Bahadur Fazlul Karim.
3. Mr. C. P. Sirivastava.
4. Mr. W. B. England.

Employers' Delegate:

1. Mr. M. A. Master.

Advisers:

1. Mr. D. S. Erulkar.
2. Mr. S. N. Morarji.
3. Mr. H. M. Trivedi.
4. Capt. Cokerjee.

Seamen's Delegate:

1. Lt.-Com. Aftab Ali.

Advisers:

1. Mr. D. Mangat
2. Mr. Dinker Desai.
3. Mr. George Reed.
4. Mr. A. K. Mohammed.

(B) *29th Session of the International Labour Conference (Montreal, September-October 1946)*

Government Delegates:

1. Mr. S. Lall, C.I.E., I.C.S., Secretary to the Govt. of India, Ministry of Labour.
2. Dewan Chaman Lal.

Advisers:

1. Nawab M. A. Gurmani.
2. Mr. M. A. Mirza.
3. Khan Bahadur Mohd. Aslam.
4. Mr. W. B. England.

Substitute Adviser:

1. Mr. S. P. Saksena.

Employers' Delegate:

1. Mr. David S. Erulkar.

Advisers:

1. Mr. Y. S. Pandit.
2. Mr. N. W. Gurjar.
3. Mr. H. K. Srivastava.
4. Mr. Vidya Bhushan Shukla.

Workers' Delegate:

1. Mr. S. S. Mirajkar.

Advisers:

1. Mr. Sibnath Banerjee.
2. Mr. Abid Ali Jafferbhai.
3. Mr. Tukaram Andoo Gaikwad.
4. Mr. N. V. Phadke.

(C) *30th Session of the International Labour Conference (Geneva, June-July, 1947)*

Government Delegates:

1. The Hon'ble Shri Jagjivan Ram (Labour Minister, Govt. of India).
2. The Hon'ble Mr. Gulzari Lal Nanda (Minister for Labour & Housing, Bombay).

Substitute Delegate:

1. Mr. S. Lall, C.I.E., I.C.S., Secretary, Ministry of Labour.

Advisers:

1. Mr. M. K. Kirpalani, I.C.S.,
2. Mr. M. A. Latif.
3. Mr. N. S. Mankikar.
4. Mr. M. A. Mirza.
5. Mr. S. P. Saksena.

Employers' Delegate:

1. Mr. N. H. Tata.

Advisers:

1. Mr. Purshottam K. Chauhan.
2. Mr. R. Basu.
3. Mr. D. H. Naseer.
4. Mr. T. S. Swaminathan.

Workers' Delegate:

1. Mr. N. M. Joshi.

Advisers:

1. Mr. Manek Gandhi.
2. Mr. Adam Adil.
3. Mr. B. G. Meshram.
4. Mrs. Shanta Mukherjee.

*(D) Conference of Near and Middle East of the I. L. O. (Istanbul, November 1947)**Observer:*

1. Mr. S. P. Saksena, Director, Labour Conference, Govt. of India.

INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEES

*1. Iron and Steel Committee (I Session), Cleveland, April 1946**Government:*

1. Mr. J. Vesugar, Member, Indian Supply Mission in U. S. A.

Employers:

1. Sir Jehangir Ghandy.
2. Mr. P. R. Balakrishnan.

Workers:

1. Mr. Manek Homi.
2. Mr. V. G. Karnik.

*2. Metal Trades Committee (I Session), Cleveland, April 1946**Government:*

1. Mr. J. Vesugar, Member, Indian Supply Mission in U. S. A.

Employers:

1. Sir Jehangir Ghandy.
2. Mr. David S. Erulkar.

Workers:

1. Mr. Fazal Ilahi Qurban.
2. Mr. K. T. Sule.

*3. Industrial Committee on Textile (I Session), Brussels, November, 1946**Government:*

1. Mr. M. K. Vellodi, Dy. High Commissioner for India, London.
2. Mr. A. S. Iyengar, Director of Labour Welfare, Bombay.

Employers:

1. Mr. Shantilal Mangaldas.
2. Mr. Naval H. Tata.

Workers:

1. Mr. Shamprasad Vasavada.
2. Mr. P. Ramamurthy.

*4. Industrial Committee on Building, Civil Engineering and Public Works, Brussels, November, 1946**Government Delegates:*

1. Rai Bahadur H. P. Sinha, Superintending Engineer, Central P. W. D.
2. Mr. A. S. Iyengar, Director of Labour Welfare, Bombay.

Adviser:

1. Sardar Bahadur Raghbir Singh, Chief Engineer, Patiala State, Patiala.

Employers:

1. Mr. S. C. Banerjee.

Workers:

1. Mr. K. N. Joglekar.
2. Mr. Deben Sen.

*5. Industrial Committee on Coal Mining (II Session), Geneva, April 1947.**Government Delegate:*

1. Mr. V. K. R. Menon, Acting Secretary, Ministry of Labour.

Adviser:

1. Mr. Syed Kazim.

Employers:

1. Mr. Chhaganlal K. Parekh.

Workers:

1. Mr. P. C. Bose.
2. Mr. Chapa! Bhattacharya.

*5. Industrial Committee on Inland Transport (II Session), Geneva, May, 1947**Government Delegates:*

1. Mr. V. K. R. Menon, I.C.S., Acting Secretary, Ministry of Labour.
2. Mr. S. M. Hasan (Hyderabad Government).

Advisers:

1. Mr. Mushtaq Ahmed Khan.

Employers:

1. Mr. N. H. R. Chinoy.
2. Mr. G. L. Mehta.

Workers:

1. Mr. B. K. Mukherjee.
2. Mr. Faiz Ahmed.

*7. Industrial Committee on Iron and Steel (II Session), Stockholm, August, 1947**Government:*

1. Mr. V. Narayanan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Labour.

*Employers: (Not represented.)**Workers:*

1. Mr. Mahindra Kumar Ghosh.
2. Mr. Taraprasanna Sinha.

8: Industrial Committee on Metal Trades (II Session), Stockholm, September 1947

Government:

1. Mr. V. Narayanan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Labour.

Employers:

1. Mr. David S. Erulkar.

Workers:

1. Mr. K. N. Joglekar.

2. Mr. Ranen Sen.

IMPORT OF FOODGRAINS, CONSUMER AND CAPITAL GOODS

529. *Shri Banarsi Prasad Jhunjunwala: Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) the variety, quantity and value of goods imported into India since 1st April, 1947 in the shape of (i) food grains; (ii) other consumer goods and (iii) capital goods from the United States of America, United Kingdom and other countries; and

(b) the variety, quantity and value of goods exported from India during the same period to (i) United States of America (ii) United Kingdom and (iii) other countries?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

IMPOSITION OF DUTY ON RAW JUTE

530. *Shri Banarsi Prasad Jhunjunwala: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to an Ordinance promulgated by the Government of Eastern Pakistan imposing an export duty on raw jute coming into the Indian Dominion?

(b) If so, is it not a breach of the Standstill Agreement between the two Dominions?

(c) If the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what steps are the Government of India taking in the matter to protect the interest of the Indian Dominion?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a), (b) and (c). The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Minister of Finance. It has accordingly been transferred to the list of questions for the 6th December 1947, when it will be answered by the Honourable Minister of Finance.

LEVY ON EXPORT OF JUTE TO INDIA

531. *Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the imposition of export levy by the Pakistan Government on all exports of jute to India?

(b) Do Government propose to lay on the table of the House the correspondence exchanged on the subject between the Governments of Pakistan and India?

(c) What action Government propose to take in this respect?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a), (b) and (c). The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Minister of Finance. It has accordingly been transferred to the list of questions for the 6th December 1947, when it will be answered by the Honourable Minister of Finance.

CITIZENSHIP OF PAKISTAN AND INDIAN UNION

532. *Shri Satish Chandra Samanta: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the citizens of Pakistan are considered as aliens in the Indian Union and vice versa?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to fix a date by which the citizenship of Pakistan and Indian Union may be interchangeable?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: This question should have been addressed to the Honourable Minister for Home Affairs and has accordingly been transferred to the Ministry of Home Affairs. It will be answered on a day allotted to that Ministry.

HARASSMENT OF PASSENGERS AT PARBATIPUR JUNCTION ON E. B. RAILWAY

533. *Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether Government are aware that passengers proceeding from different parts of India to Assam through Pakistan area, are subjected to searches at Parbatipur Junction of the East Bengal Railway by Pakistan Police, Muslim League National Guards and other unauthorised persons who also molest them in different ways and commit extortions?

(b) If so, what steps Government propose to take to protect the citizens against such harassment?

(c) Is it a fact that in the last week of October, a merchant of Gauhati in Assam, had to pay a sum of Rs. 1,000/- at Parbatipur in order to save himself and his family from harassment?

(d) Do Government propose to make inquiries and take necessary steps to prevent recurrence of such events?

(e) Do the Government of India propose to depute officers of their own to Parbatipur Junction to watch and report the actual state of things and also to protect the passengers of India against molestations and extortions?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Government have received several complaints of this nature.

(b) On the basis of these complaints representations have been made to the Government of Pakistan through the High Commissioner for India at Karachi. No reply has so far been received from that Government.

(c) An instance of this nature relating to one Gograj Agarwala has been brought to our notice by the Government of Assam.

(d) I have sent a telegram on the 13th November to the Prime Minister of Pakistan to investigate the specific instance referred to in part (c) and to ensure that no harassment is caused to Indian nationals passing through Eastern Pakistan. To this, a reply is still awaited.

(e) Government will consider what steps should be taken after the reply from the Pakistan Government has been received.

IMPORT OF PETROL IN HYDERABAD STATE

534. *Shri B. M. Gupta: Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that the State of Hyderabad has imported in recent weeks more petrol than its quota;

(b) Whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the reports that effect appearing in certain papers; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative whether Government propose to take necessary steps in the matter?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) The Government of India have made enquiries and are satisfied that the despatches of petrol to the State of Hyderabad during recent weeks have not been in any way abnormal. Actually

the State in question does not import any petrol; it is the Oil Companies who make despatches to their depots in the State and make deliveries against coupons in the same manner as to consumers in the Union of India.

(b) The answer is in the affirmation.

(c) Does not arise.

HOUSING ACCOMMODATION FOR GOVERNMENT SERVANTS

535. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to encourage private enterprise for providing housing accommodation in New Delhi for Central Government Servants, so as to save tax payers' money on Governmental schemes; and

(b) whether Government are prepared to consider a scheme to allot plots of land free of charge in areas of New Delhi to their servants so as to enable them to construct houses at their own cost thereby relieving pressure on the existing accommodation and Government revenues?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) No Sir.

(b) No.

ALLOTMENT OF LAND BY U.P. GOVERNMENT FOR HOUSE-BUILDING

536. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Government of the United Provinces have allotted plots of land to their ministerial staff in Lucknow (Lattouche Road) for building houses;

(b) whether Government propose to make enquiries in the matter from the Government of the United Provinces as to whether such a scheme has proved beneficial both to the employees and the employers; and

(c) whether the Government of India propose to formulate such a scheme so as to save their revenues on projects for houses for their staff?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) No Sir.

(b) Yes.

(c) This would be considered on receipt of necessary information from the Government of United Provinces.

ALLOTMENT OF LAND TO CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SERVANTS.

537. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Delhi Improvement Trust has helped only moneyed-men, contractors and capitalists in acquiring lands for building purposes;

(b) whether Government are aware that competitive rates for plots of land in Delhi have rendered it impossible for middle class men to purchase plots so as to live in decent houses;

(c) whether Government are aware that capitalists or contractors purchase plots in lots at exorbitant prices thereby depriving men of ordinary means to acquire lands;

(d) what steps Government propose to take to help the middle class men, and more particularly the ministerial staff of the Government of India, who are hard hit by the present economic conditions and by the difficulties in getting decent housing accommodation; and

(e) whether Government propose to allot plots of land to the permanent servants of the Government of India free of charges or at a fixed nominal price?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Minister of Health. It has accordingly been transferred to the list of questions for 6th December 1947 when it will be answered by the Honourable Minister of Health.

CREATION OF COLONIES FOR CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SERVANTS

538. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to consider a scheme of creating a number of colonies of 500 to 1,000 houses each (small double-storeyed bungalows) for Central Government servants near about New Delhi by allotting plots of land to their servants free of charge and by providing them with building materials at controlled rates; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to consider the advisability of allotting the areas of Hardinge Avenue and Muttra Road for the purpose?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) No Sir.

(b) No Sir. The land available on Muttra Road and Hardinge Avenue is reserved to meet other requirements.

POSTS IN THE CENTRAL P.W.D.

539. *Shri Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of India had sanctioned about 100 posts in Central P.W.D. about a year back?

(b) If so, whether the proposals have been given effect to; and if not why not?

(c) Are Government aware that the Sub-Divisional Officers of the Central P.W.D. are given much less pay and allowances than a temporary Engineer working in the same capacity and doing the same kind of work?

(d) What are the minimum technical qualification required of Central P.W.D. Sub-Divisional Officers and Assistant Executive Engineers?

(e) Has the Pay Commission put this category of service in Class II?

(f) If so, what is the period within which this proposal is likely to be given effect to?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Sanction to the creation of 100 permanent posts of Assistant Engineers, which will constitute a new Service to be known as the Central Engineering Service, Class II, was issued in February 1947.

(b) The Service as such has not yet been formed. Draft recruitment rules prescribing the qualifications and other conditions of appointment to the Service have been framed and referred to the Federal Public Service Commission for their opinion, and actual appointments to the Service can be made only after the Commission's views on these draft rules have been received.

(c) Yes. Sub-Divisional Officers of non-Gazetted rank in the Central Public Works Department are on a lower rate of pay than the Temporary Engineers, even though both classes of officers do the same type of work.

(d) The minimum technical qualification prescribed for Assistant Executive Engineers, Class I. Assistant Engineers, Class II and Temporary Engineers, is the possession of a degree in engineering of the University standard. For Sub-Divisional Officers of non-gazetted rank, the qualification is an Overseer's Diploma of any recognised institution.

(e) and (f). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the observations of the Central Pay Commission in paragraph 19 at page 307 of their report. No definite recommendation was made by the Central Pay Commission to the effect that Sub-Divisional Officers of non-Gazetted rank in the Central P. W. D. should all be placed in the Class II Engineering Service. Those Sub-Divisional Officers who possess an Engineering Degree are being considered for absorption in the Central Engineering Service, Class II. This Service is likely to be formed during next year.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DOMINION OF INDIA AND THE NIZAM OF HYDERABAD AND BERAR

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of an adjournment motion from the Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare. The Motion says:

"That the House do stand adjourned to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance of recent occurrence, viz., the agreement made between the Dominion of India and the Nizam of Hyderabad and Berar on the 29th November 1947."

I may point to the Honourable Member two difficulties which I feel. If he has anything to say, I shall be glad to hear him before I give my ruling. I do not see any urgency about the matter. The agreement has already

12 NOON been made; that is one part of it. I find that there is also a Cut Motion proposed to be moved to Demand No. 27 to discuss "matters relating to the Hyderabad Agreement" and also a further Motion to "discuss the specific agreement with Hyderabad and the protection of the elementary rights of the citizens of the State." Of course, it may be said that these Cut Motions may not come for discussion at all; but in any case, the Demand will there, and the Honourable Member will have an opportunity when the Demand comes before the House to have his say on that question; but this second ground is a minor point comparatively. I really do not see any urgency about this matter. Has the Honourable Dr. Khare anything to say in this respect?

Dr. N. B. Khare (Alwar State): Sir the matter is definitely urgent, because the agreement involves violation of the sacred principle of the sovereignty of the people of India. I hope that the House will agree with me that this is a sacred principle and the second thing is that according to me it is beside the point whether the agreement has or has not have been entered into, as it is *ultra vires*. That is all I have to say I think it is urgent and so I plead that it should be allowed.

Mr. Speaker: The Motion does not say specifically that it is a censure Motion. The point about the agreement being *ultra vires* is one of argument and opinion. I do not think the matter is of an urgent nature and I cannot, therefore, give my consent to this.

ELECTIONS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEES FOR THE MINISTRIES OF STATES, TRANSPORT, COUNCIL OF THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE, BANGALORE, GOVERNING BODY OF THE INDIAN RESEARCH FUND ASSOCIATION AND STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ROADS.

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the Assembly that upto the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committees for the Ministries of States and Transport (other than Roads), Council of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, Governing Body of the Indian Research Fund Association and Standing Committee for Roads, 12 nominations in the case of the first, 11 in the case of the second, 1 in the case of the third, 3 in the case of the fourth and 12 in the case of the last were received. Subsequently two members in case of the first and one in case of the second withdrew their candidature. As the number of

the remaining candidates was thus equal to the number of vacancies in each of these Committees, I declare the following members to be duly elected:—

I. Standing Committee for the Ministry of States.

- (1.) Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya.
- (2.) Pandit Hiralal Shastri.
- (3.) Shri Balwant Rai Gopalji Mehta.
- (4.) Shri R. R. Diwakar.
- (5.) Shri S. Nijalingappa.
- (6.) Shri Brajeshwar Prasad.
- (7.) Sir V. T. Krishnamachari.
- (8.) Shri Surendra Mohan Ghosh.
- (9.) Dr. Sir S. V. Ramamurty, and
- (10.) Mr. Hussain Imam.

II. Standing Committee for the Ministry of Transport (Other than Roads).

- (1.) Shri S. N. Sunavalli.
- (2.) Shri Sunder Lall.
- (3.) Shri P. Kushiraman.
- (4.) Shri Mukunda Behary Mallick.
- (5.) Shri P. Govinda Menon.
- (6.) Shri O. V. Alagesan.
- (7.) Shri Brijlal Nandlal Biyani.
- (8.) Shri K. Santhanam.
- (9.) Dr. Dharam Prakash, and
- (10.) Maulana Daud Ghaznavi.

III. Council of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra.

IV. The Governing Body of the Indian Research Fund Association.

- (1.) Acharaya J. B. Kriplani.
- (2.) Shri Shanker Dattatraya Deo and
- (3.) Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya.

V. Standing Committee for Roads.

- (1.) Shri Raghuraj Singh.
- (2.) Prof. Nibaran Chandra Laskar.
- (3.) Shri Ramprasad Patai.
- (4.) Shri S. Nijalingappa.
- (5.) Dr. V. Subrahmanyam.
- (6.) Shri B. N. Munavalli.
- (7.) Shri G. S. Guha.
- (8.) Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri.
- (9.) Shri Mohan Lal Saxena.
- (10.) Shri C. M. Poonacha.
- (11.) Shri Yudhisthir Misra, and
- (12.) Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala.

Mr. Speaker: The House may now proceed with the further discussion of the Resolution moved by Shri V. I. Munishwami Pillai.

श्री मोहनलाल गौतम : यह जो आपने कमेटी बनाई है उसमें क्या आपको पता है कि तमाम मेंबर हिंदुस्तान में रहते हैं या कुछ पाकिस्तान के रहने वाले भी उसमें लिये गए हैं। मेरा यह ख्याल है कि द्वाऊद गजनवी माह्व का नाम मैंने पाकिस्तान की किसी कमेटी में पढ़ा था—शायद पश्चिमी पंजाब की प्रांतीय मुस्लिम लीग की कार्य-कारिणी में। यह आपकी कमेटी में है क्या यह मुनासिब है ?

Shri Mohan Lal Gautam (U.P. : General): Are you aware of the fact that the Committee which you have formed consists of all members who live in India or it includes some of those who are settled down in Pakistan? I think I had read the name of Maulana Daud Ghaznavi in a certain Committee of Pakistan—probably in the Working Committee of the West Punjab Provincial Muslim League. He is included in your Committee; is it permissible?

Mr. Speaker: It is not a question for the Chair. I have not formed these Committees at all. As the Honourable Member knows on motions duly carried by the House, elections were held and I merely directed the elections here on the principle of proportional representation with transferable vote. Candidates were nominated under the rules and elections were held accordingly. It is, therefore, not a matter really for discussion with me. It is purely a matter to be settled amongst the Members themselves whether to include or exclude a particular candidate.

श्री मोहनलाल गौतम : क्या मैं पेश कर सकता हूँ कि जो साहवान आज हिंदुस्तान के नागरिक नहीं हैं उन्हें expell कर दिया जाय ?

Shri Mohan Lal Gautam: May I move that those gentlemen who are not citizens of India to-day should be expelled?

Mr. Speaker: No. Such a motion cannot be moved. It is an election which has duly taken place. The Members elected are the Members of the Constituent Assembly. They have been duly nominated and duly elected.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyaya (West Bengal: General): Is it necessary to take the consent of a Member who is put in a Committee?

Mr. Speaker: I do not know whether the consent was not taken. The nominations are not challenged up to this moment.

RESOLUTION RE AMELIORATION OF THE CONDITION OF SCHEDULED CASTES—contd.

Mr. Speaker: The House may take up the further discussion of the following Resolution moved by Shri V. I. Munishwami Pillai on the 27th November, 1947:

"This Assembly is of opinion that the Government of India should spend at least one crore of rupees each year for the next ten years for the amelioration of the condition of the scheduled castes by way of providing them with house sites and drinking water and also by way of supplementing the educational grants sanctioned by Provincial Governments."

Seth Govinddas (C. P. and Berar: General): Sir, I have sent a notice of an amendment to this Resolution. The notice of the amendment was sent late, but as the amendment makes the Resolution more comprehensive. I hope, Sir,

you will kindly allow that amendment to be moved. The amendment runs thus:

"That in the Resolution for the words 'spend at least one crore of rupees each year for the next ten years', the words 'take adequate steps' be substituted."

Mr. Speaker: I assume that Honourable Members are generally agreeable to have this amendment considered in the House. I am not asking whether they agree to accept it; the only question for me is whether I should waive notice. And if a substantially large number of members is willing to have this amendment considered, I should like to waive notice.

Several Honourable Members: Yes, yes.

Mr. Speaker: Then I waive notice about it. Amendment moved:

"That in the Resolution for the words 'spend at least one crore of rupees each year for the next ten years', the words 'take adequate steps' be substituted."

Seth Govind Das may now proceed with his speech.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : सभापति जी, जो सुधार मैं यहां पेश कर रहा हूँ वह सुधार इस भावना से नहीं है कि इन कामों के ऊपर एक करोड़ रुपया खर्च न किया जाय। मेरे सुधार का मतलब यह है कि हरिजनों की जैसी अवस्था इस समय इन बातों के सम्बंध में है वह इतनी बुरी है कि यह एक करोड़ रुपया भी शायद उसे दस वर्ष में सुधारने के लिए काफी न होगा। फिर मैं यह नहीं चाहता कि दस वर्ष तक इस काम को जारी रखा जाय। मेरा अभिप्राय यह है कि जब हम स्वतंत्र हो गये तब बहुत थोड़े समय के अन्दर इस काम को पूरा कर डालना चाहिये। दूसरे देशों में जहां पर बड़ी बड़ी क्रांतियां हुई हैं हमने देखा है कि बहुत बड़े बड़े काम थोड़े से वर्षों के भीतर हो गए, और यदि हम दस वर्षों तक सिर्फ एक करोड़ रुपया प्रति वर्ष इस सम्बंध में खर्च करेंगे तो मैं आपसे कहना चाहता हूँ कि जो काम इस प्रस्ताव में कहा गया है, वह काम दस वर्ष में भी पूरा न कर सकेंगे।

मुझे यह बात मालूम है कि केन्द्रीय सरकार, इस कार्य को बहुत बड़े परिमाण में हाथ में लेना चाहती है। पहले तो यह काम बहुत दूर तक प्रांतीय सरकारें करेंगी और प्रांतीय सरकारों के पास यदि काफी साधन इन कामों के करने के लिए न होंगे तो उन गरीब प्रांतों के ऊपर जिन में काफी साधन उपलब्ध नहीं हैं, केन्द्रीय सरकार बहुत बड़े परिमाण में इस सम्बंध में खर्च करेगी।

हम लोगों ने हजारों वर्षों से अपने हरिजन भाइयों को इस बुरी अवस्था में रखा है कि जिस अवस्था में कोई भी मनुष्य इस संसार के किसी हिस्से में नहीं रहेगा। हमने जितनी ज्यादातियां अपने हरिजन भाइयों के ऊपर की हैं वह इतिहास में अभूतपूर्व हैं, और भारतवर्ष के स्वतंत्र हो जाने के पश्चात् हमारी केन्द्रीय सरकार, प्रांतीय सरकार और इस देश की जनता सबका परम कर्तव्य हो जाता है कि उन करोड़ों भाइयों की, जिनको मनुष्योचित अधिकार प्राप्त नहीं हैं, भलाई के लिए सबसे पहले ध्यान रखें उनकी भलाई के लिए जो अधिक से अधिक व्यय किया जा सकता है, वह प्रांतीय सरकारें भी करें और केन्द्रीय सरकार भी करे।

[सेठ गोविन्द दास]

श्री मुनिस्वामी पिल्ले के प्रस्ताव में तीन बातें कही गई हैं। पहली बात है हरिजनों के घर के सम्बन्ध में। दूसरी बात है उनके पानी के सम्बन्ध में। तीसरी बात है उनकी पढ़ाई के सम्बन्ध में। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि पानी मनुष्य की सबसे पहली आवश्यकता है। भोजन के बिना फिर भी थोड़े समय तक कोई व्यक्ति रह सकता है परन्तु पानी के बिना मनुष्य नहीं रह सकता। हम देखते हैं कि जहाँ तक पानी भरने का सम्बन्ध है वहाँ तक, यद्यपि विधान परिषद ने हमारे मौलिक अधिकारों में यह बात कही है कि Untouchability would be a crime अब भी सब कुओं पर जो सार्वजनिक कुएं हैं, हमारे हरिजन भाई पानी नहीं भर सकते। जहाँ तक मकानों का सम्बन्ध है उनके मकान ऐसे स्थानों पर हैं, जो शहर से बाहर अत्यन्त गंदे और ऐसे हैं जहाँ पर मनुष्यों का रहना ही कठिन है। जहाँ तक शिक्षा का सम्बन्ध है, यद्यपि इस देश में शिक्षा का प्रचार अभी केवल हरिजनों में कम हो, इतना ही नहीं जो सवर्ण हिन्दू हैं उनमें भी बहुत कम है, परन्तु हरिजन तो शिक्षा के मामले में बहुत पीछे हैं। आज यदि हम इन तीनों चीजों को लें तो हमको मालूम होगा कि जहाँ तक प्रांतीय सरकारों का सम्बन्ध है कई प्रांतीय सरकारें ऐसी होंगी जिनके पास काफी द्रव्य नहीं है। मैं अपने गरीब प्रांत मध्य प्रांत का दृष्टांत आपके सामने देता हूँ। मध्य प्रांत संयुक्त प्रांत की तरह से, या बम्बई प्रांत की तरह से या मद्रास प्रांत की तरह से बनवाना प्रांत नहीं है। मध्य प्रांत गरीब प्रांत है। मध्य प्रांत से भी अधिक गरीब प्रांत हैं जैसे आसाम और उड़ीसा। लेकिन मध्य प्रांत या ऐसे अन्य प्रांतों पर सारा भार छोड़ दिया जाता है तो मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि उसमें पूरी कामयाबी जितने समय के अन्दर हम इस काम को करना चाहते हैं, उतने समय के अंदर, नहीं हो सकेगी। इसलिये मैं यह चाहता हूँ कि केवल एक करोड़ रुपया ही खर्च न किया जाय, उससे कहीं अधिक खर्च किया जाय और वह रुपया दस वर्षों तक एक करोड़ रुपया प्रति वर्ष खर्च न किया जाकर और भी थोड़े समय में खर्च किया जाय जिसमें दस वर्ष तक यह काम जारी हो न रहे, और हम दो या तीन या पांच वर्षों में इसको समाप्त कर दें।

इसलिये जो सुधार मैं यहां पेश कर रहा हूँ उसका अर्थ यह कभी न समझा जाय कि मैं यह नहीं चाहता कि दस वर्ष तक एक करोड़ रुपया प्रति वर्ष खर्च न किया जाय मेरा अभिप्राय यह है कि अधिक रुपया खर्च हो जिससे काम जल्दी खत्म हो जाय केंद्रीय सरकार एक करोड़ रुपये से भी ज्यादा इस दिशा में दे। मैं आशा करता हूँ कि मेरा यह सुधार इस असेम्बली को स्वीकृत होगा।

(English translation of the above speech)

Seth Govinddas: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Amendment that I have brought forward is not based on the idea that we should not spend one crore of rupees on such works. My amendment means that the condition of the Harijans, as it exists today, especially with regard to these things, is so bad

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that perhaps the sum of one crore of rupees per annum will be too insufficient to better their lot even in ten years. I do not want that this work should be allowed to linger for ten years. What I mean is, that, when we have attained freedom, we must do this work as soon as we can. In other countries which have witnessed big revolutions it has been seen that very big achievements have been made in very short periods. If we spend one crore of rupees per year over ten years, then, I may tell you that we shall not be able to achieve in that time what we desire today by this Bill.

I know that the Central Government intend starting this campaign on a very large scale. In the first place, a great part of this work will be done by the Provincial Government; and where the Provincial Governments do not have enough means for doing these works, the Central Government will take the work in its hands on a very large scale.

For thousands of years we have made the Harijans live in such conditions as no one on the face of this earth would like to live in. The undue advantages we have been taking over them have no parallel in the history of the world. Now when India has become free, it becomes the first and foremost duty of both the Central and Provincial Governments, and of every Indian, to see that these crores of down trodden men are uplifted. The Central and the Provincial Governments must spend on their uplift the maximum money they can.

The Bill presented by Shri Munishwami contains three points. The first is concerned with the problem of housing for these Harijans. The second refers to water supply for them, and the third is connected with their education. I like to say that water is man's first necessity. A man may do without food for sometime, but he cannot do without water. So far as it is the question of drawing water, we find today that in spite of the fact that the Constituent Assembly has laid down among the primary rights of a man that "Untouchability would be a crime", the Harijans are not allowed to draw water from the public wells. So far as it is a question of their housing, the dwellings of these Harijans are situated in those slums outside the cities where it is well nigh impossible for a man to breathe. With regard to their education, I have to say that although illiteracy prevails not only among the Harijans but also among the so called caste Hindus, yet in education the Harijans are far backward as compared with the Hindus. If we take these three things into consideration we will find that, so far as the Provincial Governments are concerned, few are such which do not have enough funds. Take the example of my own poor province, the Central Provinces. The C.P. are not as rich as the U.P. or as the Presidencies of Bombay and Madras. The C.P. are comparatively poor. There are provinces, like Assam and Orissa, which are poorer than even the C.P. If we place this burden on the C.P. or on any such other province, we will fail to achieve success in the time we wish to have. I want, therefore, that we should spend much more than one crore of rupees per year on it. Let us not spend it as one crore per annum for ten years, but let us try to cut short the period so that the work may not linger for ten years; let us rather finish it, if we can, in two, three or five years.

It may not, therefore, be taken that my amendment means that I have objections to one crore of rupees being spent per annum for ten years. What I mean is that we should spend more to expedite this work. Let the Central Government earmark more than one crore of rupees for it. I hope the House will accept my amendment.

जानी गुरुमुख सिंह मूसाफिर : साहबे सदर, इस प्रस्ताव के अल्फाज जो कुछ हैं या जो एमेण्डमेण्ट मेरे भाई ने पेश किया है वह भी, उसके भी अल्फाज कुछ हैं। असल में इसके अंदर जो स्पिरिट (spirit) काम कर रही है वह यह है कि हरिजनों को

[ज्ञानी गुरुमुख सिंह मुसाफिर]

उठाना चाहिये, शेड्यूलड क्लासेज (Scheduled Class) को उठाना चाहिये क्योंकि वह हमारे देश में इस वक्त बैकवर्ड क्लास (backward class) के तौर पर गिने जाते हैं। इस वक्त जब कि हमें आजादी मिल चुकी है तो मेरा ख्याल है कि एक दिन भी हमको यह नहीं सुनना चाहिये कि इन भाइयों की हालत वही है जो इससे पहले जब कि हमें आजादी नहीं मिली थी, चली आई है। यह बड़ी अफसोसनाक बात है कि इस बीसवीं सदी में भी अब तक हमारे देश में न सिर्फ यह कि जिनको अनटचबिल (Untouchable) कहा जाता है वही मौजूद हैं, मगर हमारे देश के बाज हिस्सों में ऐसे साहवान भी हैं जिनको अनसीएबिल (Unseeable) कहा जाता है यानी जिनकी निगाह अगर सवर्ण हिंदुओं पर पड़ जाय तो सवर्ण हिंदू भ्रष्ट हो जाता है। इसके अलावा हमारे देश के कई हिस्सों में ऐसी जगह भी हैं जहां उनके पांव के ऊपर किसी का पांव आ जाय तो समझते हैं कि वह भ्रष्ट हो गया। इसलिए इन भाइयों को दिन के वक्त घर से बाहर निकलने की इजाजत नहीं है ताकि उनकी नजर किसी के ऊपर न पड़ जाय, या उनके पांव पर किसी का पांव न पड़ जाय। तो हमारे देश पर यह कलंक जो मूढ़त से चला आ रहा है वह इसी वक्त दूर करना चाहिये। इस वक्त भी इन डिस्टर्बेंसेज (disturbances) में भी हमने देखा है कि दो किस्म के लोगों का नुकसान बहुत ज्यादा हुआ है। एक वह जो पाकिस्तान के इलाकों में अपनी जूरत की वजह से अड़े रहे हैं, दूसरे वह जो कमजोर गिने जाते थे, और उनकी कमजोरी उनके लिये मौत का वायस हुई है। अड़ने वाले सिक्खों को इसलिये मारा गया कि वे अड़ते हैं। जो कमजोर थे उनको अपनी सभ्यता, अपना धर्म, अपना कल्चर (culture) सब कुछ छोड़ कर वहां रहना पड़ रहा है। परसों चौथे ही मैसे डा० अम्बेडकर का एक वयान पढ़ा था। कि पाकिस्तान के इलाकों में जो हरिजन हैं उनको दवाया जा रहा है। उनका मजहब तबदील किया जा रहा है। कल हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स में मेरे मोहतरम डाक्टर चोइथराम गिडवानी का तार डा० अम्बेडकर साहब के नाम छपा है, जिसमें लिखा है "Harijans not allowed to migrate to India"। इस तार में भी उन्होंने इस बात को स्पष्ट किया है कि हरिजनों को कई बहानों से ब्रिलोचिस्तान में और सिंध में मजबूर किया जाता है और बाज जगह लिखा है कि उन्हें arrest भी किया गया है। आखिर में उन्होंने बताया है कि "Backward Sindhi Sikhs called Labanas and Harijans Called Bagris were looted and forcibly converted to Islam."। तो मेरा मतलब यह कहने से यह है कि एक तरफ जो अड़ने वाले थे उनके मुताल्लिक कहा गया कि कोई सिक्ख मगरवी पंजाब में रहने नहीं पाये। मगरवी पंजाब में पाकिस्तानी अखबारों में उपरोक्त बातें लिखी हैं। दूसरे जो यह हरिजन भाई थे जो कमजोर गिने जाते थे उनको कनवर्ट (convert) किया गया है। उनको पहले लाने का इंतजाम करना चाहिये।

दूसरी बात जो मैं हाउस के सामने रखना चाहता हूं और उसके मुताल्लिक अपने जजवात को स्पष्ट तौर पर जाहिर करना चाहता हूं। वह है पानी और तालीम के मुताल्लिक जो मेरे भाई ने आपके सामने बताया है उन दोनों के मुताल्लिक मेरा जो तजुर्बा है मैं उसको आपके सामने जरूर अर्ज करूंगा। मैंने भी अपनी उम्र का काफी हिस्सा दस बारह साल अछूतों के उठाने के काम में लगाया है। तो एक बात तो साफ है कि इन्सान में जो एहसास कमतरी का पैदा हो जाता है वह उसको कभी भी उठने नहीं देता। हमारे इन भाइयों में जब तक यह ख्याल है, हमारे हिंदू भाइयों में यह अछूत गिने जाते हैं, इनको हरिजन कहा जाता है। सिक्खों में जो इस किस्म के लोग सिक्ख बन जाते हैं वह मजहबी सिक्ख कहे जाते हैं, और हमारे पंजाब में जो भी मुसलमान धर्म अख्तियार करते हैं उनको मुसल्ली कहते हैं। यानी उन नामों से फिर वह वहीं के वहीं रह जाते हैं। उस नाम से ही इस किस्म का अहसास हो जाता है कि यह फलां जात से यहां आया है। इसी तरह पानी के इंतजाम की बात है अब भी पंजाब में और और जगहों पर भी अगर कुएं पर से कुत्ता पानी पी जाय तो उससे कुछ नुकसान नहीं होता। मगर अफसोस की बात है कि हमारे जैसे इन्सान हमारे भाई जो हमारे समाज के एक बहुत जरूरी हिस्सा हैं, उनमें से अगर कोई कुएं पर से पानी पी जाय तो हमारे लोग कहते हैं कि यह कुआं जो भ्रष्ट हो गया यह ऐसी भद्दी और छिनोनी बात है कि मैं तो कहता हूं कि इस वक्त गवर्नमेण्ट आफ इंडिया को ऐसा सख्त कानून पास करना चाहिये कि जितने भी कुएं हैं उनमें से किसी भी कुएं के ऊपर अगर कोई आदमी इस किस्म का एतराज करे कि हम फलां जात के आदमी को पानी नहीं पीने देंगे, तो उसको उसी वक्त सख्त से सख्त सजा देनी चाहिये ताकि हिंदोस्तान के माथे से यह कलंक का टीका दूर हो जाय।

अगर हरिजनों के लिए हम अलहदा कुएं बनायेंगे तो इसमें एक बड़ी बुराई की बात हो जायगी इससे हरिजन फिर अलहिदा अलहिदा ही हो जायेंगे। जो भी कुएं बने हुए हैं उनके लिये हर जगह सहूलियत होनी चाहिये। घर जो अलहिदा बना दिये जाते हैं हमारे पंजाब में उनको ठट्टियां कहते हैं और वे गांव के बाहर बने हुए हैं। इस किस्म की ठट्टियां बना देना भी बड़ी नुकसानदेह बात है। हर जगह उनको रहने का हक हो। हर एक मुहल्ले में जहां कहीं यह जायें, रहें, कोई तमीज नहीं होनी चाहिये क्योंकि इन्सान बतौर इन्सान के इन्सान है। इन्सान के नाते वह इन्सान के साथ हर जगह रह सकता है। किसी भी जगह में उसे रहने से रोकना ज्यादाती है। अगर नाम पड़ना चाहिये तो वह सिर्फ पेशे के तौर पर नाम होना चाहिये कि फलां पेशे का, कोई सुनार है कोई लुहारी का काम करता है उसे लोहार कहते हैं, कोई इस वक्त जमींदारी करता है उसे जमींदार कहते हैं। नाम सिर्फ पेशे के लिये लिहाज से होता है जात से नहीं।

[श्री गुरुमुख सिंह मुसाफिर]

असल में होना यह चाहिये कि स्कूल, घर, पानी सब मशरूका रहे। कोई ऊंच-नीच का भेद न हो। एक ही कुएं पर पानी सवर्ण और नीची जाति के लोग पियें। ऊंची और नीची जाति दोनों के बालक एक साथ स्कूल में शिक्षा ग्रहण करें। उसमें कोई रुकावट नहीं होनी चाहिये, ताकि फिर कोई मिस मेयो जैसी आकर हिंदुस्तान की तरफ उंगली न उठा सकें। और कोई यह न कह सके कि यह लोग इतने नीच हैं कि अपने भाइयों को जो इन जैसे इन्सान हैं, नीच समझते हैं। उनको कुओं पर पानी नहीं पीने देते। यह बात यकलख्त हमारे बीच से दूर होनी चाहिये।

साहबे सदर मैंने आपकी इजाजत से अपने जजबात का इन अल्फाज में इजहार किया है। मैं पूरी तौर पर मुत्तफिक हूं कि बैकवर्ड क्लासेज (backward classes) के लिये जो कुछ भी गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया कर सकती है, करे। एक करोड़ नहीं, दस करोड़ या इससे ज्यादा रुपया उनकी अपलिफ्ट पर खर्च करे और यह जो बड़ा कलंक है, उसको जल्दी से जल्दी धो दे।

(English translation of the above speech)

Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir (East Punjab: Sikh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, both the Resolution and the amendment introduced by my friends do imply something. As a matter of fact, the spirit which pervades them is that we should uplift the *Harijans*, that we should ameliorate the lot of the Scheduled Castes, for they are looked upon as a backward class in our country. Now, when we have achieved independence, I think, we should not delay matters even by a day lest people say that the plight of the *Harijans* continues to be as it has been in the past. We have won freedom and we should not now give any occasion for a complaint of this type. It is a pity that in this 20th century we still have in India not only those who are known as "Untouchables"; but in some part of India there are people who are called "Unseeable" i.e., those about whom it is thought that if they cast a glance on a Caste Hindu, the latter gets polluted. There are places in India where a Caste Hindu thinks that a mere touch with a *Harijan* contaminates him. These men are, therefore, not allowed to come out during the day lest a glance or touch by any one of them pollutes the Caste Hindus there. Since ages our fair name has been stained by this black practice. We must remove it immediately now. Even in these days, during the recent disturbances, we have seen that it is two particular classes which have suffered the most: firstly those who were bold enough to stick to their places and secondly those who were regarded as weak and whose weakness proved to be the cause of their annihilation. The former were Sikhs and they were murdered because they refused to flee. Those who were weak have to live there at the cost of their civilisation, religion and culture. Only a few days back I read a statement by the Honourable Dr. Ambedkar wherein he said that the *Harijans* in the Pakistan are being molested or oppressed; that they were being forcibly converted. Only yesterday *The Hindustan Times* published the telegram from Honourable Dr. Choith Ram Gidwani to Honourable Dr. Ambedkar wherein it is stated that "*Harijans* not allowed to migrate to India." He has stated clearly in this telegram that the *Harijans* are being tyrannised in different ways, both in Baluchistan and in Sind. At places they have been even put under arrest. He concludes his telegram by saying that the "*Backward Sindhi Sikhs* called '*Labanas*' and *Harijans* called '*Bagris*' were looted and forcibly converted to Islam." The Sikhs have been the people who have always made bold to

stick to their places. About them it has been said that let no Sikh remain in the Western Punjab. This has been openly advertised in the Pro-Pakistan papers of the West Punjab. And those who were regarded as weak i.e. the *Harijans*, have been forcibly converted. We must first make arrangements for bringing them into India.

The second thing which I want to place before the House and on which I want to express my feelings clearly is the question of water supply and education. My friend has already spoken about them. I must also place before you my personal observations and experiences of these things. I have also spent a great part of my life, about ten to twelve years, in the task of uplifting the *Harijans*. One thing is clear and it is that the inferiority complex, when once it gets hold of a man, does not let him progress. These untouchables are known as *Harijans* amongst the Hindus; they are called *Mazhabi Sikhs* amongst the Sikhs and the new converts among the Punjab Muslims are called *Mussallis*. So long as these depressed classes have this idea amongst themselves that they belong to this particular sect, so long as they think that they have this label affixed to them, it is difficult for them to progress. The very name gives them this complex that he belongs to a depressed class.

Same applies to the system of water supply. Even today we find in the Punjab and in other parts of this country that if a dog drinks water at a public well, people do not feel averse to it, but it is a pity that if a human being, an image of God, our own flesh and blood, an important limb of our own society, drinks water at a well, the public feel that the sanctity of the well is polluted. This is simply deplorable. I feel Government of India should immediately enact such a rigid law that if any man objects to any person, of whatever class or creed, drinking water at any of the existing wells, the objector should be punished severely so that this black stain is washed off the fair name of India. If we make separate wells for the *Harijans* it would be a very bad thing. This will stand in the way of our bringing the *Harijans* closer to us. They must have the right to use all the existing wells.

Their secluded colonies are known as *Thathis* in the Punjab; and these are built in an isolated part outside the city. To make *Thathis* of this kind is also harmful. The *Harijans* should have the right to live in whatever locality they choose. There should not be any demarcation of localities. Men are after all alike. Through the relation of man with man he can live wherever he likes. To prevent him from living where he likes will not be fair. If names have to be given at all, they should be given according to the professions. If a man is to be labelled he should be labelled as an artisan: A goldsmith may be labelled as a member of the community of goldsmiths; a blacksmith may be known as a member of the community of blacksmiths and an agricultural worker may be called an agriculturist. Classifications should be only made according to professions, not according to birth.

As a matter of fact, the schools, the houses and the water supply system should be alike for all. There should be no classification. The Caste Hindus and the Scheduled Castes should share the same well. Children should receive education in the schools, irrespective of their castes. There should be no restrictions so that no Miss Mayo gets an opportunity for raising even a little finger against our country. Let no one get an occasion for criticising that we are so degraded that we do not regard our brethren, our own flesh and blood, as human beings. Let no one say that we look down upon them, that we do not let them share our wells. This gulf between ourselves must disappear immediately. Sir, with your permission I have given vent to my feelings. Let the Government of India do whatever it can for these backward classes. Not only one crore, even if ten crores or more is required, let the Government spend it for uplifting the *Harijans*. It is a slur on us and the sooner it is removed the better.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U.P.: General): I had an amendment to this resolution.

Mr. Speaker: I thought the only amendment before the House was the amendment of Mr. Nagappa.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (East Punjab: General): All the other amendments were not moved.

Mr. Speaker: Were the Honourable Members asked to move them?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: There was no time.

Mr. Speaker: All right: after Prof. Yashwant Rai has spoken I will call upon Prof. Saksena to move his amendment.

प्रोफेसर यशवन्तराय : स्वीकार महोदय, श्रीमान् जी, जो रेजोल्यूशन श्री मुनिस्वामी पिल्ले जी ने हाउस के सामने रक्खा है कि एक करोड़ रुपया प्रति वर्ष दस साल के लिये हरिजनों की एजुकेशन (Education) पर, घर बनाने पर और पानी का प्रबंध आदि करने पर खर्च किया जावे, इसका मैं समर्थन करता हूँ। यह रुपया चाहे हम एक करोड़ नियत करें या दस करोड़ परन्तु इससे हम हरिजनों पर कोई एहसान नहीं करेंगे। और नाही ऐसा करने से उनकी हालत में कोई खास अंतर आयेगा। यह तो हमारी नेशनल गवर्नमेण्ट का पहला फर्ज है कि वह प्रायश्चित्त रूप से ऐसा करे।

हिन्दू जाति ने हजारों वर्षों से इन विचारों गरीबों को पददलित कर रखा है और जो उनके समान अधिकार थे उनसे सर्वदा इनको वंचित कर रक्खा है। इसलिये आज अगर हमारी अपनी नेशनल गवर्नमेण्ट कायम हो गई है तो उससे हम आशा करते हैं कि यह जो छूआछाट का कलंक हिन्दू जाति के माथे पर लगा हुआ है उसको जल्दी से जल्दी दूर करे। यह छूतछाट हिन्दू धर्म के अंदर बाद में प्रवृष्टि हो गई है। अगर हम हिन्दू जाति के वेद शास्त्रों को लें तो उन में कहीं भी छूआछाट का जिक्र नहीं आता है। पहिले वर्ण शब्द को ही ले लीजिये। इसकी व्याख्या यून है

“वर्णो वृणोते इति प्रापणोते”।

वर्ण एक ऐसी चीज है जो कि प्राप्त (acquire) की जाती है और इनहेरिट (inherit) नहीं की जाती है। अगर यह सवाल किया जावे कि यह पांचवां वर्ण है तो मैं इस बात को नहीं मानता हूँ क्योंकि मनुस्मृति में लिखा हुआ है

“ब्राह्मणः क्षत्रियोः वैश्यः त्रयो तीन वर्णाः द्विजातियः

चतुर्थो शूद्रः नास्तितुः पंचमः।”

अर्थात् ब्राह्मण, क्षत्री, वैश्य यह वर्ण द्विज हैं। चौथा वर्ण शूद्र है। और पांचवा कोई वर्ण नहीं है। सो अछूत जातियाँ चौथे वर्ण में हैं और हिन्दू जाति का एक अंग हैं। जहां तक खाने पीने का सवाल है मनु भगवान लिखते हैं

“आधिकः कुल मित्रं च गोपालो दास नापितौ

एते शूद्रेषु भोज्याऽन्ना यश्चात्मानं निवेदयेत्”

अर्थात् सब शूद्रों के हाथ का पकाया हुआ भाजन खा लेना चाहिये और उसका भी जो साफ तौर पर अपन आप को बता देवे।

वास्तव में पुराने समय में जात पात जन्म पर नहीं थी बल्कि आक्यूपेशन (occupation) पर थी। इसको साबित करने के लिये एक उदाहरण काफी है

“गणिका गर्भ संभूतो वशिष्ठस्यः महागुनिः”

यानि गुरु वशिष्ठ गणिका (शूद्रा) के पेट से पैदा होकर महाराजा रामचन्द्र जी के कुल के पुरोहित बने। एक यह भी समय था कि हम इस कदर उन्नत थे और हिन्दू जाति का हाजमा ठीक था कि जो भी हमलावर हूण सैक्सन (Huns—Saxons) और युनानि यहां पर आये उन सबको हमने एब्जोर्ब (Absorb) कर लिया। लेकिन मुसलमानों के भारत आगमन के समय हम इतने कमजोर हो गये थे कि उनको हजम (Absorb) न कर सके और उसका नतीजा यह हुआ कि देश को दो भागों में तकसीम करना पड़ा।

इसलिए हमें यह देखना है कि इस जात पात के मसले को अब हम हल करें। जात पात को जन्म से हटाकर कर्म पर किया जावे। हम नये विधान में यह पास कर चुके हैं “Untouchability in any form will be considered a crime!”

यह चीजें सिर्फ कागजों पर ही नहीं रहनी चाहिये बल्कि हमें इनको प्रैक्टिकल शेप (Practical Shape) देना चाहिये। सिर्फ गवर्नमेण्ट के एक करोड़ या दस बीस करोड़ रुपया खर्च कर देने से कुछ नहीं बनेगा। हमें तो अछूतों को हिंदुओं के साथ मिलाकर एक करना है। जब हम फौरेन कंट्रीज (Foreign countries) में जाते हैं तो हमारा सिर शर्म के मारे झुक जाता है कि हमारे देश में एक कुत्ता तो तालाब में पेशाब कर सकता है परन्तु एक हरिजन उस तालाब में से पानी नहीं पी सकता है। यह कितनी शर्मनाक बात है। इसलिए हमें इस कलंक के टीके को हिंदु जाति के माथे पर से धोना है। छूतछाट को शीघ्र ही समाप्त करके। जात पात के सारे भेद भाव मिटाकर आपस में खान पान का व्यवहार करना है। तभी हमारी गणना संसार की स्वतंत्र जातियों में हो सकेगी। मुझे एक बात का बहुत अफसोस है कि इस स्वतंत्रता के जमाने में भी ईस्ट पंजाब में हरिजनों को तंग किया जा रहा है। उच्च जातियों के लोग उन्हें यू० पी० या सी० पी० जाने के लिए मजबूर कर रहे हैं मैंने अपने इलाके का दौरा किया और लोगों से प्रार्थना की कि वे ऐसा न करें। इसी सिलसिले में मैंने ईस्ट पंजाब के सभी मंत्रियों से प्रार्थना की। सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेण्ट से भी मेरी प्रार्थना है कि ऐसी बातें नहीं होनी चाहियें और हरिजनों को नाजायज तंग करने वालों को उचित दंड देना चाहिये।

श्रीमान् जी, अन्त में मैं आपसे प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि इस रेजोल्यूशन को स्वीकार कर लिया जावे और हरिजनों को उन्नत करने के लिए जितनी भी अधिक से अधिक कोशिश हो सके वह हमें करनी चाहिये।

(English translation of the above speech)

Prof. Yashwant Rai (East Punjab: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the Resolution presented before the House by the Honourable Mr. Munishwami Pillai suggesting that a sum of rupees ten million be spent every year for the next ten years on the education, building of houses, and providing of arrangements for water-supply etc. for the Harijans. It is no obligation on them if we allot Rupees ten million or even a hundred million for them. It will not make much difference in their present condition. It is, in fact, the very first duty of

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our National Government to make such an allotment as an atonement. The Hindu-society has for thousands of years treated these poor people as down-cast and has taken away their equal rights from them. Since we have our own Government now we expect from it that it will soon remove the blot of untouchability from the society. Untouchability got into the Hindu fold at a later stage. If we study the *Vedas* and the *Shastras* we find no mention of untouchability there. Defining the word वर्ण which stood for classification, the interpretation given to it, is as follows—that it is acquired, it is not inherited. If it is considered that there is a fifth group then I am not prepared to accept it, as it is clearly stated in Manu-Smriti that the first three classes, i.e. the *Brahmans*, the *Kshatriyas* and the *Vaishyas* are the twice born, the fourth is the *Shudras* and a fifth does not exist. Therefore the *Harijans* belong to the fourth group and are a part and parcel of the Hindu Society. As to the question of dining with *Shudras*, Lord Manu has declared—we should eat the food cooked by the hands of *Shudras* especially when a *Shudra* has openly declared his identity.

The classification existed in the past in fact on occupation and not on the birth of a man. To illustrate the point, only one example will suffice,—Guru Vasishtha who was born of a *Shudra* lady became the ecclesiastical head of Shri Raja Ram Chandra's dynasty. There was a time also when our society was culturally so strong that even the invaders of our country—the Huns, Saxons and the Greeks were absorbed in our society. But by the time of Muslim invasion in India we had gone down so much and could not absorb them that the division of the country into two parts today is the outcome of that weakness.

We have therefore to take the problem of solving untouchability into our hands now. Distinctions must be made on the consideration of occupation and not on consideration of birth. In our new constitution we have passed—"Untouchability in any form will be considered as a crime", but this should not remain on the paper only as a dead word. It should be put into practice. It will not help at all, if the Government spends Rupees ten million, hundred millions, or even two hundred millions: we have to amalgamate the untouchables with Hindus and form them into one society. When we go to other countries we have to cast down our heads in shame as we have privileged a dog, in our country, to pollute the water of a tank, but have forbidden a *Harijan* even to touch that water. It is a shameful affair for us. We will therefore remove this blot of infamy from Hindu society by doing away with untouchability. Casting away the distinctions of caste we have to renovate the system of inter-dining amongst us. Only then we will be worthy of occupying a seat with other free nations of the world.

I regret to say very much that even when the country is free, *Harijans* in the East Punjab are being harassed. People of higher classes are compelling them to go to the United Provinces or to the Central Provinces. I toured the country in my jurisdiction and requested the people not to do so. I also requested the Ministers of East Punjab to make such appeals and it is my earnest request to the Central Government also to see that such things do not happen, and those who harass the *Harijans* are dealt with accordingly.

Sir, in the end I request that this resolution may be accepted, and no stone should be left unturned to uplift the *Harijans*.

Mr. Speaker: I should like to be clear about the amendments sought to be moved.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: I do not want to move my amendment but I would like to speak on it. The Honourable Minister has said that he would accept Seth Govind Das's amendment.

Mr. Speaker: There are two amendments in the name of Shri H. J. Khandekar. Does the Honourable Member propose moving them?

Shri H. J. Khandekar: (C.P. and Berar: General): I do not propose to move them but I would like to speak on them.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Sir, ever since 1930 when Mahatma Gandhi said at the Second Round Table Conference that he would resist the separation of the depressed classes from the Hindu community with his life and then in pursuance of his pledge he undertook the great fast in Yeravda Jail, the whole country has been inclined to wipe out this blot on the Hindu community. It is really a matter of great shame that even after 17 years of that great decision of our leader there should be such feeling of bitterness among our *Harijan* friends, which is a real reflection of the situation as it obtains in the country. As one who has been continually moving among the depressed classes and who has devoted since 1930 a great part of his time to the service of these people I can say that it is really very great forbearance on their part that they are not more bitter. Some people who had read the statement of the Honourable Dr. Ambedkar were complaining that the Honourable doctor was very bitter, in spite of the fact that he was a member of the Government. There are some things about which when a man feels bitterly it is better that he should give expression to his feelings rather than conceal them. Nothing that the doctor can say is sufficient to make us realise how cruelly we caste Hindus are still behaving towards the *Harijans*. In this resolution it is suggested that some amount of money should be spent every year to get this blot of untouchability removed. I would give ten times that money if money could wipe out untouchability from our midst but my reading of the situation is different. I have seen people poorer than the *Harijans*. Even rich *Harijans* are worse off than poor caste Hindus, for they suffer from a social leprosy which makes poverty altogether unbearable. So this untouchability is a far bigger problem than a mere economic problem. It is a kind of leprosy which is not attached to any other part of the Hindu community. I spent one year in 1930 among the sweepers of Cawnpore municipality. There are about 1,200 families. I tried to make a survey of each family in that city. I was shocked to see the condition of the houses of those sweepers. The income of those people was ordinarily much more than that of other poorer people in the city. Both their men and women earn from the municipality as well as from private houses. Sometimes their incomes average between Rs. 30 to 40, whereas there are other people in the city who earn Rs. 8 or Rs. 10. But those people who earn Rs. 8 or Rs. 10 were sometimes better off than these sweepers. The entire earnings of the sweepers were taken away by the moneylenders. One moneylender had lent Rs. 10 and for 10 years he had charged them Rs. 1/4 as interest.

In this way these families give whatever they earn to the moneylender and live under his mercy. For nobody else would touch them or have dealings with them. It is not merely an economic problem. This solution would not really help them. It will help them to some extent but not completely. As Mahatma Gandhi has said it requires a complete change of heart on the part of the Hindu community. If you continue the sin of untouchability the Hindu community shall die. I therefore want to say to those friends of mine who represent the caste Hindus, and through them to the whole country at large, that unless we realize the great sin that we have been committing to which our great leader has repeatedly drawn our attention and sincerely wash our hands of the sin we shall not be called a great nation which we should be after the 15th of August. That this untouchability should still continue to exist and be discussed here is I think itself a matter for shame. That some part of our great community should be considered to be unfit even for touch by us, whose shadow pollutes us, is shameful. Even now I have seen villages where people will not allow them to drink water from village wells or to go in *palkis* for marriage. I wish that our Government should take very severe action in such matters. Whatever law may have to be passed I wish that such social disabilities must become a thing of the past and should not be tolerated any more. Although

[श्री एच० जे० खन्डेकर]

रहा वह उसका परिणाम है। यह सब हिन्दू सोसाइटी ने किया और यह बहुत भारी पाप किया। मगर हरिजनों ने इस पर भी हिंदुओं को हर प्रकार की मदद की और उनके लिये अपना खून तक बहाया। सन् १९२४ और १९२७ में जब नागपुर में हिंदू मुसलमानों के झगड़े हुये तब राम-मन्दिर और दूसरे मन्दिरों को बचाने के लिये हरिजनों ने अपना खून बहा दिया और मन्दिरों की रक्षा की थी। अन्त में हमारे हिंदू भाईयों ने हरिजनों को उसका यह इनाम दिया कि उन मन्दिरों पर यह बोर्डस (Boards) लगा दिये कि “अछूतों को आना मना है”। इस तरह से हमारे साथ सलूक किया जाता है। बहुत मेम्बरान और लीडरान मुझसे कहते हैं कि तुम अपने को हरिजन क्यों कहते हो। आप तो हिंदू हैं। मैंने तो कल बताया कि हम-हिंदू हैं और हिंदू ही रहेंगे और हिंदू ही रह कर मरेंगे। मैं उनमें नहीं हूँ कि हिंदू होते हुए अपने को हिंदू न कहें और हिंदू रह कर न मरें। परन्तु आज किसी न किसी स्वार्थ से क्यों न हो उन हरिजन भाइयों की भी आंखें खुल गई और अब वो भी अपने आप को हिंदू कहने लगे। इन सब बातों को देखते हुए जो हरिजनों के ऊपर अन्याय होते हैं और उनकी हालत बुरी है उन सबको दुरुस्त करने के लिये यह प्रस्ताव है। सभापति जी, इस तरह का जब हमारे साथ ट्रीटमेंट (treatment) होता रहा तो हम हरिजनों में एक पक्ष निर्माण हो गया। वह दल यह कहता है कि हमको हमारा हक चाहिये वह नहीं मिला तो नेहरू सरकार को हम तोड़ देंगे। उस दल के नेता डा० अम्बेडकर साहब ने अपनी पुरानी डिमांड्स (Demands) C.A. में वापिस लेने के वाद उनको क्या हक चाहिये यह बात मेरी समझ में नहीं आती और वह इस प्रकार से अंदोलन कर रहा है। उन लोगों के नेता डा० अम्बेडकर आज इस गवर्नमेंट में हैं। डाक्टर अम्बेडकर साहब को इस नेहरू सरकार को तोड़ देने वाले उनके शिष्यों का आंदोलन मालूम है परन्तु वे चुप हैं। इससे नेहरू गवर्नमेंट तोड़ने में उनका भी अंदरूनी हाथ होगा यह अगर मैंने कहा तो मेरी गलती नहीं होगी। डा० साहब हाँस (House) में बैठे हैं और मैं उनके और उनके भक्तों के सम्बंध में बातें उनके मुँह पर बोल रहा हूँ। इन सब बातों को देखते हुए भी आप हरिजनों की हालत पर गौर नहीं करते। अगर ऐसा नहीं किया गया तो इस हिंदुस्तान में मुस्लिम लीग (Muslim league) की तरफ से एक दल ऐसा है जो कि इन हरिजनों को अपने में मिलाकर इस हिंदुस्तान के अंदर एक दूसरा पाकिस्तान पैदा करना चाहता है। इसमें हैदराबाद (Hyderabad State) स्टेट का भी हाथ हो सकता है। दूसरी तरफ से हिंदुस्तान से मुस्लिम लीग तोड़ने की भाषा बोली जाती है। इसके साथ ही साथ कुछ रिएक्शनरी-गट (Reactionary element) अछूतों में भी है जो मुसलमानों के हाथों में मिलने का जाल रच रहा है और इस हिंदुस्तान के अंदर पाकिस्तान बनाना चाहते हैं। उस जाल रचने वाले पार्टी के नेता डा० अम्बेडकर साहब यहां सरकार में बैठे हैं। इस प्रकार का जाल रचने के अपराध पर डा० साहब की पार्टी के कुछ कार्यकर्ता आज भी सी० पी० के जेलों में बन्द हैं।

इन विचारों के ऊपर भी सरकार को ध्यान देना होगा। गौर ही नहीं जैसा कि कल मैंने अपने भाषण में कहा था कि आने वाले बजट में हरिजनों के लिये जरूर कुछ रखा जाना चाहिये। मैं मंत्री महोदया से यह प्रार्थना करूंगा कि वह तो ज्यादातर महात्मा जी के साथ रहती हैं और उनको महात्मा जी के हरिजनों के प्रति क्या खयालात हैं वह उनको मालूम ही होना चाहिये। महात्मा जी ने अपनी प्रार्थना सभा में कहा था अगर इस देश का पहला कोई प्रेसीडेंट (President) बनाया जाय तो वह एक हरिजन स्त्री होनी चाहिये। मगर सभापति जी महात्माजी की यह बात मानने के लिये मिनिस्टर साहिब या और कोई तैयार नहीं है ऐसा मालूम होता है क्योंकि प्रांतों में भी मिनिस्टरी में हरिजनों का लिमिटेड (Limited) नम्बर है। और वह है एक गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया (Government of India) की कैबिनेट में दो से ज्यादा हरिजन नहीं लिये। Ambassadors में, गवर्नर्स (Governors) में और बड़ी नौकरियों में एक भी हरिजन नहीं है। इससे साफ हो जाता है कि हरिजनों के मामले में महात्माजी की बातों की हमारी सरकार के पास में कोई कीमत नहीं है।

एक माननीय सदस्य : West बंगाल में दो हैं।

श्री एच० जे० खन्डेकर : I am subject to correction. I am speaking generally and about those old provinces, where congress took office. West Bengal is a new province where circumstances forced to take two Harijan ministers.

इन चन्द शब्दों के साथ मैं मंत्राणी महोदया से प्रार्थना करूंगा कि इस रेज्यूलेशन (Resolution) को और उसके साथ हमारे दोस्त सेठ गोविन्ददास जी की तरफों को स्वीकार करें और जिसमें ज्यादा से ज्यादा हरिजनों का उद्धार हो ऐसी कोई योजना तुरंत बनावें और उसे काम में लावें। मैं इस रेज्यूलेशन (Resolution) को सपोर्ट (support) करता हूँ। और अपना भाषण समाप्त करता हूँ।

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri H. J. Khandekar: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have withdrawn the notice of amendments given by me to both the Resolution moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Munishwami Pillai and amendment thereto moved by Seth Govind Das. These amendments meant that the Government has provided one crore of rupees each year for the amelioration of the condition of the Harijans. In lieu of this amount, the Government should spend at least ten crore of rupees each year continuously for the next ten years. Simultaneously, a separate Department should be created for the uplift of Harijans and a separate Minister appointed. This was the purport of my amendment. But my Honourable friend Seth Govind Das has brought up an amendment and that is better than mine, because it does not prescribe any limited amount or time. I have, therefore, withdrawn my amendment. If the Government is pledged to the urgency for the immediate redemption of the condition of the Harijans then perhaps it may be possible for them to spend money over and above the target of rupees ten crores for each year and it can then ameliorate the condition of Harijans within the period of ten years and also set up a separate Ministry for

[Shri H. J. Khandekar]

the *Harijans* uplift. Keeping this urgency in view, I am supporting this amendment and that is why I have withdrawn my amendment. I hope that the present popular Government will devote its attention to this matter.

Mr. Speaker, the problem of *Harijans* has today assumed the role of a vital issue in the country. Though it has become important, yet I would assert it is still confined to bare words. I am constrained to say that whenever the problem of *Harijans* is brought up before this House, the members who profess to be friends of *Harijans* leave their seats. If they express real love for *Harijans* then why do they walk-out. Mahatma Gandhi is exerting for their redemption for the last 27 years. He observed at Poona in the year 1932 a fast unto-death for the cause of *Harijans*. During this fast, he exhorted that the *Harijans* should be associated with the Hindus. But even upto now the Hindus look towards the *Harijans* with distorted vision. Their hearts are not clean towards *Harijans*. When Gandhiji says something, the present Government takes immediate action on this and that produces its effect.

But even today Mahatma Gandhi is endeavouring for *Harijan* uplift for the last 27 years; but no action in this respect has upto now been taken by our Government. Just as I stated yesterday, this Government has not provided in the Budget even a single penny for the uplift of *Harijans*. The problem of *Harijans* not being in the interests of the present Government, why should they act upon the advice of Mahatma Gandhi? From this we observe that our Government speaks about the matter from any special or political reasons and not for the uplift of *Harijans*. I was deeply pained to hear the speech of the Honourable Minister of Health. I am not aware if the Honourable Minister of Health knows *Marathi* or not, but Mr. Speaker, you know *Marathi* and *Sant Tukaram* has said "ki javay tiachay vounshi navha karay" which means that until the Honourable Minister herself does not become a *Harijan*, she cannot realize anything about the miseries of the *Harijans*—what is their condition today and what are their requirements. You know Khandekar, Nagappa, Dr. Ambedkar and Shri Jagjivan Ram and then formed a conviction that all the *Harijans* are like them. You have not come across the *Harijans* in those villages where they do not get even drinking water. They have no houses to live, no cloth to put on, no foodgrains to provide them with a square meal, no institution for the education of their children and no medical arrangements during their illness. You have never come in contact with such *Harijans*. How can you then know their conditions? The outcome of the ill-treatment meted out to *Harijans* by the Hindu community would be found from the Census figures for the year 1911 onwards. In the year 1911 the *Harijans* numbered 9½ crores and in 1941 the number has come down to 4½ crores. The number of Muslims in 1911 was five crores and now it has gone upto ten crores. During these 30 years, only four crores of untouchables have been left out of 9½ crores. Who is to be blamed for all this? This is the direct outcome of the treatment meted out to the *Harijans* by the Hindu community and they have committed a great sin. During the years 1924 and 1927 when Hindu-Muslim riots took place in Nagpur, the *Harijans* shed their blood to protect the 'Ram-Mandar' (Lord Rama's Temple) and other temples and had safeguarded the temples. Ultimately our Hindu brethren rewarded the *Harijans* for this by placing boards on these temples "Harijans are prohibited to enter". This is the treatment meted out to us. Many of the members and leaders ask me "Why do you call yourself a *Harijan*? You are a Hindu". I had explained yesterday that we are Hindus, shall remain as Hindus, and die as Hindus. I am not one of those who being a Hindu should not call himself a Hindu and should not die as a Hindu. But the eyes of these *Harijan* brethren have been opened today—may be on account of selfish motives and now they also claim themselves to be Hindus. Keeping all these things in view and the social injustice to which the *Harijans* are subjected to, they are

placed in a sad predicament. To remedy this state of affairs, this Resolution has been moved.

Mr. Speaker, when we were subjected to this sort of treatment, a new party amongst the *Harijans* was formed. That party demands "we want our rights and if we do not get these, we will bring down the Nehru Cabinet". I do not precisely follow what are the rights which Doctor Ambedkar—the leader of that party wants after the withdrawal of his old demands in the Constituent Assembly. The leader of that party Dr. Ambedkar who is carrying on agitation in this manner is today a member of this Government. Dr. Ambedkar is fully aware of the agitation carried on by his followers for the fall of Nehru Government but he is keeping quite silent. He will also be playing some part in this surreptitious move for the fall of the Nehru Government and I am not wrong in saying this. The Honourable Doctor is present in the House and I am exposing things related to him and his devotees right in his face. In view of all this you have to consider over the condition of *Harijans*. If this is not done, then the group that exists in India who is in clique with the Muslim League and wants to set up another Pakistan in the Indian Dominion will swallow the *Harijans*. It is possible that the Hyderabad State may also have some hand in it. On the other hand speeches exhorting the dissolution of the Muslim League in India are being delivered. Simultaneously there also exists some reactionary element amongst the depressed classes who is contriving at joining hands with the Muslims and want to set up Pakistan within this India. The leader of that reactionary party—Honourable Doctor Ambedkar is occupying Treasury Benches here. Many of the workers of the Honourable Doctor's party are still behind the prison bars in the Central Provinces who were found guilty for hatching this conspiracy.

The Government shall have to consider these views. Not merely considering over it, but just as I pointed out yesterday, they should make some provision for *Harijans* in the ensuing budget. I will implore the Honourable Minister of Health that she should be aware of the views which Mahatma Gandhi has towards the *Harijans* since she spends most of her time in his association. Gandhiji had stated in his prayer meeting that when any first President of this Country is elected, it should be a *Harijan* lady. But, Sir, neither the Honourable Minister nor any one else is prepared to act upon the statement of Mahatma Ji. It so looks, because in the Provincial Ministries also there is a limited number of *Harijans*. Not more than two *Harijans* have been included in the Cabinet of the Government of India. There is not a single *Harijan* who holds the office of a Governor or Ambassador or any other high job. From this it follows that this Government has got no regard for the statements of Mahatma Gandhi.

An Honourable Member: There are two in the West Bengal.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: I am subject to correction. I am speaking generally and about those old provinces where Congress took office. West Bengal is a new province where circumstances forced to take two *Harijan* Ministers.

With these few words I would request the Honourable Minister of Health to accept this Resolution along with the amendment moved by my Honourable friend Seth Govind Das. and urgently formulate and act upon a plan which may result in the uplift of *Harijans* to the greatest possible extent. I support this Resolution and close my speech.

पंडित ठाकुरदास भागवत : मान्यनीय स्वीकर साहब, यह रेजोल्यूशन (resolution)

जो जनाब के रुखरू मौजूद है जो मिस्टर मनुस्वामी साहब ने पेश किया है उसके बारे में दो, तीन बातें अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ। मैं सख्त अफसोस करता हूँ कि मैंने जो एमेंडमेंट कल पार्टी के अन्दर दिया था, वह गलती से जनाब के पास नहीं पहुँच सका और चूँकि

[Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena]

the amendment of my Honourable friend Seth Govind Das gives Government full power and does not limit them only to spend Rs. 10 crores per year I would suggest to the Honourable Minister that Government should spend as much as is necessary and take all necessary steps to see that this sin is removed. I was one of those who in the Consenbly made an amendment to remove the provision to treat the Scheduled Castes as a separate community as had been originally suggested by the Minority Rights Committee Report. The Harijans are really a part of the Hindu community. This should not be so merely in name. That is possible only when we refuse to consider those friends of ours as untouchables, as something separate. Our Government must launch a sort of crusade against untouchability after making a comprehensive all round plan.

Sir, I support the amendment of Seth Govind Das and I hope that all the aspects of the problem will be borne in mind. I trust that within five years this thing will be a thing of the past and shall not tarnish the fair name of the Hindu community and of our country any more.

(At this stage Mr. Khandekar stood up to speak).

Shri M. S. Aney (Deccan and Madras States Group): Sir, Mr. Khandekar has spoken on the Resolution.

Mr. Speaker: Has the honourable member spoken already on this Resolution?

Some Honourable Members: He has not spoken.

Mr. Speaker: So far as the official reports go, I find the Honourable Member has not spoken. As he has put in an amendment his views should be heard so that other speakers may have an occasion to hear them before making their observations.

श्री एच० जे० खण्डेकर: सभापति महोदय, मेरे लायक दोस्त मुनिस्वामी पिल्लाई ने जो रेज्यूलेशन पेश किया है और उसके साथ सेठ गोविन्द दास जी ने जो एमैंडमेंट पेश किया है उन दोनों के लिये मैंने संशोधन भेजे थे जिनको मैंने अब वापिस ले लिये हैं। इन संशोधनों का अर्थ यह था कि सरकार ने हरिजनों के उद्धार के लिये हर साल एक करोड़ रुपया खर्च करने के लिये रक्खा है उसकी जगह पर सरकार को लगातार दस साल तक हर साल दस करोड़ रुपया खर्च करना चाहिये। साथ ही साथ हरिजनों के उद्धार के लिये एक अलग डिपार्टमेंट खोला जाय और एक अलग मिनिस्टर बनाया जाय। यह मेरे संशोधन का अर्थ था। लेकिन मेरे लायक दोस्त सेठ गोविन्ददास एक संशोधन ले आये हैं और वह मेरे संशोधन से अच्छा है क्योंकि उसमें लिमिटेड (limited) पैसा और लिमिटेड टाइम नहीं है इसलिये मैंने अपना संशोधन वापिस ले लिया। सरकार अगर इस बात के ऊपर डटी रहे कि हरिजनों का उद्धार जल्दी से जल्दी किया जाय तो शायद हर साल दस करोड़ से भी ज्यादा रुपया खर्च कर सकती है। और दस साल के अंदर ही अंदर हरिजनों का उद्धार कर सकती है। और हरिजन उद्धार के लिये अलग मिनिस्टरी भी बना सकती है। इस जरूरत को लेकर मैं इस संशोधन को सपोर्ट कर रहा हूँ और मैंने अपना संशोधन इसीलिये वापिस लिया। मुझे आशा है कि आज की पापुलर सरकार इस ओर ध्यान देगी।

सभापति जी, हरिजनों का मामला आज देश में एक अहम मामला हो गया है। अहम तो वह हो गया है मगर मैं तो कहूंगा कि वह सिर्फ कोरे ही शब्दों में रह गया है।

जब-जब हरिजनों का सवाल इस हाउस के सामने आता है तो मुझे बहुत दुःख के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि इस हाउस के जो मॅबर अपने को हरिजनों से प्रेम करने वाले कहते हैं वह हरिजनों के मामले के वक़्त अपनी जगहों से बाहर चले जाते हैं। जब कि वह हरिजनों के प्रति सच्चा प्रेम दिखलाते हैं तब बाहर जाने का नज़ारा हमारे सामने क्यों आ जाता है? महात्मा गांधी जी इस उद्धार के कार्य के लिये करीब २७ साल से प्रयत्न कर रहे हैं। उन्होंने हरिजनों के लिये सन् १९३२ ई० में पूना में एक आमरण अनशन किया। उन्होंने इस उपवास में यह कहा कि हरिजनों को हिंदुओं के साथ रक्खा जाय। मगर अभी तक हिंदू हरिजनों को टेढ़ी ही नजर से देखते हैं। हरिजनों के लिए उनके दिल साफ नहीं हैं। महात्मा गांधी जी अगर कोई छोटी सी बात कहते हैं तो आज की सरकार उस पर फौरन कार्रवाही करती है और उसमें उसको असर आ जाता है। मगर आज २७ वर्षों से महात्मा गांधी जी हरिजनोद्धार की कोशिश कर रहे हैं मगर हमारी सरकार की तरफ से अभी तक इस ओर कुछ कार्रवाई नहीं की गई है। जैसा कि मैंने कल कहा था कि सरकार के इस वजत में हरिजनों के उद्धार के लिये एक पैसा भी नहीं रक्खा। हरिजनों का जो मसला है वह आज की सरकार के सुविधा के लिये कोई फायदेमन्द नहीं है इसलिये वह महात्मा गांधीजी की बात को भी क्यों मानें? इससे हमें यही मालूम होता है कि किसी खास कारण से या राजनैतिक कारण से यह बात हमारी सरकार से बोली जाती है हरिजनों के सुधार के लिये नहीं। मैंने मिनिस्टर आफ हेल्थ की तकरीर सुनी तो मुझे बड़ा दुःख हुआ। मुझे मालूम नहीं कि मिनिस्टर साहब मराठी जानती हैं या नहीं मगर सभापति जी आप तो मराठी जानते हैं और संत तुकाराम जी ने यह कहा है “कि जावे त्याचे वौशी नेव्हा कडे” उसका अर्थ यह है कि जब तक मिनिस्टर साहब आप खुद हरिजन नहीं बनते तब तक आप हरिजनों के दुःखों के बारे में क्या जान सकते हैं कि वह आज किस स्थिति में हैं और उनको क्या चाहिये। आपने तो खांडेकर को देख लिया, नगप्पा को देख लिया, और डाक्टर अम्बेडकर साहब को देख लिया, जग जीवनराम जी को देख लिया और यह धारणा बना ली कि सभी हरिजन इस अवस्था में होंगे। आपने उन देहातों में हरिजनों को नहीं देखा जिनको पीने के लिये भी पानी नहीं मिलता। रहने के लिये घर नहीं, पहनने के लिये कपड़ा नहीं, खाने के लिये पेट भर अनाज नहीं, बच्चों की पढ़ाई के लिये कोई व्यवस्था नहीं और जिनकी बीमारी में कोई दवा का इंतजाम नहीं है। ऐसे हरिजन आपके सामने कभी नहीं आये हैं। तो आप उनकी हालत क्या जानें? हरिजनों के प्रति हिंदू जाति का जो बुरा व्यवहार है उसका परिणाम आपको १९११ की सेंसस (census) से लेकर १९४१ के सेंसस (census) तक देखने से मिल सकता है। सन् १९११ में हरिजनों की तादाद ९॥ करोड़ थी और सन् १९४१ में सिर्फ अब ४ करोड़ रह गयी है। और मुसलमान सन् १९११ ई० में ५ करोड़ थे और अब १० करोड़ मुसलमान हो गये हैं। इन ३० सालों के अंदर ९॥ करोड़ अछूतों में से अब ४ करोड़ अछूत रह गये हैं। यह सब किसका कसूर है। यह केवल हिंदू समाज का हरिजनों के प्रति जो व्यवहार

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

(Hinduism) हिन्दुइजम रहेगा न हिन्दुस्तानी रहेंगे। यह सारा सवाल इस तरह का है कि हमारी रोहानी जिन्दगी और मौत का सवाल है। हमारे लिये आज यह सवाल नहीं है जैसा खांडेकर साहब कहते हैं कि अछूत मुसलमानों से लड़ेंगे मैं यह परवाह नहीं करता कि यहां मुसलमान रहेंगे या नहीं या मुसलिम लीग रहेगी या नहीं और अछूत मुसलमनों से लड़ाई के समय हिंदुओं का साथ देंगे। मैं इस सवाल की merits (मैटर्स) पर कहना चाहता हूं कि हम अछूतपने को कायम रख कर जिंदा नहीं रह सकते और न रहना चाहते हैं। इनको बराबरी का दरजा देकर ही हम जिंदा रहेंगे। मैं मिस्टर खांडेकर साहब से कहना चाहता हूं कि जितनी उन्होंने अपील की है हमारी Hon'ble Minister of Health से, उनका अपील करना फिजूल है। अगर राजकुमारी अमृतकौर महात्मा गांधी की जो भक्त हैं उनकी तकलीफ को नहीं जानतीं, अगर वह इस चीज को नहीं समझतीं तो मैं अदब से कहना चाहता हूं कि इस हाउस का कोई मेम्बर नहीं समझता मुझे पूरा अहसास है कि हमारी मिनिस्टर साहिबा इस पर पूरी तबज्जह देंगी और यह Resolution यहीं तक महद्द नहीं रहेगा बल्कि इसको अमली जामा पहनाया जायगा। और अगले तीन चार सालों में हम देखेंगे कि इस कदर तबदीली आजायगी कि (Scheduled Castes) शिड्डलड कास्ट्रेस का नाम उड़ जायगा और हमें कहने कि जुरंत हो जायगी कि Constituent Assembly जब आई तो उसने इस तमीज को कायम नहीं रक्खा और अछूतों को मुनासिब जगह हिन्दुस्तान में दिलाई कि वह सब बाकी जनता के बराबर व हमसर हो गये।

(English translation of the above speech).

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Honourable Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have to say something about the Resolution which has been brought before the House by Mr. Mannushwami. I regret to find that due to some mistake the amendment which I gave to my party yesterday has not reached you. I do not want to move this amendment for it is too late now to do so. The amendment moved by Seth Govind Das comes very near mine. It will suffice, therefore, if I support the amendment moved by Seth Govind Das. I do not feel it proper to either sermonise on *Harijans* before this House or to criticise the policy of the Government regarding the *Harijans*. I like to say some thing about a few aspects of this Resolution. In my opinion it is not proper for us to fix the sum of a few crores for this work. As a matter of fact, the Resolution presented to us is so limited that, if we do not take into consideration the Educational Grant, it becomes too narrow to deserve any amount. What is required at this time is that the Government should endeavour to put these things into practice with as much force as it can.

The question of sites for the houses for *Harijans* cannot be solved with money alone. It is not possible for the Government to spend one crore or ten crores of rupees for purchasing lands for housing at different places. It is neither possible for the Government to give it gratuitously to the *Harijans*. Will this gift of houses solve the problem of untouchability. Impossible! The fact is that the *Harijans* do not have the "inheritable rights" over the houses they live in. In the Punjab and in Delhi they do not have the right even to purchase lands. In the Assembly of 1927, I put the first question of this kind to the House; but I failed to get a satisfactory reply. It is a very bad system, and

unfortunately, it exists for the *Harijans* even today; all the houses occupied by the *Harijans* are "Non-proprietary" houses. Even when a *Harijan* dies, his house can neither be given to any of his relatives nor can it be sold. To remove this 'disability' the law must be amended. So that all the houses of *Harijans* should be on "tenure property basis". They should have the right to construct *Pacca* houses, to sell them and to inherit them.

Unfortunately, I happen to belong to a place where people do not get enough water to drink. I feel that separate wells should not be made for the *Harijans*. I am strongly against the view that new drinking wells should be constructed for the *Harijans*. So long as the *Harijans* themselves desire to build separate wells, they should be given all the facilities; the Government should immediately acquire lands for them. But if the wells have to be made by the Government, they should be open to all, irrespective of caste or creed. It is easy to say that there should be no untouchability; but it is difficult to enforce it in the villages. This is not such a thing as can be solved simply by legislative measures.

I have listened to many speeches made in this House on the question of Education in the Schools. Due to the kind efforts of Mahatma Gandhi the Constituent Assembly have recognised this thing as among fundamental rights of a man. I remember the day when in the year 1928 late Lala Lajpat Rai moved an Amendment in the then Assembly to the effect that the *Harijans* should have equal rights for drawing water from the wells, for using the public highways and for taking employments under the Government; I remember that he asked the Government to spend one crore of rupees for the uplift of the *Harijans*. The amendment could not be passed by the House; many members voted against it. But the days have changed. So far as it is a question of rights we need not enter into much discussion. Let every *Harijan* student studying in the schools in the countryside receive a scholarship; let every teacher get this help who teaches them. Does not matter how small it is, but let them have it nevertheless. As regards the Colleges, I find that many

1 P.M. youngmen come into our districts; who want to carry on their studies in the colleges; they are poor and no amount of money would be too much for helping them.

This Government of ours and the Constituent Assembly stand 'committed' to the fact that *Harijans* must get equal rights. This can be achieved not through spending money like that but through a change of our hearts. If capable *Harijans* are available they should be recruited to Superior Posts. This Resolution makes no mention of it. It is very narrow in its outlook; and it should not have been brought before this House like that. With respect, Sir, I submit, that if we follow this policy, if we give them good jobs, this problem will be solved to a great extent. For the last two years, since I have been elected to this Assembly, I have been requesting the Government that besides the ordinary posts, the *Harijans* should be given all such jobs for which they are eligible. Time and again, I have reiterated that for some years recruitment to the Government Services should be made only from amongst the scheduled castes; so long as an educated *Harijan* is available he should be taken into the Government. *Harijans* should be recruited in the Police; they should be given the posts of *Patwaris*, *Girdawars*, Schoolmasters, and Headmasters, etc. These posts will remove the inferiority complex which prevails among them. There is a *Tehsildar* in the district of Hissar. By caste he is a Chamar (tanner). The latter class feel proud of this *Tehsildar*. Let the *Harijans* get their due share in the Superior Services. Let a regulation be made that for the Scheduled Castes there is no question of percentage.

I fully share the belief held by Mahatma Gandhi that there will be left in this country neither Hinduism nor any Indian so long as 'Untouchability' remains in India. This is a question of our spiritual life and death. The question before us today is not as my friend Mr. Khandekar has said that the scheduled

[पण्डित ठाकुरदास भागवत]

इसमें बहुत देर होगई है, इसलिये मैं इस ऐमेंडमेंट को मूव नहीं करना चाहता। मैंने जो ऐमेंडमेंट भेजा था उसको किसी हद तक सेठ गोविन्द दास का जो ऐमेंडमेंट है, उससे वह मतलब हल हो जाता है। इस वजह से मैं इस पर इकतफा करूंगा कि सेठ गोविन्द दास ने जो ऐमेंडमेंट दिया है, उसको समर्थन करूं। मैं यह मुनासिब नहीं समझता कि जनाब के रूबरू हरिजनों के मसले पर कोई लेक्चर झाड़ू, या हरिजनों की पालिसी के ऊपर कुछ अर्ज करूं। मैं तो जो यह रेजोलेशन जनाब के सामने है, उसके चन्द प्रैक्टिकल (Practical) पहलुओं पर अर्ज करना चाहता हूं। मेरे ख्याल के मुताबिक एक करोड़ या पांच करोड़ या दस करोड़ की रकम का तायून करना हमारे वास्ते मुनासिब नहीं है। असलियत यह है कि जितना छोटा यह रेजोलेशन जनाब के रूबरू पेश किया गया है, उसमें से अगर एजुकेशनल ग्राण्ट (Educational grant) को निकाल दिया जाय, तो बाकी जो टुकड़ा रह जाता है, वह इतना 'narrow' है कि उस पर किसी रकम को खर्च करने की जरूरत नहीं है। अगर जरूरत है तो इस वक्त यह है कि गवर्नमेंट बड़े जोर शोर से इन बातों की अमली तौर से कराने की चेष्टा करे। मसलन् हाउस साइट्स ('housesites') का मामला सिर्फ रुपये के खर्च से तय नहीं हो सकता, एक करोड़ रुपये के खर्च से या दस करोड़ रुपये के खर्च से यह मुमकिन नहीं है कि गवर्नमेंट 'housing' के वास्ते सब जगह जमीन खरीदे और हरिजनों को मुफ्त जमीन मकानों की वह देदे। क्या इससे उनका मामला तय हो जायगा। हरगिज नहीं। असल सवाल यह है कि हरिजनों के जो मकानात हैं, उनमें उनको 'inheritable rights' हासिल नहीं हैं। पंजाब में और देहली में हरिजनों को जमीन खरीदने का भी अख्तियार नहीं है। सन् १९२७ में मैंने सबसे अव्वल एक सवाल इस अम्ब का इस असेम्बली में भेजा था, जिसका जवाब मुझे तसल्ली बख्श नहीं मिला। यह बड़ा खराब सिस्टम (system) है जो बदकिस्मती से हरिजनों के लिये आज तक कायम है कि हरिजनों के मकान 'non-proprietary' मकान हैं। एक हरिजन चाहे मर जाय, वह मकान अपने रिश्तेदार को नहीं दे सकता। न उसको बेच सकता है। इस खराबी (disability) को दूर करने के लिये तरमीम कानून में होनी चाहिये न कि हरिजनों के जितने मकान हैं उनका 'tenure proprietary basis' पर हो जाय। उनको अख्तियार होगा कि मकान पक्के बना सकें और उनको बेच सकें और अपने रिश्तेदारों को 'inherit' करा सकें। मैं बदकिस्मती से ऐसे इलाके से आता हूं, जहां बहुत से लोगों को पानी पीने को नहीं मिलता। मैं चाहता हूं कि सिर्फ हरिजनों के वास्ते अलहिदा कुएँ न बनवाये जायें। मैं इस बात का सख्त मुखालिफ हूं कि हरिजनों के वास्ते अलहिदा 'drinking wells' ड्रिंकिंग वेलस बनाये जाय। जहां तक हरिजन खुद अपने वास्ते बनाना चाहते हैं उनको पूरी 'facilities' दी जाय। सरकार फौरन उनके लिये जमीन acquire करे। अगर सरकार कुएँ बनावे तो कुएँ सब जाति वालों के लिये एकसां open होने चाहिये। यह कहना कि कोई छूतछात न-रहे, आसान

है, लेकिन इसको गांवों में enforce करना मुश्किल है। यह चीज महज Legislative measure से हल होने वाली नहीं है। जहां तक स्कूली शिक्षा का सम्बंध है, मैंने उसके मुतल्लिक हाउस में बड़ी बड़ी तकरीर सुनी हैं। महात्मा गांधी की कृपा से विधान परिषद् ने इस चीज को तस्लीम कर लिया। मुझे वह दिन याद है जब सन् १९२८ में इस जगह से लाला लाजपत राय ने एक Amendment पेश किया, कि हरिजनों के कुओं से पानी लेने का व सड़क के इस्तमाल का व नौकरियों का पूरा अधिकार हो और एक करोड़ रुपया गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया अछूतों के वास्ते दे। वह उस वक्त हाउस में यह प्रस्ताव पास नहीं हो सका और बहुत से लोगों ने उसके बरखिलाफ वोट दिया। लेकिन आज वह जमाना गुजर गया। जहां तक हक का सवाल है, उस पर ज्यादा बहस करने की जरूरत नहीं है। गांव में स्कूलों में जो हरिजन लड़के पढ़ते हैं उनको हर एक को आप बजीफा दें और हर एक मास्टर को दें जो उनको पढ़ाता है। चाहे कितना ही थोड़ा दें लेकिन पढ़ने वाले छात्र को लड़की हो या लड़का और पढ़ाने वाले को फी छात्र कुछ न कुछ जरूर दें।

जहां तक कालेजज (Colleges) के सवाल हैं मैं देखता हूं कि कितने ही लड़के हमारे जिलों में आते हैं वह कालेजों में पढ़ना चाहते हैं, वह गरीब हैं, इसलिये उनके ऊपर जितना रुपया खर्च किया जाय कम है। यह सारी गवर्नमेंट और (Constituent Assembly, committee) (कान्स्टीटुयन्ट एसेम्बली) 'कमीटिड' है कि अछूतों को बराबरी का दर्जा दिया जाय, लेकिन यह इस तरह रुपया ही देने से नहीं होगा यह तो Change of heart हो तभी होगा। जहां आप बड़ी नौकरियां देते हैं वहां हरिजनों में जो लायक हों उनको नौकरियां दें। उसके लिये इस (Resolution) रैजोल्यूशन में तो जिक्र नहीं है, क्योंकि यह (Resolution) रैजोल्यूशन बहुत (narrow) नैरो है जो हाउस (House) के अंदर इस तरीके से आना नहीं चाहिये था, लेकिन मैं अदब से अर्ज करूंगा कि अगर आप ऐसा करेंगे, उनको नौकरियां देंगे तो उनका सवाल काफी हल हो जायगा। मैं दो साल से जब से इस assembly में आया हूं हमेशा बजट के मौके पर अर्ज करता रहा हूं कि मामूली नौकरियां जो उनको दी जाती हैं उनके अतिरिक्त जितनी नौकरियां इनको देनी मुमकिन हैं दी जायें—जब तक पढ़ा लिखा नौकरी के लायक हरिजन मिल सके कुछ वर्ष के लिये औरों को न दी जावें। हरिजनों को पुलिस में भरती करें, इनको प्रतवारी, गिरदावर बनावें, स्कूल मास्टर व हैड मास्टरी की नौकरियां दें—इन नौकरियों से इनको बराबरी का अहसास होगा। जिले हिसार में एक चमार तहसीलदार है, इस वजह से चमार अपना Status ऊंचा समझने लगे हैं। बड़ी नौकरियों में इनको पूरा हिस्सा दीजिये। और काफी मुद्दत तक जब तक इनको बराबरी का अहसास न हो इनके लिये एक रूल बना दीजिये कि अछूतों के लिये (percentage) प्रसेन्टेज का कोई सवाल नहीं है कि उनका (percentage) प्रसेन्टेज क्या है। मैं महात्मा गांधी के इस अकीदे में पूरा विश्वास रखता हूं कि अगर हिंदुस्तान के अन्दर अछूतपन रहेगा तो न

[Dr. Dharam Prakash]

to say is that the problem before the House is so serious that it is rather difficult for men like Mr. Bhaigava to appreciate its seriousness. Just visit these places, Sir, which are threatened with the outbreak of epidemics. These are inhabited by the *Harijans*. If nothing more can be done, let the Central Government at least try to improve the sanitary conditions of these localities. This requires badly both money and proper management. It becomes obligatory, therefore, on the Central Government to spend liberal amounts for purchasing lands and for constructing good houses in all possible ways so that a *Harijan* is also enabled to live the life of a human being.

Mr. Speaker: The House may now adjourn till 2-30 in the afternoon.

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

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half-Past Two of the Clock.

Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

डाक्टर धर्म प्रकाश: सभापति महोदय, इससे पूर्व कि मैं आपके सामने अपने विचार रखूँ पहिले दो बातें आपके सामने रखना चाहता हूँ। पहली बात पानी के सम्बंध में है जो मूल प्रस्ताव का आशय है। कुएं और नलों की तकलीफ अगर आपको देखनी है तो आप देहात में जाइये। आजकल के जमाने में भी हरिजन गंदे तलाबों में से पानी लेने के लिये मजबूर हो रहे हैं। प्रांतीय सरकारों ने इस चीज को रोकने के लिये कानून भी बनाये, आंदोलन भी किया, मगर दुःख के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि हरिजनों को अभी इस कठिनाई का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। प्रांतीय सरकारों ने यह कानून भी बनाया कि उनको सार्वजनिक कुओं, तलाबों और नलों से पानी लेने की सुविधा मिल जाय मगर सब व्यर्थ ही रहा है। पानी मनुष्य के लिये एक आवश्यक चीज है इसलिये गवर्नमेंट का कर्तव्य है कि इस की सुविधा हरिजनों के लिये अवश्य प्रदान करें। हमारी सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट (Central Government) को अपने बजट में इस के लिये अधिक से अधिक गुंजाइश रखनी चाहिये। इसे केवल प्रांतीय सरकारों का ही विषय नहीं समझना चाहिये।

दूसरी बात हरिजनों के मकान के सम्बंध में है। आज लाखों दलित वर्ग के लोग बे घर बार हैं और करोड़ों प्राणी तो ऐसी बस्तियों में रहते हैं जहां जाकर आप नाक बंद करके भी खड़े नहीं हो सकते। शहरों में आप मेहतर भाइयों के और गांव में चमड़ा पकाने वरंगने वाले चर्मकार भाइयों की बस्तियों में जाइये तो आपको पता चलेगा कि वे नारकीय जीवन बिताने को मजबूर हो रहे हैं। देहात में प्रांतीय सरकारों ने ग्राम सुधार के जरिये उनकी सफाई और कुएं इत्यादि के लिये कुछ सुविधा रखी हैं किंतु वह इतनी सीमित हैं कि जिले के केंद्र के उन चन्द गांवों के अतिरिक्त अन्य गांवों में उस स्कीम के द्वारा कुछ भी सुधार का काम नहीं किया जा सकता। इसी प्रकार शहर की म्यूनिसिपलिटियां और कारपोरेशन (Municipalities and Corporation) में भी उनकी बस्तियों की हालत सुधारने में आर्थिक कठिनाई की आड़ लेती हैं।

इसके अतिरिक्त जो मैं कहना चाहता हूँ वह यह है जैसा कि हमारे खांडेकर साहब ने कहा है कि कुछ हरिजन मुस्लिम लीग से पैक्ट (Pact) करके भारत में भी पाकिस्तान बनाने का षडयंत्र कर रहे हैं। यह कोई महत्वपूर्ण खतरा नहीं है सबसे बड़ा खतरा तो यह है कि महात्मा गांधी ने अपना अधिकांश जीवन इस उद्धार के लिये खर्च कर दिया है उनका

कहना है कि वगैर हरिजनों के उन्नति के हम देश की उन्नति नहीं कर सकते। उनको समाज में बराबर के अधिकार होने ही चाहियें। पूज्य गांधी जी ने सन् १९३२ ई० में कहा था कि जब तक हरिजनों की वास्तविक उन्नति नहीं हो जाती तब तक मैं अपने को उनके पास गिरवी समझता हूँ। मैं आपसे यह अपील करता हूँ कि राष्ट्रीय सरकार के होते हुए हमें वास्तविक उद्धार करना चाहिये ताकि कम से कम महात्मा गांधी जी को तो गिरवी होने से छुड़ा सकें यदि हम ऐसा न कर सकें तो यह हमारे समाज और राष्ट्र के लिये एक धब्बे की बात होगी। भार्गव साहब ने जैसा कहा कि ब्रिटिश गवर्नमेंट (British Government) ने स्वर्गीय लाला लाजपतराय के एक करोड़ के संशोधन को पिछली सेंट्रल असेम्बली (Central Assembly) में ठुकरा दिया था जिसकी देश के कोने कोने से निन्दा की गई थी, वह हमारी राष्ट्रीय सरकार न करेगी और न कोई इसका विरोध ही करेगा। मैं आपसे यह अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे सामने एक करोड़, ५ करोड़ और दस करोड़ का सवाल नहीं है। बल्कि सवाल यह है कि किस प्रकार समस्या का हल किया जाय। हरिजनों को समान अधिकारी बनाने के लिये गवर्नमेंट का मुख्य कर्तव्य है कि वह बजट (Budget) में अधिक से अधिक गुंजाइश रखे। बदलती हुई परिस्थिति को सामने रखते हुए मैं कह सकता हूँ कि आज हरिजनों के उत्थान का ईसाई, मुसलमान, पार्सी, सिख, हिंदू कोई विरोधी नहीं है। अतः इसे विवाद का विषय न बना कर सरकार को स्वयं चाहिये कि मूल प्रस्ताव और संशोधन को तुरंत स्वीकार करले।

इसके साथ ही साथ जसा खांडेकर साहब ने संशोधन रखा था कि एक अलग डिपार्टमेंट (Department) एक हरिजन मिनिस्टर के मातहत हरिजनों के लिये होना चाहिये उन्होंने वापिस ले लिया इस संशोधन को वापिस ले लेने पर मैं ज्यादा जोर नहीं देता फिर भी इतना अवश्य कहूंगा कि आज जो नौकरियां हरिजनों को निश्चित कर रखी हैं वह भी उन्हें प्राप्त नहीं हो रही हैं और सही तौर पर ऐसे होनहार नवयुवकों की कोई सुनने वाला नहीं है। अतः मैं चाहता हूँ कि वर्तमान मिनिस्टरों में से ही किसी एक के सुपुर्द हरिजनों का महकमा कर दिया जावे ताकि हरिजनों का कष्ट दूर हो और शिकायत का अवसर न मिले।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस प्रस्ताव का और सेठ गोविन्द दास जी ने जो संशोधन रखा है उसका समर्थन करता हूँ और मैं आप से अपील करता हूँ कि जल्दी से जल्दी इन कार्यों को अमली जामा पहनाने की कोशिश की जाय।

Dr. Dharam Prakash: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I give my own views on the Resolution, I feel I should draw your attention to two facts. The first concerns the water supply which is the object of the original Bill. You must go to the villages if you want to acquaint yourself with the problem of wells, pipes and taps. Even in these days the *Harijans* are forced to draw water from stagnant water pools which stink. To check it laws were enacted by the Provincial Governments; agitations were made, but I am pained to say that, in spite of all this, the *Harijans* have still to face this difficulty. The Provincial Governments even made laws to enable them to draw water from the public

castes will fight against the Muslims. I do not care whether the Muslims and the Muslim League will remain here or not; I do not care whether the Scheduled Castes will side the Hindus or the Muslims in the event of a war between the two communities. It is on the merits of this question, I say that we will be wiped out of existence if 'untouchability' is allowed to continue in India. We must give equal rights to all if we have to exist. May I tell Mr. Khandekar, that the appeals he has made to the Honourable Minister for Health, are not of much use. Shrimati Rajkumari Amrit Kaur is a disciple of Mahatma Gandhi; and if she does not appreciate the difficulties of the *Harijans*, then, with respect I would submit, Sir, that none of us here can do it. I have full confidence that our Honourable Minister for Health will devote her attention to it; I hope this Resolution will not remain only on the records but will be put into practice. I feel confident that in the next three or four years there will be such changes as will eliminate the very words 'scheduled caste'. Let us hope that we shall be enabled to say that the first thing our Constituent Assembly did was that it put an end to the bad system of untouchability, gave equal rights to the scheduled castes and brought them on equal footing with all.

डा. धर्म प्रकाश सभापति महोदय, मैं अधिक बहस में नहीं पड़ना चाहता

कि हिंदुओं और हरिजनों के तालुकात क्या हैं और न इस बहस के लिये समय है। इस समय तो प्रश्न अपने सामने यह है कि जो प्रस्ताव आपके सामने उपस्थित किया गया है और जो रुपये की मांग की गई है इसके लिये जरूर स्वीकार किया जाना चाहिये।

मैं समझता हूँ कि सब से अच्छा यह होता कि हमारे (Finance Minister) फ़ाईनेन्स मिनिस्टर साहब अपना फ़ाईनेन्स बिल पेश करते समय खुद इस बात का ख्याल करते और उसमें इसकी गुंजाइश रखते। लेकिन वह नहीं हुआ। इसी लिये शायद इस बहस की थोड़ी बहुत जरूरत महसूस हो रही है। मगर मैं समझता हूँ कि आज परिस्थिति बतलाती है और हमारा जो कुछ हाल है उस पर मैं कह सकता हूँ कि शायद ही इस हाउस के अन्दर कोई भी व्यक्ति ऐसा हो जो इस बात को न चाहता हो कि यह हक दिया जाय। जब बहुत से सदस्य इस बात को चाहते हैं और हरिजनों का इस पर आन्दोलन भी हुआ और साथ ही गवर्नमेंट भी हमारी इस बात के लिये (bound) बाउन्ड है और वह कह चुकी है कि हम अस्पृश्यता की इस खराबी को दूर करने में कोई कसर बाकी न रखेंगे। ऐसी अवस्था में इस बहस में पड़ना मैं समझता हूँ मुनासिब नहीं है लेकिन मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि आज क्या ही अच्छा होता कि इस प्रस्ताव के पास होने से पहले हमारे फ़ाईनेन्स मिनिस्टर (Finance Minister) या हमारे (Prime Minister) प्राईम मिनिस्टर साहब स्वयं इस बात को स्वीकार कर अपना ऐलान कर देते कि एक करोड़ क्या दस करोड़ भी खर्च करना पड़ा तो हम उसे स्वीकार करेंगे।

एक बात मैं और अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ। भार्गव साहब ने कहा कि जहां तक मकान और जमीनों को देने का प्रश्न है गवर्नमेंट उसे कभी नहीं कर सकती कि वह जमीन खरीदे और हरिजनों को मुफ्त जमीन दे, या इसी प्रकार रुपया खर्च करके अलग मकान बनवायें उन्होंने पंजाब की हालत बयान की कि पंजाब में यह दिक्कत है कि वहां हरिजन जमीन नहीं खरीद सकते। लेकिन उन्हें नहीं भूलना चाहिये कि आज जहां जमीनें खरीदने का उन्हें अधिकार भी है, वहां लाखों जगहें ऐसी हैं जहां रहने के लिये जगह तो क्या आप वहां जाना

भी पसंद नहीं करेंगे। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि वहां के लोगों का यह फर्ज है कि उनके रहने सहने का इंतजाम करें, लेकिन वह नहीं करते। मुझे यह भी मालूम है कि हमारी प्रांतीय सरकारों ने ग्राम सुधार के जरिये यह कोशिश की कि उनकी बस्तियां अच्छी बन जावें, लेकिन उन्होंने जो ग्राम सुधार की कमेटियां बनाई हुई हैं धन की कमी के कारण वह तमाम काम कर नहीं सकतीं। मेरे कहने का मंशा यह है कि हाउस का मसला इतना गंभीर है कि भार्गव साहब जैसे आदमियों का देखना मुश्किल है आप ऐसी बस्तियों में जायें जहां बीमारी फैलने वाली है। हरिजन लोग वहां रहते हैं, वहां अगर कुछ भी नहीं हो सकता है तो कम से कम केंद्रीय गवर्नमेंट के जरिये उनकी बस्तियों को स्वच्छ जगहों में बसाया जाय।

इस कार्य के लिये रुपये और सही प्रबंध की अत्यंत आवश्यकता है। अतः केंद्रीय सरकार का कर्तव्य हो जाता है कि वह उदारता पूर्वक अपने फंड (fund) से जमीन और अच्छे मकान बनवाने की हर प्रकार सुविधा प्रदान कर अपने कर्तव्य का पालन करे। ताकि हरिजन भी दूसरों की भांति मानव जीवन उन्नति बना सकें।

(English translation of the above speech).

Dr. Dharam Prakash (U. P.: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to prolong the discussion on the relations existing between the Hindus and the *Harijans*. I do not think we have got much time for it either. The question which faces us at this time is whether or not we should accept the demands made by the Resolution that has been presented to us.

I think it would have been better if our Honourable Finance Minister had himself paid attention to it and had made provisions for it in the budget that was presented to us. But that he has not done. Perhaps that is why we are feeling the necessity of this debate. I realised that our present circumstances advise us to give equal rights to the *Harijans*; and I am sure, there is none in this House who will dissent. The Government of India have already proclaimed that no pain will be spared in putting an end to the practice of untouchability. When a large number of the representatives of the people desire this change, when the *Harijans* have already been agitating and when the Government feel bound to do it, I think, there will be little use entering into arguments and making it a point for a debate. I wish that before the Resolution is put to vote, it should be accepted and announced by the Honourable the Finance Minister, or by the Honourable Prime Minister himself, that they were prepared to spend not only one crore of rupees for this work, but, if need be, they would spend even ten crores.

Sir, I would like to say one thing more. Mr. Bhargava stated that so far as it was the question of giving lands and houses, the Government could not afford to buy and give these to the *Harijans* gratuitously. He told us that the Government could neither afford to construct separate houses for them. Talking about the Punjab, he said that the *Harijans* were not permitted to buy lands. But, Sir, let him not forget that these *Harijans* have been allowed to buy lands; but, it is a pity, that these places are such that not to say of living there one would not like even to go there. I like to say that it is the duty of the public to see that these men are properly accommodated. But that they do not do.

I am not unaware of the fact that the Provincial Governments endeavoured to improve the conditions of these localities by means of the Rural Uplift Campaigns. But the Rural Uplift Committees appointed for making these campaigns a success are handicapped by the shortage of funds. What I mean

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wells, tanks and taps, but all this has borne no fruits. Water is a prime necessity of man. It should be the duty of the Government to see that the *Harijans* get this facility. Our Central Government must make the maximum provision for it in their Budget. It should not be thought that this is a subject only for the Provincial Governments.

The second thing concerns the houses for the *Harijans*. Lakhs of Scheduled Caste men are without any houses; and crores of them are living in such places which are too stinking to let you stand there. If you visit the localities of the sweepers in the cities and of tanners in the countryside you will feel that they have been forced to pass their time in a virtual hell. The Provincial Governments have no doubt taken steps to improve their lot in the villages. By means of the Rural Uplift Campaigns they have attempted to give them the facilities of wells and sanitation. But this scheme is too limited to be extended to the villages beyond the important places of the districts. Much improvement cannot, therefore, be expected from it. In the same manner the Municipal Committees and Corporations of towns offer the excuse of financial difficulties, and the sanitation of their adjoining colonies is neglected. Under the circumstances, therefore, it becomes the duty of the Central Government to spend money from its own funds for providing every kind of facility to the people for constructing good houses. It would be doing its duty, and thus, like others, the *Harijans* will also be enabled to live the life of a man.

Besides this I have one thing more to say. Mr. Khandekar has said that some *Harijans* have entered into a pact with the Muslim League and are hatching a plot for having another Pakistan in India. This is a baseless danger. Mahatma Gandhi has spent a greater part of his life for the uplift of *Harijans*. He says that without uplifting the *Harijans* it is difficult for us to progress. He advocates that the *Harijans* must have the rights as others in this society. In 1932 Mahatma Gandhi said that he would consider himself as morally bound to the *Harijans* so long as their condition was not bettered. I appeal to you, to this National Government, to uplift these *Harijans* in the real sense of the word, so that we may be able to relieve Mahatma Gandhi from this moral duty. It will be a slur on our society and on our nation if we fail to do it.

Mr. Bhargava said that the British Government had rejected the Amendment for one crore proposed by the late L. Lajpat Rai in the then Central Legislative Assembly. That was severely criticised by the public throughout the length and breadth of this country. Our National Government will not do that, and nobody would oppose it. May I say that it is not a question of a crore or five or ten crores. It is the question of how to solve this problem. The prime duty of the Government should be to make the maximum provision for the *Harijan* uplift so that equal rights may be given them. Looking at the kaleidoscopic changes going on in the world before us I can say that none of us Christians, Muslims, Parsees, Sikhs or Hindus will have any objection to the uplift of the *Harijans*. Let the Government, therefore, not make it a point for a debate, but accept the original Resolution and the Amendment without any delay.

Besides this, as Mr. Khandekar has put in his amendment, there should be a separate Ministry under a *Harijan* Minister for the uplift of the *Harijans*. Mr. Khandekar has withdrawn his amendment. I do not want to dilate on this withdrawal, but I must say that the *Harijans* are not getting even the posts that have been reserved for them. To tell the truth, nobody cares for these promising youngmen. I like to say that the work for *Harijan* uplift may be entrusted to one of the existing Ministers so that the grievances of the *Harijans* may be redressed and no occasion given for a complaint.

With these words, Sir, I support this Resolution and the Amendment proposed by Seth Govind Das and I appeal to you to these things into practice as soon as possible.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): Sir, I rise to support the Resolution as it would be amended by my Honourable friend Seth Govind Das. I think the amendment puts the Resolution on a much better footing and makes it more elastic and capable of greater expansion. The original Resolution tied the Government down to certain specific amounts of money and the amendment has certainly considerably widened its scope. In expressing my sympathy for the disabilities and difficulties of the *Harijans* I should point out that the entire House has the fullest sympathy for the movement—not merely sympathy but generous sympathy. What is, however, of greater importance is some manifestation of our sympathy in a practical shape. It is evident, there are places—I hope they are rare places—where *Harijans* are not allowed to touch water buckets although they have been allowed to touch the ropes. It is said that a caste Hindu alone must touch the water bucket and pour the water to the pots of the *Harijans*. There are also other kinds of disabilities disclosed in the House, namely, that in the U.P. and the Punjab house properties of *Harijans* are not heritable so far as their heirs are concerned; I hope some legislative or other measures will be adopted to rectify the injustice. The *Harijans* today are the social and political outcasts. What we find in this House and in other advanced places is not the real index to the condition of the *Harijans*. As has been lucidly pointed out by Mr. Khandekar, in order to see the problem in its true colours, we should go to the villages. Really the orthodox opinion is against giving any rights to the *Harijans* which would enlarge their religious and social status. I hope and believe that the entire country is awake; the whole of political India is not merely sympathetic but enthusiastically ready to do anything to improve their lot. The *Harijans* very naturally feel that the process of emancipation is hopelessly slow; but it must be remembered that mankind is notoriously slow and conservative in the matter of social and political habits and customs. There is an age-long prejudice to get over and it must take some time to completely eradicate the social evil. I however feel that judged in the background of history the process is not really slow but rather quick enough. It is apparent that untouchability and unseeability are quickly breaking up. There is the impact of education on these bad customs; the pressure of civilization and of nationalism and democracy are having their full play in removing the disabilities from which the scheduled castes are so long suffering. In fact I feel that a real gigantic nationalist effort is in full operation and nationalist forces are sincerely and powerfully moving in the direction of removing the evil of untouchability, and I believe the movement is well on the way. I submit, however, that the scheduled castes, suffering as they have been for long from the effects of social dealings, should have a little patience.

Shri S. Nagappa (Madras: General): We have waited for centuries.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: But the disabilities created and existing for centuries cannot be removed by any human agency in the course of a few months. The present Government has taken over in right earnest on the 15th August and they are doing their best, in fact the maximum that they are able to do. Their hands are, however, full, and though it may be said that no mention has been made of the scheduled castes in the budget, still the impact of the problem on the budget is quite apparent, because in every department there is scope and desire for doing something for the scheduled castes. I believe everything is being and will be done and I hope that before long the scheduled castes will regain their rightful place as free and respected citizens of India and of the world. I believe the problem is partly psychological and partly social; but the combined operation of all these forces plus the national drive which this Government is determined to give will before long effect a cure of the social malady.

Sir, I again express my fullest sympathy for the difficulties of the scheduled castes and hope that in the near future their disabilities will be removed.

*श्री राम साहव : सभापति महोदय, इस विषय में जो चर्चा हो रही है और खास तौर पर खांडेकर साहब के भाषण को मैंने सुना । इसमें कोई शुबह नहीं है जैसा कि उन्होंने कहा था कि हरिजनों के तकलीफ के बारे में वह ३ दिन तक हाऊस को उनकी दयनीय हालत का बयान करके रूला भी सकते हैं । मैं इन बातों को मानता हूँ । अपने जाति तजुबों से जो मैंने हरिजनों की सेवा करके हासिल की है मैं उनको यह यकीन दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि उनका यह विचार करना कि आम जनता उनके प्रति सद्भावना नहीं रखती है । सही नहीं है । आज वर्षों से हरिजनों की हालत हर तरह से सताये जाने से इतनी खराब हो गई है कि उनको अपने हकूकों की हिफाजत का ऐहसास तक नहीं रहा । उनको आज हकूक दिये गए हैं और दिये जा रहे हैं । उन विचारों को यह भी मालूम नहीं है कि किस तरह से उनका उपयोग किया जाय । Orthodox (आर्थोडक्स) लोगों की मुश्किलत के बारे में सबको अच्छी तरह से मालूम है । वह नहीं चाहते हरिजन उनकी बराबरी कर सकें मगर इसकी जिम्मेदारी हरिजनों पर भी है जब तक वह अपने हकूक का इस्तेमाल करना नहीं सीखेंगे उनकी हिफाजत मुश्किल है हम लोगों पर भी इसकी जिम्मेदारी है हम इस से बच नहीं सकते न ही बचना चाहते हैं लेकिन इस तरह काफी वक्त लगता जा रहा है जो सुधार गैर सरकारी तरीके पर किये गये और किये जा रहे हैं उनमें समय लगना जरूरी है ।

मैं माननीय नागप्पा साहब से यह अर्ज करूंगा कि वह मेरा पूरा भाषण सुनने के बाद नतीजा निकालें बीच में कोई बात न कहें । मैं श्रीमान् के द्वारा उनसे यह निवेदन करूंगा कि मैं बहुत सी ऐसी मिसालें पेश कर सकता हूँ जिससे उनको यह इतमीनान हो जायगा कि दरअसल हरिजन अपने हकूकों की हिफाजत नहीं करना जानते । मैं यहां इसलिये आपके सामने खड़ा नहीं हूँ कि मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि सुधार की आवश्यकता नहीं मैं यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि सोशल रिफार्म (Social reform) गैर सरकारी संस्था द्वारा होने पर देर लगती ही है । मेरी अरज यह है कि ऐसे कायदे और कानून बनाये जायें जिससे हमसुधारों को जल्दी से जल्दी कार्यान्वित कर सकें । जब तक हम कोई सख्त कायदे कानून न बनायें तब तक हम इस मसले को आसानी से हल नहीं कर सकते हैं । जहां एक कायदा यह होना चाहिये जिससे Orthodox (आर्थोडक्स) लोगों को मजबूर कर सकें । वहां दूसरे ऐसे कायदे भी बनाये जायें जिससे हरिजन अपने राइट्स को उपयोग करने के लिये मजबूर किये जाएं । जब तक हम ऐसे कायदे कानून नहीं बनाते तब तक जैसा खांडेकर साहब ने और नागप्पा साहब ने कहा है कि जल्दी से जल्दी सुधार किया जाय वह नहीं हो सकता है । एक करोड़ क्या १० करोड़ रुपया बजट में रखने से भी असली गरज पूरी न होगी ।

इसलिये सभापती जी, मैं निहायत अदब से यह प्रार्थना करूंगा कि हमें इसी दशा में सोचना चाहिये । मैं ला-मिनिस्टर (Honourable Law Minister) साहब और श्री जगजीवन राम साहब से यह प्रार्थना करूंगा कि वह इस बारे में पूरा पूरा विचार करके इस तरह के कायदे और कानून बनायेंगे ।

मैं एक बात और यह अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि भंगियों की हालत मामूली दीगर मजदूरों से अच्छी होती है । वह एक परिवार में चार, पांच आदमी होते हैं । चारों, पांचों आदमी म्यूनिसिपैलिटी (Municipality) में नौकरी करते हैं और महज मामूली महनत झाड़ू इत्यादि का काम करने से साधारण मजदूर से वह ज्यादा पैदा करते हैं । उनमें से बहुतेरों को खाने को और कपड़ा उनकी वृत से मुफ्त मिल जाता है इस तरह यह महज आर्थिक मसला नहीं है । सवाल दरअसल उनके सोसाइटी में मूव (move) होने का है । हमको कोई ऐसा तरीका सोचना चाहिये जिसके जरिये हरिजन लाजिमी तौर पर सोसाइटी में मूव (move) हो सकें । जैसा इस रेजोलेशन (Resolution) में मकान के बारे में बतलाया गया है, मैं अर्ज करूंगा कि यह मकान इस तरह से बनाकर जैसे कोई colony (कालोनी) बना दी जाय, कोई उपयोग होने वाला नहीं यह बिल्कुल वैसी ही बात होगी जैसे हरिजन आज अछूत समझे जाते हैं । उसी तरह से उस कालोनी में अलहदा रहने से अछूत रहेंगे उनको तो मकान ऐसी आबादी में होना चाहिये जहां सवर्ण हिंदू आर्थोडक्स (Orthodox) रहते हैं, ताकि उन्हें उस सोसाइटी में लाजिमी तौर पर हिल मिलकर रहने का मौका मिले । जब तक हम ऐसा नहीं करते, तब तक हरिजन और सवर्ण के भेद भाव को मिटाना मुश्किल होगा । मुझे बतौर प्रेसीडेंट म्यूनिसिपैलिटी (President of Municipality) एक शहर के इस बात का अच्छी तरह से अनुभव किया है और अच्छी तरह से देखा है कि उनके सामने महज आर्थिक सवाल ही नहीं है महज (Socialre forms) सोशल रिफार्मस के तरीके पर जो (reforms) रिफार्मस लाना चाहेंगे उसमें बहुत समय लगेगा । अभी अभी मेरे भाषण के दौरान में मिस्टर नागप्पा बहुत परेशान हो रहे थे, मेरा मकसद हरगिज यह नहीं है कि मैं इस काम में किसी तरह का रोड़ा अटकाने खड़ा हुआ हूँ, या हरिजनों के खिलाफ कोई बात रखना चाहता हूँ । मैं चाहता हूँ कि हाउस को बतला दूँ कि जब तक हम इस किस्म के (reforms) रिफार्मस लेजिसलेशन (Legislation) के रूप में नहीं लायेंगे, तब तक हम उनकी तरक्की और भलाई नहीं कर सकते । मेरा यह (suggestion) सज्जेशन नहीं है कि हमें मकान और पानी के बारे में कुछ नहीं करना चाहिये । मेरा यह कहना है कि पानी तो जहां से दूसरे लोग पानी लेते हैं, उसी जगह से वह पानी ले सकें, उसके लिये हमें सख्त कायदा बना देना चाहिये । मकानों के बारे में यह जरूर अर्ज करना है कि उनके लिये (specially) सपैशली उन्हीं मोहल्लों में जहां के लोग हरिजनों से बचना चाहते हैं, वहां जमीन हासिल करके उसका मावजा देकर उनके मकान बना देना चाहिये । जब तक हम इन सब बातों पर इस तरह नहीं सोचेंगे, तब तक कोई नतीजा निकलने वाला नहीं है । मैं अर्ज करूंगा कि महात्मा गांधी की कृपा से जहां यह मसला बहुत जोरों के साथ हिंदुस्तान ने अपने हाथ में लिया है । स्वामी दयानन्द ने तो आज से बहुत पहिले हरिजनों के बारे में आवाज उठाई थी उस वक्त लिप सिम्पेथी (Lip sympathy) का कोई सवाल नहीं था मि० खांडेकर ने हाउस में कई बार लिप सिम्पेथी (Lip sympathy) की आवाज उठाई है । मैं उन्हें विश्वास दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि बहुत से लोग

[श्री राम सहाय]

सच्ची हादिक सहानुभूति रखते हैं। स्वामी दयानन्द के समय देश में (orthodoxy) आर्थोडक्स इस कदर फैली हुई थी कि लोग उसको अच्छे तरीके से ग्रास्प (grasp) करने की ताकत नहीं रखते थे। इस मसले का हल उस समय नहीं निकल सका। अब हमारे सामने महात्मा गांधी की कृपा से वह समय आया है जब हर शस्त्र की जुबान से हम सुनते हैं कि हरिजनों का उद्धार होना चाहिये और आज हम देख भी रहे हैं कि बहुत से जराय उनके लिये सोचे जा रहे हैं फिर लिप सिम्पेथी (Lip sympathy) की बात कहना अन्याय होगा। मैं अन्त में इतना ही निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि जब तक हम इस मसले को हर तरीके पर कानून बनाकर आर्थोडक्स (orthodox) और हरिजनों दोनों को मजबूर न कर दें कि आर्थोडक्स (orthodox) हरिजनों को उनके हकूक इस्तेमाल करने देने को बाध्य रखे जायें और हरिजन अपने हकूक का फायदा उठाने के लिये बाध्य किये जायें तब तक हम कुछ नहीं कर सकते। अभी भार्गव साहब ने वजीफा बगैरह देने की बात कही। मैं एक मिसाल देना चाहता हूँ। हरिजन के बच्चे जो शिक्षा के लिये स्कूल जाते हैं, तो वहाँ उनको चार आठ आने वजीफा दिया जाता है जो उनके लिये संतोषजनक नहीं होता। कारण यह है कि वह (Municipality) म्यूनिसिपैलिटी में एक घंटे झाड़ू लगाकर चार-पांच रुपये कमा लेते हैं। इस तरह वह पढ़ने की वनिस्वत झाड़ू वाला काम ज्यादा पसन्द करते हैं और उनको पढ़ने लिखने में बिल्कुल रुचि नहीं रहती जब तक कायदा बनाकर बच्चों को पढ़ने के लिये मजबूर न किया जायेगा कोई उपयोग नहीं। बदकिस्मती से हिंदुस्तान में अछूतपन हर जगह है। एक हरिजन बसोड भंगी हरिजन को नहीं छूना चाहता। चमार हरिजन भंगी बसोड हरिजन को नहीं छूना चाहता। यह हरिजन की बात रही। सर्वांगीय में अभी थोड़े समय पहिले जो लड़का बिलायत पढ़ने जाता था, लौटने पर उसके मां बाप उसको (family) फैमिलि में नहीं रखना चाहते थे और वह अछूत की तरह समझा जाता था मां बाप भी उसके साथ खाना खाना पसन्द नहीं करते न उसके हाथ का छुआ खाना पसन्द करते थे यह बीमारी बहुत पुरानी और (Chronic) क्रानिक हो गई है और इसका जड़ से जाना बहुत मुश्किल है। लेकिन अब समय आ गया है जब सरकार को सख्त कानून बनाकर अमली तौर से इस (evil) ईवल (root out) रूट आउट करना है।

(English translation of the above speech).

Shri Ram Sahai (Gwalior State): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have listened to the speeches made in this House on this issue, particularly the one made by Mr. Khandekar. There is no doubt, as he said, that he can even make the House shed tears for three days at a stretch if he were to describe to us the pitiable conditions of the Harijans. I agree with him there. From my personal experience that I gathered while serving the Harijans I like to assure them that they are mistaken if they think that the public do not care for their welfare. For so long have these Harijans been oppressed in so many different ways that they have lost even the sense of the protection of their rights. Rights have been and are still being given them. But these poor men even do not know how to make the best use of their rights. No body is unacquainted with the objections of the orthodox public. They do not want the Harijans to come upto their level.

But the Harijans are also responsible for it. So long as they do not learn how to use their rights, it is difficult to protect them. We also owe a responsibility to them. We can neither wash our hands of it nor do we desire it. This is taking a lot of time. The reforms that have been made and are still being made unofficially are bound to take some time. I have to request Honourable Mr. Nagappa that he may first listen to my speech in full and then draw his conclusions. I request him not to interrupt me when I am speaking. Sir, through you I would like to tell him that I can give him many such examples as will convince him that it is true that the Harijans do not know how to protect their rights. I have stood up not to say that the reform is not required, but to tell the House that it is bound to take some time if the social reforms have to be made through unofficial organisations. What I mean is that such policies be chalked out and such laws made as should enable us to make reforms in the shortest possible time. So long as we do not frame stiff laws and enforce them rigidly it will be difficult for us to solve this problem. If we make a law for forcing certain things on orthodox people, we must not forget to make laws which should force the Harijans to use their rights. Without making such laws it is difficult to expedite the reforms as suggested by Mr. Khandekar and by Mr. Nagappa. Not to speak of one crore, even a provision of ten crores in the Budget will not solve the real problem. Therefore, Sir, with respect, I would request the House to consider it along these lines. I request the Honourable Minister for Law and the Honourable Shri Jagjiwan Ram to consider these suggestions fully and to frame laws of this kind.

Sir, I would like to request one thing more. The sweepers are already better off than ordinary labourers. A sweeper's family consists of about four to five members and all these are employed by the Municipality. Their work is light simple sweeping, etc., and their income is much more than that of an ordinary labourer. Many of these sweepers get in addition to their wages, eatables and clothes from their patrons. It is, therefore, not simply a financial problem. In fact, it is a question of their moving in society. We should think out a way which should make the Harijans 'move' in the society. It has been proposed by this Resolution that new houses should be built as if to form a colony. I believe this is not going to be of much use. It would mean little change. Just as the Harijans are thought to be untouchables these days, their separate houses will not better their lot. They will be looked upon as untouchables again. They should live in those places where the orthodox among the Caste Hindus reside. They must be provided with the opportunity of mixing with the latter. Until and unless we do that it will be difficult to bring the Harijans and the Caste Hindus closer. As a President of a Municipal Committee I have experienced it well and I have seen it well that it is not simply a financial problem for the Harijans. If it is social reforms that we want to make it will take a long time. Just now, when I was speaking, Mr. Nagappa was feeling vexed. It is not at all my intention that I should place a hurdle in the progress of this work; nor do I desire to say anything harmful to the interest of the Harijans. I want to tell the House that we will not be able to raise the standards of the Harijans or render a service to them so long as we do not give such reforms the shape of law.

My suggestion may not be taken to mean that we should not do anything for their houses or for their water supply. What I mean to say is that they should be enabled to draw water from the wells which the public use. We should enforce this thing rigidly. About the houses I must say that these should be built for the Harijans, specially in those mohallas, where people want to avoid them. We must procure lands in these mohallas and build houses for the Harijans, even if we have to pay compensation to others. Little improve-

[Shri Ram Sahai]

ments should be expected without our thinking along these lines. May I say that it is due to the kind efforts of Mahatma Gandhi that India has taken this work in its hands. Of course, Swami Dayanand did raise a voice against untouchability. It was not a question of mere 'lip sympathy' to which Mr. Khandekar has referred so often in this House. May I assure him that there are many persons who have sympathy with these people from the very cores of their hearts. Orthodoxy had got so strong a hold on the minds of the public in the days of Swami Dayanand that people did not have sufficient courage and strength to grasp this problem in a proper way. No remedy could be found for this disease then. The kind efforts of Mahatma Gandhi have placed us on the threshold of such an era that we find it on the lips of almost every body that the *Harijans* must be uplifted; we find today that many different methods are being contemplated by which it may be achieved. It would be doing injustice to the people if we think that it is 'lip sympathy' that they show. In the end I would say that so long as we do not frame laws for regulating all the aspects of this problem, so long as we do not force these things both on the Orthodox Caste Hindus and on the *Harijans*, so long as we do not force the Orthodox Caste Hindus to respect the rights of the *Harijans* and the latter to make the best use of these rights, we will not succeed in our work.

Shri Bhargava has just now talked of scholarships. I would like to quote an example. The *Harijan* children receive stipends when they go to the schools. These stipends give them four to eight annas which can hardly give them any relief. These people are not satisfied, for they earn four to five rupees from the Municipality by simply sweeping the roads for an hour or so. These men therefore prefer the jobs of sweepers to that of students and consequently they develop a distaste for education. Unless we make laws for compulsory education, good purpose will not be served.

Unfortunately, untouchability exists even among the *Harijans* themselves. A *Harijan* does not like to touch a *Basod Bhanggi*; a *Chamaar* (Tanner or Cobbler) does not like to touch a *Bhanggi Basod*. This is about the *Harijans*. Even among the Caste Hindus it was found that when a youngman returned from England after completing his education, his family did not like that he should continue to live with them. He was looked upon as an untouchable. This is a disease which has become 'chronic'. It is not easy to root it out. But the time has come when the Government should frame stiff laws and enforce them rigidly if it desires to root out this evil.

Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan (Madras: General): It is a known fact that Gandhiji is the greatest champion for the uplift of the *Harijans* and the change that we have noticed in the last 15 or 20 years is due to the work of Gandhiji and nobody else. I think somebody remarked here that when Gandhiji says something in his evening prayer speech it moulds the work of the Ministry, and if Gandhiji says anything about the *Harijans* its effects are not felt so deeply. The reason for that is that the disabilities of the *Harijans* are something like a chronic disease. It will take a very long time to be cured. In my opinion it is not a right policy to find fault with the so-called Caste Hindus, because it is the so-called Caste Hindus who have come forward and they are prepared to elevate us from our depressed condition. What we have to do is to cooperate with them in all their efforts and not to doubt the *bona fides* of their sincerity. It needs no emphasis that the *Harijans* form a vast community and that they are a community which has no proper dwellings or arrangements for drinking water. Those are the main items that

ind place in the Resolution. But there are other items also. The disabilities of the *Harijans*, I think, cannot be removed if a certain amount of money is allotted. It is not the amount that matters, it is the method of dealing with the welfare of the *Harijans* and also the spirit in which the ameliorative work is undertaken that is of importance.

I think one Honourable Member pleaded for a separate department for the uplift of the *Harijans*. In my opinion that plea should be discouraged. My reason for it is this. What will be the work of this separate department? Is it to provide dwellings, wells and tanks for the *Harijans*? These methods will lead only to isolationism, which is the one thing which we should avoid. Only when this isolation is removed the *Harijans* will find a place along with other communities. Even the *Harijans* have begun to detest the word *Harijan* or Scheduled Caste or Depressed Classes or any other term. The best way to wipe off these terms is not to create a separate department for them and I think the creation of a separate department will only perpetuate their separate entity and isolation. The present-day educated people of the *Harijan* community are not in favour of having a separate department and they are not in favour of having a caste label either. If their leaders here advocate that there should be a separate department for them or that there should be separate welfare work for the *Harijans*, I do not think the present day generation will consent to that. In my opinion the *Harijan* uplift can form part of an All-India welfare scheme for all backward classes. Priority can be given to the uplift of the *Harijans*, because they were expecting too much from the Congress or National Government. Therefore it will be only in the fitness of things that some sort of priority is given to them in the all-India welfare work.

The other day the Honourable the Minister for Health intervened in the debate and gave an assurance that whatever may be the welfare work that is taken up by Government the problem of the *Harijans* will have priority. We have to believe that assurance and put our trust in it. I must admit that the *Harijans* in India are fortunate in having leaders who are wedded to certain principles based on definite ideologies. Look at the fate of the *Harijans* in Pakistan and what price they had to pay for securing a seat in the Pakistan cabinet. They were advised to go about having some sort of band or badge. The House is aware how the *Harijans* in India revolted at the very idea.

The other day we saw a statement by Dr. Ambedkar. He was finding fault with the Congress for forcing *Harijans* to become members of the Congress. If the *Harijans* decline to be members of the Congress the fault falls upon nobody else but on Dr. Ambedkar, because he is the only person who has created that hatred among the *Harijans* towards that great organisation, the Congress. An appeal made by Dr. Ambedkar to his fellow brethren to join the Congress I think will have the greatest effect. In my opinion there is nothing to be afraid of. When the Health Minister has given us an assurance, we must know that she is a great disciple and true follower of Gandhiji, who is, I must say, the Saviour of the *Harijans*.

In spite of all the welfare work that may be undertaken by the Central and Provincial Governments in my opinion only a socialist state can bring about salvation to the *Harijans* and my request to the *Harijan* members is that their efforts should be directed towards the establishment of a socialist state in India, which will deal with the problem of all the backward classes irrespective of caste or creed.

श्री चन्द्रिकारामः (बिहार: जनरल) सभापति जी, मैं यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि इस प्रस्ताव के माने हैं क्या? और यह प्रस्ताव लाया क्यों गया। मुनि स्वामी पिल्ले जी हमारे पुराने नेता हैं। और बहुत वर्षों से उन्होंने सामाजिक उद्धार के लिये आन्दोलन—इतिहास में १९४६

[श्री चन्द्रिकाराम]

(अपलिफ्ट) के लिये किया है। उन्हें हरिजनों के प्रश्नों के तत्व मालूम हैं और इसीलिये उन्होंने यह प्रस्ताव आपके सामने रखा है इस सरकार के पहले जो सरकार कायम थी उसने हरिजनों की भलाई के लिये तीन लाख रुपया अलग कर दिया था। उन तीन लाख रुपयों से हरिजन लड़कों को बजी के दिये जाते थे और उन्हें पढ़ाया जाता था। एवं बाहर विदेशों में भी भेजा जाता था अब जब यह आजादी आ गई १५ अगस्त के बाद तो हरिजनों को कुछ अधिक फायदा होना चाहिये। अधिक लड़के बाहर भेजे जायें और एक certain amount (सर्टिन अमाउंट) उसके लिये तय किया जाय, यह नीयत थी उनके प्रस्ताव लाने में।

दूसरी नीयत यह थी कि जब देश की आजादी के लिये जो लड़ाई हुई है उसमें समाज के सब लोगों ने, साथ ही हरिजनों ने भी काफी contribute (कंट्रीब्यूट) किया है। जो hon'ble member (आनरेबल मेम्बर) हरिजनों के यहां हैं सबको मालूम है कि उन्होंने देश के लिये जो कुर्बानियां की हैं वे बहुत काफी हैं। और साथ ही साथ जो प्रगतिशील society (सोसाइटी) कायम होने वाली थी, आगे उसमें उनका हाथ बराबर रहा है। और आज जब यह हमारे महात्माजी के आशीर्वाद से कामयाब हुए हैं तो उनको यह आशा थी कि इस सरकार के अन्दर कुछ न कुछ उनके लिये अवश्य ही किया जायगा। इसी से वह यह प्रस्ताव लाया गया। प्रस्ताव का मकसद यह है कि इन विषयों पर इस हाउस के बीच जहां हिंदुस्तान के सब प्रांतों से और देशी राज्यों से लोग आये हुये हैं इस बात को समझाने की कोशिश करें कि हरिजनों के सवाल क्या हैं? उनके problems (प्राबलमस) क्या हैं? इस प्रस्ताव में दो तीन बातों का इजहार किया गया है। पहली बात उनके घरों के लिये है। घरों की समस्या जितनी कठिन है उसको non-Harijans (नान-हरिजनस) मेम्बर बहुत कम realise (रीयलाइज) कर सकते हैं। घरों के सवाल के दो हिस्से हो सकते हैं, एक देहातों के लिये, दूसरा शहरों के लिये। हम देहातों की बात नहीं कहते, इस लिये कि वहां हरिजनों की ऐसी जातियां हैं जो जानवरों के दर्जे में रखी जा सकती हैं। मैं मिसाल के तौर पर यह नमूना देना हूं जिनकी संख्या काफी है, वह है मुशहर जाति। वह भिन्न भिन्न नामों से पुकारी जाती है। इसका काम खेती बारी करना है। जब किसी को खेती बारी करने वालों की कमी होती है तो दूसरे गांवों में जाकर उन्हें खरीद लाते हैं और दो एक वर्ष रख कर भगा देते हैं। यह देहातों की हालत है।

शहरों की बात देख लीजिये। जितने लोग शहरों में रहते हैं, उनके स्वास्थ्य में भंगी या मेहतर का सबसे बड़ा हाथ रहता है। अगर वह शहरों में strike (स्ट्राइक) कर दें काम बन्द कर दें, तो आपका स्वास्थ्य खराब हो जायगा। और हैजा और प्लेग के आप शिकार हो जायेंगे, लेकिन उन मेहतरों के रहने का क्या इंतजाम आपने किया है? आपको सोचना चाहिये कि उनके लिये क्या किया जाय। उनके हाथ बंधे हैं इस लिये बड़े

कुछ नहीं कर सकते। उनके पास रुपये की कमी है। इस लिये प्रार्थना की गई है कि उनके छोटे छोटे हलकों के लिये सरकार यहां से रुपये grant (ग्रांट) करके मदद करे। जिससे उनके रहने के लिये काफी इंतजाम हो जाय, यह होना चाहिये।

दूसरी बात उनके पानी के लिये कही गई है। पानी का सवाल इतना कठिन है कि उसको बहुत कम आदमी महसूस करते हैं। अभी इसी २८ तारीख को हमको पंजाब जाने का मौका मिला। रोहतक जिले में मैं २८ तारीख को गया। वहां हरिजनों की सभा में उनकी काफी तादाद आई हुई थी। वहां कम से कम ५० दरखास्तें इस तरह की आई कि जहां कुएं में पानी पीने का इंतजाम उनके लिये नहीं था। आज इस दुनिया में Time & space (टाईम एंड स्पेस) खत्म हो चुका है, आज atom bomb (एटम बॉम्ब) की बातें हम करते हैं वहां पर इस देश में इसी जगह पर आज नागरिकों की सब से बड़ी primary necessity (प्राइमरी नैसेसिटी) है drinking water (ड्रिंकिंग वाटर) की जिसका इंतजाम नहीं है। जिस वक्त प्रबन्ध सब के लिये किया जाता है वहां एक कुआं भी उनके लिये नहीं बनता है। ऐसा मुझे अनुभव है, मैं अपने प्रांत की बात बताऊं, जहां २६ कुओं के बनने की मंजूरी की गई वहां २३ कुएं Caste Hindus (कास्ट हिन्दूस) के लिये बन गये। हरिजनों के लिये कहा गया इस वक्त रुपये की कमी है। असल रुपये की कमी का प्रश्न नहीं है, हृदय परिवर्तन की जरूरत है। लोगों ने कहा इसके लिये कानून बना देना चाहिये। मैं आपको बतलाऊं कि जब मदरास में Temple Entry Bill (टेम्पल एन्ट्री बिल) पास किया गया तो मदुरा के मंदिर में हरिजन गए और हरिजन जब चले गए तो वहां के Board (बोर्ड) के मेम्बरों ने फैसला किया कि उन हरिजनों पर मंदिर अपवित्र होने का दावा किया जाय। इस फैसले को जो रिपोर्ट थी उसकी क्या हालत हुई। उस वक्त जून ४६ में मुकदमा Federal Court (फेडरल कोर्ट) तक आया, इस मुकदमे में इस आनरेबल हाउस के एक मेम्बर involved थे जिनका नाम श्री पी० कक्कन है। अगर यह कानून भी पास कर दें तो यह कानून का बर्ताव गवर्नमेंट के हाथों में रहता है, वह रहता है हिंदुओं के हाथों में, सबर्णों के हाथों में जो बड़े हैं, पैसे में, रुपये में, प्रभाव में, और और बातों में। वहां हरिजनों को मुकदमा लड़ने में आठ हजार रुपये लगे थे। अब बताइये कानून से उनकी रक्षा कहां से हो सकती है?

इसलिये इस प्रस्ताव का मकसद एक भाई ने यह बताया कि यह हरिजनों का सवाल है, तो psychological (साइकालोजिकल) है, social (सोशल) है। मैं कहता हूं वह economic (इकनामिक) भी है, यह आर्थिक सवाल सबसे पहले है। सबसे पहली बात यह है। छूत छात का प्रस्ताव आप पीछे रख दें, मन्दिर में जानें का प्रस्ताव पीछे रख दें। अभी हमें आर्थिक सुविधा दीजिये। हमारे बच्चे पढ़, लिख जावें, वह पूर्ण रूप से नागरिक बन जावें। कल कारखानों में उनका हाथ हो जाय, उनके पास जमीन

[Shri Chandrika Ram]

Shri Munishwami Pillai is our veteran leader, and for many years he has carried on agitation for social reformation—for the cause of uplift of the *Harijans*. He knows the essence of the *Harijan* problem and for this very purpose he has moved this Resolution. The Government that preceded the present Government had reserved a sum of Rupees three lacs for the welfare of *Harijans*. These three lacs were utilized towards the grant of scholarships and education to *Harijans* and also in sending them to foreign countries. Now with the advent of independence, after the 15th of August, the *Harijans* should also enjoy a little more benefit. A great number of students should be sent abroad and certain amount should be fixed for them. This was his intention in moving the Resolution.

The second intention was that the *Harijans* have also made sufficient contribution along with other members of the society in the struggle for country's freedom. The Honourable Members who are representing the *Harijans* here are aware of the fact that the sacrifices which they have made for the country are quite adequate. Simultaneously they have played an equal role in the formation of progressive society. And now to-day when they have achieved success through the blessings of Mahatma Gandhi, they hoped that something would certainly be done for them by this Government. Keeping this in view, this Resolution was brought up. The object of the Resolution is to impress upon the representatives of all Provinces and states in India who are present in this House as to what are the problems affecting the *Harijans*. This Resolution mentions about two or three things. The first thing relates to their houses. The Non-*Harijan* members can hardly realize the acuteness of the housing problem. The housing problem can be split up into two parts, viz., one relating to rural and the other to urban areas. We do not refer to the rural areas, because it is inhabited by certain classes of *Harijans* who can be placed in the category of animals. For instance, I quote the case of 'Mushhar' community who are in a considerable number. It is called by various names. Their profession is farming. When anyone is short of farmers, he goes to other villages and buys them and shunts them off after keeping for a year or so. This is the condition prevailing in the rural area.

Look to the cities. The sweepers or scavengers play an important role in the preservation of the health of people in the city. If they go on strike in the cities and suspend their work, then your health is likely to be deteriorated. And you will fall prey to Cholera and Plague. But what arrangements have you made for housing these sweepers? You should consider what should be done for them? Their hands are tied down and hence they cannot do anything. They lack money. Therefore, it has been requested that the Government should help the small towns and municipalities inhabited by them with grant of funds, which may enable them to make adequate housing arrangements. This should be done.

The second thing has been pointed out in connection with their drinking water. The question regarding the water supply is so acute that very few people realize this. Recently on the 28th of the last month we have an opportunity to go to the Punjab. I went to Rohtak District on the 28th *ultimo*. There was a large number of *Harijans* present in the meeting. At least 50 such applications were received which mentioned that there did not exist any arrangement for their drinking water from the well. To-day the theory of "Time and space" is no longer existing in this world. To-day we talk about "atom-bomb". Here in this country to-day the foremost primary necessity of citizens is drinking water for which there are no arrangements.

When arrangements are made for all, not a single well is constructed for their use. This is my knowledge. In the case of my own Province where sanction was granted to the building of 26 wells, 23 wells were constructed then for the use of Caste Hindus. As regards *Harijans* it was stated that at present

there was shortage of funds. Indeed the question of shortage of funds is not involved, but it requires change of heart. The people asserted that a law should be framed in this direction. I may tell you that when the Temple Entry Bill was passed in Madras, the *Harijans* went to the temple at Madura, and after they had left, the Board of the temple decided that a suit should be filed against them for the sacrilege of the temple. What happened to the report of this decision? At that time in June 1946, the case was brought upto the Federal Court. In this case an Honourable Member of this House namely, Mr. P. Kakkan was involved. Even if we pass this law, its execution lies in the hands of the Government, the Hindus, caste Hindus, who are affluent in money, influence and other respects. It costs the *Harijans* a sum of Rupees eight thousands to fight this suit. Now, tell me how can they be protected by the enforcement of law?

Therefore, one of my Honourable friends described the aim of this Resolution as a problem affecting the *Harijans* which is psychological and social. I say it is economic also; this economic aspect has got a premier place. This is the first thing. Set aside the Resolutions regarding untouchability and temple entry. For the present give us financial facilities. Our children may get education, they may become full-fledged citizens. To-morrow they may get share in the factories, acquire land and then the doors of the temple will automatically be open to them. Therefore, we do understand perhaps correctly that their problem is economic and not psychological and social. Who sends his children to the temples and mosques now-a-days? A certain writer has observed that before the last war only 75 per cent. of the people used to go to the Church. After this War, even 25 per cent. do not go. Leave aside these countries, you may just look to children and boys in your own homes and see how much interest they take in temples. Now there is no question relating to this temple entry before us. It is just possible that keeping in view the conditions prevailing in the country, the *Harijans* also feel the need of visiting the sacred shrine of God. Let anybody say anything, we simply want to have vision of the "God of wealth". This is very necessary. If you do not give them to eat, and there is no cloth to put on, there are no arrangements for their education, there is no drinking water for them, and in these conditions, if we throw open the temples, then it does not and will not serve any useful purpose.

So far as education is concerned, I realize this. All the Ministers who are here are Congressites and every one of them carries the good wishes and blessings of Mahatma Gandhi, but how much work have they done? I know almost all the provinces in India where some work is done. I take the case of my own Province. In Bihar Rupees three lacs have been granted for their (*Harijans*) education. Out of this three lacs, approximately Rs. 25,960 are meant for their scholarships, and the balance is to be utilized for the purpose of other things and material connected with education. You are aware that the session of schools in Bihar starts in January, but it is December now and the money could not yet be distributed.

After this take the case of United Provinces. I had an occasion to go there during the month of August. I have put certain question to an Officer of the scheduled castes who happened to go there. The number of students in Eastern U.P. is estimated to be about 25 thousands and the grant of money which has been sanctioned for them amounts to Rs. 600 and that too for books. These are the arrangements which exist in words.

I have seen 250 applications for wells in a certain meeting. Those applications had been sent to the U.P. Ministry and no reply has been received till to-day.

I may further tell the case of Madras Government which formerly included Raja Ji. His Ministry carried a great name. During the regime of Shri

[Shri Chandrika Ram]

Prakasam, a sum of Rupees one crore was allotted for the *Harijans*, but just enquire from the Honourable Members from Madras who are present here if any penny had been spent for their sake.

After this we are bewildered and we know the sympathy and fellow-feeling which they have got towards the *Harijans*. But even to-day, if I mistake not, what is the genuine condition of *Harijans*? What are the arrangements made for their boarding, lodging and education? This can only be achieved by the change of heart. This cannot be solved either by one or ten crores. The question is to what extent are you making efforts in this connection? The erstwhile Government being an alien wanted to keep us under the heels of slavery. This was on account of its political expediency. But now-a-days we have our own free Government. We should step forward towards that direction. The crux of my question is what the centre is doing for them to-day. This is not concerned with crores or lacs. The point is what are the Government going to do towards this? I say even to this extent that the Government which has not been able to do anything for the benefit of this poor class who have no food to eat and no clothes to put on, will find it difficult to hold itself in India after the lapse of some time. Therefore, it is a very vital issue which affects 1/4th or 1/5th of our countrymen whose very existence in this world depends upon you.

You look to your field and what is the condition there? There are many leaders of agriculturists here and they indulge in long talks which are symbolic of peasants. What is the condition of ploughmen? They toil very hard during the hot sun in the day time. They are given only one *bigha* (a land measure which is 5/8 of an acre) of land for ploughing. You know that I am in possession of reports from various places that their houses are burnt, their houses are forcibly occupied, they have no houses. We will be surprised to learn that they have no right to purchase land in the Punjab. This is an evil practice which we should wipe off. Mahatma Gandhi has devoted his energies towards this direction and he has struggled for this, but I, you and other people who wield power and form the Government, give practical effect to the Government's task—what have we done?

If this Government which is a National Government fails to do anything to ameliorate the condition of the lower strata of Society, then it cannot claim itself to be the Government of the poor. Without saying anything further, I would close my speech. I hope and trust that the Honourable Minister of Health who is present here will try to do her utmost towards this direction.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur (Minister for Health): Sir, I wish to assure the House that I am in agreement with every word that has fallen from the lips of those who have supported the resolution as amended by Seth Govinddas. As I said before, the Government policy is absolutely clear and definite. Untouchability must go and Government is pledged to resort to every means in its power so that this curse shall be eliminated from this land. There are Acts for the removal of social disabilities in practically every province. It is only right that they should be there, and as I said the other day, the Bombay Act is now going to be applied to all the Centrally Administered Areas also. But I am painfully aware of the fact that while these Acts do obtain and are on the Statute Book, they are observed in the breach rather than in observance, and for that I do feel that the Provincial Governments as well as the Centre should have some machinery to see that the law is not disobeyed. I shall not hesitate from the Centre to give this directive to all the Provinces, and I hope that not only Provinces, but all the States will also bring these laws on to their Statute Books. I had occasion to tour Kathiawar during a drought period, and it hurt me beyond measure to see that while cattle and dogs could come and drink water from the *chaubachas* or tanks near the wells, *Harijans* could not come to quench their thirst even there. Government is aware, I

repeat, of all these disabilities. I know also that money is necessary for the provision of wells not only for *Harijans* but for everybody where there is no pure water available. I know also that the housing needs of *Harijans* and of all the poor are a crying urgency and need immediate action. I know also that money is needed for educational and economic uplift. Government will do everything within its means to supply this need because I also feel with the speaker who spoke last that economic uplift and educational opportunities for the scheduled castes, and indeed for all backward classes, are the chief means of raising their present standards. But I do want to say this to the mover of the original Resolution that in the development schemes that the Government has in view I am quite sure that the scheduled castes will get all the financial need that is necessary, and I hope it will be more than what he asked for in his Resolution. For the Centrally Administered Areas I would like to say that we shall try to do everything that we possibly can from the point of view of housing for *Harijans*, for drinking water for them, as well as for educational facilities for them. Government is aware of these responsibilities. But I do also want to warn Members in this House who are going to pass this Resolution today to speak with the same eloquence and work with energy so that all those people whom they represent will banish untouchability in their respective areas, because however much money may be given from Government, however many laws are passed for the removal of untouchability, there has got to come that heart-change among those who have so far practised this evil custom, and that is the best way of removing this inhumanity from our society. In accepting Seth Govinddas' amendment to the original resolution, I wish to assure the House on behalf of Government that we shall not rest content until the word 'scheduled castes' is banished from our vocabulary, and I also wish to assure Shri Thakurdas Bhargava that this Resolution will not be interpreted in a narrow sense. It is not only house sites or drinking water facilities or scholarships that are required, but the removal of all disabilities so that the scheduled castes may have the fullest opportunity of self-development and that they may attain an equal status with every other citizen of this country. I submit also that no separatism is needed for them in the matter of drinking water or for anything else. They are eligible for houses for living wherever they want to, for drinking water from wherever they want to, for going to any educational institution they want to go, etc. For after all, they are part and parcel of the great Hindu community and nothing else.

Mr. Speaker: There is the Resolution and there are two amendments; I understand one is going to be accepted by the Honourable Minister. What about the amendment of the Honourable Member Mr. Nagappa?

Shri S. Nagappa: Sir, in view of the assurance given by the Honourable the Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my amendment.

The Amendment was by leave of the Assembly withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker: Then there is the other amendment of Seth Govinddas which I shall now put to the House. The question is:

"That in the Resolution for the words 'spend at least one crore of rupees each year for the next ten years', the words 'take adequate steps' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: I shall now put to the House the amended Resolution. The question is:

"This Assembly is of opinion that the Government of India should take adequate steps for the amelioration of the condition of the Scheduled Castes by way of providing them with house sites and drinking water and also by way of supplementing the educational grants sanctioned by Provincial Governments."

The motion was adopted.

[श्री चन्द्रिकाराम]

हो जाय, आपसे आप यह मन्दिर का दरवाजा भी उनके लिये खुल जायगा। इसलिये हम समझते हैं और शायद ठीक समझते हैं कि उनका सवाल economic (इकनामिक) है, वह psychological (साइकालोजिकल) और social (सोशल) नहीं है। आज कल के जमाने में अपने बच्चों को मन्दिर और मस्जिद भेजता कौन है? एक लेखक ने बताया है कि विलायत में गत लड़ाई के पहले लोग सैकड़ें ७५ चर्च जाया करते थे। इस लड़ाई के बाद सैकड़ा पीछे २५ भी नहीं जाते। इन देशों की बात छोड़ दीजिये आप अपने घरों के बच्चों और लड़कों को देखिये कि वे मन्दिरों में कितनी दिलचस्पी लेते हैं। अब इस Temple entry (टेम्पल एन्ट्री) का कोई प्रश्न हमारे सामने नहीं है। हो सकता है कि देश की बात देख करके अब हरिजनों के लिये यह हो जाय कि हमको भी भगवान के दर्शन की जरूरत है। कोई कुछ भी कहे हमें तो केवल आर्थिक भगवान के दर्शन होने चाहिये। वह दर्शन सबसे जरूरी है। अगर उनको खाने को नहीं देते हैं, और पहनने को कपड़ा नहीं है, उनके पढ़ने का कोई इंतजाम नहीं है, उनके पीने को पानी नहीं है। ऐसी हालत में अगर हम मन्दिर खोल दें तो कोई फायदा नहीं है और न होगा।

जहां तक education (एजुकेशन) की बात कही गई है। मैं इस बात को समझता हूं सारे मंत्री जो यहां हैं, वह कांग्रेस के हैं, सबको सब के साथ गांधी जी का आशीर्वाद है लेकिन उनके पास कितना काम होता है। मुझे हिंदुस्तान के करीब करीब सभी सूबों की जानकारी है, जहां कुछ काम होता है। मैं अपने प्रांत को लेता हूं। बिहार में उनकी शिक्षा के लिये तीन लाख रुपया दिया गया है। उस तीन लाख रुपये में करीब २५,९६० रुपये उनके Scholarship (सकालरशिप) के लिये हैं, और बाकी शिक्षा के अन्य सामान के लिये हैं। आपको मालूम है बिहार में जनवरी से स्कूलों का सेशन शुरू होता है, लेकिन अब तक दिसम्बर में भी रुपया बंट नहीं सका है।

उसके बाद यू० पी० में आइये। उसमें अगस्त महीने में वहां जाने का मौका मुझे मिला था। वहां Scheduled Castes (शिडूलड् कास्टस) के एक अफसर गए थे जिनसे मैंने कुछ सवाल किये थे। वहां Eastern U.P. (ईस्टर्न यू० पी०) में पच्चीस हजार लड़कों की तादाद बताते हैं और जो ग्रांट रुपये की उनके लिये की गई है वह किताबों के लिये ६०० रुपये की है। रहने के लिये इंतजाम है। एक सभा में मैंने २५० एप्लीकेशन (applications) कुएं के लिए देखी हैं, उन applications (एप्लीकेशनस्) को U. P. Ministry (यू० पी० मिनिस्ट्री) के पास भेजा है, आज तक कोई जवाब नहीं आया है।

मैं आगे बतलाऊं मदरास की बात लीजिये जिसमें राजाजी पहले थे। उनकी मिनिस्टरी का बहुत बड़ा नाम था, श्री प्रकाशम के जमाने में एक करोड़ रुपया हरिजनों

के लिये दिया था, लेकिन यहां मदरास के (Hon'ble Member) आनरेबल मेम्बर हैं उनसे पूछिये कि एक भी पैसा उनके लिये खर्च किया गया है? इसके बाद हम को परेशानी है और हरिजनों के लिये जितनी उनके पास (Sympathy) सिम्पेथी है, सहानुभूति है हम जानते हैं लेकिन आज भी मैं शायद गलती नहीं कर रहा हूं कि हरिजनों की वास्तव में क्या हालत है। उनके खाने-पीने, रहने और पढ़ने का क्या इंतजाम किया जाता है। यह तो सिर्फ (Change of heart) चेंज आफ-हार्ट ही से हो सकता है। इसे एक करोड़ या दस करोड़ रुपया नहीं हल कर सकता। सवाल यह है कि आप किस हद तक इसमें कोशिश कर रहे हैं। पिछड़ी सरकार तो विदेशी होने के नाते हमको गुलाम बनाये रखना चाहती थी। इसमें उसकी (political expediency) पोलिटिकल एक्सपीडियेंसी थी। लेकिन आज जब हमारी अपनी आजाद सरकार है, हमें उस दिशा में काम बढ़ाना चाहिये। मेरा सवाल यह है कि (Con'ro) सेन्ट्र आज उनके लिये क्या करता है? यह सवाल करोड़ और लाख का नहीं है। सवाल यह है कि गवर्नमेंट उसमें क्या करने जा रही है। मैं तो यहां तक कहता हूं कि सरकार अगर उस गरीब तबके के लिये जिनके पास खाने को अन्न और पहनने को कपड़ा नहीं है, कुछ नहीं कर सकी, तो उसका थोड़े समय के बाद हिंदुस्तान में कायम रहना मुश्किल हो जायगा। इसलिये यह एक बड़ा भारी प्रश्न है और देश के १/४ या १/५ ऐसे लोगों का प्रश्न है जिनका जीना मरना आपके साथ निर्भर करता है। आप खेतों में जाइये, वहां क्या हालत है। यहां तो बड़े बड़े किसान नेता हैं और लम्बी लम्बी किसानों की बात करते हैं।

हलवाहों की क्या हालत है। दिन भर कड़ी धूप में मेहनत करते हैं। सिर्फ एक बीघा खेत उनको जोतने के लिये दिया जाता है। आप जानते हैं कि मेरे पास बहुत सी जगहों की रिपोर्ट है कि उनके घर जलाये जाते हैं, उनके घर ले लिये जाते हैं, उनके पास घर नहीं है। हमको सुनकर आश्चर्य हुआ कि उनको पंजाब में जमीन खरीदने का हक नहीं है। यह एक बड़ी भारी कुरीति है जिसे हमें हटाना चाहिये। गांधी जी इस दिशा में लगे हुए हैं और उन्होंने इसके लिये लड़ाई की है, लेकिन हम और आप और दूसरे लोग जिनके पास ताकत है जो सरकार को बनाते हैं, सरकार के कामों को अमल में लाते हैं क्या कर चुके हैं। अगर यह सरकार जो नेशनल गवर्नमेंट है, ऐसे गरीब तबके के लिये कुछ नहीं कर सकी तो यह सरकार दावा नहीं कर सकती कि गरीबों की यह सरकार है। अधिक न कहकर मैं अपना भाषण समाप्त करता हूं। मुझे आशा और विश्वास है कि स्वास्थ्य विभाग की मिनिस्टर साहिबा जो यहां इस समय मौजूद हैं, वह अधिक से अधिक इस तरफ काम करने की कोशिश करेंगी।

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri Chandrika Ram (Bihar: General): Mr. Speaker, I should like to tell what the purport of this Resolution is, and why this Resolution was moved.

RESOLUTION RE APPOINTMENT OF STATUTORY LAW REVISION COMMITTEE

Dr. Sir Hari Singh Gour (C.P. and Berar: General): Sir, I beg to move the Resolution which stands in my name, which runs as follows:

"This Assembly is of opinion that a Statutory Law Revision Committee be appointed to clarify and settle the questions of law which require elucidation."

All Members of the Assembly will remember that a Statutory Committee of the kind I am advocating to renew, was formed in the first Assembly and continued for a number of years. The reason why that Committee came into existence may be briefly stated as follows. As far back as 1830, James Mill, the father of John Stuart Mill, in his History of India, pointed out that the Indian Administration cannot be adequately or effectively administered unless the people know the laws they have to obey, and that for that purpose the Indian Law must be codified. In saying so, he was following the precedent of the Roman Republic where the first thing after the establishment of the Republic was the codification of Roman Law and the same thing happened in France. The result was that Lord Macaulay was appointed as the first Law Member of the Government of India to codify the Indian Law, particularly Hindu Law which was in a chaotic state of confusion. In addressing the students and Professors of the Sanskrit College in Calcutta, Lord Macaulay said that he had come to codify Indian Law and that before the students emerged from that College after the completion of their studies, they will be given a handbook of Indian Law which will replace the *Shastric* Law which very few people understood and very few people care to understand. Well, he tried his hand and gave up in confusion that the Hindu Law was incapable of codification; and the same thing was reported by three or four Royal Commissions.

The question of the codification of Hindu Law was in suspense and the recent attempt at codification is due to causes to which I need not advert because, as Honourable Members will see, I am not asking the House for either the codification of Indian Law or for that matter for the reform of the personal Law of any community—Hindu or Muslim. I am only asking for the constitution of a Statutory Law Revision Committee, viz. a Committee that will go into the Statute Law of this country and try to clarify and improve it. I have mentioned that from 1835 down to very recent times various Royal Commissions had been appointed for the purpose of drafting various branches of Indian Law; those Commissions have all added an appendage to their Reports to the effect that the Government of India should revise the Statute Law every ten years—in other words, that a decennial revision of Indian Law became a legal necessity. When a Member of this Assembly I drew the attention of the Government that for several decades this confusion of Law has continued to remain unchecked and the time and money of the litigants and the valuable time of the courts is spent in understanding what the Statute Law is. The Secretary of State of the then bureaucratic Government of India saw the justice of the claim made and immediately sanctioned the proposal of the Government of India to start a Statute Law Revision Committee. That Committee has existed for a long time and has done, I venture to submit, much work. But when in the later days the Legislative Assembly got busy with other work, the Statute Law Revision Committee was permitted to die a very unnatural death.

Now, Sir, since the 15th of August we have become independent and it is absolutely necessary, I say axiomatic, that we should help the litigating public and the courts to understand the Law. Now, Sir, I happen to be a practising at the Bar for many years and I find that about one-third of the time of the courts is spent—may I say mispent—in trying to understand Law which is either unintelligible or which contains lacunae which it is the duty of this Legislature to remove. I happen to have the misfortune of moving several Bills overruling the wrong decisions of the Lordships of the Privy Council—the

question of attestation, the question of limitation, and numerous other Bills—but that is a very circuitous method of correcting the Law. A plain, straightforward course is to have a Statute Law Revision Committee that understands what the difficulties are and tries to meet them. Now, Sir, it was said and rightly said that if you start a Statute Law Revision Committee today it will cost money. The late Statute Law Revision Committee was an honorary one. It did not cost the Government a single pie. Only the Secretary was paid and he was deputed by the Legislative Department to make a table of cases which required elucidation or correction. He spent about three months contacting the various High Courts in the Provinces and prepared a list of cases that called for notice of the Statutory Law Revision Committee. The Committee did not take more than three months to settle the question which had been engaging the attention of the law courts for several decades. You will thus understand to what degree the Statute Law Revision Committee have served the people of India.

Since about 15 or 16 years, Sir, that Committee has been in suspense and I drew the attention of the Law Member to the fact that I have again found in my practice throughout India and in the Privy Council cases after cases where the Lordships have said that they did not understand a particular branch of the law and therefore did not wish to interfere with the prerogative of the legislature to enact or improve it. But the Law Member then was of the Government that is now defunct and he said that he could not take action because his time was engaged in the codification of Hindu law. The matter stood there.

Now, Sir, the question has become an urgent question. It might be said that we are all members of the Constituent Assembly and that the matter might be placed before that Assembly. Do members remember and realise that that Constituent Assembly is made for the purpose of making a constitution for India and it is not a Revision Committee for the purpose of revising the existing statute law of the country. Therefore that Committee would be doing wrong if it busied itself with the correction and amendment of the existing statute law. I therefore submit, Sir, that the only legislative body that has the power and duty should exercise the function of revising the statute law is the body over which you preside, and therefore I move my Resolution in the full hope that this House will accept it.

Mr. Speaker: Resolution moved:

"This Assembly is of opinion that a Statutory Law Revision Committee be appointed to clarify and settle the questions of law which require elucidation."

[At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (one of the panel of Chairmen)]

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh (C.P. and Berar: General): Sir, I appreciate very much the Resolution that has been so ably moved and I hope that the Honourable the Law Member would find it possible to accept it. From the reasons and arguments advanced by Sir Hari Singh Gour for the re-constitution of this Committee that once existed appear to me quite convincing. I could not understand how exactly it went out of existence, because he merely contented himself by saying that it died an unnatural death, and did not disclose the reasons. The ground on which I support his Resolution is that, with the attainment of independence by India, we have come to a stage when we ought to examine the fundamentals of all the laws as well as the procedure which obtains in the country at the present day. Sir Hari Singh referred to the various conflicting opinions, as well as the expense of money and time that it involves for the litigants not being sure of one interpretation or the other and also the courts not being certain of the validity of their interpretation. Not only from this point of view is it necessary that there should be such a Committee but from the point of ensuring social justice and convenience to the litigant public has the

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stage now come for us to examine the existence of every statute in India and see whether it does not conflict with any other and to what particular extent it conforms to the ideas and requirements of the Indian society.

I may, Sir, give an instance. The law of adoption is embodied in the Hindu Code. It is not yet a codified law and it is being interpreted in various places in various different ways. About 18 years back there was a certain interpretation by the Privy Council. That one interpretation, Sir, led to hundreds of adoptions with the result that at least in my part of the country so many families have been entirely disrupted because it is thought that it is possible under that interpretation—whether it is correct or not—for anybody to adopt anybody else. A father can adopt his own daughter's son and in fact, it appears as if there would be no prohibition even if the son were to adopt his own father. The situation, Sir, is as ridiculous as I have described it and there are very curious instances and ways in which adoption is resorted to. So far as this is concerned, I would like to bring to the notice of the House that it is a matter for very serious consideration whether the law of adoption and its interpretation, as it is understood today, should be allowed to continue, because it is disrupting society. Now, Sir, for want of such a Statute Committee we have only the individual intelligence of the Honourable Members in this House and the various legislatures to look after this matter. I think it would be better if an opportunity is afforded for the posting of the legal acumen in the country so that the public may have proper guidance not only in the matter of interpretation of laws or the possibility of enacting or passing them in the Legislatures, but also to examine what effect any particular law which is in existence has on society.

I do not know, Sir, if many Members are aware that in the opinion of some people who have observed the administration of law in this land, the laws substantive as well as procedural which are essentially copied from the English enactments, which themselves are based on the Roman Law are not altogether akin to the genius of the Indian people. I have heard complaints about the way in which we have taken the Evidence Act. The Evidence Act, which is in force in India is considered to be one of the best enactments in the world. It is supposed to be fool-proof, and yet we are so clever at hair-splitting that by having recourse to the same act or as a result of having to administer the Evidence Act, we have made it serve the purpose lying cleverly as I think no other nation in the world has done. I personally feel, Sir, that it is necessary that we have an Evidence Act, which will suit our peculiar circumstances and social behaviour. In the same way I consider it necessary to fundamentally alter even the Criminal Procedure Code. All these things, Sir, in my humble opinion, require to be revised and considered from a very radical standpoint. Also it is necessary to examine how far the administration of law in the New India leads to the administration of justice. In many cases it is my experience—there are many people probably who are practising lawyers who share my feeling—that disproportionate sums of money and energy are spent on very trifling matters. Now that is one of the things which can also be examined by a Committee like this by recommending for instance that even paltry cases should be dealt with by Judges who are paid properly. We all know how cases of simple assault falling under Section 323 of the Indian Penal Code are dealt with by the Bench Magistrates. They drag on for weeks and weeks and sometimes take as long as nine months or a year and several hundreds of Rupees are spent by both sides. All that requires to be examined, Sir, because I think the law as it is administered today is not conducive to the welfare and well-being of the people and least conducive for teaching them to tell the truth. It always encourages falsehood and for that I think the legal profession is probably responsible. Thus not only in the interest and welfare of the people but also for improving the morals of our nation, I think there ought to be a Body which will examine from time to time not only the laws as they exist but the way in which

they are administered. Probably, in making these remarks, I am expanding the scope of the Resolution, but I am sure, Sir, there would be no difficulty when we come to the appointment of the Statutory Committee itself to define more precisely as to what should be its exact functions. I would not mind if some of the suggestions I have made do not actually fall within the powers of that Committee, but I may agree with Sir Hari Singh Gour that however limited or wide the scope of the Committee may be, its reconstitution is absolutely necessary. I hope, Sir, therefore that the Honourable the Law Member would look at the Resolution kindly and accept it.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I also rise to support the Resolution. It is absolutely necessary to keep the law abreast of the times and for that purpose to have periodical revisions. Statute laws are more or less stiff and artificial, but the needs of society are growing every day, and Statute laws should be continuously kept up-to-date by periodical revision. The general grounds in support of the resolution, I may say, Sir, that have been ably and authoritatively placed before the House by the greatest exponent of law, namely, Sir Hari Singh Gour and it does not require to be repeated. I should like to draw the attention of the House to the serious anomalies and inconsistencies which exist in our laws today. The Independence of India Act has created an absolutely new situation. The adaptation of the Government of India Act has only touched a fringe of the changes necessary; it has effected changes only in the Government of India Act, but in the new set-up of things all our Statute laws require to be carefully and thoroughly recast to make them up-to-date. There are, as has been pointed out a large number of anomalies here and there between the various laws and they require to be corrected and the law simplified; the law of Procedure, the law of Evidence and other allied laws require to be simplified to make litigation cheaper, more expeditious and more effective. Then again, there is always likely to be an eternal conflict in a federated country like this between the Provincial and Central laws. There will always be a tendency, perhaps an unconscious one to encroach upon each others domains. This should require careful consideration to free them from conflicts. To do all these is not the work of a Department alone; it is rather the business of experts and a Law Revision Committee which is proposed will. I hope have such distinguished members as Sir Hari Singh Gour and the Honourable the Law Member and others. In my view, mere departmental routine procedure will not be able to effect the changes which are necessary in a progressive country like ours. With these few words, Sir, I support the Resolution.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Minister for Law): Mr. Chairman. I may at once say that the object of the Mover is quite laudable and that he has my full sympathy in the Motion that he has made. Sir, there is no doubt that periodical revisions of law in a modern society is an absolute necessity. When a popular Legislature engages itself in the task of legislation, touching every aspect of the society which it governs, there are bound to be created certain problems, which it is necessary for some expert legal body to examine and to rectify. First of all, it happens that a draftsman in order to put an idea in the form of a law suggests certain phraseology, which he thinks is appropriate and complete enough to embody the intention of the Legislature. In a certain stage the Judiciary and the Members of the profession find that the phraseology used by the draftsman is mistaken and does not carry the intent which the Legislature had. That problem therefore becomes a problem which somebody has got to look into and rectify to bring it in consonance with the original intention. It often happens that when a Legislature is engaged in a course of legislation over an extensive period certain inconsistencies unconsciously creep in. It is not always possible either for the draftsman or for the Legislature to examine every piece of legislation that is brought before it with a view to find out whether that piece of legislation is consistent with other

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legislation which has preceded it. Therefore in course of time these inconsistencies accumulate. They trouble lawyers, they trouble judges and they also trouble the litigating public. It also often happens that in modern times

when a legislature is so busy that it is unable to give the whole of its time to codifying the whole of the law on a particular subject it tries to discharge its responsibilities by undertaking what we call fragmentary and piecemeal legislation. This accumulation of piecemeal and fragmentary legislation again in course of time creates a problem. People cannot understand what the law is and consequently a problem of codification arises. Therefore it needs no special pleading to suggest that a statute law revision committee is necessary. I think the Government of India long ago accepted the necessity of having a statute law revision committee. In fact as soon as the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms came into operation and when it was found that there was a popular legislature and that popular legislature was more likely to undertake legislation of social reform than the previous legislature had been likely to do, the Government of India *pari passu* and simultaneously with the introduction of the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms introduced and established what was called a Statutory Law Revision Committee in 1921. Therefore there is no difficulty in my accepting the underlying purpose which my Honourable friend Sir Hari Singh Gour has in mind, namely, that there should be a statute law revision committee. The only point of difference between him and me is whether we should forthwith proceed to establish a statute law revision committee that he has in mind or whether we should leave the matter to Government to think about the most appropriate time and the most appropriate machinery which could carry out the purpose which both he and myself have in mind.

In regard to the Statutory Law Revision Committee of the type that was set up in 1921, I should like to inform the House of the work that it did and whether it could not have done something better. The Statute Law Revision Committee was appointed in 1921 and lasted up to 1932. After 1932 it died; whether it died a natural death or an unnatural death is not a matter which I propose to disquisition about. But I should like to tell the House that during these eleven years that the Committee was in session from time to time the work that it did was the codification of the Merchant Shipping Act, the Criminal Tribes Act, the Indian Succession Act, the Forests Act and the Tolls Act. Now, Sir, without any intention of casting any reflection upon the work of the Committee, I think it will be agreed that the production of five laws in a period of eleven years is certainly not an enormous piece of work which could be expected from a Committee of this kind. On the other hand when the Committee was dissolved and when the responsibility fell upon the Government of India to do the work which the Committee was appointed to do—if I may say so again without reflection on the work of the Committee or without trying to take any credit for the Legislative Department of the Government of India—the Acts produced after the Committee were the Sale of Goods Act, 1930, the Partnership Act, 1932, Factories Act, 1934, Tariff Act, 1934, Petroleum Act, 1934, Insurance Act, 1938, Motor Vehicles Act, 1938 and Arbitration Act, 1940. Any one who knows these Acts will admit that each one of them is an enormous piece of legislation. The reason why the Statute Law Revision Committee failed to fulfil the promise which it was expected to fulfil was that there was a great defect in the composition and constitution of that Committee. First of all, the Committee consisted of six members; it was elected mostly from members of the legislature. No doubt the members who were elected were elected purely on the basis of their legal knowledge and legal acumen, but in my judgment that was a pure accident. The Chairman of the Committee was the President of the Council of State. I fail to understand what

virtue there was in appointing the President of the Council of State as Chairman of this Committee which, as all of us know, requires specialised legal knowledge.

The second difficulty about the Committee was that its members were not paid members. I do not wish to suggest that if members are not paid they do not discharge the duty which all people are conscientiously required to do. But it did happen, and it is a fact, that the Committee met very seldom. The members of the Committee having been drawn from the legislature met only during the sessions, and when they were asked that now that they were present in Delhi they might devote some portion of their time to the discharge of their functions as members of the Statute Law Revision Committee, all of them pleaded that their legislative work was more important than the work of the Committee. At the end of the sessions all of them naturally repaired to their homes in order to perform either their personal or their professional duties. The result was that the Committee was not able to devote all the time that it was expected to devote. Now obviously my Honourable friend Sir Hari Singh Gour will agree that if his purpose is to be carried out we must have an altogether different sort of Committee. It is no use having a Committee of the sort that we had and which, for the reasons I have mentioned, did not fulfil the functions with which it was charged.

Now, Sir, there are two ways, in my judgment, of doing the thing. First of all we might have a permanent Commission sitting for no other purpose except that of revising and codifying the statute. Secondly, if it is to be a permanent body it undoubtedly must be a body of experts who know their job. And I think every one will agree that if experts are to be called away from their professions we must make it worth their while to come and serve on the Committee. Obviously it is a matter of cost. That being so, it is not possible for me to say off-hand that without examining the question of cost it will be possible for Government to say here and now that we shall agree to appoint a Statute Law Revision Committee of any sort that might be suggested either by Sir Hari Singh Gour or by any other member of the legislature.

There is also another way of carrying the purpose into practice. That might be by the appointment of a small standing committee consisting of the Law Minister of the Government of India, a Judge of the Federal Court, the Advocate-General of India, one or two Judges of the High Courts in India and two or three eminent lawyers. The Committee might be asked to sit at stated periods of the year and a person from the Law Department of the Government of India may be deputed to act as a Secretary, to collect the information and to place it before the Committee for the Committee to take notice of what might be done.

As I say these are various ways of carrying the purpose into effect. That as I said requires time and examination and it is not possible for the Government, besieged as it is with an infinity of problems of all kinds to find time for the work which it will have to do if I were to accept the resolution of Sir Hari Singh Gour with the immediacy with which I believe he has charged it. Therefore, what I would like to suggest is this: that Sir Hari Singh Gour would realise that so far as the ultimate purpose is concerned, there is no difference of opinion between me and him. Both of us are agreed that this is a matter which the Government of India ought to take into consideration. The only difference is when and how, and that is a matter on which he need not press the Government for the immediate issue. Therefore my suggestion is this: that as I have given a reply which meets more than half the ground on which he stands, I think he will agree that it will be gracious on his part to withdraw it.

Dr. Sir Hari Singh Gour: I am obliged to the Honourable the Law Minister for giving me half a loaf and still keeping me standing for the other half

[Dr. Sir Hari Singh Gour]

The position is this. I am not myself enamoured of the prestine Law Statutory Committee. I have only mentioned it that it was the precursor of the kind of Committee I have in mind but do not ask for a duplication of that kind of Committee, but merely the kind of Committee we should now constitute. Sir, that Committee was constituted for revising the law and I happen to remember that that Committee drew the attention of the Government of India to the fact that there was in reality and in law, the law of extritoriality applicable to all Europeans—not Englishmen, but all Europeans, and a special chapter was enacted in the Code of Criminal Procedure for the trial of such Europeans. Honourable Members know what is the meaning of that chapter. They were liable to be tried by their own countrymen and by a jury of their own fellow-countrymen and I do not know whether Honourable Members know the notorious case of O'Hara who killed an Indian and was ordered to be sentenced, and the whole regiment rose up in revolt against it. And thereafter the Government of India became wise and never tried a European in any case however serious.

When the Statute Law Revision Committee was in existence, the attention of this House was drawn to the fact that this obnoxious law, creating extritorial jurisdiction in favour of Europeans must be abrogated and a special Committee was appointed, and after long long periods of promises and confabulations, we came to a compromise and that compromise was embodied in the new Criminal Procedure Code.

Now, Sir, the Honourable the Law Minister has talked of the work that is being done by the Law Department of the Government of India. Most of the work that is done by the Government of India is to collect more money, but it was not the work of a character which would commend itself to this House. I should have expected, Sir, that after the Europeans had left India and the Indian Independence Act came into law on the 15th August, the first step they would take would be to repeal that chapter dealing with Europeans in India. Is there a single Honourable Member who thinks that they could have done less than what was absolutely necessary for the purpose of safeguarding the rights of the people of India and establishing a uniform state of criminal law in the country? What have they done? Nothing. The Europeans are gone but their privileges remain. They are still enshrined in a chapter of the code of criminal procedure.

Sir, the Honourable Minister has asked me to take his assurances and wait and see. I am afraid I am not prepared to wait and see such things as these for the honour of my country and for the honour of my countrymen. I cannot stand any longer the stamping by a European as a superior race and having his own laws and his own jury to try him. If the Government had taken timely steps to rectify this law I should have got up and thanked him for doing a public service for stamping out this large blot of criminal procedure which still stands as an eye-sore to me and an eye-sore to my fellow-countrymen in this country.

There are other Acts of the Indian Legislature. Lord Macaulay, when he drafted the Act of 1860, and it became the Penal Law, he had enacted a most drastic Act, the like of which India and the civilized world has never seen. In the report of the Select Committee he pointed out that:

"I have provided punishments to a people who are still in a primitive state of civilization. But I hope that when they emerge from that stage, the sentences that I have enacted in this Code will be revised."

These are the words of Lord Macaulay and this is the promise given by the Select Committee that made the Penal Code of India. What has been done? When this Statute Law Revision Committee was in being, it was pointed out to the Government of India that the sentences which the Penal Code has

enacted were in many cases not only prohibitively cruel but Draconian in their construction and tone, and as the author of the Penal Code promised, this would be compromised.

I would not like to detain this House one moment longer than is necessary but let the Honourable Members take my word for it that the Indian Penal Code requires as much revision as the Code of Criminal Procedure, and so far as such other laws of India are concerned, some of my Honourable friends have pointed out and referred to the Indian Independence Act, and I am quite sure that if I had more time I should have given further details of the various Acts of the Indian legislature which the Statute Law Revision Committee should revise—revise because it is the master of itself and it is not dictated to by a gentleman sitting in Whitehall, following the policy of the British Cabinet and not subservient to the wishes of the people of India. It is for this reason that I am afraid to wait and see. I hope the Honourable the Law Minister will take a reasonable time. I am not for a moment asking him that the Statutory Law Revision Committee should be brought into existence tomorrow and that it should finish its work the next day. What I do want is that there must be an earnest beginning to start the work of the Law Revision Committee. You can appoint a Secretary and you can appoint a Judge of the Federal Court. I am not sure about the Advocate General and the rest. But you can appoint men with legal talent and ability to do the work and collect materials to be laid before the Statute Law Revision Committee. I think, Sir, if this is done we shall have made a good beginning but in the meantime I wish to point out that the Criminal Procedure Code contains most obnoxious provisions in favour of Europeans, which were enacted at the time when the British were masters of this country and which the previous Assembly amended as a weak compromise, because they could do no more, be immediately repaired. We are not now in the region of compromises. We therefore ask the Law Minister to remove from the Code of Criminal Procedure this provision in favour of Europeans. I would ask them to see the report that preceded the enactment of the Indian Penal Code about what I have said regarding the denunciation of crimes and sentences which require to be revised. One hundred years have passed: the Government of India have done nothing. One hundred years have passed, their attention was drawn and has been drawn from time to time to these facts but I do not blame the Government of India of the pre-August days but I ask the Government of India of post-August days, what have they done and what has their department done to establish the real independence of this country?

Honourable Members know that when the Roman Republic was established the first thing that it did was to codify their laws. The laws of Justinian, Gaius and Ulpian etc. are the standard books prescribed for law examinations up to date. I hope we shall follow the great example of the Roman Republic and try to codify our laws, so that future generations in this and all countries of Asia and Europe may follow them as their safe and reliable textbooks. These are the things which I should expect the Law Department of the Government of India to do.

Law is the main branch of a state. It is not a minor branch: it is the main branch. The administration of the country depends upon the administration of its laws and the administration of laws depends upon their provisions which the judges are called upon to administer. Therefore I suggest, as my Honourable friend to my right has pointed out, that we should have immediately a Statute Law Revision Committee. Appoint a Secretary and give him the work of preparing a brief for the use of the Statutory Law Revision Committee. As to the composition of the Committee I am quite sure that the Honourable the Law Minister will consult the wishes of this House and will appoint such a committee as will command the confidence of this House.

[Shri H. V. Kamath]

moved. Then I hope and would request the Honourable Minister of Health to make a statement as regards the policy of the Government in this regard.

Mr. Chairman: Resolution moved:

"That this Assembly is of opinion that the State should actively promote and foster research, on a scientific basis, into the ancient Indian system of Ayurveda."

The Honourable Member has expressed his desire to withdraw the Resolution. May I know if the House is pleased to grant leave to the Honourable Member to withdraw the Resolution?

Some Honourable Members: Yes, yes.

Shri M. S. Aney (Deccan and Madras States group): Sir, the Honourable Member has moved a Resolution which is now before the House. At the beginning itself it was repeatedly asked of him whether he wanted to move it or not. He said that he wanted to move it and he has now done so. That is what has taken place. In these circumstances I do not know whether he can immediately, after making his speech in support of the motion, say 'I want to withdraw the motion'. It is of course for the House, I think, after hearing any statement of the Honourable Minister, to allow it to be withdrawn. But for the same Member to move a resolution and immediately thereafter to withdraw it is, I think, a procedure which should not be encouraged.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (U.P.: General): Since there is another Resolution to come, the Honourable Member may be allowed to withdraw it.

Mr. Chairman: It is certainly an unusual procedure for an Honourable Member to insist first of all that he is out to move a resolution and then, in the course of the same speech, to say that he is not pressing it. But at the same time I do not see that any advantage would be gained if the House does not agree to give him leave. That is why I put the question before the House that if it gives him leave, he will be allowed to withdraw the resolution.

Shri H. V. Kamath: I asked permission for withdrawing it only after moving the resolution.

Mr. Chairman: You cannot do so in the same speech. You cannot in the same breath blow hot and cold. Does the House give leave to the Honourable Member to withdraw his Resolution?

The Resolution was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

RESOLUTION RE TRAINING OF PERSONNEL FOR A NATIONAL MERCANTILE MARINE

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move the following Resolution:

"This Assembly is of opinion that immediate steps be taken by the Government of India for expanding the facilities for training in various branches of mercantile marine services so as to ensure an adequate and efficient personnel for a national mercantile marine."

In view of the shortness of time, I shall not go into the details which I have prepared for this occasion. The position today is this. Out of the total world tonnage of 66 millions, the United States of America has 34 million tons and the United Kingdom and Dominions 15 million tons, while India has 25, that is 250,000 tons, and even for this small mercantile marine we have not got enough personnel, and today, even though you buy ships, you may spend money but you cannot man the ships. That is the position today and the only institution for training officers is the *Dufferin* which gives us 25 executive

TRAINING OF PERSONNEL FOR A NATIONAL MERCANTILE MARINE

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officers and 25 engineers per year, and out of these 50, 15 drop off owing to many reasons, so that only 35 officers are being produced every year. These officers are not sufficient to man even the small mercantile marine which we have today. Sir, in the report of the Reconstruction Policy Committee on shipping it has been recommended that India should aim to have within the next seven years 2 million tons. If we are to have 2 million tons of shipping, we must have nearly 4,000 officers, that is to say we must annually produce 200 officers, and if we allow for wastage and reserve, we must produce at least 125 executive officers per year and 125 engineer officers. For this purpose, we want to have a real institute, a mercantile marine institute which will have nearly 500 to 600 students during the whole course. Therefore I suggest to the Honourable Minister in charge that he should take immediate steps to establish such an institute so that it will give all the officers that we need as early as possible. It has been suggested to me that there is already in the Trombay island near Bombay, which is 8 miles distant from Bombay by sea and 18 miles by road, naval barracks which will accommodate this very institute so that the Government of India need not go into further expenditure, and therefore I do suggest that the Government should take steps to acquire this place and start this institute, and if necessary expand it further.

There is also one other point which I would like to suggest, that is there are no coaching facilities for these officers for higher certificates, and immediate steps should be taken to provide these facilities. The Maritime Union of India is taking some steps to provide these facilities, but in response to their application for a grant the Government of India have not helped them so far. I hope the new Government that has come into being will do its part not only to build up the institute which I have suggested, but also to provide all facilities for our students to get the highest possible certificates. Now they have to go to London for many of the higher certificates. I think sufficient provision should be made in this country for them to get all certificates so that they need not be dependent upon foreign facilities. Sir, I do not want to take up the time of the House because I am more anxious that the Minister should have an opportunity to give us the necessary assurance for this purpose than that I should go into this question in any detail. I think that a small expert committee should be appointed to give the Government a proper scheme for training the requisite number of officers, and they should also take steps not only to get officers, but also to train the men and, to train all the ancillary services so that large numbers of our people may take their due share in our shipping and so that we can have an adequate mercantile marine. It is only when we have an adequate mercantile marine we can provide for our naval defence. It is no use merely depending on naval units. During the war it was the mercantile marine of the United States of Britain that came to the assistance of the Government. Their merchant ships were converted into naval units: all their officers were drafted into the Navy. Similarly it is only if we have a large number of trained personnel in our mercantile marine that when there is war or other difficulty we can get enough number of officers and seamen. Therefore I commend this resolution, Sir, and I hope it will be unanimously accepted by the House.

Mr. Chairman: Resolution moved:

"This Assembly is of opinion that immediate steps be taken by the Government of India for expanding the facilities for training in various branches of mercantile marine services so as to ensure an adequate and efficient personnel for a national mercantile marine."

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil (Minister for Works, Mines and Power): Mr. Chairman, I am very much obliged to my Honourable friend Mr. Santhanam for having given me an opportunity to enunciate the policy of the Government with respect to the matter raised in this Resolution. I want to say in the beginning that Government accept this resolution. Having done that, I just want to give very briefly some facts which will go to show that the

[Dr. Sir Hari Singh Gour]

Sir, I am very glad that this subject has come before this House. I am very glad that it has awakened the minds of many people to the dire necessity of amending our laws out of self-respect to ourselves. If I understand the Honourable Minister to carry out the purpose of my resolution I am glad to withdraw it.

Mr. Chairman: Has the Honourable Member leave of the House to withdraw the Resolution?

The resolution was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

RESOLUTION RE INDIAN STATES (PROTECTION AGAINST DISAFFECTION) ACT

Shri Jainarain Vyas (Jodhpur State): Sir, I have tabled a resolution to repeal the Princes Protection Act of 1922 and the States Protection Act of 1934. These obnoxious pieces of legislation were not liked by the members of this House when they were introduced as Bills and they were vehemently opposed. As a matter of fact the Princes Protection Act of 1922 was not permitted to be introduced in this House and had to be certified by the then Viceroy, Lord Reading. The other Act of 1934 was also strongly opposed among others by Mr. Gadgil, who is now a Minister, Sir Hari Singh Gour, Mr. Neogy and others and as such these Acts should not be on the statute book of free India. But I understand that the Govt. of India has asked the members of the Laws Enquiry Committee to go into this matter and to recommend whether these acts should be repealed or amended. Since the Government is acting in the matter I do not think it will serve any purpose if I move this resolution in this House. I hope the Government would not allow these acts to remain on the Statute Book or let these acts disfigure the statute book of Free India. Sir, I do not want to move my resolution.

RESOLUTION RE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH INTO AYURVEDA SYSTEM OF MEDICINE

Shri H. V. Kamath (C. P. and Berar: General): Sir, since I sent in my resolution on the subject of Ayurveda I have learnt from the Honourable the Minister of Health that the Government of India adopted a very similar resolution late last year and have travelled a long way in the direction of implementing the same. At an All-India Health Conference convened in October.....

Mr. Chairman: If the Honourable Member does not want to move the resolution I do not think the speech is permissible. Either he moves the resolution or does not: there is no third course.

Shri H. V. Kamath: In that case, I shall formally move the resolution. I want to say why I am withdrawing it.

Mr. Chairman: Let the Honourable Member first move the resolution and then make his speech.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Sir, I move:

"This Assembly is of opinion that the State should actively promote and foster research, on a scientific basis, into the ancient Indian system of Ayurveda."

It is needless for me to expatiate on the need for the State, for the Government of Free India, to undertake scientific research into our indigenous systems of medicine. Ayurveda has been a system which was looked upon by our ancient doctors, sages and seers not merely as a science of medicine but as a Veda, rather as the Fifth Veda. That is why it was called Ayur Veda. After the four Vedas this science was exalted to the position of a Fifth Veda. It is well known how this system flourished in ancient times and spread not merely in India but in countries abroad as well. They say that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. In the days preceding

the War I came across a German pharmaceutical company who used to manufacture Ayurvedic drugs. They were using the same name and putting them on the German market. For instance *Maharashwaj* was put on the Berlin market by a German manufacturing concern and it was very popular in Germany as well as in the rest of Europe. This is only one instance among many others to show the efficacy and the popularity of the system of Ayurveda. Unfortunately this science later on fell into the hands of quacks perhaps and therefore it got into disrepute. The science of Ayurveda got shrouded in mystery, as also the science of *Hathayoga*. I am mentioning *Hathayoga* because that formed part of the science of physiology and anatomy which our doctors knew and practised in the olden times. These two systems of Ayurveda and *Hathayoga* were interwoven and very intimately connected because anatomy and physiology are ancillary and essential to any system of medicine. Today Western doctors are amazed at the knowledge that our doctors, our *Hathayogis*, our ancient physicians had developed and treasured in their books. I hope, Sir, that with the new Government in office, with a Government of Free India in office, there will be a renaissance of our culture in all directions, a comprehensive renaissance, or a multi-petaled flower of the Indian culture as Rabindranath Tagore very often used to emphasize. This renaissance has been taking place for the last one hundred years or more and we have evolved through various stages in spite of our social degradation, in spite of our political slavery and in spite of a hundred and one obstacles that have beset our onward path to freedom. It is fortunate, Sir, that we have ultimately arrived at our goal, but we cannot afford to rest on our oars. We have to use this freedom as a means to an end, a means to the happiness of the people, the physical, mental and spiritual happiness of the individual as well as of society. If Ayurveda is encouraged, fostered and promoted by the state, it will not merely revive our ancient science, but it will also open up avenues of trade and commerce with foreign countries. There will also be an outlet for the energies of our people, and increase in our foreign trade. It is needless for me to say that our products, even our tooth pastes like Kopran and Neem, are sold in Europe and America at the present day, and if these Ayurvedic products are put on the market after scientific research on proper lines I have no doubt in my mind that they will open up large avenues of trade and commerce to our country.

I am gratified to note that this Government did adopt a very similar resolution late last year, in October 1946 to be exact. At an All-India Health Conference convened by the Government of India—the then just installed Interim Government of India—at which conference were present Provincial as well as Central representatives, a resolution was unanimously adopted that—

"In accordance with the recommendations of the National Planning Committee this Health Conference resolves that adequate provision should be made in the Centre and the Provinces for research in and application of the scientific method of investigation of the indigenous systems of medicine like Ayurveda and Unani with reference to the maintenance of health and the prevention and cure of disease;

Further for starting schools and colleges for training for diploma and degree courses in indigenous systems of medicine;

And for post-graduate courses in Indian medicine for graduates in Western medicine."

Subsequent to this I am glad to learn that Government have set up a Committee to implement this Resolution and the report of this Committee is scheduled to be out and before us by the end of February 1948. That day is not very far off and when the report is presented to us we will have an opportunity of discussing the entire matter afresh with very many new ideas before us. I thought that at this stage there would not be much point in pressing this Resolution of mine. That is what I wanted to say, but unfortunately, Sir you were pleased to hold otherwise. Even now, if you permit me to withdraw the resolution I shall do so. Otherwise you may please treat it as having been

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Wednesday the 3rd December 1947.

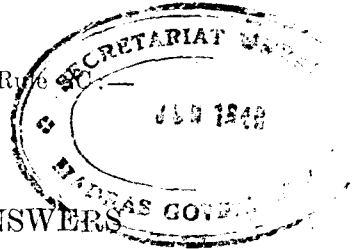
The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

DECLARATION BY MEMBERS

The following Members made the Declaration under Rule 50—

Saiyid Mohd. Saadulla; and

Kumararaja Sir M. A. Muthiah Chettiyar.



STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS.

EMPLOYMENT OF SCHOLARS RETURNED FROM ABROAD

540. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state how many Government scholars sent to foreign countries for advanced studies have returned to India so far?

(b) What are these specialists doing now in India?

(c) How do the Government of India propose to utilise the specialised knowledge of these scholars?

آنریبل مولانا ابولکلام آزاد : سنہ ۱۹۴۵ء اور سنہ ۱۹۴۶ء میں

(الف) جو سٹڈنٹس گورنمنٹ نے ۱۷ سکالرز سلیڈر پار کی ٹریننگ کے لئے بھیجئے تھے ان

میں سے تین ٹریننگ ختم کر کے واپس آگئے ہیں۔

(ب) ایک سٹیٹمنٹ ہاؤس کے ٹیبل پر رکھا جاتا ہے۔ جسمیں کہ یہ درج ہے کہ وہ

ہندوستان میں اب کیا کرتے ہیں۔ اور جہاں ضرورت محسوس کی گئی ہے انکے

واپس آنے کے وجوہات بھی اس میں درج ہیں۔

(ج) جو سکالرز ٹریننگ ختم کر کے واپس آئیں انکو پہلے ان منسٹریوں میں لیا

جایگا جنہوں نے کہ انکو مختلف ٹریننگ کے لئے چنا تھا۔ اس کے بعد دوسری

منسٹریوں کا انکی خدمات حاصل کرنے کا حق ہوگا۔ اس کے علاوہ اگر حکومت

ہند کو انکی خدمات کی فوراً ہی ضرورت نہ ہو اور وہ اسوجہ سے کہ انکے سکیم

تب تک مکمل نہ ہوئے ہوں تو ان کو پراونشیل گورنمنٹس یونیورسٹی ہاؤس

ٹیکنیکل انسٹی ٹیوٹس کی ضروریات کے مطابق بھرتی کیا جائیگا۔ جہاں تک

پراونشیل سکالرز کا تعلق ہے یہ پراونشیل گورنمنٹس کی ذمہ داری ہے کہ وہ ان کو

مناسب آسامیوں پر بھرتی کریں اگر وہ ایسا نہ کرسکیں تو ان کی خدمات حکومت

ہند حاصل کرلیتی ہے۔ اسوقت تک صرف ایک ہی کیس ایسا ہوا ہے جہاں

کہ پراونشیل گورنمنٹ ایک سکالر کو بھرتی نہیں کرسکی اور اب حکومت ہند

اسکو مناسب جگہ پر بھرتی کرنے کی کوشش کر رہی ہے۔

[Shri N. V. Gadgil]

urgency of this question has not escaped the attention of the Government. Only a few days ago the Honourable Mr. Bhabha, while addressing the Conference of representatives of shipping interests, stated that it has been accepted by the Government that the target for the increase in Indian tonnage for the coming five years would be 2 million tons. It is obvious that this is not enough unless there is properly trained personnel to run our ships. My friend, the Honourable Mr. Santhanam, has given some idea as to the number that would be required in order to run efficiently this tonnage. Very hurriedly for obvious reasons he gave a picture in which a complete scheme for training the entire personnel was visualized. In this connection I might bring to the notice of my friend the Honourable Mr. Santhanam, as well as the House, that in order to see that the Indian tonnage is not only increased but the shipping industry is owned, managed and run by Indians, the principle having been accepted, the Government have appointed a small committee, as has been visualized by my friend Mr. Santhanam, consisting of Captain H. L. Davis, Dr. S. R. Sen Gupta, and Mr. M. A. Master of the Scindia Steam Navigation Company.

This small Committee has been asked to report as early as possible and the Terms of Reference are so wide that I am sure they will satisfy every Member of this House; for, they embrace among other things—

“(a) To consider what measures can usefully be taken :—

- (i) to expand the existing facilities for preliminary training of cadets for sea-service; and
- (ii) to provide higher stages of training in navigation and engineering to prepare candidates for Board of Trade or equivalent certificates;

(b) The Committee will also examine and report as to :—

- (i) whether for the purposes of higher training an independent Nautical College should be run or whether Nautical Classes should be opened in the existing Government or private institutions;
 - (ii) whether such a Nautical College should train for Ship Surveyor's Course and “Extra” examinations besides for ordinary certificates of competency;
 - (iii) whether such a College could undertake to train Nautical Surveyors, Engineer and Ship Surveyors and Examiners of Engineers and Masters and Mates for the Mercantile Marine Departments;
 - (iv) whether and if so what arrangements should be made for the holding of Extra Master's and Extra First Class Engineer's examinations in India;
 - (v) whether facilities for higher training should be provided to only those cadets who take advantage of the preliminary training scheme or to all candidates who come forward for such training;
 - (vi) what method should be adopted for the selection of candidates for higher training;
 - (vii) what fees should be charged for higher training;
 - (viii) what should be the length of course of and the curriculum for higher training; and
 - (ix) what arrangements should be made for the recruitment of coaching staff required for the Nautical College.
- (c) The Committee will be competent to make such other recommendations as seem germane to the subject.”

You will see, Mr. Chairman, that the Terms of Reference are so wide that nothing more can be included in the same. At the same time, Sir, the Proceedings of this House covering the discussion on this particular subject, I promise to forward to the Chairman of the Committee for such consideration as he may consider necessary. I also earnestly request those Members who have taken a keen interest in this subject to make such useful and constructive suggestions as they can to the Chairman of the Committee directly, or if

they so desire they may forward them to Commerce Ministry which will forward them to the Chairman of this Committee.

I agree with my friend Mr. Santhanam that there is another aspect which is far more important than merely manning the Mercantile Marine. In times of war this staff is bound to be taken over for the purpose of defence—in other words, this is the second line of our Naval defence. From that point of view all I can say is that cost will not be a consideration in evolving any scheme which will secure an adequate number for running the ships the target of which has been very recently fixed at 2 million tons in the coming five years.

I do not think I should detain the House any more but once more I want to thank my friend Mr. Santhanam for having given this opportunity to Government to clarify the position, I hope to the satisfaction of the whole House.

Shri M. S. Aney (Deccan and Madras States Group): When is the Committee's Report likely to be available?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: As early as possible but within six months.

Shri M. S. Aney: When was the Committee appointed?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: About a fortnight ago.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa (C. P. and Berar: General): On a point of information, Sir, may I know whether the Board of Trade Examination which is now held for all these purposes in England will also be instituted in India?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That is a matter on which the Committee will certainly report, and if it does, my friend may rest assured that the Government will accept their recommendations.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I have no desire to take up the time of the House and would gladly forward my own suggestions to the Committee. I am grateful to the Government for accepting this Resolution and I hope this Committee will be asked to expedite its proceedings and come to effective conclusions as early as possible and I hope that as soon as the conclusions have been received by the Government, the Honourable Minister will not take much time and will come to a final decision as early as possible so that there will be no more delay in training the necessary personnel for our Mercantile Marine. Sir, I hope House will unanimously accept the Resolution.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

“This Assembly is of opinion that immediate steps be taken by the Government of India for expanding the facilities for training in various branches of mercantile marine services so as to ensure an adequate and efficient personnel for a national mercantile marine.”

The Motion was adopted.

श्री० राम सहाय: सभापति महोदय, डाक्टर पट्टाभी ने जो रेज्यूलेशन नेशनल मिलीशिया के बारे में पेश किया था और उस के सिलसिले में डिफेंस मिनिस्टर साहब ने जो आश्वासन दिया था उसको देखते हुए मैं अपना रेज्यूलेशन पेश नहीं करता हूँ।

Shri Ram Sahai: Mr. Chairman, in view of the assurance given by the Honourable the Defence Minister in connection with the resolution moved by Dr. Pattabhi regarding National Militia, I do not move my resolution.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 3rd December 1947.

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) From the Central Government scholars sent under the Central Overseas Scholarships Scheme, 17 of the 1945 batch and three of the 1946 batch have so far returned to India after completion of their training abroad.

(b) A statement giving the names of these scholars with a summary of the work they are doing in India and the reasons of return, where necessary, is placed on the table of the House.

(c) The services of a scholar on return, after completion of his training abroad, will in the first instance be placed at the disposal of the Ministry against whose requirements he was selected; other Ministries of the Government of India will have a second claim on him, if, however, the Government of India do not immediately require his services owing to the fact that their development plans have not materialised or have not been given effect to, he will be placed at the disposal of a Provincial Government, University, Technical Institution or industry according to their needs and demands.

So far as Provincial scholars are concerned, it is the responsibility of the Provincial Government concerned to place the returned scholars suitably. In case they are unable to do so, the services of the returned scholars are to be placed at the disposal of the Government of India. So far there has been only one such case where the Provincial Government has not been able to utilise the services of a trained scholar and the Government of India are endeavouring to place him in a suitable post.

Statement Showing the Position of Employment of Returning Scholars

1945 Batch

1. Tarapada Bandopadhyay Has specialised in Electro-Chemistry. The case was referred to the S/Ministry (I. & S.) who are trying to utilise him in one of the leading industries. Meanwhile he has joined his previous post.
2. K. R. Nair. Employed by F. R. I. Dehra Dun as a Statician.
3. V. Ranganathan F. R. I. have employed him.
4. A. S. Sharma I. & S. Ministry have employed him.
5. R. C. Sharma Returned due to ill health and is in sanatorium.
6. M. N. Verma Returned to India before completion of studies due to family circumstances.
7. B. N. Singh Has been asked to apply to National Physical Laboratories.
8. R. N. Merchant Returned due to ill health before completion of studies
9. N. L. Pal Has been asked to apply to F. P. S. C. for a post in I. A. R. I. Meanwhile has joined his previous post.
10. D. Hanmant Rao Efforts are being made to secure post in Delhi Polytechnic.
11. U. K. Patwardhan Case referred to Railway Board.
12. P. P. Bhatnagar Case referred to Ministry of Defence.
13. C. L. Nayar Case referred to Ministry of Defence.
14. M. V. Mathew The Ministry of Finance wished to interview the scholar but they have not so far intimated the date and time of interview and the post which they wish to offer. The Ministry of Finance have been reminded to let us have full particulars.
2. The Governments of Bombay and C. P. and Berar have also been addressed but have not so far replied.
15. Dr. K. C. Gulati The Ministry of Agriculture are being asked whether his services can be utilised in the I. A. R. I. or the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun.
16. Dr. D. N. Mullick This scholar has resumed his previous appointment at the I. V. R. I.

Izatnagar he has applied for the post of Animal Physiologist at the I.V.R.I. The F. P. S. C. has summoned the candidate for interview on 14th November 1947. Further developments are awaited.

17. Dr. Guruswamy The Ministry of I. & S. have been addressed but have not so far sent reply. The Ministry of Defence are also being consulted.

1946 Batch

1. Mrs. Sally Lewis Mrs. Sally Lewis expressed her desire to rejoin her former post in the Bengal Government to which we have agreed. Probably she has joined by now.
2. Mr. Inder Singh Was selected for Plastics against the requirement of I. & S. Ministry. He returned in September 1947 after completing one year's theoretical course and could not get facilities for practical training. His case was referred to the I. & S. Ministry. They have asked for particulars of this scholar. Particulars are awaited from U.S.A. In the meantime his case for Lecturer's post was referred to Delhi Polytechnic and they have agreed to consider his case provided that he applies for the post as and when advertisement appears in the press. The Scholar is being informed of the same. His case is also being referred to the Agriculture Ministry for certain posts of Chemist which will be filled up at Pusa Institute.
3. Mr. S. L. Bannerjee His case was referred to the S/Ministry for employment. No confirmation has so far been received. Reminder is being issued in this respect.

सेठ गेविन्द दास : क्या मैं माननीय मिनिस्टर साहब से पूछ सकता हूँ कि जितने स्कालर्स अब तक दूसरे देशों से वापस आए हैं उनमें से कोई भी ऐसे हैं जो काम पर नहीं लगाए गए हैं और हिन्दुस्तान में हैं ?

Seth Govinddas: May I know from the Honourable Minister that out of the scholars who have since returned from foreign countries if there are any whose services have not yet been utilized and are in India?

انریبل مولانا ابولکلام آزاد : آپ کو اسکی تفصیل سٹیٹمنٹ سے معلوم ہوگی۔ لیکن میں اپنی یادداشت سے یہ بتا سکتا ہوں کہ جو ٹریننگ کرے آئے تھے انکو لگایا گیا ہے۔ اور جو ابھی تک نہیں لگے ہیں انکے لئے کوشش کی جارہی ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: You will find its details from the statement. But I can tell you from my memory that those who had returned after completion of their training have been provided for and endeavours are being made for those who are still unemployed.

श्री० एच० वी कामथ : क्या वजीर साहब यह बता सकेंगे कि इन स्कालर्स में से कितने अमरीका भेजे गए थे, कितने इंग्लैण्ड गए और कितने अन्य मुल्कों में ?

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will the Honourable Minister please state as to how many of these scholars were sent to the United States of America and England: and how many to other countries?

انریبل مولانا ابولکلام آزاد : یہ تو میں نے ابھی آپ کو بتادیا ہے کہ یہ سب تفصیل آپکو اسٹیٹمنٹ سے معلوم ہوگی اور یہ سٹیٹمنٹ ہاؤس کے ٹیبل پر رکھ دیا گیا ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: I have already stated that you will find all these details in the statement; which has been placed on the table of the House.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: Will Government be pleased to state how much money Government have spent on their education so far?

آنریبل مولانا ابولکلام آزاد : آپکو اسکے بارے میں تفصیل سٹیٹمنٹ میں معلوم ہوگی۔

اور وہ سٹیٹمنٹ ہاؤس کے ٹیبل پر رکھ دیا گیا ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: You will find the details in the statement that has been placed on the table of the House.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: Will Government be pleased to state how many far are unemployed?

Mr. Speaker: That has already been answered.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: Will Government be pleased to state the number of Scheduled Castes that were sent abroad for education?

آنریبل مولانا ابولکلام آزاد : اس کے لئے نوٹس چاہیئے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: A notice is required for this.

Shri S. Nagappa: In view of the fact that sending students to foreign countries costs more to the students as well as to the Government, will Government consider the desirability of starting such specialised subjects in India itself and see that more training is given to more people

سری : میہیر لال چٹوپادھیای : ممبر ساہب کیا مہاراجا کر کے بتاؤ گے کہ جیہڑے باہر بھیجا جاتا ہے انہیں Provincial basis پر بھیجا جاتا ہے یا All India basis پر بھیجا جاتا ہے۔

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyaya: Will the Honourable Member please state whether those who are sent abroad are sent either on Provincial or All India Basis?

آنریبل مولانا ابولکلام آزاد : جو سکیم ہندوستان سے سکالرس کو باہر توپینگ کے لئے بھیجا جاتا ہے وہ دو قسم کا ہے ایک وہ جو حکومت ہند خود سلیکٹ کر کے سنٹرل گورنمنٹ سے بھیجتی ہے دوسرے وہ جو پراونشیل گورنمنٹ کے آدمیوں کو وظائیف دینے جاتے ہیں انکا Selection بھی حکومت ہند ہی کرتی ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The scheme for sending the scholars for training abroad falls under two categories, viz., one where the selection is made by the Government of India itself and the scholars are sent by the Central Government; and the other where the scholarships are granted to the Provincial scholars whose selection is also made by the Government of India.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know, Sir, if there is any record being kept of the performance of these students both abroad during training and after their return to India?

آنریبل مولانا ابولکلام آزاد : ہاں متعلقہ منسٹری اسکا پورا ریکارڈ رکھتی ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Yes. The Ministry concerned keeps a full record in this connection.

پروفیسر شیببنلال سکسنا : جو ویڈیو ہمارے سرکاری ریکارڈ سے باہر اس وقت ویڈیو میں پڑ رہے ہیں انکی سنکھا کتنی ہے؟

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: What is the present number of our students receiving training abroad who have been sent on Government expense?

آنریبل مولانا ابولکلام آزاد : اسکے لئے نوٹس چاہیئے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: A notice would be required for this.

ڈاکٹر پی۔ س۔ دیشموکھ : آگلی سال کتنے ویڈیو باہر بھیجے جانے والے ہیں؟

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: What is the number of students expected to be sent abroad during the ensuing year?

آنریبل مولانا ابولکلام آزاد : اسکے متعلق دو کمیٹیاں مقرر ہوئی ہیں اور وہ اس پر غور کر رہی ہیں۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Two Committees have been formed in this connection and they are considering over this.

سری راجکرنن بوس کیا وزیر ساہب کہہ سکتے ہیں کہ یہ جو تالوا کے لیے سٹیڈس ہیں انمیں سے کتنے سٹیڈس آدیواسیوں کے لیے reserve ہیں؟

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: Will the Honourable Minister please state the number of seats reserved for the Depressed Classes out of the total seats provided for these students.

آنریبل مولانا ابولکلام آزاد : انمیں کوئی بھی نہیں ہے۔ جو Qualified طلبا ملے تو انکو وظائیف دئے جاتے ہیں۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: There is none amongst them. If qualified students are available, they are granted scholarships.

IMPORT OF FOREIGN EXPERTS FOR TRAINING OF STUDENTS IN INDIA

541. ***Seth Govinddas:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the growing opposition for sending students to foreign countries for advanced studies; and

(b) whether Government propose to consider the opinions expressed by many experts to get specialists from foreign countries for giving training to our students in India?

آنریبل مولانا ابولکلام آزاد : (الف) اسوقت حکومت کے کوئی سامنے اس

قسم کی بات نہیں ہے۔ جس سے یہ پتہ چلے کہ کوئی "growing opposition to the sending of students to foreign countries for advanced studies" ہو رہی ہے۔ لیکن حکومت متحسوس کر رہی ہے۔ کہ موجودہ سنڈر پار کے وظائیف

کی سکیم میں کسی حد تک کچھ سقم ہے۔ خاص defect یہ ہے کہ بجائے اپنے موجودہ training centres اور institutions وغیرہ کی طرف دھیان دیا جائے اور باہر سے experts منگائے جائیں جو کہ یہاں پر ہمارے ان training centres اور institutions

نے پتہ لگایا ہے۔ اسوقت صرف طلبا کو باہر بھیجنے پر ہی دھیان دیا جا رہا ہے۔ ان ہی باتوں کو درست کرنے کے لئے حکومت نے دو کمیٹیاں مقرر کیں جنکے نام یہ ہیں۔ "Dr. B. C. Roy's Committee"

اور "Scientific Manpower Enquiry Committee"۔ یہ از سر نو سنڈر پار کے وظائیف دئے جانے پر غور کرینگے۔ ان دونوں کمیٹیوں نے اپنی interim رپورٹیں حکومت کے پاس بھیج دی ہیں۔ اور وہ حکومت کے زیر غور ہیں۔ حکومت سنڈر

پار کے وظائیف دئے جانے کے بارے میں اپنی آئندہ پالیسی کا جلدی ہی اعلان کرنے کی آمید کر رہی ہے۔

(ب) سوال کا یہ حصہ پیدا نہیں ہوتا۔

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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) [3RD DEC. 1947]

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) Government is not aware of any "growing opposition to the sending of students to foreign countries for advanced studies", but Government feels that the existing Overseas Scholarships Scheme is defective in certain respects. The basic defect is that instead of paying proper attention to our existing institutions, training centres and the necessity of inviting experts from abroad, attention is only paid to sending students abroad for training. It was in order to put this and other defects right that Government set up two Committees, namely, Dr. B. C. Roy's Committee and the Scientific Manpower Enquiry Committee to consider afresh the whole question of Overseas Scholarships. Both these Committees have submitted their interim reports and the Government is considering them. Government hopes, very shortly, to announce its future policy as regards Overseas Scholarships.

(b) Does not arise.

श्री गोविन्ददास: क्या माननीय मिनिसटर साहब यह बतलायेंगे कि यह जो कमेडियां बनाई गई थीं उनसे यह कहा गया था कि वह इस बात की सूची बनायें कि कितने ऐसे विषय हैं जिन पर बाहर हमारे विद्यार्थियों को भेजना आवश्यक है या नहीं है और जिन विषयों पर भी यहीं पर तालीम दी जा सकती है और कितने ऐसे विषय हैं जिनपर अब भी हमें विद्यार्थियों को बाहर भेजना पड़ेगा ?

Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister please state whether these Committees which had been set up were asked that they should prepare a list of such subjects for which it was not considered necessary to send our students abroad and training in respect of those could be given here? And what is the number of subjects for which we have still to send our students abroad for training?

آنریبل مولانا ابولکلام آزاد: یہ انکی terms اور reference میں واضح طور پر ظاہر کر دیا جاتا ہے جنکو سمنڈر یار کے وظائف دئے جاتے ہیں۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: This is explicitly mentioned in the terms and references of students who are granted Overseas Scholarships.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know who are the members of these two Committees?

آنریبل مولانا ابولکلام آزاد: اسوقت میرے پاس انکے نام نہیں ہیں۔ اس کے لئے نوٹس چاہئے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: At present I have not got their names. I would require a notice for this.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know whether at least these Committees are representative in character from all points of view?

آنریبل مولانا ابولکلام آزاد: اس طرح کی کمیٹیوں کو بنانے کے وقت اس بات کا خیال رکھا جاتا ہے کہ جس مدعا کے لئے یہ کمیٹیاں بنائی جاتی ہیں اُس میں جو آدمی لگائے جاتے ہوں وہ اس کے لئے موزوں ہوں۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: While setting up such Committees, this is kept in view that these Committees constitute of such persons who are fit for the purpose with which these are formed.

GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDENTS FROM AFRICA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

542. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have agreed to offer scholarships to African students in order to develop cultural contacts with African Youths and intelligentsia and if so, how many such students have so far been invited and from what countries and how many have actually come and in which Universities they are placed and for what subjects;

(b) whether any special steps are being taken to make them feel quite at home in the Indian social environment and to bring them into touch with our social and cultural heritage and Indian cultural leaders;

(c) what allowances for boarding and lodging, books and games are being paid to them; and

(d) whether it is proposed to increase the grant for the same purpose for the next year?

آنریبل مولانا ابولکلام آزاد: حکومت ہند نے اپنے cultural تعلقات کو بیرونی ممالک کے بڑھانے کے لئے اپنی ترقیات کے سکیم میں اس سال 5 وظائف یورپی افریقہ کے طلباء کو ہندوستان میں تعلیم حاصل کرنے کے لئے دئے ہیں۔ جن 5 طلباء کو ان وظائف کے لئے select کیا گیا تھا وہ ہندوستان میں ستمبر سنہ 1947ء کو پہنچ گئے۔ ان طلباء کے نام اور جن ممالک سے یہ آئے ہیں۔ اور جن یونیورسٹیوں میں انکو داخل کیا گیا ہے یہ ہیں۔

1. Mr. Stanley S. Sesanga, Uganda, studying for Graduate course at St. Stephen's College, Delhi.
2. Mr. B. F. F. Oluande, Uganda, studying for Graduate course at Aligarh University.
3. Mr. E. A. Seroney, Kenya, studying for Graduate course at Allahabad University.
4. Mr. E. Geoffrey Mwalenga, Kenya, studying for Intermediate course at Benares Hindu University.
5. Mr. J. M. Sentongo, Uganda, studying for B.Sc. Engineering at the Roorkee Engineering College.

(ب) یہ طلباء یونیورسٹی یا کالج کے ہوسٹلوں میں رہتے ہیں۔ اور یہ ان اداروں کے ہیڈس کے Supervision میں ہیں۔ اسلئے انکو ہندوستانی طلباء کے ساتھ میل جول کا کافی موقع ملتا ہے۔ اور ملک کی سوشل اور کلچرل زندگی میں متعلقہ یونیورسٹیوں کے ذریعہ سے وہ طلباء حصہ لے لیتے ہیں۔

(ج) حکومت ہند نے دو سو روپیہ کا ایک وظیفہ ہر ایک طالب علم کو دیا ہے۔ اس کے علاوہ جہاں ضرورت ہو Capitation فیس بھی دیا جائیگا۔ Passage کے اخراجات طلباء خود برداشت کریں گے۔

(د) اس گرانٹ میں فی الحال اضافہ کرنا مقصود نہیں ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) The Government of India, as part of their schemes for the development of Cultural Relations with foreign countries, have offered this year five scholarships to East African students for studies in India. The five students who were selected for the scholarships arrived in India in the beginning of September, 1947. The names of these scholars, the countries from which they came and the Universities in which they are placed are mentioned below:

1. Mr. Stanley S. Sesanga, Uganda, studying for Graduate course at St. Stephen's College, Delhi.
2. Mr. B. F. F. Oluande, Uganda, studying for Graduate course at Aligarh University.
3. Mr. E. A. Seroney, Kenya, studying for Graduate course at Allahabad University.

4. Mr. E. Geoffrey Mwalenga, Kenya, studying for Intermediate course at Benares Hindu University.

5. Mr. J. M. Sentongo, Uganda, studying for B.Sc. Engineering at the Roorkee Engineering College.

(b) The students are staying in the University or College hostels and are under the general supervision of the Heads of the Institutions. They have thus plenty of opportunities of intimate contacts with Indian students of these Universities and are able to participate in the social and cultural life of the Universities and through them of the country.

(c) The Government of India have granted an all-inclusive stipend of Rs. 200 p.m. to each of the students and, in addition, capitation fees will be paid where necessary. Passage expenses have to be borne by the students themselves.

(d) No increase in the grant is contemplated at present.

सेठ गोविन्ददास : क्या माननीय सदस्य को यह मालूम है कि पूर्वी अफ्रीका की चारों कालोनीज—केन्या, युगेण्डा, जंजीबार और टांगनियका में कोई कालेज नहीं है जहां पर हिन्दुस्तान के विद्यार्थी पढ़ सकें और ऐसी हालत में क्या गवर्नमेंट इस बात पर विचार करेगी कि जहां तक East Africa का सम्बन्ध है वहां कुछ और ज्यादा छात्र वृत्तियां वहां के विद्यार्थियों को दी जायें।

Seth Govinddas : Is the Honourable Minister aware of the fact that there is no College in all the four colonies of East Africa viz., Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika and Zanzibar where the Indian students may get training? And in such circumstances, will the Government kindly consider over the possibility of granting some more scholarships to the students so far as East Africa is concerned?

अनुरिबल مولाना अबुलकलाम आज़द : कौन्सिल्ट अस पर गुर करिगी -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad : The Government will surely consider over this.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : May I know, Sir, who selects the Universities in which these students have to be educated, and why is it that one of them has been sent to a University which has made it its special cult to preach communalism in this country?

अनुरिबल مولाना अबुलकलाम आज़द : जेहा तक के मन्सतरी को एम है इन टाला को खू व क्ताबत के डुरिबे से External Affairs मन्सतरी ने चना-हा-ब-जस-बत की टर्फ मेरु मीर ने आशरे किया है - अस के म्तेलक मन्सतरी के सामने कौनी चिज नहिण है -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad : So far as the Ministry are aware of, these students were selected by the Ministry of External Affairs by means of correspondence. There is nothing before the Ministry which relates to the matter referred to now by the Honourable Member.

श्री मिहिरलाल चट्टोपाध्याय : मैं पूछना चाहता हूं कि जैसे अफ्रीका के students के लिये हमारे मुल्क में scholarship का इन्तजाम रक्खा गया है ऐसे ही हमारे students के लिये कोई इन्तजाम है या नहीं।

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyaya : I would like to know whether there exists any arrangements for our students or not just as scholarships have been provided for the students from East Africa in our country.

अनुरिबल مولाना अबुलकलाम आज़द : اس basis پر یہ انتظام نہیں کیا جاتا ہے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad : This arrangement is not made on this basis.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Is it not a fact that in those areas from which these friends have come to our country as scholars there are no Universities?

अनुरिबल مولाना अबुलकलाम आज़द : غالباً ایسا ہی ہے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad : Probably this is so.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : I am sorry I could not follow the answer given to part (b) of the question. Will the Honourable Minister be pleased to state whether it is proposed to increase the grant in the next year and also increase the number of students?

अनुरिबल مولाना अबुलकलाम आज़द : कौन्सिल्ट अस की ضرورت नहीं समझती है -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad : The Government do not feel its necessity.

डाक्टर पी० एस० देशमुख : क्या मैं जान सकता हूं कि कब यह decision लिया

गया और क्या यह बात Legislative Assembly के सामने आई थी ?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh : May I know when this decision was arrived at and whether this matter was brought up before the Legislative Assembly?

अनुरिबल مولाना अबुलकलाम आज़द : یہ قاعدہ نہیں ہے - اس طرح سے سوال Legislative Assembly کے سامنے نہیں آئے ہیں اور متعلقہ مन्سٹری ان پر خود

ہی غور کرتی ہے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad : This is not the rule. Such questions are not brought before the Legislative Assembly and the Ministry concerned itself considers over these.

डाक्टर पी० एस० देशमुख : मैं पूछ रहा हूं अगले साल के लिये क्या रकम रखी

गई है इस सिलसिले में

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh : I am enquiring what is the amount provided for the next year in this respect?

अनुरिबल مولाना अबुलकलाम आज़द : اس کے لئے نوٹس چاہئے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad : I would require a notice for this.

अनुरिबल पण्डित जवाहर लाल नेहरु : یہ معاملہ اصل میں External Affairs مन्سٹری کا تھا - انہوں نے سفارش کی Education مन्سٹری کے پاس - کہ ایسے وظائف باہر کے لوگوں کو دئے جائیں - اور یہ جو ایسٹ افریقہ اور افریقہ کے طلباء کو وظائف دئے گئے ایسے ہی انتظام وہاں پر ہمارے طلباء کے نہیں ہو سکتے ہیں کیونکہ وہاں پر یونیورسٹیاں اور کالج نہیں ہیں ہم اپنا تعلق بڑھانا چاہتے ہیں - افریقہ کے لوگوں کے ساتھ اب تک ان کے لئے ایک ہی ذریعہ تھا یورپ اور امریکہ جانے کا - جب ہماری طرف سے وہاں راجہ مہاراج سنگھ کا کمیشن گیا تو انہوں نے یہ سفارش کی کہ افریقہ والے چاہتے ہیں کہ وہ ہندوستان میں پڑھنے کے لئے آئیں اس پر خط و کتابت کی گئی اور External Affairs مन्سٹری نے Education مन्سٹری سے چند وظائف دینے کے لئے سفارش کی - انہوں نے یہ بات منظور کی اور یہ وظائف وہاں کے طلباء کو دئے گئے -

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru : In fact this matter related to the Ministry of External Affairs. They recommended to the Ministry of Education that such scholarships should be awarded to students from abroad.

Arrangements similar to those under which these scholarships have been granted to students from East Africa and Africa cannot be made for our students there, because there are no Colleges or Universities. We want to develop our relations with the people of Africa. Uptil now there was only one course for them and that was going to Europe and America. When our Commission under the Leadership of Raja Maharaj Singh went there, they recommended that the people in Africa desire that they should come over to India for studies. On this correspondence was exchanged and the External Affairs Ministry recommended to the Ministry of Education for the grant of few scholarships. They accepted their recommendation and these scholarships were granted to the students from that country.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, in view of the fact that this grant has been universally hailed by all the leaders of the East African Associations and Organisations, will Government consider the advisability of increasing the number of scholars who will be welcome to come over to this country during the next year?

Mr. Speaker: That has been already answered.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: But, Sir, in view of the fact that it was really initiated by the External Affairs Department as a matter of improvement of cultural relations, I would like to make the suggestion to the Honourable Prime Minister himself.

Mr. Speaker: Then, the Honourable Member must put further supplementaries by putting a separate question to the Honourable the Prime Minister.

SCHEDULED CASTE SCHOLARS SENT ABROAD

543. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dr. Ambedkar's scheme of devoting Rs. 4 lakhs per annum for sending scheduled caste scholars to other countries for advanced studies is still being pursued;

(b) if so, how many scholars have so far been sent out since the Scheme was given effect to, year by year, and to what countries; and

(c) whether an Advisory Council or any advisers have been appointed anew after the 15th August, 1947 and if so, who are the advisers?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: (الف) ۱۹۴۴ء میں حکومت ہند نے تین لاکھ روپیہ سالانہ

پانچ سال کے لئے Scheduled castes طلباء کو ۱۹۴۴-۴۵ء میں ہندوستان اور ہندوستان سے باہر تعلیم حاصل کرنے کے لئے وظائف کے طور پر دئے جانے منظور کئے۔ اس پر اب بھی عمل درآمد ہو رہا ہے۔ لیکن ۱۹۴۶-۴۷ء وظائف صرف ہندوستان میں ہی تعامد حاصل کرنے کے لئے دئے جانے مقصود ہیں۔ اسلئے Scheduled castes طلباء کو Generaloverseas scholarships scheme سے بھی وظائف دئے جائیں گے۔

(ب) ۱۹۴۵-۴۶ء میں سمندر پار کے ۲۲ وظائف اس سکیم کے ماتحت منظور ہوئے تھے۔ ان میں سے ۱۹ طلباء کو U.K., دو کو کیلیڈا اور ایک کو U.S.A. بھیج دیا گیا تھا۔

(ج) سنہ ۱۹۴۴-۴۵ء میں حکومت ہند نے Scheduled Caste Scholarship Board مقرر کیا تاکہ وہ حکومت کو Scheduled caste طلباء کو وظائف دئے جانے میں مشورہ دے۔ یہ بورڈ اپریل ۱۹۴۷ء میں دوبارہ مقرر ہوا۔ اس کے ممبران یہ ہیں۔

1. Sir Maurice Gwyer.
2. Educational Adviser to the Government of India. -
3. A representative of the Ministry of Finance.
4. The Honourable Rameshwar Agnibhoj.
5. Minister for Agriculture, C. P. & Berar.
6. Mr. Ramananda Das, Calcutta.

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) In 1944, the Govt. of India sanctioned a grant of Rs. 3 lakhs per annum for a period of 5 years with effect from 1944-45 for scholarships to scheduled caste students for studies in India and abroad. The scheme is still being pursued but since 1946-47 it is confined to scholarships to studies in India. Overseas Scholarships to scheduled caste students are, however, awarded to them under the General Overseas Scholarships Scheme of the Government of India.

(b) 22 Overseas Scholarships were sanctioned under the scheme during the year 1945-46. Of these 19 scholars were sent to the United Kingdom, 2 to Canada and 1 to the United States of America.

(c) The Scheduled Caste Scholarship Board appointed in 1944-45 to advise the Government of India for the award of these scholarships was reconstituted in April, 1947. The Board now consists of (1) Sir Maurice Gwyer, Chairman, (2) Educational Adviser to the Govt. of India, (3) A representative of the Ministry of Finance, (4) The Honourable Rameshwar Agnibhoj, (5) Minister for Agriculture, C.P. & Berar, (6) Mr. Ramananda Das, Calcutta.

Shri S. Nagappa: Sir, is there any likelihood of these Rs. 4 lakhs being increased?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: حکومت ہمیشہ اس کو بڑھانے پر غور کرنے کے لئے تیار ہے لیکن اسوقت یہ سکیم چار برس سے چل رہا ہے۔ اور ایک برس میں یہ ختم ہوگا اور اس کے بعد اس پر غور کیا جائیگا۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The Government are always prepared to consider over its increase. But at present this scheme is in force for the last four years, and it will be over within a year. After this the matter will be considered.

Shri S. Nagappa: Have Government been giving due representation to all provinces from which there are no members on the selection committee?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: اس کی بہت کوشش کی جاتی ہے۔ کہ ہر ایک کو رپریزنٹیشن دی جائے خواہ کمیٹی میں وہاں سے ممبر ہوں یا نہ ہوں۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Endeavours are always made that every Province should be given representation irrespective of the fact whether there are members on the Committee or not.

श्री० राजकृष्ण बोस: क्या वजीर साहब बता सकते हैं कि इस तरह का कोई सुभीता Scheduled Castes के लिये है वैसा आदिवासियों को देने के लिये इसजैसा साल कोई provision किया गया है ?

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: Will the Honourable Minister please state whether any provision for such facilities similar to those granted to the Scheduled Castes has been made during this year for the Adibasiyas as well?

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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) [3RD DEC. 1947]

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : خاص اسی طرح کی کوئی سہولیت نہیں ہے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: There are no special facilities like this.

श्री शिवनलाल सकसेना कितने विधार्थी इस स्कीम के मातहत पढ़ने गए हैं ?

Shri Shibban Lal Saksena: How many students have gone out for studies under this scheme?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : ابھی میں نے آپ کو بتلایا کہ ۲۲ طلبہ کو سکلرشپ دیکر

U. S. A. باہر بھیج دیا گیا ہے انہیں سے ۱۹ U. K. دو کلیدز اور ایک

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: I have just now stated that 22 students have been granted scholarships and sent abroad. Out of these 19 have been sent to U. K., two to Canada and one to U.S.A.

Shri S. Nagappa: Have the students sent in the first batch returned? If so, what are they doing?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اسکے لئے نوٹس چاہئے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: I would like to have a notice for this.

WELFARE INSTITUTIONS FOR MILITARY AND ANGLO INDIAN CHILDREN

544. ***Shri V. I. Munishwami Pillai:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state the names of the institutions that are aided for the welfare of the Military and Anglo-Indian children in the various provinces?

(b) What are the amounts, by way of subsidies and otherwise, given to the institutions?

(c) Is the Lawrence Memorial Royal Military School, Lovedale, Nilgiris, maintained under this scheme?

(d) What is the annual aid given to this institution and who has the control of the same?

(e) Are Indian pupils admitted in these institutions as boarders and day scholars?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (b). I lay a statement on the table of the House.

(c) Yes.

(d) The annual grant-in-aid towards the Lawrence Memorial Royal Military School is not fixed and is dependent on the number of the entitled children studying there. During the financial year 1946-47 Government have given as grant-in-aid Rs. 1,57,000.

The School is controlled by a Board of Trustees.

(e) Yes.

Statement

(a) The following are the Educational establishments which are aided by the Government of India for the benefit of the children of Indian Sailors, Soldiers, and Airmen including the Anglo-Indians:

(1) Prince of Wales Royal Indian Military College, DEHRA DUN.

(2) King George's Royal Indian Military College, JULLUNDUR.

- (3) King George's Royal Indian Military College, AJMER.
- (4) King George VI's Royal Indian Military College, BELGAUM.
- (5) King George VI's Royal Indian Military College, BANGALORE.
- (6) The Lawrence Royal Military School, SANAWAR.
- (7) The Lawrence Military School, ABU.
- (8) The Lawrence Memorial Royal Military School, LOVEDALE.

(b) The following are the contributions made by the Government of India for the financial year 1947-48:—

- (1) Prince of Wales Royal Indian Military College, DEHRA DUN. Rs. 1,87,000.
- (2) King George's Royal Indian Military College, JULLUNDUR. Rs. 31,000.
- (3) King George's Royal Indian Military College, AJMER. Rs. 56,000.
- (4) King George VI's Royal Indian Military College, BELGAUM. Rs. 62,000.
- (5) King George VI's Royal Indian Military College, BANGALORE. Rs. 59,000.
- (6) The Lawrence Royal Military School, SANAWAR. Rs. 2,70,000.
- (7) The Lawrence Military School, MOUNT ABU. Rs. 18,000.
- (8) The Lawrence Memorial Royal Military School, LOVEDALE. Rs. 1,57,000.

EDUCATION OF SCHEDULED CASTES

545. ***Shri V. I. Munishwami Pillai:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state the amounts spent on education of the Scheduled Castes during the years 1945, 1946 and 1947?

(b) How many students were sent to foreign countries during the past three years and from which provinces they were drawn and the subjects in which they were trained?

(c) Who are the members of the Committee that selects these students for study abroad?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) The amount spent on education of the Schedule Castes by the Central Government is as follows:—

1944-45	Rs. 47,697
1945-46	Rs. 2,28,097
1946-47	Rs. 3,35,939

(b) 27 students were sent abroad for higher studies in the year 1945 and 4 in the year 1946. No student was sent abroad in the year 1944. Further information required in the question regarding the candidates is given in the statement laid on the table of the House.

(c) (i) The members of the reconstituted Scheduled Caste Scholarship Board are: (1) Sir Maurice Gwyer, Vice-Chancellor, Delhi University, Delhi, (Chairman), (2) Educational Adviser to the Government of India, (3) Joint Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance, (4) Rai Bahadur N. Siva Raj, (5) Professor N. N. Godbole, Benares Hindu University.

(ii) Members of the reconstituted Selection Board for Government of India Overseas Scholarships Scheme, 1947-48 are: (1) Sir B. N. Rau, (Chairman), (2) Sir John Sargent, (3) Sir K. S. Krishnan, (4) K. B. Mian Abdul Aziz, (5) Mr. Ashfaq Husain, Educational Adviser to the Government of India (Secretary).

Statement showing the number of scheduled caste students sent to Foreign countries, their Provinces and subject of study

Serial No.	Name of province from which drawn	Total number of students sent abroad	Subject of study with respective number of students	Country to which sent
1945				
1	Assam	1	Teachers training	1 U.K.
2	Bengal	7	Teachers training	2 U.K.
			Technology	1 U.K.
			Engineering	1 U.K.
			Veterinary	1 Canada.
			Radio Engineering	1 U.K.
3	Bombay	7	Industrial & Applied Chemistry	1 U.K.
			Teachers Training	6 U.K.
4	C. P. & Berar	4	Social study	1 U.K.
			Agriculture	2 U.K.
			Teachers training	1 U.K.
5	Madras	3	Mechanical Engineering	1 U.K.
			Engineering	1 Canada.
			Domestic Science	1 U.K.
6	Mysore	1	Plastics	1 U.K.
7	Orissa	1	Meteorology	1 U.K.
8	Punjab	3	Agriculture	1 U.K.
			Teachers Training	2 U.K.
			Engineering	1 U.S.A.
TOTAL		27		
1946				
1	Bengal	3	Lequefection of coal	1 U.K.
			Education General	1 U.S.A.
2	Madras	1	Osamies	1 U.K.
			Public Health Engg.	1 Canada.
TOTAL		4		

MANUFACTURE OF AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY

546. *Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence please state whether Government have examined or propose to examine the possibility of manufacturing agricultural and other machinery in the Gun Carriage Factory, Jubbulpore? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The Gun Carriage Factory, Jubbulpore, is already engaged in civil production including manufacture of road rollers and components of ploughs.

Seth Govinddas: Is the Honourable Minister aware that there still is a good deal of machinery in that factory which are not used and may be used for still greater production?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: That is true

Seth Govinddas: Then why is not all that being used for manufacturing all this machinery?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: This factory was under the control of the Joint Defence Council. It has passed to our control from 1st December and steps are being taken to explore the possibilities.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: How many road rollers have so far been produced in this Ordnance factory?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I have not got that information; if the Honourable Member will give me notice I will get it.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Has the actual manufacture started or is it in contemplation to start it in the immediate future?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The manufacture is in hand at present.

Shri Shibban Lal Saksena: Are there any Europeans in charge of this factory?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I cannot say off-hand, but there are a number of European officers employed in all the Ordnance factories.

Seth Govinddas: Will Government see that no more Europeans are employed in this Gun Carriage Factory because more experts are available among Indians now?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Government's policy is to give preference to Indians. If they are not available for certain jobs, then only are foreigners employed.

Shri Shibban Lal Saksena: Are Government aware that in many Ordnance factories Europeans have been responsible for destroying and smuggling out some of our finest machines for the manufacture of arms?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I have heard rumours, and if any specific case is brought to our notice we will investigate it.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I know if the steam rollers referred to are mainly for use by the Defence Department or are they also intended for civilian use? If so, may I know the plan and programme of Government with regard to the manufacture of such rollers?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The steam rollers are not for the use of the Defence Department; they are meant for civilian use.

Seth Govinddas: Is the Honourable Minister aware that recently there have been thefts in the Jubbulpore factory for which the European officers there are largely responsible?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I have no information.

Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister make inquiries into this because it is a serious matter that occurred in Jubbulpore?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Some reports were received about theft, not from the Jubbulpore Ordnance Factory but from the Ordnance Depot, which is an entirely different thing.

Shri Sures Chandra Majumdar: May I know what are the precise kinds of work that are being done in the Cossipore Gun and Shell Factory and Ishapore Rifle Factory in Bengal at present?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I cannot answer without notice.

RESEARCH IN INDIA'S HISTORY, POLITICAL THOUGHT AND PHILOSOPHY

547. *Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister of Education please state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme to promote and aid research in Indian History, Indian Political thought and Indian Philosophy; and

STATEMENT

Year	Recurring Grant	Non-recurring Grant	Remarks
1942-43	1,75,000	1,00,000	Recurring 1,75,000—Normal Grant. Non-Recurring 1,00,000 : 50,000 Conversion of stables into Lodging House. 15,000 Improvement of Prince's Pavillion. 10,000 Equipment for Science Laboratories. 10,000 Improvement of Playing Fields. 15,000 Women's Hostel.
1943-44	2,45,000	3,00,000	2,45,000—Normal Recurring Grant. 3,00,000—Non-Recurring grant for the construction of the Lodging House.
1944-45	2,95,000	50,000	2,95,000—Normal Recurring Grant. 50,000—Non-Recurring Grant for general Administration.
1945-46	2,95,000	2,50,000	2,95,000—Normal Recurring Grant. 50,000—Non-Recurring grant for General Administration.
		2,00,000 (Loan)	2,00,000—Non-Recurring } Construction of Science Laboratories, Women's Hostel and residential accommodation for Professors and Readers. 2,00,000 Loan }
1946-47	5,45,000	18,45,000	5,45,000 Recurring— 2,95,000—Normal Recurring grant. 20,000—Recurring Grant for University Administration. 10,000—Recurring Grant for the Department of Russian Language. 25,000—Recurring Grant for the Department of Anthropology. 1,95,000—Advance of Recurring grant of Rs. 3,64,000 in a full financial year for the University on the basis of the Recommendation of the Universities Grant Committee for:— (i) Appointment of New Professors, Readers and Lecturers. (ii) Maintenance of Science Laboratories. (iii) Starting of All India Scholarship Schemes. (iv) Exhibition of Science Students. (v) Starting of the Vice Chancellor's Fund. (vi) Study Leave. (vii) Appointment of Administrative Staff. (viii) Maintenance of Buildings and Gardens. (ix) Contingencies. (x) Revision of scales of salaries. (xi) Women's College. 18,45,000 Non-Recurring— 50,000 for General Administration. 25,000 Construction of the Russian Language Departments building. 70,000 Construction of the building for the Department of Anthropology. 17,00,000 Advance of Non-Recurring Grant of Rs. 44,91,729 for the construction of: (a) Arts Faculty Building. (b) Biology Block. (c) University Hall. (d) Miranda House. (e) Residential Quarters. (f) Equipment of Laboratory and the Library. (g) Laying out of the Playing Fields.

شری دیش بندھو گپتا : کیا آنریبل منسٹر یہ بتانے کی تکلیف گوارا فرمائینگے کہ جس مقصد کے لئے یہ گرانٹ منظور ہوئی تھی وہ اسی پر استعمال کی گئی۔

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable Minister please state whether this grant has been utilized for the specific purpose for which it was sanctioned?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : یہ آپ کا ایک الگ سوال ہے۔ اور جو اس وقت موجودہ یونیورسٹیاں قائم کی گئی ہیں ان پر یہ خرچ کیا جاتا ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: This is a separate question. This expenditure is incurred on Universities which exist at present.

شری دیش بندھو گپتا : میں نے اپنے سوال کے ضمن (ب) میں یہ پوچھا تھا - "whether any of these grants were earmarked for specific purposes, and if so, what are they."

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: I had enquired this in portion (b) of my question: "whether any of these grants were earmarked for specific purposes, and if so, what are they"

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : آپ کو سٹیٹمنٹ سے معلوم ہو جائیگا کہ یہ گرانٹ جس مقصد کے لئے منظور کئے گئے ہیں اس پر ہی استعمال کئے گئے ہیں۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: You will find from the statement that these grants have been utilized for the specific purpose for which these were sanctioned.

شری دیش بندھو گپتا : کیا آنریبل منسٹر کو اطمینان ہے کہ وہ اسی مقصد پر خرچ کئے گئے ہیں۔

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is the Honourable Minister satisfied that these have been spent for the specific purposes.

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اطمینان نہ ہونے کی کوئی وجہ نہیں ہے۔ یہ جس مقصد کے لئے منظور ہوئے ہیں اسی پر خرچ بھی کئے جاتے ہیں۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: There is no reason for not being satisfied. These are also spent for the specific purposes for which these are sanctioned.

شری دیش بندھو گپتا : کیا آنریبل منسٹر اس بارے میں تحقیقات کرنے کی تکلیف کرینگے۔

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable Minister kindly make an enquiry into the matter?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : بہر حال اگر آنریبل ممبر کا ایسا ہی خیال ہو تو تحقیقات کی جائیگی۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: In any case if the Honourable Member thinks like this, an enquiry will be made.

COMPULSORY MILITARY TRAINING TO YOUNGMEN

550. *Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a few weeks ago the Minister of Defence stated publicly that a scheme had been prepared for introducing compulsory Military training to young men in the country?

(b) If so, what are the details of the scheme?

(b) if not, whether Government propose to consider the advisability of appointing committees of experts to go into the question of research in these subjects and to make recommendations to Government?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : (ا) انڈین ہسٹوریکل ریکارڈ کمیشن کو سنہ ۱۹۴۱ء میں اس غرض کے لئے reorganise کیا گیا ہے تاکہ ہندوستان کی ہسٹوری research کو بڑھا دیا جائے۔ گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا کسی ایسی research کا اجرا نہیں کرتی جس سے کہ Indian Political Thought اور Indian philosophy کو ترقی ہو۔ بہرحال وہ ایسی سکیموں پر ہمدردانہ غور کریگی جو کہ اس ضمن میں انڈین یونیورسٹیاں اور Research Institutes پیش کریں۔ جن سے کہ وہ تعلق رکھتے ہوں۔ (ب) جو حالات اس بارے میں جواب کے پہلے حصہ میں بیان کئے گئے ہیں ان کے ماتحت حکومت کسی کمیٹی کو مقرر نہیں کریگی۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) The Indian Historical Records Commission has been reorganised in 1941 with a view to stimulating and promoting research in Indian History. The Government of India are not initiating any scheme which will promote research in Indian Political Thought and Indian Philosophy. They will, however, consider sympathetically any scheme of research on the subjects submitted to them through Indian Universities and Research Institutes with which they are concerned.

(b) In the circumstances stated above, Government do not propose to appoint any committee in this connection at this stage.

RECONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEE ON INDIGENOUS SYSTEM OF MEDICINE

548. *Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister of Health please state:

(a) whether Government propose to reconstitute the committee on Indigenous systems of Medicine in view of the fact that there is only one *vaidya* and seven Allopathic doctors on the committee and that some of the members are now nationals of Pakistan;

(b) whether Government now propose to appoint on the new committee a greater number of *vaidyas* and *hakims* , as the work of the committee relates to the Indian systems of medicine;

(c) whether the All-India Ayurvedic Congress, the representative organisation of the *vaidyas* of the country, was consulted at any stage before the appointment of members of the Committee;

(d) whether the Provincial Governments were advised to consult the provincial branches of the All-India Ayurvedic Congress, before suggesting to the Government of India, names of *vaidyas* to be appointed as members of the Committee; and

(e) whether Government propose to have representatives of the Central legislature on this Committee?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) and (b). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given to clause (b) of Starred Question No. 74 by Dr. V. Subrahmanyam on the 19th November 1947.

(c) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given to clause (c) of Starred Question No. 85 by Shri R. V. Dhulekar on the 19th November 1947.

(d) No. It was left to the discretion of Provincial Governments.

(e) No.

Seth Govinddas: Is the Honourable Minister aware that in the matter of representation of *Vaidas* there is country-wide dissatisfaction at the appointments that have been made? Will the Honourable Minister reconsider this question and allow this Committee to coopt certain *Vaidas* who are accredited representatives of various Ayurvedic institutions?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: There have been representations to Government that the *Vaidas* that were put on this Committee were not representative. As a matter of fact the provincial Governments were asked to nominate the *Vaidas* that were to serve on the Committee, and they had full discretion in doing so; and they maintained that they were representative. In addition the Committee was asked whenever it went to the provinces to coopt *Vaidas* . This has been done and evidence has been taken from these *Vaidas* .

Seth Govinddas: The question of their representation when the Committee goes to the provinces is different. My question is this: In the present circumstances will the Honourable Minister consider the question of coopting some more *Vaidas* on the Committee itself?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Government cannot do that because the report is practically ready and will be in our hands very soon.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: Do Government propose to have Homoeopaths as members of the Committee?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: No, Sir.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: In view of the fact that it is a cheap system and the country is poor.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order; that is a matter of argument. The reply is that Government will not do so.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: May I know why?

Mr. Speaker: That will lead to an argument. Next question.

GRANTS-IN-AID TO THE DELHI UNIVERSITY

549. *Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) the amounts of Grants-in-aid made to the Delhi University during each of the last five years; and

(b) whether any of these grants were earmarked for specific purposes, and if so, what are they?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : (ا) اور (ب) : ایک سٹیٹمنٹ ہاؤس کے قیبل پر

رکھ دیا گیا ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the observations made in the course of my address the passing out parade of the cadets of the Elementary Flying Training School at Jodhpur, on the 28th June 1947. What I then said was that we had a scheme in view under which every young man in the country will receive military training in the Navy, Army or the Air Force if he so desires.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to the discussion on Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya's Resolution moved in this House on the 27th November 1947.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Is my honourable friend aware that he was not correctly reported in the papers?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The correct report is what I have read out just now.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: I want to know the position because the Honourable Member did not take the trouble to correct the report in the papers.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The correct report that I have got before me makes the position absolutely clear, and I have stated it here.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: It makes it clear now in this House!

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Can the Honourable Member give us the details of the scheme according to which every young man who wants to be trained in the Army, Navy or Air Force can get the requisite training?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The Honourable Member knows that one of the schemes is that recommended in the Cadet Corps Committee Report.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: But that is not for every young man. Surely as the Honourable Minister knows. . . .

Mr. Speaker: Any further supplementaries? No. -Then next question.

DIRECTORATE FOR REMOUNTS AND VETERINARY SERVICES

551. ***Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Army authorities have laid down that the Director of Remounts and Veterinary Services should be a Veterinary Doctor?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, is it a fact that in spite of this, Government propose to appoint a Remounts Officer as Director of Remounts and Veterinary Services?

(c) Are Government aware that senior Indian Veterinary Doctors are available?

(d) If so, why is it proposed to pass them over?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Yes, but the Army Instruction was issued before partition and before the policy of nationalisation was decided.

(b) Yes, a Remounts Officer has been appointed as Director of Remounts and Veterinary Services.

(c) No. The length of service of the most senior Veterinary Officer is barely 12 years, and therefore no Veterinary Officer of the requisite seniority to hold the appointment of Director of Remounts and Veterinary Services is available.

(d) For a combined Corps which now includes also the Farms Department it is undesirable to reserve the appointment of the Head of the Corps for one of the Services included in the Corps.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Is the Defence Minister aware that the Army Instruction to which I have drawn attention was received after the amalgamation of the Remounts Department with the Veterinary Corps?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply given in part (a) of the question where I have said the Army Instruction was issued before partition and before the policy of nationalization was decided upon.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Does the fact that the Government has adopted the policy of nationalization alter the need for having a technical man at the head of a technical department?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I will again refer the Honourable Member to my reply to (d) of the question wherein I have stated that this department does not relate only to veterinary services but also includes two other departments.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: The affairs relating to the Veterinary Department form the major part of the questions that have to be discussed by the combined department.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: It is difficult for me to say whether the Veterinary Department is the major part but I think the other two departments combined are also equally as big, and this decision was taken on the recommendations of the Armed Forces Reconstitution Committee.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is it a fact that there are hardly any Indian veterinary doctors—not more than 20?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: That is my information.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Has my honourable friend made an enquiry from East Punjab?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Whatever has been stated here is after enquiries have been made.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is it a fact that a Dr. Garawala is a member of the Veterinary Service with more than 30 years service?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: He is on the civil side. I am referring to the military side.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Did the Armed Forces Nationalization Committee refer to this or to the Reconstitution Committee?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I am referring to the recommendations made by the Armed Forces Reconstitution Committee.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is it a fact that it was not confined only to officers of the Army?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: It is to be confined to officers of the Army.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Did the Committee recommend that a non-technical man should be appointed as the head of the combined department?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The recommendation of the Committee is that it should not be only from the veterinary service.

TRUCKS AND TROOPS FOR M. E. O. LAHORE

552. ***Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru:** Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state the number of trucks and troops placed at the disposal of the Military Evacuation Officer, Lahore?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Trucks 1,027. Troops, approximately 6,000.

USE OF PYRETHRUM AS A DISINFECTANT

†553. *Shri V. I. Munishwami Pillai: Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that during the last war Madras Province was supplying large quantities of Pyrethrum to the Military and to other Provinces;

(b) whether it is fact that another composition known as DDT has been introduced in the market with the result that the value of and demand for Pyrethrum has been reduced;

(c) whether Government are aware that the DDT not only kills the plant pests but also the plant itself thereby arresting pollination;

(d) the names of the provinces that are in need of pyrethrum; and

(e) whether Government propose to approach the various provinces to encourage pyrethrum in all their disinfectant processes.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) Yes.

(b) It is a fact that a synthetic insecticide called D.D.T. has been introduced in the market. There is nothing to show that it has affected the demand for Pyrethrum as a mixture containing it and D.D.T. is being largely used for disinfecting purposes.

(c) It is understood that there is no record of damage to foliage caused by DDT unless used dissolved in Kerosine oil. Dusts containing synthetic insecticides like DDT are some times used for plant protection. A great deal of experimental work is necessary to determine the extent of damage if any to plant life through adverse effects on pollination.

(d) There is demand from all Provinces.

(e) It is not considered necessary for the Government of India to suggest to Provinces the use of any particular insecticide. It can be left to Provinces to use the best type of insecticide that circumstances may require.

FREEZING OF BANK ASSETS BY PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT

554. *Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to press reports stating that the Government of Pakistan and particularly of the West Punjab, propose to freeze all assets of Banks including fixed and demand deposits?

(b) If so, are such reports authentic?

(c) Is not such action of the Government of Pakistan contrary to the monetary arrangement arrived at between the Governments of India and Pakistan?

(d) If so, have Government taken up the matter with the Government of Pakistan and with what result?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a), (b), (c) and (d). Presumably the Honourable Member has in mind the Ordinance issued by the West Punjab Government on the 3rd September 1947 which, among other things empowered that Government to prohibit banks from removing their assets, including fixed and demand deposits without its written permission. As was explained in the Press Communiqué dated the 9th September 1947, that Ordinance was withdrawn on representation from Government of India.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is there any truth in the news in the press recently that the safe deposit vaults have been opened by the Pakistan Government without the consent of the Government of India?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: No, Sir, I have not heard anything like that.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the latest position in regard to that? The Honourable Minister made a statement some time ago?

Mr. Speaker: Does that question arise out of this?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I do not think the question arises out of this.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Does it not arise out of the monetary arrangements that the Government of India have made with the Pakistan Government?

Mr. Speaker: If that test is taken, everything will arise out of this!

REPORT REGARDING WORKING OF MUNICIPAL COMMITTEES IN DELHI PROVINCE

555. *Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state the result of the special committee appointed to report on the working of the various Municipal Committees in Delhi?

(b) Have the Committee submitted their report?

(c) If not, what are the causes of the delay?

(d) Is it proposed to postpone the work of the committee in view of the move to make Delhi a separate province?

(e) If not, when is the report likely to be presented to Government?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) and (b). Government have not yet received the Report of the Delhi Municipal Organisation Enquiry Committee.

(c) The Committee required time to consider the points referred to them.

(d) No.

(e) The report is expected this month.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: May I know when the recommendations are sent by the Committee that the Government will see that those recommendations are considered immediately and a Bill to that effect, brought into the next Budget Session?

Mr. Speaker: The recommendations have not yet been received. The question is a hypothetical one.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Will the Government see to it that the recommendations are sent by the Committee this month positively?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The Government will try its best but can make no commitment.

SELECTION OF APPLICANTS FOR ADVANCED STUDIES IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

556. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state the total number of applications received for advanced studies in Foreign Countries during the years 1945-46, 1946-47 and 1947-48?

(b) How many of them were selected?

آئیڈیل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : ۱۹۴۶ - ۱۹۴۵ء میں جو درخواستیں غیر ممالک میں تعلیم حاصل کرنے کے لئے موصول ہوئیں انکی تعداد ۸۸۱۲ ہے - انمیں سے ۹۶ Scheduled caste کے امیدواروں سے تھے ۲۲ Scheduled caste امیدواروں کو Scheduled caste Scholarship Scheme کے تحت اور ۱۱ کو Govt. Of India Overseas Scholarship Scheme کے تحت دئے گئے -

۱۹۴۶ - ۲۷ء میں درخواستوں کی کل تعداد ۵۱۵۸ تھی اسیں سے ۵۳ Scheduled caste کے امیدواروں سے تھے ایک Scheduled caste امیدوار کو چنا گیا ۱۹۴۷ - ۲۸ء میں درخواستوں کی کل تعداد ۲۵۵۰ تھی انمیں سے ۱۹ Scheduled caste امیدواروں کے تھے اور دو امیدواروں کو چنا گیا -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) and (b). The total number of applications received for studies in foreign countries during 1945-46 was 8,862, out of which 96 were from Scheduled Castes candidates. 22 Scheduled Castes scholars were selected under the Scheduled Caste Scholarship Scheme and 11 under the Government of India Overseas Scholarship Scheme.

For 1946-47 the total number of applications was 5,158, out of which 54 were from Scheduled Castes candidates. 1 Scheduled Castes Scholar was selected.

In 1947-48 the total number of applications received was 2,550, out of which 10 were from Scheduled Castes candidates. 2 Scheduled Castes scholars were selected.

Shri S. Nagappa: As time went on why did the selection of scheduled castes members fall?

آنریبل مولانا ابولکلام آزاد: آپ نے دوسری طرف کے فرق کو نہیں دیکھا ہے۔ جو تعداد پہلے برس درخواستوں کی تھی وہ آٹھ ہزار تھی دوسری مرتبہ صرف پانچ ہزار اور تیسری مرتبہ صرف دو ہزار تھی۔ درخواستوں میں کمی ہونے کے ساتھ ساتھ اس طرف بھی کمی ہوتی رہی۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: You have not noticed the difference on the other side. The number of applications received in the first year was eight thousand, in the second year five thousand and in the third year two thousand only. The decrease in the number of applications synchronized with the fall in this direction also.

Shri S. Nagappa: In the first year you have been kind enough to select 22, in the second year 19 but in the third year only 2. Was it because that there was a dearth of applications or that a large number was rejected?

آنریبل مولانا ابولکلام آزاد: یہ تو میں نے آپ سے کہہ ہی دیا ہے کہ درخواستوں کی تعداد میں کمی کے ساتھ ساتھ اس طرف بھی کمی ہوتی رہی۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: This I have already told you that the fall in the number of applications was followed by a simultaneous decrease in this direction also.

Shri S. Nagappa: The fall from 22 to 2 is very unsatisfactory. May I know what is the total number of applications received from scheduled caste candidates yearwise?

آنریبل مولانا ابولکلام آزاد: اس کے لئے نوٹس چاہئے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: I would like to have notice for this.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, on a point of order: The Honourable Member is addressing the members directly and not through the Chair.

Mr. Speaker: I think in Hindustani the word "Ap" آپ is also an expression which can be used with reference to the Chair. Now that the Honourable Member has raised this question, I would invite the attention of Honourable Members on the Government Benches and also other members in the House that they should address the Chair directly.

There is one more small point also which I should like to mention to the House. While a member is addressing the Chair I find that Honourable Members cross the House between the Chair and the speaker. That is against parliamentary convention. The Honourable Members should be careful to see that they do not cross the floor of the House like that.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: May they dive below the line?

Mr. Speaker: Yes, as far as possible.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know how many of them completed their studies abroad and how many of them were subsequently appointed?

آنریبل مولانا ابولکلام آزاد: اس کے لئے نوٹس چاہئے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: I would like to have a notice for this.

Shri Upendra Nath Barman: Will the Honourable Minister kindly consider the advisability of making the Selection Board more representative of the Scheduled Castes?

آنریبل مولانا ابولکلام آزاد: موجودہ بورڈ میں کوئی خرابی نہیں پائی جاتی۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: No defect has been noticed in the present Board.

GRANTS-IN-AID TO EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN CENTRALLY ADMINISTERED AREAS

557. ***Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state the number of Educational Institutions and Associations in the Centrally Administered Areas that were given grants-in-aid during the years 1945-46, 1946-47 and 1947-48?

آنریبل مولانا ابولکلام آزاد: میں تعلیمی ادارے کو اور ایسوسی ایشن کو جو Centrally administered Areas میں ہیں اور جنکو کہ امداد حکومت ہند سے ۱۹۳۵-۳۶ء، ۱۹۳۶-۳۷ء اور ۱۹۳۷-۳۸ء میں مائی انکی تعداد ۱۵، ۷ اور گیارہ بالترتیب ہے۔ ان امداد میں وہ ادارے نہیں ہیں جنکو اوکل ایڈمنسٹریشن سے امداد ملی۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The number of Educational Institutions and Associations in the Centrally Administered Areas that received grants direct from the Central Government in 1945-46, 1946-47 and 1947-48 were 7, 10 and 11 respectively. These figures are exclusive of the institutions in receipt of grants from the Local Administrations.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know whether any other universities were given grants other than the institutions in the Centrally Administered Areas?

آنریبل مولانا ابولکلام آزاد: ان کے علاوہ کئی دوسری یونیورسٹیوں کی درخواستیں آچکی ہیں۔ لیکن یہ امداد صرف ان یونیورسٹیوں کو دی گئی جو کہ Centrally administered ہیں اور جو دیگر یونیورسٹیاں ہیں ان کے معاملہ پر غور کیا جا رہا ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Besides these many applications have been received from other Universities. But these grants were given to those Universities which are in the Centrally Administered Areas. The matter relating to other institutions is under consideration.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: Is it a fact that the Andhra University made a request for a grant?

آنریبل مولانا ابولکلام آزاد: ہاں۔ اس کے علاوہ اور بھی بہت سی یونیورسٹیوں کی درخواستیں آچکی ہیں۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Yes. Besides these applications from many other Universities have also been received.

شری دیپش بندوق گپتا : کیا میں پوچھ سکتا ہوں کہ جن ایسوسی ایشنز کو امداد دی جاتی ہے ان کے نام کیا ہیں ؟

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know the names of the institutions which are given the grant?

آنریبل مولانا ابولکلام آزاد : دہلی یونیورسٹی، لیڈی ارون کالج اور ارون سکول فار گرلز۔ نیو دہلی د سوسل سروس لیگ اور بوائے سکاؤٹس ایسوسی ایشن کو امداد دی گئی ہے۔ یہ امداد ۱۹۴۵-۴۶ء میں دی گئی۔ ۱۹۴۶-۴۷ء میں انٹرپرائز بورڈ وغیرہ کو امداد دی گئی اس کے علاوہ National Institute of Science - جامع ملیہ - دہلی کو بھی امداد دی گئی۔ ۱۹۴۷-۴۸ء میں یونیورسٹی بورڈ کو امداد دی گئی۔ انجمن ترقی کی درخواست آئی ہے۔ اور وہ زیر غور ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The grant has been given to Delhi University, Lady Irwin College and Irwin Schools for Girls, New Delhi Social Service League, and Boy Scouts Association. This grant was given during the year 1945-46. In the year 1946-47 the grant was given to Inter Provincial Board, etc. Besides this the grant was also given to the National Institute of Science and Jama-i-Milia, Delhi. In 1947-48, the University Board was aided. An application has been received from 'Anjuman-a-tarrakki' and it is receiving consideration.

شری دیپش بندوق گپتا : انجمن ترقی کو کتنی امداد دی گئی ہے۔

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: How much grant has been given to 'Anjuman-a-tarrakki'?

آنریبل مولانا ابولکلام آزاد : انکی درخواست آئی ہے۔ لیکن ابھی تک کوئی امداد نہیں دی گئی۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Their application has been received, but uptil now no grant has been given.

می^۰ آر^۰ کے^۰ سیڈھا : کیا بوائز اسوسی ایشن کو سرکاری گرانٹ دی جاتی ہے ؟

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Is the Boy Scouts Association given Government grant?

آنریبل مولانا ابولکلام آزاد : ہاں گرانٹ دی جاتی ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Yes. The grant is given.

می^۰ آر^۰ کے^۰ سیڈھا : میرا मतलब हिन्दुस्तान बॉय स्कॉट एसोसिएशन से है। उसको क्या सरकार की तरफ से ग्रांट मिलती है ?

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: I refer to the Hindustan Boy Scouts Association. Is it in receipt of any grant from the Government?

آنریبل مولانا ابولکلام آزاد : بوائز اسوسی ایشن کا مطلب اسی سے ہے۔ ان کو مدد دی جاتی ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: This refers to the Boy Scouts Association. It is in receipt of the grant.

شری دیپش بندوق گپتا : کیا گورنمنٹ نے اس بات کا کوئی فیصلہ کیا ہے کہ بوائز سکاؤٹس ایسوسی ایشن اور انڈین بوائز سکاؤٹس ایسوسی ایشن کو برابر کی امداد دی جائے - انڈین بوائز سکاؤٹس ایسوسی ایشن شروع سے غیر سرکاری ہاتھوں میں رہی ہے -

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Have the Government arrived at any such decision that the Boy Scouts Association and the Indian Boy Scouts Association be given equal grants. The Indian Boy Scouts Association has been in non-official hands from its very inception.

آنریبل مولانا ابولکلام آزاد : گورنمنٹ اس پر غور کر رہی ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The Government are considering over it.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Is any grant given to the Indraprastha College?

آنریبل مولانا ابولکلام آزاد : یہ گرانٹ ان ہی Institutes کو دی گئی ہے جو کہ سنٹرل گورنمنٹ کے ماتحت ہیں - ان کے علاوہ کسی اور کو نہیں دی جاتی ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: This grant has been given to those Institutes only which are under the control of the Central Government. This is not given to any institute other than these.

Shri C. M. Poonacha: May I know whether any institution in Coorg is getting this grant?

آنریبل مولانا ابولکلام آزاد : جو ام میں نے بتائے ہیں یہ گرانٹ ان ہی Institutes کو دی گئی ہے جن کے متعلق یہ منظور ہوئی ہیں - اور کسی کو نہیں دی جاتی ہیں -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: This grant has been given to those institutes only the names of which I have stated, and for which these were sanctioned. This is not given to any one else.

شری دیپش بندوق گپتا : کیا ہندی ساہتیہ سہیلن کو بھی کچھ گرانٹ دی جاتی ہے۔

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is any grant given to Hindi-Sahitya Sammelan also?

آنریبل مولانا ابولکلام آزاد : گورنمنٹ اس پر غور کر رہی ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The Government are considering over this.

مسٹر تاجمل حسین : آنریبل منسٹر نے فرمایا کہ حکومت غور کر رہی ہے - میں یہ جاننا چاہتا ہوں کہ کتنے دنوں تک غور کرتی رہیگی -

Mr. Tajamul Hussain: The Honourable Minister has stated that the Government are considering. I want to know how long will it take to consider?

شری راجکرنن بوس : आपने जितने institutions का नाम बताया उसमें कोई हिन्दी प्रचारणी सभा और नागरी प्रचारणी सभा को क्या सरकार की तरफ से कोई ग्रांट दी गयी है ?

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: Has any Government grant been given to 'Hindi-Pracharni-Sabha' or 'Nagri-Pracharni-Sabha' from amongst the names of the institutions stated by you?

آنریبل مولانا ابولکلام آزاد : میں نے کہ دیا ہے کہ بہت سی درخواستیں آئی ہیں اور انپر غور کیا جا رہا ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: I have already stated that many applications have been received and these are under consideration.

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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) [3RD DEC. 1947]

सेठ गोविन्ददास : क्या माननीय सदस्य को यह बात मालूम है कि हिन्दी साहित्य सम्मेलन का अधिवेशन दिसम्बर की छुट्टियों में बम्बई में होने वाला है और क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि उसके पहिले गवर्नमेंट का इस बारे में निर्णय मालूम हो जायगा जिससे वह अपने आगे का कार्यक्रम निर्णित कर सकें।

Seth Govind Das: Is the Honourable Minister aware of the fact that the Annual meeting of the Hindi Sahitya Sammelan is likely to take place in Bombay during the ensuing December Holidays? And may I know if it would be possible to have the Government's decision in the matter before that time so that they may decide their future programme accordingly?

آنریبل مولانا ابولکلام آزاد : اس بارے میں میں کوئی وعدہ نہیں کر سکتا۔
کوشش کی جائیگی۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: I cannot make any promise in this connection. Efforts will be made.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is there any truth in the information that owing to the Aligarh University having to grant increase in salaries the Government of India have also had to increase their grant to it?

آنریبل مولانا ابولکلام آزاد : گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا نے یونیورسٹی کمیٹی کی سفارشات سے دہلی اور علی گڑھ یونیورسٹی کے لئے کر دی ہے۔ لیکن انہی اسکے متعلق کوئی کارروائی نہیں کی گئی ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The Government of India have on the recommendations of the University Committee increased the grant to Delhi and Aligarh Universities. But uptil now no action in the matter has been taken.

Shri S. Nagappa: Is it necessary to give grants to these Muslim institutions even after the Muslims have left the Indian Dominion?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

BROADCASTING STATION AT BEZWADA

558. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether Government have received any representation from the Andhras for starting a Broadcasting Station at Bezwada?

(b) If so, what action have Government taken so far?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) Arrangements are being made to inspect suitable sites and buildings for a broadcasting station at Bezwada.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know how much time Government would take to start a station at Bezwada?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: It is not possible to forecast the date or the approximate time. It all depends upon the reports that will come and on the report of the engineers a decision will be taken.

Shri Mihirlal Chattopadhyaya: What is the policy that is followed in opening new broadcasting stations?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: An eight-year programme has been fixed and announced in the House.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to have a broadcasting station at Patna in Bihar, and if so, by when?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Yes. The arrangements are very nearly complete in Patna and it will soon be opened.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: Pending the starting of the Bezwada station will Government ask the All-India Radio, Madras to give some more time to Andhra broadcasts?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: At present certain time is given for broadcasting to Andhra from the Madras station.

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know whether more time will be given for Andhra pending the completion of this station.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The suggestion will be taken into consideration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has a decision been taken to have the broadcasting station at Bezwada and only the construction and other arrangements are to be made?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The decision has already been taken.

(BACKING RESERVED FOR CURRENCY)

559. *Shri S. Nagappa: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state the backing now reserved for the present currency?

(b) Do Government propose to increase the backing?

(c) If so, by how much and when?

(d) If not, why not?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to Section 33 of the Reserve Bank of India Act which prescribes a hundred per cent backing against the note issue and also the composition of that backing.

(b), (c) and (d). Government do not consider it necessary to amend that Section and have no such proposal under contemplation.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the desirability of amending the Reserve Bank Act which makes it possible for conserving the sterling securities in London as a necessary backing for our notes?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I think already an amendment has been made permitting the Reserve Bank to hold these foreign reserves even in other currencies than sterling.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: My point is this. As at present it is possible for the Reserve Bank to go on issuing Indian currency notes as against the accumulation of sterling securities in London. When will the possibility for such right given to the Reserve Bank be abrogated?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: If Government find that the composition of our foreign exchange reserves needs any alteration, naturally they will take that into consideration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that as a result of the accumulation of sterling securities in London the total amount of notes in circulation in India has gone up?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: As I mentioned at a Press Conference, the mere fact that sterling was permitted to be held as a foreign exchange currency reserve need not necessarily result in an increase in the volume of our currency. According to me, that Section under which the Reserve Bank was under an obligation to give rupees in exchange for sterling was really abused by the late Government during the war, and that is what resulted in the phenomenal increase of the currency notes under circulation.

My honourable friend may rest assured that no such abuse will be permitted by the present Government.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know if there is any currency of a free country for which the currency of another country is a compulsory backing?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: There is no question of a compulsory backing. Various alternative backings have been prescribed under the Act and sterling is one of such currencies.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know if it is not a fact that a certain backing must be either in gold or in sterling and therefore it is a compulsory backing in view of the fact that they have no gold?

Mr. Speaker: I think the Honourable Member's question itself supplies the answer. If it is 'either or', then sterling is not necessarily compulsory.

Shri K. Santhanam: But I was asking whether there is any free country whose currency is backed by the currency of another country.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: As an alternative backing, foreign exchange reserves are permitted.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if only those Sections in the Reserve Bank Act which make it necessary to honour the currency have been modified and not the Sections relating to the 40 per cent compulsory backing?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I do not have a proper recollection of the scope of that amendment.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable Minister take immediate steps to bring it into line with the other provisions and see to it that sterling is not made a compulsory backing?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: According to Section 33 of the Reserve Bank Act, of the total amount of the assets not less than two-fifths shall consist of gold coin, gold bullion, or sterling security.

IMPORT AND MANUFACTURE OF DRUGS AND MEDICINES

560. ***Shri S. Nagappa:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state what percentage of drugs and medicines are imported from foreign countries out of the total quantity needed?

(b) What are the countries from which they are imported?

(c) Is there any proposal under the contemplation of Government for the manufacture of such medicines and drugs in this country?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a), (b) and (c). The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply. It has accordingly been transferred to the list of questions for the 11th December 1947 when it will be answered by the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply.

COMPENSATION TO EUROPEAN I.C.S. OFFICERS LEAVING INDIA

561. ***Shri S. Nagappa:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the number of the European I.C.S. Officers who have left India after the 15th August 1947?

(b) What is the total amount of compensation that has been paid to these officers?

(c) How many propose to leave India before April 1948?

(d) What will be the compensation expected to be paid to them?

(e) How do Government propose to fill up those vacancies?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given to starred question No. 106 on the 19th November 1947.

(b) and (d). The Government of India have accepted liability to pay compensation only in respect of such I.C.S. officers as opted to remain in service indefinitely but whose services were not required by the Government of India. In accordance with the present arrangements, such claims will be paid by the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations in the first instance and adjustments will be made later on. So far, the Government have incurred liability to pay compensation in respect of only about 15 European I.C.S. Officers. Information about the amount of compensation paid till now to European I.C.S. officers by His Majesty's Government is not available.

(c) 11.

(e) For the time being the vacancies have been filled by promotion of officers belonging to the Provincial Civil Services, and the Central Services and in some cases by recruitment from the open market. Government have under consideration the formation of an Emergency Cadre of the Indian Administrative Service to provide about 250 officers to meet the shortage at the Centre and in the Provinces. Other proposals to the same end are also under consideration.

Shri S. Nagappa: Arising out of the answer to part (e) of the question may I know whether Government has recently held any examination to recruit persons to the All-India Administrative service?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Yes.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know how many candidates the Government have selected so far?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I cannot give the exact figure at present, but I can say that there are about 60 candidates in the school who will pass this year.

Shri S. Nagappa: Is it a fact that no Scheduled Caste candidate was selected?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I cannot give an answer at present, but if the question is put I will make enquiries.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I know if the refugee lawyers from Pakistan will be considered for this Emergency Cadre posts?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: They are hardly fit for Administrative Service.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask the Honourable Member whether he speaks from personal experience or from general observation?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Both.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Am I to take it then that there is no possibility of the Government of India finding jobs for these refugee lawyers in this Emergency Cadre?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Lawyers can find employment anywhere. There are many professions which they can join.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Apparently the Honourable Minister is not in touch with the condition of these refugee lawyers. There are about 2,000 of them without jobs.

Mr. Tajamal Husain: Will the Honourable Minister state if there is any European I.C.S. Officer still serving India, and if, so how many?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: There are some European officers serving, but I cannot give the exact number. They are very few in number.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Has the Honourable Minister finally decided to exclude every refugee lawyer because he is a lawyer?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No, he is not excluded simply because he is a refugee lawyer, but if a lawyer passes through the test, then his case will be considered.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

BRITISH PERSONNEL IN INDIAN ARMY

562. *Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state the number of British personnel and their rank in the Indian Army before the 15th August 1947 and now?

(b) The services of how many of these persons are proposed to be dispensed with and when?

(c) What will be the number and nature of employment of persons whom it is proposed to retain permanently?

(d) What are the terms on which it is proposed to retain them?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) I lay a statement on the table of the House.

(b) The services of all British Officers and men at present in the Indian Army will be dispensed with, except for a limited number who will be retained for certain periods not exceeding three years.

(c) No British Officers or men will be retained permanently in the Indian Army.

(d) I would refer the Honourable Member to the press communique on this subject issued on the 20th November 1947.

Statement.

(a) (i) Figures of British Officers and Other Ranks serving with the Indian Army August 1947 were :—

Officers.	
British Service attached to Indian Army	4,675
Indian Army	5,832
	10,507

This includes 538 serving with Medical and Dental Services, and all Officers serving with Units which now belong to the Dominion of Pakistan.

Other Ranks	
British Service attached to Indian Army	13,214
Indian Army	...
	13,214

This includes 2978 serving with Indian Signals, 1,464 with Military Police, 1,243 with Artillery, 1,663 with Ordnance and all men serving with Units which now belong to the Dominion of Pakistan.

(ii) Ranks held were :—

Officers.	British Service attached to I. A.	Indian Army
2nd Lieutenant	458	58
Lieutenant	2,520	1,907
Captain	1,061	1,943
Major	425	1,174
Lieut.-Colonel	135	547
Colonel	53	124
Brigadier and above	13	79

British Service attached to I.A.

Other Ranks	
Private	4,400
Corporal	1,754
Sergeant	3,166
Warrant Officer, Class II	489
Warrant Officer, Class I	1,205

(iii) The number of British Officers and B.O.R.s in the Indian Army on 30th November 1947 is as follows :—

British Officers	1,204
B.O.R's.	3,648

It is regretted that it is not possible to give a breakdown of these figures by ranks.

LOSS DUE TO INCURSIONS BY PAKISTANIS INTO THE INDIAN TERRITORY

563. *Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state the number, date and duration of incursions made by the people of Pakistan into any village or territory in the Dominion of India?

(b) What was the result of each of these incursions in terms of loss of life and property?

(c) How do Government propose to stop recurrence of such incursions?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (b). Since the 7th September to the 23rd November, there were approximately 42 border raids. It is regretted that information in the detail required by the Honourable Member is not readily available with the Government of India.

(c) Steps have been taken to post civil and military forces in a manner calculated to prevent a recurrence of these incidents. Permanent measures for ensuring the security of the new frontiers of India are under consideration.

SMUGGLING OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION FROM C.O.D., JUBBALPUB

564. *Shri Biswanath Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) how many cases of smuggling of arms and ammunition from the Central Ordnance Depot, Jubbulpore, are traced out and detected and with what results;

(b) whether any regular book account is maintained showing the production and distribution of arms and ammunitions from month to month and year to year;

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, whether any estimate of smuggling has been made on the basis of the accounts maintained in the said Central Ordnance Depot;

(d) the State or States into which such smuggling of arms and ammunition has been traced; and

(e) whether Government propose to consider the question of instituting an inquiry into this question by a Committee of the House?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) None. Government are aware that individuals have been found in possession of unauthorised arms and ammunition but it has not been established that such arms and ammunition have been smuggled out of the Central Ordnance Depot, Jubbulpore.

(b) Yes.

(c) to (e). Does not arise in view of the answer to part (a). A discrepancy in machine-guns has been discovered in C.O.D. Jubbulpore as a result of stock-taking and a further check is being made.

RETARDATION IN GROWTH OF INDIAN SPIRITUOUS INDUSTRY DUE TO IRREGULARITIES IN EXCISE REGULATION

565. *Shri Damodar Swarup Seth: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the growth of the Indian Spirituous Industry has been seriously retarded in the country on account of lack of uniformity in excise regulations in different provinces and States;

(b) whether Government have received several representations to this effect made by the Industry and Commercial bodies in the Indian Union; and

(c) if so, what action do Government propose to take to bring about uniformity in excise regulations and save the pharmaceutical industry from hardships?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) and (b). Representations have been received by Government to this effect.

(c) As a number of representations have been addressed to Government, they have brought to the notice of the Constituent Assembly that the question of inclusion in Union subjects of industrial alcohol, used in the manufacture of medicinal preparations, which at present falls under item 40(c) of List II—Provincial Legislative List—of the Government of India Act, 1935, be considered in all its bearings, including from the point of view of the advantages that it will bring about in the matter of uniformity in excise duties and regulations extant in the various Provinces and States.

FALLINGDOWN OF NATIONAL FLAG HOISTED ON I.E.M.E. WORKSHOP, AGRA

566. *Shri Damodar Swarup Seth: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Commandant of 509 Command I.E.M.E. Workshop Agra, was responsible for the hauling down of the national flag, after the same had been hoisted on the workshop gate and I.O.R. barracks;

(b) whether it is a fact that the said Commandant had refused permission to the employees to hoist the flag on August 15th; and

(c) If the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what action have Government taken in the matter?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a), (b) and (c). This incident has already been brought to the notice of Government who are making necessary enquiries. Suitable action will be taken when the result of the investigation is known.

EQUALITY OF PAY FOR I.C.S. AND P.C.S. DEPUTY SECRETARIES

567. *Shri Loknath Misra: Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that officers of the Provincial Civil Service appointed as Deputy Secretaries to the Government of India are ordinarily allowed their grade pay in the Provincial Civil Service *plus* Rs. 500 as special pay whereas officers of the I. C. S. appointed as Deputy Secretaries to the Government of India are given the senior scale pay of the I.C.S. *plus* a special pay of Rs. 400;

(b) the reason for differently regulating the emoluments of I. C. S. and P. C. S. Deputy Secretaries and for giving much higher emoluments to the former than to the latter for doing exactly similar duties and shouldering similar responsibilities; and

(c) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of stopping the above practice in view of the fact that the Government of India have recently accepted the principle of equal pay for equal work as a directive principle of State policy?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) Yes, in the case of pre-1931 entrants. In the case of post-1931 entrants the rate is Rs. 400 p.m. only. If however, the officer appointed is a substantive listed post holder in his parent Province, he gets like I.C.S. officers pay in the senior time scale of the I.C.S. *plus* a special pay of Rs. 400 p.m.

(b) While fixing the terms for P.C.S. officers appointed as Deputy Secretaries, the Government have been guided primarily by the terms fixed for officers of the Central Services appointed to similar posts. The terms for I.C.S. officers are being regulated by the Superior Civil Services Rules which were formulated by the Secretary of State. These terms should be considered as special and it is not possible to alter these in view of the assurance in His Excellency the Viceroy's announcement of April 30th last that the Members of the Secretary of State's Services who continue to serve under the Government of India after the transfer of power will do so on their present terms as to scales of pay, leave, pensionary rights and safeguards in matters of discipline.

(c) Does not arise in view of the answer furnished to part (b) of the question.

CENTRAL PAY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

568. *Shri Loknath Misra: Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India's policy accepting *in toto* the pay scales recommended by the Central Pay Commission for the officers and staff of the Central Secretariat and its attached offices, as announced in the Press Communique dated the 16th May, 1947, still stands; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Finance contemplates to fix certain officers on scales of pay different from those recommended by the Pay Commission even if such arrangement adversely affects those officers?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) The Press communique dated the 16th May, 1947, announced Government's acceptance of the basic pay structure recommended by the Central Pay Commission and the principle of having uniform all-India pay scales for the various categories. It did not commit Government to a policy of accepting the detailed recommendations made in part III of the Commission's report without further examination.

(b) The detailed recommendations made by the Commission in respect of the various organisations have generally been accepted by Government. Slight deviations from the recommendations have, however, been found necessary in a very few cases for administrative reasons. These deviations by themselves do not adversely affect the pay of the officers.

COMMUNAL DISTURBANCES IN DELHI

569. Mr. B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of men, women and children have been killed in Delhi and its neighbourhood and also in railway trains from about the last week of August 1947;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government were informed in advance of the likelihood of such occurrences especially of those which took place in Delhi and its neighbourhood;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to prevent such occurrences; and

(d) whether Government propose to institute an inquiry into the causes and extent of the loss of lives and properties during the above occurrences in Delhi?

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AND WELFARE ARRANGEMENTS FOR INDIAN STUDENTS ABROAD

1150

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) [3RD DEC. 1947]

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given to question No. 107 by Pandit L. K. Maitra on the 19th November 1947.

(b) Government had some indications that trouble was likely to occur in Delhi and neighbourhood and they took all reasonable precautionary measures, but the sudden onrush of a very large number of refugees who were victims of unimaginable cruelties and barbarities from Lahore, Sheikhupura and other parts of Punjab seriously upset the position and the desertion of the bulk of the Muslim element of the Police force, which was in majority at the time, seriously crippled the effectiveness and efficiency of the Police force and until effective Military and Police strength could be brought to Delhi from outside, the disturbances could not be brought under control. Even then, Government feel that they were on top of the situation in a much shorter time than elsewhere.

(c) Government have taken all appropriate steps.

(d) No.

HIGHER MEDICAL TRAINING FOR INDIAN STUDENTS ABROAD

570. *Shri Satish Chandra Samanta: Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken and propose to take to provide Indian Students abroad with facilities for higher training in Medical and allied subjects; and

(b) the amount of Scholarships and the number of recipient students (Province-wise) from different Provinces of the Indian union for the purpose, during the years 1946, 1947 and 1948?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) A scheme was started in 1946 for sending a certain number of medical graduates with outstanding qualifications to the United Kingdom and United States of America for higher training in leading medical centres in those countries.

(b) A statement showing the rates of scholarships and the number of candidates selected in 1946 and 1947 is laid on the table of the House. No selection has yet been made for 1948.

Statement showing the rates of scholarships and the number of candidates selected in 1946 and 1947 for study abroad in medical and allied subjects.

Rates of Scholarships.		
United Kingdom	At Oxford and Cambridge	£460 per annum inclusive of cost of living bonus.
	At Universities other than Oxford and Cambridge	£400 per annum inclusive of cost of living bonus.
United States of America		£160 per mensem.
Number of candidates selected:		
Province or Centre	Number of students selected in 1946	Number of students selected in 1947.
Centre		
Madras	20	30
Bombay	6	8
U.P.	5	7
C.P. & Berar	3	8
Bihar	2	3
Orissa	3	4
West Bengal	4	6
East Punjab	9	3
Assam	3	3
	5	1

571. *Shri Satish Chandra Samanta: Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) what Government have done to provide educational facilities and welfare arrangements for Indian students abroad and what sum has been allotted and spent for this purpose; and

(b) the amount of scholarships and the number of recipient students (Province-wise) from different Provinces of the Indian Union during the current year?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) Provision of educational facilities and welfare arrangements for Indian students abroad is done by the Education Department of the High Commissioner for India at London, the Educational Liaison Officer and his staff in the Indian Embassy, Washington, for the U.S.A. and Canada, and the High Commissioner's Office in Australia. The officers at these places arrange for admission of Indian students to Universities and other educational institutions and also look after their welfare. With regard to welfare arrangements and accommodation of Indian students, particularly in the U.K. where the position regarding accommodation is difficult, the High Commissioner's Office have taken special steps to look into the question. Hostels have been established during the last year for Indian students in London and Edinburgh, and the High Commissioner's Office maintains an up-to-date list of suitable lodging houses in London. A proposal to establish another hostel in London to serve as a Reception and Transit Camp for Indian students has been sanctioned. A similar hostel for Indian women students has been already taken over by the High Commissioner on lease. A statement showing grants for providing accommodation to Indian students in the U. K. is placed on the table of the House for information.

(b) A statement showing the required information is placed on the table of the House.

STATEMENT I

Showing grants for providing accommodation to Indian students in the U.K.

S.No.	Name of Hostel	Accommodation	Grant of Expenditure Recurring	Non-recurring	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Y. M. C.A.		£250		An old grant still continued.
2	International Club and Hall, London			(a) £500 (b) £500	(a) 1945-46 (b) Orders under issue
3(a)	Indian students Hostel at Kensington Square, London	60	* £450	† £3,500	*For 5 years from 1945. †1945-46.
(b)	Bayswater Hall, Kensington Square London	40		£ 1,000	Sanctioned 1946-47
4	(a) Y.M.C.A.			(a) £ 250 (b) £ 250	(a) 1945-46. (b) 1945-46
5	Hostel of Indian students at Edinburgh	35		(a) £3,225 (b) £1,500	(a) 1945-46. (b) 1945-47.
6	Y.M.C.A. Hostel proposed to be rebuilt at Gower St. London			£ 10,000	Budget Estimates 1947-48.

STATEMENT I

Showing grants for providing accommodation to Indian students in the U.K.

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	New Hostel at proposed to be built at 89-92, Guildford St. London	55	£ 1,300	£ 21,000	Sanctioned in Budget Estimates 1947-48.
8	Indian students Hostel. Blackford Mount, Oswald Road, Edinburgh		£ 1,650	£ 6,000	Budget Estimates for 1947-48.
9	Indian Women Students' Hostel St. George's Drive, London				Already taken over by the High Commissioner on 20th August 1947. Details of estimates are awaited.

ARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STATEMENT II

Showing the Number of Students who have received scholarships under the overseas scholarship Schemes of the Government of India in 1947.

(a) Central Government Scholars.

Serial No.	Name of Province	Number of scholars sent to U.K.	Number of scholars sent to U.S.A.	Rate of scholarship per scholar, per Year.	Scholarship		Total amount of scholarship in respect of each Province.	Remarks
					U.K. Rs.	U.S.A. Rs.		
1	2	3	4		5	6	8	9
1	Assam	1	1	7,490	11,240	2 years.	37,460	
2	Bengal	8	..	7,490	11,240	"	1,19,840	
3	Bombay	1	1	74,90	11,240	"	37,460	
4	Bihar	1	..	7,490	11,240	"	14,980	
5	Delhi	..	1	7,490	11,240	"	22,480	
6	Madras	6	4	7,490	11,240	"	1,79,800	
7	Punjab	1	3	7,490	11,240	"	82,420	
8	Sind	..	2	7,490	11,240	"	44,960	
9	U.P.	1	3	7,490	11,240	"	82,420	
10	Cochin State	1	..	7,490	11,240	"	14,980	
11	Baroda State	1	..	7,490	11,240	"	14,980	
12	Mysore State	1	2	7,490	11,240	"	59,940	
13	Travancore State	2	1	7,490	11,240	"	52,440	
14	Pudukottah State	..	1	7,490	11,240	"	22,480	
TOTAL							7,86,640	Entire expenditure to be borne by the Govt. of India.

Serial No	District	Locality	Name of monement
4	Cuttack	Siriapur	The Mahratta bridge known as Antharanala (18 arched bridge) and also as Tantulimul bridge.
5	Ditto.	Ditto.	The Monolith (a massive stone pillar) also called Chandeshwar pillar.
6	Puri	Jagmara, 5 miles from Bhubaneswar Ry. Stn. Khurda Sub-Division.	Ancient remains on both Khandagiri and Udaigiri Hills.
7	Ditto.	Puri Sadar, on the Jagannath Trunk Road	Atharanala Bridge.
8	Ditto.	Konark, P.S. Gop, 21 miles from Inspection Bungalow	The Black Pagoda.
9	Ditto.	Khurda, P.S. and Sub-Division.	Dhauli Rock inscription of the edicts of Asoka together with the stone-built shelter in front and the elephant sculpture immediately above it.
10	Ditto.	Bhubaneswar, P.S. Khurda Sub-Division.	Raja Rani temple.
11	Ditto.	Sisupalgarh, Bhubneswar	Ancient town-site.
12	Ditto.	Dhaulipahad	Small rock cut cell.
13	Ditto.	Baragarh	Rameshwar temple.
14	Ditto.	Ditto.	Nabakeswar temple.
15	Ditto.	Bhubaneswar	Chitrakarni temple.
16	Ditto.	Ditto.	Bakeswar temple.
17	Ditto.	Ditto.	Makareswar temple with its minor shrines.
18	Ditto.	Ditto.	Mukteshwar temple with its minor shrines but excluding the Murich kunda.
19	Ditto.	Ditto.	Siddheswar temple with its minor shrines in the compound.
20	Ditto.	Ditto.	Parsurameswar temple.
21	Ditto.	Ditto.	Maitreswar temple with all the minor temples in the compound.
22	Ditto.	Ditto.	Sari temple No. 1.
23	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ananta Basudeva temple.
24	Ditto.	Ditto.	Sahasralinga Tank.
25	Ditto.	Ditto.	Boital temple.
26	Ditto.	Ditto.	Jameshwar temple with its minor shrines.
27	Ditto.	Ditto.	Lord Lingaraj temple with all the minor temples in the compound as given below: 1. Parbati temple. 2. Gopaluni temple. 3. Amania Well. 4. Chandeshwar deb. 5. Astamurti. 6. Ladakeshwar temple. 7. Sakreshwar temple. 8. Sathidosi temple. 9. Sabitri Devi temple.
28	Ditto.	Bargarh	Brahmeswar temple with its minor shrines in the compound.
29	Ditto.	Ditto.	Bhaskareswar temple.
30	Ditto.	Besuaghai	Magheshwar temple with its minor shrines.
31	Gunjam	Jaugada	Asoka rock inscriptions.
32	Ditto.	Kottakolla	Gangadhara and Jagadesvara temples on Brudhakolla hill beyond the village boundary of Kottakolla.
33	Ditto.	Mohendragiri	Kointa temple.
34	Ditto.	Ditto.	Yudhishtira temple.
35	Ditto.	Ditto.	Bhima temple.
36	Ditto.	Salihundam	(a) (I) Buddhist remains of chaitya and four stupas on the eastern side portion of Salihundam hill. (II) Images on the hill and in Survey No. 1131. (b) Three images in the grazing ground held on Khostpattah owned by Trustees. 1. seated Bodhisatva, with Dhyani Buddha. 2. Bodhisatva (Avalokitesvara) and 3. Marici.

MODIFICATION OF ARMS ACT AND AVAILABILITY OF ARMS TO PUBLIC

574. *Shri Har Govind Pant: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state if Government propose to modify the present Arms Act, and if so when and in what respects?

(b) What steps Government propose to take to make more fire arms available to the citizens?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) No.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

ORDNANCE FACTORIES IN INDIA

575. *Shri Har Govind Pant: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ordnance factories started in India during the war;

(b) the number of such factories lying idle at present; and

(c) the use to which such factories are proposed to be put

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Ordnance (including Clothing, Harness and Saddlery) Factories. 20.

(b) None of the existing Factories is lying idle. Of the seven Ordnance Factories started during the war six are working, while one (the Bren Gun Factory at Hyderabad) has been disposed of after its machinery had been removed to India. Of the 13 wartime Clothing Factories many of which were on leased properties, all but one have been disposed of. One Factory—the Clothing Factory, Cawnpore—is still working.

(c) Does not arise.

RECRUITMENT AND PROMOTION IN IMPERIAL SECRETARIAT SERVICE

576. *Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether there is an Imperial Secretariat Service consisting of two classes, Class I and Class II?

(b) What is the method of recruitment to these Services?

(c) Is recruitment made for the Secretariat as a whole or separately for each Ministry?

(d) Are Government aware that in some cases, only the claims of men serving in a Ministry have been considered for promotion in it, with the result that third division of clerks and even outsiders have been appointed as Assistant Secretaries?

(e) Are Government aware that this has given rise to serious discontentment among the members of the Service?

(f) If so, do Government propose to have a common roster and regulate the promotions accordingly?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes, Class I comprises of posts of Assistant Secretaries, while Class II consists of the posts of Superintendents and Assistants.

(b) and (c). The posts of Assistants are filled by direct recruitment on the results of a competitive examination held by the Federal Public Service Commission subject to the condition that so long as there are employees in the clerical establishment in a Ministry who were recruited before the 1st April 1940, 50 per cent. of the vacancies in the grade of Assistants are to be reserved for them. Appointments to the posts of Superintendents and Assistant Secretaries are made, as a rule, by selection from among the Assistants and Superintendents, respectively, employed in a particular Ministry.

(d) Government are not aware of any such instances.

(1) Protected Government Buildings.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1. Assam	1	1	1	7,490	11,240	2 years	37,400		
2. Bengal	1	1	2	7,490	11,240	"	59,940		
3. Bihar	1	1	..	7,490	11,240	"	14,980		
4. Bombay	..	..	8	7,490	11,240	"	1,70,840		
5. C. P. and Berar	1	1	2	7,490	11,240	"	59,940		
6. Madras	1	1	..	7,490	11,240	"	14,980		
7. Punjab	..	..	2	7,490	11,240	"	44,900		
8. U. P.	4	1	1	7,490	11,240	"	82,400		
							Total	4,94,500	Expenditure to be shared between the Central and Provincial Govts. on 50 : 50 basis.

ACTION AGAINST OFFICERS WHO PERPETRATED ATROCITIES AND FINANCIAL AIDS TO SUFFERERS DURING STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM

572. *Shri Satish Chandra Samanta: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take any action against the officers who perpetrated atrocities on the people during the days of struggle for freedom before the 15th August 1947;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what steps, if any, Government have taken and propose to take in this direction; and

(c) whether Government propose to grant financial and other suitable aid to the families of persons who were killed and to persons who were injured during the last Freedom Movement?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN ORISSA AND EASTERN STATES AGENCY

573. *Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to lay on the table of the House a complete list of the archaeological sites and remains in Orissa and in the Eastern States Agency?

(b) In what places in the said territories are excavations going on at present?

(c) If no excavation is going on now, have Government in view any sites in the said area which will be taken up soon?

(d) Do Government propose to take up excavation in the Baidh Keonjhar and Patna States in the Eastern States Agency and also in Sishpalgarh at Bhubaneswar in the district of Puri (Orissa) and Ratnagiri in the district of Cuttack?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) No complete list of the archaeological sites and remains in Orissa and in the Eastern States Agency is available. A list of the 36 archaeological sites and remains in Orissa protected under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act is placed on the table of the House.

(b) It is understood that at the present time no excavations are going on in the territories in question.

(c) The Archaeological Survey has included the site of Sisupalgarh at Bhubaneswar in its programme of fieldwork for the next two years.

(d) The Archaeological Survey has no jurisdiction within the States. Information in regard to Sisupalgarh has been furnished in reply to part (c) of this question.

Statement

List of ancient protected sites and remains in Orissa.

Serial No.	District	Locality	Name of monument.
1.	Cuttack	Barabati, Cuttack Cantt. Khasmahal	Barabati fortress (ruins and remains of all ancient edifices except the mosque at Barabati).
2.	Ditto.	Haveli Lal Bagh Jaipur Sub-Div. in the compound of the S.D.O's. quarters.	4. Colossal images named:— 1. Varahi. 2. Chamunda. 3. Indrani. 4. Kalijuga.
3.	Ditto.	Ditto.	3. Buddhist images

(c) Does not arise.

(f) The question of re-organisation of the Central Secretariat as a whole is under examination by the Government of India. The suggestion to have common rosters is being considered in that connection.

RECRUITMENT OF SOLDIERS FROM ALMORA DISTRICT

577. *Shri Har Govind Pant: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the number of soldiers recruited from Almora District of the United Provinces, during the last War;

(b) the total number of regiments manned by the aforesaid recruits;

(c) the number of Regiments manned by them, which are now proposed to be retained;

(d) whether Government are aware of the importance of District Almora, in particular and the Division of Kumaun, in general, as a recruiting area, in view of West Punjab having gone out of India.

(e) the use to which Cantonments of Kumaun are proposed to be put; and

(f) whether Government propose to open a Military Training Centre in Kumaun, in view of the facilities available?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) 23,569.

(b) Generally speaking, almost all persons recruited from Almora District are Kumaonis and the majority of them are in one Regiment, namely, the Kumaon Regiment.

(c) The Kumaon Regiment is being retained.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) There are 3 Cantonments in Kumaon, namely, Ranikhet, Almora and Naini Tal. Of these, Ranikhet is not to be given up. The question of the future of Almora and Naini Tal as Cantonments is still under consideration.

(f) No, Sir. Government are examining the possibility of reducing the present number of Infantry Regimental Training Centres. The opening of a fresh training centre at Kumaon is, therefore, unlikely.

MONOPOLY OF FOREIGN NEWS AGENCIES IN DISSEMINATION OF NEWS FROM INDIA TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

578. *Shri Banarsi Prasad Jhunjunwala: Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that foreign news agencies still enjoy virtual monopoly in the dissemination of news from India to foreign countries and from foreign countries to India;

(b) whether Government are aware that in the recent critical years of the country's struggle for independence the foreign news agencies did not confine themselves to objective presentation of news but acted as handmaid of their Governments to the detriment of India's interests;

(c) whether Government are aware that the foreign news agencies have drained the country of huge sums of money by way of profit from subscriptions they received from hundreds of newspapers and commercial firms in the country and Governmental and states subsidies in one form or other, which, during war years, is believed to have been over twenty lakhs of rupees annually; and

(d) what steps Government have taken or contemplate taking with a view to eliminating all forms of exploitation of India's resources by foreign news agencies?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Government are aware that in the absence of a well-established Indian non-official news agency, almost the entire external traffic in news is in the hands of foreign news agencies.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to my replies to questions Nos. 257 and 313 put by Mr. R. K. Sidhwa and Pandit H. N. Kunzru respectively on 25th November, 1947.

(c) Government are not aware of the subscriptions paid by newspapers and commercial firms. Government do not subsidise any of these agencies.

(d) This is a matter in which non-official news agencies or newspapers must show enterprise.

SIGNING OF INSTRUMENT OF ACCESSION BY STATES

579. *Shri Kanwar Shamsher Jang: Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some States have been asked to sign an Instrument of Accession other than the one which was agreed upon by the Princes and the States Department and approved by the then Crown Representative, before the lapse of the Paramountcy? If so, why?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I invite the Honourable Member's attention to my answer to a similar question by the Honourable R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar on the 19th November 1947.

GRANT OF POLITICAL PENSIONS

580. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement giving the names of the political pension-holders, the amounts of pensions paid to each of them and the reasons for the grant of such pensions?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I have placed on the table of the House a statement showing in broad outline the nature of the pensions and the amounts involved. The pensions included in this statement represent the provision made for the descendants, relatives and dependants of the former Rulers of any territories in India. In addition, the Government of India also grant pensions of the order of 3½ lakhs of rupees per year for distinguished and meritorious services or for political considerations. The preparation of detailed statements showing the actual pension holders and the amounts which they individually receive will involve time and labour which will not be commensurate with the result achieved.

Statement of Political Pensions

Serial No.	Pensions payable in INDIA	Approx. amount per annum.	Nature of the charges.
1	Carnatic Stipends	1,88,200	Represents provision made for the descendants of the last Nawab of the Carnatic and includes the perpetual pensions of Rs. 1,50,000 per annum to the Prince of Arcot.
2	Tanjore Pensions	19,000	Pensions payable to the descendants of the last Raja of Tanjore.
3	Mysore Family Pensions	1,800	Represent allowances payable to members of the family of Tipu Sultan of Mysore.
4	Oudh Wasiqa Pensions	3,00,000	Pensions payable to the descendants of the relatives and servants of the wife of the third Ruler of Oudh.

Serial No.	Pensions payable in INDIA	Approx. amount per annum.	Nature of the charges.
5	Nagpur Burhanshah Family Pensions	50,000	Pensions sanctioned to the grandson of the last Raja of Nagpur.
6	Bhonsla Family Pensions	81,500	Pensions granted to the members of the Bhonsla Family of Nagpur.
7	Surat Nawab's Family Pensions	62,000	Amounts payable to the descendants of the Nawab of Surat.
8	Satara Pensions	30,000	Pensions continued to a descendent of the last Raja of Satara.
9	Nizamut Family Pensions	2,34,800	Pensions granted to the members of the Nizamut families of Murshedabad and includes the annual stipend of Rs. 2,30,000 payable to the Nawab Bahadur of Murshedabad under Act XV of 1891.
10	Oudh Family Pensions	10,100	Life pensions granted to the descendants to of the last King of Oudh.
11	Khurda Family Pensions	25,600	Pensions granted to a descendant of the Raja of Khurda.
12	Delhi Family Pensions	20,000	Pensions payable to the descendants of members of the Moghul Ruling family.
13	Pensions to Maharatta Salanadars	24,000	Pensions payable out of the revenues of Berar which were accepted by the Government of India after Berar was added to the C.P.
14	Other Pensions	10,23,600	Miscellaneous Political Pensions.

Serial No.	Pensions payable in ENGLAND	Approx. amount per annum.	Nature of the charges.
1	Duloo Singh Family Pensions	80,000	Payable to the descendants of the Raja of Lahore.
2	Bengal Nizamut Family Pensions.	12,000	Minor pensions granted to the members of the Nizamut family.

ELECTION TO COURT OF UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the Assembly that upto 12 noon on Tuesday, the 2nd December 1947, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Court of the University of Delhi, twelve nominations were received. As the number of candidates is equal to the number of vacancies I declare the following members to be duly elected:

(1) Dr. H. C. Mookerjee, (2) Prof. K. T. Shah, (3) Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand, (4) Acharya J. B. Kripalani, (5) Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, (6) Acharya Jugal Kishore, (7) Rev. Jerome D'Souza, (8) Chaudhri Nihal Singh Taxak, (9) Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir, (10) Shrimati G. Durgabai, (11) Shri R. Santhanam and (12) Nawab Muhammad Ismail Khan.

CHILD MARRIAGE RESTRAINT (AMENDMENT) BILL

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (East Punjab: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929, be continued."

اس بل کے متعلق ۲ اپریل ۱۹۴۷ء کو ہاؤس نے سامنے یہ ترمیم پیش کی گئی تھی کہ اسکو circulate کیا جائے۔ چنانچہ فیصلہ یہ ہوا تھا کہ یہ circulate کیا جائے۔ اس بارے میں مختلف پروانسیز سے ابھی تک چند رائیں نہیں آئی ہیں۔ اسلئے میں مجبوراً اسوقت صرف یہ موشن پیش کرتا ہوں کہ اس بل کو زندہ رہا جائے اور continue کیا جائے۔

An amendment to the Bill was placed before the House on April 2, 1947, that the Bill be circulated; and it was decided to circulate the Bill. Since a few opinions on the matter have not been received from the different Provinces, I am obliged now to move only the motion "that the Bill be not let down, and be continued."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929, be continued."

The motion was adopted.

INDIAN PENAL CODE AND THE CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (East Punjab: General): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mrs. Renuka Ray, Shrimati G. Durgabai, Shrimati Kamala Chaudhri, Mr. Naziruddin Ahmed, Shri Jaspal Roy Kapoor, Shri Deshbandhu Gupta, Shri K. Santhanam, Shri Mohan Lal Saksena, Shri S. Nagappa and the Mover, with instructions to report before the first day of the next session of the Assembly and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Sir, I have placed this motion anew before the House. As a matter of fact a similar motion was placed before the House on the 2nd of April 1947, but unfortunately that motion could not be completed owing to the shortness of time. Now I have placed this motion before the House in the hope that the House will agree to this proposition, or if it is the desire of the House that the Bill be circulated for opinion, I will not oppose such a motion provided that the opinions are received in such time as would enable me to press for the succeeding motions and get the Bill passed in the Budget session.

Sir, before I proceed to the merits and submit for the consideration of the House my reasons why the House should be pleased to accept my motion, I will, with your permission, give a brief history relating to the age of consent. Sir, in the olden times, I should say from the oldest times known to history, the consent of the girl has been regarded as indispensable before a man is allowed to touch her person. In the olden days when the laws of Manu were enforced, a person guilty of an offence of rape could be sentenced to death. From fine to death was the range of punishment provided by the ancient law-giver. According to Islamic laws, a man who was guilty of such a heinous offence as rape was liable to be sentenced to death by stoning or a hundred stripes. That was the punishment given.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): 'Or' or 'and'?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: If the sentence of death was enforced, there was no occasion for stripes being given.

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

evil effects of the pernicious custom of early marriage and early consummation in our country, everyone of us was fired with the earnestness that this Report should be accepted by the House and that the law should be changed as early as possible.

There is no doubt today that there is a change in the country for the better and that child marriage is now not so rampant as it was then. At the same time, it must be confessed that even now the enormity of the evil is not fully realised by my countrymen. I labour under this apprehension that as a matter of fact, even today many members of this House do not fully realise the evil and its magnitude. I may be pardoned for thinking so but when I pressed my motion in regard to the other Bill, the amendment of the Child Marriage Restraint Act, I found that there was very great ignorance in the House about the existence and magnitude of the evil. I do not know how the members of this Assembly feel, but I feel very strongly on this point and I think that this Bill embodies certain principles which are the very essence of the principles relating to nation-building. I believe, Sir, that the provisions contained in this Bill really constitute a charter for the emancipation of women of this country.

Sir, the main provision of the Bill is that the age of consent be changed from the present age of 13 to 15 in the case of married life and from the present age of 14 to 18 in the case of extra-marital life. In regard to the other provisions of the Bill, I would submit that Section 361 of the Indian Penal Code, Sections 375, 552, 561 and Schedule II are sought to be changed but the main change is in respect of Section 375.

Now, Sir, before I proceed with the provisions of the Bill, I would like, with your permission, to submit for the consideration of the House the state of things which existed in 1928 in the different provinces. I will not take much time of the House but I would read in respect of every province a few lines from the Report of the Age of Consent Committee. I do not know if I am boring the House, but if some provisions of this Report are read out, I believe the House would be better able to judge whether the present provisions which I am seeking to amend should be amended or not. Now, Sir, I take the Punjab. The report says:

"The census of 1921 shows that in the age period 5—10, 70 Hindu, 26 Muslim and 25 Sikh girls out of every thousand were in a married state. In the age period 10—15, 367 Hindu, 187 Muslim and 223 Sikh girls were married."

It so happens that there is a general idea that among Muslims marriages take place late in life, but this is an absolutely wrong idea. The figures showed this fact clearly and the House will have occasion to know from the figures that I shall give in respect of the different provinces that Muslims and Hindus suffer equally from this wrong. As a matter of fact, in certain areas in the Punjab the Muslims were in a worse condition than the Hindus. This is what the report says in regard to Muslims:

"Early marriage has degenerated into child marriage and the consummation of marriage when either one or both of the parties are still immature. The wife invariably being younger than the husband, the union naturally tells on her health. . . ."

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it the opinion of the Honourable Member that the wife should be elder than the husband?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I am reading the report:

"The castes which practise early marriage on an extensive scale have generally a smaller proportion of females at the age period 12—15. Enquiries into a large number of cases show that when the marriage of young people is consummated at an early age, say when the boy is not more than 16 years or the girl is 12 or 13, a fairly large percentage of wives die of phthisis or some other disease of the respiratory organs or from some ovarian complication within 10 years of the consummation of marriage."

Then, Sir, speaking about the age of puberty and consummation of marriage in regard to Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims, the Report says:

"Among the Sikhs and Muslims, as also in the rural population generally, it is between 14 and 16. Consummation soon after puberty seems to be a general custom among Hindus and Muslims. In Haryana, which is mainly composed of the districts of Rohtak and Gurgaon, cohabitation is not uncommon before puberty."

Sir, I will not deal with the N.W.F.P.

Next I come to Delhi. About Delhi, the report says:

"Marriages of girls among Hindus generally take place between the ages of 10 and 18, more generally at 12. The Marwaries appear to marry their girls below 12 and the Jains after 14. As regards Muslims it seems that their girls are married at about the age of 13 or 14. The lower classes amongst them, however, effect child marriages which are sometimes performed at 3, 4, 7 and 8 years of age."

Continuing, the report says:

"Some instances of this type are also to be found among the lower classes and in the case of elderly husbands"

Regarding Ajmer, the Report says:

"In this part of the country the age at which girls attain puberty is 13 or 14. The bride and bridegroom are locked up in a room for a night soon after marriage and consequently in several cases consummation takes place before puberty and before the age of 13. It is more so, because there being no widow marriage, widowers marry young girls of immature age. As a result of such early consummation, the health of the mothers and progeny suffers and there is a high maternal and infantile mortality."

In Bombay Presidency, Sir, the Report says:

"In Gujarat and Kathiawar, early marriage prevails largely among all castes, except among Brahma Kshatriyas and Nagar Brahmins living in towns and the upper classes of Muslims. It is very rampant among the lower castes, such as Ghanchis, Kanbis, Kolis, and Dheds."

In Bombay, proper early marriage is practised largely among all classes, except the Gaud Saraswat Brahmins, Pathare Prabhus, Kapol Vaishyas, and the upper classes of Muslims. It is very common among Bhatias and Marwaries.

In the Deccan districts too, early marriage is common, except among the Chitpavan Brahmins, and the Saraswat Brahmins. It is common among the Mahrattas, Mahars, Holiyas, Lingayats, Shimpees, Vakkals and other lower castes.

Broadly speaking, the practice of early marriage prevails in the rural areas and among the uneducated classes, and is gradually disappearing from among the educated classes. It is practically non-existent among Parsis, and Christians.

In the Bombay Presidency, girls are married, more largely than elsewhere at very low ages. In 1921, there were 1,666 girls married or widowed, under one year of age, 1,671 girls married or widowed between one and two years of age, 4,378 girls married or widowed between two and three years of age, 7,219 girls married or widowed between three and four years of age, 12,834 girls married or widowed between four and five years of age, 1,93,582 girls married or widowed between five and ten years of age and 4,98,706 girls married or widowed between ten and fifteen years of age.

In the surrounding tracts in Bombay Province early marriage is common enough."

Sir, as regards Deccan and Karnatak—I am reading all this in order that all the Members should not be put to the trouble of going through all these pages, as I know they will never take this trouble, you will find on page 43.....

Shri M. S. Aney (Deccan and Madras States Group): The Honourable Member is reading all the figures which are based on the last Census in 1921. After that the Act was passed with their own advice. I think it will be better if he can give us the later figures.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Unfortunately the figures of married conditions, etc., are not given in the Census Report of 1941. The Committee made its report in 1929. So the Committee could not possibly consider the 1931 figures. So I am only reading from the Report of the Age of Consent Committee. I would have been very happy to read the figures from the Census Report in 1941, but I failed to get any information and because this information is not given there.

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An Honourable Member: After death.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: It was in 1828 that an Act was enacted which provided that if the age of the girl was below 8, death was to be the penalty. After that, in 1860 when the Penal Code was enacted, the law was changed, and if a person was guilty of rape and the age of the girl was less than 10 years, then he could be given transportation for life. This punishment was provided in both cases, in extra-marital as well as marital cases. In 1891 the law was changed and it was provided that in intra-marital cases if the age of the wife was less than 12, the husband could be punished. A case reported in 18 Calcutta 62, a very famous case of those times, the case of Hari Mohan Maithi was the occasion for this change. There was great agitation in the country then and it was pleaded that the husband had an absolute right to the person of his wife and no law could punish the husband, but the legislature did not agree and on the plea that such a change was humanitarian and would protect female children from immature prostitution and premature cohabitation, the law was changed. After that the first attempt to change the law took place in the year 1922, when Bakshi Sohan Lal brought in a Bill to amend Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code. The Bill was first circulated, and then a motion was made for reference to the Select Committee.

But the Government of the day did not like the change and ultimately the motion was negatived by 41 votes to 29, though the Government remained neutral. In the course of the discussion the Government Member himself declared the policy of the Government in these words:

"If the Bill did go to a Select Committee, it would only go on the distinct condition that the sanction did not apply to marital relations, and that in the case of girls who were twelve and under fourteen, the punishment should be materially reduced and placed in a somewhat similar level to that which obtained in England."

So it appears that practically by the action of the Government, this Bill was nipped in the bud and it was not allowed to get beyond the stage of circulation.

Then again in 1924 an attempt was made by Dr. Hari Singh Gour to amend the law and he brought in a Bill in 1924. The Bill was referred to a Select Committee and ultimately when it emerged out of the Select Committee and came to the House an amendment was carried by the House which changed the age to 16 in the case of extra-marital cases; and another amendment was carried by which the age was increased, in regard to intra-marital cases, to 14. But the Government of the day did not like the change. When the amendment in regard to intra-marital cases was made to 14, the result of the voting was that 45 were in favour and 43 against including about 18 Government votes, as the Government did not like the change for reasons which I shall indicate subsequently. The Bill was ultimately defeated in the House and the result was that 54 votes were cast against the Bill which included 24 votes of the Members of the Government and their party. The Bill was defeated by the vote of the Government because the Government of the day did not like that the age should be increased to 14.

The House may wonder why the Government of the day did not like this change. The reason is not far to seek: it was a non-National Government. This Government which could abolish *sati* did not like that the age of consent should be raised even to 14, what to speak of 16 and 18? This age of consent in regard to marital ages has a very great bearing upon the character of the people, upon the physique of the people and upon other matters which vitally concern the nation; and the foreign Government did not want that Indians should rise to their full stature, that they should be patriotic or that they should have the nerve to stand against the Government. Therefore as that Government wanted to weaken the Indians, it did not like the idea of raising the age of consent.

Now, Sir, the Indians did not take it lying down. Again a Bill was brought in 1927 but in between, Government could not resist the pressure of public opinion; and the Government itself brought in a Bill in 1925. The result of that Bill was that the age of consent in regard to intra-marital cases was raised from 12 to 13—only one year's increase. In 1927 again, as stated above, Dr. Gour brought forward a Bill for amending the law, and it was during the course of discussion on this Bill that the Government were forced to appoint a Committee known as the Age of Consent Committee. The Committee originally consisted of six persons to which four members were added as the representatives of this House. The Committee spent something like Rs. 2,88,614. It was presided over by an eminent gentleman, Sir Moropant Joshi. The other members were—I am just giving the names of the members to show that the Committee was representative and its report should be given due weight—the other members were: Rai Bahadur Pandit Kanhaiya Lal, Retired Judge of the Allahabad High Court, Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar, lately the Leader of this House, Khan Bahadur Mahbub Mian Imam Bakshi Kadri, Retired Sessions Judge, Mrs. O'Brien Beadon, a doctor, Mrs. Brij Lal Nehru, Mr. S. C. Mitra, M.L.A., Myself, Maulvi Muhammad Yakub, M.L.A., and Mian Mohammad Shah Nawaz, M.L.A. These ten persons were appointed; the Committee made its Report in the latter portion of May 1929 after it had toured all over the country and took the evidence in the different Provinces. The Committee visited Lahore, Peshawar, Karachi, Delhi, Ahmedabad, Bombay, Poona, Ootacamund, Calicut, Madras, Madurai, Vizagapatam, Dacca, Shillong, Calcutta, Patna, Benares, Allahabad, Lucknow and Nagpur. The Committee examined orally about four hundred witnesses. It sent its questionnaire to more than eight thousand people and a very great number of written statements were received. The Committee examined many theologians, medical experts, orthodox ladies, educated ladies, old men, and all others whom the Committee thought would be able to give opinion in the matter. The Committee made a unanimous Report. But during all these seventeen years except for giving support to the Sarda Bill, the Government have not taken the Report seriously and the reason is obvious, as I have said already.

Now, Sir, I have brought in this Bill, and the chief recommendations of that Committee have been incorporated in the Bill with a few exceptions which I shall have occasion to speak about later on. In regard to those exceptions I myself appended notes of dissent and I have in this Bill given effect to those notes of dissent.

Sir, the problem is very simple. On account of child marriage, there is pre-puberty consummation in this country; there is also early consummation on account of child marriages soon after puberty and this is a great evil which we want to ostracize from this land. I know it is not fully realized what the extent of the evil is and to illustrate my point let me refer to two or three matters which I remember as anecdotes relating to this Committee. I confess I myself did not know about the extent of the evil and when I joined the Committee I had absolutely no idea that the evil was of such magnitude. Our great leader Pandit Moti Lal Nehru, when he heard about the Sarda Bill said that Mr. Harbilas Sarda wanted to gain by the Bill cheap notoriety. When once I happened to see our revered President, the elder Patel—I was coming from Bombay and happened to meet him at some station in the train—he said, "Where are you coming from?" I told him that I was a Member of this Committee. He said "It is a nonsensical Committee". Then, Sir, we had occasion to examine Sir Saadulla in Assam and he was simply wonder-struck when I told him while examining him, that he had no idea of the enormity of the evil in Bengal, and he changed his view when I gave him the figures in Bengal. I can cite many other examples. As a matter of fact, very few people realised the extent of the evil and its devastating effects. But after day in and day out for ten months we had chewed the cud and been thoroughly imbued with the realisation of the

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

If my Honourable friends think that as a matter of fact the conditions are so totally changed that the figures are out of all proportion to the figures which are now obtaining, I would submit let them make some allowance for the 20 years and then come to the conclusion and see if there is still any case for this change in the law.

Mr. Speaker: I was thinking of suggesting to the Honourable Member on a different line, to curtail the length of his speech and that was, that as the Honourable Members have been given figures for two or three typical Provinces, the Honourable Member need not go into detailed figures for every province; and it will be fairly assumed by the House that conditions are practically the same in all provinces. No further quotations are required for conviction as regards each Province.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Sir, I accept your advice and do not want to go on with the figures. But I would only make one submission before the Honourable Members in regard to the figures in regard to other provinces. So far as Bengal is concerned, I specifically make a submission to the House that Bengal may be considered separately, because it is the worst province in regard to this evil.

An Honourable Member: Why?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: The exception is only to be made in respect of Bihar and Orissa where conditions are equally bad.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose (Orissa: General): They are not so bad now.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: It was never realized in the year 1931 that the conditions were quite bad and it is not realized today that the conditions though they are not equally bad, but are still bad enough and seriously bad. Any person who goes about the country with his eyes open can see that this system of early marriage is as rampant as before among the rural backward and depressed classes and even now mass marriages take place.

I have submitted for the consideration of the House that early consummation and early marriage which are concomitant evils, are today prevalent in the country. Now the question arises as to what is the real effect of these evils.

As regards this, I will not content myself with stating my own opinion or the general opinion of the country. With your permission, Sir, I will refer Honourable Members to the evidences of doctors who appeared before the Committee, to the statistics that they submitted for our consideration and if you will kindly have a look at these statistics, it would appear that early consummation and early marriage are fraught with grave consequences to the mothers and the progeny of those mothers.

Now again, I think I will not be accepting the Honourable Speaker's advice, if I were to read out extracts from the Age of Consent Committee Report. I will refer the House to certain portions appearing in this Report and if any Honourable Member wishes to enlighten himself with the state of things which obtain in this country and which are still obtaining in this country, he will be pleased to read pages 161—168 of this Report. It will be established that as a matter of fact in regard to maternal mortality owing to this early marriage and early consummation our country has got the highest figure in the world. Therefore, I will content myself with giving one or two figures in this connection:

"From the Lucknow Branch of the Lady Chelmsford Maternity and Red Cross Society Child Welfare League —

In this branch the total number of cases of pregnancy below 30 years was 3,160 in 3 years. Out of these 2.3 per cent. were below 16 years complete, of whom 35.75 per cent. were below 16 years complete, of whom 35.75 show some abnormality as above described; whereas for the age period 16—19 the abnormality rate was 17.52 per cent. and for the age period 20—30 it was 10.50 per cent."

Similarly, Sir, in regard to maternal mortality, reference may be made to what Dr. Adishesan, the Assistant Director of Public Health, Madras, says. He examined 7,000 confinement cases and he gave his conclusions which are to be found at the end of the Book as an Appendix to the Report. All these conclusions will show that when maternity comes on before the complete age of 16, the consequences are very tragic; it happens that the mother dies or the child dies or they live a life of great misery.

As regards, Sir, infantile mortality, the less said the better. The death rate in England was 70 per mille and in India 189.04 per mille. Now, Sir, this was the rate given by the Health Officer of Delhi. He states the death rate of children is abnormally high.

So, it would appear, Sir, that as a matter of fact this proposition should be accepted by the House that the effect of child marriage and early consummation is very very bad on the physique of the girls of the nation. Now, Sir, if you look at the psychological results of this early consummation and early marriage you will agree with me that the results are still more tragic and the problems of the present day require that the age of consent should be changed. Even now when the marriageable age has increased in cities and in many communities which are educated and which have realised the evil consequences of child marriage, even now, I assume the consummation of young girls between 13 and 15 takes place and even now according to the provisions of the Bill many offences take place, though they do not come to light.

The safe age for maternity according to Vagbhat and Sushruta and according to the Allopathic system is 16 years. I ask Honourable Members to tell me if there is no case of maternity in India before the age of 16 or if consummation does not take place before a girl is full 15. If they think that conditions are so good there is no harm in changing the law because we will then be in the same state as the rest of the world. The age of consent in other countries is given on page 340 of the Age of Consent Committee's report, and you will be surprised to learn that the age is 18 in other countries; in very few countries is the age so low as 14 or 16.

Mr. Tajamul Husain (Bihar: Muslim): What is it in England?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: There my Honourable friend is on some safe ground. It is said in this report—and the question was also raised when I brought in an amendment to the Child Marriage Restraint Act—that the age is only 12 in England. But there marriages never take place before 16. And the figures show that in 12 years before 1928—when the figures were quoted in this report—there were 28 cases in the whole of England and Wales of marriage at 14, 318 cases at 15 and only 12 cases at 13. May I ask my Honourable friend who interrupted me to tell me what the corresponding numbers were in this country? I may tell him that at least 50 per cent. of girls in India are married before the age of 15; does he realise the effects of that on our girls?

Mr. Tajamul Husain: Then why not raise the age of marriage?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I will come to that. If I bring in a Bill to do that I know what kind of reception it will get. If you raise the age of marriage from 14 to 16 I will be the first man to support it. I propose to bring in a Bill to raise the age of marriage for girls from 14 to 15. That would surely be a lesser evil. I think it is not an evil at all as compared with the change of age so far as the age of consent is concerned. If it is made an offence and all offences come to court, the courts will be flooded with these cases. Violations of the age of consent law do not come to court and it was intended that they should not come to court. But if the age of 15 is fixed in the Marriage Bill that will be the real solvent of our troubles and difficulties. If it is a fact that you are not affected by any change of the age of consent, why object to it? If offences are

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava] committed in the bedroom no one will bring them into court; neither the wife nor any other relations will come and give evidence in court because everyone will be interested in hushing it up so that it may not be exposed. So if the age of consent is changed there will be no harm done to society.

Sir, I think I have established that the evil of early consummation and early marriage is to be found in India, and I hope I have succeeded in establishing that these are the chief sources of evil in regard to our health and all other branches of life. The question is asked, what is the use of raising the age of consent? But is the health consideration nothing at all? Recently my Honourable friend Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya moved a Resolution in the House about national militia. Was not there a complaint during the war that Indians are not now as good soldiers as they were before? Did we not hear the other day from the Honourable Labour Minister that labour has greatly deteriorated and that the outturn of an Indian labourer is only one-seventh of that of a British worker and one-fourteenth of that of an American worker. Do we not know that an Afghan labourer is a better worker and earns more and at the same time is superior to our workers in respect of lifting weights? I submit that you will not have to spend so much on health problems if you raise this age. I submit that there is no department of life which will not be affected for the better if you pass this law and also—which is more important—if you implement this law by your actions and do not allow a single marriage to be consummated or performed before the girl is fully developed. May I humbly ask what right man has got to inflict an injury on a girl? I have spoken only of health considerations; I think our soldiers would be more brave and would discharge their duties better if they were sons of mothers who were not married at an early age.

Then I come to the social effect. My Honourable friend Haji Ishaq Seth has given notice of a circulation motion. I will accept that motion; but may I ask if you want your girls of the future to be Councillors and lawyers, and so on? Do you want them to be independent and to enjoy the pleasures of joyous girlhood between the ages of 13 and 15? Or do you want to shackle them behind the *purdah*? If not, you have to raise the age to 18 in extra-marital cases; you must give them freedom to learn things and to be educated. A girl cannot be educated if she is married at the age of 12 and 13. The only remedy for this state of things is to raise the age of marriage and the age of consent.

Sir, people complain about the dowry system and then they want to introduce this social reform and that social reform. In my view there is only one reform which will do away with the need for other reforms and that is raising the age of marriage and age of consent. In fact I maintain that this raising of the age from 13 to 15 in marital cases and from 14 to 18 in extra-marital cases constitutes the very charter of liberty for the women of India.

In regard to other considerations I submit that if you want to change the old idea of the overlordship of man over woman, if you feel that the woman of the future should not regard her husband as her overlord but as a companion for life . . .

Shri H. V. Kamath (C. P. and Berar: General): Is my Honourable friend an exponent of free love?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: That question is not germane to the present discussion. But if he wants my view, I want that the girls in India should be given liberty to choose their husbands. In Vedic and olden times the girls were allowed this choice. Muslim law, Christian law and Hindu law allows it. Does my Honourable friend want that in future the fathers of these girls should continue to sell them as they are doing now?

Does he want that the considerations of wealth and other things should guide the choice of fathers and the girls of our land should not be allowed any scope for freedom?

Shri H. V. Kamath: My question was different.

Shri M. S. Aney: May I submit that it is the boys that are being sold.

Mr. Speaker: If the Honourable Member goes on answering these interruptions, there will be no end.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: The conditions of today are exceptionally bad, and looked at from whatever standard, this present system of early marriage and consummation is eating into the very vitals of our society, and the change if made, as I have suggested, will materially change our conditions, and we shall grow in stature and in character also, if we leave this early marriage and early consummation.

As I have submitted, for all these considerations, I maintain that the change of the present age from 13 to 15 is a measure long overdue. We made a report in 1929 and since these 18 years the country has made greater strides towards the millennium than it ever made before. Previously the foreign Government did not want this change. While they abolished *sati* they did not abolish this. This system is worse than *sati* because in *sati* the girl died once. Here every day child widows pass their lives in conditions approximating burning on funeral pyres. When a girl became *sati* and died she left no impress and the only thing she left was praise for her courage; but in the case of girls suffering from early marriage and early consummation the case is worse. As a matter of fact, in our society they are not regarded now with the same consideration as they were regarded before. Now there is no joint family. Now the regard for child widows and old widows has diminished and in this individualistic age it is difficult for widows to pass their time. Therefore the time has come when we should not lead a life of complacency that because in the cities there is improvement then there is also improvement in the rural areas. I gave an example the last time when I spoke on the Child Marriage Bill. I am living in Hissar and in my compound there are some people belonging to the depressed class. There is my syce among them who has seven or eight children. Every year his wife gives birth to a child. The child in arms, a girl of 4 years and another of 5 years—are all married. There is another *chaprassi*, a Muhammadan; one day a daughter of his, aged four years, came to my house and said to my wife that her mother-in-law had come and was asking her to go away to her husband's house. She said: "I do not want to go". This is happening every day. I do not know about the conditions in the rest of India. But when I roamed throughout India with this Committee I went to the villages and studied conditions with open eyes. Conditions may have since changed but this evil has not been eliminated. As a matter of fact the evil is there. If I were convinced the evil was not there, I submit I would not take so much time of the House. But I want to submit for your consideration that even if many Members of this House say that the evil is not there, I will not be impressed by that opinion on account of the reasons which I have submitted for your consideration. If this is true that the evil is there, then I must submit that we must find a solution and the only solution is increasing the age of marriage and consent.

The question was what should be the change if the age is to be changed from 13? That agitated the mind of the Committee. The Committee recommended that 15 should be the proper age. Other ages were considered. The age of 15 cannot also be changed to a much greater age. According to myself, I would have preferred if 16 was the age. But since the Committee recommended 15, I have stuck to that because I do not want to rush headlong towards a bigger age, but beyond 16 I am not prepared to go.

But with the age of marriage at 14 and the age of consent at 15, there will be many infractions of this law. I would therefore submit for the consideration of the House that the marriageable age should be changed to 16. But as there is no such Bill before the House this is not very pertinent now. I maintain that the change in the age of consent does go a long way for preparing us for a

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change in the law of the marriageable age. An increase in age shall prove to be of great economic advantage also to our people. When the Honourable Member Mr. Gadgil was replying to me on the last occasion on the 2nd April, he himself stated his experience to the House and said that when he went to his constituency and told people that economically speaking they would become very much better than before by raising the marriageable age, the people round about him accepted the opinion. I say the same thing. Unless this age is changed, in the very hard times to come people will not be able to earn their livelihood. They will not be able to keep their families if they do not increase the age of marriage, and I therefore submit, that judged from whatever standard you like—economically, sociologically, physically or psychologically—this age must be changed. What is the psychological effect? If you go on talking about marriage among young girls the result is, as it has happened in Bengal. In the rest of India the age of puberty is 14. Ellis's "Jurisprudence" gives the age of puberty between 12 to 14 in 65.7 per cent. of the girls. Out of the 765 replies received by the Committee, 53 per cent. of them gave the age of puberty as between 12 and 14 years. And in certain communities of Madras who are addicted to early marriage the age of girls with regard to menstruation has changed. They have even changed nature by this evil. For Madras girls and Bengal girls the age of puberty comes on between 8 and 11. This is the result if you frequently speak of marriages and indulge in early marriages. And in our homes there is no other talk among our young folk and old folk. The psychological effect is that there is precocious puberty among those girls and this is a national vice of the worst character. Therefore psychologically speaking also this talk of early marriage and consummation is bad.

As regards provisions of the Bill which I am submitting for your consideration, I want a change in Section 361. This is the second clause in my Bill, in regard to Section 361—Kidnapping. We have changed the age to 16 in Section 366 (a) and (b) and other relevant sections also. But so far as this age is concerned, it is at present 16 and I want it to be made 18. It is very curious that if there is a girl and she is owner of lakhs of rupees and property worth crores, she cannot part as a minor with property worth Rs. 1. She cannot even dispose of one house out of her property but she can dispose of her person even if she is 14.

It is an absurdity that for extra-marital cases the age of a girl should be only 14 years. It so happens that a girl of 16 may be fully developed so far as cohabitation is concerned but psychologically she may not fully comprehend the consequences of her act. An unscrupulous man may dupe her and

1 P.M. she may have to repent all her life. To protect these girls from the hands of evil-doers it is necessary that in extra-marital cases the age should be increased from 14 to 18. Opinion in the country was almost unanimous in regard to this age and there is no harm if the age is increased to 18. I can understand that there might be some difficulty in regard to *deva dasies* or prostitutes but even from their point of view it would be to their benefit if they are in a position to understand what they are being brought up to and what will be their future course of action and fate. In their cases also they will benefit a great deal if the age is increased to 18.

In regard to these two cases I know it may be argued that a girl of 16 may in some cases tempt boys of 20 to 25 but with regard to that we have made a provision that in such cases where the girls are between 16 and 18 and consent the offence may be regarded as compoundable. In regard to the main change I want the age from 13 to 15, in intra-marital cases and from 14 to 18, in extra-marital cases. To encompass this it would be necessary to amend Section 375 and create a new offence. The Committee's report calls it marital misbehaviour. I want to add another Section 376A. Rare as understood in ordinary language does not and should not include the case of a wife. So the new offence of

marital misbehaviour is provided in Section 376A and the punishment for the same is provided under Section 376B. There was some difference of opinion, as there is bound to be, in regard to the punishment to husband offenders who commit offence on girls below the age of 12 and above this age. Nobody can have any sympathy with such offenders when the age of the girl is below 12 and they should be given the punishment which is provided for ordinary offenders. In regard to offenders when the age of the wife is between 12 and 15 the Committee felt that there should be a difference and I also agree but where I disagree with the Committee is with regard to the quantum of punishment. The Committee opined that the punishment should be one year but I have provided for two years. I appended a note of dissent to the report. I do not want to give to the House all the reasons which actuated me to make this change. All that I want to say is that under the scheme of things as I envisage it the provisions of this Bill will be more useful in creating conditions of fear of consequences of breach than that they will be utilized by actual enforcement of provision. When the effect of the law is stringent people would act and behave in a particular manner on account of the fear of the consequences. Therefore the two years punishment should be retained so that people might know that the offence is very atrocious on account of its being attended with very grave consequences.

In regard to the other provisions of the Bill, so far as paragraph 6 is concerned, it only places a limitation upon the period during which a prosecution under this Act can be made. In regard to the other provisions, Section 552 deals with the powers of the court to give liberty to abducted females or females who are kept in custody. I want to change the law to include not only girls of 16 but girls of 18, who should be afforded this protection. Similarly in Chapter II I have made a change.

In regard to the placing of these sections in the body of the Penal Code the Committee thought that they should be placed under the Chapter of offences relating to marriage. I do not agree for reasons given in my note of dissent. In my humble opinion these offences should be placed in that part which relates to offences against the human body. The essence of the offence is that the offender really commits a crime against the human body. If you look at Section 87 of the Penal Code you will agree with me. As a matter of fact the principle contained in that provision is applicable to the case of girls and it is on that basis alone that this legislation is justifiable. Therefore the proper place for this offence is, according to my humble opinion, under the offences relating to the human body.

I do not want to take any more time of the House. I have already taken a good length of time. I would only submit one point in conclusion. I regard that this Bill will certainly benefit our people and our countrymen much more than any other legislation. When we look at the Objectives Resolution of the Constituent Assembly I feel bound to say that the objectives of the resolution will be better fulfilled by enacting this Bill than by enacting any other legislation, as it will secure social justice and social security at once.

In the budget of human relations I believe that the place which we assign to the backward classes and the depressed classes constitutes the real test of our progress. There are three questions of vital importance according to me in regard to this budget of human relations. The first is: How do we treat our women? I know that all our ancient seers, sages and leaders from time immemorial have tried to ameliorate the condition of the women of this country. Mahavir Swami fought for them; Swami Dayanand, Mahatma Gandhi and many others have been trying in their own way to ameliorate the condition of women and the depressed classes of this country. The House will be interested to know that when the Sarda Bill came before this House in 1928 I sent a wire to Mahatmaji asking for his opinion about the proper age for marriage. He was kind enough to send a reply saying that 18 was the proper age for girls.

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I am only asking that the age of consent should be raised to 15. If you follow the lead of that great man you should at once accept the principle of this Bill.

In this connection I would submit that the Government must take substantial steps to implement the spirit of this Bill. I would in the end submit for the consideration of the House that they should consider the Bill on its merits and try to remedy the evils our country is suffering from. My weak powers of expression should not affect the full appreciation of the miseries which our girls suffer from as a result of early consummation and marriage. The House if it agrees with my conclusions should lose no time to pass this measure.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mrs. Renuka Ray, Shrimati G. Durgabai, Shrimati Kamala Chaudhri, Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad, Shri Jaspal Roy Kapoor, Shri Deshbandhu Gupta, Shri K. Saathanam, Shri Mohan Lal Saksena, Shri S. Nagappa and the Mover, with instructions to report before the first day of the next session of the Assembly and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the committee shall be five."

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (Madras: Muslim): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st July, 1948."

Mr. Speaker: I would like to know from the Honourable Member whether he wants to stick to that date.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: I think I had better stick to this date. My friend said that he was agreeable to a motion for circulation but stipulated that the opinion should be received before the next session of the Assembly. I want to point out to him that it is physically impossible to circulate the Bill and get opinions before the next meeting of the Assembly, which means the Budget Session which I understand will be held in the middle of February 1948. In the two months that we will have it will be impossible for the office to circulate the Bill and get opinions. The shortest time allowed usually is six months, and my motion also provides about that much time—it allows seven months. It is the shortest time that could be allowed for the purpose. I therefore appeal to my friend to accept this date and I assure him and the House that there is no purpose behind this motion of a dilatory character.

With regard to the provisions of the Bill I am not going to delve into the various provisions or how they affect us or the country. It is essentially a measure of reform and I think the House will do well to get the opinion of the people who are going to be affected by this measure. So far as I understand there will not be much difficulty with regard to the provisions of the Bill except with regard to clause 5 where the Honourable Member creates a new offence and is raising the age to a limit which I am afraid the country may not be willing to accept without a great deal of publicity. My motion will help in this way, namely that it will also provide propaganda in favour of these amendments and it will be for the country to express its opinion whether to accept it or not. It is in this view I am moving the amendment and I hope the House will accept it.

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st July, 1948."

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

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock. Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

Kazi Syed Karimuddin (C. P. and Berar: Muslim): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in supporting the amendment for circulation of the motion, I accept that the Mover of the resolution made a remarkable speech, and feelingly too: but certain aspects of the provisions that we want to bring on to

the statute book have to be seen whether they are sound on principle. He has made a serious speech and has proposed very serious punishments. I think the learned Mover is unmindful of his youth and he has made his speech when he is old. There is no doubt, Sir, that the fundamental propositions laid down by him in his speech will be acceptable to practically all the members of this House. There is absolutely no doubt that child marriage is positively detrimental to our women folk and it is an evil which has to be uprooted. The two principles underlying this Bill are whether the age of consent has to be raised and whether severe punishment has to be provided in case of violation of these provisions. My Honourable friend the Mover of the resolution has made a long speech against child marriages,—a principle which is acceptable to all. As regards the amendment to section 361, I accept there can be no objection. My objection is to the amendment to section 376. It is said "except where the woman is between 16 and 18 years of age and is a consenting party to the sexual intercourse when the offender shall be punished with imprisonment of either description which may extend to two years or fine or with both". If in the case of marriage the age of consent is 15, why in the case of a girl and a young man, who are 16 or above 16 and below 18, they cannot be allowed to live together? Absolutely no reason has been assigned as to why they cannot meet with the consent of each other. Sir, the Mover of the resolution has not considered a serious aspect of the question. There are many who do not believe in the institution of marriage. There are many who believe in the principle of communism. They refuse to marry. If *mantras* or recitations of verses are read, the age of consent is 15. If such *mantras* are not recited, then they cannot live as husband and wife between 16 and 18. That is a very cruel provision of law that is being enacted. Secondly in the case of prostitutes it will be very difficult. The Mover of the resolution has already said, there are some difficulties about prostitution and no provisions have been made to minimize the effects of that hardship. Another aspect of this Bill, Sir, is this: It is said that when the age of the girl is above 16 and below 18, then the punishment will be 2 years to the offender. If the girl is a consenting party, why should she not be punished? Why the young man is punished when the girl is a consenting party and when she is above 16 and could make a very good wife if she had married at the age of 15? The learned Mover has assigned absolutely no reason for it. It is a physical necessity for a woman. It is a physical necessity for a man. Why should you make a distinction between a young man and a young girl? My learned friend wants to punish the man who has committed this offence and not the woman who is a consenting party, who has also a physical necessity, who is fully developed according to medical opinion.

Then there is another thing Sir. "Whoever commits marital misbehaviour shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years or with fine or with both if the age of the wife is below twelve years and with punishment of either description for a term which may extend to two years or with fine or both if the age of the wife is between twelve and fifteen years." Now this is a very very severe punishment. If there is a misbehaviour of the husband with his wife when she is below 12 and if the man is given the maximum punishment for the alleged cruel treatment then he has to go to jail for ten years, and if she is below fifteen, the punishment of the sentence is two years. Before these punishments are accepted, my submission is that there must be a marital law in the country which should totally prohibit child marriages or marriages of girls below 15 or 16. This punishment is bound to disturb the domestic life of the couple. If a man is sentenced to jail on the evidence of his wife and that too for 10 years, up to the age of 22 she has no husband practically and when the husband returns from jail, he may accept her or he may not accept her at all. Instead of giving very severe sentence and

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punishment when he misbehaves, why not enact marital laws in which very severe punishment should be enacted for having marital ties with girls below 15? Now Sir, in the law now prevailing about child marriages, the punishment is very low. The amending Bill which has come proposes 3 months punishment only. If this is the punishment for having such marriages, then why such a serious punishment to a couple or to the husband who is already married and who has to live with that girl all his life? My submission is that before this punishment is accepted, the learned Mover should have brought a Bill in which marriages of girls below 15 should be prohibited and very serious punishment should be provided.

Now, in one of the paragraphs of the age of consent Report it is mentioned that there are some communities in Assam who have their marriages by courtship and love and that on that ground they have been exempted about the age of consent being above 16. Now, suppose there are some communities in this country who marry after courtship, who marry after making love, and if they live together and make love and commit a blunder between the ages of 16 and 18, and if the courtship falls through; then the husband or the man who tries to woo his would-be-wife, has to go to jail for a mistake in having courtship and love with the girl. These things, Sir, have not been provided for at all.

Now, the Mover of this Resolution in his speech has said that in regard to this misbehaviour mentioned in sub-paragraph (iv) the offence is compoundable. Now if this offence has been committed between the man and the woman who is above 16, it is made compoundable. When it is done with consent why should it go to court? You have made it compoundable without the permission of the court. Suppose they go to court and say, "No, we do not want this case to be prosecuted; the case should be withdrawn", then what is the result of this? It is a contradiction in terms. If you think it is such a serious offence in which the punishment is two years, why have you made it compoundable? If it is done with the consent and if it is made compoundable, what is the meaning of this prosecution? Certainly, Sir, I maintain that it is a contradiction in terms. My suggestion to the learned Mover is that instead of providing such serious punishments in regard to the violation of the provisions of this Bill, the marital laws should be made very strict. The offences under the marital law should be made cognizable—as the legal position stands today, they are non-cognizable. Parties, admittedly, are very reluctant to make reports on the marriages of minors to the Police or to the Courts. If they are made cognizable, if there is a severity of the punishment and sentence in regard to marital laws, there would be hardly any marriages.

Now, what would happen if marital laws are not provided in the manner I have suggested? If there is no severity of sentence, the position will be like this; there would be many marriages because there is less severity of sentence and if there is a marital misbehaviour the husband is likely to be sentenced; and if a serious view is to be taken as I have already said, the domestic life is bound to be marred. The domestic life can never be happy when the husband has been convicted on the evidence of his wife and the chances are that they would never meet each other.

Therefore, before this Bill is sent for eliciting public opinion, the Mover should take all these factors into consideration and when occasion comes he should amend his Bill.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I do agree that the age of consent has to be raised in certain cases. This Bill covers two sections of the Penal Code and tries to make consequential changes in the Criminal Procedure Code. The first is with respect to Section 361 relating to kidnapping. A person is said to commit an offence of kidnapping if he takes away a male who is below the age of 14, and of a female who is below the age of 16, without the consent of the

guardian, or entices her away. Now, the Bill seeks to increase the age from 16 to 18 in the case of a woman. I do not see any objection in this. We are not in Western countries; we are here—both Hindus and Muslims, and others—Jains, Parsis and Buddhists—the institution of marriage applies to all of us and we all believe in it. We are not trying to provide for a few communists who may not believe in the institution of marriage at all. Let one belong to any religion in this country; would he take a girl who before marriage coquets with another man? Does our society admit it? Is it right that when she is still at an immature age she should be allowed to go astray?

Sir, each country is trying to make laws suitable to its own level of culture and habits. Therefore I do not find any objection to raising the age in the case of kidnapping from 16 to 18 for girls. The age of the boy must also be correspondingly raised from 16 to 18. I would like to make an amendment to that effect.

As regards the other Section, Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code, I agree with the previous speaker in that it is not happily worded and I take exception to the substance of it as well. Now, the marriageable age of a girl has been raised from 12 to 14. But under this Bill my Honourable friend Pandit Bhargava wants that though they can marry a girl as soon as she completes 14, she ought not to look at her husband till 15; they should be kept into separate compartments and if unfortunately they should come together the husband will, as a consequence of that weakness, be put into jail. That is what happens. Raise the marriageable age from 14 to 15; I have no quarrel. But if, after accepting the marriageable age to be 14, and after marriage, you do not want that the husband and wife should live as husband and wife and make it a penal offence if they should live as husband and wife till the age of 15, it is rather an inconvenience. I understand from my Honourable friend that he is anxious to raise the marriageable age also from 14 to 15. All right, that must precede this. Then no girl should be married below the age of 15; in that case all the inconvenience would be avoided; all the chapter and verse that he quoted from various doctors in the previous Committee's Report may be applicable. I have no objection. Let the marriageable age of girls be raised from 14 to 15. But this is not the way in which he should try in a round about manner to get at the desired result. As it is, it will cause a great amount of hardship and will disturb matrimonial relationship; where after a marriage the husband and wife are expected to live comfortably in the domestic life, all that will disappear. Therefore, Sir, I am absolutely opposed to the amendment of Section 375 in so far as it tries to make an offence of married life that can be led between the ages of 14 and 15.

Then, the Mover wants to raise the age of consent from 14 to 18. It is a matter for consideration as to whether it may not be 16—whether it should be raised straightaway from 14 to 18. Then with consent whether it ought to be allowed or not after 16 to make it an offence; there may be difference of opinion as to whether a woman must be allowed to give free consent after she completes the age of 16 or whether consent should be nugatory; whether with or without consent the male should be said to have committed an offence until she becomes 16, must be considered in the setting in which we live.

So far as the penal provision is concerned, I can easily see from the rigorous life which my Honourable friend Thakurdas Bhargava leads that he wants exemplary punishment even for ordinary weaknesses. But I have got great doubts whether such a serious punishment as 10 years is not more draconian than the law which was enacted so early as 1861. Times have changed. I do not agree that such an attitude should be taken as is taken in this Bill. It is opposed to all canons of freedom between a man and a woman. It is opposed to all principles in which we have been brought up. The only question is what

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is the degree of limitation that has to be imposed. It is good that my Honourable friend Mr. Ishaq Seth has moved for circulation of the Bill. After it comes back, there will be time enough for us to consider this question. In the meantime, Sir, I am generally in favour of accepting the principle of the Bill.

Shrimati G. Durgabai (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, while accepting the amendment of the Honourable Mover of the amendment, I consider it my first and foremost duty to express my deep debt of gratitude to the Honourable the Mover of this Bill. Sir, he stands here as a champion of the charter of freedom and emancipation of the women of this country. When he was speaking on the Bill, I saw what kind of agony he was having in his mind when he was giving expression to his ideas which prompted him to bring forward a measure like this. I really saw a woman's heart, a mother's heart, in him which prompted him to introduce this Bill. I now realise that a man might probably feel more for a woman than a woman can feel for a woman. He has introduced not one Bill of this kind, but he has brought several which sought to give protection to young girls. In his Statement of Objects and Reasons he has clearly stated what he meant to bring about through this Bill, namely, "for the physical well-being and better protection of young girls."

Now, Sir, it is stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons: "It is true that changes incorporated in the Bill curtail the liberty of males, but it is equally true that these changes are absolutely indispensable from the national standpoint for the physical and moral well-being of the coming generation." The matter being so important, I find that it is a great pity that the Report of the Age of Consent Committee which was appointed so early as 1928 and which made such an extensive and exhaustive survey and examined more than 400 witnesses and collected all the material that was necessary and also I believe spent more than Rs. 2 lakhs and produced a practically unanimous Report, was not given effect to by the Government so far. Although nearly 20 years elapsed, the matter has made no progress at all, and I am therefore glad that today my Honourable friend Mr. Bhargava has brought forward this Bill which seeks to introduce a great reform, at the same time giving effect to the recommendations made by that Committee.

Sir, in this Bill, there are two things which are particularly striking, namely, Section 376(a) and 376(b). I found that these provisions struck a kind of terror in the minds of some friends in the House. Just now, I heard the remarks made by the previous speaker, Mr. Karimuddin. His main grievance seemed to be not that this measure has been brought forward but rather, as to why girls are not also punished. It is really surprising why he made a grievance that under this Bill even the girls should have been brought in for some kind of punishment. Perhaps, it would have satisfied him if there was a provision bringing the girls also under the scope of this Bill and awarding them punishment simply because they are also consenting parties. I do not know what he meant by that, because we know how a girl of 12 years or a girl hardly about the age of 13 or 14...

Kazi Syed Karimuddin: I meant girls about 16.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: Even if a girl is 16, we know how much responsibility she takes about herself and how much she knows about her own self. Consent, Sir, may be obtained in more than one way. Therefore her consent should not really be taken as an authority or stamp for this kind of offence committed by the husband. I do not think Mr. Karimuddin is really right when he says that simply because a girl consents, therefore she too must be given punishment along with the man who commits this act.

Another matter, Sir, which calls for our attention is the punishment that is provided, namely ten years, for the offence committed with regard to a girl after

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12 and below 15. It seems to strike terror in some quarters. I really do not know why Mr. Bhargava while prescribing this period of punishment did not explain what he really intends, because I feel that he really does not expect any case like this to come before any court of law and also that he does not expect any kind of offence of this type being committed if only the punishment provided is not lenient. It is no use providing lenient punishment. If you want this offence to disappear, you must provide for rigorous punishment, so that people may know what kind of punishment and suffering they will have to undergo if they violate the provision of the law in this respect. Otherwise, I feel that the period of ten years prescribed here is quite in proportion to the magnitude of the crime committed. We know that this offence does not really arise from any lawful marriage nor does it flow from obligations conferred by religion. It flows from the absolute right of the husband. This is an offence not against any marital law, but against the human body and it is the duty of the State not merely to ensure that no injury is committed against any person but against the human body. Therefore, I wholly agree that the period prescribed is in keeping with the magnitude and heinous nature of the offence. He has prescribed a period of two years as a punishment in case of a girl below 15. I think even that is not quite excessive but quite proportionate to the offence with regard to the girl.

With regard to the point which Mr. Ayyangar has raised whether it is really going to disturb the marital relation of the man and the woman after their marriage, that is, after the 14 years, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava while speaking on the subject has already made it clear that he is going to bring another

P. M. Bill raising the marriageable age of the girl from 14 to 15 or above that. He is going to do that and I am told that this Bill will be introduced simultaneously. If actually the marriageable age of the girl is just at 14, then it is not quite necessary that we should disturb the marital relationship for just one year, if only the consummation of that relationship is not going to take place immediately after the marriage of a girl just about 14 years. Certainly in the interest of the physical well-being of the girl, the parties can by mutual consent and a better understanding, wait for that one year's period and certainly during that period the relationship is not going to be disturbed and certainly that kind of weakness can be conquered by people and it is quite necessary.

I am not going to go into the details of all the points of the postponement of this age for the purpose of consummation, because the House is already aware of the figures of infantile and maternal mortality. Actually how many cases of such infantile mortality are there? Mr. Bhargava expects great benefits to flow from this Bill and from the point of view of nation-building, it is quite necessary that this kind of reform should be immediately brought and also from the physical well-being of the young girls it is quite necessary that this must be immediately given effect to.

I am very sorry that there is an amendment for further postponement or further to send the Bill for opinion and we have to accept that amendment because there is no other go. There has already been so much delay even after so much has been done by this Committee and after all the material is ready, but I hope that this period of six months which is contemplated by the amendment may be reduced to a shorter period and this measure may be brought forward as soon as it is possible.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must at the outset say that I gladly approve of the measure which has been brought by our Honourable friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava. It is seldom that social legislation is embarked upon in a House like this. The whole history of the British Government ever since 1856 has been one of utter barrenness in that no social legislation has been attempted or undertaken by the Legislature. The British were of the opinion that social legislation was apt to embroil them with

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the religious beliefs and susceptibilities of the country and in order to make their position safe, they have studiously abstained from all interference with the social customs and manners of this land.

So far as I can recall from memory, there was the Widow Marriage Act of 1856, which penalizes the widows rather than help them when they want to remarry; then there was the Lex Loci which related to conversion into Christianity and property arrangements connected therewith; then there was the Brahma Marriage Act, which is popularly known as the Act of 1873, which enabled Marriages to be performed by a kind of registration, though it involved a declaration by means of so many negatives that a man is not a Hindu, a Muslim, a Jew, a Christian, a Jain or a Parsee.

Later we come to the Sarda Act and now we have got on to something more which is allied to this series of social legislation. Much is talked of social service nowadays and almost everybody talks on this subject even on a political platform. When people speak of a new social order, they can only mean economic betterment of the people, such as improvement of labour conditions, regulation of labour hours, control of child labour, conferment of maternity benefits, sickness and accident Insurance and so on. This is a different question altogether. Apart from this there are certain social evils which demand immediate attention. But slowly this aspect of Hindu society, of Muslim society or Indian society as an organic unit which has grown from strength to strength during these many centuries in its historic past, has suffered a reverse in the process of its development. The onslaught of foreign invasion always brings in its train penalties to which society is exposed, apart from the deprivation of political privileges. Foreign rule always fights shy of interfering with social matters and therefore, for at least, a century and a half, Indian society has become absolutely petrified and the High Courts have always fought shy of giving judgments on the principles of approved social reform, notwithstanding the fact that year after year for more than 25 to 30 years, the Indian National Congress was followed up by another national organization, namely, the National Social Reform Conference approving of such principles. It is a great pity that during recent years, during the last 2 or 3 decades this Social Conference has receded into the umbras and penumbras of national life. The fact is that the more important aspects of Social Reform which related to the political development have been absorbed into the political programme and therefore, the purely social aspect of Reform has been absolutely neglected. The abolition of the caste system has been more or less a part of the Congress programme and in no Congress organisation do you see anything like the prevalence of the old caste distinctions, although each Member of the Congress may in his own home and in regard to marriages and various other allied matters observe the strict rules of caste. The prevention of child marriage, the promotion of widow marriage, the abolition of caste system on a wide scale—all these have gone into the background and it is a real pity that our legislatures have fought shy of legislation on these matters.

It sometimes occurs to me whether it would not be far better if a mixed body like this Legislature did not interfere with the social customs of one particular community or another, and whether it would not be much better if internally organised social councils are set up, the decrees of which must be registered as a basis of legislation by this larger legislative body. All of you perhaps know that in England there is a Church Council. The Parliament seldom deals with church matters directly. Whatever the Church Council passes is bodily registered without a comma or a foolstop being changed and sometime ago in Germany also there was an economic Council and its decisions were implemented likewise as legislation by the Reich. In the same manner if by some process of representative organisation we can bring into existence a body possessing, at any rate, adequate social authority, the verdict of that Body might be embodied as legislation in this House.

The great difficulty with regard to these matters is that initiative has been wanting. If this country were self-governing, if the country had a king, of its own, who was of the soil and sprang from the soil, anything could have been done, everything could have been accomplished by the example set by the King. As it is, a foreign King cannot control the social conditions of a subject population. Therefore the King and the subjects become farther and farther apart from one another and it was not possible to achieve any such natural progress. In the meantime the progress of an individualistic civilization and the onslaughts of Western life and Western ideals have wrought havoc in the priest-craft and demolished altogether its position of authority and influence.

Thus everything has conspired to destroy the social forces that once made for progress in this ancient land and we have been left helpless. Society never stagnates. Custom is a thing that grows of itself; and it is the Government of the day that have stopped the march of progress in the change of custom. It is therefore high time that we resumed our social activities outside, and social reform activity inside the legislature. In this view I may say I am not immediately concerned with the actual contents of this Bill. The fact seems to be that it is more or less agreed that it will go out into the country, and therefore it is likely that it will be examined in all its details, section by section and phrase by phrase. It may be regretted by some that such a reference back to the country for eliciting public opinion is one way of evading the legislation immediately, but it has also an advantage, namely, that it once again makes the dry bones of the valley instinct with a new life and kindles their instinct into a new activity. Hitherto society has been moribund; and once society is called upon to support or oppose the principles that underlie legislation of this character, then certainly even the retrogressive people will stir themselves up and throw off their apathy, and give opinions which will provoke the opposite opinion from the opposite party. Therefore I do not personally regret the reference of this Bill back to the country. It may take about six months; that is not a very long period in the history of Indian society, and we can well afford to wait for six months if thereby we can get a Bill which will spring from within and not be imposed from without. All social legislation must really spring from within and not from without. It must be like the body growth which grows by intussusception—as it is called in Biology—and not by accretion as minerals and rocks grow by one stone being thrown on the top of another. We do not want legislation to be forced by extraneous authority, and therefore we would like that the people of the country should realise their responsibility and then call for such legislation. This is the advantage that a reference of the Bill to the country for public opinion will have.

So far as some of the outstanding details of the Bill are concerned, I shall only say that I welcome the raising of the age of consent from 13 to 15 and the promise of a Bill to raise the age of marriage from 14 to 16. I do not go into raptures over the success of the Sarda Act; it has been more disobeyed than obeyed. But at the same time to those who wanted to obey the injunctions of that Act but who were on the other side subject to the fears and threats of excommunication from society, it gave a new strength, a new hope and a new authority. And people of more or less orthodox families continue to send their girls to school because the girls themselves would not like to marry, and when challenged about the lapse, they say there is the Sarda Act prescribing the age limit of 14, and they could do nothing contrary to it. And once the limit of 14 years is crossed it does not matter whether it is 15 or 16 or 18 years. Sometimes the more a girl is educated the less does she run the chance of being married in this country. I do not say that on that account girls should not be educated or that they should be married early. Of course in a social scheme which is based upon the healthy principle of marriage being good for the average girl and the average boy, child marriage is certainly an excellent thing provided remedial measures are there by way of widow marriage as well. As a

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matter of fact, however where marriage is a question of choice by parties and of adequate social equipment and of capacity to maintain a family according to a particular standard of life, there arise numerous difficulties, in the way of every man and woman being married but we are not concerned with them. People talk much about the standard of life; I am sometimes amused. How did England raise her standard of life? It was only at the expense of India. I want to see how in the next five years England is going to maintain her standard of life. For all these years she had been fattening upon others more or less by parasitic life. I do not think it will be easy for us to raise the standard of life in this country to the levels that exist in Japan or America or Europe. We cannot live on others; we may not be wholly non-violent but we are not an imperialistic nation and therefore we do not encroach on others rights. In the circumstances, we must examine our ancient customs as they came into being in the pristine days, of the nation in all its purity, integrity and high honour. But the times have changed and with the times, conditions too. We must now realise that the time has come to raise the age prescribed by the Sarda Act from 14 to 16, in the case of girls. That would obviate some of the objections raised by our Muslim friends. I also see another little difficulty in regard to these matters. The Muslims may not feel exactly alike in this matter with the Hindus. If there are difficulties it is necessary for us either to set up separate Social Councils, such as I have indicated or to sit together and come to an understanding on all such matters because the statistics that have been revealed by the investigation party that was appointed in 1929 show that the evil is as rampant in Muslim society as in Hindu society. Therefore the evil being the same the remedies also must be similar. I am sure the House will unanimously accept Mr. Bhargava's motion. If it is not referred to the country for opinion I shall be glad; if it is referred, it will be none the worse for the Bill.

Some Honourable Members: The question may now be put.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the question may now be put"

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Minister for Home Affairs): Sir, this measure has been introduced in order to bring the existing penal laws in line with the recommendations of the Age of Consent Committee. This Committee reported in 1929; the report was circulated in the provinces and the general opinion of the provinces was that some of the recommendations were not practical and some of them were fraught with grave difficulties. It is true that social legislation of this nature cannot be easily passed in a House influenced more or less by a foreign Government. When the foreign power was ruling the country certain customs, interests and systems which allowed for easy administration were not interfered with; at least opposition to them was not encouraged. Therefore it was difficult to get social reform through. So I have great sympathy for our friend the Mover of this Bill in his efforts to bring forward legislation of this character. But we have to take into account the fact that where a Bill affects the social system and the religious susceptibilities of a mass of ignorant people we must have more direct and concrete evidence of public support for the speed with which these measures should be introduced. It is true that a considerable time has passed since that report was received and no effort has been made by Government or by the legislatures to take any steps in this matter. It is possible that the reform is overdue and public opinion may favour it. But Government before accepting such legislation must have more concrete evidence and more positive evidence. Therefore the motion for circulation is the proper thing. The only difference in the House is about the period within which the report of the Committee should come. That opinion should be ascertained is a matter on which there is no doubt. Both the mover

of the Bill as well as the mover of the amendment desire that public opinion should be ascertained before passing any such measure. Therefore, apart from any controversy regarding a particular section of the Bill, it is better to confine ourselves to the question as to the period of circulation. Therefore, on behalf of Government, I suggest that having waited for long, in a measure of this nature we would not lose much if we accepted the amendment moved by my friend, Mr. Ishaq Seth. As such I am prepared to accept the amendment moved for the circulation of the Bill for the period which has been proposed by him.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I will deal very briefly with the points made by Honourable Members who have spoken after me.

In the first place there have been objections from Kazi Syed Karimuddin to the effect that the punishment in the Bill is excessive and secondly that the better measure would have been to increase the punishment in regard to marriage offences. I quite agree with him that so far as the punishment provided for offences against marriage laws is concerned, the proper thing is to accept the Bill which I have already got circulated and which is before the House. All the same, the reply which has been given by my sister, Durgabai is absolutely conclusive on this point. After all, as the Honourable Speaker has himself pointed out that the infraction of the consent law is fraught with great consequences to the girl herself, the policy of the law should be that this Act should only be useful in striking fear in the minds of those who want to violate it. As a matter of fact, no one wants that the family life should be so disturbed that the wife should never be reconciled to the husband. Therefore in a measure of this nature, it is fraught with great potentialities if we keep the amount of punishment rather more than less. I should therefore think that the amount of punishment provided in the Bill is quite right.

The Honourable Mr. Kazi Syed Karimuddin has raised certain other points. For instance, why should not women be punished and secondly why should there be a difference between intra-marital and extra-marital cases? I would refer him to the arguments in which all these objections have been met in the report of the age of Consent Bill. It would take me a long time to reply to all these arguments; I would ask him to read this report and he will get the right reply.

I am anxious that the other Bills which are set down for introduction should come up as soon as possible. Therefore I do not want to reply to him at length on these points. One point has been answered, and I do not want to repeat the argument about the liability of the woman for punishment.

As regards the second point, that the age should be same for extra and intra-marital cases, my friend argued the point in a simply astounding manner. He wants to suggest that the marriage ceremony and the selection of a bridegroom for the girl by the parents or guardians is of no consequence whatever. He thinks of a society in which the girls may not be married at all. Our society is one in which all the girls are married. Moreover, according to medical science 18 years is the safe age for motherhood and more safe and proper than 16. So far as intellectual development and psychological development goes, the age of 16 does not give that amount of discretion and independence to a girl which the age of 18 gives, and for many other reasons stated in the report, 18 is more proper. The whole country is unanimous that the extra-marital age should be raised to 18 and if we take the trouble of reading the evidence of the 400 witnesses, you will find that many of those witnesses were agreeable to this change and stated that this change to 18 is the proper thing and not 16. Otherwise all the evils which we hear of as happening in the countries of Europe will be introduced in India. We want to steer clear of them and we want our girls to be protected up to 18.

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One point more that Mr. Karimuddin made was this. He was of the opinion that there was no sense in making the case compoundable with the permission of court. May I refer him to Section 365? There are many offences which are compoundable with the permission of Court. Even Section 420 has been made compoundable with such permission only.

Kazi Syed Karimuddin: This is "without". Section 376(b) second part is "with". There is no mention in Section 376(1) (2).

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: That is compoundable without the permission of the Court and naturally so. You have just stated before the House that if there is a case of courtship: for example, in Assam there is a custom that on a particular day the young man and the young woman go to the jungle after a dance and there remain for three or four days and after that they come to their homes and then they solemnize their marriage. In order to meet a custom like this, we thought that we should keep it compoundable without the permission of Court so that the Court cannot have a hand in determining whether the case could be compounded. So there will be no difficulties at all. It is in the hollow of the hands of the offender and the offended girl—to compound the offence at pleasure. He has made a reference to this too, but in that he has himself given the reply.

Then again, Sir, my friend was of the view that the offence should be cognizable. We have good reasons to say that it should be non-cognizable otherwise the whole society will rise against this House if they were pleased to make this offence a cognizable one. We know what our police is and we do not want that in such matter the police should interfere.

Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar was pleased to remark that since the age of marriage is 14 and the age of consent has been raised to 15 there will be difficulties in this that after a person is married he will not be allowed to cohabit with his wife. I quite see the difficulty but does my friend realize that from 1860 till 1891 and from 1891 till the Sarda Act was passed the similar conditions prevailed and husbands could not cohabit with their wives below 10, 12 and 13. Heavens would not fall if a husband could not molest his wife under 15 years.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: That was the Rubicon: that was crossed!

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: If that is so then you have answered Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar. No girl should be allowed to live with her husband, unless she is full fifteen and there will be no difficulty in this matter also when the age of fourteen given in the Sarda Act is changed to fifteen. I thank Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya for giving the reply. According to him the age in the Sarda Act has to be changed. When these ages are the same there will be no difficulty. As to the argument that unless that age is changed this age should not be changed I may say that I am not opposed to the change in the Sarda Act. I want both to be changed. That means that there is practically no impediment in my way.

I want to say a word about a question raised by Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya. I do not agree with him that we should have councils like the Church Council which will take the place of this legislature so far as social reform is concerned. For a long time we have enacted all the laws in this legislature. This legislature is representative of all kinds of opinion in the country and should be the ultimate forum in which this question should be debated. I see the implication however. I have myself sent a cut motion in the budget and made the suggestion that a ministry of social reform and social justice should be established in this country. I want that our ministers and public servants should by their own action set an example to the country and demonstrate that they themselves are behaving in the same manner in which they want the country to behave. It usually takes for a measure of this kind several years before it comes on the

statute book. If we had a social justice ministry the passage of Bills like this would be quite easy....

Shri M. S. Aney: Does the Honourable Member mean that all the Honourable Ministers should marry again?

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member need not answer each and every argument.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: The question is to my own liking. I wanted myself to give a reply: before he put the question I was myself attempting to reply that argument. What I mean by the institution of a Ministry of social reform and setting of example by Ministers will be illustrated by reference to the ideal of casteless society in which matter I am a humble disciple of Mahatma Gandhi. As a matter of fact I desire that we should have in India a casteless society and all the 15 members of this Government should by their example, by inter-marriage of their children show that they are wedded to bringing such a society in existence.

An Honourable Member: With scheduled castes also?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Yes, with scheduled castes and Mohammedans also. That is what I want. The proposal may or may not be palatable but it is my view.

One word with regard to the circulation motion. I have to bow to what Sardar Patel has said. I do not want to make any sort of grievance against the commands of Sardar Patel. All the same I must point out that in 1922 a Bill of this nature was circulated throughout the country. In the report of the Age of Consent Committee you will be pleased to see what the repercussions of this circulation were. Then in 1924 and 1927 such a Bill was circulated. Our Committee itself was a circulating Committee. They went over the whole country. The report of the Committee was also circulated I understand, and the replies received showed that some of the recommendations in the report were not practicable. In regard to the recommendations which were not practicable, I have not incorporated even a single one of them. For instance, there was a provision that bonds should be taken and that the husband and wife should be separated. I have myself excluded those provisions. The simple proposition before the House is whether the age is to be raised or not. This point has been gone into already. What should be the punishment? Supposing the replies from the provincial governments say that the age should not be raised my humble submission is that this House should rise as one man and whatever the provinces might say we must have this increase in age. It is a question of nation-building. The medicine is always bitter. If the country does not like it I would beg of the Honourable Sardar Patel to enact this by an Ordinance or in some other way. Was any opinion taken at the time when the Bills about requisition or controls were passed? Was any opinion invited when the Foreigners Act was passed? In a matter of this kind which goes to the very root of the nation's prosperity, which goes to the very foundations of the nation's existence my submission is that we should not be chicken-hearted. We should take courage in both hands and pass this law. I know that by accepting this motion I would be delaying the Bill. But I bow to the opinion of my party, and do not raise any objection to the motion that it should be circulated. But it is difficult to swallow that it is being postponed to a very long period. I bow again to Sardar Patel though not without a gnawing of the heart which will cease not until the Bill is passed.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st July, 1948."

The motion was adopted.

CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL

Shri Ram Sahai (Gwalior State): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Ram Sahai: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

INDIAN BAR COUNCILS AND THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar (Madras: General): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Bar Councils Act, 1926, and the Legal Practitioners Act, 1879.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Bar Councils Act, 1926, and the Legal Practitioners Act, 1879."

The motion was adopted.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

CRIMINAL TRIBES (REPEAL) BILL

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Madras: General): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to repeal the Criminal Tribes Act, 1924.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to repeal the Criminal Tribes Act, 1924."

The motion was adopted.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

INSURANCE (AMENDMENT) BILL

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar (Madras: General): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Insurance Act, 1938.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Insurance Act, 1938."

The motion was adopted.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

INDIAN PENAL CODE (AMENDMENT) BILL

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava (Ajmer-Merwara): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code."

The motion was adopted.

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

PROVINCIAL INSOLVENCY (AMENDMENT) BILL

Shrimati G. Durgabai (Madras: General): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Provincial Insolvency Act, 1920.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Provincial Insolvency Act, 1920."

The motion was adopted.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

PREVENTION OF FORCIBLE AND FRAUDULENT CONVERSION OF HINDU WOMEN BILL

Shri H. V. Pataskar (Bombay: General): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for prevention of forcible and fraudulent conversion of Hindu women.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for prevention of forcible and fraudulent conversion of Hindu women."

The motion was adopted.

Shri H. V. Pataskar: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

INDIAN CATTLE PRESERVATION BILL

Seth Govinddas (C.P. and Berar: General): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to preserve the milch and draught cattle of the country.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to preserve the milch and draught cattle of the country."

The motion was adopted.

Seth Govinddas: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

INDIAN COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL

(Amendment of Section 86 F)

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh (C. P. and Berar: General): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Companies Act, 1913 (Amendment of Section 86F).

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Companies Act, 1913 (Amendment of Section 86F)."

The motion was adopted.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

INDIAN COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL

(Amendment of Sections 25, 31 etc.)

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh (C.P. and Berar: General): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Companies Act, 1913 (Amendment of Sections 25, 31 etc.).

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Companies Act, 1913. (Amendment of Sections 25, 31, etc.)."

The motion was adopted.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

INDIAN PENAL CODE (AMENDMENT) BILL

Shri Ram Sahai (Gwalior State): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Ram Sahai: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (East Punjab: General): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898."

The motion was adopted.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

CRIMINAL TRIBES (REPEAL) BILL

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to repeal the Criminal Tribes Act, 1924.

Mr. Speaker: This has already been moved by another Member.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: That is true, but it may not come in the ballot. Therefore I want to move it.

Some Honourable Members: How can the same Bill be introduced by two different Members?

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: It is only when it is enacted as law that I will be out of court. Till then I can take my chance and it can very well go in my name.

Mr. Speaker: All that I can do is this. I must take time to consider this point. In the meanwhile, the Honourable Member may move it, without prejudice to the Chair* ruling it out of order.

The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to repeal the Criminal Tribes Act, 1924."

The *motion was adopted.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

Mr. Speaker: I think the same point arises in respect of the next motion (item No. 31) standing in the name of Shri Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (Madras: Muslim): Is it not better, Sir, that the motion is moved after you give a ruling?

*Motion barred under Standing Order 31, as subsequently decided by the Honourable the Speaker.

CRIMINAL TRIBES (REPEAL) BILL

Mr. Speaker: All that I was thinking was this. *Prima facie*, it appears to me that it will be an awkward procedure that the House should adopt the same motion in the names of two different Members. Since the Honourable Member's motion is barred because of the acceptance of a similar motion, I am thinking of the possibility of permitting him, at the appropriate time, to proceed with it in view of the fact that he has tabled an identical motion though it was not adopted by the House.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): If I am given the substance of my request I have no quarrel.

Mr. Speaker: I was thinking of the analogy of resolutions. Two identical resolutions are tabled by two different Members, but the difference is that in respect of them the House adopts no motion before they come up before the House.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: The Chair has got the right to admit it or not to admit it.

Mr. Speaker: It raises a point on which I should not like to decide offhand. I will therefore consider what is possible. I shall try my best to help the Honourable Member to keep the Bill alive. But the best course will be for the original mover to be present on the concerned day.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: There is some difficulty. If some other Member wants to block it he can do so.

Mr. Speaker: If the difficulty arises we shall see.

HINDU INTER-CASTE MARRIAGE REGULATING AND VALIDATING BILL

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (U. P.: General): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to regulate and validate marriages between different castes and sub-castes of Hindus.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to regulate and validate marriages between different castes and sub-castes of Hindus."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL (Amendment of Sections 161 and 162)

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): Item No. 33, being the motion in my name to introduce a Bill to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, has not been moved by any other Member.

Mr. Speaker: Is it not the same Bill?

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: No, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: From the title, I thought it was the same Bill.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Various Sections are sought to be amended and each one of us has taken a Section.

Shri M. S. Aney (Deccan and Madras States Group): Will you please give a direction to all the movers that whenever they have a motion they should make it a point of mentioning the Section of the Act which they seek to amend?

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): It is not really necessary.....

Mr. Speaker: He means a short resume of the title of the Bill—just as has been shown in the motion of Dr. Deshmukh regarding the Indian Companies Act.

Since Mr. Ayyangar's motion relates to another Section I shall allow it.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898."

The motion was adopted.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

Factories Bill

Mr. Speaker: The private Bills are all over. The House may now proceed to deal with further legislative business. We shall take up the Government Bills. The Honourable Shri Gadgil.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil (Minister for Works, Mines and Power): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the law regulating labour in factories.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the law regulating labour in factories."

The motion is adopted.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyaya (West Bengal: General): With your permission, Sir, I would like to congratulate the Honourable Minister for having introduced a Bill.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. There will be no speeches now.

Damodar Valley Corporation Bill

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil (Minister for Works, Mines and Power): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment and regulation of a Corporation for the development of the Damodar Valley in the Provinces of Bihar and West Bengal.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment and regulation of a Corporation for the development of the Damodar Valley in the Provinces of Bihar and West Bengal."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

Income-tax and Business Profits Tax (Amendment) Bill

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Minister for Finance): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, and the Business Profits Tax Act, 1947, be taken into consideration."

Sir, there is nothing new or controversial in this amending Bill. It is only intended to clarify the original intention of the Business Profits Tax Act and the Capital Gains Tax, and to rectify certain drafting errors and omissions. The best way of dealing with this Bill will be for me to explain briefly the object of the two clauses.

Clause 2 is intended to make certain drafting amendments relating to the Capital Gains Tax. It was the intention that capital gains arising out of sale of agricultural land situated in the provinces of India should not be subject to the Capital Gains Tax. But it was not intended that if such agricultural land was situated outside the provinces of India, that they should also be exempted from the operation of the Capital Gains Tax. The object of exempting from the operation of the Capital Gains Tax the sale of land in the provinces of India is that the income from such land is considered as agricultural income and therefore not subject to our income-tax. The agricultural income-tax derived from lands situated for example in an Indian State is however not exempt from the operation of our Indian Income-tax Act, and therefore we want to provide by this amendment that any sale of land situated outside the provinces of India, if it results in a profit to the owner of the land, that profit will be subject to the Capital Gains Tax. That is the purpose of clause 2 (1), sub-section (a).

Sub-section (b). In the original Bill it was provided that only capital gains arising in the previous year for the assessment year 1947/48 should be chargeable. In the Select Committee however, an amendment was made limiting the liability only to profits arising after the 31st of March 1946. A consequential amendment in the explanation to clause 6 (a) of section 2 was unfortunately overlooked. The object of the present amendment is to rectify that error so that the intention should be made clear, namely that if a company distributed dividends out of capital gains made prior to 1st April 1946, such distribution out of capital gains will not be chargeable as dividends in the hands of shareholders. That is the object of clause 2 (1) (b).

Now I come to clause 2 (1) (c). This amendment relates to capital gains where the assessee acquires the property by succession, inheritance or devolution. Under the Act as it stands now, the value of the property is its cost to the owner, but if a person acquires it by succession, inheritance or devolution, he has not paid any price for it. Therefore there is no value that he has paid. Now it is intended to provide that in such cases the value will be the cost to the previous owner. That is the object of this clause.

Now these three amendments cover the Capital Gains Tax. Clause 3 relates to certain amendments to the Business Profits Tax.

Clauses 3 (1) (a) and (d). These have got the following objects. This proviso existed in section 5 of the Excess Profits Tax Act 1940, but was omitted in the Business Profits Tax Bill as in the Bill originally drafted the abatement was fixed at a sum of 1 lakh in all cases without any reference to the capital or other circumstances of the business. It was also considered that the substantive clause 5 of the Bill secured that the application of the law would not be wider in scope than that of the Income-tax and Excess Profits Tax Acts. Changes were made in the Bill by the Select Committee, and during the passage of the Bill the Act as it emerged varied the abatement in the case of a firm according to the number of its working partners subject to a maximum of 2 lakhs, and in the case of a company at 6 per cent. of the capital computed in accordance with schedule II, subject to a minimum of Rs. 1 lakh. In the case of a company the entire profits are not chargeable to Business Profits Tax. It is necessary that the capital for the purpose of abatement should not be the entire capital but should be in the same proportion as the amount of its profits chargeable to taxes bearing to its total profits. In other words the capital of the company is to be reduced by an amount which bears to the capital the same proportion as the amount of profits not so chargeable bear to the total profits. This explains the fourth amendment inserting rule 2 (a) in Schedule II relating to the computation of capital.

[Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty]

In amending Schedule II, opportunity has also been taken to insert a proviso which existed in section 5 of the Excess Profits Tax Act to make it clear beyond doubt that where a part only of the business is chargeable to Business Profits Tax, such part would be treated as a separate business. Clause 3 (1) (b) enables the Income-tax Officer to call for a return not only of the profits on business but also of the taxable profits.

Clause 3 (1) (c). The third amendment to section 19 of the Business Profits Tax Act is to enable the Central Board of Revenue to prescribe by rule the necessary formal modifications in those sections of the Income-tax Act which under the law are applicable to the Business Profits Tax Act. As section 19 now stands, it makes certain provisions of the Income-tax Act as applied to the Excess Profits Tax Act, 1940, also applicable to the Business Profits Tax Act, but those sections of the Income-tax Act as apply to Excess Profits Tax are unsuitable for application to Business Profits Tax without certain formal modifications. Hence the need for the amendment.

I am sorry, Sir, that the explanation of these clauses is rather cumbrous, but it is unfortunate and it cannot be avoided. It is rather technical, but I might assure the House that it is not the intention to introduce any new ideas but only to clarify the old ideas and to rectify certain drafting omissions and errors. Sir, I move.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, and the Business Profits Tax Act, 1947, be taken into consideration."

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): Sir, I generally approve of this Bill. It is intended to clarify certain doubts which should certainly be clarified. But I have also one or two doubts about the Bill which I want to place before the Finance Minister. Before I do so, I would like to draw your attention to our difficulties in dealing with technical matters as these. We have not got a consolidated Indian Income-tax Act. There is the Indian Income-tax Act and then there are the amending Acts. We have not got copies incorporating the amendments so that if we want to look at one of the amendments, we have to look at the Amending Act and then collate it to the original Act, and we get thoroughly confused. The second point to which I would like to draw the attention of you, Sir, Mr. Speaker, is that this Bill proposes to amend two different Acts. I think on the whole it would be more convenient for us if a Bill amending one Act is brought in separately from other Bills amending other Acts. It will make far more expeditious transaction of business.

Sir, my doubts are simply as follows. I quite approve of the objective of the amendment in clause 1 which seeks to rope in agricultural lands owned by Indian assessee outside India. As the clause now stands the term "agricultural land" does not cover those lands; and the objective of the Finance Minister is to make by this Bill capital gains made out of the sale of those lands assessable in India. I quite approve of that objective.

But as the Bill has been drafted, if somebody owns agricultural land outside India and assigns the income, then if he sells that land and makes profit that profit goes out of the clutches of the Government. Therefore the words "income derived by the assessee" restricts the scope of the profits gained from selling lands outside British India and subject to our taxation. On the other hand, it brings lands within British India within the scope which is not the intention of the Finance Minister.

Mr. Speaker: May I point out to the Honourable Member that with reference to this Motion, he has tabled two amendments for the omission of these words and that he may discuss the matter by moving his amendment when the clause is put. I was just going to say that the Honourable Member would be allowed to move his amendments but the Honourable Member was perhaps nervous as to whether he will be granted leave to move his amendments. I have decided to grant leave, particularly in view of the fact that Government business is being taken up on a private day and Members had late notice thereof. They were entitled to presume that these Bills would be taken on a Government day, but as they have been taken up earlier, I feel I should not be strict as regards the provision of notice. So, the Honourable Member may address himself to his points when the clauses are under discussion.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I will leave this particular point now and mention it when the clauses come up. One other point is that the words "British India" and "India" come not only in this Bill but have got application in other parts of the Act. The whole thing is confusing. What is "India" and what is "British India"? Before 15th of August it was clear, but now there are many firms which have got their registered offices in Pakistan but are actually operating within India. I do not know how the Income Tax Act, the Business Profits Tax Act and the Capital Gains Taxation are going to be adjusted to this. I think it is necessary that the Finance Minister should make the position absolutely clear.

Then in clause 3 we are asked to exempt such part of the business as is not controlled in India; the actual words used are: where "the business being the business of a person who is resident, but not ordinarily resident, in British India is controlled in India". "Ordinarily resident" has yet to be defined. Hitherto if residence was in any part of India he was considered to be "ordinarily resident" in India and in that definition you have got a period of residence of six or seven years. Now we cannot apply it to India and Pakistan. We do not know who is the person "ordinarily resident" in India after the 15th of August and in Pakistan after that date. Therefore, before we give any kind of exemption for incomes derived outside India, this point must be made clear; otherwise we may lose crores of rupees by some loose definition. And all these difficulties come in not only in the case of Pakistan: take Hyderabad; it was considered to be in India before 15th August, today we do not know whether it is in India—if it is not in India the same consequences will follow. The same thing applies to Junagadh. Therefore this question of jurisdiction is a matter which requires immediate examination and the Finance Minister should immediately take it up. If we pass our legislation including these words without such examination, we do not know what consequences this country will be incurring. We may be losing crores of rupees in the way of taxation and I hope no such loophole will be left. I commend to the Finance Minister that this matter should be immediately and carefully looked into and that he should bring before us necessary amendments for the Income Tax Act, and Business Profits Tax Act.

These are the few points which I wish to place before the House.

Mr. Speaker: With reference to the suggestion of the Honourable Member about having two separate Bills because there are amendments to two separate Acts, I may just point out to him that, both these relate to one scheme of taxation; though the Acts are different, for all practical purposes both the enactments are the same. The procedure is that the amendment of the Indian Income-Tax Act takes place every year by a Finance Act; but both these amendments are parts of the same scheme—they are not separate legislations which are being amended together.

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Shri K. Santhanam: That is why I did not raise a point of order but simply put it as a question of convenience.

Mr. Speaker: Greater convenience is by having them under one group because the scheme of taxation is one.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): Sir, I would like to say a few words on this. Sir, it is not such a matter of form as it is one of substance. Even when the amendment was made in the Income Tax Act of 1922 there have been representations from various persons who had agricultural income in non-British India; South Indians had large estates in Burma—and there is a deputation also here requesting that income from lands in Burma ought to be exempted from taxation if they are received by any persons here resident in India, as persons resident in India receive income from lands in India which is exempt from taxation so far as that agricultural income is concerned. They wanted that income from land in non-British India or places outside British India should also have the same exemption of income-tax under the Act of 1922 as agricultural income inside British India. But unfortunately they were not able to have their way. Now, I do not know whether it was deliberately or otherwise that capital gains, through sale of lands from which agricultural income is derived, were omitted from the Capital Gains Tax Act which seeks to modify the Income-Tax Act of 1922 and make capital gains also liable to taxation. This portion of capital gains from sale of lands in foreign territory or in territory which is not British India, were exempted under this Act.

The Honourable the Finance Minister has introduced this Bill on the supposition that they escaped being assessed, being brought under this scope, by a mere inadvertence and that therefore it is a simple matter, that income from capital gains must be taxed as agricultural income from foreign territories is taxed. I do not believe it is such a simple matter—it is not merely a matter of form or procedure to bring it in line. It is a matter of substance. I do not know what our friends from South India have to say so far as this matter is concerned.

I would like to say that we are all anxious that our Legislature should pass laws to which no exception is taken. As a matter of fact, you will see that it is not a printed Bill that has been circulated to us, it is only a typewritten Bill that is circulated to us. Practically, we are having little or no time to look into the various provisions and come to conclusion. What I submit is that in all cases where the Honourable Minister in charge does not seek to move for reference to a Select Committee, but on the other hand wants the Bill to be taken into consideration then and there, and passed by the Legislature, I would request him to place the Bill before at least the Standing Committee relating to his Department so that there may be an opportunity for the Standing Committee to find out if the intentions of the Minister are carried out, if there is deviation in substance and in spirit. Such an opportunity has not been given so far as this matter is concerned. The Honourable Minister might easily say that it will take time to convene a meeting of the Standing Finance Committee. All the members are here and any day a meeting of the Standing Finance Committee might have been called. So far as the amendment that has been tabled in regard to the definition of agricultural land is concerned, after discussion with the Honourable the Finance Minister it appears that it deviates, and there is much more scope than what he intended to bring within the Bill. (An Honourable Member: "Much less also") Yes, much less also in certain respects. Not that I am anxious that the Government should lose what they are legitimately entitled to get, but all I say is that by an inadvertent wording the scope of their intentions should not be enlarged. Therefore, I would request the Honourable Minister to see to it—

as also other Ministers—that in all cases, where they want Bills to be considered straightaway without reference to Select Committee, they would place those Bills for consideration before the Standing Committees attached to their various Departments and give them an opportunity of scrutinising these matters.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh (C. P. and Berar: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the suggestion that has been made by Mr. Ayyangar and I think it would be very reasonable if the Honourable Minister would be pleased to accept it. There could also be a way out of the difficulty because it is not usual to refer a Bill to the Standing Committee for its opinions. A more proper step would, perhaps, be to make the Standing Committee the Select Committee, to which the Bill may be referred and it may be returned to the House within the shortest possible time. Besides the arguments that he has advanced in support of his suggestion, I find the Honourable Minister has in clause 2 (b) substituted for the original proviso to clause 6 (a) of section 2, the following proviso:

"Provided further that the expression 'accumulated profits', wherever it occurs in this clause, shall not include capital gains arising before the 1st day of April, 1946."

It was tried to be made out by the Honourable Minister that this was merely a legislation of a formal nature, over which no deliberation was necessary; but, Sir, this proviso is a very important one and we would certainly like to know all the reasons which have made the Finance Minister decide that the accumulated profits which have arisen before 1st of April 1946 are to be exempted. I for one, speaking from an ordinary man's point of view, would have thought that the capital gains have really accumulated before the 1st April 1946. So if the original enactment is to be effective and is to remain in force, this sort of legislation would probably nullify it. So this is one of the clauses in the Bill which I think ought to be considered more carefully by this House and every opportunity for greater study and deliberation should be allowed by the Honourable Minister. I therefore support my Honourable friend's suggestion and trust that the Honourable Minister will be pleased to accept it.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): Mr. Speaker, Sir, some of the loopholes have already been referred by two very learned members of this House and they have requested the Honourable Minister to look into the matter and come to the House once again, if necessary, with amendments. It has been extremely difficult to follow the Bill. The Bill as circulated has attempted to amend two Acts, the Income-Tax Act and the Business Profits Tax Act.

With regard to the Income-Tax Act, I took out a copy from the Library which was printed on the 9th April 1947 and I thought it was an up-to-date copy. But I found that the Bill deals with matters which are not to be found in this published copy. After a great deal of hard work and some amount of hard searching, I had to go to the Library and then to find that there were two amending Acts, one passed in 1946 and the other passed in March 1947. These Acts were not however incorporated in the printed copy of the parent Act. I beg to submit, Sir, that if a consolidated copy of the Income-Tax Act had been printed after the passing of these two Acts, that would have minimised the labours of many Honourable Members.

A suggestion has been made that the Honourable Minister should reconsider his Bill. I should make another suggestion, which I have sought to effect by an amendment. That is with regard to clause 3 sub-clause (i), paragraph (c). In that paragraph (c) power has been attempted to be taken to modify the Act as may be prescribed by Departmental orders. That may enlarge the scope of the Act beyond what is contemplated in the Act itself and may lead practically to departmental legislation. In these circumstances, I submit that

[Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad]
if the Honourable Minister would take time to consider the suggestions made by my Honourable friends, he would also be pleased to consider this and give a correct decision on the point.

[At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (one of the Panel of Chairmen.)]

Mr. Chairman: Before I put the motion to the House, I feel that there is some force in the request made by Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar and Mr. Panjabrao Deshmukh. Though the Bill was circulated more than three days ago, yet it was fair for the Honourable Members to presume that this Bill would not be taken on the unofficial day and therefore it is that many amendments have not come in, and other members including myself have not had the time to study the provisions of the Bill. A request has been made to the Honourable Minister whether in the circumstances of the case he would consider the question of postponement of the consideration of the Bill favourably. I would beg of him to kindly tell us if he is agreeable to this course. Otherwise, I shall put the motion to the House.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Sir, if it is the desire of the House that the consideration of this Bill be postponed for a few days, I have certainly no objection, but I would like this to be passed in this session, because our assessment for capital gains is being held up on account of these difficulties.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: There is no desire, so far as I understand, to delay the Bill. The only point is whether in view of the difficulties that have been raised, the Honourable Minister thinks that a reconsideration of the Bill would be necessary.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I do not think that a reconsideration of this measure is necessary. In fact, the only substantive amendment is that which stands in the name of Mr. Santhanam and Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar to clause 2 and I was going to say that I was willing to accept the amendment. There is really nothing more complicated.

With regard to the point raised by Mr. Panjabrao Deshmukh in exempting the profits arising before the 1st April 1946, I might point out that we are only carrying out the intentions of this House because when the Capital Gains Tax Act was finally passed in this House, the House limited the liability only to profits arising after the 31st March 1946. So we are only giving effect to that.

Some of the Honourable Members did not realize that the scope of the Act was intended to be restricted in this manner and therefore it is that we are giving intention to that by a formal amendment and I fully sympathize with the Honourable Members. Sir, in the difficulty that they have in not getting a consolidated copy of the Indian Income-tax Act. I may inform the House that the Indian Income-Tax undergoes so many changes in the course of the year and it is very difficult to keep an up-to-date edition always ready at hand, but we try our best to see that at least one complete copy containing at least in slip forms attached, containing all the up-to-date amendments are kept in the library of the House and we shall try our best to see that the newly incorporated amendments are brought out as soon as possible. If that amendment to clause 2 is secured, I do not think there is any thing really contentious in the Bill. In any case I have no objection to the postponement for two or three days.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa (C.P. and Berar: General): Mr. Chairman, I have not been able to follow that any substantial argument has been advanced for sending this Bill to the Select Committee or to the Standing Committee. It is true that a reference has been made in this Bill to two previous Acts and copies were available in the Library and those who are interested could have seen them there.

Mr. Chairman: The House is not considering the question whether the Bill ought to be referred to the Select Committee or to the Standing Committee. The Honourable the Minister wants the Bill to be taken up and I do not see any difficulty in taking it up just now.

The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922 and the Business Profits Tax Act, 1947, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Shri K. Santhanam: I move:

"That in part (a) of sub-clause (1) of clause 2 of the Bill, in the proposed part (iii) to clause (4A) of Section 2, the words 'by the assessee' be omitted."

If this Motion is accepted, the clause will read "any land from which income derived is agricultural". That exactly defines the capital or property which the Finance Minister wants to bring within his net and the words which are now deleted are quite superfluous but there are other implications which I have already indicated. As the Honourable the Finance Minister has accepted this, I do not want to take up the time of the House. Sir, I move.

Mr. Chairman: Amendment moved:

"That in part (a) of sub-clause (1) of clause 2 of the Bill, in the proposed part (iii) to clause (4A) of Section 2, the words 'by the assessee' be omitted."

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Sir, I accept the amendment.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That in part (a) of sub-clause (1) of clause 2 of the Bill, in the proposed part (iii) to clause (4A) of Section 2, the words 'by the assessee' be omitted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: Now I will put the amended clause to the House.

The question is:

"That clause 2 of the Bill as amended stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 as amended was added to the Bill.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: I beg to move:

"That part (c) of sub-clause (1) of clause 3 of the Bill be omitted."

The portion which I want to be omitted is to this effect. In Section 19, after the words "provision of this Act", the words "and such modifications, if any, as may be prescribed" is sought to be inserted. I submit that this provision will empower the Honourable Minister or practically his Department to modify the Act of 1947, as may be prescribed, that is, there is no direction or indication of the limits or of the lines on which the modifications may be made. It is against sound principles of legislation to give a Department the power to legislate and effect modifications in Acts. The fact that such modifications would not be repugnant to the provisions of the Act is not a sufficient safeguard. I submit that in spite of the phrase there is a possibility and scope for enlarging the provisions of the Act by just obeying the condition that it is not repugnant to the provisions of this Act. I repeat that such a grant of power to modify the Act as may be prescribed is against sound principles of legislation. I really desire a clarification on the point and if it appears that the modification will not go beyond the scope of the Act, then of course I need not press my amendment to vote. I want really a clarification as a difficulty has arisen in my mind and I hope the Honourable the Finance Minister will make it clear.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: There is probably some misunderstanding on the part of my Honourable friend regarding the scope of this amendment. It is not intended to empower the Central Board of Revenue to issue by notification any substantial modifications of an Act passed by this House. Obviously it is not correct to do that. Already power has been given to the Central Board of Revenue to issue the necessary formal modifications to apply the Income-tax Act to the Excess Profits Tax Act. Now those legislative modifications which have already been made are not exactly suitable to the Business Profits Tax. So it is purely a formal matter and no modifications of substance will be made by the Government and the Central Board of Revenue.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: May I suggest, therefore, that instead of the word 'modification', the word 'adaptation' be accepted. That would, I believe, remove the objection which I have made. Instead of modifications of the Act, adaptations of the Act would be quite in keeping with the spirit.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I think the word 'Modification' is much better, as it gives a larger scope than the word 'adaptation'. Later on some changes may have to be made which cannot strictly be brought under the word 'adaptation'. Therefore, the word 'modification' may stand as it is.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: That is just my objection; the word "modification" may be suitable but it enlarges the scope.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: It does not enlarge the scope on the question of principle; it is only a question of procedure.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Already in section 21 of the Excess Profits Tax Act this power has been given, and there the word used is "modification". Here we have to make consequential amendments which are necessitated by the passing of the Business Profits Tax Act. So it is nothing new.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Then the phrase "consequential amendments" as used by the Honourable Minister may be used.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I used that rather loosely; I meant modifications to suit the Business Profits Tax Act.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, if the Honourable Minister will give me an assurance that the points raised by me will be considered by him I am prepared not to press this.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I can certainly give that assurance.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Then I beg leave of the House to withdraw the amendment.

The amendment was by leave of the Assembly withdrawn.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I move:

"That to clause 3 of the Bill the following Explanation be added, namely:

'For the purposes of this section "British India" and "India" shall have the same meaning as they had before the 15th August, 1947.'

I do not want to keep the House long over this. Those persons who carry on business in British India, even if they should be in any part of India, are liable to be taxed on income derived from outside. The words "British India" and "India" are used in clause 3. Whether it applies to that portion which has been separated and what the exact implication is has not been made clear. I thought the intention of the framers of this Bill was to bring it into line with the Act as it was before the 15th August 1947. That is also expressed in the Preamble as also in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. So I suggest that the definition of the words "British India" and "India" may be brought into line with the definition that existed before 15th August 1947.

Mr. Chairman: Amendment moved:

"That to clause 3 of the Bill the following Explanation be added, namely:

"That to clause 3 of the Bill the following Explanation be added, namely: meaning as they had before the 15th August, 1947."

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Sir, I must confess that I am not competent to give a satisfactory explanation as regards this point as it is a technical and legal point. But I have been told that an Order in Council is now ready to be issued and it will be issued in the next few days which will explain exactly the scope of these terms for future application. I think that should satisfy the Honourable Member.

Shri K. Santhanam: Shall we have an opportunity to scrutinise that Order in Council?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: That is a matter for which my Honourable friend the Law Minister must answer.

Mr. Chairman: That may have other implications and therefore it is best to consider this question independent of that Order in Council. We do not know what it will be.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, not only in this but in other measures also we have got these expressions "British India" and "India". Some clarification is certainly necessary and so I propose to wait for this Order in Council. I ask for leave of the House to withdraw the motion.

The amendment was by leave of the Assembly withdrawn.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill as amended be passed."

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the Bill as amended be passed."

The motion was adopted.

EXTRA-PROVINCIAL JURISDICTION BILL

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Minister for Home, Information and Broadcasting and the States): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to provide for the exercise of certain extra-provincial jurisdiction of the Central Government be taken into consideration."

This is a short measure and I shall only briefly explain the reasons why I have come to this House for its passage. The Government of India acquired certain powers and jurisdiction in and in relation to certain areas known as non-jurisdictional and semi-jurisdictional States and Talukas of Western India and Gujrat, Manipur, etc. Before the power was transferred to the Government of India these powers were exercised by the Agencies known as Political Agencies under the Crown Representative; and when Paramountcy lapsed and power was transferred there was possibility of a vacuum being created in these areas as obviously these were not fit for the exercise of sovereign jurisdiction. The Government of India had to step in to fill in the vacuum and we passed an Ordinance creating a machinery by which these powers were to be exercised. It is therefore now attempted to replace the Ordinance by means of a short

[Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel]

legislation to create the machinery of appeal courts and other necessary paraphernalia for exercising jurisdiction in those areas. Therefore it affects small areas of these semi-jurisdictional States and Talukas. It does not affect any other part of the country. It is proposed to replace the Ordinance by an Act of the Legislature and to give effect to it from the 15th August 1947. The House will thus see for itself the necessity and justification for the powers we are taking, and therefore I commend this Bill for the consideration of the House. Sir, I move.

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the exercise of certain extra-provincial jurisdiction of the Central Government be taken into consideration."

Shri Himmat Singh K. Maheshwari (Sikkim and Cooch Behar Group): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Shri Balwant Rai Gopalji Mehta, Shri A. P. Pattani, Sir V. T. Krishnamachari, Durbar Gopaldas A. Desai, Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Shri Raghuraj Singh, Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad, Shri N. Madhav Rau and the Mover, with instructions to report by the 6th December 1947 and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

The form in which I have moved the amendment represents an agreement reached on the subject and before making any remarks and taking up the time of the House, I shall be grateful if the Government will kindly express their attitude so that the House may not have to waste any time in hearing arguments in favour of this motion.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (Madras: Muslim): You do not want to speak?

Shri Himmat Singh K. Maheshwari: No, if the Government accepts the motion.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I accept it.

Shri Himmat Singh K. Maheshwari: In view of the Government's acceptance of the amendment, it is not necessary for me to offer any remarks and I commend the motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Shri Balwant Rai Gopalji Mehta, Shri A. P. Pattani, Sir V. T. Krishnamachari, Durbar Gopaldas A. Desai, Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Shri Raghuraj Singh, Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad, Shri N. Madhav Rau and the Mover, with instructions to report by the 6th December 1947 and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

The motion was adopted.

INDIAN MERCHANT SHIPPING (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil (Minister for Works, Mines and Power): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923, be taken into consideration."

This Bill enacts the provisions of Ordinance No. 27 of 1947. It provides three things. In the first place it provides that no person shall transfer or clear any ship in any port or port in India, or any share or interest thereof without the previous approval of the Central Government. The second thing it provides is that it restricts the transfer of registry of shipping. A ship that has been registered in India will not be allowed to be registered in any port outside India. The third provision is that under the present position for every

exemption that is required from the compliance of certain provisions with regard to safety and other matters, a special case has to be made out and a special notification is issued under Section 126 of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act. What is provided here is that general power is taken under proposed Section 289C so that general exemption may be made available.

The main object of the Bill is to conserve shipping and the small tonnage that we have. It is possible, Sir, that people may like to transfer their rights and may also like to transfer the ships that are registered here to countries outside. It is necessary that this power must be with the Government, when Government is anxious to increase tonnage. There is nothing to which any objection can be taken and I therefore commend that the House may be pleased to accept this Bill.

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): Sir, I move:

"That in clause 2 of the Bill, in the proposed new section 289B—

(i) the word, figures, letters and brackets '(57 & 58 Vict., c. 60)' be omitted; and

(ii) the word, figures, letters, and brackets '(57 & 58 Vict., c. 60)' be inserted in the margin."

This is only a drafting amendment. The Statute reference is incorporated in the body of the Bill. The usual practice is to give these Statute references on the margin. The reason is that in the Merchant Shipping Act of 1894 it is laid down that the Act shall be called the Merchant Shipping Act of 1894. No statute reference is necessary to complete the description. The description by way of Statute reference is necessary for research students, or for anyone who would care to find the Statute in the margin. This Statute reference not being required to identify the Act should be taken out of the body of the Bill and taken to the margin. It does not involve any change in the principle or structure of the clause but is only a drafting device.

Mr. Chairman: Amendment moved:

"That in clause 2 of the Bill, in the proposed new section 289B—

(i) the word, figures, letters and brackets '(57 & 58 Vict., c. 60)' be omitted; and

(ii) the word, figures, letters, and brackets '(57 & 58 Vict., c. 60)' be inserted in the margin."

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Minister for Law): I should like to explain the position. I would say that the amendment has no substance in it. The identifying clause may either be in the margin or may be in the context of the section itself. All that is necessary is that there should be some identification. Originally it is true that in all the Bills that we have presented to the Assembly, such identification references were in the margin. But recently the printers have adopted the method of giving the references in the very body of the section itself and the purpose is to economise paper. For instance, when you have to give the references in the margin obviously you want to use a larger piece of paper. Since the war started this device was adopted just for the purpose of economising paper. I do not think there is any violation of the principles relating to drafting nor any violation of any law with regard to marginal notes. As a matter of fact marginal notes are unnecessary and need not be printed.

Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar (West Bengal: General): There is such a thing as "inner margin" note which does not waste paper.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know whether there is any constitutional difficulty in getting compulsory returns from all factories?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The Factories are expected to file their returns, but the returns have got to be checked by the Provincial Governments, and the Provincial Governments do not have the machinery to do this work.

Shri K. Santhanam: Cannot the Central Government devise the machinery?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That is exactly what is now under consideration.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Is the Honourable Minister aware that mostly the industries concerned do not supply correct figures, and will he consider the question of appointing government Inspectors to visit the factories and collect the information?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Nearly about 70 per cent of the manufacturing industries on factory scale did submit their returns. But of course I quite realize the necessity for setting up an organisation which will work in a co-ordinated fashion.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: May I know what is the exact difficulty in the matter of receiving co-operation from the Provinces?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The Provinces have no organisations of their own and up till now it has not been possible for the Centre to set up an organisation which will work in all the Provinces in India.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyaya: May I know whether the Government has taken the trouble to enquire about the caustic soda manufacturing factories in India, and if so how many factories there are?

Mr. Speaker: It does not arise.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar: Cannot the Inspectors of Factories take up this work?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That is one of the suggestions which we made to the Provinces, but it was pointed out that they are already fully overworked.

Shri M. S. Aney: Cannot Factory Inspectors who were appointed some time ago be used by the Government of India for this purpose?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: As I stated just now, in some cases an attempt was made, but they are already so overworked that they cannot do this work properly.

CLOTH RATION IN DELHI.

582. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cloth ration in Delhi has recently been increased and if so, in what proportion;

(b) whether Government are aware that the cloth ration in Delhi is high compared to the ration offered in different provinces;

(c) what quantity of cloth per adult is allotted in rural areas; and

(d) whether any effort will be made to increase the cloth ration for the people in the rural areas?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Yes, the normal cloth ration in Delhi has been multiplied by four during the current quarter. The disturbances in the Punjab, and the consequent traffic dislocations, resulted in heavy accumulations of cloth with Mills and dealers in Delhi, which nobody in the disturbed areas was in a position to accept. It was decided to reduce these accumulations by increasing supplies to consumers in Delhi.

(b) Not the normal Delhi cloth ration.

(c) The normal quarterly ration of cloth in Delhi's rural areas is 3 yards a head for adults and 3 yards for children, whereas in the urban area it is 4½ yards for adults and 2½ yards for children. As I have already said, these quotas have been multiplied by four in the current quarter.

(d) In view of what I have already stated, this does not seem necessary.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How is it that when Government was faced with the accumulations of cloth in Delhi Government thought it fit to distribute it only to residents of Delhi and not to rural areas or to distribute it to other Provinces?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: So far as the accumulations in Delhi were concerned, naturally they could be distributed only in Delhi because the main difficulty in the distribution of this cloth was transport. So far as the accumulations in other Provinces are concerned, orders have already been passed and they also are being distributed. I can give the latest figure. Up till this day 49,000 bales have been distributed from the accumulated quantity amongst the different Provinces in India.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it not a fact that the quota in Delhi compared unfavourably with Calcutta and Bombay all along and it is only in this quarter that this extra quota was given?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: No.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it not a fact that in Bengal and Bombay where there are big rural areas, the population in the cities of Calcutta and Bombay were benefitting at the cost of the rural population and were getting *per capita* greater ration than the people in the urban city of Delhi?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: On an average about 10 to 12 yards per head are allotted to each Province, barring a few Provinces in which exceptions were made, like N. W. F. P. and Sind which are outside our calculation today. It remains for the Province concerned to allocate the quota between the urban and rural areas. If in any particular Province the rural areas were given less, the Government of India has no responsibility at all in the matter.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: But the fact remains that Delhi did get less than what people in Calcutta and Bombay got.

Begum Aizaz Rasul: May I know the approximate amount of cloth contained in each bale?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It comes to about 1,500 yards roughly.

Shri R. K. Sidhwa: May I know when Government intend to decontrol cloth?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That is coming up as an item in the cut motions and the matter will be discussed then.

Shri R. K. Sidhwa: Is he not prepared to give an answer in advance?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It will be decontrolled as soon as possible.

Shri R. K. Sidhwa: What is the meaning of 'as soon as possible'?

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

MOTOR CAR MANUFACTURING FACTORIES.

583. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) how many motor car manufacturing concerns have come into existence in India and where;

(b) their capacity for production of cars;

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I do not know. Probably there is. I am not an expert. I was given to understand by the Printing Department of the Government of India that if you give these identification sections on the margin it would consume more paper.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: In view of the explanation given by the Honourable Minister which I fully accept, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was by leave of the Assembly withdrawn.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir I move:

"That in clause 2 of the Bill, in the proposed new section 289C, (i) for the words 'the Merchant Shipping Acts' wherever they occur, the words and figures 'the Merchant Shipping Act, 1923 and the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894' be substituted;"

Sir, while the clause in the Bill mentions the Merchant Shipping Acts which means the British Statute as well as the Indian Act, the amendment points out specifically that these are the two Acts meant. Of course if this amendment is accepted, then the statute references, as has been explained by the Honourable the Minister for Law, should be incorporated in the text. I submit that instead of describing them as the Merchant Shipping Acts, it is better to describe them as the Merchant Shipping Act of 1894 and the Merchant Shipping Act of 1923, meaning the British Act and the Indian Act.

Mr. Chairman: Amendment moved:

"That in clause 2 of the Bill, in the proposed new section 289C, (i) for the words 'the Merchant Shipping Acts' wherever they occur, the words and figures 'the Merchant Shipping Act, 1923 and the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894' be substituted;"

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I cannot accept this amendment, because it will restrict the effect and some scope for mischief will be left.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: If I may add one more observation to what has been said by the Honourable Minister in charge, I think this amendment is unnecessary and if my Honourable friend were to refer to the definition in the original Act, the Merchant Shipping Act, 1923, Section 2, sub-clause 5 (here I am speaking from memory), he will find that this amendment is quite unnecessary.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: My only reason for moving this amendment was that I did not get a copy of the Act. In view of the explanation given by the Honourable Minister I beg leave of the House to withdraw the amendment.

The amendment was by leave of the Assembly withdrawn.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 4th December, 1947.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Thursday, 4th December, 1947

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

(a) ORAL ANSWERS.

INDUSTRIAL CENSUS IN INDIA.

581.*Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

- whether any industrial census has so far been taken in India;
- whether Government are aware that such census has been taken more than once in England; and
- whether Government propose to consider the advisability of organising such an industrial survey in India at an early date?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) and (c). Government are aware of the value of an industrial survey and have set up a central organisation for this purpose. This organisation took all preliminary action to conduct a census for 1946 of manufacturing industries organised on a factory scale. The necessary powers have been taken under the Industrial Statistics Act, 1942 which casts the duty on the Provinces to collect the actual figures and on the Central Government to correlate them. The present census will cover 29 industries or approximately 50 per cent of existing factories. It is the intention to extend the census gradually to cover all factories in existence. Unfortunately the Provinces have not as yet up organisations adequate to the task of collecting and checking the returns and only a small proportion of the returns has been received from them. The Government of India are reviewing the entire question and will discuss this with the Provincial Ministers at the ensuing Industries Conference.

(b) Yes.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know what the plans of the Government are—in how many years they expect to be able to complete this?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: As I have just explained, our difficulty has been that the Provinces have not checked the returns which they were expected to do under the provisions of the Act. In fact nearly 40 per cent of the industries submitted their returns in 1944, 44 per cent of them submitted returns in 1945 and 70 per cent submitted their returns in 1946, and the Provinces have been able to check not more than 10 per cent for each of these three years. Unless the organisation acts in full co-operation with the Provinces it is very difficult for me to mention a date within which the work will be completed.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is this census being carried out under the direction of the Economic Adviser or under any other officer, and if so what is the relationship between this organisation and the Economic Adviser?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: This is directed by the Statistic Officer, Dr. Kaul, who works under the Ministry of Industries, but I suppose he works in co-operation with the Economic Adviser.

- (c) the assistance given by Government to them;
 (d) the control that Government have over their management; and
 (e) the plans of Government to establish in India a sufficient number of motor car manufacturing factories?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Three factories, two at Bombay and the other at Calcutta, are under construction.

(b) Their combined capacity when the entire plant has been installed is expected to be 20,000 vehicles per annum.

(c) Government are giving assistance to the three factories to obtain building materials and foreign technical assistance and have provided dollar facilities.

(d) None, Sir, but the concerns accept advice and instructions given by Government.

(e) Government proposes to promote and assist the establishment of two more factories.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Who are the promoters and Directors of these three concerns?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The first one is connected with Birlas; the second with Mr. Walchand Hirachand; and the third is a Gujarati concern.

Seth Govinddas: By what time do Government expect the first Indian car would come out from these factories?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: By 1950 or 1951 we expect that the car will be manufactured in India.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know if Government have taken any shares in these companies?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: No.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: May I know whether all the parts of these cars will be manufactured in India or the parts will be imported and they will be merely assembled here?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Now of course they will be assembled in a large proportion, but by 1950 or 1951 it is expected that the cars will be manufactured in India.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: Do Government propose to take shares in these companies?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That has not been considered.

Shri H. J. Khandekar: May I know from Government whether Government did not get any other concerns in India than Birlas and others mentioned?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that this motor car manufacturing industry is a standardized one and there are not many risks involved in it, will Government consider the advisability of themselves starting a factory?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That will be considered if necessary.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: As the motor car industry is a key industry, does not the Government think that it should take steps to set up some industry by which it may be produced earlier?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The main difficulty will be about the manufacture of the engine and that will require a little time.

Dr. V. Subrahmanyam: Have the Government given any tariff protection to the industry?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask whether Government consider that the motor car industry is a standardized industry?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Yes.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that in the policy statement published by the Government of India two years ago it was stated this motor car manufacturing industry was considered to be one of those industries in which Government can very conveniently have a controlling interest?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That has not been considered by the present Government.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: Do not any of these factories manufacture any part of a car?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Very small proportion now. PRODUCTION OF MILLYARN AND CLOTH

584. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of mill yarn and cloth has gone down during this year and if so, why;

(b) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the pamphlets published by Shree Khandubhai Desai and also by Sri Vadilal Lallubhai about the various mal-practices indulged in by many Textile mill-owners; and

(c) whether any efforts have been made to reduce the margin of profits absorbed by the spinning mills and also the weaving mills, and what are the relative prices of cotton, yarn and cloth of the principal varieties used by the general public?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Yes, Sir, it is a fact that production of mill yarn and cloth has gone down during this year. This is due to the introduction of the 8 hour day, communal disturbances, strikes and absenteeism, and the tendency on the part of mills to change over to finer counts.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Since the inception of cotton textiles control in 1943 Government have reduced the prices of cloth and yarn from time to time. A statement is laid on the table of the House which shows the relative prices as between cotton, yarn and cloth of some of the principal varieties.

Description of cloth	Warp and Weft counts				Cost of Cotton used per pound of cloth.	Cost of Yarn consumed per pound of grey cloth.	Ex-mill price per pound of grey cloth.		
	Warp	Weft	Reed	Picks					
1. Dhoti	19	19	40	36	Rs. As. Ps. 0 11 5	Rs. As. Ps. 1 1 8	Rs. As. Ps. 1 7 2		
2. Special sheeting	13.5	15.5	42	38	0 11 5	0 14 1	1 3 0		
3. Twill	20	30	72	60	0 14 2	1 3 3	11 3		
4. Drill Grey	16	20	48/3	40	0 12 9	1 1 5	1 7 9		
5. Cellular Shirting	16	20	32/4	40	0 12 9	1 1 5	1 7 9		
6. Saree	16	20	40	40	0 12 9	1 1 11	1 7 9		
7. Long Cloth	122	30	52	48	0 14 2	1 4 6	0 3		

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know, Sir, if the mills still are not making a profit in declaring a dividend of 20 to 50 per cent.?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Not all.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact, Sir, that there is a great disparity between the price of cotton, the price of yarn, and the price of cloth, taking into consideration the relative cost of production?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Well, the difference is not very wide. Of course the prices also vary. As the Honourable Member knows, the price of cotton is also going up now.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know, Sir, if in order to step up production there is any proposal to establish spinning mills by the State itself in some parts of India where cotton is grown, for instance in the Ceded districts of the Madras Presidency?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Government has no plan under consideration for having its own textile mills.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know what steps Government have taken to discourage the tendency on the part of mills to weave finer cloth?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I would draw the attention of the Honourable Member to the resolution which was issued by the Government of India a few days ago on this subject. A committee was appointed and a standardized scheme has been adopted. Steps are being taken to enforce that scheme.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact that the price of fine cloth has not been reduced as compared with coarse cloth?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We have not reduced prices but we have reduced the price at which the mills will be paid, and the entire question of prices is being referred to the Tariff Board.

Shri Khandubhai K. Desai: Are Government aware that there is a great disparity between the actual production and the production that is shown to the Textile Board figures?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I know that is what the Honourable Member has always maintained.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will Government be pleased to state whether the actual production as released corresponds to the actual outturn of the mills?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: This proposition is very much challenged by the millowners themselves. But what we have done recently is we are going to have Unit Production Committees on which representatives of labour and also of the industry will sit. There will also that Regional Committees and we expect to have provincial committees and an all-India committee also to see that there is no waste or leakage so far as production goes.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Did the Government however try to verify whether actual production corresponded with the statement submitted by the mills?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: As I have just explained, we are now going to have a machinery which will make it possible for Government to check and verify the allegations which are now being made.

Dr. V. Subrahmanyam: Have the Government any idea of allotting more yarn for the purpose of manufacturing sewing balls for which there is great demand from all provinces?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: If more yarn is produced, then Government will also consider that demand.

Dr. V. Subrahmanyam: The Bombay Kohinoor Mill is producing more yarn, but the quota is to be increased and distributed to provinces. Provinces require a larger quota and there is a great demand from dealers.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: If any representation on that point is received, it will be considered.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has the attention of Government been drawn to the fact that the Madras Government has withdrawn its Control Officer over the spinning mills?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That is a matter for the provincial government to decide.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government, Sir, given any consideration to the resolution passed recently by the All India Congress Committee suggesting that the cloth control should be removed as soon as possible?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The Honourable Member is aware that that is one of the matters which the Government has referred to the Tariff Board for advice.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Minister please state what portion of the decrease in production of yarn and cloth is due to strikes?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It is very difficult to say, but a large portion is.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: Do Government propose to decentralise the production of cloth more and more, in view of the difficulties that have been experienced in its centralised production?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: So far as control over production is concerned it may be necessary to maintain it for some time, but Government do contemplate to decentralise so far as distribution is concerned.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact, Sir, that Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai had made certain suggestions regarding increasing production and that at the instance of the Government he introduced those suggestions in his own mill and the production went up by 25 per cent.?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: All those suggestions were taken into consideration by the *ad hoc* Committee appointed by the Government, and now we are making a further reference to the Tariff Board.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I want to know, Sir, whether production had gone up by 25 per cent. or more.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I cannot say whether it is 25 per cent., but the production has gone up.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact that Mr. Gadgil, a Member of the Government had been deputed to the particular mill to go and verify the claims regarding increase in production?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I have no personal knowledge.

CONTROL OVER NEWSPRINT AND NEWSPAPERS.

585. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after the control over newsprint and newspapers has been removed, a large number of newspapers have come to be started in different provinces;

(b) how many new newspapers, daily and weekly, have thus been started and in what provinces; and

(c) what has been the supply and price position of newsprint since the de-control?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Since the removal in April 1947 of restrictions on newsprint, and on the starting of newspapers as well as on purchase and consumption of newsprint by newspapers, a number of newspapers have started publication.

(b) Information regarding the exact number of newspapers is not readily available.

(c) The arrivals of newsprint since the removal of the above mentioned restrictions have been generally satisfactory and compare favourably with the

present monthly consumption of newsprint, which has steadily gone up, as the following figures for 1947 would show:

	Arrivals of newsprint in the country	Consumption of newsprint by newspapers
1947	(Tons)	(Tons)
January	5,333	2,294
February	5,443	2,267
March	4,020	2,755
April	3,272	3,001
May	3,634	3,073
June	3,281	3,170
July	6,047	3,455
August	3,539	3,493
September	2,184	3,275
October	3,465	Figures not yet available.

The prices of newsprint in the manufacturing countries are understood to have slightly increased since April 1947. The Canadian prices are round about £40 per ton c.i.f. Indian port and the price of European newsprint varies from £50 to £55 per ton c.i.f. Indian port.

Seth Govinddas: Are any mills going to be started in India in the near future for producing newsprint?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Unfortunately there is no mill yet, but the Central Provinces is going to put up a mill for the manufacture of newsprint and I am informed that about 30,000 tons per year will be manufactured there. Baroda also has made some suggestions in this behalf and we propose to encourage them in carrying out their project.

Seth Govinddas: Is the Government going to purchase any shares as far as the mill proposed in the Central Provinces is concerned? If not, what kind of help is Government going to give to these two new ventures?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: If any suggestion comes in this direction, I shall be certainly prepared to consider it.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: In view of the fact that the prices of Canadian newsprint is lower to the extent of £10—15 per ton than that of British or Norwegian product, will Government try to help the newspapers in getting larger quantities from Canada?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That is done already.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Has there been any success?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I cannot tell.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the newsprint factory proposed to be started in the Central Provinces, a Government factory or a private enterprise?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I think it is a private enterprise.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is the Honourable Member aware that there is considerable black-marketing in dealings in this newsprint?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: When the Honourable Member is asking that question, I suppose there is black-marketing.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: Will the Honourable Member be able to tell the House if the Indian factories that are going to be started will be able to supply newsprint at competitive rates?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I have not gone into the details but I am told that the scheme is being worked out on a proper basis.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, have any steps been taken to stop the black-market in newsprint?

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Minister has not admitted that there is black-marketing; he said that "if the Honourable Member says so, there might be."

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Who is in possession of the unused balance of newsprint?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The importers themselves.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know from the Honourable Member if any attempts are being made to manufacture wood pulp in India? There was a proposal some time ago to manufacture wood pulp by growing pine trees in Kashmir; is Government going to do anything in this matter and if so what is the stage at which the matter stands?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I cannot say definitely about Kashmir, but so far as the Andamans are concerned, which is a safe territory for the present, investigation has been undertaken by the Dehra Dun Forest Research Institute in the direction which the Honourable Member mentions.

CONSTRUCTION OF KANCHARAPARA WORKSHOPS

†586. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work on the locomotive factory proposed to be set up at Kancharapara in West Bengal has been commenced;

(b) if not, whether Government propose to consider the advisability of shifting the centre to a strategically more convenient place inside the Union area; and

(c) whether the machinery etc., needed for the factory have been purchased and the experts, engineers and mechanics have been obtained, and when the manufacturing work is expected to commence?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The work was commenced in 1946 but was suspended in June 1947.

(b) Surveys of alternative sites in the vicinity of Asansol have been ordered and are now in hand.

(c) Indents for the purchase of machinery and plant have been placed. The services of expert staff will be obtained when necessary. Government have given this work top priority but it is too early to say when actual manufacturing will start.

OVERBRIDGE FOR AMRAOTI RAILWAY STATION.

587. ***Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the present location of the Amraoti railway station is not convenient to the public?

(b) Are Government aware that the railway crossing is too narrow and requires widening and that the existence of the level crossing causes very great inconvenience to the public?

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

(c) Do Government propose to construct an over-head bridge for pedestrians?

(d) Are Government aware that for want of such bridge, hundreds of pedestrians and cyclists are continuously held up for long periods?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) No.

The Civil Authorities are opposed to any shifting of the present station site.

(b) The Level Crossing in Amraoti Yard is an A class crossing meant for main roads. The width of the roadway is 30' which is according to specifications. So far as is known there have been no complaints either from the Provincial Government or from the public to the effect that the level crossing is too narrow or that it causes any inconvenience. Wicket gates which are provided on either side are being kept closed to prevent cyclists misusing them and exposing themselves to risk of serious accident.

(c) It is not proposed to construct a road over-bridge for pedestrians as the train service is not frequent.

(d) It is not a fact that pedestrians and cyclists are continuously held up for long periods. Whenever the level crossing is closed, some detention is inevitable but such periods are neither long nor frequent.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I know, Sir, whose opinion the Honourable Member is quoting in giving his reply to part (d) of the question?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Well, this question was discussed by representatives of the Railway Administration as recently as August 1946 with the local Authorities in Amraoti and they were definitely opposed to the shifting of the site.

Shri M. S. Aney: When did the discussion take place?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The last time that our representatives had discussions with the local Authorities was August 1946.

Shri M. S. Aney: Will the Government make an enquiry into this matter?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is hardly called for in the circumstances.

MANUFACTURE OF MOTOR CARS.

588. ***Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the possibility of manufacture of motor-cars in the country?

(b) Are Government rendering any assistance in this respect? If so, what?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given by me today to Starred Question No. 583 by Prof. N. G. Ranga.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know from the Honourable Minister if within a reasonable time, say two or three years, there is any chance of plant and machinery for the manufacture of motor cars being obtained from either England or America?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I suppose the Honourable Member refers to manufacture of engines. That is under consideration.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is it worthwhile, Sir, producing motor cars in 1950, because by that time probably the world-market would overflow with motor cars?

Mr. Speaker: That will be a matter of opinion.

NEW RAILWAY COACHES.

589. ***Mr. R. K. Sidhwa:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that new Railway coaches for passengers are under construction?

(b) What number of coaches Government propose to put on traffic, during the current year?

(c) What method Government propose to adopt to renew the entire stock of Railway carriages which have been in dilapidated condition, during the last War?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). 96 coaches have already been constructed in Government Railway workshops and put into traffic since the beginning of 1947. 134 B. G. and 97 M. G. coaches are at present under construction in Railway workshops. Of these 28 B. G. and 5 M. G. coaches are expected to be ready before the end of the year. As these coaches are turned out further construction will be undertaken.

There are in addition about 300 B. G. coaches expected from indigenous industry before the end of 1948.

Steps are being taken to rehabilitate the existing stock as quickly as possible and to introduce new stock for which indigenous capacity to the extent available is being obtained.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: May I know from the Honourable Minister to which Railway these 96 coaches that have been newly introduced belong?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: They are distributed amongst various Railways. I can give the information in greater detail to the Honourable Member later, if he requires.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: May I know whether they are mostly third-class coaches or upper-class coaches?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Mostly third class.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: Do Government propose to instal electric fans in third and intermediate class compartments?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid these questions are oft put. It is no use pursuing these questions and wasting the time of the House.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: I was not here then, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: That is a different matter.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know, Sir, at this rate in how many years Government will be able to replace all the existing coaches?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Next question.

FACILITIES TO LOWER CLASS RAILWAY PASSENGERS.

590. ***Seth Govinddas:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the promises given to the public in the last Budget session of the Legislative Assembly, to give more facilities to the lower class passengers in our railways?

(b) How far have Government progressed in improving the conditions of travel in Indian Railways?

(c) What are the reactions Government have got so far about the proposed silver arrow train that was exhibited throughout the country?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes.

(b) Since the cessation of hostilities, Class I Railways have reintroduced or extended 1146 trains, covering a daily mileage of 70,375.

(c) Do Government propose to construct an over-head bridge for pedestrians?

(d) Are Government aware that for want of such bridge, hundreds of pedestrians and cyclists are continuously held up for long periods?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) No.

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The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Mostly third class.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: Do Government propose to instal electric fans in third and intermediate class compartments?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid these questions are oft put. It is no use pursuing these questions and wasting the time of the House.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: I was not here then, Sir.

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Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Next question.

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590. ***Seth Govinddas:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the promises given to the public in the last Budget session of the Legislative Assembly, to give more facilities to the lower class passengers in our railways?

(b) How far have Government progressed in improving the conditions of travel in Indian Railways?

(c) What are the reactions Government have got so far about the proposed silver arrow train that was exhibited throughout the country?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes.

(b) Since the cessation of hostilities, Class I Railways have reintroduced or extended 1146 trains, covering a daily mileage of 70,375.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I do not think the Honourable Member is familiar with the difficulties involved in this problem. As a matter of fact, the majority of these people who have come from Pakistan are people who have had to flee from that country. They have not got their papers and when we have to issue posting orders, we have got to base them entirely on what they say about themselves. If a man comes to me and says "I am a driver; I have been a driver for 20 years" I have no option but to take him at his statement. Owing to this situation, serious mistakes have occurred.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know, Sir, if it is a fact that drivers offered themselves for service from South India, but were not treated properly and many of them were discontented and some of them returned to their homes?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is precisely on that point, I have just given the reply: "The statement is entirely inaccurate."

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know, Sir, if the South Indian drivers wanted warm clothing and they were refused warm clothing?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: They have all been provided with warm clothing.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: May I ask if those of the employees who have come from Pakistan under the agreement with the Government of India, so long as they are not provided with service, will they be paid their due wages?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes, Sir; they will be paid.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Is it a fact, Sir, that some of them have refused their salaries for the last two months, and they were asked to apply for leave and they were told that their salary will be counted as on leave.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The reason why they refused it was that it was not possible in certain cases to get the necessary documentary evidence on which the posting could be made.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: May I know, Sir, that their salaries will be paid to them after all these formalities have been completed.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It will depend on the circumstances of each case.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF AMERICAN TECHNICAL MISSION.

592. ***Shri K. Santhanam:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state which of the recommendations contained in the Report of the American Technical Mission to India in 1942 were adopted?

(b) Which of the recommendations were rejected by the Government of India?

(c) Have the Government of India reviewed the matter in the light of the changed political conditions?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) and (b). The position is explained in the Memorandum issued by Government on the Grady Report, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

(c) No Sir, but the matter will receive attention.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know, Sir, when the Memorandum was issued?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The Memorandum was issued about three years ago, after the Grady Report.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I point out, Sir, that my question is about an up-to-date statement as to which of the recommendations were then not adopted and whether they will be reconsidered since the formation of the new Government?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The present Government have not considered the matter nor have they reached a decision on it. It is receiving attention now. But if the Honourable Member would specifically ask about any of these items which were covered by the Grady Report, I shall be glad to answer. I have here about 20 different sections dealing with various items which are considered in the Grady Report.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I suggest that the Government may issue a Memorandum now, so that we may not ask questions on every point of detail?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: If the Government revise their previous decision, then certainly a Memorandum will be issued.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask the Honourable the Minister if he will place such of the recommendations as were not accepted by the previous Government for re-consideration before the Industrial Conference meets on the 15th and 16th of March?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The Department is considering the report.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will that matter be placed before the Conference for consideration?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It will be considered.

Shri B. Das: The recommendations of the Grady Report were only intended to assist the U. K. and U. S. A. in the war efforts of India and what use will it be for the Free India Government to follow those recommendations which are so antiquated?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The report deals with certain matters connected with war activities and at this stage they are completely out of date. But the Report also made certain recommendations regarding India's future industrial development and they might be useful.

DEVELOPMENT OF JUBBULPORE AERO-DROME.

593. ***Seth Govinddas:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether Government propose to develop Jubbulpore aerodrome for Civil traffic.

(b) If so, when is the scheme likely to come into operation?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: (a) Yes, Sir. The plans of the Government of India for the development of civil aviation provide for the development of the Jubbulpore Aerodrome to the standard of a "Minor" aerodrome.

(b) The Jubbulpore Aerodrome is at present an uncontrolled aerodrome and is available only for occasional use by civil aircraft. It is expected that necessary facilities for the operation of scheduled air services will be provided at this aerodrome in the near future.

Seth Govinddas: Is the Honourable Member aware, Sir, that Jubbulpore is the second city of the Central Provinces and there cannot be any Civil traffic there unless that Aerodrome there which is in a most wretched condition is improved and that also immediately.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: I have just stated that in the near future it will be provided with an aerodrome fit for the operation of scheduled air services.

Seth Govinddas: May I ask if the Honourable Member is aware that real air service has not begun in Jubbulpore on account of the unfitness of the aerodrome?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: That is true.

New coaching stock has been and is being put into traffic as fast as possible. It is realised that the total railway workshop capacity alone on Indian Railways cannot cope with the demands for coaching stock for replacement of over-age stock and for additional traffic. Indigenous capacity is also being utilised to the maximum extent to supplement railway workshop production.

Railways have augmented considerably their cleaning staff for attention to coaches. Mobile gangs are being provided to ensure cleanliness of coaches during the run and at important junctions cleaning staff attend trains during all parts of the day and night. Overhead filling arrangements have been considerably strengthened and a number of additional stations have been provided with these facilities to ensure that there is no shortage of water. The various stores necessary for cleaning carriages have also been sanctioned on a much larger scale than during pre-war years. Gangs for spraying insecticides and deodorants in carriages have been widely employed.

Additional staff are being provided at many stations for the booking of passengers and the number of stations with a 24 hour continuous booking has been increased. Additional waiting rooms and lavatories have been provided at a number of stations, and existing waiting halls are being progressively improved.

Additional hydrants are being provided for supply of water at stations where a pipe water supply is available.

Every effort is being made to provide adequate lighting in trains. Latest reports from railways show that some improvement is being achieved.

Railways are appointing passenger guides at stations to help passengers.

(c) As a result of the opinions obtained on the Silver Arrow, a revised schedule of requirements for design of coaching stock has been drawn up, 11'8" stock will be built incorporating these requirements which include among other amenities more seating space per passenger, more comfortable seats, improved lighting, more spacious lavatories and drinking water alcoves.

All new stock will be provided with fans in III class compartments in so far as electric equipment is available.

Seth Govinddas: Sir, this question has been thoroughly discussed during the Budget, but I want to put only one supplementary. Why these first-class bogies are not abolished according to the promise of the Honourable Minister?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The matter is under consideration. I hope to come to a decision very soon on this question.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: Will the Honourable Minister be pleased to state whether Government propose to appoint women guides for the convenience of woman passengers?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: Have they appointed them anywhere?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I believe there are a few women Inspectresses appointed. The appointment of women guides for the benefit of third-class women passengers is a proposal which is being seriously considered at present and is likely to be introduced at an early date.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Minister be pleased to state the total money spent on providing these facilities to third-class passengers?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I think I gave some figures on this point during the general discussion of the Budget.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: No, Sir.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The provision that we made for the current year on the pre-partition basis was about a couple of crores. Now, of that, on the post-partition basis, the expenditure that we are going to incur is somewhere about Rs. 170 lakhs. Whether the whole of it will be spent or not during the year will depend upon the availability of materials.

Shri O. V. Alagesan: Are Government aware that in many stations third-class passengers are forced to wait in the open air and even spend whole nights for want of sufficient waiting room facilities and what do Government propose to do to mend this state of affairs?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is true, Sir, that at some stations the position is as described, but we are now trying to remedy it as far as we can.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact, Sir, that during the Budget Session the Honourable Minister had promised to appoint woman guides, and if so, what was the difficulty in appointing them so far?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Since the beginning of June, i.e., three months after I made this promise, it has been difficult for the Railways to perform their normal functions.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I know, but what was being done for three months from April to June, when women guides can be had so easily?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is not quite so easy as the Honourable Member thinks.

RECRUITMENT OF DRIVERS.

591. ***Seth Govinddas:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state how many drivers have been recruited in the recent emergency from amongst those who offered their services?

(b) Is it a fact that a number of them went away as Government could not give them attractive salaries and warm clothing?

(c) In view of the shortage of trained hands, what action Government propose to take to meet the emergency.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Fifty-two drivers reported themselves for duty on the Eastern Punjab Railway. Of these forty-six were retained. Of the remaining three were returned at their own request, two were found unfit and one went away without authority.

(b) No.

(c) Steps have been taken to provide intensive training for the purpose of making drivers available in the shortest possible time.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Arising out of answer to part (c) of the question, may I know from the Honourable Minister whether about 700 employees, out of whom 200 belong to superior staff like drivers, have come out from Pakistan and they have not been provided with service so far. What is the reason, and are they likely to be provided for?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I think, Sir, I discussed this question at some length in my Budget speech. We have had about 125 or 126 thousand people from Pakistan who opted for India. Out of that, we have so far provided for about 108 thousand. Posting orders have been issued to them. Now, that is a job of enormous difficulty, but we are doing our best.

So far as the question of drivers is concerned, one way in which we were able to remedy the serious shortage that has occurred was by recruitment of people who have come here from Pakistan.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: May I know whether for the period they are unemployed, they will get their salaries?

Seth Govinddas: Then, Sir, may I know when we can expect the new aerodrome will be built in Jubbulpore.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: I have just said in the near future.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable Member consider the question of constructing an aerodrome at Amraoti, Sir, the third biggest city in the Central Provinces?

Mr. Speaker: The question refers to Jubbulpore aerodrome.

Begum Aizaz Rasul: May I know if Government will consider favourably the building of a suitable aerodrome in Lucknow also?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order; Next question.

INDIAN COAL FIELDS COMMITTEE.

594. ***Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state what action has been taken by Government till now on the principal recommendations of the Indian Coal Fields Committee?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It is not possible within the limitations of time and space to refer here to all the recommendations made by the Indian Coalfields' Committee. The main recommendations, involving matters of policy, pertain to the production, transport and conservation of coal. The broad objectives have been accepted by Government and the action taken is indicated below:—

Production and Transport.—Committee has been set up to draw up a co-ordinated plan of coal production and transport over the next five years with indications of appropriate priority for the various areas and projects. Due to the delay in the receipt of the remarks of certain Provincial Governments and private bodies, which had been consulted in the matter, and other reasons, the Committee has not yet been able to complete its task.

Conservation.—A Committee has been set up to prepare a programme of sand-stowing for the next 10 years.

It will still take some time to put into effect the other recommendations of the Committee regarding conservation of metallurgical coal *e.g.*, (i) prohibition of supplies to other than essential consumers; (ii) beneficiation of lower quality coals by washing and blending; and (iii) curtailment of output.

Enforcement of (i) is deferred until the production of good quality non-metallurgical coal is stepped up sufficiently to meet requirements, *e.g.*, of the Railways. A start on washing is being made shortly when the equipment on order by a private concern arrives. But a good deal of study on the laboratory and pilot plant scales must precede large-scale measures of beneficiation. This will be one of the principal tasks of the Fuel Research Institute when it is ready. Implementation of (iii) must be done in consultation with the Provincial Governments concerned who have been already addressed on certain ancillary matters.

2. The action taken on certain other important recommendations is shown below:—

State Acquisition of mineral rights.—The Governments of Bengal and Bihar have been addressed over the procedure and principles of acquisition and their replies are awaited.

Contract system for coal raising/over-burden removal at Railway collieries.—The system has been abolished at three collieries and its abolition at others is under consideration.

Withdrawal of monetary concessions on Export coal.—This is under consideration and an early decision is expected.

Fuel research.—The question of extending the scope of the Fuel Research Institute and of starting Field Survey stations for undertaking a classification of Indian coals has been considered by the Fuel Research Committee of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and their recommendations are now being submitted to Government.

3. The recommendations of the Committee regarding administrative machinery for dealing with the coal industry have not so far been considered due to political and constitutional difficulties; but it is hoped to take them up in the very near future.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Minister please state if any concessions are being extended to Coal miners since the tax concessions given by Government in the past must have been of necessity withdrawn?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I am afraid I cannot answer off-hand. If the Honourable Member gives details, I shall examine it.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know what steps are taken to acquire the rights of ownership as recommended by the Indian Coalfields' Committee?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We have referred the matter to two Provincial Governments and we shall consider the matter as soon as we get the reply.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: May I know how many coalfields are still being worked by British and other foreign concerns?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Most of the big collieries are still controlled by foreign concerns.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Minister try to find out some way by which these concerns may come to Indian hands?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That is a matter of general policy for Government to adopt; we shall bear that in mind.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that a Coal Committee reported more than two years ago in favour of the State acquiring mineral rights, how is it that even today Government think it necessary to refer this question back to the provincial Governments and thus waste so much time?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The Honourable Member knows very well that the Government which functioned before 15th August, 1947 was not in a position to consider this question involving future State policy.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Will Government consider the urgent need of taking this key industry under State control, specially because the Railway Minister told us the other day that coal was the real bottleneck in the way of improving transport?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That is now being considered. As the Honourable Railway Minister stated, it is not want of coal from which the country suffers but on account of transport difficulties coal is not being distributed.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: Which are the three collieries where the contract system for recruiting labour has been abolished?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: They are, (1) Some units of the Giridih Colliery; (2) the Jallandi Colliery and (3) the Savang Colliery.

PRODUCTION OF BENZOL IN INDIA.

595. ***Shri T. T. Krishnamachari**: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the quantity of Benzol produced in India during war time and at present?

(b) How far is it used at present for mixing with petrol as motor fuel and what economies are thereby effected in reducing the imports of petrol?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) About 1.2 million gallons and 1.75 million gallons per annum, respectively.

(b) During 1947 about 1.68 million gallons of Benzol will have been used in lieu of Motor Spirit, out of a total estimated supply of 164.325 million gallons of Motor Spirit. This means roughly an Economy of about 1 per cent.?

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In view of the fact that it conduces to economy why should they have so much import of petrol which is not produced in this country and manufacture Benzol?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The question of making fuller use of Benzol as a substitute is being considered. Of course the economy represents only 1 per cent.

IMPORT OF LOCOMOTIVES

596. ***Shri T. T. Krishnamachari**: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state the number of locomotives which have been obtained for the Indian Railways since the termination of the war from the United Kingdom, the United States of America and any other country?

(b) What is the total number of locomotives for which Government have placed orders in the United Kingdom, the United States of America and any other country and when Government expect to obtain delivery of these locomotives?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Since the official termination of the War, namely 1st April, 1946, 150 Broad Gauge locomotives have been received in India against orders placed during the War years. Of these, 130 are from the United Kingdom and 20 from Canada. An order for 16 Broad Gauge locomotives was placed this year in United States of America and deliveries of these locomotives have just been completed.

351 Metre Gauge locomotives have been purchased from the lease-lend stock. These were in service in India during the War. Negotiations for the purchase of 9 more such Metre Gauge locomotives are in progress.

(b) Orders have been placed for 390 Broad Gauge locomotives in the United Kingdom and 150 Broad Gauge locomotives in Canada. These locomotives are expected to be delivered before August 1950.

The India Supply Mission, Washington, have been asked to place orders for 33 Metre Gauge locomotives.

Orders have also been placed for the manufacture of 10 Broad Gauge and 68 Metre Gauge locomotives in the Ajmer Workshop. Delivery dates of these locomotives are not yet known.

Shri K. Santhanam: With reference to part (b) of the question, may I know what the average price of a broad-gauge locomotive is?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It varies greatly according to the design of the locomotive and the source of production. On the most recent order that we have placed and with reference to which I have received quotations I think it is approximately 3½ lakhs; but that is subject to correction.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Were these locomotives purchased at open competitive rates and after inviting tenders?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes, Sir.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if any locomotives have been ordered from Tata's in this country?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: They are not yet in a position to produce locomotives. At present they are only producing boilers. I think it will take a couple of years before they are in a position to manufacture locomotives.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is no country in the world barring the United Kingdom, United States and Canada in a position to supply locomotives to our country?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: We have been making extensive investigations on that subject, and the basis on which orders are placed is partly a question of price and partly a question of deliveries. With reference to these two considerations we find that for the present it is more convenient from our point of view to place orders in the United Kingdom and the United States. But the question that the Honourable Member raised is very much present to our minds.

Shri K. Santhanam: Can Czechoslovakia supply them?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: We are considering that.

Shri B. Das: Are these orders for locomotives now placed by the London Stores Department or have the Government of India got a department here which analyses all tenders and places orders?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: We do it with the assistance of the London office.

WAGONS FOR TRANSPORTING COAL

597. ***Shri T. T. Krishnamachari**: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state what steps have been taken to remove the delay in turn-round of wagons which is reported to be the cause of the shortage of wagons?

(b) How do Government propose to remove the prevailing disequilibrium in the demand for and the supply of wagons for the movement of coal?

(c) What steps have been taken by Government, from time to time, to adjust the allotment of wagons to the railways and other consumers for transporting coal and how far Government have succeeded in doing so?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state what are the quantities of monthly production and the number of wagons of coal despatched since the termination of the war?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) As I stated during my Budget speech, there are various causes for delays in the turnround of wagons. The first and the biggest is the slowing down in the handling of goods traffic owing to civil disturbances. Another factor is change in the direction of traffic from that for which yard and track capacity were designed. Thirdly, the deterioration in the quality of service now obtainable from locomotives. Railways are doing everything possible more effectively to regulate traffic through yards and on single line sections, certain works for increasing the capacity of the line are in train and Railways are examining continuously ways and means of speeding up the transit of goods wagons.

(b) It is presumed that this refers to the short-supply of wagons in the Berhal and Bihar coalfields area for the movement of coal. The average daily loadings are now of the order of 2,700 wagons per day. It would interest the Honourable Member to know that on 14 days in November, 1947, loadings exceeded that figure and touched a maximum of 3,121 wagons. This is indicative of the consistent attempts which are being made to improve loadings. Such endeavours will continue.

(c) The allotment of coal to particular consumers is the business of the Coal Commissioner who works under the Ministry of Industry and Supply. It is his duty to distribute, in accordance with the importance of the industries, coal supplies within the number of wagons made available by the Railways from day to day in the coalfields area. So far as Government is aware, generally speaking, industries have been supplied with sufficient quantities of coal so as not to hinder work.

(d) A statement giving details of monthly production of coal and the tonnage despatched by rail will be prepared and laid on the table.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I know whether there is an organisation now to control wagon movement similar to what obtained during the war?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: There is a very considerable element of wagon control; otherwise it would be impossible to control the question of priority.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyaya: May I know whether the Honourable Minister has received representations from the coal mine owners in the Bengal collieries that a good deal of undesirable favouritism is indulged in by the authorities in the matter of distribution of wagons? If so, what steps have been taken to remedy this?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That is a matter which falls within the province of my Honourable colleague the Minister for Industry and Supply.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it a fact that the short supply of wagons is also due to a large number of wagons being held up in Pakistan—as many as 2,000—where coal was carried by these wagons?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes, I think to some extent that is true. Up to two weeks ago I believe a large number of wagons that were sent to Pakistan, particularly Western Pakistan, was held up for an unduly long period. But I am glad to say that during the past ten days there has been a perceptible improvement in the return of these wagons.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Has the Pakistan Government's attitude towards us improved, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The question hour is over.

(b) Written Answers

COAL ECONOMY BY THE RAILWAYS

598. ***Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state what economies have the Railways been able to effect in the consumption of higher grade coal for loco purposes and how far the Railways have been able to use lower grade coal for loco traffic?

(b) Have Government investigated the feasibility of using Diesel oil for traction with a view to supplementing supplies of coal used for loco traffic?

(c) Have the Official Committee set up by the Government of India to draw up, in consultation with the interests concerned, a co-ordinated plan of coal production and transportation in the next five years, submitted their recommendations?

(d) If so, what are the principal recommendations of the Committee and what decisions have the Government of India taken on these recommendations?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Railways are making every endeavour to reduce their consumption of the higher grades of coal.

In 1937-38, 54 per cent. of the coal consumed by railways was of selected grades as compared with a figure of 38 per cent. in 1946-47. As regards the lower grades coal the comparative figures are 5 per cent. and 22 per cent.

(b) Yes. Prior to partition, 30 Diesel electric locomotives were in use on Railways. Proposals to introduce Diesel electric traction on certain sections of the former N. W. Railway were under consideration but they were dropped owing to the partition.

(c) Not yet.

(d) Does not arise.

STATE AID TO PRIVATE INDUSTRIES

599. ***Shri S. Nagappa:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether Government propose to give State aid to private agencies which start industries or whether Government will take the initiative in starting industries?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The matter is now under consideration of Government. Apart from a Special Economic Sub-Committee of Cabinet, various problems relating to the future industrial development of India will also be considered at the Industries Conference to be held on and from the 15th December 1947. The Provincial Ministers and representatives of important Indian States and of Industry and Labour will be present at the Conference. The Government of India hope to be able to announce shortly their future industrial policy.

PRIVATE PLANES COMMANDED FOR KASHMIR DEFENCE

600. ***Mr. E. K. Sidhwa:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state the number of planes from private firms employed during the defence of Kashmir together with the names of the companies which owned them?

(b) How many planes and of what company were manned by Indian pilots, and how many and of what company were piloted by Europeans?

(c) Is it a fact that European pilots on the first day or thereabout before flying demanded higher salary and extra emoluments and refused to pilot until their demands were met?

(d) Do Government propose to see that until all Indian companies employ Indian pilots they will not be granted license?

(e) What steps have Government taken to see that various companies plying plane service train full complement of Indian pilots?

(f) What is the grade of salary and other allowances of a European pilot and that of an Indian?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: (a) About 40 aircraft belonging to various air operating companies, a list of whom I lay on the table of the House, were employed in the air operations to Kashmir.

(b) The number of pilots engaged in the operations was 142, of whom 80 were Indians and the rest of other nationalities, including Europeans. Except for Air India Limited, all of whose pilots are Indian, the air-crews of all the companies include both Indians and Europeans.

(c) No such demand was made to Government.

(d) No, Sir. Such a course will be highly detrimental to the development of air transport in India and will retard progress, specially at this stage, when Indian aviation is still not fully developed.

(e) The question of expanding facilities for the training of Indian Pilots is engaging the attention of Government.

(f) The salaries and allowances of pilots are fixed by the companies concerned in direct relation to the qualifications and experience of the individuals. No distinction is made on grounds of nationality.

List of Air Operating Companies

1. AIR INDIA LIMITE
2. AIR SERVICES OF INDIA, LIMITE
3. MISTRY AIRWAYS LIMITED
4. AIRWAYS (INDIA) LIMITED.
5. AMBICA AIR LINES LIMITED.
6. INDIAN NATIONAL AIRWAYS LIMITED.
7. BHARAT AIRWAYS LIMITED.
8. DALMIA JAIN AIRWAYS LIMITED.
9. JUPITER AIRWAYS LIMITED.

DEVELOPMENT OF HOME AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

601. *Shri Satish Chandra Samanta: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) What Government propose to do for the development of home and cottage industries; and

(b) whether Government propose to decentralise certain industries and if so, what those industries are?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Development of Home and Cottage Industries is primarily the responsibility of Provincial Governments. This subject is, however, included in the agenda of the ensuing Industries Conference with a view to discussing what assistance, if any, should be given by the Central Government.

(b) Urgent problems relating to industrial Development of India will be discussed at the forthcoming Conference where all the Provinces and important States will be represented, and the future industrial policy of the Government of India will be determined thereafter.

TICKETLESS TRAVELLING AND CORRUPTION IN RAILWAYS

602. *Shri Satish Chandra Samanta: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) how Government propose to prevent the increasing volume of ticketless travelling; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to stop bribery and corruption in the Railway offices?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) To prevent ticketless travel, railways are providing additional booking offices, with opening hours regulated by the demand for tickets, tightening control at station entrances and exits; strengthening their ticket collecting and checking staff; calling upon officers of all departments to co-operate in a drive to counteract this practice, and taking steps to bring home to railway staff that it is their duty to acquire a higher sense of responsibility towards the State and take more effective steps to prevent this leakage of badly needed revenue. As I stated in my budget speech, the problem has gone beyond railway measures and has now also to be tackled as a problem of law and order. In the U. P., where the trouble is particularly acute, I have arranged, after discussion with the Honourable the Premier, for a concerted drive against ticketless travel with an additional police force, and in each district a special magistrate. The Railway Board have approached other Provincial Governments with a request for the utmost co-operation with the railways in their endeavours to suppress irregular travel.

(b) A special police organisation has been in existence since 1942-43 for the apprehension of officials found guilty of corrupt practices. Special tribunals

have been set up for the prompt disposal of detected cases. Railway Administrations have instructions to prosecute with the utmost vigour both parties to detect illegal transactions in respect of reservation of train accommodation. The procedure in reservation offices has been tightened up and supervision and surprise checks have been increased.

PETROL CONSUMPTION IN AJMER-MERWARA

603. *Shri Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the petrol allotments made to Ajmer-Merwara during the years 1942-43, 1943-44, 1944-45, 1945-46, 1946-47 and 1947-48;

(b) the actual consumption of petrol in Ajmer-Merwara during these years and whether any quantity was surrendered out of the allotted quantity during these years and if so, how much and when;

(c) on what basis or principles petrol released for consumption is distributed amongst the various transport operators and the private car owners (basic and Supplementary) in the province, and what was the quantity of petrol released to each operator in the years 1944-45, 1945-46 and 1946-47; and

(d) the various routes which Bus service run in the province and the number of buses for which permits have been issued for these routes and whether petrol has been issued for all these buses or to some of them and if not to all, for what reasons?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The quarterly petrol quotas allotted to Ajmer-Merwara during the six rationing quarters ending January, 1948, are as follows:—

	Gallons
August—October, 1946	64,000
November, 1946—January, 1947	79,000
February—April, 1947	85,000
May—July, 1947	85,000
August—October, 1947	57,000
November, 1947—January, 1948	41,000

For the February—April, 1942, rationing quarter a quota of approximately 35,000 gallons was allotted. During the intervening period no specific quotas were allocated to any of the Provinces or States, but an overall direction was given to all of them to achieve the maximum possible economy so as to result in a saving of 50 per cent.

(b) I lay on the table a statement showing the actual consumption of motor spirit in Ajmer-Merwara from 1st February 1942 to 31st July 1947. For the subsequent period figures of actual consumption are not available. Out of the allocation of 85,000 gallons for the May—July 1947 quarter, 10,000 gallons were surrendered by Ajmer-Merwara.

(c) The guiding principles to which an Area Rationing Authority should, have regard in deciding the amount of motor spirit for which coupons may be issued, are laid down in the Second Schedule appended to the Motor Spirit Rationing Order, 1941.

The information regarding the actual amount of petrol issued to each operator in Ajmer-Merwara during the years 1944-45 to 1946-47 is not available and the time and labour involved in collecting it would be incommensurate with the value of the results.

(d) The information is being obtained and will be placed on the table of the house as soon as available.

Statement showing actual quarterly consumption of motor spirit in Ajmer-Merwara from the quarter February—April 1942:

	(Quantities in gallons)
February—April, 1942	52,568
May—July, 1942	33,152
August—October, 1942	8,738
November—January, 1943	13,244
February—April, 1943	14,936
May—July, 1943	14,028
August—October, 1943	14,688
November—January, 1944	17,964
February—April, 1944	15,248
May—July, 1944	14,010
August—October, 1944	14,188
November—January, 1945	17,078
February—April, 1945	15,028
May—July, 1945	15,244
August—October, 1945	20,390
November—January, 1946	23,876
February—April, 1946	26,488
May—July, 1946	27,769
August—October, 1946	31,160
November—January, 1947	43,973
February—April, 1947	45,699
May—July, 1947	52,407

INADEQUATE SUPPLY OF PETROL TO AJMER-MERWARA.

604. *Shri Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a number of buses on these routes are lying idle for want of petrol and the travelling public is being seriously inconvenienced as there is no other means of transport on some of these routes;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take suitable measures to relieve the public of this inconvenience; and

(c) whether Government proposes to consider the advisability of increasing the quota of petrol allotted to Ajmer-Merwara, considering the requirements of the province and the great inconvenience to which the public is being put on account of the inadequate supply of petrol?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) So far as the Central Government are aware, no buses in Ajmer-Merwara have been rendered idle due to inadequacy of the petrol allocation.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK ACCOUNTS IN PAKISTAN

605. *Giani Gurmukhsingh Musafar: Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are in possession of the records of post office cash certificates and Savings Bank accounts of non-Muslims of the Pakistan area; and

(b) in case Government have handed over the records to the Pakistan authorities, the action Government propose to take for the payment of cash certificates and Savings Bank amounts to those who have lost their original cash certificates and pass books in Pakistan?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: (a) No, Sir. There are joint records for both Muslim and non-Muslim investors. These were handed over to the Pakistan authorities in respect of Post Offices located in Pakistan.

(b) Depositors and investors who are not in possession of pass books and cash certificates have been asked to apply to the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, India. Their applications are being considered on merits in consultation with the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, Pakistan. Those in possession of pass books and cash certificates held in post offices in Western Pakistan are allowed to make partial withdrawals from their Savings Bank Accounts or encash their certificates as the case may be, subject to certain conditions.

UNSATISFACTORY TRAVELLING CONDITIONS ON O. T. RAILWAY

606. *Shri Damodar Swarup Seth: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is no satisfactory arrangement for the supply of water to passengers on the Oudh Tihut Railway generally, and on the stations between Barielly and Kathgodam particularly, even during the hot season and that the water-pipes at these stations are either broken or are otherwise unserviceable;

(b) whether Government are aware that the general condition of the passenger trains on this line is dirty, widows and berths are broken, there is no light at all or the same is out of order, there is no water in the lavatories, and that there is no satisfactory arrangement for cleansing the compartments regularly; and

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what action Government propose to take to redress these longstanding grievances and improve the general conditions for the benefit of the travelling public?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Government understand that adequate arrangements now exist at all stations on the O. T. Railway for the supply of water to passengers either from taps provided on platforms or by watermen specially appointed for the purpose. On the 11 stations on the Bareilly-Kathgodam section 15 watermen are employed permanently and six additional watermen are provided every year during the hot weather. It is reported that water pipes are frequently broken through mis-use by the public, and although an organisation exists for effecting repairs promptly, shortage of materials required for the purpose, sometimes causes delay.

(b) Government are aware that the general condition of the passenger trains on the O. T. Railway leaves much to be desired. Difficulties in replacement and maintenance resulting from war conditions have been aggravated by extensive sabotage of materials and theft of fittings indulged in by certain irresponsible members of the travelling public.

(c) Arrangements have already been made for the provision of cleaning and watering facilities at all terminal points and in addition rake attendants are being appointed to ensure the cleanliness of compartments. Special gangs have been appointed to supervise train lighting arrangements. Steps are being taken to replace overaged and damaged stock as quickly as possible.

NEW MODEL PASSENGER COACHES

607. *Shri Damodar Swarup Seth: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) how many passenger coaches of the new model have been constructed by this time;

(b) whether any improvement has been made in the model exhibited at Delhi and other stations; and

(c) when Government propose to put in service the first train of this model?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Coaches to the new design have not yet been constructed.

(b) When the Silver Arrow train was exhibited at various centres, a questionnaire was issued to the public to determine their reaction to the proposed internal layouts. The replies to the questionnaire have been duly considered and a revised schedule of requirements of design has been prepared. Negotiations are in progress with certain indigenous firms for the building of light weight 11 ft. 8 in. wide IIIrd class coaches incorporating these requirements.

(c) Sample coaches manufactured by indigenous firms are likely to be ready for trials in August 1948. Bulk orders for the new design carriages will be placed thereafter on indigenous firms.

MUSLIM PERSONNEL OF POST AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT

608. *Shri Damodar Swarup Seth: Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news item in the *Hindustan Times*, dated Monday the 20th November, 1947 from Badaun (United Provinces) that the Muslim personnel of the post and Telegraph Department who had originally opted for Pakistan have been allowed to resume their duties in Badaun district and that their waiting period will be counted as leave on pay?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: Yes, Sir. They were allowed to rejoin on their changing their original option, which was provisional for Pakistan, to final for India. As to how the waiting period should be treated no decision has yet been reached.

STEEL, IRON AND CEMENT FOR UNITED PROVINCES

609. *Shri Damodar Swarup Seth: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply please state:

(a) the quota of steel, iron and cement allotted to the United Provinces;

(b) the basis of allotment;

(c) whether any representation has been made by the Government of the United Provinces for an increase in the quota; and

(d) if so, what steps have Government taken to meet the demand of the Government of the United Provinces?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) and (b) 30,300 tons of steel were allotted to the United Provinces, in 1947, and 4,905 tons in period I of 1948. Provincial quotas of steel are calculated on the basis of population (1941 census)—a weightage equal to three times the population being allowed for cities having more than one lakh of inhabitants. Pig iron and cement are not distributed Province-wise.

(c) Representations have been received for the quick despatch of steel against the quota allotted to the United Provinces and for their demands for cement being met in full.

(d) Every endeavour is being made to expedite the delivery of steel and also to meet the demands of cement as far as possible.

NEW BRANCH LINES ON O. T. RAILWAY

610. *Shri Rameshwar Prasad Sinha: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open new branch lines on the Oudh Tirhut Railways in the district of Muzaffarpur (Bihar) and if so, what are the names of all such proposed routes;

(b) whether Government are aware that during the last session of the Bihar Assembly it was decided to move the Government of India for opening a new Railway line from Hajipur to Sugauli Lalgai, Vaishali, and Kesaria;

(c) whether Government are aware of the need for—

(i) a new Railway line from Hajipur to Sugauli; and

(ii) a new rail route from Sitamardhi to Soubarsa; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, when the above projects will be taken up?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The only line approved for investigation in consultation with the Provincial Government in the district of Muzaffarpur is between Sitamarhi and Sonbarsa.

(b) A copy of the Resolution passed in the Bihar Legislative Assembly on the 8th October 1947 in regard to the construction of a new railway line from Hajipur to Sagauli via Sahebganj, Govindganj and Areraj has been received from the Bihar Government.

(c) The answer to this is covered by the replies to parts (a) and (b).

(d) The field work for the survey of Sitamarhi to Sonbarsa line has been completed and survey reports are awaited. A decision in regard to the construction will be taken after examination of the Survey Reports. The proposal to construct a line from Hajipur to Sagauli will be placed before the Central Board of Transport for their opinion and, if approved, a survey will be undertaken.

NEW RAILWAY LINE SOUTH INDIA

611. *Shri P. Kakkan: Will the Honourable the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the Government of India propose to open a railway line from Madura to Karikudi Malur (Madura District) and Tiruppatur (Ramanad District) which was surveyed some years ago by the Railway Board?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The Government have at present no proposal to construct a railway line from Madura to Karaikudi via Malur and Tiruppatur.

NON-RETURN OF WAGONS FROM PAKISTAN

612. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a large number of wagons carrying coal and other essential goods to Pakistan have not been returned?

(b) If so, what is the total number of such wagons and what steps are being taken to bring them back?

(c) Is it a fact that because of the failure of the Government of Pakistan to return these wagons, the transport of coal in the country has been greatly hampered resulting in loss to commerce and industry?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) and (b). Approximately, 3,855 Broad Gauge and 1,082 Metre Gauge wagons sent to the Pakistan Railways on and after 16th August, 1947 had not been returned by 31st October, 1947. Consequent on the partition, a general upsetting of operational conditions was inevitable. The Director of Wagon Interchange who controls the Broad and Metre Gauge Wagon Pools to which the Pakistan Railways are a party, has been pressing upon the Pakistan Railways to return some of the stock, and has reported that a distinct improvement in the return of wagons by the Pakistan Railways is noticeable from 1st November 1947. With improve-

ment in operational conditions, it is expected that the Pakistan Railways will be in a position to return more wagons, the number to be returned depending upon final allocation to those Railways of the Rolling stock, on division.

(c) No.

PUBLICATION OF NEWSPAPERS BY ANDHRAS

613. *Shri S. Nagappa: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the number of applications received from Andhras to start or to publish Dailies, Weeklies, and Fortnightlies in Andhra area in the years 1945-46 and 1946-47?

(b) How many of them were granted?

(c) How many of them were rejected and for what reasons?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a), (b) and (c). A statement is laid on the table. It excludes the applications for starting publication of Dailies, Weeklies and Fortnightlies on paper other than newsprint. The information about such applications is not readily available. The applications rejected were due to difficult supply position of newsprint.

Statement referred to in reply to Question No. 613
Newsprint

	1945-1946			1946-1947		
	Daily	Weekly	Fortnightly	Daily	Weekly	Fortnightly
Applications received	3	10	1	2	8	1
Applications accepted	2	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Applications rejected	1	7	1	2	8	1

INDEPENDENT TRANSMITTERS IN THE INDIAN UNION

614. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the existence of a number of independent transmitters working in the Indian Union?

(b) Is it a fact that the All India Radio authorities recorded the broadcasts from Amritsar given by "Azad Sikh Radio"?

(c) If so, what action has been taken by Government to stop this?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: (a) and (b). Certain broadcasts purporting to have been made by a transmitting station which described itself as "Azad Sikh Radio" were heard by the monitoring station of All India Radio in September last. There have been no further broadcasts since then and Government has not received any other reports from its monitoring stations suggesting the existence of unauthorised wireless transmitters in the Indian Union.

(c) The question does not arise.

ELECTIONS TO THE CENTRAL ADVISORY BOARDS OF ARCHÆOLOGY AND EDUCATION

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the Assembly that up to the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Central Advisory Boards of Archæology and Education, 8 nominations in the case of the first and 5 nominations in the case of the second were received. Subsequently one member in the case of the first withdrew his candidature. As the number of the remaining candidates was thus equal to the number of vacancies in each of the two Boards, I declare the following members to be duly elected:—

I. Central Advisory Board of Archaeology.

- (1) Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu.
- (2) Shri Balwant Rai Gopalji Mehta.
- (3) Shri B. Das.
- (4) Shri R. R. Diwakar.
- (5) Shri Bhagwat Prasad.
- (6) Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth, and
- (7) Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar.

II. Central Advisory Board of Education.

- (1) Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri.
- (2) Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.
- (3) Pandit Govind Malaviya.
- (4) Shri Mohan Lal Saxena, and
- (5) Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra.

GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS

SECOND STAGE

Mr. Speaker: The House will now discuss the demands for grants in respect of General Budget.

I understand that a list showing the agreed cut motions which will be moved has been circulated to Honourable Members.

As regards time limit for speeches, the usual practice has been to fix a limit of 15 minutes for all speakers including movers of the cut motions and 20 minutes for the Honourable Ministers replying. I trust this suits Honourable Members. The Congress Party will now move their cut motions.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U. P.: General): Last time during my speech on the Railway budget I pointed out to the House that we have to pass demands going into several crores but we are given only two or three days in which to discuss the cut motions. Here we are required to pass grants amounting to over 239 crores and there are about 175 cut motions. In the Provincial Legislatures the practice is that almost every cut motion is allowed to be discussed and enough time is given for them to be moved and the Minister in charge of this Department himself replies at the end. I therefore wish that in future the Government should take care to give enough time to see that all the cut motions that are tabled are moved, because this is the only time when Members can bring to the knowledge of Government their own experiences. We now have a popular Government and we hope it will be responsive to the wishes of the people. The old Government thought two or three days were enough because they did not care for the people. I hope next time we will have more time to discuss the cut motions. In the United Provinces, we have

[Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena.]

to pass a budget of Rs. 40 crores only and yet nineteen days are allotted to discuss it. I hope next time at least all the cut motions that are tabled will be allowed to be discussed.

Mr. Speaker: It is not for me to decide. Government will decide what is proper. But it gives me a little shock to hear that 19 days are granted. Of course, I am giving my personal reactions. Every Member must be given opportunities to air his views on subjects which are coming before the House, particularly in connection with the financial matters. At the same time, I may be permitted to point out that the Honourable Members should not repeat the same thing over and over again. Unfortunately, that is what I am noticing. It is my painful duty to invite the attention of Members to this fact.

DEMAND NO. 20.—MINISTRY OF FINANCE

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Minister for Finance):

Sir, I move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 49,55,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Ministry of Finance'."

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 49,55,000, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Ministry of Finance'."

Economy in Central Administration

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General): Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Finance' be reduced by Rs. 100."

This cut motion is to discuss the question of economy in the Central administration. Sir, the foreign rulers have gone from India, but they have left behind a Frankenstein, the Brown Bureaucracy—bloated up, corrupt and inefficient—which is exploiting India's national economy. So our free India Finance Minister must have as his watchword "Economy and Retrenchment". Without that he will not be able to build up the credit of India as he has foreshadowed in his budget speech.

Sir, I felicitated the Finance Minister and I agree with him that India's credit is sound and it has been maintained in a sound business way since he made his budget speech. In fact that very evening when I was asked what was my opinion about the budget, I said: "Chetty is lucky and it is a lucky budget." My friend did not like the tone of it, but there it was. But I think he is lucky in his budget. He has had no time to think of national economy. He has been overshadowed with the Punjab tragedy and the Punjab calamity. Sir, we have moved this motion, as a mandatory motion, to support him, to give him incentive in his policy of retrenchment and economy in the Central administration departments and all departments that come under the purview of the Government. He will have our full support.

Sir, the country is going to face the same situation as it faced in 1931-32. The writings on the wall are faint but they are getting distinct. They indicate that there will be a world economic crisis about 1951-52 and I do want our Finance Minister to tune the administration in such a way that by the time 1951-52 depression sets in, he would have retrenched all the departments multiplied during the war and over which the nationals of India had no free hand.

The Honourable the Finance Minister talked of inflation. There has been inflation of course due to war conditions and the foreigners' exploitation of this country's resources to the maximum limit. There has been an inflated currency: there has been an inflated executive and a bureaucratic machinery. In fact today the employees of the Government of India are three to four times what they were before the war.

Just before the war India had an unproductive debt of Rs. 229 crores. Today that unproductive debt has increased to Rs. 925 crores—four times the previous amount. Then, again, I find that my honourable friend has only Rs. 5 crores in the Sinking Fund for reduction and avoidance of debt. That was the estimate of his predecessor and he has it in this budget. How many centuries it will take to do away with the 925 crores of unproductive debts which is the result of the foreigner's exploitation. The foreigners fought their own wars in China, Egypt, Arabia and elsewhere and all those debts were accumulated and put into the account of India. They were to the extent of 220 crores before 1939 and today although the foreigners have left they have bequeathed us with a debt of 925 crores. At the rate of 5 crores per year it will take 180 years to cover the debt. In the meantime, if we take into consideration the cycle of world wars, a war comes every 25 years, so that within that period of 180 years ten world wars would have been fought. It is our suggestion and our mandate to the Honourable the Finance Minister that he will so frame his budget for 1948-49 that there will be a greater reduction of this unproductive debt. I do not want posterity 125 years hence to curse us saying that we had mounted up the unproductive debts to such an extent that they were not able to build up their national economy.

Then, Sir, the foreign exploiters have demonetised the silver rupee and thereby created the inflation in the country. What has happened to that money? We are expected to satisfy and pay the American lend-lease silver. The foreigner has exploited the resources of India under Section 126A of the Government of India Act, 1935 and he has demonetised the poor man's silver rupee. Every silver four anna or rupee bit was taken away by the Raisen Ordinance and as a result the countryside is the poorer today. Perhaps the Honourable Finance Minister finds some relief in the fact that there are some silver stock which may meet five years hence the demand of America to discharge our lend-lease obligations.

The Honourable Finance Minister should think of the abolition of certain departments of the Government of India; like the Ecclesiastical Department. We have heard enough from the members of the Cabinet here that ours is a secular state. If it is a secular government why should India spend 26 to 28 lakhs every year in maintaining the churches and their ministers. We are not maintaining Hindu pandits and Muslim maulanas and maulvies. The Ecclesiastical Department should not occur again as a budget head in the national budget of a free India. I suggest that all the churches should be turned into museums or institutions of education. I am glad my Honourable friend the Education Minister is here. He needs a large number of institutions for education and for museums, and I am sure he will welcome such places for his purposes.

I do want the Honourable Finance Minister to carry out retrenchment in certain other departments of the Government as well. The Supply Department has become a cesspool of all corruption, which has demoralised the whole nation. Today the nation is not a pure nation. Corruption resulted from the previous Government's war efforts and the supply policy of the former alien rulers, so that the department is corrupt and stinking. Then there is the Disposals Directorate about which one or two questions were tabled. The materials do not exist in the disposal yard—I may be corrected by my Honourable friend the Supply Minister on it. The public knew that crores and crores of goods and machinery and other articles just do not exist. The officers in the Supply Department and the contractors all confabulate and the goods are spirited away. It is better that we know what the real position is.

Further, I want the Honourable the Finance Minister to do retrenchment in the Railway Department, the Postal and Telegraph Department, Defence, Industries and the Central Secretariat and other heads of departments. It

[Shri B. Das.]

is our misfortune that the railway employee wants to live in a paradise where their motto would be "No work but more and more pay". It is our misfortune that the railway employees, even those who are technical men who are working in the Railway Department, have been multiplied three or four times since 1939-40 but their production has been halved or it is even less than that. They do not want to work but they claim privileges under that curious character called the Pay Commission's Report. They want more salary, they want more allowances, they want grain allowances and what not. Why should the taxpayer suffer these losses just only to pamper the labour agitation that was inspired, not on the merits of the case, but by Bolsheviki ideas borrowed from elsewhere with the idea of paralysing the State and society. The foreign Government has gone and today there is a national government and every worker must work to earn the little money that he gets.

The Pay Commission's report has fixed a lower maxima for the secretariat staff of I.C.S. and other all India services. I would like my Honourable friend the Finance Minister to tell me if all the I.C.S. and other officers that are working today have signed for that lower maxima since the 15th August, 1947. I believe that they have not been able to compel the I.C.S., I.P.S. and other all India services to accept these new scales. There should be economy from now on; otherwise my honourable friend would face similar trouble that was faced in 1931 by the then Government. My honourable friend was himself the Chairman of the Railway Retrenchment Committee and I was myself a member of one of the retrenchment committees. We only tinkered with the problem then. We do not want any tinkering now. We want the appointment of an economy committee which should fix the personnel of every department in the Government of India. Today, "more files and more clerks" is the criterion of good work in the Government of India. I ask my honourable friend to do away with that line of approach. My honourable friend was very familiar with the situation in those days in 1931 to 1935 when the country faced an economic crisis after the Munitions Scandal and other scandals. Today the crisis is coming on. Let us not shut our eyes to it. It may come in 1950 or 1951. But before that the Government of India, apart from the economic crisis, must set their house in order. Today their house is not in order. The Bureaucracy—that Frankenstein of the British rulers—is sitting on the neck and shoulders of the Cabinet and the Government of India and it is very difficult for them to do away with it. What we want is the real Indian spirit. Are we to follow the colonial policy and tradition of the British Government? I do not want you to follow that but I want a new approach to things.

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Finance' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the otherwise admirable Budget speech of the Honourable the Finance Minister I was greatly surprised to find that there was no reference to the need for economy in the expenditure of the Government of India. Probably the Finance Minister took it for granted. But this absence of reference is likely to give an impression to all the heads of departments of the Imperial Secretariat that they need not bother about retrenchment. Sir, when I wish to speak about economy I do not want to suggest that the total civil expenditure of the Government of India is altogether too high from an abstract standpoint. I hope that in a few years time the finances of the Central Government will be of the order, not of hundreds of crores but of thousands of crores as in Great Britain or America. But we must have work and then spend money properly. Extravagance, I hold, is the greatest enemy of expansion. When the Government of India takes up economic planning, when it takes up social planning, it will

have to incur a great deal of expenditure. But before it begins those projects it must see that the present expenditure is cut down to the barest minimum and that it gets the maximum possible result for every pie of public money that is spent. We are accustomed to hear about war-time inflation. I suggest to the House that the greatest inflation that has taken place in this country is in the Secretariat of the Government of India. During war-time all restrictions were removed, and Secretaries, Additional Secretaries and Joint Secretaries were added simply at the suggestion of any Member or his Secretary, and more officers are manning these Departments for the same work than was the case before the war. I therefore wish to suggest that the first thing the Finance Minister should do is to go back to the pre-war standard of efficiency. He must see how many Secretaries discharged what work in 1938-39, how far the work has since expanded and in what proportion the Secretariat has expanded. I believe that the Secretariat the expanded in a far greater proportion than the work. It is true that in some Departments work has increased and therefore there is a justification for increase in staff. But the expansion of the Secretariat is certainly for greater than the increase in the work of the Secretariat. That is one point which I hope the Finance Minister will pursue actively. I regret that members have not been supplied with sufficient details in the 'Demands for Grants' to be able to scrutinize each item and find out how the Secretariat has expanded.

The next point I would like to urge is that the House should be told how far the Pay Commission's recommendations have been implemented. Sir, as you know, the maximum salary for a government servant fixed by the Pay Commission is Rs. 3,000. But I believe that there are scores and scores of people today in the Government of India who are getting Rs. 4,000, Rs. 3,500 and all kinds of fancy salaries. For this poor country even this Rs. 3,000 is high enough. I thought that after the 15th of August there will be a declaration on behalf of the popular Ministry that there shall be no official in the Government of India who draws more than Rs. 3,000, but I have been greatly disappointed. I do not know why a salary greater than that recommended is being given. I know of course that there are people in the Government of India who think that they should get Rs. 4,000 and Rs. 5,000 and that otherwise they cannot work. To all such government servants I would like the Finance Minister to say 'If you are too good to serve on Rs. 3,000 you are free to go', and I am sure he will find that the official's Deputies and even Superintendents will do as good if not better work, for a much lower salary. I think it is criminal on the part of the Government of India to pay any one more than the already high maximum fixed by the Pay Commission. I would therefore like to get an assurance from the Finance Minister that this reform of the highest scales of pay will be implemented as early as possible and that, when he presents the next Budget, he will not present a 'Demand' for any official for a salary higher than the maximum scales prescribed by the Pay Commission. I want also to urge that in the case of Ambassadors and others sent to foreign countries the recommendations of the Pay Commission should be implemented. I would like to know if the Ambassadors who have been appointed after the acceptance of the Pay Commission's recommendations have been sent on the salaries as recommended by the Pay Commission or whether any special exemptions have been given, and if so why.

Again, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Finance Minister to the system of special pay which has crept into the Secretariat. Sir, I do not know how many crores and crores are given outside the salaries as 'special pay'. If you take any demand, in the Demands for Grants you find these four items: 'Salaries:—Pay of Officers; Pay of establishments; Allowances, Honoraria etc.; and Other Charges'. A large part of this "Allowances, Honoraria,

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be a scrutinizing officer, he must know that this Assembly will not tolerate any extravagance, and he must be directly responsible to this House. He should be able to tell his colleagues 'I dare not present this demand in this fashion to the House. You should cut it down', and if he is over-ruled, he must be able to come here and say 'I pressed for this cut, it has been over-ruled', so that we can hold a particular Minister responsible. Otherwise when the Finance Department sanctions an expenditure, so far as the House is concerned, it will be presumed that it has been properly scrutinized, that the Finance Officers have found it a reasonable item of expenditure and therefore we shall hold the Finance Department primarily responsible for the expenditure. Where according to the Finance Department there is some extravagance, I think the Finance Department should first refer the matter to the Committee of the department concerned and next to the Finance Committee, and of course if the Finance Committee sanctions that, the responsibility will partly be shifted to the shoulders of the Finance Committee. For every item hereafter before the Budget, we should have the recommendations or the remarks of the committees of each department and the Finance Committee. It is only then that the House will be in a position to know whether a particular item of expenditure is reasonable expenditure and that it has been properly scrutinized and sanctioned. The practices of the last six years have been so corrupt, and have so demoralized the entire Government of India that every proposal for expenditure will be suspect and meet with opposition here.

Sir, I do not want to take up the time of the House much further, but I know that there is a strong opposition from every department for any kind of economy, or for any kind of retrenchment. Sir, I want to make no reflection on the officials of the Government of India. I do not want to indulge in the conventional tirade against bureaucracy. So far as I know, taken individually the officials of the Government of India are as competent and as patriotic as officials of any other country, but the bureaucratic machine has its own spirit which overwhelms the spirit of every individual member thereof and the spirit of this bureaucracy is such that it is against economy. It is for extravagance, it is for waste, and it is to prevent this extravagance and waste that I appeal to the Finance Minister. I hope my appeal will not be in vain.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh (C. P. and Berar: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I listened to the very carefully prepared and very pleasant speech of the Honourable the Finance Minister and the whole House was happy, and probably the whole of India was happy, that he did not propose any additional taxation. But, Sir, there were many things which have disappointed many members of the honourable House, and when like my friend Mr. B. Das I was asked by a press correspondent as to what I thought of the Budget speech, I characterized it as a capitalist budget. Since I did not find this remark of mine printed anywhere or published anywhere, I think I had better refer to it in the same way as my friend Mr. B. Das has referred to it.

Next, Sir, I had given notice of a very large number of Cut Motions. I am afraid I will have again to refer to so many of them as is possible to cover in the course of fifteen minutes in my speech. When I asked as to why none of my Cuts found a place in the list of Cuts that were to be moved, I was told by my friend Mr. Ayyangar that this was a sort of an omnibus Cut where I could start speaking from the Cape Comorin and go right up to the North Pole. I do not know how much out of this journey I would be able to cover in the course of fifteen minutes.

Mr. Speaker: Apart from that, Mr. Ayyangar's opinion is not binding on the Chair.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): I said, Sir, with respect to the Finance Bill.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I referred to this matter, Sir, purposely, so that the Chair may have reason to correct Mr. Ayyangar.

Now, Sir, this particular Motion is for economy and all honourable Members of this House have already pointed out the paramount need for the appointment of a Committee that will suggest to the Honourable the Finance Minister the ways and means to economize. It is quite patent from his speech that he did not think there was much chance of economy. The two honourable members who preceded me have already made it clear that there is ample scope for economizing and that there is also a necessity for investigation as to how economies could be effected.

There is one additional point which I would like to refer to and that is the proverbial red-tapism of the British Administration. The present Government has inherited the British Administration; our grievance is—and so many members who some times lose their temper lose it because they know it—that the inheritance is still intact, that it has not been examined, that there is no effort to uproot it, that there is no effort even to deal with it in a somewhat radical manner. The British red-tapism, Sir, was not a matter of a day; it had grown gradually, and it was essentially because this country was to be governed by and in the interests of a foreign ruler—and a foreign ruler Sir, must distrust everybody. That is the secret or probably the greatest defect of British red-tapism. The British Administration in India was essentially an Administration which distrusted everybody and therefore control upon control had to be devised so that nobody will have any final authority. That is the Administration which the present Government, the Independent Government of India, have inherited and unless they put their shoulders to it and do away with this red-tapism, they will find that they are spending ten rupees where one rupee would be enough.

So, Sir, I would very strongly recommend to my honourable friend a thorough examination of the system of administration in this country so that we may have a new system which will be more economical and more expeditious. This red-tapism not only spends more money, it also spends more time. The Honourable the Finance Member, unless he has himself met some such officers of the Military Department as I have done, may not probably know that even the British Government itself realised during the last War that their method of doing things was wrong in many respects and they had much to learn from the Americans. I met several high Military officers who admitted that on many occasions they knew and they found that the way in which the Americans did things during the War was far more expeditious; it involved much less cost of energy as well as of money and they were getting the things done much quicker than by the British method.

So, Sir, that is one of the recommendations I would make to the Honourable the Finance Minister and if my words are not sufficient to convince him, I will draw his attention to the fact that the Honourable the Railway Minister has decided to send some people to America to learn their methods of Railway Administration. If there is something to be learned from America in Railway administration, I am sure, Sir, there is no shame in admitting that we may have something to learn from America in Departments other than the Railways.

[Shri K. Santhanam]

etc." consists of special pay. When we are giving high scales of pay for officials I do not know why they should be given special pay, simply because an officer is transferred from one job to another job which he is considered to be competent to perform. I can think of promotions. Let persons who do very good work be promoted. But why should there be special pay? It is said that a particular official takes greater trouble for doing some other special job. I think all these are either metaphysical or fictitious arguments for taking illegitimate, or I would call it wrong, honorarium for service which the government servants are bound to perform according to their service conditions. I think the whole system of 'special pay' should be abolished. Each man should be posted to work for which he is fit and for which an adequate salary is already fixed. If a certain work requires a higher capacity, let it be given to a suitable officer with that pay and let not a person simply be posted to a place and allowed to say 'I want Rs. 200 or 300 special pay'.

What shall we say about the item "Other Charges"? I think the bulk of these Other Charges consists of travelling expenses. The Government of India is, I think, today the biggest tourist agency in the whole world. This tourist agency is the most popular one also because not only do people get travelling at public expense but they make some money out of it. I know that touring is necessary, but I do feel that touring is too frequent and unnecessarily frequent, and a large amount of money is being spent in this tourist traffic. I think the Finance Minister will do well to have a separate Section in his Department to scrutinize every item of travelling to get proper justification for it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Madras: General): Then there will be another Deputy Secretary for that.

Shri K. Santhanam: The Accountant-Generals and the Auditors should be instructed to scrutinize the reasons for every particular touring and if necessary the matter should be discussed in the Cabinet and strict rules laid down for the purpose.

Sir, I would like to give the House a brief analysis of one of the items. If Honourable Members will turn to page 85 of the Demands for Grants—'Directors-General and Directorates of Industries and Supplies',—the total cost is Rs. 1,31,82,900. If we analyse it into these four heads we get Rs. 22.62 lakhs for Officers, Rs. 49.21 lakhs for Establishment, 30.97 lakhs for Allowances and Honoraria, and Rs. 28.71 lakhs for Other Charges. Nearly Rs. 60 lakhs out of this Rs. 131 lakhs is spent for Allowances and Honoraria and Other Charges. I think a certain definite proportion should be evolved. There should be a proper ratio between these two. I think the ratio between officers and establishments is unduly high. For example, in one of the items it is 8 lakhs for pay of officers, and for establishments it is 11 lakhs. Sir, I think the pay of officers forms an unduly high proportion because it is the establishment that has to do the work. It shows that there are too many officers for too little work.

There are many departments in the Government of India which are superfluous and which are continuing because there is nobody to look into those matters. Take for instance the establishments of the Constituent Assembly for constitution-making and the Constituent Assembly for legislative functions.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The Honourable Member will not discuss that proposition here. It is entirely in the discretion of the President, and if the honourable Member has any remarks to make, he will discuss the matter with the Honourable President of the Constituent Assembly.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, am I free to speak about expenditure of the Constituent Assembly on the constitution-making side?

Mr. Speaker: Not free. That is exactly what I pointed out to the honourable Member. If he has anything to say about it, his only course is to go to the Honourable President of the Constituent Assembly and discuss the matter with him.

Shri K. Santhanam: All right, Sir, I shall not discuss this point.

Shri Mohan Lal Saxena (U. P.: General): With your permission, Sir, may I ask whether that demand will not be voted here?

Mr. Speaker: Yes, that demand will be voted.

Shri Mohan Lal Saxena: Are we not supposed to make any remarks about that particular demand?

Mr. Speaker: No, for the simple reason that it is the convention that the staff is entirely under the control of the Honourable President and he is supposed to be the head of it, and the convention is whatever he asks for is generally granted by the departments. Departments do not interfere. This is based on the principle of the independence of the legislature.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, My Honourable friend Mr. B. Das, has already referred to the Ecclesiastical Department. It is given as Demand No. 39 on page 55. We are asked to provide for this 7½ months 6.76 lakhs. I expected, Sir, that after August 15 this separate demand will simply go out of the accounts of the Government of India. If there were any expenditure which had continued from the previous regime, it might have gone into Suspense or Miscellaneous or some other head, but to continue a separate Demand for ecclesiastical expenditure in free India seems to me a wholly indefensible proceeding. We do not want to pay any church man, we do not want to pay any priest whatever. We are resolved that our State should be an entirely secular State. Why then should there be this 'demand', and out of this demand a considerable part is transferred to Defence Services. On page 56 we find that Defence Services are paying 9.45 lakhs, and Railways 3.37. Therefore as a matter of fact the actual demand is even much greater than what is given on page 55. I should like to know what explanation the Finance Minister has to offer for these?

Then there are various practices by which government servants practically do no work and the rules allow them to go on leave. Sir, one prominent instance has been brought to my notice. The Secretary of this very Legislative Assembly, I do not know if he continues to be still Secretary.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. That remark also is subject to the same principle which I have now enunciated.

Shri K. Santhanam: Well, Sir, I would earnestly appeal to the Speaker to see that the expenditure on this Assembly is spent properly. I have got reasons to think that the control was rather lax in the regime previous to this.

What is the procedure adopted by the Finance Department to scrutinize expenditure for every other department? I want the Finance Minister to be not only a mere compiler and presenter of accounts to this House, he must

[Begum Aizaz Rasul].

explored, because on the attainment of freedom the expenditure of India has gone up by leaps and bounds and great amounts have to be spent on Ambassadorial appointments, nation building activities, Industrial developments and many other important items, and we should therefore try to save in order to meet these necessary requirements of expenditure.

Sir, I do not think that there are many Honourable Members who will disagree that in nearly every department there is great scope for saving and economy. During the war every department of the Government of India became inflated beyond recognition and it is high time that these departments return to normal. To mention a few Railways, Supplies and Communications are costing the tax-payer far more than the results he gets out of them. If the return and efficiency that we get out of these departments and their staff had been satisfactory perhaps increased expenditure may not have been grudged but efficiency has instead deteriorated to a sad degree.

Regarding the Department of Supplies Sir, I will not take up much time of the House by recounting here all the evils that have accrued on account of controls, but we all know how these controls are working and to what a great extent they are responsible for corruption and bribery in the country. They should be removed as soon as possible, and the Department of Supplies should wind up this unnecessary part of its activities and to save a very large amount of money that is at present being spent on it.

Then, Sir, as regards Communications, every member of the House is aware that the Department of Telephones and Posts and Telegraphs is functioning in a most undesirable manner and the inconvenience caused to the public is indescribable. The taxpayer minds this very much as there is no shortage of staff or expense and yet he does not get any return for the money he pays. It would certainly satisfy him if some saving were made in this Department.

I will just say a few words about the 'Grow More Food Campaign' which has cost the Government far more than results justify and the sooner the 'Grow More Food Campaign' is ended the better it will be for the country, as it is clearly a waste of public money and no justifiable results have accrued from it.

I would, therefore, Sir, welcome the Honourable the Finance Minister's pronouncement to the effect that he will consider sympathetically the appointing of a Committee which will go into the details of recommending the effecting of economy in the various Departments of the Government of India. I would like him to behave like a housewife and see that every penny and every anna that is spent through him on the Central Government is spent properly and there is no wastage of any kind. Every man is aware that women never spend unnecessarily and never cause wastage and therefore an advice coming from a woman to the Honourable the Finance Minister will, to act as a woman in the matter of holding the purse strings will I hope be taken in the spirit it is offered.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Mr. Speaker, I welcome the discussion initiated by the Motion of my Honourable friend, Mr. B. Das. He and I have sat together on the Opposition benches for nearly 12 years in the old legislature and we have taken part in many debates, criticising the extravagance of the administrative machinery. Even though I am sitting in a different place, Sir, my feelings about the scale of expenditure in Government is very nearly the same as it used to be when I was sitting in those benches.

My Honourable friend, Mr. Santhanam said that the Finance Minister should not be a mere compiler of figures. I wholeheartedly agree with that observation. The Finance Minister is really the watch-dog of this House. The Finance Ministry does not simply sanction as an automatic measure proposals for expenditure that come before it for scrutiny. In fact the financial implications of every proposal are clearly examined in the Ministry of Finance. Notwithstanding this check exercised by the Ministry, I would welcome the deduction of this House that every possible measure should be taken to reduce the scale of expenditure in the administrative machinery. The Finance Minister is generally the most unpopular of the Ministers amongst his own colleagues, because he often has to perform the unpleasant task of turning down proposals coming from the Ministries of his own colleagues. I can say the function of a real Finance Minister not as that of one who without any meaning, turns down all proposals for expenditure, but who would help all other Departments to spend the money wisely and effectively. That is the true function of a Ministry of Finance and I certainly shall try my utmost to see that the Ministry of Finance discharges its functions in that spirit.

My Honourable friend, Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh suggested that some one might go to the United States to find out about the expeditious methods of administration in that country. Well, Sir, it so happens that I was there myself for nearly a year in charge of the Indian Supply Mission. There is no doubt that during the War at least the machinery of administration in the United States moved very fast. In fact I made it a rule in the Supply Mission that there should be no note writing on files. In fact every problem was practically solved by the officer or the Director concerned coming either to the Secretary or to one of the Directors of Supply or coming directly to me in important cases; and I found that the system worked very effectively indeed. In fact I used to put through great deals with the American departments just over the telephone. Under the normal practice of the red-tape it will probably take months of note-writing before a similar problem was solved. I am therefore not merely familiar with the model of a more businesslike administration, but I am fully alive to the need for such an administration in our country. There is no doubt that the scale of expenditure on the administration has gone up enormously during the last few years; probably Honourable Members themselves do not realise the extent to which it has gone up. No doubt during war time there was great demand for the expansion of the activities of departments. But the curious fact here is that after the termination of the war the scale of expenditure on the administrative services is really more than what it was during war time. I will just give one illustration. If you take General Administration, the total expenditure in 1938-39—just before the war—was 1 crore and 87 lakhs; in 1944-45—which was the peak war year—it was 4 crores and 25 lakhs. But curiously enough in 1946-47 it was 6 crores and 23 lakhs; and in 1947-48 the budget figure was 6 crores and 14 lakhs. This was of course the pre-partition budget but the pattern will be applicable even to the post-partition budget. That shows that there is certainly very great scope for retrenchment and economy. But one word of caution must be uttered in studying these figures. There are two factors which have resulted in increase of expenditure over which we have no control. The first and the most important of them is the enormous increase in expenditure resulting from the acceptance of the recommendations of the Pay Commission and the higher scales of dearness allowance and pay that we have to give. So a great deal of that will be a reflection of this phenomenon. Another factor which has contributed to increase in administration expense is the system of economic controls. The elaborate mechanism of controls that we maintain is really costing the country quite a good bit of money; but when we succeed in our measures of decontrol this item of expenditure will automatically go down. Notwithstanding these two

[Dr. P. S. Deshmukh.]

It is a patent fact, Sir, and anybody who is conversant with actual administration knew it, that the British Government was a Government of the blind leading the blind. It is only for the top man to say a certain thing or for a subordinate to make a certain recommendation, and in 99 cases out of 100 it had the best chances of being accepted. That is how Departments grew, that is how officers were appointed, vacancies created, how those vacancies are filled; and as soon as one office is created or one officer appointed the whole paraphernalia of a stenographer, a superintendent, a record keeper, a dattari and all the rest came in. That is how the present Government of India has grown out of all proportion. It is not only essential to examine whether it is necessary to have all the paraphernalia as it exists, but also to examine whether the same results cannot be obtained by a more direct method of administration and with lesser amount of distrust.

Earlier I referred to the defect in the British Administration which was based on distrust of everybody. I will give you, Sir, a concrete instance. Till some time back, there used to be on the Railways a provision, which had been there for a very large number of years, for a passenger, who was not able to obtain a ticket in time before the train started, by which he could obtain a certificate from the Guard. Now this facility has been entirely stopped. Nobody, however genuine his case may be, however short the interval during which the Booking Office was open,—even the highest in the land—if he happened to be on the platform without a ticket, he has no option but to pay the penalty; and if he is saved from prosecution it is only because of the good offices of the Railway Department. Now, this is one of the things which shows that nobody is to be trusted. The Guard is not to be trusted, the Station Master is not to be trusted, the highest officer is not to be trusted. Nobody can be trusted so as to issue the certificate that this particular gentleman had no time to get a ticket and therefore he should be permitted to obtain a ticket at the hands of the Ticket Collector or at the hands of the next Station Master or a certificate from the Guard.

Then, Sir, another complaint which I should like to make is in regard to the position of the *Kisans* in this country. I shall not go into any details because I shall have an opportunity of doing so when moving specific cuts. I shall now deal with it generally. We have, Sir, had several measures to protect the interests of the labourers or to advance their welfare. The labourers in India are getting very speedily organised and I for one am very happy that this House consists of and contains a very large number of people who sympathise with the labour movement. But what is the proportion of organised industrial labour to the population of India? Some time back it used to be about 13 to 15 lakhs. Supposing the industries in India have grown very much, I do not think the industrial labour has gone up to more than about 30 lakhs. Now, what is 30 lakhs as compared with 30 crores, which consists of 85 to 90 per cent. of *Kisans* who live in the villages and till the land? What is the place given to the *Kisans* in the Budget and in the Administration? Every Legislative Assembly has had representatives of the labourers and the 1945 Act provided for this. But as far as the interests of the *Kisans* are concerned, they are supposed to be looked after by any body and everybody but nobody in particular. Of course, there are rural constituencies and their representation is there, but my complaint is that just as something special is sought to be done for the labourers, the Government would do well to consider the question of the interests of the *Kisans* also on a special footing. I hope, Sir, the Honourable the Finance Minister and the Government have paid due attention to the words of Mahatmaji so far as the inclusion of *Kisans* in the Ministry is concerned. Mahatmaji made this suggestion not because we could

have an educated *Kisan* who could add to the efficiency of Government. But only because he alone could possess real sympathy and consideration for this most paramount interest in the country. I hope Sir the present Government and the Honourable the Finance Minister will pay adequate attention to the agricultural labourers also and that whenever there are International Conferences not only the industrial labours but also *Kisans* will receive due representation at the hands of the present Government.

The Government of India are spending lakhs and lakhs if not crores of rupees, which I would characterise as 'indiscriminate expenditure'. They have some time back, probably at the suggestion that we should train people and send them to foreign countries, instituted the system of overseas scholarships. But what is the nature of the scholarships, and who got them? It is only the sons of Government servants who got these scholarships. None of the people in the villages got any chance to win them and the Gazettes which contained the notifications announcing these scholarships hardly ever reached the villages. Sir, this is a problem which requires to be considered. Sir, my time is getting short and it is impossible to deal with this point adequately, but I hope the Ministry will pay attention to this matter and remember that although they are spending so much, so far as these scholarships and concessions are concerned, they do not reach the *Kisans* at all.

Begum Aizaz Rasul (U. P.: Muslim): Sir, it certainly would have been in the fitness of things if the Honourable the Finance Minister when presenting his first Budget of a Free and Independent India had indicated some lines on which he thought that economy in the Departments of Government was desirable and that he intended to bring about such economy as soon as it was possible for him to do so. It cannot be denied, Sir, that the expenditure of the Central Government in recent years has gone up by leaps and bounds, and I am sorry that the efficiency of the work that has been turned out by these Departments has certainly not been in accordance with the money that is being spent on them. Therefore, Sir, it would have been greatly welcomed not only in this House but by the country at large if the Honourable the Finance Minister had realised the importance of cutting down this extravagance that has been going on in the Central Government for so long. It was expected of him, and the country was waiting to hear that something would be done. It is a pity that he has not expressed any intention of doing so. We realise that the new Government has been in power only for a few months and it was not possible for the Finance Minister to cut down expenditure in the different Departments of the Government so soon, but an expression of desire on his part to do so would certainly have shown that he realised the importance of this matter from the financial point of view.

Sir, it was repeatedly said on the floor of the House—it was alleged by people from different parts of the country, that India was a poor country and cannot afford such high salaries and top heavy expenditure of the Government. Therefore, when the foreign rule in this country came to an end, it was expected that some changes would be affected especially with regard to a matter which had come in for such scathing criticism by the country in the past. I am glad that Honourable Members in this House have realized their duty in bringing to the notice of Government that a Committee on economy and retrenchment should be appointed as soon as possible, which would review the whole structure of the Departments and recommend the cutting down of expenditure wherever it was possible to do so.

More than ever, Sir, it is necessary and desirable at the present moment that every avenue for cutting down extra expenditure and wastage should be

[Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty]

factors—the importance of which should not be ignored—I feel certain that there is still scope for economy in expenditure. In the nation-building departments the expenditure has no doubt gone up enormously. For instance, in departments like Scientific Departments, Education, Medical, Public Health, etc., the pre-war expenditure in 1938-39 was 2.17 crores; in 1947-48 it was 18.03 crores. But that is developmental expenditure about which we need not quarrel.

Honourable Members were disappointed that I did not make any reference to the need for economy; in my budget speech. I was fully conscious of the need for economy; in fact it was my intention within a few weeks of my assuming office to appoint an economy committee. But on account of the great cataclysm that overtook us I thought the time was not appropriate to set such a committee in action. I have now decided that very shortly I will set up an economy committee which will examine the entire field of administration covered by the activities of the Central Government. In fact I have already given instructions to the Ministry of Finance to prepare the necessary memoranda and the documents so that when the committee is actually appointed within the next month or two the work could be done in an expeditious manner. I have no doubt that the economy committee will keep in mind the desire expressed in all quarters of the House for the utmost economy and retrenchment in expenditure consistent with efficiency.

There is only one other matter about which I should give a reply. Honourable Members rightly criticised the expenditure under the Ecclesiastical Department. The position, I am told, is this that all the British Chaplains will go away before the end of this month, and we are bound to incur expenditure on the maintenance charges of churches and cemeteries only up to the 31st March 1948. Thereafter this charge will not fall upon us and Honourable Members will have no room for criticism. I have no doubt that the House will feel satisfied from the expression of my own opinion that I am one with them in searching all avenues for economy in expenditure.

Shri B. Das: Sir, I ask for leave of the House to withdraw the cut motion.

The cut motion was by leave of the Assembly withdrawn.

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

The Assembly reassembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock.
Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

DEMAND NO. 19—MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Sir, I move:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,76,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of ‘Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations’.”

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,76,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of ‘Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations’.”

Position of India in International affairs and of Indians in Commonwealth Countries

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I move:

“That the demand under the head ‘Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

Sir, it is indeed a high privilege to be able to move this cut and start this discussion for the first time in free India on our external affairs. For years and years we tried our best to raise a discussion in this House on external affairs but in vain. Our late lamented Satyamurti, the greatest parliamentarian of his age, did yeoman service in order to force that Government to yield this privilege to this House but he too had to admit his failure. Therefore, I am extremely glad that today, we are able to have this discussion.

It is more than one year and two months since Pandit Nehru took charge of this department and ever since, even though technically at that time India was not free, he was able to act and function as the Foreign Minister of free India in actual fact during that time. It is our duty now today to review in as short a space of time as is possible and see how he has conducted our foreign affairs and placed India on the map of the world. I have no hesitation whatsoever in saying that free India has been most fortunate in obtaining his services as its first Foreign Minister and also in giving him the biggest and first opportunity to carve out a rising position for India and India's nationals all over the world.

Sir, when he took charge we found the world divided into two big camps: one headed by the U.S.S.R. and the other by the Anglo-Americans; and the outside world was wondering how Pandit Nehru was going to help India and on what side India was going to range herself. To the chagrin of a large number of foreign experts, Pandit Nehru announced that India was not going to align herself either on the side of Soviet Russia or on the side of the Anglo-Americans, or on the side of the satellites of either side, but was going to steer clear of these shoals to carve out a position for herself in the international forces of these days. But then many people wondered whether it would be possible for the Pandit to achieve success in this direction.

A few days ago, one of my distinguished friends was complaining that because of this policy of Panditji India has failed to secure election to the Security Council. I answered him then and I answer today before this House and also before the world, that indeed it was Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's policy that has won an enviable position for India in the councils of the world as a result of his refusal to align himself either on that side or this side of these two great powers.

Why do I say so? It is because he has belied the expectations of all foreign experts that there would be no place for any important country unless and until it aligned itself on either side, and he has been able to show, demonstrated to the very hilt, that it is possible to fight for a third position, and that position is a peace front. India has been fighting for this while Soviet Russia has been fighting for her security and for that reason trying to fight with the United States of America and somehow trying to get at the secrets of the atom bomb: while America has been trying to win more satellites and gain more supporters and manufacture more and more atom bombs, India has been pursuing the path of peace.

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

Sir, the last year has convinced everybody that it is not possible for any big nation, however big it may be to remain entirely neutral, and some day or other it is bound to be dragged this side or that side. But it should be possible for any country to remain neutral provided it has a positive mission to serve, and I claim that India, thanks to the message of Mahatma Gandhi, and its working by Jawaharlal Nehru in actual practice, has been able to show that not only she can remain independent of these power blocs but also she can build up an independent front. At the same time I maintain that India is not interested in creating any sort of a bloc at all. These blocs are the very bane of international blocs of today. But India is interested in building up a moral front and she has been succeeding in no small measure.

India, Sir, has placed herself at the head of all the Colonial peoples at the U.N.O., has championed their cause. Indonesia came in for India's support and Indonesia was supported so strongly and ably that the Dutch offensive against the Indonesians had to be stopped almost immediately. India again stood up for the independence of all the coloured peoples, especially of Africa. She put up a heroic fight against South Africa and General Smuts in their attempts to go at South West Africa and India has succeeded in that. India has tried until recently to win a place for Indonesia on the Special Commission, at least as an observer, but its representative from India could not succeed: but it was not her fault.

Take again Palestine. There are religious issues there but India steered clear of these. India championed the Arabs of Palestine and it is quite consistent with her policy all along, and India along with other powers had the courage to walk out of the U.N.O. as a protest against their recent decision to partition Palestine in order to satisfy the cupidity, political and economic and religious, of the Americans as well as the British. In this way without saying anything about it India has been able to build up a sort of Colonial People's Freedom Front. It is growing it is having some substantial physical feature also. All the colonial and coloured people appreciated that excellent gesture that Panditji made in inviting four coloured students to this country to study in our universities. I sincerely hope that in the future the number of these students will come to be increased. It has been so much appreciated on that side that it is more than justified from the financial point of view also.

Now what is our stand in regard to the question of the freedom of all peoples? India has been standing for the freedom of all peoples consistently, so much so that on many occasions the leader of the Indian delegation that esteemed sister of our Prime Minister and also the esteemed sister of the whole of India—Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit—had to emphasise that India stood for the freedom of all people in the councils of the United Nations: so much so that Soviet Russia found it necessary to support India on more than one occasion. That gave room to some of the interested people in America and other countries to say that Pandit Nehru is aligning himself with Soviet Russia, because there are too many Communists in India and Panditji himself is a Communist. Through her activities at the U.N.O. India has been able to demonstrate the other day that she is no slave of anybody, that she is not acting as the hand-maid or tail of anybody. Nine times out of ten she had the courage to stand up for election in the Security Council and against Ukraine, one of the states of Soviet Russia. Does it not show that India has not really given away her rights of independence to Soviet Russia or anybody else? At the same time, how does it happen that Russia today is much more friendly inclined towards India than towards any other country either in Asia or in Europe? It is because of the democratic practices of India and of the consistent manner in which she has stood up for peace in the world.

There is however one difficulty. There is the question of the veto. So far as the U.N.O. is concerned India has certainly acquitted herself well by her participation. What attitude is she to take with regard to the veto? As long as this veto remains there it will not be possible for India to make use of the U.N.O. as one of the biggest bulwarks for the peace of the world. India needs the U.N.O. more than any other country in the world, because she wants peace in order to develop her own people, she wants peace to raise their standard of living. A higher social well being cannot be attained if we were to allow this world to be split up by these two great power blocks into two camps. How can the U.N.O. work successfully and effectively as long as this veto remains. It is on this that I am not able to satisfy myself that India has been able to give the right lead. It is true that India has said that the veto should go but that at the same time it has got to remain there. I personally would like India to take up a firmer stand in regard to this veto and maintain that it is not only these big five powers but also the smaller powers should be brought in to decide whether any particular question should be allowed to be discussed at the U.N.O.

The next question is: what attitude should we take with regard to England? I am not one of those who wish for the continuation of this commonwealth relationship with Great Britain. I want India to become entirely free of any of these political entanglements. At the same time we should be able and willing to maintain the friendliest and closest relationship with Great Britain. We should be able to distinguish between those Tories who strut about the whole of the East and in Pakistan intriguing all the time against India and the Socialist Democracy that is gaining greater and greater hold over the people of the United Kingdom and who today happen to be in power in that country. Therefore I want to see that even much more intimate relationship in foreign affairs than we have been able to establish so far should be sought after and established but that does not mean that we should in any way weaken our stand in favour of colonial peoples and our opposition to Imperialism. It is in this connection that Pandit Nehru has been a beacon light as it were to all the colonial peoples not only of Great Britain but also of the other satellite Imperialist countries of Europe.

Then there is the question of Asia. What is to be her future? We must be very careful about what is happening today in China. China has been made a sort of cockpit as between Soviet Russia and America. Are we going to keep mum about it, are we going to allow her to become an unfortunate victim of these powers as Republican Spain has become? Should we not take some positive stand in regard to this? What exactly it is to be or it can possibly be has got to be left of course to our Foreign Minister.

Easily I wish to request our Foreign Minister to lend a helping hand to those struggling peasants and their parties in Eastern European countries which are putting up a heroic fight against the Communist Party there. Only recently we heard that so many of these peasant leaders had been hounded out of their countries, some of them hanged, some others forced into exile and many others put into jail. It is necessary that India should raise her voice in their favour, because India stands for democratic freedom and socialism. It is for these reasons that I am glad to say that today Pandit Nehru's policy has been more than justified. It is indeed flattering to us to find Asiatic leaders coming one after the other to this country. Even in other countries Pandit Nehru is known not only as our foreign minister but also as their own champion and for a very good reason too. It is indeed a matter of pride for India and for all the Eastern peoples that today unlike other Foreign Ministers who are somehow or other being feared by other people, our Foreign Minister is being hailed as the greatest champion and architect of the peace of the world and especially of the Peace Front.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Why then does the Honourable Member want to cut the grant?

Mr. Speaker: It is only a parliamentary device to have the opportunity to speak. Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Seth Govinddas (C.P. and Berar: General): Sir, today I should like to make my remarks again in English, because it is a subject like that.

I join in the glowing tribute which has been paid to the Honourable the Prime Minister for the way in which he has been handling this question. I can only say that in India there is no better man who could deal with this question than the Honourable Pandit Nehru.

Now, Sir, I am going to deal with the affairs of Commonwealth Relation countries. The problem of Indians there in a nutshell is one of immigration and secondly of the equality of the status. As far as immigration is concerned I want to point out to the Honourable Pandit Nehru that he should make a declaration in unequivocal terms that if the immigration of Indians is going to harm any people living in different countries—I mean Adibassies—we are ready to stop all our immigration. As far as the status of Indians is concerned I want to say that now that India has become a free country Indians will demand their status equal to that of the people living in those countries. And when we want equal status another important question arises about citizenship. It is a very complicated question. We cannot force our Indian brethren to accept the citizenship of different countries. At the same time we understand the difficulty that if they do not accept the citizenship of the countries to which they have gone it is difficult for us to ask for equal status for those people. I want to make a very bold proposition as far as citizenship is concerned. In respect of the countries like Burma, Ceylon which are our neighbouring countries I shall say let there be a common citizenship of these countries and of India. Once Ceylon was called *Lanka* or in certain *Puranas*, *Sinhal*, and Burma was a part of our country for a very long time. If there is a common citizenship of countries like this then I think the question of equality of status and also of citizenship will be easily solved. Sir, England had made a proposal like this to France in the last war. Let these countries not think that India, being a big country, wants to exploit them. That is not our aim. When I say that there should be common citizenship of these countries and India I mean that we are also going to assure certain things to them, for instance defence. Now, these are small countries and if we take upon ourselves the defence of these countries then their defence expenditure would be much less and they would be benefited.

I want now to take the different countries one by one. First of all South Africa is before us. We know that last year the U.N.O. accepted our resolution and we could get a two-third majority for it. This year we could not get that majority, but I think that does not mean that the resolution which was passed last year lapses. In my opinion it does remain and I should like to know from the Honourable the Prime Minister the legal position of that resolution which was passed last year. Satyagraha is still going on in South Africa. A few months ago when the South African Indian leaders, Dr. Dadoo and Dr. Naicker, came to this country they told us that the satyagraha will go on till the Ghetto Act is repealed. For a long time we have not been able to know how many persons are in South African jails and what kind of treatment is meted out to them.

As far as East Africa is concerned, there are two questions in that country which are engaging our attention. One is the Immigration Bill. As far as that Bill is concerned this is the opinion of the East African Indians:

"The Indian residents in East Africa will receive setback by the Immigration Control Bill which has passed the second reading of all the Provincial Legislatures of East African territories. A joint meeting of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika has been convened on November 28 at Nairobi. The new Bill contains most objectionable clauses and the Indian circles here feel that the Government of India should be aware of the serious implications of the provisions of the Bill which are detrimental to Indian interests. An urgent action of the India Government to the Bill is essential. Otherwise the Bill will become law by the first week of December."

This is the first week of December and we do not know what has happened to that Bill. Another important question in East Africa is the Inter-territorial organization. As far as this organization is concerned we certainly cannot oppose it on principle, but when we see the implications of this proposition we find that it is in fact being brought before the world in a disguise. The real fact is that the Whites in Kenya have an important position while that is not the position of Whites either in Tanganyika or Uganda. I have been to those countries and I can say that if we leave Kenya the Whites in Tanganyika and Uganda are in a microscopic minority. By bringing all these territories under the same legislature the object is that the Whites should become more important. They want to deprive the Indians in Tanganyika and Uganda also of the privileges which they have enjoyed till now. It is a serious matter and the East African Indian Congress has opposed this Inter-territorial organization. I have myself received a long letter from Mr. Amin, the President of the East African Indian Congress. There is very little time at my disposal; otherwise I would have liked to read certain portions from that letter. They want that the whole matter should be investigated first and that the representation of Indians should be according to the Indian population in that country. Only then they are prepared to consider this question. Otherwise they want that all these three colonies should remain as has been the case hitherto.

As far as Ceylon is concerned, the Prime Minister of Ceylon is coming here. The main question is of the Indian labour there. Just the other day the Honourable the Prime Minister, while replying to certain questions with respect to Ceylon, said that he has taken up the matter and that he would see when the Prime Minister of Ceylon comes what could be done in this respect.

As far as Burma is concerned, the Prime Minister of Burma is here. The Honourable Pt. Nehru must be knowing that we want that the same compensation which is to be given to Europeans in Burma should also be given to the Indians for their lost property. I am against all private property, but so long as the private property institution continues I think we ought to safeguard the interests of the Indians who have lost their properties in Burma. As far as emigration to that country is concerned, there are some people who still have some property in Burma and I wish Sir that preference should be given to these people to go to Burma. Sir, Burma owes 55 crores to us. Let them give this amount in instalments. We do not want it all at once; but we want, Sir, that this amount should be paid back to us in kind; I mean
B P.M. they should give us rice, they should give us oil, they should give us timber. India is in need of these things, and preference as far as these things are concerned should be given to India because Burma has to pay 55 crores back to India.

Now, Sir, as far as the countries of British East Indies are concerned, there is a sufficient number of Indians there. There is sufficient land in British Guiana, Trinidad and other countries. These whites want to keep that land reserved for their sons, grandsons, great grandsons and great great great

[Seth Govinddas.]

grandsons, and so on. Now this should not be the case. There is a colonisation scheme made by the people of those countries and it is for the mutual advantage of the people of this country as well as those Indians who go there.

Then, Sir, Malaya is going to have a new constitution and we have to see that the interests of Indians are safeguarded. Sir, the whole history of Indian emigration shows us that the going of any Indians to any country has not been harmful to them. It has been for the good of those people, and, Sir, when the food problem is so acute in the world, then those lands which are still barren can be made use of and I think Indians will be of great help there.

In conclusion, Sir, I want to point out that now that India has become free, we have to send our Agents to many countries. We should also send in my opinion goodwill missions. Some time ago it was proposed that goodwill missions are to be sent to Trinidad, Mauritius and Fiji. I hear that that idea has been abandoned for the present. But now, Sir, as we have become free, I think it is all the more necessary for our cultural contact and for seeing the real position of the people there, that we should send non-official goodwill missions there.

Sir, I again pay my tribute to the Honourable the Prime Minister, and support the cut moved by my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga.

Dr. N. B. Khare (Alwar State): I also rise to support this cut. Professor Ranga, while supporting the cut, paid encomiums to what we did at the U.N.O. on the issue of the partition of Palestine. We, Sir, walked out as has been our wont always. I do not understand, Sir, why we supported or accepted the division of India into Hindu and Muslim and why we should not accept or support the division of Palestine into Arab and Jew. It passes my comprehension why this should be so. There is no consistency. What is sauce for the gander should be sauce for the goose. The only consistency is to say ditto to Pakistan. That is all.

Then, Sir, with regard to South Africa, there is no progress, not an inch of advance on the question of Indians in that country to what was done by the previous Government in which I happened to be a Member, and I do say with pride there is no advance over what the previous Government did, although the present Government is independent.

An Honourable Member: Question.

Dr. N. B. Khare: Then, Sir, about Ceylon, the less said, the better. The other day my friend Mr. Aney, put a question about Ceylon and was promptly told "The Honourable Member knows it better than I do". That is the position about Ceylon.

Then, Sir, about Burma, our next-door neighbour, which was part of India for a very very long time. Now it is separated from India and I congratulate Burma on its attainment of full independence long before us, and it has stolen a march over us. Burma will be outside the British Empire much before India expects to be so in spite of the fact that there was no non-violent, non-cooperation there. With regard to Burma, Sir, I am rather anxious because we have got huge amount of interest there of our nationals, and I hope something will be done. On this behalf I will offer some suggestions to my Honourable friend the Prime Minister. I want that the rights of our Indian nationals there are safeguarded as far as possible even after the attainment of independence by Burma. The constitution of Independent Burma, Sir, provides that the state is the ultimate owner of all lands and that they can regulate, alter or abolish tenures or resume possession of any land. Such interferences should be compensated in money. This idea is accepted in the said constitution, but in Article 30 of the constitution there is a provision which gives rise to some misgiving. It is said that the legislature may decide in which cases and to what extent compensation can be given. Here lies the rub.

This discretion to legislate as to the cases in which compensation may be given and those in which it need not be given is rather disturbing. It will act to our disadvantage. When once a man's rights of property are interfered with, it is only just and fair and equitable that adequate compensation should be given. This principle has been borne in mind and given effect to in the treaty between England and Burma, but this has not happened in regard to India. I hope it will happen. The note, dated 17th October, 1947, from the Honourable Thakin Nu to Mr. Attlee is illuminating on this point.

On the question of the entry into Burma of Indians who are required there to carry on existing business and occupations, it is necessary, no restrictions should be placed on their entry. In due course, if necessary, businesses may be abridged and the need for Indian service personnel may correspondingly diminish. However, until such time, it is necessary that no restriction should be placed on Indians going to Burma for these purposes, and to the extent rendered necessary by the needs of their business or properties which require to be looked after.

The overall quota of skilled persons may be fixed by the two Governments in consultation, but within the limits of this quota, permits should be granted by the Government of India who will be in a position to estimate the need or the urgency of the persons applying for a permit. That would avoid many of the humiliating handicaps with which persons seeking permits are faced.

Another point that the two Governments should tackle, relates to administrative acts which operate adversely against Indians. For example there is a proposal to interfere on the question of rents payable by a tenant. There is already a Tenancy Act in force which deals with fair rents and which can be worked to the mutual advantage of both the landlord and the tenant. But it is said that a tenant will be required to pay his landlord as rent only twice the amount of the land revenue on his holding. This will have the effect of artificially impairing the value of the land and compelling the landowner to abandon his land. These are points which require to be handled with great sympathy and fairness.

I understand that very soon an agreement will be concluded between the Government of India and the Government of Burma on all outstanding matters. An agreement between a Free India and a Free Burma has been looked forward to with hope and eagerness by both the countries and it is to us a source of very great satisfaction that that happy day has now arrived. Pending the conclusion of such a treaty and pending the negotiations towards it, it is essential that controversial questions should not be decided administratively and one-sidedly as is feared will be done. To do so would embarrass the even tenure of negotiations. The question of compensation for acquired land, the question of free entry of Indians into Burma for existing business purposes, and the question of artificially reducing the rent payable by tenants and similar matters are best decided after free and full negotiations with all the relevant facts before the two countries. And pending such negotiations and with a view to the honourable settlement of all outstanding matters, I would suggest that the Government of India should urge on the Government of Burma that they should stay their hands and not force the issues or reach conclusions before the Government of India have placed their considered views before the Government of Burma.

There can be no doubt that a satisfactory and honourable settlement is perfectly within the reach and competence of the distinguished gentlemen at the head of the Government of India and the Government of Burma.

Now, Sir, with regard to foreign affairs.....

Several Honourable Members: He is reading his speech.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members want to know what the Honourable Member is quoting from.

Dr. N. B. Khare: This is my note prepared by me for helping memory, any one may see it if he likes.

Now, Sir, about foreign affairs, I am very glad that for the first time we have come into our own regarding this ticklish question. When I was in office, I tried my best to have a finger in that pie—of course I succeeded—only partially because that was a slave Government then. Now it is a free government, but of course, it is too early to judge its achievements, and I am not a judge—of what status India has got internationally; I will leave it to my friend Prof. Ranga. But I want to say this much, that so far we have only one concrete achievement to our credit: it is that we have sent many of our friends as Ambassadors and Envoys to foreign countries. That is a substantial achievement and I congratulate the Government for what has been done.

مولانا حسرت موہانی : جناب والا ! میرا ارادہ آپ کی اسمبلی کے متعلق بحث میں حصہ لینے کا نہیں تھا کیونکہ میری دلچسپی صرف Constitution کے معاملوں سے ہے اور Legislative سے بہت کم دلچسپی ہے۔ لیکن میرے دوست مسٹر رنکا نے اپنی تقریر میں world politics کا ذکر چھیڑ دیا اور اس بحث میں آنریبل پرائمر منسٹر جواہر لال نہرو کا بھی اس میں ذکر آیا اور اس میں انکی پالیسی جو اس معاملہ میں ہو سکتی ہے اس کا بھی ذکر آیا اور اس کی طرف اشارہ کیا گیا۔ اسی وجہ سے مجبور ہوں کہ کچھ نہ کچھ مختصراً عرض کروں۔ مسٹر رنکا کو اس کت موشن پر بولنے کا حق نہیں تھا کیونکہ انہوں نے جواہر لال نہرو کی پوری تائید کی۔ اگر انہوں نے اس کی تائید کی تو انہیں اس کت موشن پر بولنے کی کیا ضرورت تھی ان کے خیال کے مطابق جو انہوں نے جواہر لال نہرو کی پالیسی کے متعلق ذکر کیا ہے اس سے یہ معلوم ہوتا ہے کہ آئندہ جو جنگ ہونے والے ہوں ان کے متعلق جواہر لال نہرو کی یہ پالیسی ہو سکتی ہے کہ ہندوستان neutral رہیگا۔ آئندہ آنے والے جنگ میں ایک طرف Russia ہوگا اور دوسری طرف امریکہ اور England ہوگا یہ تو میرا خیال ہے۔ لیکن مجھے اس بات کا یقین نہیں ہے کہ جواہر لال نہرو کی وہی پالیسی ہوگی جو کہ مسٹر رنکا نے ظاہر کی۔ اگر ایسا ہے تو میں اس پر اعتراض کرتا ہوں اور میں اسی بنا پر اس کت موشن کی تائید کرتا ہوں۔ دنیا اب اس سٹیج پر پہنچ چکی ہے کہ کوئی ملک غیر جانبدار نہیں رہ سکتا اور نہ ہی ایسی صورت نظر آتی ہے کہ کوئی ملک غیر جانبدار رہ سکے۔ اب صرف ideologies کا ہی گئی ہیں یا سوشلزم یا نیشنلزم۔ نیشنلزم میں اسوقت Capitalist ہیں۔ اور Imperialist بھی ہیں۔ سوشلزم میں اس وقت radicalism اور Socialism اور Communism بھی ہے۔ میں یہ ظاہر کرنا چاہتا ہوں اور مجھے یقین ہے کہ جو آئندہ جنگ ہونگے ان میں ہندوستان غیر جانبدار نہیں رہ سکتا۔ پہلے جنگ میں ایوان غیر جانبدار رہا تھا۔ لیکن بعد میں جب کہ ایوان میں ہی اکٹھا بنایا گیا تو وہ غیر جانبدار نہ رہ سکا۔ اور اسکو انگریزوں کے

ساتھ دوڑنا پڑا۔ اور جرمنی اور جاپان سے لڑنا پڑا۔ اس بنا پر میں یہ سمجھتا ہوں کہ ہمیں اس بات کا فیصلہ کرنا چاہئے اور اپنے دلوں سے یہ خیال نکل دینا چاہئے کہ ہم آئندہ آنے والی جنگ میں غیر جانبدار رہ سکتے ہیں۔ ہمیں اس بارے میں اپنی پالیسی کو once for all decide کرنا چاہئے۔ اس میں شک نہیں کہ غیر جانبدار رہنے کا مطلب یہ ہے کہ ہم peace چاہتے ہیں۔ لیکن میرے خیال میں یہ ممکن نہیں ہے کہ ہم غیر جانبدار رہ سکیں۔ اور اگر ایسا ہے تو جواہر لال نہرو کو یہ ظاہر کرنا چاہئے کہ اس بارے میں انکا کیا عقیدہ ہے اور اگر انکا یہی عقیدہ ہے تو انکو اس سے دست بردار ہونا چاہئے۔ اور اسکا فیصلہ کر دینا چاہئے کہ ہماری پالیسی کیا ہوگی۔ جو گروپنگ تیسری ورلڈ وار (World War) میں بنتی ہے اُس میں ایک طرف برطانیہ اور امریکہ ہوگا۔ کیونکہ یہ دونوں Imperialist ہیں اور دونوں Capitalist ہیں اور دوسری طرف Russia ہوگا۔ چونکہ انگلینڈ اور امریکہ Imperialist اور Capitalist ہیں اسلئے ہمارا رجحان Russia کی طرف ہو سکتا ہے۔ گروپ بننے کے متعلق میرا یہ خیال ہے اور میری یہ خواہش بھی ہے۔ ایک طرف انگلینڈ اور امریکہ ہوگا اور دوسری طرف Russia ہوگا اور فرانس بیچ میں گیدز بن کر رہیگا اور میرا خیال ہے کہ جب انگلینڈ اور امریکہ ایک طرف ہونگے اور فرانس درمیان میں نہ اُدھر اور نہ اُدھر رہیگا۔ تو دوسری طرف Russia کے ساتھ ہندوستان کو دھنا چاہئے۔ فرانس کی حیثیت میں چین بھی ہو سکتا ہے۔ اسلئے میں جواہر لال نہرو سے گزارش کروں گا کہ وہ اس معاملہ میں اپنے خیالات کی تشریح کریں اور میرے خیال میں انکو ایسا کرنا چاہئے کیونکہ میرے خیال میں ہمیں اپنی tendency کا فیصلہ کرنا چاہئے۔ اس بنا پر میں اس کت موشن کی تائید کرتا ہوں۔

(English translation of the above speech)

Maulana Hasrat Mohani (U. P. Muslim): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had not intended to participate in the debates of this Assembly because I am more interested in Constitution than in Legislature. But because, in the course of his speech my friend Mr. Ranga has referred to "world Politics"; because the name of the Honourable the Prime Minister, Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, has been mentioned in this connection, and because a mention has also been made of the policy of the Honourable the Prime Minister—what it has hitherto been and what it is likely to be—I feel compelled to say a few words on the floor of this Assembly.

Mr. Ranga had no right to speak on this cut motion because he had already supported the policy of Jawahar Lal Nehru. Why should he speak now when once he has enlisted himself under the banner of Jawahar Lal Nehru? From what he has said about the policy of the latter I understand that the Honourable the Prime Minister is going to adopt a policy of neutrality towards those countries which might participate in the war that is likely to take place in the future. The parties that this impending war is likely to involve will be Russia on the one side and England and America on the other. This is what I calculate. But I doubt if Jawahar Lal Nehru pursues the policy that Mr. Ranga has told us. If he does, I oppose him, and on the same ground I

[Maulana Hasrat Mohani.]

support this Cut Motion. The world has reached such a stage that it is impossible for any country to remain neutral. Nor can such circumstances arise which may permit a country to remain neutral. We are left now with only two ideologies we can have either "Socialism" or "nationalism". The latter includes both 'Capitalism' and 'Imperialism': "Radicalism", "Socialism" and even "Communism" come under the caption of "Socialism". What I want to say at this time is—and I believe in it—that when a war breaks out it will not be possible for India to remain neutral. Iran tried to do that during the last war; later when the scene of the battlefield shifted to its soil, it could not do without breaking the pledge of neutrality. It had consequently to ally itself with the English against the Axis. This makes me believe that decisions must be taken on the present issue. It would be a fond hope if we thought that we can remain silent spectators when a war breaks out in the future. We must decide, once for all, what policy we have to pursue in case such circumstances arise. It is true that by remaining neutral we desire peace, but I think it to be a remote possibility. We cannot remain neutral. Under the circumstances, therefore, Jawahar Lal Nehru should state before the House what he believes in. If his belief is as Mr. Ranga has said then he should shun it. He should decide a new policy and let us know what it is.

A third World War is threatening us. The likely parties to it will be England and America on one side, and Russia on the other. The two former countries will ally themselves with each other because both of them are Protagonists of "Capitalism" and "Imperialism". Russia will fight against them because the other two countries are 'Capitalists' and 'Imperialists': India will naturally be more inclined towards Russia. About the formation of groups I think the English and the Americans will be in one camp while Russia will be in the other. France will not dare join any group. Thus when America and England become Allies and France remains neutral, I think India should throw its weight on the side of Russia. China may also behave as France. I would, therefore, like to request Jawahar Lal Nehru to define his policy about it. I think he ought to do it for we have to decide how we have to move. On these grounds I support this Cut Motion.

Shri Brajeshwar Prashad (Bihar: General): Sir, I rise to support the cut motion moved by the Honourable Prof. N. G. Ranga to discuss the position of India in International affairs and of Indians in Commonwealth countries. We have not as yet acquired a position of pre-eminence in world politics. We have borne the White man's burden on our back for centuries. That burden has been lifted only recently. We have to emancipate our neighbours from this burden in order to assume the leadership of Asia.

We must ask the Americans to withdraw their forces from Japan. If we want to succeed in this attempt, we must seek the support of Russia and China

Mr. Speaker: I might make a suggestion. Generally speaking, written speeches should not be resorted to. Honourable Members may refer to their notes. In case of responsible statements by Ministers, they have necessarily to be read (Interruption).

Shri Balkrishna Sharma (U. P.: General): But our statements are not irresponsible.

Mr. Speaker: In the case of Ministers, every word is of importance and their statements must be properly worded. But so far as the debate is concerned, if the debate is to contain its own interest and has really to be a debate, speeches prepared outside the House should not be read in the House. That is my decision in the matter. Perhaps the Honourable Member, Shri Balkrishna Sharma was referring to the previous practice.

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Shri Balkrishna Sharma: No, Sir. I only wanted to bring to your notice that after all the language in which we have been carrying on so far our discussion in the House is not our own, and if some of the Honourable Members feel like jotting down their ideas and placing them before the House, naturally enough you may be kind enough to permit them to do so for the simple reason (Interruption) for the simple reason that they cannot do otherwise. And then, Sir, if the Honourable Ministers are permitted the privilege of reading out written statements on the ground that they are all sorts of very responsible pronouncements, then we poor fellows should not be taken as irresponsible people and our statements as irresponsible statements.

Mr. Speaker: The case of Ministers stands on an entirely different footing and their Statements which are of a special importance,—every word of them,—have to be clothed in careful language. That is not the case with speeches of members, and whatever the practice of the old Assembly,—there was to some extent, as the Honourable Member pointed out, the difficulty of language—but in the present House, there is absolutely no difficulty of language. Every Member is entitled to address in his own language, if he cannot express himself in Hindustani. All that I am saying at present is that I do not want to encourage written speeches. I do not want to prohibit the present speaker just at this moment, but this should not be taken as a precedent that written speeches will be permitted. Members will realise that if written speeches are permitted, it may mean that some other person writes a speech and the member reads it,—of course,—not in all cases; but then the speech read will have probably no reference to the speeches made by others in the debate. What is read would have been written previous to the starting of the debate. Therefore, if we want really to have a debate with a life in it, without repetitions and with arguments addressed only to the points raised, then I am sure members will all agree with me that written speeches must be discouraged. In the case of those who cannot speak properly at the beginning, there is all the greater reason that they should make an attempt of speaking so that they will be able to do so much better as they proceed further. I may inform Honourable Members that written speeches are not permitted in the House of Commons and it is a good parliamentary procedure which we may as well follow.

The Honourable Member may address, if he likes, in Hindustani or any other language.

An Honourable Member: This is his maiden speech. Let him proceed.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: Am I permitted to read or not, Sir? (Interruption).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Kazi Syed Karimuddin (C. P. and Berar: Muslim): He is not a Minister in charge of Internal Affairs.

Mr. Speaker: I know that. Still, I do not want to come in the way of the Honourable Member just for the time being. My difficulty is, if one is permitted, the other also has to be permitted and then it becomes a precedent and we cannot then encourage oral speeches and discourage written ones. I want to set up the precedent of absolutely discouraging written speeches. References to notes is a different matter. I do not want to come in the way of the Honourable Member just now, but that is the way, in which I propose to carry on in this House.

Shri Brajeshwar Prashad: A joint attempt must be made by India, China and Russia in this direction. Europe and America must withdraw from Asia. Asia for Asians should be the guiding principle to be pursued in the realm of foreign affairs. The task of liquidating 'Fascism' from Japan is the sole concern of these three countries. We do not want American support in this noble venture. Let England and America liquidate 'Fascism' in their own countries before they impose any such task upon themselves in other man's land

[Shri Brajeshwar Prasad.]

Politics are ideals worthy of acceptance. We regret that we have failed to secure a seat in the Council. Asian nations seem to have no place in the U.N.O. The only course left open to us is to form an Asian League of Nations. We are sorry that we have not been able as yet in spite of our best endeavours to render any help to our fellow countrymen in South Africa who are groaning under the wheels of tyranny.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member may resume his seat. I hope the House will now agree with me that it is absolutely necessary to discourage written speeches.

Kumararaja Sir M. A. Muthiah Chettiyar (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question of Indian Nationals abroad has engaged the attention of the Government of India from time to time and I may be permitted to say, Sir, that the occasion to-day for safeguarding the interests of Indian Nationals abroad is much greater than ever before and it could not be in the hands of any better person than our esteemed Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Sir, with his influence in national affairs and his international position, he can would things in the best manner possible. I say 'mould things in the best manner possible' because when India is free to-day it will be easier for India to negotiate with other countries regarding the interests of Indians in foreign countries. In recent months ever since the new Government came into existence in India, they have been very busy with regard to South Africa in particular.

Sir, I may be permitted to mention particularly about Burma, for I claim to have some personal experience of conditions in Burma. When we talk of Burma, I should be permitted to mention that Mahatma Gandhi said two years ago that the best occasion for the two countries to come to an honourable agreement is when both countries are free and to-day both the countries are free. Sir, it is a happy augury that on this occasion the Prime Minister of Burma should be here in Delhi and we welcome him warmly. I do feel that this is not the occasion when this House should go into greater detail regarding the relationship between India and Burma, for any one and particularly this House should not embarrass the delicate negotiations that may be now on between the Prime Minister of India and the Prime Minister of Burma, except by way of mentioning the situation in Burma for the consideration of our Foreign Minister.

Sir, with regard to the part Indians have played in Burma, the Indian community in India need not be ashamed. They can always feel proud of their brethren in Burma; they have contributed not only to the material prosperity of Burma, but to the political progress of Burma and whether they are going to be there in the future or whether they are going to come away, the work they have done will always remain and the part that our soldiers have played in recent years in liberating Burma will always be remembered. And I may be allowed to mention, Sir, that in the last twenty years in the struggle that the Burmese people have put forward for attaining freedom, the Indian community in Burma have given a great helping hand to the Burmese people for attaining their freedom and that will always remain a glorious chapter in the history of the Indian community in Burma.

Sir, with regard to the immediate situation regarding property, assets and businesses of Indians in Burma, we do not want any preferential treatment. What we want is only fairplay and justice and equal treatment that may be meted out to nationals of other countries. Compensation is provided in the Anglo-Burmese Treaty, and we want the same to be provided in the Indo-Burma Treaty and I am sure Honourable Members of the House would agree that this is not an extraordinary position for India to take.

Sir, when it is agreed that there should be compensation on equal basis and on an equitable basis, it should also be agreed, Sir, that before the compensation comes and particularly when the question of compensation is going to be settled very soon—the Government of Burma will in the coming years have some scheme to compensate the owners of property—it is essential that in the meantime the property should not be diminished, with reference to its value or its income. Sir, in the last fortnight there has been a serious attempt, of which the Government of India are not yet fully aware. They are just coming to know of the present attempt to diminish the return from the land. Already the return from the land to the owner of the land is very poor and they are now trying to reduce it still further and by so doing they are only forcing the land-owner to surrender the land and give away much in the result. We only want the Government of India to immediately intervene in the matter. We do not want the Government of Burma to take such a step in advance of the Treaty, particularly in view of the fact that the treaty is going to be initiated very shortly. Pending the Treaty, I would suggest to the Government of India that they should urge upon the Government of Burma to stay their hands with regard to such interference with the land and tenancy question. Let them not interfere with the tenancy law just on the eve of the negotiations to be started between the two countries.

Sir, I may be permitted to mention the value of the Indian assets there just for Honourable Members to know the enormity of the problem. Sir, the Indian community own land to the extent of 30 lakhs of acres which is worth 90 crores of rupees—the land alone. Besides this, Sir, Indians own house property and other businesses which may be worth another 50 or 60 crores and Burma owes 52 crores as loan to the Government of India. I mention these figures so that these are not matters which individual Indians in Burma can tackle. At any rate, it is not possible for individual Indians or Indian organizations in Burma to tackle. It is at a high level—at the Governmental level and the Ministerial level—that this should be taken up and dealt with. I can say on behalf of the Indian community that the Indian community will unreservedly place their assets in the hands of the Government of India for such settlement as the Government of India may deem fair and reasonable. It is a national asset of ours.

Sir, the facts I have given entitle me to request the Government of India to give immediate attention to this problem. Now let me say one word about Indo-China. There our assets have been freezed; the moneys in banks are virtually freezed as we are not able to get it here owing to exchange restrictions. I do hope that the Honourable the Prime Minister and the Honourable the Finance Minister will devise ways and means to enable Indians there to remit money to this country.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Sir, until not so very long ago India was regarded as the Cinderella among the nations of the earth and treated as a door-mat of nations. Fortunately we the people of India by our strength, suffering and sacrifice aided by the grace and blessing of a just Providence have left those unhappy days behind. It is about a hundred days—111 days to be precise—since we emerged out of the darkness of slavery into the outer light, the semi-light of freedom. I advisedly use the phrase "outer light" because I for one cannot say that we have emerged into the inner light, the full light of freedom. So long as we are still considered a dominion of the British Commonwealth, so long as we have not completely severed the British connection—which was part of the Independence Pledge that we used to take from year to year—so long as we are not a completely free and independent nation, I for one will not say that we have achieved full freedom. I feel of course that the day is not far off when with the Honourable Prime Minister and Foreign Minister at the helm of affairs we will see our nation leading Asia and the rest of the world. That is exactly the reason why I feel that unless India is completely free and independent the Honourable

Mr. Speaker: Will the Honourable Member read slowly, so that the other members may follow?

Shri Brajeshwar Prashad: I am anxious to finish my speech within the time allotted; otherwise, Sir, I can go very slow.

Mr. Speaker: The idea of the speaker is that the House should get at his idea. I think the Honourable Member can read slowly and within the time allotted.

Shri Brajeshwar Prashad: Very well, Sir.....The future of the Japanese and the Italian colonies in Asia and Africa is a question in which we are immensely interested. The Japanese colonies in Asia should never be handed over to America or England. If they are going to be placed under international control, the trustees should be India, China and Russia. The colonies being proximate to these countries, they alone are in a position to discharge the function to the full satisfaction of the whole world. We can never permit these colonies to pass under American or British hands. We cannot endanger our own security. We want these colonies not for any imperialistic purposes. We have no such designs. India can never embark on an imperialist career. The culture and tradition of centuries stand in the way of any such adventure.

Being the successor of the British Government in India, the present Government should undertake to perform those tasks which the British Government performed in its relations with Nepal. Nepal had no direct connections with the outside world. Its foreign affairs were looked after by the British Government. Now we should perform this task. The penetration of foreign influence in Nepal is a source of danger to our security. The foreign affairs of Nepal, Bhutan and Sikkim should be conducted by the Government of India.

Ceylon, Burma, Malaya and other adjoining States are our neighbours. Foreigners should not have any concern with these States. We should have a co-ordinated and integrated system of Defence with these States. A Joint Defence Council must be set up. Our Army Chiefs must collaborate with the Army Chiefs of these States. (*Interruption*).

Shri H. V. Kamath (C. P. and Berar: General): I move, Sir, that the speech be taken as read.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Let the Honourable Member proceed.

Shri Brajeshwar Prashad: The paramount need of the hour is the promulgation of the Nehru Doctrine on the lines of the Monroe Doctrine. In the early stages, the Government of the U. S. A. had no sanction to enforce it. It was only with the help of Great Britain that the U. S. A. succeeded in large measure in implementing it. The wide political differences prevailing amongst the nations of Europe contributed to the success of the Monroe Doctrine. We have also our friends in China and Russia. With the help of these states, we can succeed in our attempt. The civil discord which prevails in China will not be of a long duration. Very soon she will come to occupy the position which is hers in international politics.

The proposal to hold a referendum in Kashmir under the supervision of the U. N. O. will mean interference in our internal affairs. As a result of changed conditions prevailing in Kashmir, there is no justification for conducting any referendum at all.

The Government of India has shown utmost consideration in its dealings with the Government of Pakistan. The desire to re-unite India is responsible to a large extent for the policy which the Government of India has followed in its relations with Pakistan. We are prepared for reunion on democratic lines. We are opposed to granting 50 per cent. representation to Pakistan in the

Legislatures, Cabinets, Army and in the Foreign Services of the new Government of India which will emerge as a result of any Federation between India and Pakistan. The financial contributions of Pakistan to the common centre is likely to be strictly in proportion to its area and population. Acceptance of any such plan will lead to red ruin and anarchy. I thoroughly endorse the statement made by Major Cariappa at London. The Army will succeed where statesmen have failed. India will become re-united once again in the fulness of time.

We must be on our guard against the dangers of Pan-Islamism. Nothing is impossible in Politics. There is no such danger confronting us at the present moment. We do not know what the future holds in store for us. The first step in the establishment of a Pan-Islamic state is likely to be the formation of a Federation between Pakistan and the adjoining Muslim States. Our duty is to try our level best to prevent the establishment of any such Federation by all methods which may be open to us at any given moment, whatever the constitutional implications of Pakistan as a sovereign state may be. To achieve this aim it is necessary to open our embassies in the Middle-East—the storm centre of world Politics—which should be manned by experienced diplomats whose first task would be to employ all diplomatic methods—moral and non-moral—to prevent the establishment of any such Federation. The imperialist powers with a view to preserve their vested interests in Asia are eager to purchase the friendship of the Muslim states and to win them over to their side they have thrown the bait of Pan-Islamism. Pan-Islamism is the offshoot of Imperialism. If we want to liquidate Pan-Islamism and Imperialism, we must join hands with Russia and China. Instead of pursuing the vain hope of an Indo-Pakistan re-union in the immediate future we must investigate the possibility of an Indo-Chinese Federation. Up till now India and China have not fought any war between themselves. The vast majority of the people of China are Buddhist and thus allied to India which gave birth to Buddhism. There is ideological, cultural, religious, ethical, philosophical and political sympathy and similarity between the peoples of India and China. The doctrines of exploitation, war, capitalism and imperialism are repugnant to the moral conscience of the people of Asia in general and of the two countries—India and China—in particular. The bond of friendship which happily exists between the leaders of India and China—Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Nehru and Marshal Chiang—may facilitate the achievement of a federal union. Both India and China are menaced by Imperialism on all sides. It is in the common interest of both these states to evolve a federal plan of Union. India and China are destined to be the leaders of Asia. Joined together they will be a force to be reckoned with. It will comprise a conjoint state of 800 million people. It will cover a large part of the total area of the world. The economic resources of this union will be greater than those of any political combination of states. It will be economically impregnable from any possible attack. It will be the harbinger of Asian greatness. It will facilitate the task of world Federation and usher in a form of society based on the abiding foundations of authority and progress. This Federation will sooner or later attract within its bosom the Malayan archipelago, Burma, Japan, Siam, Korea, Ceylon, Nepal, Bhutan and Sikkim. One by one all the states lying in S. E. Asia in their own interest and out of their own free will, will join this great commonwealth of Nations based on the truest ideals of justice and Freedom. Asian destiny cannot finalise itself into a mere S.E. Asian Federation. It must merge into an Asian Federation consisting of all the states and covering the entire area and population of this great continent.

With this end in view there is a need for a change in our outlook. The foreign policy of the Government of India based on democratic principles and regard for the sovereignty of states stands in need of thorough re-examination. To strengthen our own position in world affairs and the pursuance of power

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Foreign Minister cannot rise to his full stature; he will rise to his full stature and he will be himself only in a completely free and independent India. He has stood for peace, equality and freedom. India has stood for these principles through the ages, since time immemorial and India has preached this gospel of universal peace, universal equality and universal freedom to the nations of the earth. It is very well for us to remember at the present day when the world which has emerged out of a disastrous and destructive war but still not at peace, that humanity needs such a message preached afresh and anew. We have to assert ourselves and pull our full weight in the council of nations. My Honourable friend Seth Govind Das referred to our disabilities in East Africa and my Honourable friend Shri Muthia Chettiar referred to the question of Burma. I do not want to touch on those subjects, but I feel that had we been completely free and completely equal with the nations of the earth there are one or two things that we could have avoided in the past, not in the remote past but in the recent past. I will state one or two instances which might serve as a warning for the future. Soon after the war came to an end a memorial consecrated by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose to the Martyrs of the *Azad Hind Fauj* in Singapore and at which, if I remember aright, the Honourable Foreign Minister when he was in Singapore laid a wreath,—that memorial was dynamited by our present Governor-General who was then the Commander-in-Chief of South East Asia. Had we been a free nation we would not have allowed such a thing to happen.

Again, the Indian Military Mission in Berlin in 1945-46 was a disgrace and a scandal. I am told—I cannot vouch for its truth—by some of the Indians who have returned from there that the Indian members of the Mission harassed our own countrymen and treated them worse than the British members themselves. That was because we were not a free nation and because they were bossed over by the British members of the Mission.

One or two more points and I have done. The most urgent problem today is the peace treaties that are in the offing,—peace with Germany and peace with Japan. I hope and pray that we will take our full part in the framing of these peace treaties, not peace with a vengeance and not the *vac victis* of the conqueror, but the peace that will lead to blessedness and harmony among the nations of the world.

There is one little point, may be a trifle, that I should like to stress and I hope the Foreign Minister will take it in the spirit in which it is offered. That relates to the expenditure on our embassies in foreign countries. Some days ago or some months ago a report went about that something to the tune of 5 lakhs of rupees was spent on furnishing our embassy in Moscow and that our Ambassador had to go as far as Stockholm in Sweden and perhaps to Oslo too to get material for furniture, carpets and tapestry for the embassy office and residence. Even if such an amount be spent for the embassy and the residence we do not mind, but I think most of it should have been spent on our own Indian goods and not on Swedish or other foreign goods. We are fortunate in having a distinguished Ambassador in Russia; I think we are the only other country in the world with a woman Ambassador. I think it was Russia who had a woman Ambassador in Sweden, Madame Kollontai; and we as soon as we came into freedom have an Ambassador in Russia. I do hope that the Honourable Foreign Minister and Finance Minister will keep an eye on the expenditure that is incurred and will be incurred on our embassies in foreign countries.

Sir, one word about the Middle East imbroglio. I feel that something is brewing in the Middle East and I do not wish my country to be involved in what might happen there. My Honourable friend Dr. Khare talked of the walk-out in the U.N.O. I do not want to make much of that, but anyway I do not wish that India should get involved in this quarrel between the Arabs and

the Jews. We are not a party to any power politics; we are not going to join any bloc, whether it is the Arab bloc or the Jewish bloc, the American bloc or the Russian bloc. The Foreign Minister has made it clear in his pronouncements that we stand for peace among the nations and not for power politics; I hope that we will steer clear of this Middle East politics, because once there is a flare-up in the Middle East, so many nations are eager to take a hand in it,—America, Russia and so on. And I am afraid that once we are in it it will be difficult to get out of it, and our role must be to make peace among the Arabs and the Jews and not to make the position which is already bad much worse and more complicated.

Sir, in the end I only wish to say that I am looking forward to the day when India, guided by our able leaders, will take her place as a free socialist State, in a socialist federation of one free world when the 'Parliament of Man' will have been ushered in, where she will take her rightful and honoured place among the nations. India will always stand, as she has always stood in the past and in the present, for the great principles of peace and equality. She will preach the gospel of *Serve janah Sukhino bhavantu* and the Gospel of fraternity. The French revolutionists who raised the slogan of "Liberty, Equality and Fraternity" achieved in fair measure the task of liberty, in that they could usher in political liberty—one man one vote. The Russian revolution brought in to a certain extent equality—economic equality, in that Russia became the first Socialist State in the world. I feel, Sir, that India, the ancient but ever young, will preach the gospel of fraternity, of brotherhood—the crowning glory of all virtues, the noblest message that has been preached by man, and I feel and I hope that India will preach this gospel of fraternity, will accomplish it and lead Asia and the rest of mankind on the path of peace, freedom, blessedness and harmony.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (Prime Minister and Minister for External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations): Sir, I welcome this occasion. Although we are discussing this subject of foreign affairs not directly but by way of a cut motion, nevertheless it is a novel occasion for this House and I think it is good that we realize what it conveys. It means ultimately that we are entering into the international field, not only by going into conferences and the like, but by really putting international questions before the country, before this House for its decision. There is no immediate question before this House today. But undoubtedly as time goes on, the major international questions will have to be decided by this House.

Listening to the debate, to the speeches made by Honourable Members, I find, as was perhaps natural, that there was no immediate issue, no particular question for discussion, but rather pious hopes, vague ideals and sometimes a measure of let us say, denunciation of things that had happened in the world. It has been a vague debate, with nothing pointed about it to which one could attach oneself. Many of the Honourable Members have been good enough to speak gently and generously of what has been done in the realm of foreign affairs on behalf of the Government of India during the past year. I am grateful to them, but may I say in reply that I am in complete disagreement with them. I think the Government of India during the past year has not done what it should have done. That perhaps has not been so much the fault of the Government of India as such, but rather of circumstances. Anyway, what we had envisaged that we ought to do, and we might do, we have not been able to do, largely because other circumstances arose in this country which have prevented all that being done. We are not yet out of those difficulties, internal and otherwise, which might enable us to have a free hand in our external relations, and therefore I would beg the House to judge of this period in this context of what has been happening in this country, not only during the past unhappy three or four months, but in the course of the past year when we

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lived in the middle of internal conflict and confusion which drained away our energy and did not leave us time to attend to other matters.

That has been the dominant feature of our politics during the past year and undoubtedly that has affected our foreign policy in the sense of our not giving enough time and energy to it. Nevertheless, I think we have advanced in that field. Again it is difficult to say how you measure advance in such a field. My Honourable friend, Dr. Khare, was critical of various things, as he has every right to be, and his criticism took the shape of a written speech to which your attention, Sir, was not drawn! I was glad of the Honourable Dr. Khare's intrusion in this debate, because the debate was getting rather heavy and he brought a touch of comedy and humour into it as well as unreality. When the Honourable Member represented the Government in this House it was a little difficult to attach much importance to what he said. I suppose now it is less difficult to do so, or little more difficult to do so! So I will not venture to say anything or to reply to what he said because it seems to me totally inconsequential and without any meaning.

But coming to other subjects, the main subject in foreign policy today is vaguely talked of in terms of "Do you belong to this group or that group?". That is an utter simplification of issues and it is all very well for the Honourable Maulana to hold forth that India will go to war under this banner or that banner. But that surely is not the way that a responsible House or a responsible country views the situation. We have proclaimed during this past year that we will not attach ourselves to any particular group. That has nothing to do with neutrality or anything else or passivity. If there is a big war, there is no particular reason why we should jump into it. Nevertheless, it is a little difficult nowadays in world wars to be neutral. Any person with any knowledge of international affairs knows that. The point is not what will happen when there is a war. Are we going to proclaim to the world, taking the advice of Maulana Hasrat Mohani that when war comes we stand by Russia? Is that his idea of foreign policy or any policy? That shows to me an amazing ignorance of how any foreign affair can be conducted. We are not going to join a war if we can help it: and we are going to join the side which is to our interest when the choice comes to it. There the matter ends.

But talking about foreign policies, the House must remember that these are not just empty struggles on a chess board that are going on. Behind them lie all manner of things. Ultimately foreign policy is the outcome of economic policy and till that time, when India has properly evolved her economic policy, her foreign policy will be rather vague, rather incoherent, and will rather grope about. It is well for us to say that we stand for peace and freedom and yet that does not convey much to anybody, except a pious hope. We do stand for peace and freedom. I think there is something to be said for it. There is some meaning when we say that we stand for the freedom of Asian countries and for the elimination of imperialistic control over them. There is some meaning in that. Undoubtedly it has some substance but a vague statement that we stand for peace and freedom by itself has no particular meaning, because every country is prepared to say the same thing, whether it means it or not. What then do we stand for? Well, you have to develop then this argument in the economic field. As it happens today, in spite of the fact that we have been for sometime in authority as a Government I regret that we have not produced any constructive economic scheme or economic policy thus far. Again my excuse is that we have been going through such amazing times which has taken up all our energy and attention that it became difficult to do so. Nevertheless we shall have to do so and when we do so that will govern our foreign policy, more than all the speeches in this House.

We have sought to avoid these foreign entanglements and joining one bloc or the other. The natural result has been that neither of these big blocs looks with favour on us. They think that we are undependable, because we cannot be made to vote this way or that way. Last year when our Delegation went to the United Nations it was the first time that more or less an independent delegation went from India. It was looked upon a little askance. They did not know what it was going to do. When they found that we acted according to our own will they did not like it. We were unpopular last year in the United Nations. I do not mean individually but in regard to our policy and they could not quite find out what we were or what we were aiming at. There was a suspicion in the minds of one group that really we were allied to the other group in secret, though we were trying to hide that fact and the other group thought that we were allied to the first group in secret though we were trying to hide that fact. This year there was a slight change in this attitude. We did many things which the other groups disliked but the comprehension came to them that we were not really allied to any group, that we were trying to act according to our own lights and according to the merits of the dispute as they seemed to us. They did not like that of course, because the position today is that there is so much passion about it and so much fear and suspicion of each other between these rival great powers and groups that anybody who is not with them is considered as against them. So they did not like what we did in many instances: nevertheless they respected us much more, because they realised that we had some kind of an independent policy, that we were not going to be dragged on this way or that, that we may make a mistake as anyone can, nevertheless we were going to stick to our own policy and programme, so that while we possibly irritated some of our friends even a little more than last year, we got on much better with everybody, because they understood that we did stand for something. That is the background of it.

To give the House an instance of how we functioned, take this Palestine affair which has given rise and will give rise to a great deal of trouble. We took up a certain attitude in regard to it which was roughly a Federal State with autonomous parts of it. It was opposed to both the other attitudes, which were before the United Nations. One was partition which has now been adopted: the other was a unitary state. We suggested a Federal State with naturally an Arab majority in charge of the Federal State but with autonomy for the other regions—Jewish regions. After a great deal of thought we decided that this was not only a fair and equitable solution of the problem but the only real solution of the problem. Any other solution would mean just fight and conflict. Nevertheless our solution—which as the House will remember was the solution given in the minority report of the Palestine Committee—did not find favour with most people in the United Nations. Some of the major powers were out for partition and they therefore pressed for it and ultimately got it. Others were so keen on the unitary state idea and were so sure of it at any rate preventing partition or preventing a two-thirds majority in favour of partition that they did not accept our suggestion. When during the last few days partition somehow suddenly became inevitable and votes veered round to that owing to the pressure of some of the great powers, then suddenly it was realised that the Indian solution was probably the best and a last minute attempt was made in the last 48 hours to bring forward the Indian solution, not by us but by those who wanted a unitary state. It was then too late. There were procedural difficulties and many of the persons who might have accepted this solution had already pledged themselves to the partition side. And so ultimately partition was decided upon by a two-thirds majority, with a large number abstaining from voting, with the result again of trouble now and a great deal of trouble in the future in the Middle East. I point this out to the House as an instance that in spite of considerable difficulty and being told by many of our friends on either side that we must line up this way or that we refused to do so and I have no

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doubt that the position we had taken up was the right one and I have no doubt yet that that would have brought about a solution as no other decision would. That applies to many other things. But inevitably that means that to some extent we have to plough a lonely furrow in the United Nations or in international conferences of this type. Nonetheless that is the only honourable and right position for us to take up and I am quite sure that by adopting that position we shall ultimately gain in national and international prestige, that is to say, when we take a long view of the situation, not a short view of getting immediately a vote here or there. I have no doubt that fairly soon, in the course of two or three years, the world will find this attitude justifying itself and that India will not only be respected by the major protagonists in the struggle for power but a large number of the smaller nations which today are rather helpless would probably look towards India more than to other countries for a lead in such matters.

May I in this connection say that during this last session of the United Nations General Assembly many very difficult and very controversial issues were raised, and our Delegation had to face extraordinarily intricate situations. I should like to pay a tribute to our Delegation, specially to the leader of the Delegation.

Honourable Members often put questions about appointment of ambassadors, members of delegations and the like and rightly so, because the House should be interested in such important appointments. May I say to the House that nothing is more difficult than to make these appointments, because they are not just appointments of persons who may be able but appointments of particular persons to particular places where they must fit in, which is an extraordinarily difficult thing. In the key places of the world the ideal Ambassador must be some kind of super-man. It is so difficult now not only to understand the intricacies—that is not difficult—but to keep friends with everybody and yet to advance your cause. After all we have been in the past discussing foreign affairs outside, in other assemblies, or incidentally here, rather in an academic way, rather in a college debating society way. That is, we talk of high policies but we do not come to grips with the question when we have to say 'yes' or 'no' to a question and take the consequences of that. If the House will forgive my saying so, even in today's debate many of the speeches were of an academic kind which did not take into account the vital questions which concern the world today which may mean peace or war. But when the House will have to face the question by having to take a decision which may lead to war or peace, when one comes face to face with realism, then one cannot rely merely on idealistic principles. Foreign affairs is utterly realistic today where a false step, a false phrase makes a difference. The first thing that an Ambassador of ours has to know is to shut his mouth and give up public or even private speaking. It is not a habit which we have developed in our past careers—of being completely silent almost. Yet that has to be developed and in private one has to be silent lest what one says might injure the cause of the nation, might create international ill-will and so on and so forth. It is in this background that I should like the House to consider international affairs—this realistic background, this notion that this is not merely some naughty men playing about and quarrelling with each other, some statesmen in America and the U.S.S.R. or the British imperialism lurking in the distance behind the curtain and doing something. We have talked so much about British imperialism that we cannot get out of the habit of it, whether it is there or not. But it is by coming to grips with this subject in its economic, political and various other aspects, trying to understand and realize it that ultimately matters. Whatever policy you may lay down, this foreign affairs of any country is to find out what is most advantageous to your country. We may talk

about international goodwill and mean what we talk. We may talk about peace and freedom and earnestly mean what we say. But in the ultimate analysis a government functions for the good of the country it governs and no government dare do anything which in the short or long run is manifestly to the disadvantage of that country. Therefore, whether a country is imperialistic or socialist or Communist, its Foreign Minister thinks primarily of the interests of that country. And no doubts so. But there is a difference of course. Some people may think of the interests of their country regardless of other consequences or take a short distance view. Others may think "No, in the long term policy the interest of another country is as important to me as that of my own country". The interest of peace is more important because if war comes everyone suffers, so that in the long-distance view self-interest may itself demand a policy of co-operation with other nations, goodwill for other nations, as indeed it does demand. Every intelligent person can see that if you have a narrow national policy it may enthuse the multitude for the moment, just as a communal cry has done, but it is bad for the nation and it is bad internationally because you lose sight of the ultimate good and thereby endanger your own good. Therefore we propose to look after India's interests in the context of world co-operation and world peace, in so far as world peace can be preserved. We propose to keep in the closest terms of friendship with other countries unless they themselves create difficulties. We shall be friends with America. We intend co-operating with the United States of America and we intend co-operating fully with the Soviet Union. We have had, as the House knows, a distinguished Representative of the United States here for some time past. Within a week or two we shall have a distinguished Representative of the Soviet Union here, in the Soviet Embassy which is being opened in New Delhi.

I should not like to say much more at this stage about foreign affairs partly for lack of time, partly because it is a little difficult to discuss these matters. Some of the Honourable Members may perhaps let themselves go about what should be done in China, Japan, Siam and Peru, but I fear it is a little difficult and it will be a little irresponsible for me to talk about these various matters. Naturally India is interested in Asian countries even more than the rest of the world. We have had an Asian Conference, and at this moment we have a distinguished visitor, the Prime Minister of Burma, here. May I say in this connection that some people are under a misapprehension that we are conducting special negotiations with the Burmese Delegation here? That is not quite true. It has been primarily a visit of courtesy. At the same time, of course, we have broadly explored the various questions, discussed various matters of common concern, not with the idea of suddenly coming to decisions in regard to these intricate matters now but rather to lay the foundations for future talks. May I also say that the Prime Minister of Burma is interested, as many of us have been, in closer association, not only between Burma and India but between various other countries of Asia also? We have discussed that also, not again with a view suddenly to come to decisions because these things take a little time to grow. They all indicate the new spirit of Asia which wants Asian countries to draw closer together in defence of themselves and in promoting world peace.

Coming to another part of this cut motion in regard to Indians in the British Commonwealth, that is an old subject and a painful subject. I entirely agree with any criticism that might be made that we have not been able to do anything substantial in this direction. Something has been done in Canada or elsewhere but nothing substantial has yet been done. Now, the odd thing is that this subject becomes more and more difficult to deal with and not easier. Indians have gone to these British Colonies and Dominions in the past in various forms, as merchants, traders, workers, indentured labourers and the rest. Looking back on this history of Indian emigration abroad, and including in that the humblest of those who went from India, it reads almost like a romance

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how these Indians went abroad. Not even citizens of a free country, working under all disadvantages, yet they made good wherever they went. They worked hard for themselves and for the country where they were in. They made good themselves and profited the country they had gone to.

[At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (one of the Panel of Chairmen)].

It is a romance and it is something which India can be proud of, and may I say most of all of those poor indentured labourers who went out under unhappy conditions and who through their own labour, gradually worked their way up. That is so. It is also true that India, being a country that in spite of everything, has abounding vitality and spreads abroad. It rather frightens our neighbour countries, just like China which is also a country with abounding vitality and an abounding population. We spread. We tend to overwhelm others both by virtue of our numbers, and sometimes by virtue of the economic position we might develop there. That naturally frightens others who may not have that vitality in them, and they want to protect themselves against it, and then questions arise of vested interests which India has developed or Indians have developed there. Those questions have arisen, and while on the one hand we are obviously intent on protecting the interests of Indians abroad, on the other hand we cannot protect any vested interests which injure the cause of the country they are in. There is that difficulty. Nevertheless, undoubtedly we shall try to do our best to protect all legitimate interests.

Now one word more. I will not take more of the time of the House. An Honourable Member, Mr. Kamath, I think, referred to the expenditure incurred in Embassies. Now first of all, one of the minor headaches I have had to suffer from is a relatively new tendency in old and new newspapers alike to publish without check or hindrance the most amazing lies. It is impossible to keep pace with that. It is undesirable always to go about contradicting every little thing they say. It just cannot be done, and Delhi has been inflicted by some new types of papers and journals I have come across, which do not raise either the stature of Indian journalism or anything else. So many of these stories are not true that have appeared. I read somewhere about the U. P. Government presenting (I think in a Delhi paper) Rs. 20,000 and 200 *saris* to Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit on her departure to Moscow. I read all manner of the most malicious and unfounded and false statements in these papers about Mr. Asaf Ali.

Now, coming to this question of cost, the figure Mr. Kamath mentioned of 5 lakhs of course has no relation to fact. I do not know what the figure is.

Shri H. V. Kamath: I did not vouch for the truth of it; I said it was only a press report.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I suggest that if Mr. Kamath makes any statements, he might investigate them before he makes them.

What I should like this House to remember is this, that these ambassadorial appointments have to keep up a certain dignity and a certain status. It is no good our sending an Ambassador and not giving him a house to live in, not giving him furniture in the house, not providing him with the minimum wherewithal to meet others properly and decently. I doubt if any country, big or small, is conducting its ambassadorial establishments in such a cheap way as we are doing. A great deal of criticism has been made about our Ambassador in Moscow getting furniture from Stockholm. Well, how a house has to be furnished in Moscow, of course Honourable Members do not realise. It just is not possible to furnish it easily in Moscow. You get an empty house. We thought of sending things from India, but it was almost a physical impossibility unless we spent vast sums over aeroplanes carrying chairs and tables from here.

Of course it could be furnished alternatively with Russian furniture. The Russian people, and all credit to them for this, ever since this war, are so intent on doing what they consider to be the fundamental things that they refuse to waste their time on the accessories of life. They have to build up their country after the most horrible suffering and damage they suffered in the war and they are building it up in regard to the major undertakings. They go about in patched up clothes and broken down shoes. It does not matter, but they are building dams, reservoirs and factories and the rest which they consider more important. So it is not easy to get any of these small accessories of life for the moment. The only things you can get in Russia are antique pieces of Czarist days which are frightfully expensive. The result is that our Embassy in Moscow has to go to Stockholm for its chairs and tables, and as these were urgently required—office equipment, etc.—our Ambassador had to go there. But of course the visit to Stockholm was not merely, Members of the House should realise, to buy furniture. When an Ambassador goes elsewhere, the Ambassador does other work too, and any kind of shopping that might be done is incidental thereto.

I am grateful to the House for their kind sentiments and their expressions of goodwill for our attempt to follow a certain rather vague policy in regard to Foreign affairs. I wish it was a more definite policy. I think it is growing more definite, and in this connection may I say that at the present moment no country, including the Big Powers with their long traditions of Foreign Affairs, has got anything which might be called a precise and definite Foreign policy, because the world itself is in a fluid condition. Of course if you call it a definite policy of one great country looking with bitter dislike upon another and suspecting it, that may be the foundation of policy, but that is not policy, that is just passion and prejudice. Otherwise there is hardly any very definite policy in any country and they are trying to fit in their policy there day to day to changing circumstances.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I beg to ask for leave of the House to withdraw the cut motion.

Mr. Chairman: Has the Honourable Member leave of the House to withdraw the cut motion?

The cut motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,76,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 29—MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Sir, I move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,03,000 be granted to the Governor-General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Ministry of Industry and Supply'."

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,03,000 be granted to the Governor-General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Ministry of Industry and Supply'."

Removal of Control over Cloth, Yarn and commodities other than Food

Shri Mohan Lal Saxena: Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Industry and Supply' be reduced by Rs. 100."

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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) [4TH DEC. 1947]

[Shri Mohan Lal Saksena]

has been allotted for it. But it is well known to everybody—it is an open secret—that today people are getting not more than 2 chhattaks of wheat and the rest they are getting from the black market. A leading mill-owner told me, and that in the presence of one of the Premiers and one of the Ministers of this Government, that he had to go to the black market for petrol, because his guests wanted cars and he could not help going to the black market. Then, I asked him, “Is petrol the only thing for which you get from black-market?” He said: “I am getting 4 chhattaks of wheat per head. It does not suffice for our needs. We require 6 chhattaks and the balance we get regularly from the black-market.” When things have come to this, when controls have become such a farce, when they have led to so much corruption, when they have not succeeded in bringing these articles within the reach of the people, the A.-I. C. C. has rightly come to the decision that these controls should be removed as early as possible.

Now, Sir, I am one of those who if necessary would rather take over all these mills and nationalise them. I say, you do it if you can. I do not stand for these mill-owners. I want that our people should get cloth to wear. Therefore, I would suggest that before you remove the controls, you must have a scheme like the one suggested by my friend Mr. Vadilal or any other scheme, by which production may be increased, and you may de-control the prices and the distribution. But then, you must have two checks. First of all, you must have a check on the production. You must see that the mills produce more coarse cloth and yarn. If they produce more coarse cloth, they will require less yarn for fine cloth, and more yarn will be available for the handloom weavers. On the one hand I want this, and on the other hand, I want that there should be a check on the export of cloth. Prices may shoot up for some time, but I hope that after some time, things will settle down and corruption will decrease. Until we are in a position to nationalise these industries, we have no other course but to de-control. I have no intention of going into the heavy expenditure which the Supply Department means to the Government of India. Besides this, we have got an army of officers and persons who are working in the Provinces. And who are these persons? They were recruited from Civic Guards many of whom were not even qualified according to the Government rules but because in those days they happened to support the Government or they happened to become favourites with the local officials, they were appointed.

Sir, since I have no more time, I do not want to take into consideration other items like iron, cement etc. But my suggestion is this. Let the Government of India take courage in both hands and act boldly. I know there are people who say that Bengal may be repeated. I am not one of those who believe that Bengal will be repeated. So long as our leaders are at the helm of affairs, Bengal cannot be repeated and will not be repeated. If necessary, we will take over all these mills. Gandhiji said in the very beginning, before the inception of controls, in the year 1942 that we must have control. Of course, he did not refer to Government control. He said that we must control our habits and reduce our consumption of cereals. Then we did not pay any heed to him. So today also we are trying to do the same thing. I think, Sir, that I cannot do better than conclude my observations by reading the portion of the speech which Mahatmaji made after the Resolution of the A.-I. C. C. was passed. He said:

“I must keep you for a moment over the most debated question of control. Must the voice of the people be drowned by the noise of the pandits, who claim to know all about the virtue of controls? Would that our Ministers who are drawn from the people and are of the people will listen to the voice of the people rather than of the controllers of the red tape which they know did them infinite harm when they were in the wilderness. The pandits then ruled with a vengeance. Must they do so even now? Will not the people have an opportunity of committing mistakes and learn by them? Do the Ministers not

know that they have the power to resume control whenever necessary, if de-control is found to have been harmful to the public. In any instance out of the samples, by no means exhaustive that I have given above.”

With these words, Sir, I move.

Mr. Chairman: Cut motion moved?

“That the demand under the head ‘Ministry of Industry and Supply’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

Shri Khandubhai K. Desai (Bombay: General): Mr. Chairman, Sir, while supporting the cut motion moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Saksena, I would like to make a few observations, particularly with regard to the cloth situation.

The motion wants to discuss the whole policy regarding the cloth control and my friend Mr. Saksena has suggested that the control over the cloth should be removed. The question is whether the cloth control as it has worked during the last 3½ years has worked in the interests of the consumers for whom the control has been imposed or whether it has worked in the interest of the manufacturers who had been, as a matter of fact, the whole Cloth Control Board.

An Honourable Member: Also the Black Marketeer.

Shri Khandubhai K. Desai: Now, Sir, how has the cloth control worked? That cloth control has really not controlled the profits nor controlled the earnings of the intermediaries which it was intended to do. If it has controlled anything, it has controlled the poor consumer from getting his requirements and on some occasion I pointed out that the profits made in one year, 1943, was really 2,000 pre-war gross profits of the industry were only five crores, whereas in the year 1943 they were about 109 crores and if the average for the war years is taken, it will be found that the whole average of the seven years works out at about 1,000 per cent. over the pre-war level which were only five crores. That is how the cloth control has worked; the above are the average figures for seven years of war period.

Now, Sir, after the control, what are the profits? The Mill-owners came forward a year back saying that the industry is not paying and they have given certain data on which some *Ad hoc* Committee was appointed by the Government and this committee recommended that some increase should be given to the coarse cloth. The question was not whether the mills working the coarse counts were making losses. The question was that they were not making comparatively better profits compared to the fine count. Therefore it should have been decided to reduce the finer count price, but the decision which the Industrial Committee of the Control Board took was that the fine count cloth prices should be increased by six to eight annas in the yard and it would have meant about 30 crores of Rupees which would have gone to subsidise the coarse count mills.

Now, Sir, the data that appears to have been supplied to the *Ad hoc* Committee by the Industry was essentially wrong. As it is, Sir, it has been pointed out that in the year 1947 the mills are likely to make only 10 crores of Rupees, whereas the facts are that in the year 1947 the mills are likely to make 30 crores of Rupees and on top of it the subsidy of 30 crores of Rupees would have gone from the consumers. So it would have been 60 crores of Rupees.

Let us see now how it will work out. The profits of 60 crores would have been equal more or less to the profits which they were making in 1944. Instead of reducing these profits, instead of five crores, let them be given 10 crores which will meet all their requirements. But I must say that for the first time the Government of India has taken courage to scrap this scheme and the country is really grateful to the Honourable the Minister for Industry that he has saved to the poor consumers a sum equal to 30 crores of Rupees, which is not a small amount.

[Shri Mohan Lal Saksena]

Sir, you are aware that a great deal of controversy has been going on in the country about controls. It has engaged the anxious consideration of our leaders and has been causing much headache to the Ministers who are responsible for the administration of the controls; and it has been agitating the public mind. Lately, Sir, a meeting of the All India Congress Committee passed a Resolution which with your permission I would like to read to the House:

"The A. I. C. C. has been alarmed at the disturbance of normal life by the various controls, especially in regard to food stuffs and clothing. These have promoted black-marketing, hoarding, corruption and other evils; they have interfered with the process of self-reliance and arrested the incentive to production, especially in the matter of growing more foodstuffs and the manufacture of handspun and hand-woven khadi in the thousands of villages in India.

The Committee are therefore of the opinion that the Central and Provincial Governments should give urgent consideration to the problem of de-control as early as possible without detriment to the public good."

So far as we of the Congress are concerned we are bound by this Resolution and we have to further it through this House. But you may be aware that even in this House a Cut Motion was moved during the Budget Session in March and all sections of the House were practically unanimous that the controls should be removed, that corruption should be reduced and that efforts should be made to increase production. Not only every section of the House, but Member after Member from every Province rose in his seat and gave out the sufferings of the people, the way in which these controls are being administered and the way people were suffering for want of essential commodities—and they were not having even the bare minimum which was prescribed by the rationing rules. And if I have raised this question again, it is to get the verdict of the House that the House has not changed its opinion; for whatever was said at that time—I do not want to repeat those very arguments, I would only say this—those arguments have greater force now, they apply with greater force today than they did at that time, and the working of the Department has shown that instead of responding to the request of the Members in this House, the Department has neither succeeded in reducing corruption nor has it succeeded in increasing production. On that occasion, Sir, you will remember that one of the members of this House, who was not a theoretician like myself or Professor Ranga, but who knew his business, who was in the trade, who himself was working his mill, suggested a scheme by which he said that the production of every mill could be increased by 25 per cent. At that time the figures were 4,800 million yards of mill cloth and 1,500 million yards of handloom cloth. The Finance Minister has told us that this has gone down and that now it is 3,900 million yards of mill cloth and 1,200 million yards of handloom cloth.

Sir, that Member not only made the proposals for increasing production, but at the instance of the then Industries Member, he agreed to work his mills on those very lines. After working his mill according to his proposals, he showed that the production had gone up; it had increased and one of the members of this House who happens to be a Member of the Government, himself went round and satisfied himself about the claims regarding increase in production, that the scheme was practical and that production could be increased. But the Government of India, the Industry and Supply Department, and still more the Textile Control Board, did not agree with that proposal. Ever then, when that Member who originated the scheme—Mr. Vadilal—wrote to the Minister in Charge, he was advised that he may carry on that scheme in his own mill while other mills would be advised later on. After two or three months, since he was producing coarser counts of yarn which meant a loss in profits though increase in production, he wrote back saying

"How long may I go on like this? When other mills make money, why should the shareholders of this mill suffer?", and the reply from the Honourable Member was "You may go on, you must do your duty whether others do it or not".

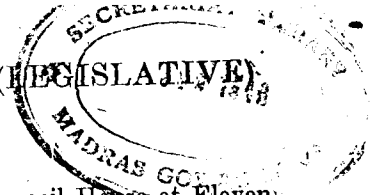
Now, what steps are being taken to increase production? A few weeks ago there was a recommendation by the Textile Control Board that the prices of coarse cloth should be increased. And why? So that the mills may give up producing fine cloth—not because these mills were losing by producing fine cloth. So that they may give up producing fine cloth and manufacture more coarse cloth, prices of coarse cloth were to be raised. This was recommended by the Textile Control Board and this caused much headache to our Ministers in the Cabinet for some time. I am glad that the Cabinet turned down that proposal. But still, what I suggest is that the Cabinet should have reduced the prices of finer cloth so that the mills should have taken to producing more of coarse cloth. That was not done.

So, from what I know of the working of this Textile Control Board and the working of this cloth control, I can say that the Textile Control Board has been working in the interests of mill-owners. Today in this House we heard that even the figures supplied by them regarding production were not correct and the Honourable Member in charge was not in a position to say whether they tallied with the figures of actual production. As a matter of fact, the working of controls will show that during this time, on the one hand it has given huge profits to these mill-owners and on the other it is brought money to the coffers of the Government; and then it has produced corruption—it has brought money to the middlemen who were operating in the black-market. Of course, I do not want to say anything about the Government servants and those persons who are working in those Departments who number a legion. If you will only look at the Telephone Directory, you will find the names of the officers of these Departments running to 10 pages, which means at the rate of 40 officers per page, 400 officers. And who are these officers? Leave aside the Joint Secretaries who are about half a dozen. Then come Deputy Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries. Then there are Directors, and not only Directors. There are Deputy Directors, and every Director has got three or four Deputy Directors. After that, they have got Assistant Directors, three or four for each Deputy Director. And again, they have got Deputy Assistant Directors. Thus, Directors, Deputy Directors, Assistant Directors and Deputy Assistant Directors. My friend Mr. Santhanam pointed out this morning how much money is being spent not only on their salaries, but their honoraria, allowances and special pays. If you go into the history of these gentlemen who are working in this Department, and hold offices like Assistant Deputy Directors and so on, you will find that in 1938 or 1939 they were getting about Rs. 150 or 200, or not more than Rs. 250, and today they are most of them getting more than Rs. 800. I do not want to suggest that if there is a deserving person, he may not be promoted, but these persons, because they have got some extra work, they are given special pay. Not only that, so far as corruption is concerned, controls and corruption have become more or less synonymous. So many persons have come to me and told me that corruption has increased in these Departments. Corruption may or may not have increased, but there is no doubt that it has not decreased. Many people have told me to send anybody whom I liked to one of those Departments,—of course, the Supply Department is not excluded—where from the peon to the highest officer the spirit of corruption prevails. *Yahan sukha kam nahi chalega* (Nothing can be done without money). They have challenged me to go and verify this. Of course, I could not do so.

So far as I am concerned, Sir, controls are only means to an end, the end being that there should be equitable distribution of commodities at moderately cheap prices within the reach of the ordinary man. Have the controls served that end? Have they succeeded in placing these articles within the reach of our ordinary man? I am not discussing food control, because a special day

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Friday, 5th December, 1947



The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS.

ALL-INDIA DRAINAGE AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

615. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have developed or propose to develop an All-India Irrigation and Drainage Development plan;

(b) if so, what its main features are;

(c) in what proportion Government expect to get the scheme financed as between the Central and Provincial Governments;

(d) what the main objects of these projects are whether irrigation and famine protection, Grow More Food Campaign, or Hydro-Electricity; and

(e) whether an appeal has been made to Government to make every scheme convertible into an all-purposes one?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) No.

(b), (c) and (d). The question does not arise.

(e) No.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that various irrigation projects are being taken up in different provinces in a piece-meal fashion, would it not be better that the Government of India themselves should expect their Irrigation Research Bureau to prepare for them from time to time comprehensive lists of these projects and then give them an estimate of their cost?

Mr. Speaker: Is it not more or less a question of opinion?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government then consider the advisability of asking their Irrigation Research Bureau to help in the matter?

Shri Mihirlal Chattopadhyaya: When an irrigation project involves two provinces, will the Centre take the initiative in the matter or not?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The initiative is usually taken on the representation of the provinces concerned but very often the initiative is taken by the Centre itself.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is there any drainage project which Government has taken up in the recent past?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: No.

Shri Mihirlal Chattopadhyaya: Coming down to the particular, may I know whether the Government is likely to take an initiative in the matter of the project involving the provinces of Bengal and Bihar?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: So far as this particular project is concerned, the Government of India received a representation from the Bengal Government and with a view to settle this question a conference is being called between the representatives of the Bengal and Bihar Governments in the immediate future.

[Shri Khandubhai K. Desai]

While I am speaking on this issue, I am reminded of a well-known Sanskrit sloka which says:

दरिद्रान भर कौन्तेय, मा प्रयच्छ ईश्वरे धनम् ॥

But what was being done about five months back was that something contrary to this sloka was being done. The poor were being deprived of 30 crores of Rupees to pay to the rich who were already earning six times the amount which they used to earn before the war and therefore, Sir, I would very strongly support the suggestion made by my friend for de-controlling the cloth.

Now in this respect, Sir, it is being made out that the industry is not able to produce the cloth sufficient for the country and so the control required to be maintained. I think that the data supplied by the Industry is wrong, because as a common man, I do not understand why it is so? Whereas before the War the shift looms that were working in the industry were about 2,30,000, while today they are working—including night and day—in the neighbourhood of 3,60,000. Even taking into consideration the reduction in the number of hours from nine to eight, certain disturbances which might have come in the way of production, I should feel, Sir, that the production today should not be less than 5,000 million yards. But it has been quoted this morning by the Honourable Minister for Industry that production is in the neighbourhood of about 4,000 million yards. I am sure, Sir, that from 15 to 20 per cent. production goes into the black market, which has not been accounted for. Otherwise the industry is producing today cloth which is really 800 million yards more than what it was producing before the war which was 4,200 million yards. The Mill-owners will very vehemently deny this and say that it is not so. Then as the representatives of this country we can certainly ask them: Where has production gone to-day by working 3,60,000 looms even for eight hours? Assuming there is no disturbance of any sort, the production would come to 5,400 million yards on the ordinary basis of calculations. I give allowance for 400 million yards. Even then the production should be 5,000 million yards and there is no doubt about that. Recently about a fortnight back there have been raids in Ahmedabad and Bombay. The raids were made for some other purpose. But what can be found except the cloth there? This cloth was found, which runs into several hundred bales. Where has that black market cloth come from? It must have come directly from the mills and there may be a silent conspiracy between the Department and the manufacturer. I am quite sure that if the de-control is the policy of the Government, there would not be much difficulty in getting the cloth. There is one other result of this present control system about which the nation cannot be silent. The control as it is worked out gives a particular price to any cloth, of whatever quality. So the industry has deteriorated. The best cloth gives the same price as the worst cloth, because the price is scheduled to be same. And as such the manufacturer is not interested in the quality of the cloth, and the result is that what used to last for a couple of months now does not last more than half that period. That is also one of the reasons why there is this artificial scarcity of cloth. Sir, it has been stated that the workers have become very inefficient, that there is a lot of absenteeism, and what not. From my close contact and touch with the industry I am in a position to state very definitely that as a result of cloth control and the fixing of prices at a level which gives to the manufacturer a margin which is unimaginable, it is the manufacturers themselves and the technicians who have become very inefficient and lazy. Naturally when the manufacturer himself does not care for the quality of his production and the technician does not care for his quality, the employees also may have sympathetically become a little more negligent. I think it is a sympathetic kind of sabotage. It has been stated that as a reduction of the hours from nine to eight the production has gone down *pro rata*. But what we actually find is that in quite a large number of mills in most of the important centres

of the industry—like Ahmedabad and Bombay—the production has been made up to the extent of 4 to 5 per cent. So if any allowance is to be given for reduction of hours it should be $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and not $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. as it is made out to be.

I must say that for all these sins of omission and commission we must absolve the present Ministry of any guilt because, like all other kinds of legacy, they have to carry the heavy burden of this particular legacy, and they are carrying it with great capacity, strength and courage. I say that production is a proposition which cannot be allowed to take its own turn according to the whims of the employers. The workers are interested in production and in giving the best of production to the country. And on behalf of the Indian National Trade Union Congress I can assure this House that the textile workers

in this country will do everything in their power to step up production 5 P.M. provided they get the co-operation of the employers. When that co-operation is not available from manufacturers I would strongly urge on Government to take charge of the industry; and I am quite sure that the working classes of this country will respond to the call of Government but it will not be possible for them to respond to the call of the manufacturers who want to exploit the whole country.

Sir, I support this cut motion and say that control as far as distribution and price are concerned, should be removed, and the control as far as production is concerned, should be kept by Government, and it must be tightened up so that the country will get the cloth that it requires and not the cloth which the manufacturers want to produce for profit.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 5th December, 1947.

1274 CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) [5TH DEC. 1947]

Shri H. V. Kamath: Are not Government contemplating a comprehensive All-India Development Plan of which this irrigation and drainage development can form an integral part?

Mr. Speaker: The honourable Member means an All-India Irrigation Plan?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: What is it you want me to answer?

Shri H. V. Kamath: Are not Government contemplating an All-India Development Plan of which this Irrigation can form an integral part?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Irrigation is primarily a provincial concern. But wherever interests of more than one province are concerned, the Centre comes in, and there is a plan for co-ordinating all such activity. So far as research is concerned, I may inform Prof. Ranga that there is a Central Station of Research in Poona and there are plans to expand the same.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Will the plans be published and printed?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Whatever work is done by the Central Research Station is published. You can have it from the Department and copies of it are already in the Library. So far as the plans are concerned, usually they are not published because they are more or less meant for the respective provinces concerned. But if the Honourable Member wants information on any particular point, I shall be glad to give it to him.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Does the Honourable Minister feel it necessary that in view of the great necessity for the development of the country, he will try to co-ordinate all these schemes and take the initiative from the Centre?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: As regards co-ordination, I have said that every effort is made. To be precise, now there are four or five schemes that are placed before the Centre for consideration from the Madras Presidency. It is very difficult to dispose of the respective claims of these provinces say for Andhra and Tamilnad but every effort is being made and one of them is that I propose to visit Madras in the near future.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Is there not a danger that in taking these provincial plans, separately parts of the country may become over-developed in some respects and all development may become lopsided? If there were one plan for all India, you could develop every portion of the country, scientifically and with proportionate emphasis and, in order of priority.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It is getting into an argument.

NEWSPRINT IMPORT LICENCES.

616. ***Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether Government are aware that considerable anxiety is being felt by the Newspapers of this country for the reason that no announcement has been made, up to this date, by the Ministry concerned with regard to the issue of Import Licences for Newsprint for the year 1948?

(b) Are Government aware that the North American Mills which constitute one of the most important sources of Newsprint supply to India accept orders on the basis that irrevocable Letters of Credit are arranged for the whole quantity for the year, before manufacture is started, and that Letters of Credit can only be opened on production of the relevant Import Licences?

(c) Are Government aware that it has been the practice of the Government of India up to the last year, to issue such Import Licences for the following years before September 30th, and that this is the first time that the matter has been kept pending up to this date?

(d) Do Government propose to invite applications for Newsprint Import Licences and adopt necessary measures for granting licenses to the applicants with the least possible delay?

(e) Are Government aware that there is a feeling of dissatisfaction amongst the newspapers at the delay in taking action on applications for licences?

(f) Do Government propose to take steps to remove this complaint?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) to (f). The issue of import licences for newsprint in 1948 has been delayed pending a decision regarding the quantum of dollar exchange that could be made available for this purpose. As the Honourable Member may be aware, there is an acute shortage of exchange, particularly of dollars and it has become therefore a matter of the utmost importance that foreign currencies should be conserved to the maximum extent possible. Government have now completed their review of the position however and applications for import licences will be invited during the next few days. Meanwhile licences already issued in September 1947 for the July-December 1947 period have been extended up to 30th June 1948. This should enable importers and newspaper concerns to obtain their supplies in full against these licences. I can assure the Honourable Member, that delays of this kind are unlikely to arise in the future.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable Minister take a note of part (b) and then inform the House as to how he proposes to help in the matter?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I have taken note of that and I assure the Honourable Member that there will be no more delays hereafter.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: Part (b) merely says that applications will be asked for and that meanwhile licences already issued in September 1947 for the July-December 1947 period have been extended up to 30th June 1948.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Applications are invited for the period stated in the answer and they will be disposed of quicker than it was done before.

TRIBAL PEOPLES OF INDIA.

617. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special Directorate or any department has been organised to look after the special needs and problems of the Tribal peoples of India;

(b) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of forming an Advisory Council including the representatives of All-India Excluded Areas and Tribal Peoples Associations, Adibasis Association and Harijan Sevak Sangh, to advise them; and

(c) whether it is proposed to make any special allotment from the Central Revenues for the improvement of the condition of these people, and their liberation from Malaria and other diseases?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The Government of India are now concerned only with the Tribal Areas of the North East Frontier. No special Directorate or Department has been set up to deal exclusively with matters relating to the Tribal people, but the North East Frontier Agency was created in October 1943, with its headquarters at Shillong, to organise the administration and development of the Tribal Areas.

(b) This is dependent on the decisions which the Constituent Assembly will take in regard to the future administration of the Tribal and Excluded Areas.

(c) The Government of India have already sanctioned a Five Year Development Plan for the Assam Tribal Areas which covers various beneficent schemes including the construction of 28 hospitals and two leper colonies in tribal territory. The total capital expenditure involved in the plan is estimated to be about Rs. 128.36 lakhs which will be met exclusively from Central revenues. As regards other tribal areas the point is covered by the reply to item (b).

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the advisability of making a special grant for the development of these Tribal people in other areas in anticipation of any decision that might be taken by the Constituent Assembly in regard to the constitution to come?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The Government will gladly consider the matter. Normally they are being dealt with by the provincial authorities and they are included in the other schemes of development. I do not quite know how we can deal with rather a vague assortment of tribes all over India.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that there has been considerable dissatisfaction among these Tribal people about the grants made and efforts made by provincial Governments for their development, will the Government consider the advisability of making some grants-in-aid to the Provincial Governments with a view to encouraging them to develop the social and economic status of these people?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, but I should like Prof. Ranga and any other Honourable Member of the House to put forward some specific proposals which we might consider. What has been suggested is too vague a proposal.

Shri Mihirlal Chattopadhyaya: May I know whether Government are aware that lately there have been some signs of spreading discontent amongst the tribal people in the North Eastern Frontier of India and may I know what steps have been taken by the Government of India to remove the disaffection amongst those people and win over their confidence and affection?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, I am aware of that and the normal steps usual in such cases were taken that is people in the North East Frontier from the Governor downwards have gone there and discussed the situation with the tribal people and they have largely convinced them.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: Is it proposed to award scholarships to tribal pupils in other provinces of India besides those in the North East Frontier? Has any representation been received in this connection from the Harijan Sevak Sangh?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: There is no reference to scholarships being awarded to the people in the North East Frontier. We are only opening schools there. I suppose the Education Minister should know about scholarships. I know nothing about it.

Fiji GOVERNMENT'S IMMIGRATION BILL

†618. ***Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether a bill to control immigration has been recently introduced in the Fiji Legislative Council?

(b) If so, what are its main provisions and how does it affect the Indian community in Fiji?

(c) Have Government made any representations to the British Government regarding its effect on the Indian interests?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The Honourable member's attention is invited to the reply I gave to Question No. 391 by Shri K. Santhanam on the 27th November 1947. I may add that we have been informed by the Governor of Fiji that an Indian domiciled in the Colony will be exempt from the provisions of the Ordinance subject to the proviso that an Indian who has been resident for five years or more will lose this exemption by being absent from the colony for more than twelve months.

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

IMMIGRATION OF INDIANS INTO BURMA.

†619. ***Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state the present position with regard to the Immigration of Indians into Burma and the enjoyment by them of the rights of citizenship there?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: In reply to first part of the question regarding immigration of Indians into Burma, I would draw the Honourable Member's attention to the reply I gave on the 2nd December, 1947 to parts (a) and (b) of starred question No. 520 by Shri T. T. Krishnamachari. With regard to the second part, the present position is that Indians in Burma enjoy the same rights of citizenship as the indigenous people of that country. Under the new Constitution recently adopted by the Constituent Assembly of Burma, citizenship of Indians will, at the date of the commencement of the Constitution, be governed by Article 11 (iv) in accordance with which an Indian who has resided in any of the territories included within the Union of Burma for a period of not less than 8 years in the 10 years immediately preceding the date of the commencement of the Constitution or immediately preceding the 1st January 1942 and who intends to reside permanently therein and signifies his election of citizenship of the Union in the manner and within the time prescribed by law, shall be a citizen of the Union of Burma. The citizenship of an Indian who is either ineligible for or does not exercise his option in favour of citizenship on the date of the commencement of the new Constitution will be governed by legislation to be enacted in future by the Government of Burma.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS FOR INDIANS.

620. ***Seth Govinddas:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether Government propose to consider the advisability of awarding scholarships and fellowships to Indians who are in the Commonwealth countries, for purposes of study and lecture in Indian universities?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Minister of Education and has accordingly been transferred to the Ministry of Education. It will be answered on the next day allotted to that Ministry.

DETENTION OF SHIP BY PAKISTAN AUTHORITIES

621. ***Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a certain ship on the Indian Register carrying foodstuffs from Karachi to an Indian port was detained at Karachi and ordered by the Pakistan authorities to discharge all general cargo, thereby involving inconvenience and heavy loss and delay in the movement of foodstuffs;

(b) whether the attention of the Government of India was drawn;

(c) what action Government have taken in this connection; and to this matter by the shipping company concerned;

(d) what action Government propose to take to prevent a repetition of such incidents in future?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The High Commissioner for India in Karachi was immediately instructed to make strong representations to the Pakistan Government in consultation with the Shipping agents concerned.

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

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(d) The difficulties in the above case arose as the 's. s. Jalaratna' had almost completed loading when the Sind Essential Supplies Ordinance was issued. It is considered unlikely that similar difficulties will arise in future.

Shri Mihirlal Chattopadhyaya: What steps are being taken with respect to Eastern Pakistan to prevent such disaster from taking place?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: It will not happen, unless there is an ordinance. Ordinances will not come every day.

PAKISTAN SEARCHES OF REFUGEES.

622. ***Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that ships bringing refugees from Karachi have been detained under orders of the Government of Pakistan and if so, for what reasons;

(b) whether Government are aware that refugees boarding such ships were closely searched on one occasion for nearly 14 hours before being permitted to embark; and

(c) whether the Government of India have taken up this matter with the Government of Pakistan and if so, with what result?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) No ships have been detained under any orders of the Pakistan Government. Ships carrying refugees from Karachi have to spend about 24 hours at the wharf for the disembarkation and embarkation of passengers, and for the completion of necessary formalities.

(b) Yes. Refugees boarding such ships were regularly and closely searched by the Sind Police and the Pakistan Customs. The search of the passengers embarking on a ship usually takes about six hours. In one instance, however, when the Customs had finished their search and the passengers' luggage had been stored in the hold, the Sind police objected that the search by the Customs was not sufficient. All the luggage was again taken out of the hold and searched a second time by the Police. On this occasion, the search took about fourteen hours.

(c) The Government of India have taken up this matter with the Pakistan Government. At a meeting between the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan, it was decided that there should be no search of refugees' baggage either in India or Pakistan. This decision was not given immediate effect to in Sind, because of the Police still wanting to search passengers, ostensibly for unauthorised firearms, merchandise in bulk, and goods, the export of which was banned by Ordinances issued by the Government of Sind. Repeated representations were made to the Pakistan Government, and the High Commissioner for India in Pakistan at Karachi now reports that there has been considerable improvement in the matter of searches and that only about 5 to 10 per cent of the baggage of passengers is actually opened and searched.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know if any arrangements have been made to take statements or affidavits from passengers regarding goods confiscated during these searches?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Some information is being collected about what has happened during these searches and that information will be collected in due course and made available.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know if there are any facilities for these passengers to obtain light refreshments or meals while they are obliged to wait like this, usually for six hours, while their possessions are being searched?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I do not know whether any arrangements are made by the Pakistan Government. I do not think this Government have made any arrangement at Karachi.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government kindly make enquiries and see that such elementary facilities are provided for these people; otherwise they would be put to any amount of inconvenience?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Enquiries can be made.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: Are Government aware that refugees after being searched were being stamped as "Searched" on their bodies and that even ladies were not being exempted from this?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I am afraid I have no information.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Are Government aware that these Hindu and Sikh women are sometimes put to great humiliation during these searches?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: In some places that has been so.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Will Government assure the House that this will not happen again?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

DETENTION OF AEROPLANES BY PAKISTAN AUTHORITIES.

623. ***Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that aeroplanes bringing refugees from Pakistan areas have been refused guarantee of safety by the Government of Pakistan;

(b) whether Government are aware that planes have been detained by the Pakistan authorities, from time to time, for making a thorough search of the planes and passengers;

(c) whether Government are aware that such search is contrary to the agreement arrived at between the two Governments on the 14th September 1947; and

(d) whether this question has been taken up by the Government of India with the Government of Pakistan and if so, with what result?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) No such guarantee has been demanded by us, nor refused by the Government of Pakistan. While at the Airport, ample protection is provided to planes bringing refugees from Pakistan, by the Pakistan authorities.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d). The Honourable Member is referred to answer to Starred Question No. 57 on the 18th November, 1947.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: With reference to part (b) of the question, may I know whether it is a fact that on the 19th November, 98 passengers coming from Pakistan area in a plane were detained at Lahore for the reason that the plane had taken only two Muslim passengers from Delhi and they were asked to remain there in Lahore and they remained stranded there?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I am afraid I am not in a position to vouch for the accuracy of the date and the figures but that some such incident did happen I am sure of.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is there any agreement between this Government and the Pakistan Government that planes going from this area will carry Muslim passengers and only an equal number of refugees shall be brought from that side?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I do not think that there was any definite agreement but it was always expected that planes which went from here would take as many Muslim refugees as offer themselves for being transported.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Can the Government give us an assurance that no such occurrence like the one in Lahore on November 19 will take place in future?

Mr. Speaker: Does the Honourable Member want an assurance about happenings in Pakistan?

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: How long will Government take to arrange for the transport of these passengers who were detained at Lahore? What happened to them?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I am afraid I must have notice of that question.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I know what steps Government are contemplating to obtain correct information regarding confiscated property as a result of these searches?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: We have instituted machinery for the purpose of finding facts about searches as well as about other things and when that information is collected we shall be in a position to give some information to the House.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: May I know what steps the Government propose to take to see that the sickening practice of searches comes to an end immediately?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I think it has almost come to an end now.

REMOVAL OF ARTICLES FROM PAKISTAN.

624. *Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Pakistan have officially advised the Government of India that in the interest of Pakistan's economy they have decided to ban the removal of cloth, medical stores, paper, paints, etc., outside Karachi with immediate effect; and

(b) whether Government are aware that this is contrary to the stand-still arrangement arrived at between the two Dominions?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil:—(a) Yes. The Government of Pakistan advised us officially that in order to meet grave threats to the economic life of Pakistan by organised removal, in violation of normal trade channels and practice, of essential goods, such as hardware, paints, varnishes, non-ferrous metal, medical stores, cloth, white cement, paper and other articles of stationery, the Government of Sind had armed themselves with powers under the Sind Essential Commodities (Control) (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 1947, to prevent bulk transfers of those merchandise to places which were never supplied by or through Karachi before. They stated, however, that normal exports would be permitted on production of satisfactory evidence that the goods had been imported for consumption in the Indian Dominion but that removals clearly intended with a view to depriving Pakistan markets of supplies would be prohibited.

(b) If the restriction is, as stated by the Government of Pakistan, applied to the bulk transfer of merchandise from Karachi in violation of normal trade channels and practice, it would not affect the general agreement regarding freedom of trade between the two Dominions, since the underlying object of that agreement was to leave undisturbed the pattern of trade as it existed before the 15th August 1947. If, however, the restriction is, as alleged by several complainants, enforced in a manner that will prevent the transshipment of goods

which were imported through Karachi for markets in India, it would involve an infringement of the agreement referred to. The matter is at present under discussion between the two Dominion Governments.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Arising out of the answer to part (a) of the question do not Government consider that this calls for some retaliatory measure on the part of the Government of India?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: In terms of the answer to part (a) of the question, no.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is the Honourable Minister aware that some printing machinery and parts thereof meant for India have been lying at the port of Karachi for the last several months and have not yet been released?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I will make enquiries about that.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Have any such complaints reached the Honourable Minister, that many other consignments meant for India are still lying there and are not permitted either to be diverted to Bombay or to be sent by rail?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The answer to all the complaints generally is that whatever was supplied to India through Karachi will not be allowed to be interfered with.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Minister please tell the House whether any machinery has been instituted to whom complaints can be made in regard to grievances which are to be taken up for discussion with the Pakistan Government?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The machinery is to negotiate through the Indian High Commissioner at Karachi.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I think I have not been understood. Has the Government got any machinery existing to which these people can take their complaints?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The complaints can be addressed to the Commerce Department.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know what is to happen to goods which were originally imported by traders in Pakistan who have come over to India?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Goods imported by merchants in Pakistan meant for consumption in Pakistan will remain there.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: The merchants have come over here, but the goods are lying in the Karachi port. Is the Government of India going to take charge of those goods?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I doubt whether the Government of India can come in validly in that connection.

INTER-TERRITORIAL ORGANISATION FOR THE BRITISH EAST AFRICAN COLONIES.

†625. *Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state in what respects the revised proposals of the British Government for the creation of an Inter-Territorial Organisation for the British East African Colonies differ from their original proposals and how they affect the interests of Indians in these Colonies?

(b) Have Government asked for a modification of these proposals in order to protect Indian interests?

(c) If so, what reply have Government received from the British Government?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The revised proposals of 1947 differ from the original 1945 proposals mainly in two respects:—

(1) As against the two Indians who under the earlier proposals were to be

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

elected to the Central Legislature, under the revised proposals one is to be appointed by the officer administering each territory. Thus, so far as the representation of communities is concerned the principle of nomination has been substituted for the principle of election and the number of elected Indians has been reduced from two to one.

(2) Under the original proposals Indians were given equality of representation with Europeans and Africans on the unofficial side. The revised proposals do not guarantee such equality of racial representation. Under these proposals the non-official members of the Legislative Council of each of the territories concerned, voting as a whole, are to elect one member from among themselves. Except in Uganda where an Indian or an African may be elected under this arrangement, it is likely to result in the election of two European non-officials from the other territories.

(b) Yes.

(c) No reply has been received so far

EMPLOYMENT OF INDIANS IN THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT.

†626. *Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state the number of higher posts in the United Nations Secretariat and how many of them are held by Indians, Americans, and Britishers?

(b) How many applications of Indian candidates have been forwarded to the Secretary-General, United Nations Organization, by the Federal Public Service Commission?

(c) Did the Commission scrutinize these applications and forward the applications of the approved candidates only?

(d) How many of the applicants have so far been employed in the United Nations Secretariat?

(e) Do Government propose to see that the employment of Indians in the United Nations Secretariat is commensurate with the position which India occupies in the United Nations?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) There are in all 269 higher posts carrying a salary of more than \$7,450 per annum in the United Nations Secretariat and their offices abroad. Of these 7 posts are held by Indians, 68 by United States nationals and 38 by British nationals.

(b) 715.

(c) Yes.

(d) 18 Indians are at present in the employ of the United Nations Secretariat and their offices abroad.

(e) I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply given by me on the 21st November to starred question No. 219, asked by Shri B. A. Mandloi. The Government of India are endeavouring to secure the adequate representation of Indians in the United Nations Secretariat.

EVACUATION OF HINDUS AND SIKHS FROM PAKISTAN.

627. *Giani Gurmukhsingh Musafar: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Hindus and Sikhs evacuated from Pakistan;

(b) the number of Hindus and Sikhs yet to be evacuated from Pakistan;

(c) the number of evacuees who have been provided with residential accommodation in different provinces of India;

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

(d) the number of evacuees living in different refugee camps;

(e) the number of evacuees absorbed in Government service and in private service through official agencies;

(f) the number of evacuees who have been provided with loan for starting business; and

(g) the total amount of loan advanced to such evacuees?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar:—(a) The total number of Hindus and Sikhs evacuated by the Military Evacuation Organisation from the West Punjab and N.W.F.P. between 4th September and 30th November 1947 was 26,03,061. This figure includes persons evacuated by air. About 2,74,000 Hindus and Sikhs were evacuated from Sind upto 16th November, 1947. No figures for Baluchistan and East Bengal are available.

(b) The number of Hindus and Sikhs to be evacuated from evacuee camps West Punjab was 40,000 on 27th November 1947. The number of persons in pickets has been variously estimated at figures ranging from 50,000 to one lakh. In regard to the number of abducted and forcibly converted persons, no reliable estimate is possible. The number of persons still to be evacuated from N.W.F.P. is about 48,000. The number of persons who want to be evacuated from other parts of Pakistan is not known.

(c) No definite figures are yet available.

(d) This information is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course.

(e) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer to clause (b) of Starred Question No. 249 on the 21st November, 1947.

(f) and (g) Nil. A scheme for advancing loans for setting up business is to come into operation shortly.

Shri H. V. Kamath: On what basis have these refugees been distributed among the different Provinces of India?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: We have received offers to take over a definite number of refugees from certain Provinces and States. In accepting those offers we are making arrangements to distribute some of the refugees in East Punjab to those Provinces and States.

Seth Govinddas: Have the Government of India written to the different Provinces asking them whether they would be able to take so many refugees in the different Provinces?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: The Government of India wrote to the different Provinces and States for information as to how many refugees each of them could take.

EVACUEES PROPERTY IN PAKISTAN.

628. *Giani Gurmukhsingh Musafar: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state the principle, policy and the mode of determining the claims of evacuees in respect of their property destroyed or left in Pakistan, and the sources from which the Government propose to meet the claims?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: The Honourable Member is referred to the answer to clause (e) of Starred Question No. 23, on the 18th November, 1947.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Have Government any approximate estimate of the value of property left behind by these refugees?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I am afraid not even an approximate estimate is possible yet.

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Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Have any claims been received and, if so, what is the total value of the claims?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Claims are being received and registered.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I know what machinery the Honourable Member is proposing for the purposes of registering these claims?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: A machinery has been set up under the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation for the purpose of receiving and registering claims.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask whether the Honourable Member is aware that if the present personnel of the machinery remains what it is it will take 18 years to register all the claims?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I am afraid that as I am not in personal touch with that machinery I cannot concur in the opinion expressed by my Honourable friend.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is the Honourable Member aware of the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee in this respect?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I am afraid I am personally not in a position to answer that question.

Shri M. S. Aney: May I ask whether the Government of India will instruct the Indian High Commissioners in Karachi and Lahore to maintain a register to receive complaints and keep an inventory of the property lost by the refugees?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Most of the people have come away from Pakistan and I am afraid the High Commissioner will not be a suitable machinery for this purpose.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Does the Government know that those persons who have come away are not permitted to go back and work their factories by the Pakistan Government even if they are prepared to go there?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I am afraid, Sir, the fact that persons are not going there and working their factories is due as much to their own disinclination to go there as to any things that the Pakistan Government has done. I do not think as a Government they have done anything which prohibits these people from going there and working their factories.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Can the Government give an assurance that anybody who is prepared to go and work his factory will be permitted by the Pakistan Government to work it?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I think the Pakistan Government said they do want these people to come and work their factories.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: On the same terms or on new terms?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: That is a matter about which I cannot give a definite answer.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is the Government aware that the terms offered are the Pakistan Government will take the plant and work it themselves, and offer an insignificant amount by way of lease money only?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: That is only in the absence of the evacuees who have gone away from Pakistan.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is Government satisfied with the assurance given by the Pakistan Government in respect of refugees who wish to go back and start work there?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I think, Sir, it will be necessary for this Government to get from the other Government assurances which will give more confidence to refugees who have come over here for the purpose of going back and looking after their factories.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Are this Government taking steps to get the kind of assurance that is needed?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: We are taking steps and this is one of the matters which shall take up in the Inter Dominion Conference which will soon take place.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact that the Government of Pakistan has failed to give protection to such of the persons who were carrying on business in Pakistan and had to leave Lahore and other places for want of protection?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: It has happened in some cases that protection was not available to the extent that was necessary for our people going there.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Government make negotiation with the Pakistan Government that those persons who want to remove their factories from Pakistan to India should be given facilities for doing so?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: That is one of the matters which we shall discuss with the Pakistan Government.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Have Government considered the desirability of taking over property left behind, moveable and immoveable, in Pakistan by the refugees, evaluate that property, similarly *vice versa*, and have debit and credit entries so far as the respective properties are concerned?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: That matter is one for negotiation between the two Governments.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: May I know, Sir, whether I am right in thinking that all the double negatives and the cautious positives given by the Honourable Minister are tantamount to a wholesale negative of all the questions?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I do not think so.

AUCTION OF EVACUEES PROPERTY IN PAKISTAN.

629. ***Shri Damodar Swarup Seth:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a letter under the Caption "Auction of Evacuees Property in Pakistan", published in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 20th November, 1947, in which it was disclosed that the standing crop of an evacuee worth some Rs. 30,000 was auctioned to a neighbouring landlord for Rs. 900 only?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to make necessary enquiry into the case through their High Commissioner and in case the alleged report is found to be correct, to take steps to bring pressure on the Government of Pakistan to stop such auction in the interest of both the countries, and particularly in the interest of the evacuees of both the Communities?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. An enquiry has already been made, and further action will depend on the result of the enquiry.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is the Honourable Prime Minister aware that big bungalows and big business premises left behind by the refugees are being rented at very ridiculously low rents in the Pakistan area? Bungalows getting Rs. 500 as rent per mensem are being rented at Rs. 50 or Rs. 20 in Lahore particularly.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I have no figures in my possession, but I am prepared to take the Honourable Member's information to be correct in some cases.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: And likewise, Sir, a chemist's shop worth Rs. 1 lakh has been sold out for Rs. 1,000.

No reply given.

SEARCHES OF REFUGEES.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: The Honourable Member is Starred question No. 57 on the 18th November, 1947 will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether, in view of the continued searches of refugees from the West Punjab, Government propose to consider the advisability of taking suitable retaliatory action?

The Honourable Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar: The Honourable Member is referred to my answer to clause (c) of Starred Question No. 57 on the 18th November, 1947. The position in regard to searches has improved in West Punjab and Government do not consider that any retaliatory action is called for.

WELFARE OF BACKWARD CLASSES.

†631. ***Shri P. Kakkan:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the Government of India have taken any steps to open a department for the welfare of those sections of the community who are backward in education, health, and in economic and social conditions?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: No steps have thus far been taken to open such a department which will inevitably overlap with existing departments and thus probably lead to some confusion. It is however the declared policy of Government to advance in every way the backward sections of the community in education, health and in economic and social status.

PROTECTION AND SUBSIDY TO INDUSTRIES.

632. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

- when Government expect to formulate their policy in regard to the offer of protection, subvention or subsidy to industries;
- whether Government propose to appoint any committee to advise them in this regard before they take final decisions;
- if so, whether representatives of rural people, peasants and workers will also be consulted;
- whether Government propose to appoint a permanent Tariff Board;
- the period for which the present Tariff Board is appointed and its term of reference; and
- whether any Cabinet Sub-Committee has considered these terms of reference?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Government have already announced their policy with regard to claims from industries, which have been started or developed in wartime, to assistance or protection during the transition period in the late Department of Commerce Resolution published on the 3rd November 1945, a copy of which will be found in the Library.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

(d) The question of appointing a permanent Tariff Board will no doubt be taken up for consideration when economic conditions in India and in foreign countries return to some degree of normalcy.

(e) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the Ministry of Commerce Resolution dated 26th November 1947, a copy of which will be found in the Library.

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

(f) While it would not be proper for me to disclose details of Cabinet procedure, I may assure the Honourable Member that this Resolution issued with the full authority of the Government of India.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: But, Sir, will Government take care to see that before they give effect to any of the recommendations of the Tariff Board in regard to giving any assistance or protection to any one particular industry, the representative organizations of rural people, peasants and other people who are likely to be affected by such protection or assistance are also taken into consultation?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: During the enquiry by the Tariff Board it is open to all rural organizations or urban organizations to present their respective points of view.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: But my point is this. In view of the fact that Government first of all refer a particular question to the Tariff Board and then give their consideration to the report of the Tariff Board, before they actually decide upon their own policy, will Government consider the advisability of consulting these organizations at that stage before they actually take their decisions in regard to the recommendations of the Tariff Board?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The stage for consultation is not the one visualized by my honourable friend. Before the Tariff Board comes to any conclusion, it is up to such organizations, as I said, to put their respective points of view. When the Tariff Board makes certain recommendations, those recommendations are taken into consideration by the Government and such other matters which Government thinks relevant to be taken into consideration.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Arising out of the answer to part (d) of the question, when do the Government envisage the return to normalcy of conditions in India and abroad?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: As soon as normal conditions prevail.

Shri H. V. Kamath: When do the Government anticipate a return to normal conditions?

Mr. Speaker: The question is very vague. It ought to be more specific.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the broadcast appeal made by the President of the Tariff Board to all industrialists to send in their applications for assistance or protection?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Yes, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact, Sir, that it is not the function of the President of the Tariff Board or of the Tariff Board to send out broadcast appeals like that, but rather to wait for these appeals for State assistance to go to them and then look into whether any particular appeal made is justifiable or not?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Probably the President did it on account of his great consideration for economy of time and stationery.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know whether this Tariff Board is also to perform the functions of the late lamented Commodity Prices Board?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: To some extent it is true, Sir.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask, Sir, arising out of the Honourable Minister's answer to part (e) of the question, whether it is difficult for him to give a fuller answer about the period for which the present Tariff Board is appointed?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: It is given in the resolution itself.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the position of the Tariff Board? Is it to decide whether any particular industry deserves any protection to be given by the State or is it to be manned by industrialists themselves and to have the power to decide what protection is to be given to themselves and their industries?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The industries are expected to present their cases before the Tariff Board. The Tariff Board, after having made proper enquiry and taken all relevant considerations into consideration, makes recommendations and it is for the Government to consider what, if any, recommendations should be implemented.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How many of the Members of the Tariff Board had themselves been industrialists and capitalists?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: It is very difficult to define who is an "industrialist", but as far as I am able to say, the Chairman is an employee of a big industrialist.

Shri Khandubhai K. Desai: Is not the Tariff Board a standing invitation to the industrialists to be as inefficient as possible?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I do not concur with that view, Sir.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: What policy have the Government formulated in regard to cottage industries?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I think the general policy of the Government is to encourage cottage industries as far as possible.

Shri H. V. Kamath: The Honourable the Minister for Commerce said that it was difficult to define an industrialist, and in the same breath he mentioned "big industrialist". May I know what he means by a "big industrialist"?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I think the Honourable Member understands it pretty well.

Shri H. V. Kamath: I do not understand that, Sir, and I seek enlightenment.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: It is not such a thing which can be understood in a couple of minutes.

Seth Govinddas: Sir, in view of the fact that the questions for the day are exhausted and that there are certain questions standing* in the name of Pandit Hriday Nath Kanuru which are important, will you kindly allow me to put those questions on his behalf?

Mr. Speaker: Has he given any authority for it?

Seth Govinddas: No Sir.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry.

REPORT OF THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT DELEGATES TO 29TH SESSION OF INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE, MONTREAL.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram (Minister for Labour): Sir, I beg to lay on the table a copy of the † Report of the Delegates of the Government of India to the twenty-ninth Session of the International Labour Conference held at Montreal.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: May I know, Sir, if copies of this Report will be supplied to Members if they want it?

Mr. Speaker: Yes, copies will be circulated to Members.

CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED AT 28TH SESSION OF INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE, SEATTLE

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil (Minister for Works, Mines and Power): Sir, I beg to lay on the table a copy of the † Conventions and Recommendations adopted by the International Labour Conference at its twenty-eighth session

*Printed serially in these Debates.—Ed. of D.

†Not printed in these Debates. A copy placed in the Library of the House.—Ed. of D.

held at Seattle in June 1946 in accordance with paragraph 5 of Article 19 of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Will a copy of this also be made available to Members, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: No.

GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—contd. SECOND STAGE—contd.

DEMAND NO. 29.—MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY—contd.

Removal of controls over cloth, yarn and commodities other than food

Mr. Speaker: Yesterday the House was discussing Demand No. 29, and the Cut Motion by Shri Mohan Lal Saksena "to discuss the desirability of removing control over cloth, yarn and commodities other than food".

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa (C.P. and Berar: General): Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by my Honourable Friend Mr. Saksena. I am a firm believer in control, but notwithstanding that, I am supporting this motion for reasons which I shall presently mention.

Sir, it is stated that control is a curse; but I feel that control as a principle is a necessity and has at times proved a blessing. But the policy as well as the machinery of control is very defective and for that reason it has become very unpopular.

Sir, control was introduced in various foreign countries and became very popular, particularly during the War. When the War started in 1939, the Government of Britain immediately introduced control on almost all the essential commodities; at the same time its distributive machinery and administrative machinery was absolutely perfect with the result that the people of that country had very little to complain about the availability of commodities at the prices actually fixed for them.

In India control came as late as about 1941 after the people have clamoured again and again that they have not been getting the commodities to which they were entitled and that whichever commodities were available, were at very fabulous prices. At that time, Sir, several representations were made by the representatives of the consumers and of the people to the Provincial Governments but the British administrators were not prepared to introduce control in India, simply because they knew that if controls were introduced, the commodities which they required for war purposes will not be available as a major quantity of those commodities will be consumed by the people of India.

That, originally, was their main idea in refusing to introduce control. But when there was a great clamour and it was seen that certain essential articles were not available, they were compelled to introduce control. They introduced controls half-heartedly and they fixed prices. But for administrative purposes, instead of creating special department with men who knew something about distribution of the various essential commodities required by the consumer for his daily needs, they entrusted the work to the Collector of the District in addition to his work of collecting revenue. Sir, most of the Collectors did not know really what control was and how it could be made successful, with the result that things went on dragging notwithstanding the clamour from

[Mr. R. K. Sidhwa] the people to put matters right. This legacy of unpopular controls is one introduced by the previous Government and handed over to the present popular Government.

Now, Sir, I must say one thing. Notwithstanding this defective system of controls and the non-availability of essential articles in the market, the people who wanted to get these articles were able to get them from the black-market at its own price, at a much higher price. Who used to buy them from the black-market? The people who could afford to pay high prices—not the average person, not the man in service, the employee, the labourer or the lower class. It was the lower class people who could not afford to pay for them in the black-market.

So, these Ration Shops have been useful to a very great extent. I can tell you, Sir, from experience that notwithstanding the difficulty and hardships the consumers had to suffer in standing in queues for a number of hours, these people had the satisfaction that they got some kind of share or quota to which they were entitled.

Now, Sir, that is the position of the control system. But control has brought with it corruption because, as I said, the indifference shown by the Department helped the interests of many of the traders and manufacturers with the result that this corruption spread from one part to the other. Let me tell you, Sir, black-marketing is not confined to the big industrialist or the big man alone, I have seen even the lower people—small shopkeepers—also indulge in this evil. These people feel that there is no other alternative for them to make money and even they followed the principle which the big had adopted.

Now, Sir, why do we ask for de-control today? The Honourable the Finance Minister, in winding up the Debate on the Budget stated that we "all admit that the machinery of controls has failed and that Government are not able to improve it. Then why have it?" Well, Sir, that was not a reasonable answer; the popular Government should have made every effort to improve it. No doubt they are engrossed in many other things; probably their attention may not have been diverted to that extent which is required, but surely the popular Government should have taken into confidence persons who are interested in this matter and tried to find out some ways and means to improve this machinery of controls. But when the Finance Minister says that it was not possible; therefore, it was desirable to remove it, we have no other alternative but to maintain the name of the popular Government by letting the control go, and as far as I am concerned, I only want the control of the cloth to go. I am not discussing food control at present; when the matter comes before the House, I shall give my views on it. But why I am in favour of removal of cloth control is this. The industrialists who are manufacturing this cloth have been responsible for hoarding the cloth and selling it in the black-market at very high price. Notwithstanding so many facts that were brought to their notice, I remember a very big textile industrialist in Nagpur who exposed his own colleagues that thousands of bales were lying in the various industrial godowns. They were not prepared to release them and that resulted in corruption and non-availability of cloth to the consumers.

I know, Sir, hundreds of families who have not received their ordinary quota for the last 18 months, not because they did not want the cloth but because they were told that the cloth was not available. They wanted the cloth, they went to the ration shops and waited in the queues, but they were told that cloth was not available, although the cloth was there. It was sold somewhere else. That is the all-round position.

Sir, the system prevailing in some Provinces is that these licences are confined to particular dealers. The *bona fide* traders who were actually doing this kind of business are not given licences for reasons best known to the Provincial Governments, with the result that they are restricted to the consumer to obtain his cloth requirements from a particular shop where they have registered their card. If it had been open to get the cloth from any dealer, the difficulty would not have arisen.

Sir, when I discussed this question with the then Honourable Minister in charge of Industries and Supplies about four months ago, I gave him a scheme for the complete revolutionisation of the present one. The Textile Commissioner's office in Bombay is a scandal. The very foundation of that office requires to be thoroughly reorganised. It might take time, about three to four months, to re-organise the cloth control, so that it could be kept intact for the benefit of the consumers for whom it was meant. But the Honourable Minister then told me that he was looking into the matter and will come to some decision. After two months, I again saw him and he said Government had practically come to the decision and will make an announcement that there should be de-control. When I went from Delhi, I read in the paper a week afterwards that the Government were not prepared to de-control. That is the position.

I quite appreciate, Sir, the difficulty under which the Ministers may be working. I understand they are going to bring about an increase in production. I do not know whether the industrialists will help them or not. The Honourable the Finance Minister while winding up the debate on the Budget made an appeal to the industrialists to co-operate with this popular Government, when he raises any loan. Why not these industrialists help the Government in cloth control also? They have made huge profits. They can co-operate with the Government by increasing production without any legislation and see that the control automatically goes away and the people are satisfied. But, no, Sir, If they have made Rs. 5 crores; they want to make Rs. 10 crores. Their greed has no limit. However you may tax them they are very competent and clever to dodge it. Just as they are dodging Government in taxes, so they are dodging Government in this control system. In the Bombay market, in the Karachi market, ready-made clothes in bales used to be imported. Where did this come from? Imported cloth was not available then and ready-made cloth was not controlled. See the fancy of it, Sir. The system was so defective that hundreds of thousands of bales from the Industries Department went out by this backdoor method, and were sold in the black market and the clothes were made and were sold at fancy price in the form of shirts, pyjamas, pants, jackets, trousers and so on. Is there then any surprise that there should be scarcity of cloth? Therefore, Sir, I am supporting this cut-motion, because it is the first measure for de-controlling cloth where risk can be taken. Govt. in my opinion, Sir, should de-control cloth instead of seriously contemplating de-control of food which in my opinion if not properly handled will bring disaster to the consumers. I am talking of small class of people. I am particularly concerned with the urban areas. I asked the Honourable Minister yesterday as to what was the policy of the Government, whether they were going to de-control. He told me that the matter will be considered when the cut-motion came up. I again put him a question, whether it would not be advisable to let us know in advance, so that it may facilitate us in the discussion of the question. He said, "Control will be removed as soon as possible." The meaning of that is that control is not going to be removed.

Now, Sir, I do not know the policy of this Government as to when the control is to be removed and whether start will be made with articles which will

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be less harmful to the consumer, I know, Sir, that prices will shoot up if control is removed. I do not doubt it. I know what happened to sugar. My friend Pandit Sharma said the price had shot up from Rs. 21 to Rs. 50. The Secretary of the Sugar Syndicate says it is not Rs. 50 but 35 and that they are going to keep it at 35. Now from 21 to 35 is 60 per cent. more.

I will finish just now, Sir. I am sure the prices will go up. I am also sure that probably the cloth may not be available, but I do not mind it. I do not mind because people are not going to starve, if cloth is not available. People have remained without cloth for a number of years, and they can pull on without it for some time more. Therefore to retain the good name of this Government, I for one am supporting this cut-motion that the control should go. Let the Government also have an experience as to whether it is going to be successful or not. From this point of view, and believing firmly in the continuance of the control until we have supplies available, I am supporting this motion for the reason that I have stated, not because this motion is brought today—I have been clamouring for it since 1946—but because the Textile Department requires radical improvement.

Dr. N. B. Khare (Alwar State): Sir, I also rise to support this cut-motion for de-control, merely because, Sir, things have now come to this pass. When one begins to talk of control, it is impossible to control oneself. Sir, it is the fashion nowadays to attribute everything to the Government that has gone behind. Everything is supposed to be a legacy left by the past Government. Of course that may be correct in some respects, but it is not correct in all respects; it cannot be taken as an axiom. I can make a positive statement that the whole business of control has become much worse than what it was during the regime of the past Government. You may question me and say: "You have no right". I will say I have also a right to give my opinion. You cannot restrain me. The reason is patent enough and that is that the past Government or its machinery were not in such close and intimate association with the mercantile community, as the present Government or its machinery is, and the present Government are functioning democratically with a vengeance. Almost all Congressmen are somehow or other in touch with these matters. I am not alone in saying this, I have got the support of a Congress Minister in Bihar who recited in the Legislature of that province a long list of names of top-ranking congressmen as racketeers in control matters. I challenge anybody to deny that statement.

Sir, I support this motion, not because control is still not needed, but because the management of this control is an evil and I firmly think, Sir, that we shall be much better off without control than with control as is being managed under present conditions.

I am questioned; I am attacked; I am criticised; I am ridiculed and I am insulted, I bear all that; it is an ordinary thing in democracy. But I cannot comprehend when people say that my speech is not understood. At the same time, Sir, I feel flattered with the very touching reference to my speech that was made yesterday by no less a person than the Honourable the Prime Minister and I really cannot understand if anybody does not understand my speeches. It is only a question of average intelligence and nothing else. It was said that my criticism was inconsequential; I admit it is inconsequential, but at the same time I am doubly grateful that my right to criticise is conceded in a most generous spirit. My criticisms are inconsequential, not because they have got no sense but because there are serried ranks of mechanized voting automata to vote them down, I mean those who have pawned their conscience and commonsense. I have nothing more to say.

चौधरी रनवीर सिंह : माननीय स्पीकर साहब, मैं कटौती के प्रस्ताव का कपड़े आदि पर से कन्ट्रोल हटाने के प्रश्न पर विचार करने के लिये समर्थन करने के लिये खड़ा हुआ हूँ—हालांकि मैं किसान हूँ और मैं खूब अच्छी तरह से समझता हूँ कि अगर अनाज पर कन्ट्रोल रखा जाय और दूसरी चीजों पर से कन्ट्रोल हटा दिया जायगा तो उससे किसानों के आर्थिक हितों को कुछ न कुछ अवश्य धक्का पहुंचेगा।

मैं इस प्रस्ताव का समर्थन जैसा कि सिधवा साहब ने शहरियों के दृष्टिकोण को सामने रखकर किया है मैं उस तरह से इसका समर्थन नहीं करूंगा। क्योंकि मैं समझता हूँ और ठीक प्रकार से समझता हूँ कि यह भारत देश किसानों का देश है, शहरियों का देश नहीं है, अतः इस देश की पोलिसी निश्चित करने में केवल ९५ फी सदी शहरियों का हित ही सामने नहीं होना चाहिये, बल्कि ८५ फी सदी देश के दहातियों और किसानों का हित ही प्रभुत्व में रखना चाहिये, मैं तो केवल किसानों के नुस्तेनिगाह से इसका समर्थन करने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ।

मैं कपड़े के बारे में पंजाब के किसानों का जिक्र करता हूँ। पंजाब के किसान के सर पर एक पगड़ी होती है और शरीर में एक कुर्ता और नीचे एक धोती होती है, धोती हमारे यहां आमतौर से १० गज की तथा पगड़ी करीब ५ या ६ गज की पढ़ती जाती है और कुर्ता में कम से कम ३ गज या ३½ गज वस्त्र जरूर लग जाता है, इस तरह से हर किसान को वर्ष में करीब १८ गज कपड़े की जरूरत होती है परम् मिलता केवल १२ गज है अतः होता क्या है, उसका उदाहरण केवल धोती के सवन्ध में ही मैं अपने गांव की मिसाल देकर बतलाऊंगा मेरे गांव में तीन चार और गांवों का भी कपड़ा आता है मेरे ग्राम की आबादी ५ हजार है और उसके आस पास वाले ग्रामों की आबादी भी तकरीबन ५ हजार की है... इस तरह से सब गांवों की आबादी १० हजार बन जाती है और उनके लिए कम से कम १० हजार धोती के जोड़े वहां आने चाहियें लेकिन वहां त्रिमासिक कोटा (quota) में केवल २५० धोती के जोड़े पहुंचे हैं। १० हजार आदमियों के कम से कम २ हजार कुन्वे होते हैं और उन १० हजार आदमियों के हिस्से में, इन २ धोतियों में से मुश्किल से ४० आदमियों के हिस्से में एक धोती का जोड़ा आता है पिछले साल वहां चार बार कोटा आया और मुश्किल से एक कुटुम्ब के हिस्से में एक जोड़ा धोती का आया होगा, और इस वर्ष तो शायद उनको एक धोती का जोड़ा भी हिस्से में न आये, अतः उनको चोर बाजार से भी वस्त्र हासिल करने पड़ते हैं, और गांव वालों को चोर बाजार से एक धोती जोड़े के लिये १० रुपया १२ रुपया और २० रुपया तक देना पड़ता है। जबकि एक धोती जोड़े के दाम केवल ५ रुपया है इसलिये मेरा मत है कि अगर कपड़े को डी-कन्ट्रोल कर (Decontrol) कर भी दिया जाय तो ज्यादा से ज्यादा धोती के लिये १० रुपये से १३ रुपये तक ही देने पड़ेंगे। इसके अलावा एक बात यह है कि कन्ट्रोल होने की वजह से जितना कष्ट हो गया है वह दूर हो जायगा। जातीय तर्जुमा है कि किसानों को विवाह आदि के लिये कपड़ा

[चौधरी रनबीर सिंह]

लेने के लिये डिस्ट्रिक्ट हेडक्वार्टर (District Head quarter) में जाना पड़ता है और वहां अफसरों की खुशामद करनी पड़ती है और उनको आने जाने में काफी खर्च करना पड़ता है। अगर इन खर्चों से जितना वे आने जाने में करते हैं अगर चोर बाज़ार से कपड़ा खरीदे तो उनको सस्ता पड़ेगा। और इन दिक्कतों का सामना भी नहीं करना पड़ेगा। इन सब मुश्किलों को सामने रखते हुए मैं यह प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि कपड़े से कंट्रोल हटा दिया जाये। लेकिन इसके साथ ही साथ मुझे यह भी विश्वास है कि सरकार हिन्दुस्तान के किसानों के हितों का भी ज़रूर खयाल रखेगी।

मैं यह भी आशा करता हूँ कि इस ३ महीने के बाद जब तक गले का नया स्टाक आया तो इसका भी तज़ुर्बा हो जायेगा। आया डी-कंट्रोल (Decontrol) का तज़ुर्बा कामयाब होता है कि नहीं और कामयाब होता है तो गवर्नमेंट गले को भी डी-कंट्रोल (Decontrol) कर देगी।

इससे ज्यादा न कहता हुआ और एक बार फिर इस प्रस्ताव का समर्थन करता हूँ और साथ ही साथ सरकार से यह अपील करता हूँ कि सिधवा साहब ने जिस तरह से शहर वालों के मुफ़ाद के बारे में कहा है उसी तरह से सरकार को गांव वालों के हितों का भी पूरा ध्यान रखने की प्रार्थना करते हुए स्थान ग्रहण करता हूँ।

(English translation of the above speech)

Chandhri Ranbir Singh (East Punjab: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the cut motion moved to discuss the desirability of removing control over cloth, etc. Although I am an agriculturist and can very well realise that if foodgrains are controlled and other commodities decontrolled, it would surely produce some repercussion in the economic interests of the agriculturists.

I will not support this motion in the same manner as Mr. Sidhwa has done it by keeping in view the angle of vision of the urbanites, because I understand it and have correctly understood it that India is the land of agriculturists, and not of the inhabitants of towns. Therefore, in determining the policy of this country, we should not keep in view the interests of only 15 per cent of the people living in the cities, but should also appraise the supremacy of the rights of 85 per cent of those in this land who are living in rural areas and are agriculturists. I rose to support this from the point of view of agriculturists only.

As regards cloth, I mention the case of the Punjab agriculturists. The dress of the Punjab farmer comprises of one *pugree* (turban) on his head, one *kurta* (shirt) and one *dhoti* worn round the loin. Generally we wear *Dhoties* and *Pagries* (turbans) measuring about 10 yards and 5 or 6 yards respectively and at least three or $3\frac{1}{2}$ yard of cloth is required for making the shirt (*kurta*). In this way, every farmer requires about 18 yards of cloth annually, but actually he gets 12 yards. Then what happens? I will explain this by quoting an example from my own village which pertains to the use of '*dhoti*'. My village also gets the cloth quota of other three or four villages. The population of my village is 5 thousand and that of the neighbouring villages also is approximately five thousand. So, the population of all these villages comes to ten thousand, and at least ten thousand pairs of *dhoties* should be supplied for the use of the villagers. But in the quarterly quota only 250 *dhoties* have been received. Ten thousand people have at least 200 families. And out of these *dhoties* hardly one pair of a *dhoti* falls to the lot of 40 men

out of the quota for ten thousand people. Last year the quota was received there frequently, and hardly one pair of *dhoti* would have fallen to the share of each family. And it is possible that this year they may not be able to get even one pair of *dhoti*. Therefore, they are forced to buy cloth from the black-market also. The villagers are thus made to pay ten to twelve rupees and even to the extent of rupees twenty for buying one pair of *dhoti* from the black-market—when the control rate for one *dhoti* is Rs. 5. Therefore, my belief is that even if cloth is decontrolled, then it would cost Rs. 10 to 15 at the most to purchase a *dhoti*.

Besides this, there is another point and that is that all the difficulties which have arisen on account of operation of the control would disappear. It is my personal experience that the villagers have got to go to the District Head-quarters to obtain cloth for marriage and other purposes and there they have to flatter the officers and this journeying involves ample expenditure also. If they purchase the cloth from black-market with these expenses which they have to incur in travelling, it would cost them less and moreover they will not also have to face these hardships. Keeping in view all these difficulties, I would request that the control on cloth should be removed. But all the same I have a belief that this Government will surely look into the interests of agriculturists in India.

I further hope that after the expiry of these three months when the fresh stock of foodgrains arrives, we will have experience in this aspect as well. Whether this experiment of decontrol is successful or not, and if it is successful, then the Government will decontrol the foodgrains also.

Without saying anything further, I once again support this motion and also appeal to the Government that it should devote equal attention towards the welfare of the people living in the rural areas just as Mr. Sidhwa has spoken about the interests of those living in the urban area.

With these words, I resume my seat.

Sir Padampat Singhanian (U.P.: General): Sir, ordinarily I would have no desire to speak on this subject of decontrol but since I am in this House and many things have been said which have no relation to facts, I think I must say something so that people may take a more realistic view as regards the improvement of production and the method of control in this country. Before dealing with the subject of this cut motion I should like with your permission to make a few general remarks on the Budget.

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid a general discussion will not be permissible but the Honourable Member may cover a part of it as a background on which to make his remarks on the present motion.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Sir, we want to hear something about controls from the Honourable Member who is one of the largest industrialists of this country.

Mr. Speaker: I am not much concerned as to who is who; I am only concerned with the relevancy of the speech.

Sir Padampat Singhanian: Sir, after 1944-45 when this country was in great need of industrialisation there was much enthusiasm in the country about it; but the difficulty in the last 25 or 30 years has been that people have been inclined more towards moneylending than towards industrialisation. But after this war people have become very industrially minded. Very often I have had opportunities of meeting people from other countries like England and America, and their opinion was that there is great enthusiasm here for industrialisation and if this is put into effect India will become industrially self-sufficient. Then after the Grady Mission and some other Missions our Government has come into power and there was a Coalition Government with the Congress and the Muslim League members in the Cabinet. At that time it

حکومت کو اور بھی فائدہ ہوگا۔ یہ جو باتیں ہیں یہ ایسی ہیں کہ جنگو آدمی سمجھ نہیں سکتا کہ ایسا کیوں ہو رہا ہے۔ ہمارے دیش میں پانچ ہزار میل کا Surface سمندر کا ہے۔ جہاں سے کافی نمک پیدا ہو سکتا ہے۔ اور اس کے علاوہ بہت سی جگہوں میں نمک زمین کے اندر بھی ہے اور اس وجہ سے اس زمین میں کوئی پیداوار نہیں ہوتی ہے۔ ایک طرف تو یہ حالت ہے۔ لیکن دوسری طرف یہ حالت ہے کہ یو۔ پی میں تین روپیہ سیر نمک اور دھلی میں ایک روپیہ سیر نمک بلیک مارکیٹ میں بکتا ہے۔ یہ بہت ہی تعجب کی بات ہے اور آدمی حیران ہو جاتا ہے کہ جب اس قدر نمک پیدا کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ تو نمک پر کیوں کنٹرول کیا گیا ہے۔ مجھے فارسی کا ایک مسئلہ اس بارے میں یاد آتا ہے۔ وہ یہ ہے ہر چہ در کان نمک رفت نمک شد۔ جو کہ نمک کی کان میں گیا نمک ہو گیا۔ کیا جو آدمی بیروکرپسی کی جگہ پر چلا جاتا ہے وہ بھی بیروکرپٹک ہو جاتا ہے نمک جیسے ضروری اور سستی چیز کا انتظام نہونے کے معنی یہ ہیں کہ authorities want of imagination ہے مجھے بہت افسوس سے کہنا پڑتا ہے کہ ان لوگوں نے جنکے ہاتھ میں ہماری قسمت ہے ہماری مشکلات کو محسوس نہیں کیا ہے۔ اور یہ لوگوں کی تکلیف کو زیر نظر نہیں لاتے ہیں

مجھے یہ دیکھ کر بہت دکھ ہوتا ہے کہ اس ملک میں لوگوں کو نمک کی تکلیف ہے۔ میں یہ جانتا ہوں کہ transport کی difficulties ضرور تھیں۔ لیکن اس بات کا allowance دیکر بھی مجھے یہ بات دکھ کے ساتھ کہانی پڑتی ہے کہ کیا جو ستیہ گڑہ گاندھی جی نے اس بارے میں کیا تھا وہ سہل نہیں ہوا ہے کیا ہندوستانیوں کو نمک بنانے کا اختیار نہیں ہے؟ production کو کیوں control کیا گیا ہے؟ نمک کر کنٹرول میں لانے کے لئے اور ہندوستانیوں کو نمک کے بنانے کا اختیار نہ دینے میں حکومت کے پاس کوئی جوازیت نہیں ہے۔

یہاں سے ۵۰ میل دور ایک جگہ فرخنگر ضلع گورگاؤں میں ہے وہاں پر نمک بنانے کی بڑی بڑی Industries تھیں اور وہاں پر کافی نمک پیدا ہوتا تھا

An Hon. Member : Sir, Salt does not come in the subject matter of the motion

پنڈت تھاکر داس بھارگو : اگر میرے دوست دیکھیں انکو معلوم ہوگا کہ اس کٹ موشن میں لکھا ہے۔ Cloth, yarn and commodities other than these

تو جناب: میں عرض کر رہا تھا کہ وہاں فرخنگر میں اتنا صاف اور عمدہ نمک پیدا ہوتا ہے جو اس علاقہ کے دو یا تین کروڑ آدمیوں کے لئے کافی ہو سکتا ہے۔

[پنڈت تھاکر داس بھارگو]

فرماتے ہیں کہ اسکی supply پہلے سے کم ہوگئی ہے۔ اس کے معنی یہ ہیں کہ اسپر کنٹرول آئندہ بھی رائج رہے۔ انہوں نے فرمایا ہے کہ اسکی supply نہیں بڑھ سکتی ہے۔ اور ثابت ہوا ہے کہ کنٹرول سے supply نہیں بڑھی ہے دوسری چیز جو ہمیں معلوم ہے وہ یہ ہے جسے ہندوستان کا ایک اندھا آدمی بھی دیکھ سکتا ہے کہ ہندوستان میں اسقدر corruption بڑھ گیا ہے جسکا ذکر کرنا محال ہے۔ میں یہ عرض کروں گا کہ میں نے اپنی عمر میں کسی محکمہ کو اتنا خراب اور corrupt نہیں سنا ہے جتنا کہ Supply Dept: خراب اور بے ایمان سنا ہے۔ مجھے دھلی کے متعلق خاص علم نہیں ہے۔ لیکن میں جانتا ہوں کہ ہمارے ضلع میں کس قسم کی کارروایاں ہوتی ہیں۔ وہاں پر ایک سول سپلائی آفیسر جس کی تلخواہ پانچ یا چار سو روپیہ ماہوار ہے۔ وہ مہلے میں دس دس ہزار کی آمدنی پیدا کرتا ہے۔ چھوٹے چھوٹے افسران کا کہنا ہی کیا ہے۔ زمینداروں کو کوئی چیز شہر کے ریلے والوں کے قاعدہ کے مطابق میسر نہیں ہوتی ہے۔ جب تک کہ وہ رشوت نہ دیں۔ اس کنٹرول کے یہ نتائج ہیں۔ اگو ہم کسی چیز کو کنٹرول کرنا چاہتے ہیں تو ہمیں چاہئے کہ اسکی Supply کو بڑھا دیں۔ دوسری بات یہ صاف ہے کہ کنٹرول کی وجہ سے Corruption اتنا بڑھ گیا ہے جس نے ہماری life پر بہت خراب اثر ڈال دیا ہے۔ یہ دونوں چیزیں دیکھ کر ہمیں سبق لینا چاہئے اور کنٹرول کو ہٹا دینا چاہئے۔

میں جناب کی خدمت میں کسی خاص غرض سے عرض کرنے کے لئے کھڑا ہوا ہوں۔ اور وہ یہ کہ میں ان چیزوں کے متعلق عرض کرنا چاہتا ہوں جنکی کہ اس ملک میں کسی نہیں ہے۔ ابھی لوگوں کو وہ چیزیں میسر نہیں ہیں مثلاً نمک کے production اور distribution کے متعلق گورنمنٹ کی طرف سے بہت سالوں سے ہر سال اس ہاؤس میں ذکر ہوتا رہا ہے۔ میں یہ سمجھتا تھا کہ آئندہ کے لئے ہاؤس میں اسکا ذکر آنا ضروری نہ ہوگا۔ گاندھی جی کی blessings سے نمک کا ٹیکس غریب ہندوستانیوں سے اٹھ گیا تھا۔ پچھلی دفعہ آنریبل فائنس منسٹر نے کہا تھا کہ نمک کی اب اس ملک میں تکلیف نہیں ہوگی اور لوگوں کو کھانے کے علاوہ Industrial purposes کے لئے بھی نمک بہ آسانی ملا کریگا۔ چماریوں کو skins کے لئے نمک چاہئے اور ماہی گیروں کو مچھلیوں کے لئے نمک کی بہت ضرورت رہتی ہے۔ ان غریبوں کو امید تھی کہ اب ہمیں نمک سستا اور بہ آسانی ملا کریگا۔ لیکن جب اب اسکو راشن میں کر دیا گیا ہے۔ تو اب لوگ یہ کہتے ہیں حکومت کو چاہئے کہ ہوا اور پانی پر بھی ٹیکس لگائے۔ اور اگو اب نمک کا بھی راشن کیا جاتا ہے۔ تو ہوا اور پانی کا بھی راشن کیا جائے۔ اس سے

[Sir Padampat Singhania]

was the desire that it is not the big industrialists but the ordinary middle class men who would bring about the industrialisation of this country. Then came the budget as a result of which that big enthusiasm has been killed. I am very grateful to the Cabinet that instead of waiting for a few months more they have brought this interim budget. It has created a big effect on the market and the middle class people particularly feel that it is not the desire of the Government to kill the enthusiasm of the people but that they will go in for industrialisation. I hope by the time the next budget is brought in they will tell us as to how many companies, out of those registered in this country during the last two or three years, have actually been in a position to promote the industrialisation of this country and how many have not yet been able to get their capital subscribed.

Sir as regards this cut motion various allegations have been made,—viz. that industrialists have no desire to increase production, that production has been smuggled out, that if only the industrialists would co-operate with the Government the national production would increase, etc. People who make these allegations are not, I am afraid, in touch with real facts as to why the production has gone down and people are suffering. It is said that production has gone down from 4,500 million yards to 2,300 million yards. Actually production has not gone down to that extent. It is said that cloth is smuggled out into the black market. That is not a fact; actually it is cotton consumption which has gone down, and without cotton you cannot produce cloth. A study of the facts would show that it is not cloth which has gone out but actually there is no production. That is one of the important points in connection with this allegation about cloth being smuggled out.

Then it is said that the reason for less production is not labour or less working hours but that cloth has been made finer. That, Sir, is not a fact. In 1945 the position of this country in the matter of cloth was very high and the production of cotton manufactured goods was 4500 million yards, which had never happened before in the history of the cotton textile industry of this country. Before the war the production was something like 3,200 million yards and it was not expected that it would rise to that figure of 4,500 million yards. And production was maintained at that figure because cloth was of great necessity in the world. It got a big priority because India had a big bargaining power in the world. We could get stores and supplies from other countries because we had this cloth. And His Majesty's Government also wanted this cloth and we got the first priority in the matter of stores and implements for the cotton textile industry. The reason was that cloth was not only a great necessity during war but there was a great shortage of it in those countries. We then thought that with this big bargaining power in our hands we could maintain the level of that production. But the British people and the British officers in the Government of India felt that if India's cotton textile production was maintained at that figure there was also a possibility of increasing it and India would be able after the war to capture other markets besides supplying her own domestic requirements. What happened afterwards? What happened? Our big Honourable Members here in touch with labour have been pressing for a kind of international legislation to the effect that Indian labour which is working 54 hours a week should have their working hours cut down to 48 hours. We have made all kinds of endeavours to stop this. We have met the Honourable Member in various Conferences. We have suggested that once you cut down the working hours the production will go down and in spite of our great appeal to the workers, they will not come forward and increase the working hours. The result was that because Honourable Members were wanting popularity they pressed for this cutting down. I say this not by way of criticism. But I am stating the fact. We have even suggested that you may pay twice the wages of one hour but do not let the

working hours go down, because India has only this cloth by which she has a very powerful bargaining power in the world. But legislation has been passed and working hours have been lowered from 54 to 48 hours and orders have been issued to provinces that circulars should be sent round to cut down the working hours. It was not only the reduction of six working hours per week but all the multiple shifts that used to work in the various mills also went down and the production of handmade cloth has also gone down.

With the change of Government labour feels that it is their own Government and they should take as much advantage of it as possible. The real problem before us is that production has gone down from 4,500,000,000 yards to 3,200,000,000 yards. Therefore my request is as some of the Honourable Members have said who represent labour here, that labour should be asked to increase production. I would request them in this House that they must consider that it is this country which has great bargaining power in the world and instead of going abegging to other people for their food supply and other requirements, they must come forward and ask the workers to bring up the cloth production, and if the cloth production will go up, then India will have such great bargaining power that India will be able to get all the food and all other supplies that she wants, instead of Ministers going and abegging our Embassies, and we will be able to solve much of our troubles.

بلندت تھاکر داس بھاگو : مانیور سپیکر صاحب ! کلاتھ اور یارن اور دوسری چیزوں کے کنٹرول کے متعلق بحث ہوتی رہی ہے۔ میں جناب کی خدمت میں ایک اور چیز جو کہ کلاتھ اور yarn سے ضرورت میں ان دونوں سے کچھ کم نہیں ہے کے متعلق بولنا چاہتا ہوں۔ میں یہ عرض کرنا چاہتا ہوں کہ کنٹرول صرف اس صورت میں کامیاب ہو سکتا ہے جب کہ supply اور demand دونوں چیزوں پر کنٹرول ہو۔ اگر ان دونوں چیزوں کا equilibrium برابر نہ ہو تو اسکا نتیجہ بھی ہوتا ہے جو کہ ہمارے سامنے اسوقت ہے۔ کنٹرول کرنے کی صورت میں ہمیں یہ دیکھنا ہو گا کہ ہمارے پاس کتنی supply ہے اور اس کے ساتھ اسکی demand کتنی ہے۔ اور اس کے مطابق اس کو regulate کیا جاتا ہے۔ اسوقت ایسا ہوتا ہے کہ یا تو demand کم ہو جاتی ہے یا supply بڑھ جاتی ہے۔ اور یہ بات بغیر ان چیزوں کے جن کی اس ملک میں supply نہیں ہے سب چیزوں کے بارے میں ہے۔

اگر یہ کہا جائے کہ کھانے کی چیزیں اس ملک میں نہیں ہیں اور ہر ایک کو مہیا نہیں کی جا سکتی تو اسکو ان ہی basis پر کنٹرول کیا جائے۔ کپڑے کے بارے میں اگر یہ کہا جائے کہ production کم اور demand زیادہ ہے۔ اور اس کے equitable distribution کی وجہ سے کنٹرول ضروری ہے تو میں یہ سمجھتا ہوں کہ اس کے لئے جواز ہے لیکن اس کے اندر ہم نے یہ دیکھا ہے کہ جو آدمی اس کے natural equilibrium کو واپس لاتے ہیں ان کے متعلق ہمیں کافی تلخ تجربہ ہے۔ حکومت ہند نے چند سال ہوئے grow more food campaign شروع کیا۔ لیکن اس کے چند سال شروع کرنے کے بعد منسٹر صاحب متعلقہ نے اس ہاؤس میں یہ کہہ دیا کہ ہمیں اس میں ناکامیابی ہوئی ہے۔ کلاتھ کے بارے میں کلاتھ کے ایک بڑے manufacturer

[Pt. Thakur Das Bhargava] the officers, it is not possible for the villagers to get anything. This is what our system of controls has given us. If we want to control an item, we must see that its supplies are increased. The second effect of the Controls has been that corruption has increased, and this is having a very bad effect on the people. We must take lessons from these two things and abolish controls.

Sir, I have stood up to bring to your notice a particular point. It is this. I want to speak on those things of which India is not short. In spite of the fact that there is no shortage of these things in our country it is not easy for the people to get them. For example, take salt. For the last so many years, in every session of the Assembly, the House has been discussing the policy of the Government for the production and distribution of common salt. I had been thinking that now there would be no necessity for the House to discuss this subject; because by the blessings of Mahatma Gandhi, poor Indians have been relieved of the Salt Tax. During the last session the Honourable the Finance Minister assured the House that people would have no more difficulties in procuring salt. Besides getting it for eating purposes people would also get enough salt for industrial purposes. The tanners need salt for skins and hides, and the fishermen want it for preserving the fish. These poor men were given hopes that they would get salt easily and at cheaper rates. But now when it has been made a rationed article people have got an opportunity for saying: "Why don't Government impose taxes on air and water? If the Government think that supplies of salt should be rationed, why don't they also ration the supplies of water and air? This will bring more money into the Government treasury". These are remarks which are not made without a cause. India has a coast which is five thousand miles long. Enough salt can be made from the sea water. We have, moreover, places where salt is found underground. The presence of salt in these places renders the land there useless for agricultural purposes. On the one hand we have such potentialities, whereas, on the other we find that salt is selling in the black market at rupees three per seer in the U.P. and at rupee one per seer in Delhi. This is very strange. One is surprised to find that salt has been rationed in the face of this thing that it can be manufactured on so large a scale. This reminds me of a Persian sentence, which literally means that whosoever goes into a salt mine comes out with salt all over his person: In other words it means that a dyer cannot dye without dyeing his hands. He who joins bureaucracy is bound to become bureaucratic. The absence of proper arrangements for the supply of a cheap and essential commodity like salt shows a want of imagination, on the part of authorities. I regret to say that those men in whose hands lie our destinies have not realised the difficulties of the public. They do not even care to study these difficulties. I am pained to find that people cannot get salt. I know that this is due to the difficulties in transport. But even after making allowance for this 'difficulty'. I am grieved to find that Mahatma Gandhi's *Satyagraha* in this connection has borne no fruit. Have the Indians no right to manufacture salt? Why has the production of salt been controlled? For the imposition of control over salt and for the failure to let people manufacture salt in India, the Government have no answer.

At a distance of about 50 miles from here there is a place in District Gurgaon known as Farrukhnagar. There were pretty big industries for manufacturing salt, and enough salt has been produced there.

An Honourable Member: Sir, salt does not come in the subject matter of the motion.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: If my Honourable friend cares to read the 'Cut Motion', he will find written therein "Cloth, Yarn and commodities other than these."

Sir, I was saying that Farrukhnagar produces such a fine quality of salt in such a big quantity as can suffice to meet the demands of two to three crores of people inhabiting this part of the country. Similarly, in the year 1914, and during the last war the district of Hissar produced nitre worth lakhs of rupees. But now we find many difficulties there. This industry has received a big set back on account of the present policy of the Government. Instead of getting encouragement to increase the production of salt people are being discouraged and the production is falling day by day. This sort of control can not be successful. Sir, I have to request, that where salt is present in the ground it should be taken out so that these places are rendered fit for cultivation. This can only be achieved if people are allowed to manufacture salt. I find no reason why the Government should not change its present policy about it. People are dissatisfied all over this country; every body wants that this item should not be controlled.

In my opinion, we should also decontrol food. I belong to a place which is not a deficit area. It is quite likely that I may not be correct. But I will state that if food is decontrolled, the Grow More Food Campaign will also bear fruits, and supplies of every commodity will increase. We are forced to-day to go to the black market for buying even those things which are produced in our own districts. This is deplorable. If the Government consider the black market unlawful they should not pursue a policy which creates circumstances favourable to the Black Market. Care should be taken to see that those factors do not rise on which the black market depends. Sir, I want to say that a man produces a certain thing, for example wheat. Suppose its price has been fixed at Rs. 10/- per maund. Another man who needs wheat goes to the producer's place with an empty cart and offers to buy it there and then by paying cash at the rate of twenty rupees per maund. When the producer is given this temptation, do you think Sir, he will not be tempted? May I ask the Honourable Minister for food if he thinks that foodstuffs have been selling at controlled prices and not in the black market. If it is a crime to sell one thing in the black market, it should be so with all things. My Honourable friends know that in Delhi for many days people have been getting only rice; no wheat or *atta* has been given them. If a man receives a guest, he cannot offer him meals. Nothing can exhaust the 'moral stamina' or spoil the 'morale' of the public more than the existing system of controls. Keeping these things in view, we should, therefore, for the time being, abolish the system of controls. Last year the feelings of the House about the continuation of the controls were so excited that when the then Minister for Industries and Supplies, the Honourable Rajaji rose to answer the debate, it was very difficult for him to speak. What effects it has had on us during the interval which has lapsed between the two Sessions, is not unknown to the Honourable Members. Today even the beacon light of this country, the strongest force of this nation, Mahatma Gandhi, who always cherishes the welfare of the masses, has come to the conclusion that the controls must go for they have neither helped to increase the production nor have they succeeded in making equitable distribution. With great respect I would like to say to the Honourable Minister that such circumstances can arise here as will increase the production of both food and cloth. That will allay the present difficulties of the public and they will get a big relief if these controls are removed.

Shri S. K. Patil (Bombay: General): Sir, I rise to support this cut, particularly because it is meant for raising a discussion on the policy of cloth control. I am not going into the larger question as to whether free economy or controlled economy should be the rule of the administration. Although I am an incorrigible protagonist of free economy, I can conceive circumstances where controlled economy becomes necessary. In 1943-44 cloth control became necessary, as circumstances were such. There was a shortage of cloth and there was a clamour from the poorer people especially that cloth should be controlled and hence the

[پلڈت تھاکر داس بھارگو]

اس طرح سے ضلع حصار میں ۱۹۱۳ء اور پچھلی لڑائی میں لاکھوں روپیہ کا شورہ بنتا تھا لیکن اب ہم یہ دیکھتے ہیں کہ وہاں پر اس بارے میں بہت دقتیں ہیں اور حکومت کی پالیسی کی وجہ سے اس Industry کو کافی نقصان ہوتا ہے۔ اب یہاں کے Production کو بڑھانے کی بجائے دن بدن کم کیا جا رہا ہے۔ اس قسم کا جو یہ کنٹرول ہے وہ کامیاب نہیں ہو سکتا ہے۔ میری یہ گزارش ہے کہ جن جگہوں پر زمین میں نمک موجود ہے وہاں پر زمینوں سے یہ نمک نکال دیا جائے اور ان زمینوں کو قابل کاشت بنا دیا جائے۔ اور یہ تب ہی ہو سکتا ہے کہ لوگوں کو نمک Manufacture کرنے کی اجازت دی جائے۔ میرے خیال میں کوئی وجہ نہیں کہ اتنے تجربے کے بعد بھی حکومت اپنی پالیسی کو تبدیل نہ کرے۔ سارے دیہات میں اسوقت اس بارے میں بہت راویلا ہو رہا ہے۔ اور ہر شخص یہی کہتا ہے کہ اسکو کنٹرول نہ کیا جائے۔ دہلی رائے میں Food کو بھی decontrol کیا جائے۔ میں اس علاقہ سے تعلق رکھتا ہوں جہاں پر food کی کمی نہیں ہے۔ اسلئے شاید میری یہ رائے درست نہ ہو۔ لیکن میں یہ عرض کروں گا کہ اگر food کو decontrol کیا جائے تو grow more food campaign کامیاب ہو جائیگا اور ہر ایک چیز کی supply بڑھ جائیگی۔ آجکل جو چیزیں ہمارے ضلع میں پیدا ہوتی ہیں انکو بلیک مارکیٹ میں خریدنے کے لئے ہمکو مجبور کیا جاتا ہے۔ یہ ایک بہت بڑی چیز ہے۔ اگر حکومت بلیک مارکیٹ کو جرم قرار دیتی ہے تو اسکی پالیسی یہ ہونے چاہئے کہ ایسے حالات پیدا نہ کیے جائیں جن پر کہ بلیک مارکیٹ depend کرتا ہے۔ جناب میں یہ گزارش کرنا چاہتا ہوں جب ایک شخص کچھ پیداوار مثلاً گیہوں پیدا کرتا ہے۔ جسکی قیمت دس روپیہ پر کنٹرول کی گئی ہے اور ایک شخص جس کو ضرورت ہوتی ہے وہ اس کے پاس جا کر دس روپیہ کے بجائے بیس روپیہ دیتا ہے اور اس کے گھر پر گاڑی لا کر کہتا ہے کہ یہ نقد روپیہ لے لو اور مجھکو یہ چیز دیدو۔ تو جب اس آدمی کو یہ temptation دی جائے تو کیا وہ کبھی اس کو چھوڑ سکتا ہے۔

کیا میں آنریبل منسٹر سے یہ پوچھ سکتا ہوں کیا انکی نظر میں پٹرول میں بلیک مارکیٹ نہیں کیا گیا۔ اگر ایک چیز میں بلیک مارکیٹ کرنا جرم ہے تو وہ سب چیزوں کے لئے جرم ہے۔ دہلی کے متعلق معزز مسبران کو تجربہ ہوگا کہ بہت سے دن لوگوں کو چاول ہی ملتے ہیں اور گندم یا آٹا نہیں ملتا ہے اور اگر کسی کے گھر مہمان آجائے تو وہ اسکو یہ نہیں کہہ سکتا ہے کہ روٹی کھاؤ۔ تو ان حالات میں moral stamina اور moral کو بگاڑنے کے لئے کنٹرول کے علاوہ اور کوئی چیز نہیں ہے۔ اسلئے ان حالات کو مدنظر رکھتے ہوئے کنٹرول کو ہٹا دینا چاہئے۔ گزشتہ سال کنٹرول کو قائم رکھنے کے لئے اس ہاؤس کی اتنی زبردست feeling تھیں کہ جب راجہ صاحب

جو کہ اسوقت Industries and supply کے منسٹر انچارج تھے۔ انہیں debate کا جواب دینا مشکل ہو گیا تھا۔ اور اس درمیان عرصہ میں اس کا کیا اثر ہوا ہے وہ ہم سب کو معلوم ہے۔ اس دیہات کی سب سے بڑی طاقت مہاتما گاندھی اب جو کہ ہمیشہ ملک کے رت کو دیکھتے ہیں۔ نے فیصلہ کیا ہے کہ کنٹرول کو ختم کرنا چاہئے لیکن کنٹرول سے ان چیزوں کی supply نہیں رہ سکتی اور نہ ٹھیک Distribute ہوا نہ ہو سکتا ہے اسلئے کنٹرول ختم کر دئے جائیں۔

میں نہایت ادب سے ٹریبل منسٹر کی خدمت میں عرض کروں گا کہ یہاں پر ایسے حالات پیدا ہو سکتے ہیں جن سے کہ food اور cloth کافی پیدا ہو سکتا ہے اور لوگوں کی موجودہ تکلیف دور ہو سکتی ہیں اور لوگ ان سے بچ سکتے ہیں۔

(English translation of the above speech)

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava (East Punjab: General): Mr. Speaker. Sir. Discussions have taken place here on control over cloth, yarn and other commodities. I want to speak today on an item which is in no way less important than cloth or yarn. I like to say, Sir, that controls can only be successful if the Demand and Supply of commodities are also controlled. If the equilibrium of demand and supply is not balanced the result is bound to be what we have witnessed, ourselves. When we want to impose control over certain things, we must study the positions of their supply and the demand; the control over an item should be regulated according to these two factors. What is going on at this time is that either the demand for an item decreases or its supply increases. This is the case with all things except those which are scarce in India.

If it is said that there is a shortage of food in this country and if they cannot be supplied to every individual according to his wants, then, I think this should form the basis on which these things should be brought under control. If it is said about cloth that its 'production' is less than its 'demand', and that for its 'equitable distribution' it is required to be controlled, I think, there is some justification. But have we not had bitter experiences with these who are entrusted with the responsibility of balancing this "Natural equilibrium"? A few years back the Government of India launched the "Grow More Food Campaign". After a few years of its inception the hon'ble minister incharge stated before this House that this campaign had failed to achieve its object. About cloth a big manufacturer has said that its supply this year has been less than before. He suggests that the control over the cloth should be continued. This manufacturer says that it is not possible to increase the supply of cloth. It has been proved that the cloth control has not helped to increase its supplies.

The second thing about the system of controls is—and this even the most insensitive Indian can feel—that in this country corruption has become too rampant to be described in words. I may say that in all my life I have not come across any department which can be compared with the Supply Department, in corruption and inefficiency. I do not know much about Delhi, but I know what sort of malpractices are going on in my district. There is a Civil Supplies Officer whose salary is about four to five hundred rupees per month but he is making not less than ten thousand rupees a month. When this is the condition of the Officer in Charge, what do you think must be the behaviour of the junior officers. The less said about them the better! Their corrupt practices defy description. Nothing is given to the Zamindars according to the rules in force in the cities. Until and unless they grease the palms of

[Shri S. K. Patil]
control came. I have no quarrel with the control but the trouble is that it is not a question whether the control is good or bad but the real question is: how is the administration of that control? During the last three years if there has been an outstanding example of corruption, and something worse than that, in the whole administration, it is in the cloth control and it is not exaggerating facts if people call it a 'scandal'. It is a scandal and to call a spade a spade is no offence at all. From the top to the bottom I really do not know who is free from corruption so far as the management and administration of this cloth control is concerned. Besides there has been so much of confusion in the orders that have been issued from time to time so far as the administration of this control is concerned, that even an educated man hardly understands really what are his rights within the four corners of this control.

I have been associated with this control and its working during the last three years, almost ever since its inception I have found so much confusion and chaos throughout this period, that I am convinced that the time has come when this control ought not to remain even for a day longer. The resolution of the A.I.C.C. has been quoted. I am aware that the resolution gives a caution that the controls have got to be lifted without detriment to the public good. I do understand that. It may apply to food and other necessities of life. But so far as the control of cloth is concerned, the way that it is administered in this country, the sooner it goes the better. There will be no detriment to the public good. I can give you some instances about my city, the City of Bombay which is the main city from where most of the cloth comes. This control is operated in a very funny manner there. There have been loopholes everywhere. Wherever you go you find an exception and therefore it becomes confusing to know what the rule is. In our city apart from the quota holders who are given the cloth—and how these quota holders operate this cloth is a known thing and I will not dilate upon it—in addition to these, every millowner is given half per cent of the cloth production to be used in any manner he likes, namely for himself, for the shareholders, for his friends and so on. Whenever a millowner is caught in possession of cloth he can always point out that it is out of that half per cent which he has got. Nobody knows whether any account is maintained of all this—possibly some account is maintained. The system varies from place to place. In Bombay you have to declare how you are going to use that half per cent. In Ahmedabad no such restriction exists. So there is no uniformity as to how that half per cent is to be used. I do not object to giving half per cent to the millowner. Give him even 5 per cent if he is made answerable as to how he is going to use it and if some control is exercised on his discretion. But no control is exercised. There is control on everything but absolutely no control on those who are exercising this control and who are supposed to manage and administer it.

There is another very funny provision in this control so far as the city of Bombay is concerned. I do not know what conventions obtain elsewhere. In addition to the 10 yards of cloth which is permissible to every man, a worker in the mill industry is allowed 18 yards per head for himself and for all his dependents. Luckily, Sir, a majority of us are Hindus and you can imagine how many dependents there can be in a joint family in Hindu society. I mean the number of nephews and nieces. There is no rule anywhere as to who are the dependents of a worker with the result that if the quarter of a million of our workers, which is the full complement of the textile workers, have each got 10 dependents—they may even have more, I do not know—it will come to millions and millions of yards of cloth in addition to the 10 yards of cloth per head which is permissible under the controlling order. What is the result of it? You have been saying that there have been corruption and demoralisation in the higher society. Leave alone the higher society who can digest the corruption and who are answerable to their God. But to the people who have had no

opportunities of corruption you are throwing them in their way by saying 'if you like, take 18 yards more because you are a worker'. I quite understand the justification for that decision. Why should they not get a little more than the others? But what is the result of giving that cloth in such a large quantity? On an average a man will have four to ten dependents. Even on the basis of four, for a quarter of a million people it comes to something like a million people. And multiplying it by 18 you get something like 2 crores of yards of cloth which is freely going into the market. The result is if the cloth is issued just now the next morning you can find it in the black market. In this connection I should mention the suggestion which I made to a very high government official. I said "You are giving the prices of controlled articles in the Gazette. Why not give the black market prices also in the Gazette so that people can understand this is the control price and this is the black market price". Let the law of supply and demand operate even in black market, so that those poor victims who have to resort to the black market will have the advantage of choosing between two people from whom to buy. There are markets in the city of Bombay where you can go and make any purchase—I am not talking of the markets of the quota holders but I am coming to the last stratum of society from which you did not expect this sin, because there were no opportunities for them of committing it. Having thrown this temptation you find there is so much of cloth going. If you go to these markets and say that you want a particular brand of cloth, so many yards, even thousand yards, by tomorrow 8 o'clock, within 24 hours, you can have it for the black market price. Therefore, these are all the things that you find as a result of the control. The administration is so rotten—I do not know what is not rotten about it. If anything has remained un-rotten, by the time you finish this control the whole thing will be rotten. There will be nothing to choose from top to bottom.

Let us not confuse ourselves and confuse the main issue as if there is a war between controlled economy and free economy. Honourable Members on the Government benches also make a plea that when the times are difficult the economy has to be controlled. I agree it has to be controlled. But at the time of instituting the control you must know that the machinery that you are employing is a machinery that is charged with the highest integrity, that it is an honest machinery that administers it. If there are faults here and there it is pardonable, but when the whole machinery is rotten what is to be done? There was a question in respect of the Rationing Department in our city—in some other department and not cloth, but the illustration is quite apt for it also—that the congress should supply some volunteers to go round from house to house to check up whether the cards issued really bore any proportion to the actual number of people existing. Naturally I said 'Very well; I can help the Government; what is wrong in it; it is a social service; why not give volunteers in order to have a check-up of those cards?' But within an hour I got a telephone from the President of the Union who controls these men. He asked 'Is it true that you have promised a thousand volunteers to the Government in order to help them in checking up the number of cards?' I said 'Yes, what is wrong about it?' He said 'There is everything wrong'. I at once smelt the rat. I could understand what was wrong, namely that if our volunteers went and made a check-up they would realize that there were more cards than there were persons. Sir, population is growing more in our ration cards than actually. I give this merely as an illustration. There is not only a card for food ration in our city, but that is also a card for cloth ration. In our city where there is a population of about 28 lakhs there are 35 lakhs of cards, and these additional 7 lakh cards are characterised as ghost cards because the holders in respect of them are not actually existing. Imagine, if in an administration where there are thousands of people working including so many officers getting astounding rates of pay but who are yet demanding every day more and more pay, a city could not be

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managed and outside this 28 lakhs cards there are 7 lakh of ghost cards both in food ration and cloth ration, then you can very well understand the quality of the administration that you have set in motion. I do not blame you. You are not responsible for setting it in motion and you cannot even improve it. If there was a little patch somewhere, you can improve it. But when the whole thing has gone wrong and is rotten it is beyond improvement. The only thing that can improve it is a clear-cut operation and that is immediate de-control. It is no matter what happens as a result thereof. If anything happens the society will adjust itself to it. But here the administration has come to a point where it is absolutely impossible to improve it so far as the operation of these controls is concerned. Therefore the sooner cloth is de-controlled the better. It is not merely for the sake of argument that I am suggesting this. If the greatest hardships are to be borne by the masses it is not because of the shortages but because of these controls as a result of which there is the unequal match between the rich and the poor. They cannot stand against the rich when the administration becomes as rotten as it has become. The remedy is de-control.

Sir, with these words I support the cut motion moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Saxena.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee (Minister for Industry and Supply): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the last speaker has analysed the situation in a very realistic manner. I believe, Sir, the question before the House is not whether control as a system is good or bad, but whether the control system has got to be withdrawn in view of the manner in which it is being worked in the country today. I can at once remove, Sir, one impression from the minds of my friends. Since last year Government has withdrawn control over 105 commodities, and at present control exists with regard to only a few items. Perhaps Honourable Members would be interested to know what the items exactly are. First is iron and steel, second is cloth and yarn, third is coal, fourth is paper, which is only partially controlled now. These are the items which fall within the Ministry of Industry and Supply. There are three items which fall within the Ministry of Works, Mines and Power, and also partially Railways, namely motor spirit, kerosene and mica. With regard to all other items, control has been withdrawn. So far as salt is concerned, I felt rather curious when I was hearing the speaker. The Salt Control Order has not yet been put into force, and whatever has been happening in different parts of India due to the scarcity of salt has been in absence of the Salt Control Order and not on account of it. In fact the difficulties which my honourable friend was pointing out, I believe, lead to the conclusion that the Salt Control Order should be imposed at once and rigorously applied in different parts of the country. I shall however deal with the salt matter and give certain facts and figures before the House later on. But let me come back, Sir, to the main items which are now under control. So far as iron and steel are concerned, I have not heard anything from any member yet. I do not wish to speak much on this item, but I would just point out that today India's capacity for production comes up to 1,250,000 tons per year. Our need, Sir, is between 2 and 2½ million tons per year, but actually we are producing between 800,000 and 900,000 tons per year. That is a bare statement of fact. So far as the import position is concerned, this year we budgeted for 150,000 tons to be imported. Unfortunately we have got only about 15,000 tons. So there is no doubt that there exists an overall scarcity of iron and steel in the country. In these circumstances I do not think anyone would suggest in this House that iron and steel should be decontrolled immediately.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saxena: But there is great corruption in its control.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It is suggested that there is great corruption in the working of the administration. Now, Sir, with regard to the method of distribution in respect of iron and steel and corruption generally. I shall welcome any constructive suggestions which Members of the House may make. Now let us look at the matter from a practical standpoint. Mr. Patil said, and so many other Members have said, that there is a lot of corruption, so that although control may be desirable and necessary, on account of corruption we must decontrol. This is like the argument of the man who may say that since in spite of the Indian Penal Code, there are lots of murder cases going on in the country which you cannot check, let us abolish the Indian Penal Code itself and let people commit murder as much as they choose. If you feel that control is necessary in respect of certain commodities, we must have the courage and the capacity to put up a machinery which will be beyond criticism. Government is fully prepared to do it. Whatever might have happened in the past, we might have felt helpless and only thrown discredit or blame at this or that other officer—since the 15th of August 1947, when we claim to have taken full control over the affairs of our country, it does not lie in our mouth to say that although in respect of a particular commodity control is necessary, we are not fit to administer this control, and therefore we should run away from our duty. Sir, as the Minister responsible for this department I would suggest to every Member of the House, and indeed to others outside this House to give us concrete instances of corruption, and if after that you find that Government is slow to proceed against an individual, no matter whether he is high or low, you can come and criticize the Government.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya (Madras: General): That is not our business, Sir.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It may not be the business of the Member who interrupted, but I believe, Sir, it is the business of every responsible citizen, who comes to know of any specific instance of corruption not to keep it within his own mind but at any rate confidentially to inform the Government as to what it is about. I ask here for full co-operation and I did not expect a veteran leader like Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya to get up and say that it is not his business to help the Government to eradicate the evil.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Because you throw the burden upon the opposite party.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: No, Sir. I am quite sure the Honourable Member will be protected. We do not wish to drag him into a court of law, against his will. We can hold an enquiry.

Shri Biswanath Das (Orissa: General): I should like to know the sort of illustration in corruptive method that the Honourable Minister wants. We are fully willing to co-operate with him, but what is the sort of instance that he wants? There are various kinds of instances. . .

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I would like to have all kinds of instances. If the Honourable Member has information which he thinks would lead to some result, we shall welcome it,—not only Ministers, but also responsible officials in charge of the departments concerned. Now Sir, let me proceed with the other facts.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (Madras: Muslim): The Honourable Minister referred to protection being given to the man who gave information. I was not clear about what he said.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: What I said was that if the matter goes to a court of law and if the Honourable Member is cited as a witness, the question of protection arises, but in many cases information may be

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sent to the department of suspected cases where there is a *prima facie* evidence before the Member and we shall not shirk enquiry being made into such allegations.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (U. P.: General): Is the Honourable Member aware that definite instances were published in the newspapers? What action has been taken on them?

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Minister need not reply to all these interruptions now, otherwise there will be no end to them.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I shall next come to coal. Now with regard to coal, there also quite naturally no one has suggested that control should be withdrawn at the present stage. On account of various difficulties, and particularly on account of transport difficulties, it is not possible for us to utilise coal to the best advantage of the country, and therefore some sort of regulated control is necessary.

I am not referring to paper, Sir, because practically that is decontrolled except with regard to paper which is manufactured in India. But there also it is interesting to find that while our annual capacity comes to about 120,000 tons, we are actually producing between 85,000 and 90,000 tons.

I therefore come back to the main item which has been discussed since yesterday, and that is with regard to textile control. Mr. Patil pointed out that in 1943 control was necessary in view of the shortage in the country. There was clamour from the consumers, there was clamour from 1 P.M., different sections of the people, and therefore control had to be imposed. I have before me, Sir, the total production figures in India since 1938. It appears in 1943 India produced 4,715 million yards of mill-cloth. That quantity was not apparently sufficient to meet the requirements of the people. Now, this year.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam: General): May I know how much of these millions of yards was only bandages and *patties*? Many mills in 1942 and 1943 gave up producing *dhoties* and shirts and were busy in making only bandages and *patties* for troops.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: So far as the military requirements are concerned, I have not got the exact figure—it will be about 600 million yards. But I am giving you an overall picture. In 1943, the year in which control was imposed, India was producing mill-made cloth to the extent of 4,715 million yards of which six to seven hundred million yards were to be consumed for military purposes. Now, today our production has gone down; it has come to 4,000 million yards. It might be a little less this year.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: What was it last year?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I am talking of last year.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member may continue his speech after Lunch. The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock.
Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavlanekar) in the Chair.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Sir, I was placing before the House the production figures during the year control was imposed. A question was raised as to what was the quantity which was taken for defence purposes during this period. I have got here a complete statement of the production for the years from 1935-36 to 1946 and also the figures for export and for defence purposes. It appears that in 1943-44, the year in which control was imposed, India had a balance of 5,470 million yards of cloth, including

handloom and mill-made, for distribution amongst the population. Now, that compares very unfavourably with 1946 figures. In 1946, the total quantity available for distribution amongst the civilian population was 4,888 million yards. In other words, if Mr. Patil's proposition was correct, that there was ample justification for having control over textiles in 1943, my submission is that the situation in the country so far as production goes has not improved—rather, it has deteriorated.

Then, Sir, a question was raised as regards the production in recent months. I have got here a complete account of production by the mills from 1946 January right up to 1947 October. It appears, Sir, that after control was introduced in 1943, production increased for the first year and very slightly decreased next year. Then from 1946 onwards, production started decreasing more rapidly. What the reasons are, I need not dilate upon. They are well known to the members of the House. There were communal disturbances. There were the 8-hours day programme, strikes and other difficulties coming in the way of larger production.

Now, it has been said by my friend Shri Khandubhai Desai who is an acknowledged authority on the subject that the mills are making enormous profits. That is true. But here also, I have not been able to see the exact logic of the argument—if the mills are today making enormous profits inspite of control, how will the mills be prevented from making more profit if control is withdrawn? For instance, I am taking from Shri Khandubhai Desai's pamphlet certain illuminating figures. In 1943, the year in which control was imposed, the gross profit was Rs. 109 crores for the textile industry in its entirety. The net profit, however, was Rs. 21 crores because of taxation and other considerations. In 1944, the profit decreased to Rs. 85 crores. As soon as the control started operation, the profit also started decreasing. The net profit was Rs. 18 crores for 1944. In 1945 the gross profit was Rs. 61 crores and net profit Rs. 13 crores. In 1946 the gross profit was estimated at Rs. 41 crores and net profit Rs. 9 crores.

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): May I ask if this was due to price reduction or some other cause?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I am not saying that it was due entirely to price reduction. What I am saying is that the reduction in profit followed the introduction of control, and if control is withdrawn then profits are likely to increase.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): There are secret profits.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I am talking of open profits. I have no access to the secret profits of the mills.

Now, Sir, let me emphasise here that the present Government is not enamoured of control as such. Far from it. We accept the principle that de-control should be introduced as soon as circumstances permit. Here, the prime consideration is the welfare of the masses of the people. We have made an experiment with de-control of sugar. Within 24 hours of the unofficial announcement—the order of de-control has not yet been officially announced by the Government of India—prices jumped up from Rs. 20-8-0 to nearly Rs. 40 to 50. Now, who was responsible for this?

An Honourable Member: Speculators.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Quite so, speculators. If by a sudden de-control we would help in the reign of lawlessness otherwise by speculators, that will be a matter which I know the House will certainly not like. But look at the manufacturers themselves. Only yesterday they came out with a statement that the price will go up to Rs. 35. So the net result of de-control of sugar, according to the manufacturers themselves, would be an increase of nearly 80 per cent. I do not ignore the fact that it is proposed to

[Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee] increase the price of sugar-cane from Rs. 1-4 to Rs. 1-12 or Rs. 2, which means 60 per cent. more. But the immediate increase relates mostly to existing stocks.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma (U. P.: General): May I know, Sir, if that would not encourage the growing of commercial crops and thus not redound upon the success of our "Grow More Food Campaign"?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It is not for me to go into that question, but I just mentioned it as an illustration of the danger which might follow if de-control is effected without a proper guarantee that speculators, manufacturers or traders or the middlemen will not take advantage of such de-control and allow the prices to rise up to such an extent that it will put the man-in-the-street in extreme difficulty.

Now, Sir, let me come to the present scheme of Government regarding the textile industry. My friend, Mr. Saksena, pointed out in his speech to Mr. Vadilal's schemes which he had suggested to my predecessor, Mr. Rajagopalachari. That scheme was in the nature of standardizing the production of cloth. I need not go into details, Sir, but I can tell the House that Government had already appointed an *ad hoc* Committee for the purpose of going into this question. What is the main question? The main question is to increase production. This question was gone into by the *ad hoc* Committee and the *ad hoc* Committee recommended that production of cloth should be standardized. There should be less production of finer cloths and more production of medium cloth so that in quantity we can have more supplies for distribution among the masses of the people. That report was discussed with representatives of the industry and accepted by Government with some modification. The question then arose that if mills were asked to produce these standardized varieties, there would be some loss over the production of the medium and the coarser type of cloth; the demand was made by the Industry that price of cloth should be increased. The present Government was not satisfied that the increase was going to affect all the mills. In fact, I tried in vain to obtain definite figures as to how many mills were going to lose by the adoption of the standardized scheme. Some said that it would be only ten per cent; some others said that it would be 20 or 30 per cent. Government, therefore felt, that it would be undesirable to allow a general increase of prices in cloth which would go to benefit a large number of mills, who are already making huge profits, on the pretext of subsidising a small number of mills who might perhaps lose on account of having given effect to the standardized scheme. What is the decision that Government reached? Government decided that immediate steps should be taken to speed up production. Therefore, Government called upon the Textile Industry to adopt this standardized scheme. At the same time, Government assured the Industry that while the Government was not going to allow a general increase of prices, they will be prepared to have this question examined by the Tariff Board, as allegations were made that the *ad hoc* Committee had not examined the detailed working of a sufficiently large number of mills. After that is done, Government would decide on the question of increase in price.

Now, here it came to our notice that there were certain defects in the present system which required alteration. One Honourable Member referred to the Quota-holder system. Now the quota-holders used to get about 3 per cent. commission, which meant nearly about 9 crores of Rupees, which many thought was unjustifiable. Government therefore reduced the quota-holders' percentage from 3 to 1. This has already been announced to come into effect from the 1st January 1948.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: That is too high.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Some, I know consider this also high. We are considering whether we cannot abolish the quota-holder system altogether and allow the ordinary trade channels to flow as they formerly used to do. That also is a matter which is under investigation, but I am giving you facts which would go to show in which direction the policy of the present Government is moving. I was impressed by the arguments which were put forward by my friend, Mr. Khandubhai Desai, as also the Mover of the amendment, that Government might consider the question of having control over production alone and withdraw control so far as distribution and prices go. That is a matter which has already occurred to us, and I can say this without disclosing any secret, because there is no secret between the Government and the House so far as this matter is concerned. I have already taken up that matter for examination. That I believe, Sir, will be a fair *via media*. Some sort of control over production is necessary. Now Government is today faced with a charge which is brought forward by a large number of consumers and also from Labour that the mills are producing much more, but that has not come into the open market. That allegation has been made on the floor of this House here yesterday and today. I was trying to compare the total quantity of cotton that has been used and the total quantity of cloth that is produced according to the open market figures, and roughly speaking approximately one co-relates to the other, but, of course, it is very difficult to arrive at a correct figure. Now on this important question, what has the Government done? Government has decided and that also has been announced that Unit Production Committees will be appointed in respect of each mill. I will request the House to examine the potentiality of such a step which Government has taken for the first time in this country. In England such Unit Production Committees are functioning. Our object is that with each mill will be associated a Unit Production Committee on which representatives of Labour and also all representative experts from the mills will sit, and it will be their function to see that there is no wastage or leakage so far as production goes. I have asked the Industry to accept in good spirit this decision of ours. Industry did not like it, but I pointed out that instead of allowing the cleavage to grow between the employer and the labour, it is much better, if there is nothing to be hidden by the Industry, for it to agree to accept such a Committee, so that within a few months we can see whether really there is any leakage or any wastage or not. My idea is that over and above such Unit Production Committees we can set up Regional Committees, so that on the question of production there will be one over-all policy within a particular region. We can also have Provincial Committees and an All India Committee to control production of mill cloth in the country. So far as methods of distribution are concerned, Government will re-consider any points that may be raised and I am going to consult Provincial Governments and the Standing Committee on this matter. We do want some sort of direction to continue so far as *ad hoc* distribution among the Provinces goes. Now, it is well known that there are certain Provinces in India which produce the bulk of the textile cloth. Bombay Presidency produces nearly 70 per cent; Bengal used to give us some previously but now a number of mills has gone into Eastern Pakistan; in the United Provinces there is some production; Madras also has considerable production so far as hand-loom cloth is concerned. Now, is it not desirable that in the initial stage, at any rate, there should be some direction given that a certain minimum quantity must flow into each province, so that Provinces like Orissa, C.P. or other Provinces which are deficient may not find themselves in considerable difficulty? Supposing Bombay will allow 18 or 20 yards per head to the people of Bombay Presidency, then obviously that may seriously affect the position of people living in other provinces. If we can carry both together, if we can set up a machinery which will ensure that production will speed up and at the same time if there can be some sort of general directive given

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as regards the minimum cloth which is to flow to each Province, the rest we can leave to the mills and to the normal trade channels. Even now, Sir, the Central Government has nothing to do with regard to detailed provincial distribution. The detailed distribution of cloth and yarn within the Province is a matter which has to be decided by the Provincial Government itself.

My Honourable friend spoke today about ghost ration cards in Bombay. Obviously that is not a thing with which the Central Government has anything to do; whether ghosts exist in Bombay or not is a matter which Mr. Patil should settle in consultation with his own provincial Government over which he has full control. We do not like ghosts anywhere, whether in Bombay or Delhi or in any other part of the country. But I am saying that even today there is decentralisation to a very considerable extent. The Central Government through its Textile Commissioner allots a quota to the provinces and the rest is left in the hands of the provinces themselves. For instance, as regards the 18 yards which were given to mill workers, I went into that question. The answer which I got was that if mill workers were not given this extra quota it will be difficult to make them produce more. These are local matters which have to be properly adjusted. But I may go back again to my original proposition that if there is an all-out effort for increasing production, all these questions will disappear in no time. In fact this is a matter which affects not the textile industry alone. We are calling the Industries' Conference to meet here on the 15th and 16th December. India is today really on the brink of a precipice; we are facing a very grave economic crisis. With regard to almost every industry that matters we are producing much less than what we should; and unless we can put our heads together and produce to the maximum of our capacity I see before me very dark days indeed. That is a matter which depends on the co-operation of the industries themselves, of labour, of the people, and a forward policy to be pursued by the Central Government and the provincial Governments. I had a talk with representatives of industries; they sometimes are apt to throw the entire blame on labour, and labour is apt to throw the entire blame on industry. But it will not do for us to tolerate the continuance of such a state of affairs. The industries also must recognise that labour has to be satisfied in a reasonable manner, because after all without the full co-operation of labour no capitalist and no industrialist can produce anything, not even Sir Padampat Singhania or Sir J. P. Srivastava. We are therefore considering this question as to how we can have a proper adjustment made so that during the next few years at any rate we can have no strikes, no lock outs and no interference with our normal production and we can give India the most that we can produce.

Sir, I hope my Honourable friend Mr. Saksena, in view of the assurance that I have given that Government is fully aware of the volume of public opinion which exists on the question of future control of textiles, will withdraw his motion and will help us in evolving a policy which will make it possible for us to produce more and also to withdraw the restrictions that now exist as soon as possible.

With regard to the reduction of staff, when I heard from my Honourable friend Mr. Saksena yesterday about the 10 or 12 pages of names of officers which he found in the Telephone Directory, I went and found out from my office that in the last two years there has been a reduction of 66 per cent. in the total staff of the Industries and Supplies Ministry. I believe the Honourable Member will allow at least one-third of the personnel to continue; otherwise whatever we are doing will not be possible for us to do. So far as the question of corruption is concerned, of course only vague allegations have been made; no specific case has been mentioned, and it breaks my heart to think that all these allegations that we make here or

outside are not today directed against any foreigner; whatever allegation is made is against our own countrymen. In fact it is not officers alone. Mr. Patil rightly pointed out that the 18 yards of cloth per head which are going to thousands and thousands of workers are not being utilised for their own use but that all that is going straight into the black market where a prevailing price already rules. If these allegations are true, if ghost ration cards are moving about from one part of the country to another, if workers get their cloth and do not use it for their own purposes and send it to the black market, obviously there is something rotten in our own country and we have got to set our own house in order. If critics have an opportunity of criticising us perhaps they may also say things which may put us to shame; it is no use our making vague allegations about corruption. Corruption is one of the many war legacies and we have to tackle it. As I said at the beginning, Government do not want to encourage corruption in any form or shape whatever. We can put up a machinery for the purpose of receiving complaints. If any specific information is sent to us I can give this assurance that we shall not hesitate to go into that matter and we shall spare no one, however high or low he may be placed.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: What about the Disposals Department?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: So far as the Disposals Department is concerned, I do not think that comes within the purview of this motion. But I can correct one misunderstanding. The other day I gave that information about aeroplanes but the officer concerned is not in the Department of Disposals but belongs to the Department of Communications. I am saying so for the reason that I have received a number of communications on that matter from various people. However, that is a question which we may go into at some other time.

An Honourable Member: There is joint responsibility.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Government, this House and the people are all jointly responsible for the present state of affairs.

Sir, with regard to salt I think there has been some misunderstanding. Salt is not under control now. As is known to Honourable Members, it was under the Finance Ministry as a revenue paying commodity; now of course it has been transferred to my Ministry for the purpose of increasing production and securing better distribution. There is no salt control as such. We passed a Salt Control Order only a few days ago and that is how my Honourable friend Mr. Bhargava's intervention in the debate became relevant. During the last few months there was a decrease in production in the west coast, that is a fact which is well known and it appeared in the papers. There was a shortage of shipping in pending imports, then there was a deadlock regarding transport, arising out of difficulties regarding locomotives and wagons; salt manufactured in Pakistan also ceased to come; and last but not the least, all this gave ample temptation to the profiteers to make hay while the sun shines.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U. P.: General): In view of the importance of salt could not all these difficulties be overcome and this most essential article of people's diet be made available to them?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That is exactly what we have done; the position is gradually improving now. I have got the details but I do not wish to go into them now; I can very briefly say that in the last two months transport has improved from 30 wagons to 160 wagons to the U.P.; it was that province and part of Bihar which informed us that the situation there had assumed serious proportions. And the latest report which I got only two days ago from the various provinces enables me to say that the salt position has considerably improved and now salt is being distri-

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buted in different parts of the country in a much better way than it used to be done about a couple of months ago.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: A fortnight back it was selling at Rs. 2 a seer in the Gorakhpur district of the U.P.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: As against that I may refer to other districts where the prices have gone down. In fact I have made an analysis of 38 districts in the U.P. and I find that increase has taken place in only about 8 or 9 places; but the prices are steadily going down in view of the larger supply of salt which is now coming forward.

Briefly the salt position is this. We produce about 5½ crore maunds of salt in India whereas we require according to present calculations about 3 crore maunds; so there is a shortage of 50 lakh maunds, which we are now importing. Of course so far as the production of salt in India is concerned, that occupies one of the most dark and dismal chapters in Indo-British relationship. The way in which the salt industry was destroyed in India was indeed shameful. That was done deliberately for the purpose of bringing foreign salt into India. In fact in my own province of Bengal, as you know, up till 1861 nearly 60 lakh maunds of salt used to be manufactured, and since 1862 practically nothing has been produced except a small quantity which is produced for local consumption,—just a few lakh maunds which can be deemed as negligible. But the policy of the present Government is fully to implement the wishes of Mahatma Gandhi who was responsible

3 P. M. for the withdrawal of the salt duty. Now the Salt Control Order has been published—or is going to be published in a day or two. Here is a matter in respect of which Government has taken the power to control if necessary, not that Government is going to control everywhere. But Government thought this was such an important matter, which affected the daily lives of millions of India's population, that Government must have a centralised policy so that the people might be benefited by a larger production of salt. Our decision is to manufacture salt within India under Government aegis wherever possible on a large scale. We shall also allow private enterprise to develop under a licensed system. We are extremely anxious that the quality of salt must be preserved and also raised. We shall also allow every private individual to manufacture salt for his own consumption or for local consumption, as is being done in different parts of India. I have no doubt that if Government and private enterprise combined together for producing salt and improving its quality, within two or three years we shall be able to produce all that we require.

Here, as the House may be interested to know, our *per capita* consumption today is only 12 lbs. as against the average world figure of 30 lbs. While we take our average consumption as 12 lbs. we do not take into consideration consumption for agricultural purposes, specially for consumption by cattle. Our cattle—who counted them I do not know, but I am told—are about 20 crores in number in India. If they have to be, or if a portion of them have to be supplied with salt for improving our agricultural conditions, then we require a larger production of salt and that Government intends to have. This is a matter for which we shall have to work in co-operation with some of the States. My friend the Prime Minister of Jaipur is one of the main persons who will be involved in this matter and I have discussed this with him and also with the Maharaja of Jodhpur. I am assured of co-operation from various States. Whatever the States may say of not allowing the Indian Union Government to interfere, except with regard to defence, foreign relations and communications, at any rate with regard to salt there is complete unanimity of opinion that India must be treated as one country and produce all the salt that she can.

With these words I would now suggest that my Honourable friend may withdraw the motion.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: In deference to the wish of the Honourable Minister, I seek the permission of the House to withdraw my cut motion.

Mr. Speaker: Has the Honourable Member permission to withdraw his cut motion?

The cut motion was by leave of the Assembly withdrawn.

DEMAND NO. 21.—MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Minister for Finance): Sir, I move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 28,13,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Ministry of Commerce'."

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 28,13,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Ministry of Commerce'."

There are two cut motions. They deal with the same subject—one more general and the other more restrictive. I would like both to be moved so that the discussion may be common.

Corruption in working of Import and Export Licensing

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta (Delhi): Before moving the cut motion, may I seek your permission to correct a typographical error which escaped my attention. The last word "Board" has to be dropped and I would further seek your permission to permit me to enlarge the scope of the discussion. It is really speaking the Commerce Ministry which is under discussion. So it should not be restricted to imports. It may apply to export also. Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Commerce' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Speaker: I will put this motion to the House. Then after the Finance Minister has moved Demand No. 10 the Cut Motion of Mr. Naziruddin Ahmed may be moved and then discussion may proceed on both the motions.

Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Commerce' be reduced by Rs. 100."

DEMAND NO. 10 —CABINET

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Sir, I move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,63,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Cabinet'."

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,63,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Cabinet'."

Corruption in Government Departments

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Cabinet' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Cabinet' be reduced by Rs. 100."

شری دیش بندھو گیتا : جناب! صدر! میرے لائق دوست ڈاکٹر شام پوشاد مکر جی نے ابھی اپنے جوابی تقریر میں ہاؤس کی توجہ اس طرف کھینچی ہے کہ ہمیں اس بات کا خیال رکھنا چاہیے کہ ہمارے منہ سے کوئی ایسی بات نہ نکلے جس کی وجہ سے سارے ملک کی ندامت ہو۔ میں قائم مقام کامرس منسٹر اور دیگر انٹریبل منسٹران کو یقین دلاتا ہوں کہ نہ صرف مجھ کو بلکہ ہاؤس کے ہر ایک ممبر جب کبھی کسی متعلقہ کی corruption کی طرف گورنمنٹ کی توجہ دلائی پڑتی ہے تو اس سے خوشی حاصل نہیں ہوتی۔ آج جبکہ اتنے سالوں کی جدوجہد کے بعد ہمارا ملک آزاد ہوا ہے۔ اور آزاد ملک کے اس آزاد پارلیمنٹ میں پہلا بجٹ پیش کیا گیا ہے کیا ہی اچھا ہوتا کہ ہم میں سے کسی کو کسی دیپارٹمنٹ کے متعلق اس طرح کی شکایت نہ ہوتی۔ اور اننگلی اٹھا کر یہ کہنا نہ پڑتا کہ فلاں دیپارٹمنٹ میں کرپشن اور inefficiency ہے۔ جناب! میں آپ کو یقین دلاتا ہوں کہ آج کامرس دیپارٹمنٹ کے متعلق یہ کٹ موشن move کرنے کا موقع دیا گیا۔ اس کی مجھے کوئی خوشی نہیں ہے۔ اب سے پیشتر میرے لائق دوست جو اب وزارت کے بنچوں پر بیٹھے ہیں وہ ایوزیشن بنچوں پر بیٹھا کرتے تھے۔ اور گو اس وقت کے بجٹ کی بحث پر نظر ڈالی جائے تو معلوم ہوگا کہ وہ خود بھی حکومت کیخلاف اس قسم کی تقریریں کیا کرتے تھے۔ جیسی کہ آج اُنکے خلاف کیگٹی ہیں میں مانتا ہوں کہ صدیوں کے گناہ دنوں میں نہیں دھوئے جاسکتے لیکن ہمیں تو یہ دیکھنا ہے کہ اس پندرہ ماہ کے عرصہ میں جب سے ان حضرات نے حکومت کی باگ ڈور ہاتھ میں لی ہے یعنی بارہ ماہ انٹریم حکومت کے اور تین ماہ آزاد حکومت کے وزرا کی حیثیت سے انہوں نے ان تمام شکایات کا کس حد تک ازالہ کیا جو کہ ہمیں غیر ملکی دوسری حکومت کیخلاف تھیں۔ دیکھنا یہ ہے آیا اب بھی وہ شکایات اسی طرح موجود ہیں یا نہیں۔ مجھے یاد ہے جب ہمارے پرائم منسٹر صاحب جنگ کے زمانے میں تقریریں کیا کرتے تھے تو وہ بڑے زور سے کہا کرتے تھے کہ شاید اس قدر کرپشن اور inefficiency دنیا کے کسی گورنمنٹ میں نہیں ہے جس قدر کہ ہندوستان میں ہے۔ اور درحقیقت یہ بات بھی درست لیکن آج اگر ہم ذرا اپنی طرف توجہ کریں تو ہمیں یہ ماننا پڑیگا کہ ملک نے جو آسائش حکومت سے لگائی تھیں وہ اس عرصہ میں پوری نہیں ہوئیں۔ چنانچہ کل خد خد انٹریبل فائینانس منسٹر نے اس امر کو تسلیم کیا کہ آج ابھی بہت سی وہ باتیں صحیح معلوم ہوتی ہیں جو وہ اس وقت کیا کرتے تھے جب کہ وہ ایوزیشن کے بنچوں پر بیٹھا کرتے تھے۔ ان حالات میں یہ بات غور طلب ہے کہ اس صورت حالات کو بدلنے کے لئے ہمیں کیا کرنے کی ضرورت ہے۔ یوں تو اس وقت تک ہاؤس میں جتنے بھی cut motions پیش کئے گئے ہیں اُنکا نچوڑہ ہی ہے کہ تقریباً سب دیپارٹمنٹ میں بہت زیادہ کرپشن موجود ہے۔ لیکن میں کہوں گا کہ کامرس دیپارٹمنٹ خصوصیت کے ساتھ ایسا دیپارٹمنٹ ہے جس کے متعلق ایک نہیں دو نہیں بلکہ سب

کی بھی رائے ہے کہ اس میں بے حد کرپشن اور inefficiency ہے۔ اس کی وجہ شاید یہ ہو کہ اس متعلق میں اتنی بڑی temptations ہیں کہ بڑے بڑے آدمی بھی اپنی جگہ سے ہل جاتے ہیں اور ایسا محسوس ہونے لگتا ہے کہ خود باز کھیت کو کھا رہی ہے۔ میں یہ بات صاف کر دینا چاہتا ہوں مجھے موجودہ وزارت کی نیت پر کسی قسم کا شک نہیں ہے بلکہ میرے کہنے کا مقصد محض یہ ہے کہ ہمیں سنجیدگی کے ساتھ دیکھنا ہے کہ ہم اپنے ارادوں میں کس حد تک کامیاب ہوئے ہیں اور ہم اس سے آئندہ کیا امید کر سکتے ہیں۔ کامرس دیپارٹمنٹ کے بارے میں میں جو کچھ سنتا ہوں اس سے مجھے بہت حیرت ہوتی ہے۔ یہ میرا special subject نہیں تھا۔ مگر اتفاق سے ایک روز میری نظر ایک اخبار میں شائع شدہ خبر کی طرف گئی جس کا heading تھا ۲۲ کرپشن ان کامرس دیپارٹمنٹ ۲۲ میں نے اسکو پڑھا اور پوچھنا چاہا کہ تو پتہ چلا کہ آج کل Export اور امپورٹ لائسنس حاصل کرنے میں لوگوں کو بہت مشکلات پیش آتی ہیں اور متعلقہ کے کچھ لوگ اس سلسلہ میں اپنی پوزیشن کا ناجائز فائدہ اٹھا رہے ہیں اور حکومت کے لئے بدنامی کا باعث بنے ہوئے ہیں۔ اس سے پیشتر میرا خیال نہیں تھا کہ اس متعلق میں اتنی برائی ہے۔ اگرچہ اخباروں میں اکثر اسکے متعلق کچھ نہ کچھ نکلتا رہتا تھا مگر اب تو ایسا محسوس ہوتا ہے کہ پیاز کے چھلکے کی طرح اس متعلق کا بھی یہ حال ہے جتنا کریدو اتنی ہی زیادہ خرابی نظر آتی ہے۔ آج ہی میرے ایک دوست نے بتایا کہ ایک صاحب کو ایک چیز کے Export کرنے کے لئے لائسنس ملا۔ مگر جلدی کی وجہ سے اُس میں ایک Zero ٹائپ ہونے سے وہ گیا، جب مال جہاز پر لانے کا موقع آیا تو اُسکو معلوم ہوا کہ لائسنس میں ایک صفر رہ گیا ہے۔ کاغذات سب موجود تھے اور صاف پتہ چلتا تھا کہ یہ صرف Typography کی غلطی ہے۔ جب اس غلطی کو درست کرنے کیلئے دفتر سے کہا گیا تو اسکیلئے دس ہزار روپیہ طلب کیا گیا۔ اس پر ایک انٹریبل ممبر کی توجہ اس کی طرف دلائی گئی۔ انہوں نے اس معاملہ کو اپنے ہاتھ میں لیا تب کہیں خدا خدا کر کے اُنکی مداخلت سے یہ غلطی تھیک کیگئی۔ اگر آپ آج بمبئی یا کلکتہ چلے جائیں تو آپ کو معلوم ہوگا کہ وہاں پر کیا حالات ہیں۔ انٹریبل کامرس ممبر بھی بمبئی کے ہیں اُنکو بھی معلوم ہی ہوگا کہ وہاں کی یہ حالت ہے کہ اگر وہاں پر کسی کو دس ہزار روپیہ کا اکسپورٹ لائسنس ملا ہے تو وہ اُسکو لیکر بازار میں دس ہزار یا آٹھ ہزار روپیہ میں فروخت کر سکتا ہے۔ ایسی صورت ایک instance نہیں ہے بلکہ سینکڑوں مثالیں ایسی ہیں اور یہ کام وہاں پر بازاروں میں کھلے طور پر ہوتا ہے۔ اس سے آپ اندازہ لگا سکتے ہیں کہ اگر دس ہزار روپیہ کے export کے پرمٹ کو دس ہزار روپیہ میں بازار میں کھلے طور پر فروخت کیا جاتا ہے تو اس پرمٹ کو حاصل کرنے کے لئے دفتر کے لوگوں پر دو تین ہزار روپیہ خرچ کر دیا جائے تو یہ ایک معمولی بات ہے corruption کا یہ اتنا بڑا دروازہ ہم نے اپنی غلط

[شری دیپش بندھو گپتا]

پالیسی سے کھولا ہے جسکی رو سے اُن لوگوں کو بھی لائسنس دئے جانے میں جو امپورٹ اکسپورٹ کا کام نہیں کرتے۔ افسوس ہے کہ اس پر بھی کوئی توجہ نہیں دی جاتی۔ مجھے موجودہ حکومت کی مشکلات کا اندازہ ہے اور اُس کے ساتھ کافی ہمدردی ہے۔ میں جانتا ہوں اس ڈیپارٹمنٹ کے انچارج منسٹر صاحب کا کام آسان نہیں برسوں کا جمع ہوا ہوا کوزا ایک دن صاف نہیں کیا جا سکتا۔ اس لئے میں اُس سے کسی جادو کی توقع نہیں رکھتا لیکن ہمیں دیکھنا یہ ہے کہ موجودہ حکومت نے اس چار ماہ کے عرصہ میں ان حالات کو درست کرنے کے لئے کیا کیا قدم اُٹھائے ہیں اور اس خرابی کو دور کرنے کے لئے کونسی تجویزیں اختیار کی ہیں نیز کونسا ایسا دھنگ سوچا ہے جس سے یہ کرپشن بند ہو جائے۔ اگر لائق وزیر صاحب شانتی سے اس بات پر غور کریں گے تو انہیں ماننا پڑیگا کہ وہ اس سوال کا جواب نشی میں ہے وہاں ۴۴ میں نہیں۔ درحقیقت کامرس ڈیپارٹمنٹ میں import & export لائسنسوں کے بارے صاف اور واضح پالیسی نہ ہونیکے باعث نیز غیر کاروباری آدمیوں کو لائسنس دینے کا طریقہ جاری رکھنے کی وجہ آج corruption انتہا درجہ کو پہنچ گئی ہے اور اتنی بری حالت ہوگئی ہے کہ آپکو دہلی کے ہوٹلوں میں ایسے سینکڑوں لوگ پڑے ہوئے ملیں گے جو ہر روز کامرس ڈیپارٹمنٹ کے دروازوں پر دستک دیتے ہیں اور کسی نہ کسی طرح لائسنس حاصل کرنیکی کوشش کرتے دھتے ہیں۔ پہلی غلطی ہم سے یہ ہوئی ہے کہ ہم نے ۱۹۴۶ء میں جنرل سٹرلنگ ایریا کے ملکوں کیلئے جنرل امپورٹ لائسنس کی پالیسی اختیار کی اور ڈالر ایریا کیلئے فری لائسنس کی پالیسی اختیار کی گئی جسکا نتیجہ یہ ہوا کہ بہت تھوڑے عرصہ میں ملک میں کروڑوں روپے کا سامان آگیا اور جن چیزوں کی خاص ضرورت ملک میں نہ بھی تھی وہ بھی ملک میں ضرورت سے زیادہ مقدار میں آگئی۔ مثلاً توتہ برش - فونٹین پین - Cosmetics وغیرہ۔ ہمیں چاہیئے تھا کہ ہم ایسی چیزوں پر کنٹرول اور ان کے درآمد کو بندھ ہی کرتے۔ ایسا ہونے کی وجہ سے نہ صرف کروڑوں ڈالر اور پونڈ خرچ ہوئے بلکہ اس ملک کی انڈسٹری پر بہت برا اثر پڑا ہے۔ اسوقت ان چیزوں کی درآمد کو جو غیر ضروری تھیں بندھ نہیں کیا گیا لیکن آج جو چیزیں ضروری ہیں اُنکو بندھ کرنا پڑ رہا ہے۔ مثال کے طور پر ہمارے ملک میں جنگ سے پہلے کاسٹک سوڈے کا average import ستائیس ہزار ٹن تھا اور اب سات ہزار ٹن کے قریب کیا جاتا ہے۔ یہ تھیک ہے کہ اب یہاں پر بھی کاسٹک بنائے لگا ہے۔ لیکن اس ساری پیداوار کو ملا کر بھی مشکل سے چودہ ہزار ٹن بنتے ہیں۔ اسطریق پر کاسٹک سوڈے کی کمی کی وجہ سے کئی انڈسٹریاں خاص کر جو صابن بنانے کے کارخانے جنگ کے زمانہ میں بنائے گئے تھے اُن میں سے بہت سے بند ہوگئے ہیں اور جو باقی بچے ہیں اُنہیں سے بھی کچھ بند ہوتے نظر آ رہے ہیں۔ ہماری دوسری غلطی یہ ہے کہ کچھ عرصہ سے یہ پالیسی اختیار کی گئی ہے کہ جو لوگ امپورٹ یا اکسپورٹ trade سے کوئی

تعلق نہیں رکھتے ہیں اُنکو بھی پچیس فیصدی لائسنس دیئے جاتے ہیں۔ اس پالیسی کا مقصد کیا تھا اور اسکا نتیجہ کیا ہوا میں اُسکی تفصیل میں نہیں جانا چاہتا لیکن اس سے جو نقصان پہنچا ہے وہ صاف ہے۔ ایک تو Corruption بڑھ گئی دوسرے غیر ضروری چیزوں پر ملک کی دولت خرچ ہوگئی۔ کوئی باقاعدہ پلان نہ ہونے سے اور ناتجربہ کار لوگوں کو لائسنس مل جانے سے۔ پنسلین جیسی دوائی کی درآمد کے لئے اتنے لائسنس دیدئے گئے کہ اب اُسکی معیاد ختم ہونے کی وجہ سے کافی ستاک مالک میں خراب ہو رہا ہے۔ اسطرح اور بہت سی ایسی ہی چیزیں ملک میں آئیں جو ملک کے کام نہیں آ رہی۔ مثلاً Paints اور ڈائیز۔ معلوم ہوا ہے کہ مالک میں تین کروڑ کی ڈائیز (رنگ) ایکروم آگئیں اور اُنہیں سے بیشتر ایسی ہیں کہ جو کام کے نہیں تھے۔ میں لایق وزیر صاحب کی توجہ اس طرف دلانا چاہتا ہوں اور پوچھنا چاہتا ہوں کہ کیا اُنہوں نے اس ساڑھے چار ماہ کے عرصہ میں یہ دیکھنے کی کوشش کی کہ کامرس ڈیپارٹمنٹ میں کیا ہوتا رہا ہے؟ آج بھی کامرس ڈیپارٹمنٹ کی یہ حالت ہے کہ ایک کنٹرولر اور ڈپٹی کنٹرولر آپ لائسنس دیتے بیٹھا ہوا ہوتا ہے اور اُس نے چند کلرک ہوتے ہیں۔ باہر ایک نوٹس بورڈ لگا ہے جس پر لکھا ہوا ہے۔ No interviews allowed۔ رجسٹرڈ چٹھیوں کا جواب نہیں دیا جاتا۔ اگر کوئی آدمی خود جاکر کچھ دریافت کرنا چاہے تو اُس سے کہا جاتا ہے کہ آپ نے نوٹس بورڈ کو نہیں دیکھا ہے اُس میں تو لکھا ہے کہ "No interviews allowed" اسکا نتیجہ یہ ہے کہ جن فرموں کی طرف سے لائسنس کیلئے درخواستیں دی ہوئی ہوتی ہیں پریشان ہو جاتے ہیں۔ اور وقت پر لائسنس نہ ملنے سے سوروں کی معیاد گزر جاتی ہے۔ اور جب تک کہ وہ کسی Subordinate کو oblige نہ کریں اور اُس کی ہتھیلی گرم نہ کریں تب تک کچھ بھی نہیں بنتا۔

مجھے خود اس کا تلخ تجربہ ہوا ہے۔ میرے ایک جرنلسٹ دوست نے مجھے بمبئی سے ٹیلیفون کیا کہ میں نے printing machinery کے لئے import لائسنس کی درخواست بھیجی تھی مگر بار بار یاد دہانی کرانے پر بھی ابھی تک کوئی جواب نہیں آیا۔ میں نے Indian and Eastern News papers Society کے سکریتری سے کہا۔ اُس نے دو تین دفعہ کوشش کی لیکن دفتر سے جواب دے دیا گیا کہ فائل نہیں ملتی۔ دفتر کی حالت اتنی خراب ہے کہ اکثر اوقات ایسا ہوتا ہے کہ جب درخواست نہ ملے اور کوئی آدمی ذرا اٹروسخ والا ہو تو اس کو کہا جاتا ہے کہ تم ایک fresh application دیدو۔ اُس کو ہم original application treat کریں گے۔ عام طور پر لوگوں کی درخواستیں آتی ہیں تو وہ کہتے ہیں چلی جاتی ہیں اور پھر انکا کوئی پتہ آسانی سے نہیں چلتا یہ انکی inefficiency کا ایک پہلو ہے۔ اس سلسلہ میں ایک اور مثال دینا چاہتا ہوں کہ مدراس گورنمنٹ نے سفارش کی کہ ایک فرم کو Bone grish export کرنے کی اجازت دی جائے۔ اول تو کوئی وجہ نہ تھی کہ جب بمبئی - کراچی اور کلکتہ

[شری دیش باندھو گپتا]

یہ expert ہوتی رہی ہے تو مدراس پر کیوں پابندی لگائی گئی - غالباً پہلی گورنمنٹ نے ایک یورپین فرم کو favour کرنیکے لئے ایسا کیا تھا۔ یہ شکایت تو کانگریس گورنمنٹ نے جب اس بارے میں توجہ دلائی گئی دور کردی اور اپنی سفارش کے ساتھ مدراس گورنمنٹ نے ایکسپورت لائسنس کی درخواست سرکار ہند کو بھیج دی۔ مگر اسکے باوجود نہیں دیا گیا۔ اور عذر کیا گیا کہ درخواست نہیں ملتی اس پر کافی خط و کتابت ہوئی اور ابھی تک کامیابی نہیں ہوئی - یہ ہے یہاں کی inefficiency کی حالت اس لئے پیشتر اس کے کہ میں اپنی تقریر کو conclude کروں میں اپنے لائق دوست کی راجو اب اس قیپارٹمنٹ کے انچارج ہیں - توجہ اُس تقریر کی طرف دلانا چاہتا ہوں۔ جو کہ انہوں نے اس سے پیشتر سالانہ بجٹ کے موقع پر اسی محکمہ کے متعلق کی تھی - میرے لائق دوست شری پت گڈگل نے اپنی اُس تقریر میں فرمایا تھا -

"Take every other Department, particularly where the control system obtains. A man who had nothing to do with a particular business is given a monopoly of that business. A man who cannot distinguish between a pillar and a post suddenly becomes a building contractor. A man who does not know how to deal with cotton—whether to weigh it or measure it—becomes a licence holder. A man who does not know about the trade suddenly gets a licence, although the policy of the Government is not to disturb normal trade channels. Why is this done? Is it efficiency or corruption?"

I want to make a present of these few lines to my Honourable friend and ask him to see that as long as he is there—and he is of course there as part of the Government—no occasion is given to this House to make such observations in respect of any Department of the Government.

(English translation of the above speech.)

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta (Delhi): Mr. Speaker, my able friend Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee has, in his reply, just drawn the attention of the House to the fact that we should bear in mind that no such word escapes our mouth as might defame our country. I assure the acting Commerce Minister and other Honourable Ministers that not only myself, but no other member of the House feels happy, whenever we have to draw the attention of the Government to the corruption in any department. Today, when our country has achieved freedom after so many years' endeavours, and in the independent Parliament of an independent country, the first Budget has been presented how much happy we would have been if we had no occasion to point our fingers towards any department saying that it was corrupt and inefficient. Sir, I assure you that, to-day, in moving the cut motion on the Commerce Department, I feel no happiness at all. Formerly, my able friends who are now occupying Ministerial seats used to sit on the opposition benches, and if we glance at some Budget of the corresponding period we will find that they themselves were delivering similar speeches against the Government. Admitting that sin of centuries cannot be washed in days; we have to see that during this fifteen months time these ministers have taken the responsibility of administration, how far, as ministers, they have succeeded in redressing the grievances, which we had against the alien rule, during this period of fifteen months (i.e. 12 months of Interim Government and 3 months of independent administration), since they have shouldered responsibility of administration. It is to be seen whether those complaints still exist as such? I recollect that, during the war, when our Prime Minister used to say, emphatically, in his speech that probably so much corruption and inefficiency did not exist in any Government in the world, as it did in India. And, as a matter of fact, this was correct. But, if we direct our attention to this matter to-day,

we will note that during this period the Administration could not act up to the expectations of the country. The Honourable Minister for Finance himself confessed yesterday that even today many of the matters he criticized previously, while sitting on opposition benches, seem to be still in existence. Under these circumstances, it is worth consideration what should we do to change these conditions. The essence of all the cut motions presented before the House upto this time is that almost every department has much corruption in it. But, I would say that the Commerce Department, in particular, is such a Department, about which one and all are of the opinion that it is extremely corrupt and inefficient. The cause is that this Department provides so great temptations that even big people fall a prey to them, and one feels as if the protective hedge itself is feeding upon the field. I should make it clear that I have no doubts at all of the good intentions of the existing ministry, but, what I mean to say is that we have to see seriously how far we have succeeded in our efforts, and what can we expect from it in the future?

As regards the Commerce Department, whatever I have heard is simply astonishing. This was not my special subject, but, by chance, one day I happened to glance over a news, published in a paper, the heading of which ran "Corruption in the Commerce Department". I read it, and after making enquiries it was discovered that the people are facing great difficulties now-a-days in obtaining Export and Import licences, and that some of the men in the department have been taking unfair advantage of their positions, and have become a source of bringing a bad name to the administration. Formerly, I did not think that this department was so corrupt, in spite of the fact that in the papers, some malpractices in the department were often pointed out. But, now, I find that the deeper you go into the working of this department the more you discover its worthlessness, like an addled onion.

Today, a friend told me that a certain man obtained a licence to export a commodity but in haste one zero could not be typed in it. At the time of loading the goods on the ship, he found that a cypher was left out in the licence. All the documents were there, and it was clear that it was simply a typographical mistake. But, when the office was asked to rectify this mistake a sum of Rs. 10,000 was demanded for the work. The attention of an Honourable Member was drawn to this fact. He took this matter in his hands, and then only after much ado through his efforts the mistake was corrected.

You will come to know what conditions are in Bombay or in Calcutta, if you just go there. As the Honourable Commerce Minister also hails from Bombay, he too must be knowing that the situation there is such that a man, who has obtained a licence for the export of ten thousand yards of cloth, can sell it for rupees eight or ten thousands, in the market. Such instances are not uncommon; there are hundreds of such examples. Such transactions are made there openly.

From this, one can judge one thing that if the permit to export ten thousand yards of cloth can be sold for rupees ten thousands in the open market, then to spend rupees two or three thousands in bribing the people in the office is a simple affair.

By following the wrong policy we have opened this big gate of 'Corruption', and through it those people also who are neither exporters nor importers obtain licences. It is regretted that no attention is paid to it. I appreciate the difficulties of the existing Government, and I have full sympathy with them. Admitting that the Honourable Minister in charge of this Department has not an easy task to do, and the accumulated rubbish of years cannot be cleared in a day, I do not expect magic results. But we have to see what steps have been taken to set these things right, and what measures have been adopted by the present Government to remove the evils during this period of four months, and also what plans have been designed to put an end to the corruption. If

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the Honourable Minister will consider this matter dispassionately, his answer to this question will be in the negative, not in the affirmative. As a matter of fact, firstly, in the absence of any clear cut policy of the Commerce Department in granting licences for Export and Import of goods and secondly the continuation of the practice of issuing such licences to non-businessmen have led to extreme corruption which we are witnessing today. In the hotels of Delhi, you will find hundreds of such people who daily knock at the doors of the Commerce Department and try their best to obtain Export or Import licences by fair means or foul.

The first mistake that was committed by us was that we adopted the policies of granting General Import Licence for the Sterling Area and of Free Licence for the Dollar Area countries. The result was that in a short time the country was flooded with crores worth of articles like tooth brushes, fountain pens, cosmetics that were not wanted and in such a quantity as far exceeded its requirements.

We thought to have exercised control over such articles and stopped their imports, but as it was not done, not only crores of dollars and pounds were wasted, but the country's industry was badly hit. At that time the import of such articles that were unnecessary was not stopped, but today we find that the import of things that are necessary has to be stopped. For instance, our country imported before the war, 27 to 28 thousand tons of caustic soda, but now it is hardly 7 thousand tons. It is correct to say that even here the manufacture of caustic soda has been started. But still adding to this production the total quantity of caustic soda comes to 14 thousand tons only. Thus, due to the scarcity of caustic soda, several of the industries, especially the soap factories, which were started during the war time have been perforce stopped and some of the rest are being closed.

Our another mistake is that a short time ago we have adopted the policy of granting 25 per cent. of the licences even to those who have no concern whatsoever with Export and Import business. I do not want to go into the details regarding the objects and results of this policy. But the evil results this policy has given, are manifest. Firstly, corruption has increased, and secondly waste of country's revenue on purchase of non essential goods have been misused.

In the absence of a regular plan, and by issuing licences to inexperienced people, so many licences were issued for importing of such a costly medicine as penicillin that due to the expiry of the period of its efficacy a considerable stock is still lying useless in the country. In this manner many other such articles were imported as are unserviceable to the country, for instance paints, and dyes. It has come to light that dyes and colours worth 3 crores of rupees were imported all of a sudden, and a majority of them were such as were quite useless.

I want to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to this matter, and would like to ask whether he has tried to see during this period of 4 months what is going on in the Commerce Department. Today also, the condition of the Commerce Department is that there are a Controller and a Deputy Controller of Licences, and a few clerks. There is a notice board outside, on which is written "No interviews allowed". No reply is given to the registered letters. If any body wants to enquire for himself, he is told, that he has not seen the notice board on which is written "No interviews are allowed". The result of this is that the firms which applied for licences are put to harassment and owing to not obtaining the licences in time, the time limit of the transactions expires, and until they oblige any subordinate, bribe him, no results can be expected.

I myself have had its bitter experience. A journalist friend of mine phoned me from Bombay that he sent an application for obtaining a license to import printing machinery, but inspite of repeated reminders to the department he got no reply at all. I, on my part, mentioned the fact to the Secretary, Indian and Eastern News Papers Society, who tried twice or thrice, and was told by the office that the file was not traceable.

The condition of the office is so deplorable, that it often happens that when an application is not traceable and if it is from an influential man, he is told that he should put in a fresh application which will be treated as an original application. In the ordinary course, the applications of the people are received and are put in the waste-paper-basket, and then they are not traceable easily. This is one side of the picture of the inefficiency of the department. In this connection, I would like to quote one more instance. The Government of Madras, recommended to the Central Government that a certain firm be permitted to export crushed bones. Firstly there was no reason why any restrictions were laid on Madras, when this article was being exported from Karachi, Bombay and Calcutta. Probably, the previous Government have done so to favour a European firm. This complaint was removed by the Congress Government when its attention was drawn to this matter and the Government of Madras forwarded the application for Export Licences with its recommendations to the Government of India, but in spite of that, no license was issued and an excuse was offered that the application was not traceable. Correspondence followed, but still no success has been achieved so far.

Such is the condition of the inefficiency of this Department.

Before I conclude my speech I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister for Commerce to that speech which he delivered at the Annual Budget, in connection with this department. My Honourable friend Shri Gadgil said in this speech:

"Take every other Department, particularly where the control system obtains. A man who had nothing to do with a particular business is given a monopoly of that business. A man who cannot distinguish between a pillar and a post suddenly becomes a building contractor. A man who does not know how to deal with cotton—whether to weigh it or measure it—becomes a licence holder. A man who does not know about the trade and licence, although the policy of the Government is not to disturb normal trade channels. Why is this done? Is it efficiency or corruption?"

I want to make a present of these few lines to my Honourable friend and ask him to see that as long as he is there—and he is of course there as part of the Government—no occasion is given to this House to make such observations in respect of any Department of the Government.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the last speaker has read out an illuminating passage from the speech of the Minister in charge of the Department concerned. I would simply appeal to Mr. Gadgil the old Member of the House rather than Mr. Gadgil the present Minister. Sir, an eminent Minister who comes from my Province, Dr. Mookerjee, advanced a somewhat strange argument that in discussing corruption we should take care to see that we do not bring down the fair name of Indians before the world. If we accept that advice this debate on the cut motion would be absolutely untenable. To yield to it would be to disclose an inferiority complex. There are now no foreigners to rule over us, we are our own masters; and it is up to us to remove corruption and for that purpose to discuss it. My view however is that everybody in India is not corrupt. It is only the few well placed men who are corrupt. The alleged connivance of the public in the corruption is due only to the helpless condition in which they find themselves. Corruption is not in the public or the general consumers as such. They are forced to submit to certain exactions and pay some fines in order to procure their necessities of life. They are victims of crime rather than criminals. In making my remarks to this House about corruption, therefore, I want to point out that they are not directed towards the community as such but towards a few criminals and bad characters a

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microscopic minority who masquerade in government offices. There are again a few men who ply their trade whose occupation is a kind of corridor practice in government offices. They are the go-between the public and the officials. Corrupted officials form only a microscopic minority among the officials. Whatever has been or will be said in this House must therefore be understood to be directed towards those few notorious people who have tarnished the fair name of India.

Sir, it is not my purpose to narrate to the House examples of corruption in the country. It is so notorious. The subject has been dealt with so ably and so fully in connection with the previous cut motions as well as on other occasions that it is not necessary for me to revert to them again. I take it that it is an accepted fact both in the House as well as outside the House that corruption exists in gigantic proportions and that it has got to be put down.

In this connection I wish to submit to the House only one or two queer results of control of cloth. In Bengal we are supposed to get nine yards in the Province and 25 yards in the town of Calcutta. Apart from that inconsistency there is no guarantee that the nine yards of cloth would be *dhoties* or *sarees* or cloth which can be made into *pyjamas* or *kurtas* as the consumers may need. But you are only entitled, if you are fortunate, to get your nine yards.

It has happened in some cases men who wanted their quota of *dhoties* and *sarees*, were given nine yards of cloth, but that cloth was suitable only for making pillow cases. The entire consignment in the shop then consisted of cloth for pillow cases. So the quota had to be taken in cloth suitable for pillow cases only. If anyone objected, the reply was 'you have got to take it or leave it'. One gentleman has made a pillow case out of this cloth and has adapted it to a coat. He has taken off the ends and has put two arms of another coat, and has adapted it as the Government of India Act has been adapted in consequence of the Indian Independence Act. This gentleman adapted it to make it wearable. His idea was that as soon as suitable cloth would be available, he would reconvert it into a pillow case and use the cloth available to make *kurtas*. This is how control stands. There is another story of a gentleman who was suffering from cloth control. A friend of his went to him in the evening and found him sitting in darkness in his parlour. When asked the reason he said, 'first of all I am suffering from kerosene control'. The friend said 'Well, I am prepared to lend you something from my quota'. The other then explained 'That is not all. There is another kind of control, the cloth control.' When the former wanted to have more light, he said 'I am an honest man, I do not go to the black market; between me and my wife, we have only one *saree* and no *dhoti* for me; my wife has a visitor, a lady friend, in her apartment and so she is wearing the *saree* and I have now to remain in darkness'. After some time when he was sure that his wife's visitor had gone away, he went in and came back wearing a *saree*. The lamp in the parlour was then lit. These are only some of the hundreds of other stories which may be recited in the House. These are the lighter sides of control. There are certainly the darker aspects. We have to laugh at these things because we have grown so much accustomed to these things. We submit to troubles, difficulties and privations relying upon God.

I submit that it is not necessary for me to deal any further with that aspect of the case. Dr. Mookerjee has said that we should give him specific instances, and he qualified his remark by saying that 'if' there is corruption, 'if' there are these excesses here and there, and 'if' they are reported to him, then of course he will move. I think the instances cited before him are quite enough for him to look into them, and I think he can easily verify them by going into the common men's houses or by sending some trusted officers to verify them. Sir, in these circumstances I beg to submit that Dr. Mookerjee should try to check corruption and the existing evil practice, and proceed to apply the remedy.

The 'but'-and-'if' way of approach to the subject will not do. I shall try to suggest some remedies. The remedies that have been followed so far are very inadequate and sometimes most ludicrous, and they were bound to fail. In fact there were detections and prosecutions of the poorest people. A small dealer who is supposed to have bought kerosene at eight annas per seer in the black market had to sell it for nine annas. A small village dealer like him is prosecuted but the big fries are allowed to escape, and then when these prosecutions are launched, the cases are most negligently and badly conducted. When the cases come before the court, it is within the knowledge of all lawyers that they are very badly managed and ultimately the accused persons are allowed to escape, but in all this business the smaller fry is always in the wrong and the bigger fries are allowed to go scot free. If you go to any government official, he will say "I am ready to help you 'if' you catch hold of the culprit." May I ask in all humility whose duty it is, as was asked by Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya? It is certainly the duty of the Government and their officials to find out all the things which are happening undoubtedly around us and almost under our nose. It is within their reach only if they will care to find out. I therefore submit that a new kind of approach should be made in trying to cure the situation. There were anti-corruption bodies set up. But somehow or other the anti-corruption bodies themselves became corrupt, and so it would be necessary to set up another anti-corruption body or the Gestapo to set them right. I submit that Government should show rather more dash, greater initiative, more strength and greater promptness in dealing with these cases. If the Honourable Minister went in disguise to any of the shops in New Delhi, he would find how things are being managed and it is up to him to take serious steps and to call upon the officials who are in charge of these things to remedy matters. There is a suggestion by an Honourable Member to my left that he would be killed. I think it would be better for him to be killed rather than that he should allow millions of our people to be killed by slow degrees. I think he should take the risk and see how matters stand. If there is fear of being killed and if that should be a sufficient ground for a Minister to prevent him from looking into these things, I think the Ministry should go, but I should think that a little promptness and a little boldness on the part of the Government in approaching the problem would be enough. These black-marketeers, bad characters and blood suckers, should feel that real steps are being taken to catch hold of them. Unless you introduce this amount of fear in their minds, the existing corruption will not cease. But corruption goes on merrily apace.

Then Sir, I think that stringent law should be passed and this should provide summary trials and it should also provide for summary punishment, and in some suitable cases flogging should be administered as Mr. Kamath suggests. I think there should be no limit to the drastic character of the law that should be introduced at once. Then again it is not mere law that will effect the cure. It is necessary for the Government, from the highest quarters to the lowest, to be alert. It is only by drastic, strong and quick executive drive that you can touch or check evil doers.

There is however one bright spot in the administration, it is the attitude of the Government of West Bengal. In West Bengal the new Ministry is in fact very wide awake. It is not slow to make enquiries. It is not afraid even to touch the highest officials. A District Judge who was in office has been prosecuted, and a retired District Magistrate is going to be prosecuted. I think the manner in which the Ministry in West Bengal has begun the work shows great promise, and I would request the Central Government to emulate their methods if possible. The Government may adopt a similar attitude if they like. If they like they can stop corruption altogether. With these few words, Sir, I move my motion.

گیانی گرمکھ سنگھ مسافر: صاحب صدر! جو دو کٹ موٹرز اسوقت ہاؤس کے سامنے پیس ہوئی ہیں۔ اُن میں سے جو کامرس ڈیپارٹمنٹ سے تعلق رکھتی ہے۔ اُس کے متعلق میں صرف دو باتیں کہنا چاہتا ہوں۔ Import licences کے دینے کے لئے جو Procedure یا way of working ہے اُس میں ایک بہت بڑا نقص ہے۔ جسکی وجہ سے بعض دفعہ لائسنس لینے والوں کو بجائے فائدہ کے نقصان ہوتا ہے۔ وہ جب لائسنس لینے کے لئے درخواستیں دیتے آتے ہیں تو اُنکو اس بات کی شہرتی دینی پڑتی ہے کہ وہ manufacturers اُنکو وہ چیز supply کر سکتے ہیں جن کو کہ اُنہوں نے آرڈر دیا ہو۔ دونوں پارٹیوں کے باہمی فیصلہ کے بعد اُنکو اس محکمہ کی ناقص Procedure کے مطابق لائسنس لینے میں دو یا تین ماہ لگتے ہیں اور بعض دفعہ ایسا ہونے میں چیزوں کی قیمتیں بدل جاتی ہے۔ اور وہ اُنکا آرڈر منسوخ نہیں کر سکتے۔ اور اُنہیں وہ چیزیں اُس قیمت پر لینی پڑتی ہیں جس کے مطابق اُنہوں نے پہلے آرڈر دیا ہوتا ہے۔ اس طرح قیمت میں فرق پڑنے کی وجہ سے لائسنس ہولڈر کو بجائے فائدہ کے نقصان اُٹھانا پڑتا ہے۔ اسلئے پہلی بات جو میں صاحب صدر آپ کی اجازت اور وساطت سے اس ہاؤس کے ذریعہ آنریبل منسٹر فار کامرس کے نوٹس میں لانا چاہتا ہوں کہ اس طرح کے نقائص کو دور کرنے کے لئے اور تمام working کو درست کرنے کے لئے جیسا کہ اس کٹ موشن کے الفاظ سے ظاہر ہے ایک نان آفیشل انکوائری کمیٹی بنائی جائے۔ جو اس تمام working اور Procedure کو تھیک کر دے۔ دوسری بات جو میں عرض کرنا چاہتا ہوں وہ یہ ہے Exchange کی تجارت پر پہلے ہی Restrictions ہوتی ہیں اُن Restrictions کو بڑھانے سے خرابی اور بڑھ چائیگی میرے دوست شری یت دیش بندھو گیتا جنہوں نے کہ کامرس ڈیپارٹمنٹ کے متعلق یہ کٹ موشن پیش کیا ہے۔ اپنی تقریر میں کہا ہے کہ جو لوگ لائسنس کے لئے درخواست کرتے ہیں اُن سے پہلے کام کے ثبوت اور سارٹیفکیٹ مانگے جاتے ہیں مگر اگر کوئی اُن لوگوں کا ہاتھ گرم کرے تو اُسکو لائسنس مل جاتا ہے ایک بات اور بھی ہے نئے آدمی کو لائسنس نہیں دیا جاتا اس بارے میں میں آنریبل منسٹر انچارج کامرس سے یہ گزارش کروں گا کہ evacuees کو آزا دیا جائے۔ اُس وقت ہماری سرکار refugees اور evacuees کی problem کی طرف خاص توجہ دے رہی ہے۔ جو لوگ پاکستان یا ریست مہاجر سے آئے ہیں اور وہاں کے شہروں میں مدتوں سے امپورٹ وغیرہ کا کام کرتے آئے ہیں۔ اُن کے پاس کوئی ثبوت یا سارٹیفکیٹ اُس وقت نہیں ہے۔ کیونکہ اُنکا سب کچھ وہاں پر ضائع ہو گیا ہے اور وہ تین کمپوز میں یہاں آئے ہیں۔ ایسے آدمیوں کو کام دینے کے لئے خاص طور پر شرائط کو ڈھیلا کیا جائے۔ صاحب صدر! آپ ہمارے صدر ہونے کی وجہ سے سرتاج ہیں ہم ممبران کو بھی جو تکلیف پیش آرہی ہیں اُنکو دور کرنے کا آپکو انتظام کرنا چاہئے۔ اور میں یہ التجا کروں گا کہ سرکار کو اس امر کی طرف دھیان دینا ہی پڑے گا یہاں evacuees کی پراپرٹی کے متعلق جو محکمہ بنایا گیا ہے اُسکا دفتر ہمارے اس اسمبلی ہال کے بالکل نزدیک ہے۔ ہر ایک ممبر جب اس اسمبلی سے اُٹھتا ہے تو اُسکو اس دفتر کے سامنے سے ہپی گزر کر جانا پڑتا ہے۔ جن ممبر صاحبان کے پاس موٹریں ہیں وہ تو آرام سے گزر جاتے ہیں۔ لیکن دوسروں کو کافی تکلیف کا سامنا کرنا پڑتا ہے۔

پنجاب کے ممبران کی حالت خاص طور پر قابل رحم ہے جب وہ اسمبلی ہال سے باہر نکلتے ہیں تو لوگ اُنکے گرد جمع ہو جاتے ہیں کمپوز سے پکڑ کر کھڑا کر لیتے ہیں اور مطالبہ کرتے ہیں کہ ہماری بات سن کر ہمارا انتظام کرو آج میرے ساتھ یہی واقع ہوا کہ جب میں لنچ کے لئے باہر نکلا تو تین چار وکیل اور چار دوستوں نے مجھے پکڑ لیا اور کہا کہ آپ لوگ سوئے ہوئے ہیں تمہیں جاگنا چاہئے اور معام کرنا چاہئے کہ ہماری کیا حالت ہے اُنہوں نے کہا کہ ہم سب کچھ کر سکتے ہیں مگر نہیں کر سکتے کیونکہ ہمکو کام نہیں ملتا لائسنس نہیں ملتے۔ صاحب صدر! میں گزارش کروں گا کہ ایسے مصیبت زدہ لوگوں کو پھر سے کام پر لگانے کے لئے کسی حد تک کامرس ڈیپارٹمنٹ مددگار ثابت ہو سکتا ہے اگر وہ اُنکو کام دیتے وقت نئے پڑانے اور لحاظ ملاحظہ کا خیال چھوڑ دے اس بات کی پرتال کیلئے refugees میں سے کون کون پہلے امپورٹ کا کام کرنے آئے ہیں ایک چار پانچ آدمیوں کی کمیٹی بنا دی جائے۔ اس کمیٹی میں پنجاب کے M. L. As. یا اُن Refugees میں سے ہی ممبر لئے جاسکتے ہیں جو پرتال کر کے سرٹیفکیٹ دے سکتے ہیں۔ جن کے پاس اس طرح کے سرٹیفکیٹ ہوں محکمہ اُنکو لائسنس دے سکتا ہے۔

غور کرنے سے معلوم ہوا کہ آجکل جہاں کہیں بھی گڑ بڑ ہو جاتی ہے وہ ہمارے اُن بھائیوں کے ذمہ لگتی ہے جو پاکستانی علاقوں سے برباد ہو کر آئے ہیں اور چلکے لئے ابھی تک کوئی انتظام نہیں ہو سکا۔ انتظام نہ ہو سکنے کیوجہ سے وہ Dis-satisfied ہیں۔ ان کو کام پر لگانا امن کیلئے بہت مددگار ثابت ہو سکتا ہے۔ حکومت پر صرف نقطہ چھینی کرنے کا میرا مطالبہ نہیں ہے۔ میں جب بھی اس ہاؤس میں کچھ کہنے کے لئے آتا ہوں تو دو کشتیوں میں سوار ہوتا ہوں۔ دل میں کچھ تذبذب ہوتا ہے۔ ایک طرف اپنی نیشنل حکومت کو دیکھتا ہوں اور دوسری طرف اُن لوگوں کو دیکھتا ہوں جنکے کہ ہم یہاں نمائندے ہیں۔ جو درد ہمکو ان لوگوں کے ساتھ ہے وہی درد اس اپنی حکومت کے ساتھ بھی ہے۔ میری حالت فارسی کے اس شعر کے مصداق ہے

عجب درد یشت اندر دل اگر گویم زباں سوزد

وگر دم درکشم تو رسم کہ مغز و استخوان سوزد

میرے دل کے اندر ایک عجیب درد ہے اگر ظاہر کرنا چاہوں تو زبان چلنے کا اندیشہ ہے اور دوسری طرف سے اگر اس درد کو ظاہر نہ کریں اور اندر ہی رکھ دیں تو مغز اور ہڈیاں چلنے کا اندیشہ ہے۔

(English translation of the above speech)

Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir (East Punjab: Sikh): Mr. Speaker, of the two cut motions which have just been moved in the House, I desire to say only two things concerning that which relates to the Commerce Department.

A very great defect in the procedure or in the way of working of the Import Licensing Board is that sometimes licencees suffer loss instead of gain. Thus, when they come to the office to put in their applications to get licences they have to give surety whether the articles can be supplied by those manufacturers with whom they have placed the order. Even when the agreements have been reached between the Importer and the Manufacturers, they have to wait for two or three months in getting licences, due to the defective procedure followed in this Department, and sometimes while this procedure is going on, prices of the articles change; the order cannot be cancelled and the same must be bought at the prices quoted in the orders. Thus, owing to the change in the price, a licence holder loses instead of gaining.

The first point which I want to bring to the notice of the Honourable Minister for Commerce with the permission and help of you, Sir, is that a Non-Official Enquiry Committee should be formed in order that it may remove all the defects and set right the whole working of the Import Licensing Board referred to in the cut motion.

The second point which I want to mention is that there are already many restrictions on the exchange business and imposition of still more restrictions would make matters worse.

My friend, the Honourable Shri Deshbandhu Gupta, who moved the cut motion on the Commerce Department, has said in his speech that proofs and certificates of previous business done by them are demanded of those who apply for licences by the Government employees, but if anybody bribes them he gets the licence. One more point is that a man new to the business does not get the licence. In this connection, I will request the Honourable Minister for Commerce to remove this restriction, particularly at this time when our Government is devoting special attention to the problem of Refugees and Evacuees. Those who have come from Pakistan or from the West Punjab and were for years carrying on Import Business in the cities of that Province have naturally got no such proof or certificate with them at this time, since they have lost their all and have come here in three pieces of garment. The restrictions should be relaxed considerably to provide occupation to such people.

Mr. Speaker, as our Chairman you are our head and you should therefore arrange to remove the difficulties with which we are faced. I would request that the Government must devote their attention to this matter.

In Delhi, the office of the Department, which has been started for the Evacuees' Property, is quite close to this Assembly Hall, and on leaving the Assembly every Member has to pass it. Those members who have got cars escape the notice of the refugees, but others have to face considerable difficulty. The condition of the Assembly members from the Punjab is pitiable: as when they come out of the Assembly Hall, they are surrounded by these people, who pull their clothes and force them to halt and listen to their grievances and arrange to redress them. Today, I too met such a fate, when I came out for lunch. I was caught by three or four Vakils and merchant friends who said "You are sleep, you should wake up and should find out what is our plight. We can do everything, but we can't do anything, because we get neither work, nor a licence."

Mr. Speaker, I will state that to some extent Commerce Department can prove helpful in providing work to such people if it overlooks the idea of old

or new and observes strict impartiality. To investigate which of the refugees previously were doing import business, a Committee consisting of four or five men, may be formed. The members of this committee may either be M.L.As. of the Punjab or the refugees themselves. They can grant certificates after making inquiries, and those who will get such certificates, will obtain licence from the Department.

You will observe that in these days, wherever, there is any incident, our outraged brethren from Pakistan for whose livelihood no arrangement has yet been made, and who thus are dissatisfied are held responsible. To put such men to work will prove much helpful in keeping law and order.

Only criticism of Government is not my object. Whenever, I rise to speak in this House, I row, as it were, in two boats: one my National Government, the other the people whom we represent here. I feel as much sympathy for these people as I do for my Government. My state of mind accords with the following Persian couplet:

Ajab dardest under dil, agar goyam zaban sozad

Wagar dam dar kasham, tarsam maghz-o-ustakhan sozad.

English translation of which is: My heart cherishes a strange pain, which if I express it with my tongue, there is likelihood of its being burnt, but on the other hand if I don't express this pain and keep it pent up in my heart, then I am afraid my brain and bones will burn.

When Dr. Pattabhi said that the Government should remedy these defects, Dr. Mukerjee remarked "You are also a member and part of the Government" and further added "All the citizens of India are responsible". I fully understand the fact that if there are no bribe-offerer there can be no bribe-acceptor. But, I will state that the Government does have its remedy. The idea of the people of this country is that they have now their own Government, which will by itself as they expect, take steps to remove these defects.

These defects lie not only in the Commerce Department, but also in other departments. There is no doubt that the defects which are being seen, the Government only is not to blame for them, but public also is to be blamed, because we have in our mind, this idea that now, we have our own Government and it will do all by itself. By the word National Government, several people are led to think that now, no rule or law is necessary to observe and in this connection I recollect one interesting incident. I had a chance of visiting Patna when in Bihar the Congress Ministry was formed for the first time. There I asked a *Ekka* driver "How are you getting on these days, now here it is the Government of the Congress, you must have a happy time, a very good Government has been formed". He replied, "How do you say so? We thought that under this Government we would have a happy time, but still we are being harassed for such trifling matters as 'there is no light on the *Ekka*, keep to your left, do this and that. In these days also, we have the same worries as before". I said, "Do you mean that when our National Government is formed, there should be no law and order". What I mean, by this illustration, is this that several times misunderstanding of such sorts cause relaxation in Government discipline. The only advice to my people is that they should assist their Government; but the corruption can be removed by the Government only. In this connection, I recollect my experience in a jail. Among the Sikh peasants of the Punjab milk is called *Samundar* (Ocean). Last time when we were in jail, a political prisoner asked me, why the Sikh call milk, *Samundar*. As my reply did not satisfy him he said that he would tell me. He said that the contractor who brings milk in the jail, brings it as half milk and half water. When milk reaches the entrance of the jail, the Durwan takes out some of it for his tea and mixes as much water. Next when passing the entrance it reaches the compound, the Incharge Babu takes

[گیانی گرمکھ سنگھ مسافر]

ڈاکٹر پٹابھائی نے جب یہ کہا کہ گورنمنٹ کو ان باتوں کا علاج کرنا چاہئے تو ڈاکٹر مکر جی نے کہا کہ آپ بھی تو ممبر ہیں اور گورنمنٹ کا حصہ ہیں آگے چل کر ڈاکٹر مکر جی نے کہا کہ ہندوستان کی سب جڑنا ذمہ وار ہے۔ میں اس بات کو اچھی طرح سمجھتا ہوں کہ اگر رشوت دینے والے نہ ہوں تو رشوت لینے والے بھی نہیں ہو سکتے۔ مگر میں یہ عرض کروں گا کہ گورنمنٹ کے پاس انکا علاج ضرور ہے۔ یہاں کے لوگوں کا خیال یہ ہے کہ اب ہماری اپنی حکومت ہے۔ اسلئے انہیں یہی امید ہے کہ وہ ان خرابیوں کو خود دور کرنے کے اقدام عمل میں لایگی یہ حال صرف کامرس ڈیپارٹمنٹ میں ہی نہیں ہے بلکہ ہر ایک ڈیپارٹمنٹ میں کچھ نہ کچھ خرابیاں نظر آتی ہیں۔ اسمیں شک نہیں کہ یہ جو خرابیاں نظر آرہی ہیں اسمیں صرف گورنمنٹ کا ہی قصور نہیں ہے۔ بلکہ دوسرے لوگوں کا بھی قصور ہے۔ ہم لوگوں کے دلیں یہ خیال ہے کہ اب ہماری اپنی حکومت ہے اور یہ خود ہی سب انتظام کریگی اپنی حکومت سے کئی لوگ یہ مطلب سمجھنے لگ جاتے ہیں کہ بس اب کسی قاعدے قانون کی ضرورت نہیں۔ اس سلسلہ میں مجھے ایک دلچسپ مثال یاد ہے۔ بہار میں جب پہلی دفعہ کانگریس وزارت بنی تو ان دنوں مجھے پتہ چل گیا تھا کہ اتفاق ہوا۔ میں نے ایک بکے والے سے پوچھا کہ اب تم لوگوں کا کیا حال ہے۔ اب تو یہاں پر کانگریس کی سرکار ہوگئی ہے۔ اب تم لوگوں کی سوچ ہے۔ بہت اچھی سرکار بن گئی ہے۔ وہ کہنے لگا کہ کیا اچھی سرکار ہے۔ ہم نے تو یہ سمجھا تھا کہ اب اس سرکار میں ہم لوگوں کو موجد ہوگی۔ لیکن اب بھی ہمیں توکا جاتا ہے کہ یکے میں روشنی نہیں ہے اپنے ہاتھ چاؤ یہ کرو وہ کرو۔ اب یہی وہی تفتا ہے جو پہلے تھا۔ میں نے اُس سے کہا کہ کیا تمہارا مطالبہ یہ تھا کہ جب گورنمنٹ اپنی بن جائے تو کوئی قاعدہ یا قانون نہیں رہنا چاہیئے اس مثال سے میرا مطلب یہ ہے کہ کئی دفعہ اپنے لوگوں میں اس طرح کی غلط فہمی سرکاری ضبط کو دھیل کر نیک باعث بن جاتی ہے۔ اپنے لوگوں سے مجھے یہی کہنا ہے کہ تمام مشکلات کو دور کرنے میں اپنی سرکار کی مدد کرنی چاہیئے۔ مگر کریشن کو تو سرکار ہی دور کر سکتی ہے اس جگہ مجھے جیل کی ایک مثال یاد آتی ہے۔ پنجاب کے سکھ کسانوں میں دودھ کو سمندر کہا جاتا ہے۔ پچھلے دفعہ جب ہم جیل میں تھے تو ایک اخلاقی قیدی نے مجھ سے پوچھا کہ سکھ لوگ دودھ کو سمندر کیوں کہتے ہیں۔ میرے جواب سے اُس کی تسلی نہ ہوئی تو وہ کہنے لگا کہ میں تمکو بتاتا ہوں۔ جیل میں جو ٹھیکیدار دودھ لاتا ہے وہ آدھا پانی گھر سے ملا لاتا ہے۔ دودھ جب جیل کی دیوڑھی میں پہنچتا ہے تو دربان اپنی چائے کے لئے نکال کر اُٹا ہی پانی ملا دیتا ہے۔ اس کے بعد دودھ جب دیوڑھی سے اندر جیل کی Compound میں پہنچتا ہے تو انچارج بابو اپنی چائے کے لئے نکالتا ہے۔ پھر لنگر کے لانگری اپنا حصہ نکالتے ہیں۔

اور پانی ملا کر دودھ کی مقدار کو پورا کر دیتے ہیں۔ اور جب آخر کار دودھ قیدی کے پاس پہنچتا ہے تو وہ واقعی سمندر ہی بنا ہوتا ہے۔ انہی بات سنانے کے بعد وہ اخلاقی قیدی کہنے لگا کہ پنجاب کے سکھ کسان نے دودھ کو جیل میں دیکھ کر ہی شاید اُسکا نام سمندر رکھا ہوگا۔

جناب والا! میں زخم خوردہ ہوں مجھ کو دو منٹ کی اور اجازت دی جائے۔ اس کے علاوہ میں یہ گزارش کرنا چاہتا ہوں کہ آج اگر کسی آدمی کو سفر کرنا ہو تو اسے پہلے ٹکٹ خریدتے وقت بابو کی خاطر کرنی پڑتی ہے۔ اور اُس کے بعد قلی کی۔ آجکل ایک ایک قلی دس دس اور پندرہ پندرہ روپیہ مزدوری لیتا ہے۔ اور جب تک قلی کو دس یا پندرہ روپیہ نہ دئے جائیں تب تک غریب مسافر اپنا سامان گاڑی پر بہ آسانی نہیں رکھ سکتا ہے۔ جناب والا! کیا کہوں ڈاکٹر مکر جی نے کہا ہے کہ رشوت کی کوئی خاص مثال دی جائے۔ میں کہتا ہوں کہ مثال کوئی ایک تھوڑی ہی ہے۔ کون کون سی مثال دی جائے۔

اک چاک ہو تو سی لوں ہمدم گریہاں اپنا

ظالم نے پہاڑ ڈالا ہے تار تار کر کے

میں نے پہلے بھی عرض کی ہے کہ اسمیں صرف حکومت کا ہی قصور نہیں ہے۔ بلکہ ساتھ ساتھ لوگوں کا بھی قصور ہے۔ پھر سے بساتے والے محکمہ کی بابت میں اتنا ہی کہوں گا کہ جو لوگ ویسٹ پنجاب سے آئے ہیں وہ ہمارے مکانوں پر آتے ہیں اور ہمکو کہتے ہیں کہ ہمیں مکان دلاؤ دوکان دلاؤ اور جب ہم اُنکو کہتے ہیں کہ یہ بات ہمارے ہاتھ میں نہیں ہے اور اس میں ہمارا کوئی اختیار نہیں ہے تو وہ چلے جاتے ہیں اُن میں سے کچھ ایک دو چار روز کے بعد آکر کہتے ہیں کہ آپ سے مکان یا دوکان دلانے کے لئے کہا تھا آپ نے نہیں دلایا۔ مگر ہم نے لے ہی لیا ہے۔ جب ہم پوچھتے ہیں کہ کیسے ملا تو وہ کہتے ہیں اسباب کو دھنے دو کہ کس طرح سے ملا ہے۔ یہ حالات اسوقت موجود ہیں۔ میں پھر دہراتا ہوں کہ ان باتوں کا ذکر کرنے سے کوئی سرکار کی بدنامی مطلوب نہیں ہے۔ نہ ہی ایسا کوئی ارادہ ہے۔ جیسا کہ ویر گپتا نے کہا ہے ہمارا مطلب صرف ان خرابیوں کو اور نقائص کو دور کرنے کا ہے۔ لوگوں کے حالات Disturbances کی وجہ سے بہت خراب ہوگئے ہیں۔ اسلئے حکومت کو چاہیئے کہ ان کی حالت کے سدھار کے لئے انتظام کرے۔ تاکہ یہ حکومت بدنام نہ ہو اور ہم یہ فخر سے کہیں کہ پہلی حکومت میں جو تکالیف لوگوں کو تھیں وہ اب اپنی حکومت میں نہیں ہیں۔ اور جو نقائص پہلے تھے وہ اب دور ہو گئے ہیں۔ اور ہم پہلی حکومت اور موجودہ حکومت کا فرق اُن لوگوں سے کہہ سکیں جن کے ہم نمایندے ہیں۔ اور دنیا کو روشن ہو جائے کہ ہم نے اپنی حکومت میں ان تمام نقائص اور تکالیف کو ختم کر دیا ہے۔

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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) [5TH DEC. 1947]

[Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir]
out some for his tea and then the cooks also in the kitchen take out their share of milk, and mix the rest with water for making up for the loss. Finally, when milk reaches the prisoner it is really the *Samundar* (Ocean). Having related this story, the political prisoner said that the Sikh peasant of the Punjab might have called milk *Samundar* (Ocean), after seeing all this in the jail.

Sir, I am a wounded person, I may be given time for two minutes more.

In addition to this, I want to say that if anybody has to go on a journey he has first to bribe the Babu at the time of purchasing the ticket, then the cooly. In these days, each cooly charges ten to fifteen rupees for his labour and until ten to fifteen rupees are given to the Cooly, the poor passenger cannot easily put his luggage into the train. Sir, what more should I say. Dr. Mukerjee asked that a specific instance of corruption should be given. I say that there is not one instance but hundreds and how many need be given.

I have already said, that the Government only is not to blame, but side by side with it the people also are to blame.

In connection with the Rehabilitation Department, I would only say this that those who have come from the West Punjab, come to our houses and ask us to get either houses or shops. They go away, when we say to them that we have no hand in this matter and we have no authority. Some of them come back to us after a couple of days and say to us that they asked us to get houses or shop, and we did not get any, but now they have got them themselves. When we ask them how they got it, they say, better leave this question unanswered. These are the conditions prevailing here, in these days. I repeat that by mentioning these facts, it is not my object to discredit the Government, nor such is my intention. As my friend, Mr. Gupta has put, our object is only to remove this evil and defects.

The circumstances of the people due to disturbances are rendered worse, so the Government should improve them so that this Government may not get a bad name and we may say with pride that the difficulties which people experienced in the previous Government are not felt now and that the old defects are no more. And we may be able to point out the difference between the previous Government and the existing Government to the people whom we represent and the world may know that we have put an end to all of these defects and troubles during our administration.

by Pandit Thakurdas Bhargava (one of the Panel of Chairman).]

[At this stage, Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil (Minister for Works, Mines and Power): Normally, Sir, a politician in office does not like to be told what he has spoken or done while in opposition, but I enjoyed the reference made to one of my speeches delivered on the floor of this House a few months ago, and I can assure my Honourable friend Mr. Deshbandhu Gupta that what I said then was entirely correct and my general outlook has not undergone any radical change. But I can assure him all the same that things have improved in the course of last three months and a half.

Shri Deshbandu Gupta: Not in the Commerce Department.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, the wording of the cut motion contemplates two counts—one of corruption and the other of lack of a clear-cut policy with respect to import and export licences. I shall first deal with the former count.

My Honourable friend Mr. Deshbandhu Gupta referred to a period of 15 months. It is somewhat delicate to deal with a period prior to 15th of August, for it was a Government which can only be compared to a divided House. To be more particular, Sir, the Department which I have to answer

for today was under the management of people who believed that there must be representation on communal lines in commerce also. The examples I cited in the speech which was referred to by my friend Mr. Deshbandhu Gupta were examples which illustrated what I said now.

I will not mention any name, but I will only give one example to show to what extent the evil had gone. A certain member of this House who knew

nothing about cotton got an export license, went to one of the Export merchants in Bombay and asked him to purchase it. He

4 P.M. declined. He said: "I would buy cotton for you; the license is in your name. You will export it." Ultimately the Honourable Member got a customer. I only want to say that you must divide the period, the period before the 15th of August and the period after the 15th of August. I do not pretend to say, because it will be contrary to facts that the present Government has achieved some sort of a wonderful revolution in the course of 3½ months. Nothing of that kind. Corruption increased in the course of War period so much that it would be a mild description if I were to say that it has become a National problem and a National evil for us to solve and eliminate. Neither the few members of this Government nor the few Members of this House, but the entire national must make up its mind that at least in Free India, it may not be anything else, but certainly it will not be a Government in which corruption would be so rampant as were the case before. I would therefore most earnestly request that whenever we talk about corruption—apparently it may be against a few officials and a few merchants here and outside,—but it means that the whole community is corrupt. I think it is a matter for us to put our heads together and find a way out of this dilemma for the general community and the consumer. Is there no way out of it? Either they must be victims of corrupt officials or corrupt merchants. Is there no way out of this? I am sure if we apply our mind we will be able in the course of a year or two to radically change the machinery and I am sure a better account would be available.

Now speaking about the period after the 15th of August, I might inform the House, Mr. Chairman that so far as the Department with which I am concerned, namely, Works, Mines and Power, 22 persons including Executive Engineers and contractors and high officials are being prosecuted. I have taken disciplinary action against many; against many disciplinary action will be taken in the near future. But let me tell the House that corruption is a process in which two persons are involved, the bribe-taker and the bribe-giver and that is a matter within the knowledge of both and probably not fully known by any other third party. I have got published in newspapers and I have told newspaper friends, who are very kindly to me that whenever they hear any report, they can come to my office; there is no formality of granting an interview; they can come at any time of the day; and whenever they have communicated any information to me in private. I have acted upon it; sometimes it was exaggerated; sometimes the information was wrong, but wherever it was found to be correct, steps have been taken.

An Honourable Member: What is the percentage of correct information?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I will give an example: I received an anonymous letter that a particular officer has got his son-in-law and sister of his son-in-law appointed. That was a clear case, *prima facie* of nepotism. I personally called the officer, asked for his explanation, went through the whole file; I found there was nothing irregular, but I appealed to him: "Look here, your reputation is my reputation and our reputation is the reputation of our country. Do you not think that it would be far better for you to ask your son-in-law and the sister of your son-in-law to resign?" He was good enough to secure the resignations of both.

Now, going further, Sir, it may be within the knowledge of this House that a Bill was enacted last year, which was piloted by the Honourable Sardar

[Shri N. V. Gadgil]

Vallabhbhai Patel, in which it has been laid down that if an officer is found with property which cannot be reasonably accounted for, the Court is entitled to draw a presumption that it has been illegally and wrongfully earned. But I am sure that merely passing enactment after enactment will not result in cleaning the whole administration. What I want to suggest, Sir, is that we must take all precautionary measures; in fact I may also inform the House that I have asked every officer of my Department to give me full particulars of his property up-to-date. But you know in this world the ingenuity is so much that all human efforts after all are not enough to cope with it. They have wives, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, obliging maternal uncles and so on and good many friends also from all ranks and all parties. Anyway, whatever suggestions that may be made in this House or outside it, all I can promise is that they will be duly considered.

As regards information, the Honourable Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya was somewhat angry. I think it is the duty of every good citizen when asking for protection, boldly to come and say: "Well, here is an example of corruption and nepotism". And if I am asked to speak about it, on oath, I shall do it. It is a duty.

An Honourable Member: Even under the Evidence Act, protection is necessary.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: If the man is a party then even under the present provisions of the law he is given protection. There is no question of protection being now made available. It is always given. He is, so to say a King's witness. All that I want to say, Sir, is that if everyone of us looks upon this as a matter of duty, as an urgent task and if we carry it out in each Department, I have no doubt there will be no more occasion hereafter to refer to corruption, nepotism and things of that sort.

Then I come to the second count about the lack of clear-cut policy in the working of the import licenses. Although the original cut motion referred only to imports, it was later on changed to include export policy also. What I want to convey to the House is that there is a clear-cut policy. If there is any trouble, the trouble is in the implementation of the same. Now with respect to the import policy, I may just inform the House that that policy is mainly decided by consideration of our decision with respect to Dollar Exchange. For some time early this year Government were liberal but later on it was discovered that within a short period 100 million pounds was the balance of payments against us. That was not a happy state of affairs and Government changed the policy and decided to conserve our dollar resources; a new policy was enunciated and the same has been published in a communique dated the 3rd July 1947. It was on these lines: Certain commodities were kept on the free list; certain commodities were banned because it was thought that they were not essential but were more or less articles which could be classed as luxuries. Then with respect to commodities not covered by these two categories a policy was laid down under which for every commodity a ceiling in terms of money was laid down and that ceiling was laid down because of the over-all consideration for exchange resources. I agree that it is extremely difficult to work out this policy although it is not very difficult to lay it down. If it is decided that licenses to the extent of one lakh of rupees should be granted with respect to commodity "X", the real trouble is among whom and on what principles this "X" is to be distributed. Is it to be distributed on communal lines? Is it to be distributed on regional lines? Are these to be given to those who are in the trade from before or shall we have a policy by which we can encourage new entrants? These are factors which have got to be taken into consideration when the question of distribution comes. I may inform the House that all these considerations were with the department and with the officials concerned and licenses are granted on certain defined principles.

Shri M. S. Aney (Deccan and Madras States Group): May I interrupt the Honourable Minister? Have not Government laid down a policy with regard to these points which might be a guide to the officers concerned?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Yes, that is exactly so.

Now some point was made with regard to the delay caused. I may tell my Honourable friend Shri Deshbandhu Gupta that on account of the partition more than 33 per cent. of the staff had to go, so far as this section of the Commerce Department is concerned. Why this particular section had such a high proportion of those who opted for Pakistan is a matter which we can easily understand; but that is a fact. That is one cause of the delay; another cause was that in the month of September and a few days of October the situation in Delhi was such that there was no normal attendance in the offices. Speaking for my own department, for four days the only people present were the Honourable Minister and the Secretary and one chaprassie. The work naturally accumulated; and if I were to give you some idea of the work you will at least in sheer justice say that some of these matters have been exaggerated. Here are some of the facts about the number of applications: 1,67,655 was the number for import licenses from January to June, 1947; from July to November it was 1,43,186; the total is 3,10,841, out of which 1,60,000 applications for revalidation of licenses were also received during the period July to November 1947. This is with respect to import licenses only. About export licenses the number is roughly about 70,000. Now, you can imagine, Sir, that if every letter and every inquiry and every reference were to be acknowledged, I do not know what the Finance Minister would have to say about that but an army of clerks would be required. Therefore some principles were observed; but at the same time I assure my Honourable friend Shri Deshbandhu Gupta that hereafter as a result of some sort of adjustment there will be as little delay as possible and letters and references will be acknowledged.

Now as regards the granting of interviews I shudder to think what must be the fate of the officer concerned if all these applicants insist on coming and interviewing him. The officer concerned did try that experiment in the month of October and he reported to me that out of six hours 5½ hours were exhausted in granting interviews and he had no time left for work. Therefore he decided on a system of screening, a sort of inquiry office, where some sort of scrutiny was done, and only in certain cases the officer concerned used to grant interviews. Somehow or other this aspect assumed greater importance than it ought to, because I happened to be in charge of this department and whosoever came to me I gave them half a minute or a minute or two, and so by way of sad contrast it assumed unnecessary importance. But you will imagine that if you have to interview 60 or 100 or 200 people every day, you cannot manage it. They do not talk about one problem but hundreds of problems from lipsticks to machinery, every sort of commodity and every sort of region and every sort of communal consideration; some come with notes from Honourable Members; some come with notes from Congress workers; some come from this body and that body, all well-intentioned and all wanting just and fair treatment. But the man must have some time to look into it and say whether just and fair treatment is possible or not.

Shri K. Santhanam: Why not ban all interviews and do things merely from the records?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I am answering the criticism that interviews were not granted.

Then as far as I am able to see, if licenses are granted and sold as negotiable instruments in the markets of Bombay and Calcutta, the only radical remedy to avoid all this is to nationalise foreign trade, and nothing else. But I am sure those who are complaining about these difficulties know very well that if

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nationalisation comes something else will happen. Anyway, what I want to urge is that so far as the charge of lack of clear-cut policy is concerned it is not borne out by facts.

Now with respect to export license policy.....

Shri B. A. Khimji (Western India States Group): The Honourable Minister has not mentioned the policy as regards the grant of these licenses. What is the policy exactly?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The first consideration is whether the man has been in the line; secondly, whether the man has really opened letters of credit, that he has really booked his order; thirdly, whether the articles to be imported are really necessary. All these things are taken into consideration and then the licenses are granted.

With regard to the export policy.....

Shri B. A. Khimji: Is turnover taken into consideration by particular parties?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Naturally.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Are letters of credit opened before licenses are granted?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: A general letter of credit is often done.

As regards the policy with respect to export, I may inform the House that as soon as war was over the position was reviewed and nearly 200 articles have been removed from control altogether. Now there are restrictions on a few and even there the policy followed is whether the man is an established shipper and an established shipper has been defined as one who was in the line in a particular, or as is technically called a representative year. But even here another principle has had to be taken into consideration, and that is 25 per cent. so far as cloth export is concerned is reserved for new-comers and 10 per cent. so far as jute is concerned. These are the principles which constitute what may be called the export policy in this limited sense.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Madras: General): Are you satisfied with that?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That is another matter. The issue raised is that there is lack of a clear-cut policy. I think the policy has been abundantly clear. The only grievance is that in working it out some unfair things may be happening, that is because of the general atmosphere prevalent in the country. I make no apology to say this but I still want to say that if you allow private trading and if you have control, whatever you may do you will be able to reduce the evil considerably, but you will never be able to eliminate it. You can only eliminate it when, as I suggested, you nationalise the entire foreign trade.

My friend, Sardar Musafar Saheb raised some interesting points and he said that some consideration must be shown to refugees who have come from Punjab and who were traders. All I can say at this stage is that I shall consider this very sympathetically.

I only want to end by saying that this is a problem which is not to be exclusively solved by the Government. This is a problem in the right solution of which the Government as well as the members, in fact the whole community is interested. That being so, I appeal to every Member of this House to help the Government in bringing about a state of affairs which is to their heart.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I with your permission ask one question? What is the policy followed in selecting newcomers—persons who are in a new trade?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I am almost tempted to say discretions. It was said, that the discretion of the Chancellor varies according to the length of his toe. It may be so here also!

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home, Information and Broadcasting and States): This annual opportunity which comes for a discussion to draw the attention of the Government on this vital question which effects the good name of the administration is welcome. Every year we see and hear a discussion on the question of the general tone of the administration, and its object is to keep the administration in trim and to keep those in charge of administration up to their sense of responsibility and duty. It is a good opportunity and we shall make the best use of it.

I have been listening to the debate since this morning. Most of it—in fact all the cut motions moved today concentrated on the question of corruption in administration. Undoubtedly there is a lot of corruption of which we hear almost every day wherever we go. I get about 500 people to interview me in the mornings from 5 to 6—early morning. Most of them are from Punjab. All of them have come to Delhi as refugees. They want housing accommodation in the City of Delhi. There is not enough accommodation. We cannot provide for these people in this city where they have come in very large numbers. Already there are over 2½ lakhs of people. Many of them are residing in the houses of their relations but many others are in the open and almost all of them had a very good status in life and were living in good houses. They are very bitter and angry and complain that they must be provided somewhere. I hear them patiently. I tell them sometimes: "Please, see our difficulties. We cannot accommodate you all. Why don't you go to some other city? Why do you come here, all of you? But, if you do not find any place to go to, will you go to the officer in charge of this Department or the Minister in charge?" They say: "It is no use, Sir." And they complain of many things from which people infer that they have not been fairly treated.

Now it is not an easy thing. How far the stories I hear of their complaints are true and how much false it is difficult to ascertain, because it is an established fact that we have very little accommodation and there is a considerable demand. We cannot meet the demands. I do not say all of them tell tales. But 50 per cent. of them do because if they do not get anything and somebody else does, they conclude they must have paid money and that they must be corrupt. In some cases it may be true but in other cases it cannot be true.

We must go to the root cause which has led to this state of affairs—general corruption in all departments. It is a general demoralisation that has set in as the result of war. The war conditions brought about a general deterioration all over the world. It is not in this country alone. The aftermath of the war has not ended. You have got controls, you have the licenses and you have got the general deficiency in the necessities of life and therefore these tight controls and these licenses give considerable scope for corruption. My Honourable friend from Bombay said, that the thing is so rotten that there is nothing to mend and if the corruption is so bad and is so rampant in all departments, the only thing remains is to shut up the shop because there is no room to mend. But that fortunately is not the case. During my experience of a short period, however short it may be, I have had the pleasure of working with many officials I may say that to work with many of them would be a matter of pride and I am proud of them. Most of them today are our own people and I feel very proud of their ability, of their integrity and of their sense of duty. You may take it that if I find the slightest suspicion in any

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of my officers who are in charge of the administration I would not stand it even for a moment.

When I came here as a member of the Government the first thing that I did was to see what could be done to remedy this evil. Those who were in this House will remember that the first two measures that I brought before this House were the Special Police Establishment Bill and the Prevention of Corruption Bill, in which the normal law of evidence was relaxed and the responsibility was placed on the accused to prove his *bona fides*. Also in some cases the minimum sentence was prescribed. The House was good enough to give me almost unanimous support. I had not to make any speeches from which quotations may be flung in my face. Therefore you will remember that the first measures that we passed in this House were these two measures with a view to check this evil.

Subsequently we met with a serious crisis in this country. You all know that the year through which we have passed is a type of year which we have not seen in the history of this country. We have passed through a period during which in a short period we have had complete transfer of power. We have had a partition of the country to which all of us were opposed. We have had the partition of the provinces to which many were opposed, we have partitioned the defence forces of the country, we have partitioned the civil administration of the country. We have done all this in a very short space of time. Along with this we have accomplished the transfer of a population of ten million people. That transfer was not voluntary: it was an involuntary or forcible transfer. Do you think any country could stand this strain?

I like this criticism that you have been making here. It is the privilege of the Opposition. It is a good thing but we are not in a House in which the Opposition is functioning in the old fashion. Here is a responsible administration and here instead of quoting the speeches of the Members in charge of the Administration you have to replace them and take charge yourself. If you think that a particular member who made a speech the other day of a particular type is behaving in a contrary fashion, the man who quotes it against him has to take his place and show that he can do better. Therefore although we hate corruption and we must all of us put our heads together to strangle that evil as soon as possible, we must not create an atmosphere in which the remedy may prove to be worse than the disease. If you create a general atmosphere of criticism, that all our services are corrupt, the administration is corrupt, there is nothing good left in it, remember you dispirit the people and drive them to desperation: people who have a sense of honour, who have a sense of integrity and a sense of duty feel that there is no appreciation here and it was no use serving. Let us not create that position. I appreciate; therefore, your criticism fully but we must be discriminating in our criticism. We must see what is good in our services. You must also remember that our services are broken to bits. 50 per cent. of the services have left. We had 1,250 officers, who were called the steel frame of this country, of which 50 per cent. have left, because we did not want them or they did not want to stay. Even if they wanted to stay they found conditions unsuitable. Out of the 50 per cent. several of them went to the other side of the country; they opted to serve in a country where they thought it would be better for them. Beginning from the highest administrative post down to that of a chaprassi people were given the option to choose where they would serve. If you have a shrewd sense or insight you will find in the departments where you might go that there has been a considerable change. When I came here and was entering my office I found crowds of chaprassies sitting round fire places and I was told that there were 18,000 chaprassies. Before the war there were only three or four thousand. I am only giving you an instance. The departments were inflated during the period of the

war and it was difficult to retrench any of them. When we came here, conditions were such that we could do nothing. If we proposed retrenchment we were threatened that there would be a general strike. Then the partition came and I issued a general order that those people who opted out should be allowed to go and their places should not be filled then. We found an opportunity. We find now that there is considerable improvement. We have now to man the services again and we have to find the men.

When you think that nothing is being done I will just give you for your information as an example how action is being taken. After this special Police department was created the action taken up to September 1947 was 1,224 cases were investigated, 750 cases were sent up for trial and out of them 407 ended in conviction. 120 cases are still under trial. 180 cases were recommended for departmental action, out of which 145 people have been dismissed. But mere actions of dismissal or prosecution will not be enough. We will have to change the atmosphere in the country. We must raise the general tone of the people. Today the giver is as ready and willing to give as the taker is willing and anxious to take. Bribe-giving and bribe-taking have become a normal thing and when it becomes a normality it is not a crime; it is not regarded as a crime. I remember a case 25 years ago when a railway officer, a station master, was being prosecuted for taking bribes; for every wagon he was giving he was taking a huge amount. When investigations were made, and he was caught and prosecuted he defended himself openly that he had not committed any offence, that was not bribery, that was *dasturi* or recognised practice, that it was being done not only by him but by every man from the Agent down to the lowest clerk in the railway department. Why it was called a crime he did not know. After all that there was a technical conviction. He had to pay only Rs. 200 fine, because the practice was recognised by the trying judge.

Shri M. S. Aney: It was recognised by the courts.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Yes. Therefore if conditions become such then the moral sense deteriorates. Let us not create that condition. Of course so long as the practice of licenses, permits, and controls continue bribery and corruption are their handmaids. Therefore we have to check it and we are taking measures as quickly as possible to do away with licenses and controls. But it is not an easy thing.

My friend the Minister in charge of the Commerce Department who has left for America has talked to me several times on this subject. He asked me "What can I do about these licences and these permits for import? The goods dumped in this country as a result of the permits given have been so much that there is no market for them, and the licences given are so many that they are being sold in the market. What can I do about these things?" I told him "You can do nothing. It is a past history. Let us close it and begin afresh." It has to be forgotten and there is no use criticising it. The conditions were different. The stage on which we functioned was quite a different one. We have worked for a year and only we know how and under what conditions we worked. It was not a Coalition. It was a different Government for which there is no parallel in history. Therefore, all this criticism is not with reference to a normal situation but a very abnormal situation. Those who had worked it, they alone know what it was. Honourable Members here cannot have an idea of it. Therefore whilst I appreciate the criticism and whilst I appreciate the *bona fides* of Honourable Members to keep the Government awake I appeal to them to accept what my friend Dr. Srama Prasad has said, namely that we have a collective responsibility. It means, not collective responsibility among the members on the Treasury Benches alone, but collective responsibility of the whole House as well as of the whole population. To drive out corruption is not an easy thing. It is an abnormal

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situation which has to be reduced to normality and we must raise the general moral tone as also the tone of the services. That is all I have to say.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: I would like to withdraw my cut motion.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: I too would like to withdraw my cut motion.

Mr. Chairman: Have the Honourable Members leave of the House to withdraw their cut motions?

The cut motions were, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Planning and development programme for India

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Cabinet' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sir, the whole country is aware that after long struggle extending over 25 years under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi and the sacrifice of millions of men, young and old, we have won freedom for this country. That freedom is not worth anything to the ordinary man in the street unless the other freedoms are also won—freedom from want, freedom from danger and freedom from illiteracy or ignorance. These are more material. The one freedom that was obtained is only a means to obtaining the other freedoms. Even while the war was on, in expectation of its drawing to a close, various countries in the world had planned for reconstruction of their countries after the war. America is the only country in the world that recovered much more easily than other countries even though it had to sacrifice a large portion of its men, money and goods. After it recovered it has started a plan of rehabilitation of the devastated countries. It is known as the Marshall plan of 21,000 billion dollars for the rehabilitation of the devastated countries of Europe. Not being satisfied with that it has also sponsored the International Bank with 10,000 million dollars to rehabilitate the other devastated countries in the world. Russia has started on an economic plan, a drive to increase its production and war potential also, its industry and agriculture. Only yesterday we heard from the Honourable the Prime Minister in answer to a question that to equip the household of our Ambassador, chairs and other items of furniture were being brought from Sweden. He also said, that the Russians were devoting their attention to equipping their country with various industries and other materials that might be necessary immediately and that they did not mind if they had to go with torn trousers and worn out boots. That is the way in which Russia is trying to rehabilitate itself. Now, Sir, the war clouds are thick in the air. You do not know when another war might come. The interval between peace and war seems to become shorter and shorter. In our own country the bureaucrats who were ruling, before the war came to a close, made a maiden attempt for a future plan of reconstruction of this country. In 1945 a Member for Planning was appointed. A Board of Planning was appointed and a policy was also enunciated in 1945 regarding industrial planning. A number of Panels were appointed to go into various matters, rehabilitation of agriculture, rehabilitation of industry, health, education and various other kindred matters. They have made their Reports. Simultaneously with this there were non-official agencies also who came forward with their plans. You would have heard, Sir, of the Industrialists' Plan of Bombay in which they envisaged an expenditure of nearly Rs. 15,000 and odd crores spread over a period of years. Then there was the Aggarwal Plan modelled on Gandhiji's principle of decentralisation of the industries of this country. Even Mr. Roy was not behind others in bringing forward a Plan stating that agriculture must be improved and that preference and priority should be given to the improvement of agriculture before industries are placed on their footing. These Plans have been there, and recently there was also the Congress Plan under the presidentship

of no less a person than the Honourable the Prime Minister. After he took charge of the administration the Prime Minister appointed a Committee presided over by our Honourable Minister, Mr. K. C. Neogy, which was entrusted with the task of co-ordinating all these Plans. He submitted a Report. That was about four or five months ago. What has happened till now? Is there time to lose? I am sorry to say and I was extremely disappointed that in the lengthy speech of the Honourable the Finance Minister introducing the Budget there was not a single reference to any planning. Have all the efforts which have been made till now gone a waste? Is there no planning necessary for this country? There was no reference to planning and he further said that there will be no control in this country. I wonder if he wants to take this country back to the days of the nineteenth century with its doctrines of *laissez faire*, uncontrolled capital, private industry and cut-throat competition. I am absolutely unable to understand what exactly the Honourable the Finance Minister meant when he wanted to say that it is only a question of distribution, that there is no difference between his principle and the principles of socialism, that it is only a question of distribution and nothing more. I am surprised at his statement that there is no difference between the one and the other thing. It is not a question of distribution but of production also. He should know, and I am sure he knows it well, that in a socialistic economy more attention is paid to production for the purpose of consumption and not for profit. In capitalist economy production is even curtailed so that profits may increase. That is the way in which I am afraid the whole planning system is likely to be sabotaged and thrown into a reckless spirit of competition in which the rich may become richer and the poor poorer. An impetus will be given to wild and unchecked growth. Industries might come into existence as wild trees and in some cases as mushroom growths. There may be reckless competition. There may be concentration of industries. It is already there, namely of paper industry in Bengal, of sugar in U.P. and of textiles in Ahmedabad and Bombay.

Are Ahmedabad and Bombay the only places where raw material for the textile industry is available in plenty? I represented in the previous Legislative Assembly 5 districts, 4 of which have the largest area under cotton cultivation. There is not a single spinning mill there. Why should you bring all the cotton to Ahmedabad to be spun into yarn and woven into cloth, and sent back to the very place where it has come from? Is that not the very fact against which we had been fighting, that cotton which is produced in this country was being taken to Manchester to be woven into cloth and sent back to us? Was it not for that we fought the British imperialists? Are we going to supplant one imperialism by another imperialism? I am really surprised there is not a single word in the Honourable the Finance Minister's speech relating to planning. Is not the Honourable the Premier still in office? I do think that hereafter the primary priority must be given in the Ministry to a Planning Minister. All other Ministers of other departments must be subordinate to him. There is a Minister for Agriculture, there is a Minister for Education, there is a Minister for Health, but there is no Minister for Planning. Industry is no doubt a provincial subject; agriculture is a provincial subject; education is a provincial subject; health is a provincial subject. Why then have we got Ministers here? It is not now the old doctrine that Government is there for policing against internal disturbances. That theory is gone to the wall. A Government really exists not merely for policing purposes, but for social reconstruction, to increase wealth, provide employment, and make every man to feel happy and contented. That is the primary function of the State. I therefore feel that a united effort, a central effort, an organized effort, must be made at the Centre for the purpose. The moment we have won freedom, the other things have to be attacked. There is absolutely no effort made. I wonder why the Honourable the Finance Minister.

[Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]

when he has budgeted for an expenditure of 171 crores, has not thought it fit to budget for a small expenditure on a Minister for Planning, and a Board to assist him in that matter. That is the foremost thing that he has to do. As to the ways in which planning should be done, I would say that first of all priority should be given to make ourselves self-sufficient in both food and clothing. Even today controls might go. Planning and control go together. Want of control is recklessness, nothing more. The Honourable the Finance Minister said he is in favour of mixed economy. Mixed economy means some industries for state enterprise, others for private enterprise. In principle I am for socialism out and out, but it has to be achieved in stages. This is a good beginning too if he wants to make a beginning of having state enterprise in respect of certain industries. If he allows controls to be lifted, where would you get steel or cement for the purpose of building industries? In my place steel and iron were being taken away to cinema houses in preference to being used for primary needs, such as labourers' and other houses. I would say the same thing would happen everywhere. Every town will be flooded with cinema halls and steel and iron are already in short supply. The Honourable the Supply Minister said that 800,000 tons of steel is being produced as against a demand of 2 million tons a year for this country, and so far as cement is concerned, it is 110,000 tons per month as against a demand of 200,000 tons. We are in short supply. How then could we achieve this business of industrialising this country, whether we have mixed economy or complete economy. I would say it is like allowing the horses to escape and thereafter going to bolt the door. Therefore it is impossible to remove control. On the other hand the more you plan, the greater control you have taken. First let us make ourselves self-sufficient in food. We are, in our part of the country, having only 8 ounces of ration, and the north-east monsoon is finished this year. I do not know what is going to be our fate. Before the war we were getting 1½ million tons from Burma of rice. It is not coming now. Now therefore an impetus has to be given to agriculture. A Board of Agriculture and a Central Planning Commission for agriculture should come into existence. All major projects will have to be taken over by the Centre. Waste lands should be converted into cultivable lands. Ryots should be helped by the Centre either by loans or subsidy and power should be taken to their very doors. Wells have to be dug, canals have to be dug. In addition to that, I would suggest various other supplementary kinds of food have to be given. Gardens have to be grown. Therefore it is necessary that there must be a Planning Board centrally devoted to agriculture. That is the first thing. I have moved this out that there may be a 5-year Plan. I am now envisaging that in 3 years we may have a war. There was the 5-year plan of Russia. Hitler thought that in 4 years he must have a plan. I do think in 3 years we must have a plan. If there is a cataclysm, we do not know where we will stand. We will die like flies for want of food, as in Bengal. Clothing has also to be attended to. The next thing is industries. Let us now decide what the policy is. It is no good merely enunciating policy. I would say so far as industries are concerned, our basic industries should be taken over by the State. Even for that purpose planning is necessary, priority is necessary. Capital goods have to be imported from foreign countries. So far as private industries are concerned, they should not be concentrated in a particular place. Private industry also should be given priority. Let capital issues be given not merely priority, let it be insisted upon that that money will be devoted for them. Let there then be cottage industries. The whole economic system cannot rest completely on big industries. Cottage industries should be taken over by provinces. Planning therefore is necessary. I would urge upon the Honourable the Finance Minister and upon the entire

Government to have this matter before them for their immediate consideration. Let the Honourable Premier take charge of this Plan and bring it to fruition. There are various panels, there are various reports but without any concerted plan. The plan has not been finalized. The plan has to be finalized, policy has to be enunciated, programme has to be evolved, and a Commission has to be appointed to work out the programme and execution. It has to be watched with a thousand eyes. Progress has to be watched from time to time. In less than 3 years I hope the wealth of the nation will increase, unemployment will go away from our land; there will not be these disturbances constantly between labour and capital. Labour must be given a share of the profits in industry, and a basic rate of wage should be paid to labour. Labour must be given a share so as to avoid either strikes or lockouts. That is the only way in which our economy will improve. Otherwise the freedom that we have won will go to waste. Sir, I would urge upon this Government.....

Mr. Chairman: Order, order, the Honourable Member's time is up. I am going to put the motion before the House. Demand No. 19 has already been disposed of.

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper, except in case of Demand No. 19, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to the 31st March, 1948, in respect of the corresponding heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof."

The motion was adopted.

[As directed by Mr. Chairman the motions for Demands for Grants which were adopted by the Assembly are reproduced below (Ed. of Deb.).]

DEMAND NO. 1—CUSTOMS.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 68,98,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Customs'."

DEMAND NO. 2—CENTRAL EXCISE AND SALT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,29,59,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Central Excise and Salt'."

DEMAND NO. 3—TAXES ON INCOME INCLUDING CORPORATION TAX.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 94,54,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Taxes on Income including Corporation tax'."

DEMAND NO. 4—OPIUM.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 14,59,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Opium'."

DEMAND NO. 5—PROVINCIAL EXCISE.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,75,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Provincial Excise'."

DEMAND NO. 6—STAMPS.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 63,54,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Stamps'."

DEMAND NO. 7—FOREST.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 16,43,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Forest'."

DEMAND No. 8—IRRIGATION, NAVIGATION, EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS (MET FROM REVENUES).

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,71,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works (Met from Revenues)'."

DEMAND No. 9—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,31,57,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department'."

DEMAND No. 10—CABINET.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,63,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Cabinet'."

DEMAND No. 11—CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,75,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Constituent Assembly of India'."

DEMAND No. 12—CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE).

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 14,29,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative)'."

DEMAND No. 13—MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,17,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Ministry of Home Affairs'."

DEMAND No. 14—MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 28,02,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Ministry of Information & Broadcasting'."

DEMAND No. 15—MINISTRY OF LAW.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,49,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Ministry of Law'."

DEMAND No. 16—MINISTRY OF EDUCATION.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,29,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Ministry of Education'."

DEMAND No. 17—MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,69,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Ministry of Agriculture'."

DEMAND No. 18—MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,75,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Ministry of Health'."

DEMAND No. 20—MINISTRY OF FINANCE.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 49,55,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Ministry of Finance'."

DEMAND No. 21—MINISTRY OF COMMERCE.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 28,13,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Ministry of Commerce'."

DEMAND No. 22—MINISTRY OF LABOUR.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,78,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Ministry of Labour'."

DEMAND No. 23—MINISTRY OF WORKS, MINES AND POWER.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 11,28,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Ministry of Works, Mines and Power'."

DEMAND No. 24—MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,03,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Ministry of Communications'."

DEMAND No. 25—MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,58,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Ministry of Transport'."

DEMAND No. 26—MINISTRY OF FOOD.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 30,68,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Ministry of Food'."

DEMAND No. 27—MINISTRY OF STATES.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,71,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Ministry of States'."

DEMAND No. 28—MINISTRY OF DEFENCE.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,70,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Ministry of Defence'."

DEMAND No. 29—MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,03,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Ministry of Industry and Supply'."

DEMAND No. 30—MINISTRY OF RELIEF AND REHABILITATION.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,00,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation'."

DEMAND No. 31—MINISTRY WITHOUT PORTFOLIO.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,10,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Ministry Without Portfolio'."

DEMAND No. 32—PAYMENTS TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS, DEPARTMENTS, ETC., ON ACCOUNT OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF AGENCY SUBJECTS AND MANAGEMENT OF TREASURIES, ETC.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,86,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Payments to other Governments, Departments, etc., on account of the Administration of Agency Subjects and management of Treasuries, etc.'"

DEMAND No. 33—AUDIT.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,08,55,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Audit'."

DEMAND No. 34—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,60,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Administration of Justice'."

DEMAND No. 35—JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENTS.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Jails and Convict Settlements'."

DEMAND No. 36—POLICE.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 11,59,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Police'."

DEMAND No. 37—PORTS AND PILOTAGE.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,53,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Ports and Pilotage'."

DEMAND No. 38—LIGHTHOUSES AND LIGHTSHIPS.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,73,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Lighthouses and Lightships'."

DEMAND No. 39—ECCLESIASTICAL.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,21,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Ecclesiastical'."

DEMAND No. 40—TRIBAL AREAS.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 55,22,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Tribal Areas'."

DEMAND No. 41—EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,11,13,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'External Affairs'."

DEMAND No. 42—SURVEY OF INDIA.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 64,91,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Survey of India'."

DEMAND No. 43—BOTANICAL SURVEY.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,43,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Botanical Survey'."

DEMAND No. 44—ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,92,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Zoological Survey'."

DEMAND No. 45—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 14,15,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Geological Survey'."

DEMAND No. 46—MINES.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,80,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Mines'."

DEMAND No. 47—ARCHAEOLOGY.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,61,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Archaeology'."

DEMAND No. 48—METEOROLOGY.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 30,93,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Meteorology'."

DEMAND No. 49—OTHER SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENTS.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 68,12,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Other Scientific Departments'."

DEMAND No. 50—EDUCATION.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 79,51,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Education'."

DEMAND No. 51—MEDICAL SERVICES.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,19,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Medical Services'."

DEMAND No. 52—PUBLIC HEALTH.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 36,31,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Public Health'."

DEMAND No. 53—AGRICULTURE.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,14,29,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Agriculture'."

DEMAND No. 54—CIVIL VETERINARY SERVICES.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 17,37,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Civil Veterinary Services'."

DEMAND No. 55—INDUSTRIES AND SUPPLIES.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,98,79,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Industries and Supplies'."

DEMAND No. 56—OVERSEAS COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 28,17,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Overseas Communications Service'."

DEMAND No. 57—AVIATION.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,08,62,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Aviation'."

DEMAND No. 58—BROADCASTING.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 57,22,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Broadcasting'."

DEMAND No. 59—EMIGRATION.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Emigration'."

DEMAND No. 60—COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE AND STATISTICS.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 27,99,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Commercial Intelligence and Statistics'."

DEMAND No. 61—CENSUS.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,50,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Census'."

DEMAND No. 62—JOINT-STOCK COMPANIES.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,32,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Joint-Stock Companies'."

DEMAND No. 63—INDIAN DAIRY DEPARTMENT.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,39,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Indian Dairy Department'."

DEMAND No. 64—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 78,94,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments'."

DEMAND No. 65—CURRENCY.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 52,38,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Currency'."

DEMAND No. 66—MINT.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 66,43,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Mint'."

DEMAND No. 67—CIVIL WORKS.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,20,44,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Civil Works'."

DEMAND No. 68—CENTRAL ROAD FUND.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 86,65,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Central Road Fund'."

DEMAND No. 69—TERRITORIAL AND POLITICAL PENSIONS.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,69,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Territorial and Political Pensions'."

DEMAND No. 70—SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,69,36,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Superannuation Allowances and Pensions'."

DEMAND No. 71—STATIONERY AND PRINTING.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,14,80,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Stationery and Printing'."

DEMAND No. 72—MISCELLANEOUS.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,32,69,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Miscellaneous'."

DEMAND No. 73—EXPENDITURE ON REFUGEES.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 22,00,00,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Expenditure on Refugees'."

DEMAND No. 74—DEFENCE SERVICES, EFFECTIVE ARMY.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 57,47,19,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Defence Services, Effective Army'."

DEMAND No. 75—DEFENCE SERVICES, EFFECTIVE (ROYAL INDIAN NAVY).

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,91,43,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Defence Services, Effective (Royal Indian Navy)'."

DEMAND No. 76—DEFENCE SERVICES, EFFECTIVE (AIR FORCES).

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,23,50,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Defence Services, Effective (Air Forces)'."

DEMAND No. 77—DEFENCE SERVICES, EFFECTIVE (SUPPLIES AND STORES).

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,01,67,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Defence Services, Effective (Supplies and Stores)'."

DEMAND No. 78—DEFENCE SERVICES, NON-EFFECTIVE CHARGES.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 33,01,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Defence Services, Non-Effective Charges'."

DEMAND No. 79—MISCELLANEOUS ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN THE CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 33,01,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments'."

DEMAND No. 80—RESETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,59,78,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Resettlement and Development'."

DEMAND No. 81—CIVIL DEFENCE.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,08,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Civil Defence'."

DEMAND No. 82—DELHI.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 98,78,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Delhi'."

DEMAND No. 83—AJMER-MERWARA.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 42,64,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Ajmer-Merwara'."

DEMAND No. 84—PANTH PIPLODA.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 14,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Panth Piploda'."

DEMAND No. 85—ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 56,90,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Andaman and Nicobar Islands'."

DEMAND No. 86—RELATIONS WITH INDIAN STATES

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 36,52,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Relations with Indian States'."

DEMAND No. 87—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON FOREST.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 33,01,000 be granted to the Governor-General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Forests'."

DEMAND No. 88—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON THE INDIA SECURITY PRESS.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,02,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on the India Security Press'."

DEMAND No. 89—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS (NOT MET FROM REVENUE).

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,11,70,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Indian Posts and Telegraphs (Not met from Revenue)'."

DEMAND No. 89—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS (NOT MET REVENUE).

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs—Stores Suspense (Not met from Revenue)'."

DEMAND No. 91—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,30,92,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Industrial Development'."

DEMAND No. 92—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON CIVIL AVIATIONS.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,58,65,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Civil Aviation'."

DEMAND No. 93—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON BROADCASTING.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 32,78,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Broadcasting'."

DEMAND No. 94—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON MINTS.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 57,45,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Mints'."

DEMAND No. 95—DELHI CAPITAL OUTLAY.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 62,04,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Delhi Capital Outlay'."

DEMAND No. 96—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON CIVIL WORKS.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 64,21,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Civil Works'."

DEMAND No. 97—COMMUTED VALUE OF PENSIONS.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,02,000 be granted to the Governor General to draw the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Commuted Value of Pensions'."

DEMAND No. 98—PAYMENTS TO RETRENCHED PERSONNEL.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Payments to Retrenched Personnel'."

DEMAND No. 99—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON SCHEMES OF STATE TRADING

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,32,71,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Schemes of State Trading'."

DEMAND No. 100—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON DEVELOPMENT.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 24,27,64,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Development'."

DEMAND No. 101—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON CURRENCY.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,20,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Currency'."

DEMAND No. 102—INTEREST-FREE AND INTEREST-BEARING ADVANCES.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,55,05,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Interest-free and Interest-bearing Advances'."

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Saturday, the 6th December, 1947.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

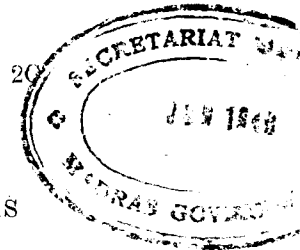
Saturday, 6th December, 1947.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

DECLARATION BY MEMBERS

The following Member made the Declaration under Rule 20

Shri Balkrishna Viswanath Keshkar (U. P. General).



STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

ADVANCED TRAINING FOR PERSONNEL OF ORDNANCE FACTORIES

633. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether Government are aware that in 1946, ordnance factories recommended some Indians in the non-gazetted cadres with scientific and technical qualifications to be sent abroad for advanced training?

(b) If so, how many of them have been sent abroad?

(c) If none, do Government propose to consider the advisability of giving advanced training in India itself?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Yes.

(b) None so far.

(c) Yes, wherever facilities exist in India for such training.

Seth Govinddas: Have Government received any applications from any persons in this respect, who want to go overseas for some special training?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Nineteen applications were received and they are still pending.

Seth Govinddas: Are fresh applications being received or is the last date for applications now over?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: No fresh applications are being received; the ones that have been received have not been able to get accommodation in any of the factories abroad.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: In which places in India are there facilities for giving advanced training?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Sir, my reply is that wherever facilities exist in India for such training, such facilities will be made use of.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is Government proposing to provide any fresh facilities?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: All existing facilities will be provided; new factories have been erected.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: Are there any institutions where such facilities can at all be provided?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I could not say offhand, Sir, but I will be prepared to give the information to the Honourable Member later on.

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE, DEFENCE FORCES

634. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government are thinking of winding up the Public Relations Office attached to the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force?

(b) Are Government aware that this is the only source of information for the Press in India, regarding the Ministry of Defence?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of continuing that office?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) Does not arise.

INDIAN ORDNANCE FACTORY IN NILGIRIS

635. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Indian Ordnance Factory in Nilgiris is not turning out any work after the end of the war?

(b) Are Government aware of the possibilities of producing a number of useful things for civilian use in such factories?

(c) If so, do Government propose to take any steps to investigate the possibilities of producing articles for civilian use and thus removing the scarcity of such things to some extent in the country?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) This factory is already utilising its surplus capacity to manufacture chemicals, such as Acetone, and explosives for commercial use.

Seth Govinddas: Are Government aware, Sir, that there are many factories in India which have been closed down after the War, and is there any possibility of reviving their production?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Sixteen Ordnance Factories have been transferred to the Defence Ministry. The rest of the Factories are with the Industry and Supply Ministry, over which the Defence Ministry have no control.

Seth Govinddas: Are there any such Factories with the Industry and Supply Ministry which can be used for producing things like this and will Government consider the advisability of taking back those Factories to the Defence Ministry?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: This question was carefully considered and all such Factories which were exclusively meant for the use of the Defence Ministry were transferred to the Defence Ministry and the rest of the Factories are with the Industry and Supply Ministry.

Seth Govinddas: Are all those factories which are at present with the Defence Ministry making some production?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: They are all under production, except one Bren Gun Factory at Cawnpore.

Seth Govinddas: Is the Government going to start that Cawnpore Factory in the near future?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Yes, Sir, plans are in hand.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Have any Bren Gun Factories been sold away to the Nizam's Government?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: No, Sir.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is there a Bren Gun Factory in the Nizam's Dominion?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: No, Sir.

PROCUREMENT OF NITRO-COTTON PLANT

636. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether any deputation, composed of only European Officers, has been sent to Germany to procure a plant for nitro-cotton?

(b) Do Government propose to place a copy of their report, if any, on the table of the House?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of sending equally qualified Indian Officers on such missions so that India can depend on its own merit and skill in the future?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) No. No deputation as such was sent to Germany. The Ministry of Defence made a bid for a Nitro Cellulose plant and on its allocation to India the presence in the U.K. of Mr. Howarth of the Indian Ordnance Service was taken advantage of to supervise the dismantling of this plant.

(b) No report is yet available.

(c) Yes. Government of India would certainly consider sending qualified Indian officers on such missions when necessary.

Seth Govinddas: Are Government thinking of sending such persons even to Soviet Russia?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Sir, the question does not arise.

Seth Govinddas: It does arise, Sir, from clause (c).

Mr. Speaker: Part (a) specifically relates to Germany.

Seth Govinddas: But, Sir, as far as part (c) is concerned.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: In reply to part (c), it is not possible to get any factories from Russia at present.

DEMobilISATION OF INDIAN UNION FORCES

637. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state what is the number of demobilised soldiers from the Indian Armed Forces after the end of the War?

(b) Is it a fact that Indian Union Forces are being demobilised according to previous arrangements, while the Pakistan Army is intact, even though both the armies are under the Joint Supreme Command?

(c) Do Government propose to stop further demobilisation of the Indian Union Forces and to recruit more men, in view of the urgent need for the armed forces to meet the emergency in the country?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) I lay a statement on the table of the House.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

The number of officers and men demobilised from the Indian Armed Forces after the end of the War is as follows:—

Army:			
Indian Commissioned Officers.	3,797		
Viceroy's Commissioned Officers, Other Ranks and Non-Combatants (Enrolled)	14,71,843		
Non-Combatants (Un-enrolled)	19,308	14,95,443	
Navy:			
Officers	1,977		
Ratings	13,979	15,958	
Air Force:			
Officers	337		
Airmen	10,893		
Tech/Non-Combatants.	97	11,327	
GRAND TOTAL		15,22,731	

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it true, Sir, that Government have recently re-trenched some 'B' class employees of their G.H.Q.?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I want notice of this question—it may be true, Sir.

EXPORT DUTY ON RAW JUTE BY PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT

638. *Shri Biswanath Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take any action with regard to the duty of Rs. 15 per bale imposed by the Government of Pakistan on the export of raw jute from East Bengal;

(b) whether Government are aware that this is in contravention of the financial arrangement agreed to between the two Dominions; and

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative what steps are proposed to be taken with a view to equalize jute prices in India and against this breach of agreement?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: With your permission, Sir, I would reply to Questions Nos. 638, 655 and 656 together.

The attention of the Honourable Members is invited to the Press Communique issued by the Government of India on the 23rd November 1947 explaining their attitude in this matter.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has the notice of the Government been drawn, Sir, to the news item in today's papers that the Pakistan Government is intending to impose restrictions as well as export duties on jute sent to India?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Well, Sir, I do not know what exactly was published this morning, but I know what has been done by the Pakistan Government, and we are taking adequate steps to safeguard our own position.

Shri Biswanath Das: Sir, arising out of the reply given, I wish to know what steps are being taken with a view to equalize jute prices consequent on the duties imposed by the Pakistan Government?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I do not understand what is meant by "equalizing" jute prices.

Shri Biswanath Das: Sir, jute coming from East Bengal will hereafter be available at a higher price than that purchased from Indian Provinces like Assam, Orissa and Bihar. So there will be difference in the purchasing price of this commodity from different Provinces as distinct from Pakistan. Necessarily, therefore, the profit will go to the mill managers and millowners. Government have to take certain steps in this regard so as to equalize prices in such a way as to make it convenient for the producers and consumers in India to get the benefits or not to be the object of exploitation by the mercantile communities and the millowners.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The consumers of raw jute are the jute mills in India and they are sufficiently well-organised to protect their position against the exploitation of any middlemen and if the price of jute that they get from our own territory is less than the price that they get from Pakistan, that only means that they get an average price which is somewhere between the Indian price and the Pakistan price.

Shri Biswanath Das: I have stated the producer in these 3 provinces, that is, the agriculturist, is being hard hit because. . . .

Mr. Speaker: What is the question?—The Honourable Member seems to be arguing with the Honourable Minister. The point of a question is to get information, on which the Honourable Member may base further arguments if an occasion arises in debate, not at this stage.

Shri Biswanath Das: Sir, I am not arguing. I am only stating the point of view of the producer in India. . . .

Mr. Speaker: That is not permissible.

Shri Biswanath Das: . . . and what steps are being taken by Government to protect the producer in India.

Mr. Speaker: That question, I believe, has been answered.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The mere fact that the Pakistan jute will be more costly means that the Indian cultivator of jute will get better price for his crop.

Shri Biswanath Das: Are they taking any such steps? That is what exactly I am asking the Government?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid the Honourable Member is going too far.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Is it a fact that jute exported from Assam which comes through the Pakistan Railway is also liable to export duty by the Pakistan Government?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: We understand that the Pakistan Government intends to levy on Assam jute which is in transit through the Pakistan territory. That is what we have been told. If the Pakistan Government does it, it is really in contravention of the Barcelona International Agreement, under which goods in transit cannot be charged for duty. If in spite of the International Convention they do this then we will take steps either to recover the money from them or to take any other steps that may be necessary.

Shri M. S. Aney: May I ask what does the Honourable Minister mean when he says that he has been "told"? Has it not been officially communicated to his Government by the Pakistan Government as to what they mean to do?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: One of our difficulties is that many of the acts of Pakistan Government we come to know only through newspaper reports.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Minister whether he has any information that the Pakistan Government propose to impose a duty on tea that passes through Pakistan from Assam?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I have no such official intimation from the Pakistan Government.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact that since the imposition of this export duty, there have been more than one Conferences between the Premiers of Pakistan and of India?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Yes, Sir. Conferences took place, but that does not necessarily mean that conclusions are implemented.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I want to know whether this opportunity was not utilised to elicit from the Pakistan Premier himself information as to whether the duty has been imposed, and if so, why?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Subsequent to the publication of our Press Communique, in the course of a conversation with the Pakistan Finance Minister, he told me that he is prepared to reconsider the whole question and discuss the matter with us, and in a communication that they have sent to us they have also intimated that in view of what we have mentioned in our Press Communique, they are prepared to re-open negotiations with us on this point.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know, Sir, if it is not the duty of the Government of India's High Commissioner at Karachi to keep the Government of India informed of all the acts of Pakistan in such matters?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Yes, it is his duty.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know, Sir, if the Government of India will exempt the Assam jute from payment of excise duty in view of the fact that they will have to pay it to the Pakistan Government?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The whole question will be examined very carefully and we will have a further discussion with the Pakistan Government. The Honourable Member may rest assured that we will do all that is necessary to protect the interests of our own jute growers and jute manufacturers.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Are we to suppose, Sir, that the Honourable Minister is not in a position to give us more information about the Pakistan happenings than what he gets and what we also get in the newspapers?

Mr. Speaker: That is too general question to answer. I shall call the next Question.

INDIAN ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL IN OTHER COUNTRIES

639. ***Shri Biswanath Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the number of Indian Armed Forces Personnel still stationed in countries outside India, upto the end of October 1947;

(b) if there are any, the reasons for the same;

(c) when the Indian forces are proposed to be withdrawn; and

(d) the expenses incurred in this regard?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a), Yes.

(b) The troops in Burma, Malaya and Singapore are there to help in the rehabilitation of these countries. The personnel in Egypt are the rear party of the forces in Iraq.

(c) All our troops will, I hope, be withdrawn from Overseas by the 31st December 1947 except for a very small number of administrative personnel who will stay up to 31st March 1948.

(d) The cost of these troops is borne by His Majesty's Government.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: Will the Honourable Minister for Defence be pleased to inform us the exact number of Indian Armed Forces still stationed outside India?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The total number of the personnel of the Indian Army overseas on 1st November 1947 was 8,872 made up as follows:

In Burma	4,253
In Malaya and Singapore	4,328
In Egypt	15
In other Commands	276

The number of personnel of the Pakistan Army still overseas is not included in these figures.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: Now that war is long over, why is this delay in withdrawing these troops?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Mostly shipping.

Shri H. V. Kamath: With reference to answer to part (b), are our troops in the various countries at the request of the Governments of those countries for assistance in the work of rehabilitation?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I think, presumably, they are there with the consent of those Governments but that question does not arise as the policy of the Government of India is to withdraw our troops. They will all be withdrawn by the end of this month.

Shri H. V. Kamath: The Honourable Minister says 'presumably'. Is he not certain about it?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: No, I am not certain.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: Have Government any information as to how these troops are employed?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I have already stated, for the rehabilitation of those countries.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: Do I take it that there is no Indian Armed Forces in Japan now?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: They have all been withdrawn.

SECRETARY OF STATES SERVICES.

640. ***Shri Ajit Prasad Jain:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state what are the terms of service, emoluments and position of the services known as the Secretary of States Services before the 15th August 1947?

(b) Was any agreement entered into between members of these services and Government on the establishment of the Dominion of India?

(c) If the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to lay a copy of the agreement on the table of the House?

(d) How many members of the said services have retired or opted for Pakistan as a result of the independence of India, giving figures separately for—

(i) Britishers; (ii) Muslims; and (iii) Others?

(e) What is the scheme of Government for substituting fresh services for the said services?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) The terms of service and emoluments etc. of the officers of the Secretary of State's Services are the same as they were before the transfer of power. A statement of such terms is contained at pp. 154-160 of the India Office and Burma Office List, 1940, a copy of which will be found in the Library. In this connection the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to Section 10(2) of the Indian Independence Act, 1947.

(b) and (c). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to para. 3 of His Excellency the Viceroy's announcement of the 30th April 1947 and the Government of India Home Department letter No. 160/47 R.R. addressed to all officers of the Secretary of State's Services. Copies of these documents are placed on the table of the House.

(d) British—853, Muslims—185, Others—22.

(e) Two new All-India Services called the Indian Administrative Service and Indian Police Service have been constituted to replace the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police. The Government of India have under consideration a proposal to form an All-India Engineering Service on the model of the Indian Service of Engineers. Other Services are being replaced by Provincial Governments by their own Superior Services.

INDIA : GRANT OF COMPENSATION FOR PREMATURE TERMINATION OF THEIR SERVICE IN INDIA TO MEMBERS OF CIVIL SERVICES APPOINTED BY SECRETARY OF STATE AND TO REGULAR OFFICERS AND BRITISH WARRANT OFFICERS OF THE INDIAN NAVAL AND MILITARY FORCES.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY

1. His Majesty's Government have announced their intention that the British Government's authority in India will be finally transferred to Indian hands by June 1948. It is the aim of His Majesty's Government that the transfer of power should be effected in an orderly and regulated manner so that the new authorities may assume their responsibilities in conditions conducive to the best interests of India, and maintenance of good relations with Great Britain. His Majesty's Government are confident that during this period of transmission the Services and all those who man them, whether British or Indian, will respond to this call.

2. To those serving under covenant or other form of agreement with the Secretary of State for India, or who hold commissions from His Majesty the King, the transfer of power will mean premature termination on that date of a career under the ultimate authority of His Majesty's Government and the British Parliament; and for many there is added to the heavy call of present duty the burden of anxiety for their own future and that of those who depend on them.

3. The Government of India are naturally and rightly most anxious—and His Majesty's Government share their anxiety—that the administration shall not be weakened by the loss of experienced officers. To this end, the Government of India undertake that those members of the Secretary of State's Services who continue to serve under the Government in India after the transfer of power shall do so on their present terms as to scales of pay, leave, pensionary rights, and safeguards in matters of discipline and that provisions to this effect should be made in the Treaty to deal with matters arising out of the transfer of power. The Government of India will now propose to provincial governments that they should give similar assurances to members of the Secretary of State's Services who agree to join provincial services.

4. The Government of India recognise that some Indian members of the Secretary of State's Services may be genuinely anxious about their prospects under the provincial administrations where they are at present employed, and every effort will be made to arrange suitable transfers in such cases.

5. The Government of India agree that compensation should be payable to such Indian officers of these Services as:

(1) are not invited to continue to serve under the Government of India after transfer of power; or

(2) can satisfy the Governor-General that their actions in the course of duty during their service prior to the transfer of power have damaged their prospects, or that

the appointments offered to them are such as cannot be regarded as satisfactory in the altered circumstances; or

(3) can show to the satisfaction of the Governor-General that they have legitimate cause for anxiety about their future in the Province where they are now serving, and that no suitable transfer can be arranged.

But the Government of India feel that sentiments of patriotism will naturally impel Indian officers to continue to serve their country and that, in the light of the undertaking that they have given, and the consideration that in fact Indian members of the Services will have improved prospects, there is no ground, save in these special cases, for payment of compensation to Indian officers on account of the transfer of power.

6. His Majesty's Government have been reviewing the whole position. They have noted the undertaking which the Government of India have given in regard to officers whom they desire should continue to serve under the Government of India. They recognise the force of the Government of India's arguments, and they agree that to Indian officers compensation should not be admissible except in the cases which I have just mentioned. Many Indian members of the Secretary of State's Services will, however, become members of provincial services and in their cases His Majesty's Government's agreement that they need not be compensated is conditional upon the provincial governments guaranteeing the existing terms of service. If they are not prepared to do so His Majesty's Government reserve the right to reconsider the matter.

7. With these reservations I am now authorised by His Majesty's Government to inform members of the Secretary of State's Services that they accept the obligation to see that they are duly compensated for the termination of their careers consequent on the transfer of power. British members of these Services who accept appointment to another Crown service on a permanent pensionable basis will, however, receive instead of cash compensation a resettlement grant of £500. His Majesty's Government also undertake that members of the Secretary of State's Services who retire will be secured in their rights to the leave then due to them.

8. In pursuance of their wish to give all possible help to the Government of India in building up the new services, His Majesty's Government agree that their obligation covers the claim to ultimate compensation of those British members of the Services who are asked to serve on in India and decide to do so. If such officers decide at any time after the transfer of power that they wish to retire they will receive any compensation to which they are entitled; this will be determined according to the published tables by the date on which active service ceases and service both before and after June 1948 will be taken into account. Compensation will be payable in addition to, such retiring or proportionate pension as is admissible under the existing rules.

9. To European officers and other ranks of the Royal Indian Navy, Indian Army and Indian Medical Service whose services under the Crown in these forces are brought to an end by reason of the transfer of power, I am authorised to announce the acceptance by His Majesty's Government of a similar obligation. For some it will be possible to pursue their profession in the corresponding British service, and for them a lower scale of compensation for loss of an Indian career is provided.

10. Compensation will not ordinarily be admissible to those who retire before the date of final transfer of power but, in the interest of a smooth transfer, it may be desirable to spread releases over a period; and if I am satisfied that in the public interest any civilian officers should be released with entitlement to compensation in advance of the final date, I will order accordingly after such consultation with the authorities concerned as may be necessary. If, in the fighting services, any European officer or other rank is certified by the Commander-in-Chief as having after July 1st, 1947, been compulsorily retired as a result of accelerated reduction of the British element in anticipation of the transfer of power he will acquire a title to compensation at the date of his retirement.

11. I am glad to be able to announce that the Government of India accept liability for pension and proportionate pension earned by service under the Secretary of State, whether by civilians or by members of the Defence Services.

12. The scales of compensation to be granted to civil and military officers whose appointments are terminated on account of the transfer of power and who are not appointed to a Civil Service under His Majesty's Government will be published at once. An announcement will be made separately of the conditions to be applied in the case of officers who may obtain permanent pensionable employment in a Civil Service under His Majesty's Government.

TABLES OF COMPENSATION

TABLE I

SCALES OF COMPENSATION FOR CIVIL OFFICERS APPOINTED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE

For Officers of the Indian Civil Service.		For Military and Police Officers in the Indian Political Service		For Officers of other Secretary of State's Services *	
Completed years of Service	Amount	Age last Birthday	Amount	Age last Birthday	Amount
				24	£ 375
				25	750
				26	1,125
				27	1,500
5	2,500	28	2,500	28	1,875
6	3,000	29	3,000	29	2,250
7	3,500	30	3,500	30	2,625
8	4,000	31	4,000	31	3,000
9	4,500	32	4,500	32	3,375
10	5,000	33	5,000	33	3,750
11	5,500	34	5,500	34	4,125
12	6,000	35	6,000	35	4,500
13	6,500	36	6,500	36	4,875
14	7,000	37	7,000	37	5,250
15	7,500	38	7,500	38	5,625
16	8,000	39	8,000	39	6,000
17	7,500	40	7,500	40	5,625
18	7,000	41	6,500	41	4,875
19	6,500	42	6,000	42	4,500
20	6,000	43	5,500	43	4,125
21	5,500	44	5,000	44	3,750
22	5,000	45	4,500	45	3,375
23	4,500	46	4,000	46	3,000
24	4,000	47	3,000	47	2,250
25	3,500	48	2,500	48	1,875
26	3,000	49	2,000	49	1,500
27	2,500	50	1,500	50	1,125
28	2,000	51	1,000	51	750
29	1,500	52	500	52	375
30	1,000	53 & over	Nil	53 & over	Nil
31	500				
32 & over	Nil				

*These Services include the Indian Police, the Indian Agricultural, Educational, Forest, and Veterinary Services, the Indian Service of Engineers, the Indian Ecclesiastical Establishment, and the Railway Services (only as regards officers appointed by the Secretary of State).

TABLE II

SCALES OF COMPENSATION FOR REGULAR OFFICERS OF THE ROYAL INDIAN NAVY, THE INDIAN ARMY AND THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE, EXCLUDING OFFICERS OF THE SPECIAL LIST OF QUARTERMASTERS AND DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS OF THE INDIA UNATTACHED LIST.

Age last Birthday	Amount	Age last Birthday	Amount
Years.	£	Years.	£
19	37½	38	5,625
20	75	39	6,000
21	150	40	5,125
22	225	41	5,250
23	300	42	4,875
24	375	43	4,500
25	750	44	4,125
26	1,125	45	3,750
27	1,500	46	3,375
28	1,875	47	3,000
29	2,250	48	2,625
30	2,625	49	2,250
31	3,000	50	1,875
32	3,375	51	1,500
33	3,750	52	1,125
34	4,125	53	750
35	4,500	54	375
36	4,875	55	...
37	5,250		

Note.—Officers who transfer to the British Services will receive one-quarter of the rates laid down.

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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) [6TH DEC. 1947]

TABLE III

SCALES OF COMPENSATION FOR REGULAR OFFICERS OF THE SPECIAL LIST OF QUARTERMASTER
(INDIAN ARMY) AND REGULAR DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS AND WARRANT OFFICERS OF THE
PERMANENT LIST OF THE INDIA UNATTACHED LIST

Age last birthday	Amount S. L. Q. Ms.	Amount Officers I. U. L.	Amount W. Os. I. U. L.
Years..	£	£	£
24	250	187½	125
25	500	375	250
26	750	562½	375
27	1,000	750	500
28	1,250	937½	625
29	1,500	1,125	750
30	1,750	1,312½	875
31	2,000	1,500	1,000
32	2,250	1,687½	1,125
33	2,500	1,875	1,250
34	2,750	2,062½	1,375
35	3,000	2,250	1,500
36	3,250	2,437½	1,625
37	3,500	2,625	1,750
38	3,750	2,812½	1,875
39	4,000	3,000	2,000
40	3,750	2,812½	1,875
41	3,500	2,625	1,750
42	3,250	2,437½	1,625
43	3,000	2,250	1,500
44	2,750	2,062½	1,375
45	2,500	1,875	1,250
46	2,250	1,687½	1,125
47	2,000	1,500	1,000
48	1,750	1,312½	875
49	1,500	1,125	750
50	1,250	937½	625
51	1,000	750	500
52	750	562½	375
53	500	375	250
54	250	187½	125
55	...	...	...

Note.—Officers and Warrant Officers who transfer to British Service will receive one quarter of the rates laid down.

TABLE IV

SCALES OF COMPENSATION FOR COMMISSIONED WARRANT OFFICERS AND WARRANT OFFICERS
OF THE ROYAL INDIAN NAVY

Age last birthday	Amount Commissioned W. Os.	Amount W. Os.
Years	£	£
24	187½	125
25	375	250
26	562½	375
27	750	500
28	937½	625
29	1,125	750
30	1,312½	875
31	1,500	1,000
32	1,687½	1,125
33	1,875	1,250
34	2,062½	1,375
35	2,250	1,500
36	2,437½	1,625
37	2,625	1,750
38	2,812½	1,875
39	3,000	2,000
40	2,812½	1,875
41	2,625	1,750
42	2,437½	1,625
43	2,250	1,500
44	2,062½	1,375
45	1,875	1,250
46	1,687½	1,125
47	1,500	1,000
48	1,312½	875
49	1,125	750
50	937½	625
51	750	500
52	562½	375
53	375	250
54	187½	125
55	...	...

Note.—Commissioned Warrant Officers and Warrant Officers, Royal Indian Navy, who transfer to the Royal Navy will receive one-quarter of the rates laid down

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

No. 160/47-R.R.

Dated New Delhi, the 18th June 1947.

To

ALL OFFICERS OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S SERVICES.

Sir,

I am directed to invite attention to the announcement made by His Excellency the Viceroy on the 30th April 1947, regarding the withdrawal of the Secretary of State's control over his Services and containing the undertaking given by the Government of India to officers of the Secretary of State's Services who wish to continue in service (copy enclosed for ready reference) and to explain that the Government of India

are prepared to give will extend to the following:—

- (a) *Pay*.—Includes salaries attached to posts outside the time-scale reserved under the Reserved Posts Rules. Government, however, reserve the right to abolish a particular post or class of posts or to reduce their number without compensation for loss of prospects;
- (b) *Pension*.—The guarantee extends to the right to retire on proportionate pension under the existing rules;
- (c) *Disciplinary matters*.—The Federal Public Service Commission will continue to be consulted on all disciplinary matters and advice of the Federal Public Service Commission will be accepted, save in exceptional circumstances.

2. I am also to invite your attention in this connection to the announcement of the 3rd June 1947, providing for the partition of the Provinces of Bengal, the Punjab and Assam and to say that the guarantees given above will apply to officers who decide to serve in the new Provinces that may be formed. I am to ask you to communicate to me within 10 days of the receipt of this letter whether you wish to continue in service of Government or whether you desire to retire from service. A copy of the reply should simultaneously be sent to (the Chief Secretary of your Provincial Government) [the Secretary of the Department of the Government of India under which you are serving].

*3. If you wish to continue in service but desire a transfer from the Province to which you now belong, I am to ask you to forward your reasons for claiming transfer, with special reference to para. 4 of the announcement of His Excellency the Viceroy to the Government of India, with intimation to the Provincial Government that you are applying for transfer to another Province and to indicate, in order of preference, the Provinces to which you desire to be transferred. In this connection you will no doubt bear in mind the possibility of partition of the Provinces of Bengal, the Punjab and Assam in accordance with the Plan for transfer of power to Indian hands announced by His Excellency the Viceroy on the 3rd June 1947.)

4. If you intend to retire from service, I am to invite attention to para. 10 of the announcement made by His Excellency the Viceroy on the 30th April 1947 which permits the release of civilian officers before the date of transfer, where such a course is in the public interest, and to ask you to indicate the earliest date by which you would like to be released. I am to invite your attention, however, to the broadcast made by His Excellency the Viceroy on the 3rd June 1947 suggesting that officers who would leave after the date of transfer might stay for a little longer if their services are required. In case you are willing to postpone your retirement by some months, you may inform your Provincial Government direct who would communicate to the Government of India their own wishes in the matter. I am also to say that this information is being asked for to enable Government to make plans for the release of officers who may desire to retire from service and, while requests for early release will be governed solely by the public interest, it will be to your advantage to give accurate information, as it may facilitate your early release.

I have, etc.,
P. V. R. RAO,
Joint Secretary.

HINDU AND SIKH HEAD CONSTABLES OF PUNJAB POLICE

†641. *Shri Damodar Swarup Seth: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Hindu and Sikh Head Constables of the Punjab were the cream of the force and formed its backbone; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to consider the desirability of absorbing such experienced Police personnel arriving in Delhi from Pakistan to meet the shortage in the rank of Head Constables and Assistant Sub-Inspectors?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) This is a matter of opinion.

() to officers in Provinces.

[] to officers serving under the Government of India.

*() only to officers of Asiatic domicile.

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

(b) This is being actually done; but each person cannot be accepted automatically. Only those who satisfy the prescribed standard for the Delhi police and are otherwise considered suitable are being appointed.

SEIZURE OF MIRPUR AND KOTLI TOWNS BY RAIDERS

†642. *Shri Damodar Swarup Seth: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the fact that the towns of Mirpur and Kotli in Kashmir State are besieged by the raiders for about a month and that they are entirely cut off from the rest of the country with the result that the people there are dying of hunger and starvation?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to take immediate measures to send necessary relief to the people of Mirpur and Kotli?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b). I am not in a position to give any accurate information of what took place while the two cities were under siege. The Honourable Member is probably aware that both these places are now in the hands of raiders.

NATIONAL INVESTMENT BOARD

†643. *Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether the desirability of setting up a National Investment Board has been under the consideration of Government for a long time?

(b) Has any investigation been carried on, as promised by Sir Archibald Rowlands last year, to determine whether such a Board should be established?

(c) If so, what is the decision Government have arrived at?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a), (b) and (c). Some preliminary investigations were carried out but no material headway was made due to lack of statistical data. I propose to consider the matter afresh shortly.

TAXATION ENQUIRY COMMITTEE

†644. *Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether Government propose to set up a Taxation Enquiry Committee as promised by the Finance Member last year? If not, why not?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari's starred question No. 434, on the 29th November 1947, which could not be read out in the House. I read out the reply then given:

"The appropriate time for the appointment of such a committee will be after the financial provisions of the new constitution regarding allocation of the resources as between the Centre and the Provinces have been settled."

LANDING OF PAKISTAN PLANES WITHIN INDIAN DOMINION

†645. *Shri Satish Chandra Samanta (on behalf of Shri Lakshmi Kanta Maitra): (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a specially chartered plane from Karachi arrived at Lucknow on or about the 14th of November 1947, and with 26 passengers, all Muslims, and that on a search of their luggage bundles of papers containing a number of secret instructions were seized by the Police?

(b) Is it a fact that the said special plane, when about to take off, after an hour's halt at the Amausi aerodrome, 21 Muslim passengers all bound for

†Answer to this question laid on the table.

Pakistan, was searched by the Police and that a bundle of secret documents was seized from the possession of a Karachi-bound passenger named Mr. Mushtiq-zaman?

(c) Is it a fact that attempts were made by the said passenger to conceal the documents under the seats in the plane when the search was in progress?

(d) What are the contents of these documents and who are its authors?

(e) Is it a fact that these documents concerned several Muslim League Leaders, resident within the Indian Dominion and several Muslim officials who have taken the oath of allegiance to the Indian Dominion?

(f) Is it a fact that these Muslim officials have written to the Government of Pakistan that they would resign in due course and proceed to Pakistan along with more secrets?

(g) Is it also a fact that a high-placed British official serving in the United Provinces and these Muslim officials have assured the Government of Pakistan that so long as they were in the Indian Dominion, they would render all possible assistance to the Government of Pakistan at the appropriate moment?

(h) If the answer to parts (c), (f) and (g) be in the affirmative, what action have Government taken or propose to take in future against such persons working within the Indian Dominion?

(i) Were any arrests made in this connection? If so, how many? If not, why not?

(j) Was the plane in question allowed to go back to Pakistan? If so, why?

(k) Is it permissible for planes of Pakistan territory to land at will at any air port within the Indian Dominion without previous reference to the authorities of Indian Dominion?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) to (j). The matter is the concern of the Provincial Government who instituted the search. A report from the Provincial Government is awaited.

(k) The Government of India have authorised Pakistan aircraft engaged in refugee work to land at all controlled civil aerodromes in India without prior permission. In respect of an aerodrome other than a controlled one it is necessary to comply with certain formalities one of which is that at least three days' notice shall be given to the air port of entry.

REHABILITATION OF REFUGEE-VAIDYAS

†646. *Shri Algu Rai Shastri: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether Government propose to rehabilitate the Refugee-Vaidyas in suitable places just as other classes of professional evacuees from Pakistan are going to be rehabilitated?

(b) Have Government received any representation from Refugee-Vaidyas as to their appointment in Medical relief centres in refugee camps as also in other towns and villages?

(c) Do Government propose to consider cases of Vaidyas as a class while distributing loans from the funds of Refugees Finance Corporation, the establishment of which is under the contemplation of Government?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a), (b) and (c). The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation. It has accordingly been transferred to the list of questions for the 12th December 1947 when it will be answered by the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation.

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

WARDHA EDUCATION SCHEME

647 *Shri Ram Sahai: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether there is any special scheme under contemplation of Government to change the present system of Education?

(b) If so, do Government propose to give practical effect to the Wardha Education Scheme?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: (الف) و (ب) دو سوالات وارڈھا ایجوکیشن ڈیولپمنٹ کے بارے میں سنٹرل ایڈوائزری بورڈ آف ایجوکیشن نے جو رپورٹ پیش کی ہے اس کی طرف آنریبل ممبر کی توجہ دلائی جاتی ہے۔ اس رپورٹ کی کاپیاں لائبریری میں موجود ہیں۔ سنٹرل ایڈوائزری بورڈ نے ہدایت کی ہے کہ اس میں وارڈھا سکیم کو مدنظر رکھنا چاہیے۔ اس رپورٹ کے طور پر لیا گیا ہے۔ اور گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا نے صوبوں کی گورنمنٹوں کو اس بات کے لئے تیار کیا ہے کہ وہ اسے اپنے اپنے صوبوں میں جاری کرے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) and (b). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the report of the Central Advisory Board of Education on Post-War Educational Development in India, copies of which are available in the Library of the House. Basic Education, advocated by the Central Advisory Board of Education, embodies the main principles of the Wardha Scheme of Education and the Government of India have persuaded the Provinces to introduce this system (Basic) gradually.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the advisability of establishing a Central Training College for training teachers, lecturers, etc. in this Wardha Education Scheme?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: ایک سنٹرل ایجوکیشن انسٹیٹیوٹ دہلی میں قائم کیا جا رہا ہے۔ اور وہ بہت جلد کھل جائیگا اور اس میں اسی طریقہ سے تعادم دی جائیگی جس سے کہ ایڈوائزری بورڈ نے اپنے رپورٹ میں سفارش کی ہے اور جس میں انہوں نے وارڈھا سکیم کو main پرستیں کے طور پر لیا ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: A Central Educational Institute is being set up in Delhi and it will start working very soon. Education will be imparted in that Institute in the same manner as has been recommended by the Central Advisory Board of Education in its Report, and wherein they have accepted the Wardha Scheme as the main principle.

सेठ गोविन्ददास: जो संस्था दिल्ली में स्थापति की जाने वाली है उसकी शिक्षा का माध्यम हिन्दी या हिन्दुस्तानी रहेगा या उसमें भी अंग्रेजी माध्यम रहेगी।

Seth Govinddas: Will the medium of education be Hindi or Hindustani in the Institution that is going to be set up in Delhi or there also the medium would remain as English?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: ہندوستانی۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Hindustani.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government also consider the advisability of making suitable grants to the Education Centre at Wardha and also to the Jamiat-ul-Ulema here?

آئریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد جامعہ ملیہ اور واردہا کے متعلق گورنمنٹ مدد کر چکی ہے اور مزید مدد کرنے کا سوال سوچا جا رہا ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The Government has already given grants to Jamiat-ul-Ulema and Wardha Education Centre. The question regarding sanction of further grant is under consideration.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I ask, Sir, that if the instructions are going to be in Hindusthani, what will happen to those who do not know Hindusthani?

آئریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: ظاہر ہے کہ انکو سیکھنا پڑے گا۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: It is obvious; they will have to learn.

شری دیش بندھو گپتا: دعائی میں جو ٹریننگ سکول کھولا جا رہا ہے کیا وہ جامعہ ملیہ میں کھولا جائیگا۔

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the training school that is being set up in Delhi be opened in the Jamiat-ul-Ulema?

آئریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: نہیں اسکا تعلق دہلی یونیورسٹی سے ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: No. This concerns the Delhi University.

SCHEME OF SPECIAL STUDIES

648 *Shri Ram Sahai: Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed any scheme of special studies to promote the cause of education; and

(b) if so, what is it?

آئریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا سپیشل Studies کے قسم کی کئی کام شروع کر چکی ہے اور کر رہی ہے جیسے ہندوستانی زبانوں میں سائنس کے ٹیکنیکل الفاظ کا تھپوٹو کا کام ایک کامن بریل سسٹم انڈیوں کی پڑھائی کے لئے سوشل اور—recreative activities اسکولوں کے لئے تریڈنگ، کئی نئی ٹیکنیکس اور بیسک ایجوکیشن کے لئے پڑھائی کا نیا ڈھنگ اور قاعدہ اس بات کا بھی فیصلہ کیا گیا کہ دہلی میں ایک Central Bureau آف سائنس کالجی اور ایک Central Institute of Education کھولا جائے تاکہ تعلیم کے میدان میں جو طرح طرح کے ڈھنگ اور طریقے پیدا ہو گئے ہیں ان میں سے کچھ چنے ہوئے ڈھنگوں کے لئے ریسرچ کا کام کیا جاسکے—اور الگ الگ قسم کے طریقوں کو پرکھ کر ایک خاص طریقہ پیدا کیا جائے آجکل Examination کا جو ڈھنگ چل رہا ہے اُسے کیونکہ زیادہ اچھا بنایا جا سکتا ہے اور پڑھائی کا مختلف درجوں کے لئے جو لوگوں کو چنا جاتا ہے—اسکا ٹھیک ٹھیک ڈھنگ

کیا ہونا چاہیئے یہ اور اسطرح کے دوسرے سوال ہیں جن پر سوچ وچار کیا جا چکا ہے اسبات کو بھی گورنمنٹ منظور کر چکی ہے کہ Europe اور Modern Asia کی Study کے لئے ایک سکول کھولا جائے۔ جہاں ایشیا اور یورپ کے چند اہم ملکوں کی بولی—لٹریچر اور دستوں کی سکھائی کا نئے رنگ ڈھنگ سے انتظام کیا جائے۔ اس طرح ایک یونٹ انڈیوں کی پڑھائی اور انکی حالت اچھی بنانے کے لئے بھی قائم کیا جا چکا ہے۔ اس تجویز پر بھی گورنمنٹ سوچ وچار کر رہی ہے کہ شوشل سروس اور Public Administration کے لئے ایک Central Institute کھولا جائے۔ اس غرض سے کہ مابک میں Scientific ریسرچ کا کام آئے پڑھایا جائے۔ کئی طرح کی کوششیں کام میں لائی جا چکی ہیں—اسکا انتظام کیا گیا ہے کہ ہندوستان کے Scientists کو International Scientific میل جول کا برابر موقعہ ملتا رہے—اس بات کا بھی انتظام کیا گیا ہے کہ دوسرے ملکوں کے ساتھ کانجول کوآپریشن پڑھایا جائے ہمارے طالب علم یعنی ریڈیارتھی دوسرے ملکوں میں جائیں اور وہاں کے ہمارے مابک میں آئیں۔ چین، ایران اور یورپی افریقہ کے لئے ایسا کیا جا چکا ہے—اور دوسرے ممالک کے لئے ہونے والا ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) and (b). A number of special studies including those on Scientific Terminologies for Indian Languages, a common Braille for the blind in India; Social and Recreative activities, new techniques of training and the assessment of attainments and the curriculum of Basic Schools have already been undertaken by the Government of India. It has been decided to set up a Central Institute of Education and a Central Bureau of Psychology in Delhi for conducting research in selective methods and standardising tests of various types in the educational field. Some of the problems envisaged are the improvement of the present examination system, methods of selection for the various stages of education, vocational guidance and so on. It has also been decided to start a school of modern studies—Asiatic and European—where the Indian students will have the facilities to study the languages, literature and history of some of the most important Asiatic and European nations. Also a small unit for the education and welfare of the Blind has been established. The establishment of a Central Institute for Social Service and Public Administration is under consideration. Several measures have been taken to promote scientific research in India and arrangements for international scientific contacts for Indian scientists are being made from time to time. Cultural co-operation with other countries is endeavoured to be promoted through the exchange of students, e.g. Chinese, Iranians and East Africans.

سیتھ گوویند داس: क्या माननीय मिनिस्टर साहब यह भी बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि इस पर भी विचार किया जा रहा है कि नहीं कि अभी तक जो डिग्री B.Sc., M.Sc. वगैरह इस तरह की हैं, उनको बदल कर नये नाम दिये जायें।

Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister please state whether the matter regarding substitution of new names for the existing B.Sc., and M.Sc. Degrees is also being considered or not?

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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) [6TH DEC. 1947]

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : جس چیز کی طرف آنریبل ممبر نے اشارہ کیا ہے وہ بہت ضروری ہے لیکن ہمیں ان باتوں کے لئے انتظار کرنا پڑے گا۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The matter to which the Honourable Member has referred is a very important one, but we shall have to wait for these things.

श्री रामसाहाय : क्या आनरेबल मिनिस्टर यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि जो तालिबान फॉरेन स्टडी (foreign study) के लिये अपने खर्चराजात पर जाना चाहें, क्या गवर्नमेंट उनको Dollars Exchange वगैरह के मुताल्लिक मदद देने पर सोच विचार करेंगे ?

Shri Ram Sahai: Will the Honourable Minister please state whether the Government will consider over the grant of dollar facilities to those students who want to go abroad for foreign studies on their own expense

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : سوچنے کی ضرورت نہیں ہے۔ گورنمنٹ ہر طرح سے مدد دے رہی ہے

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: There is no necessity for consideration. The Government is helping in every possible manner.

بیگم اعجاز رسول : کیا میں یہ دریافت کر سکتی ہوں آیا گورنمنٹ نے اس امر کی طرف غور کیا ہے کہ لڑکیوں کی تعلیم کے لئے ایک نصاب مقرر کرے

Begum Aizaz Rasul: May I know whether the Government have considered the matter of prescribing a separate course of studies for the education of girls?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اگر آپ ایڈوائزی بورڈ کی رپورٹ کا مطالعہ کرینگے تو آپ کو معلوم ہو جائیگا کہ اس میں یہ موجود ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: If you go through the report of the Advisory Board, you will find that this is embodied therein.

श्री राजकृष्ण बोस : Special studies के बारे में वजीर साहब ने जितने कम बतलाये, उन कामों के मुताल्लिक कोई रिपोर्ट छप चुकी है और अगर छप चुकी है तो क्या मेम्बरान को इसकी कاپियां मिलेंगी ।

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: Have any reports been printed in respect of the scheme of special studies referred to by the Honourable Minister? If so, will the members be supplied with copies?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اس بارے میں کوئی خاص رپورٹ نہیں چھپی ہے لیکن منسٹری آئیندہ کوشش کریگی کہ اس طرح کے معلومات کو شائع کیا جائے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: No special report has been printed in this connection. But in future the Ministry will try that such findings should be published.

श्री राजकृष्ण बोस : जिन कामों के बारे में वजीर साहब ने बतलाया, क्या इस के बारे में गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से कोई Communique निकलेगा ?

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: Will any Communique be issued by Government in respect of the scheme referred to by the Honourable Minister?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اس بات کی کوئی خاص ضرورت نہیں سمجھی گئی ہے۔ لیکن اگر آنریبل ممبر زور دیتے ہیں تو اس پر غور کیا جائیگا۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: This thing has not been considered necessary. But if the Honourable Minister presses over this, it will be considered.

INCURSIONS BY HYDERABAD PEOPLE AND POLICE INTO INDIAN TERRITORY

649. *Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether Government have received any complaints regarding incursions by Hyderabad people and police into villages in Berar and Bombay and Madras Presidencies?

(b) If so, what are these complaints?

(c) Have Government received any deputation in regard to the situation on the Hyderabad and Indian border?

(d) If so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

(e) Have the Provincial Governments taken any steps? If so, what?

(f) Is it a fact that the residents on these borders have been appealing for help and arms for self-protection?

(g) If so, have any steps been taken in this matter?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) Government have received several such complaints but do not consider that any useful purpose will be served by compiling a detailed statement.

(c) Yes.

(d) Both the Central and Provincial Governments are fully alive to this problem and have taken all precautionary and preventive measures. They have also made strong protests to the Hyderabad Government and have reason to believe that the protests have had some effect.

(e), (f) and (g). These are matters which concern the Provincial Governments.

Shri M. S. Aney: May I ask the Honourable the Deputy Prime Minister in view of the serious situation as regards safety and protection in these border villages, will the Government of India instruct the Provincial Government specially to issue licences for crop-protection and self-protection in a larger scale to the villagers residing in these border areas?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I believe all these questions arose and all the situation developed before the Agreement. I have every hope that after the settlement has been reached, conditions will change and there will be no necessity to take any preventive or protective measures, and people who have left the State will go back.

Shri M. S. Aney: Has the Government of India received any report from the Provincial Government to the effect that after the Agreement things are showing a tendency towards a better order in these border villages?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Very little time has lapsed since for any such reports to come in.

Seth Govinddas: May I ask whether Government have seen certain statements of the Nizam's Government with regard to this agreement and are the Government going to issue a comprehensive statement about the organization and things like that, as far as this agreement is concerned and contradict certain reports which have been issued by the Nizam's Government?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I do not see, Sir, how this question arises from the question that has been put.

Seth Govinddas: Because the Honourable Minister said something about the Agreement.

Mr. Speaker: The very question is sufficiently vague to be answered.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is it a fact, Sir, that some of the people in the bordering villages have lost their cattle and some of their other belongings, and if so, have any steps been taken to compensate them in any way?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: It is quite possible that some of the people have lost their cattle and some have lost their property. I should imagine it is generally a part of the struggle for freedom.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that twelve villages bordering on the neighbouring area have declared themselves independent of the Nizam's control soon after the departure of all Nizam's officers from those villages, will Government consider the advisability of giving them sufficient protection against any vindictive action at the hands of the Nizam, now that they might be taken back?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I do not think any action will be necessary because the agreement will have its effect and should be allowed to have its effect. The Honourable Member knows that the Government of India are going to appoint an Agent in the State who will look after all these matters.

Shri H. V. Kamath: With reference to the reply to part (c) of the question, when did the first deputation wait on Government and what was the personnel of the deputation?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I do not think any formal deputation has come. Several people have come and met us several times.

Shri M. S. Ancy: Are Government aware of the fact or of the complaint that several people who are given licenses by the Local Government are unable to get fire-arms? If so will the Government of India help the provincial Governments to have sufficient fire-arms and things like that?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: This question was discussed recently in the conference of provincial Ministers that was held last week and it is engaging the attention of Government.

GURKHAS IN INDIAN AND IMPERIAL TROOPS.

650 ***Shri Damber Singh Gurung:** Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) which of the Gurkha Battalions were allotted to (i) Indian Dominion and (ii) British Imperial Troops;

(b) how many of the Gurkha Military personnel including officers have opted to serve the Imperial troops;

(c) what is their percentage;

(d) what will be the position of those who have opted not to serve the British Government in the Imperial troops; and

(e) whether they will be absorbed in the Indian Army?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The Prime Minister will shortly be making a general statement in the House on this subject.

Shri Damber Singh Gurung: May I know if the Government of India raised any objection to the formation of these British Imperial Troops?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: We have nothing to do with that.

Shri Damber Singh Gurung: Have the Government of India lodged any protest with the Government of Nepal as regards the formation of these British Imperial Troops?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Nepal is an independent country and we have no right to make any protest. They are free to do whatever they want.

Shri Damber Singh Gurung: Is the Honourable Minister aware that the formation of these British Imperial Troops is detrimental to the interests of India?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I would request the Honourable Member to wait for the statement which is shortly to be made by the Prime Minister.

GURKHAS IN INDIAN ARMY

651 ***Shri Damber Singh Gurung:** Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the total strength of Gurkha army in India at present;

(b) the total number of Gurkha officers above the rank of V.C.O's, showing separately the number of Emergency Commissioned Officers and those in Regular Commission;

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that there is a strong feeling amongst the Gurkha Military Personnel that the Gurkha troops should be officered by Gurkhas; and

(d) what step do Government propose to take to recruit Gurkhas for officers training?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) The total strength of the Gurkha troops on 1st November 1947 was 33,000.

(b) The number of Officers of Gurkha Nationality above the rank of Viceroy's Commissioned Officer is:

(i) Regular Officers—6.

(ii) Emergency Commissioned Officers—26.

(c) Government are aware that there is a general desire amongst Gurkha troops that there should be more Gurkha officers.

(d) There is no bar to Gurkhas being granted commissions and Government are exploring possibilities of granting more commissions to Gurkhas. One of the measures taken is to grant direct commissions to suitable Gurkha Viceroy's Commissioned Officers even though the standard of education is not sufficiently high. Government are anxious to give opportunities to Gurkhas for Officers' training.

TREATY WITH NEPAL re RECRUITMENT OF GURKHAS

652 ***Shri Damber Singh Gurung:** Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to lay on the table of the House a copy of the Treaty between the Government of India and the Government of Nepal regarding the recruitment of Gurkhas in the Indian Army?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: There is no such treaty.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Has any agreement been arrived at?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: As I have stated in reply to a previous question, it will be better if the Honourable Member will wait for the statement which the Prime Minister is going to make on the subject.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Shall we be allowed to put questions after the statement is made?

Mr. Speaker: That is not for him to answer. It rests with the Chair.

"PRINCES" COLLEGES.

†653. ***Shri Ram Narayan Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schools and colleges known as "Princes" College;

(b) their constitution and finance;

(c) the method of control by the Government of India; and

(d) the proposed changes, if any, in the policies, status and number of institutions with special reference to their secluded existence for a particular class of people, i.e., Princes?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) There are four Chiefs Colleges viz. the Mayo College at Ajmer, the Daly College at Indore, the Rajkumar College at Rajkot and the Rajkumar College at Raipur.

(b), (c) and (d). The management of these Colleges is vested in their respective Governing Bodies which are not controlled by the Government of India.

DESERTION BY MUSLIMS IN INDIAN MILITARY AND POLICE.

†654. ***Dr. N. B. Khare:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that all the Muslim Military personnel of the Indian Army deserted and joined the enemy, during the recent invasion of Kashmir?

(b) Is it also a fact that most of the Muslim police during the recent Muslim rising in Delhi deserted their posts, and took away their arms, and that they were used against our people and Army?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) No.

(b) It is true that some Muslim members of the Delhi Police deserted with arms. There is no record to show that they used their arms against civilians or the Army.

PAKISTAN'S EXPORT DUTY ON RAW JUTE.

655. ***Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to an Ordinance promulgated by the Government of Eastern Pakistan imposing an export duty on raw jute coming into the Indian Dominion?

(b) If so, is it not a breach of the standstill Agreement between the two Dominions?

(c) If the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what steps are the Government of India taking in the matter to protect the interest of the Indian Dominion?

†The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The attention of the Honourable Members is invited to the Press Communiqué issued by the Government on the 23rd November 1947 explaining their attitude in this matter.

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

‡Vide reply to question No. 638.

PAKISTAN'S EXPORT LEVY ON JUTE.

656. ***Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the imposition of export levy by the Pakistan Government on all exports of jute to India?

(b) Do Government propose to lay on the table of the House the correspondence exchanged on the subject between the Governments of Pakistan and India?

(c) What action Government propose to take in this respect?

†The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The attention of the Honourable Members is invited to the Press Communiqué issued by the Government on the 23rd November 1947 explaining their attitude in this matter.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Have Government indicated to the Pakistan Government the retaliatory measures which they would be obliged to take if the Pakistan Government persisted in their decision to levy this duty?

Shri M. S. Aney: On a point of order, can supplementaries be asked at this stage when the original question has been already answered?

Mr. Speaker: The point is that when the Honourable Finance Minister answered question No. 638 he said he was answering questions 655 and 656 also along with it. There was a bit of technical error in that these two questions were not, at that time, formally put by Honourable Members. That is why I am allowing these supplementary questions; otherwise I would not have allowed them.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I am not sure whether from the technical point of view it is always advisable to give advance notice of what retaliatory measures we contemplate.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: In view of the experience we have had of Pakistan, does not the Honourable Minister feel that some indication of our move is necessary to get the desired effect?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: It is a matter of opinion, but in certain cases I think it is better to hold our hand and not tell in advance what measures we are going to take.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Are Government aware that in view of this proposal to levy jute duty the export of jute from Assam has practically stopped and the jute growers there have been very hard hit?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: The Honourable Member's statement is not correct. As a matter of fact with a view to conserve the raw jute stocks for our own mills we are taking steps to curtail jute exports.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: I am referring to the Assam jute which is being held up on account of the imposition of this duty. The Honourable Minister can ascertain that.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: I will have that matter examined.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know how long the Government of India will wait before taking retaliatory action, apart from the question of notice?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Just as long as their patience will allow them.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Has the patience of Government any relation to the patience of the people?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order; that is not permissible.

†Vide reply to question No. 638.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: In making representations to the Pakistan Government will the Honourable Minister remember to draw their attention to the fact that most of the jute growers in Assam belong to the Muslim community?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Yes, Sir; I shall draw attention to it.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Are Government aware that people are getting agitated over the imposition of this duty by Pakistan?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: That will strengthen our case.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: May I know how long such violations of solemn agreements by Pakistan are to be allowed and we are to stay our hand in order to have good relations with the Pakistan Government?

Mr. Speaker: I do not think these are questions for information; these are all opinions and arguments.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it a fact that the Pakistan Government have now realised that this duty was imposed under some misapprehension or due to non-receipt of some letter from the Government of India which perhaps took 15 days to reach there?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order; that will be a question for the Pakistan Government.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Do the Government of India charge export duty on the jute on which the Pakistan Government have already charged a duty?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Yes, Sir; we normally levy our own export duty irrespective of what the Pakistan Government does.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Is it not a fact that on account of this double duty the Indian jute trade will be prejudicially affected?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: That is a matter which must cause anxiety to the Pakistan Government and not to us.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Are Government aware that the Pakistan Government have begun to send jute—even loose jute—via Chittagong port?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: We cannot prevent the Pakistan Government from exporting jute through their own ports.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: It is for that reason that we want Government to take action to see that the trade of India does not suffer by double duty and is diverted to Pakistan now because we are going to produce more jute in our own territory.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: We cannot take any action to prevent the Pakistan Government for exporting any of their produce through their own ports.

SALE OF LAND BY DELHI IMPROVEMENT TRUST

657. ***Giani Gurmukh Singh Mussafar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government are aware that the Delhi Improvement Trust has helped only moneyed-men, contractors and capitalists in acquiring lands for building purposes;

(b) Whether Government are aware that competitive rates for plots of land in Delhi have rendered it impossible for middle class men to purchase plots so as to live in decent houses:

(c) Whether Government are aware that capitalists or contractors purchase plots in lots at exorbitant prices thereby depriving men of ordinary means to acquire lands;

(d) What steps Government propose to take to help the middle class men, and more particularly the ministerial staff of the Government of India, who are hard hit by the present economic conditions and by the difficulties in getting decent housing accommodation; and

(e) Whether Government propose to allot plots of land to the permanent servants of the Government of India free of charges or at a fixed nominal price?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a), (b) and (c). Under the land disposal rules of the Delhi Improvement Trust, plots of land are ordinarily put up for sale at competitive rates by tender or auction. Government are aware that under this system people of moderate means may find it difficult to purchase land at competitive rates.

(d) The Improvement Trust is examining the possibility of disposing of land to co-operative housing societies representing all classes including Government servants.

(e) No.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Arising out of the answer to part (d), will the Honourable Minister kindly state how many among the ministerial staff of the Government of India are at present without decent houses to live in?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I have no information.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Has the Honourable Minister received the report of the Committee which was appointed to review the disposals of land by the Improvement Trust?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The report has not yet come into my hands. I am informed that it has been submitted and is with the Chief Commissioner of Delhi.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is the Honourable Minister aware that the Committee concluded its work in the month of May and will the Honourable Minister enquire into the reason of the delay in submitting this report?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I am prepared to enquire.

Shri Mihirlal Chattopadhyaya: May I know whether the Government are aware that a large number of Government officers have sub-let their houses at black-market rates, and will the Government be pleased to hold an enquiry into the matter, detect those people and bring them to book?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: This is a question that concerns the Ministry of Works, Mines and Power.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Should it normally take the report of the committee eight months to reach the Honourable Minister?

Mr. Speaker: That is a matter of opinion.

EXTRA-PROVINCIAL JURISDICTION BILL

Presentation of the Report of the Select Committee

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Minister for Home, Information and Broadcasting and States): Sir, I present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to provide for the exercise of certain extra-provincial jurisdiction of the Central Government.

REPEALING AND AMENDING BILL

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Minister for Law): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to repeal or amend certain enactments.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to repeal or amend certain enactments."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

INDIAN TARIFF (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil (Minister for Works, Mines and Power and Commerce): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

ARMED FORCES (SPECIAL POWERS) BILL

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh (Minister for Defence): I am due to introduce the Bill on the 8th. As I will be away at Lahore on that day, I would like to introduce it today.

Mr. Speaker: As it is only an introduction, I do not mind.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to enable certain special powers to be conferred upon officers of the armed forces in disturbed areas.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to enable certain special powers to be conferred upon officers of the armed forces in disturbed areas."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

ARMED FORCES (EMERGENCY DUTIES) AMENDMENT BILL

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh (Minister for Defence): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Armed Forces (Emergency Duties) Act, 1947.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Armed Forces (Emergency Duties) Act, 1947."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

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INDIAN FINANCE (SUPPLEMENTARY) BILL

The Honourable Shri B. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Minister for Finance): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to give effect to the supplementary financial proposals of the Central Government for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1948, be taken into consideration."

Sir, there is at present an *ad valorem* duty on cotton cloth and the cotton yarn exported out of this country. It is more or less a nominal duty and the proceeds are given for the textile fund. Our controlled price of cotton textiles is very much below the parity prices and we have been told that in the countries to which our cotton textiles are exported, the ruling prices are very much higher than our controlled prices. The difference between these two prices is really taken by the middle-man. We think that there is no justification to allow middlemen to appropriate all this profit and we have therefore decided to levy an export duty of four annas per square yard on all cotton cloth exported and six annas per pound on all yarn that is exported. I have no doubt that in view of the very high prices that prevail in the markets to which our cloth and yarn go, there would not be any difficulty that the export trade might feel on this account. It has been suggested to me that the more appropriate manner of levying this duty will be an *ad valorem* basis, because on the basis of a specific duty the incidence on the coarse varieties will be greater than that on finer varieties. I am fully alive to this difficulty. The bulk of our exports consists of the coarser varieties and I have been told that the duty of four annas per square yard can very well be placed even on the coarse textiles that are exported from our country. Anyhow, I would watch the operation of this duty for the next two or three months and if I decide to continue this duty for the next budget, I will then consider whether there is any case for converting the duty into an *ad valorem* duty.

Sir, this measure seems to have the approval of the public as a whole, and I have no doubt that this House also will give its consent to this measure being put on the statute book. Sir, I move:

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to give effect to the supplementary financial proposals of the Central Government for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1948, be taken into consideration."

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): Sir, normally an export duty would not be levied for revenue purposes but would be resorted to in emergencies when the Government wants to augment its revenues. There is, no doubt, an export duty on jute. Likewise, having regard to the central finances there may be justification for a duty of this kind. Another reason for imposing an export duty is to prevent the export of a commodity which is in short supply. It is true that we have not got either sufficient yarn or cloth and therefore an export duty may be imposed on that ground. Even during the war when we were hard pressed for cloth and yarn, Government did export cloth and yarn to neighbouring countries so that in times of peace we may not lose the market. When normal conditions return we may be able to develop the markets. For that purpose some export was and is being allowed. As a matter of fact the export controls have been relaxed recently and export of *lungi* and other handmade cloth has been allowed to Ceylon, Burma, Malaya and some neighbouring countries like Afghanistan and Iran. This was done both to encourage handloom products and also to supply the deficiency of those countries which have all along been depending upon our country for cloth. But I am not able to know what purpose this export duty will serve. Perhaps it is intended to augment the revenue. There is one disadvantage in regard to cotton. If an export duty is imposed on finished goods, either yarn or cloth, it will become

(1381)

[Prof. N. G. Ranga]

levied upon handloom woven cloth also, and since a large proportion of our cloth exports today consists of handloom woven cloth—I understand from the Honourable the Finance Minister that 10 per cent. of the total cloth exports will be coming from the handloom weavers—I wish to suggest to him that he should try to set apart at least one-fourth of the collections that he would be making by way of this tax, for the improvement of the handloom weaving industry. It may be said that at present the handloom weaving industry is not so badly off. To say that would have been quite correct a year or two ago, but it is not quite correct to say that today. They are suffering from under-employment and in certain parts from unemployment also owing to the shortage of yarn supplies. Secondly, in a very short time we are afraid that there is likely to be a sort of economic depression especially in the textile industry and particularly so far as the handloom weaving industry is concerned. Therefore I wish to suggest to the Honourable the Finance Minister that it would be advisable for the Government to build up a kind of a separate fund for the development of the handloom weaving industry and feed that fund from out of whatever grants they would like to make from the collections they make from this particular tax. I hope the Honourable Minister will consider the suggestion favourably and try to help the handloom weaving industry which deserves much more encouragement and assistance than the mill industry itself.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, if I rise to say a few words on this occasion it is with reference to the particular matter at issue and not to traverse all the matters that have been traversed by my predecessors. Several statements have been made by the two speakers who spoke before me to which some correction can be made but I do not want to do so as I do not want to take the time of the House. Coming from a place which depends to a large extent on handloom weaving and which has been allotted a large portion of the quota of cloth consumption from handloom weaving, it is necessary for me to remind the Honourable Minister in charge of the Bill, who also comes from the same area, that this measure is likely to affect in a very bad way the handloom cloth which is being exported. We are sending handloom cloth made of lower and medium counts to East Africa, to Malaya and to other places. The Honourable Minister told us that his object in bringing the Bill was to take for the Government a portion of the money which the middlemen were getting. I do not know whether he refers to the middlemen dealing with millmade cloth or with handloom cloth. So far as millmade cloth is concerned the middlemen are making a large amount of profit with the result that the consumer has to pay very much, about twice the amount for which he could have got the cloth but for the intervention of the middlemen. On the other hand with regard to handloom cloth a number of calculations are made. I do not know how far the Government is going to keep the prices as they are. The calculations made for the prices fixed work out like this. For the same count of cloth, millmade cloth will be sold for Rs. 9 a yard whereas for handmade cloth of the same count the price fixed is Rs. 1-3-0. The calculations made may be justified or may not be justified and it will take some time if I begin to examine the reasons given for fixing the price of handmade cloth at this high figure. If we are going to export the handmade cloth to our old markets will it be able at this high controlled price of Rs. 1-3-0 a yard to compete with other products which are coming to the same markets? As I said, Malaya, East Africa and places like that are the areas to which our goods go. Will our goods carrying these high prices be able to compete with goods coming from Japan, America and other places from which countries we hear cloth is already coming to these areas? We read in the papers that some imports have been received from Japan and America in some of these Eastern countries. I do not know the quantity that has been received and whether it has already begun to affect our exports to these countries.

Any way it seems to me that it will have to be considered very deeply whether if the present controlled prices at this high rate are to be continued, our exports may not be affected by the duty that is proposed at the present moment. With the high prices and the duty combined, certainly our goods will be at a disadvantage in those markets. So I should like the Honourable Finance Minister to examine this matter and see that our exports are not affected by the duty that is now proposed. Not only that, Sir, he will also have to see that our permanent markets in Malaya, East Africa and other places are not seriously affected. For that purpose, he will have to examine again, in conjunction with the Minister for Industries, whether the controlled prices fixed by the Government for handloom cloth are justifiable and whether they cannot be reduced. The main reason given for fixing these high prices is scarcity of yarn which makes it impossible for the weaver to have employment for more than 10 or 15 days in the month. They say on account of this scarcity you will have to consider a full month's wage as the wage for the work that he turns out in 10 or 15 days. As a result of this, we are charged double the wages that we have to pay ordinarily. This sort of thing cannot continue for ever. Even in the local market handloom cloth is suffering very badly. I have been hearing and I think the Government is aware of the complaint that there is a very large stock of handloom cloth unsold at the present moment. Even in Delhi I was told the other day that there is a large stock of cloth which has not been sold. One of the explanations given was transport was not available. It may be so, but is that the only reason for this large stock that has been accumulated? I fear Sir, the high price of handloom cloth is one of the main reasons why there has been such a slump in the market for these goods. So I would ask the Finance Minister to consider first the duty that he is going to levy on the export of these goods, and secondly the controlled prices that are fixed for handloom cloth in the country itself; and as he himself said, Sir, there is the question of the middlemen. There are so many middle-men in the trade; there are half a dozen for yarn, and another half a dozen for cloth, with the result, as I said, that probably the consumer can get goods without these middle-men for about half the price which he is now paying in the market. So the middle-men should be minimized. The channels of communication is another matter which he will have to take into consideration, and in conjunction with the Minister for Industries and Supply, he will have to tackle all these. Sir, that is all I wish to say at present.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U. P.: General): Sir, this Bill is a consequential Bill to the Budget and in it the Honourable the Finance Minister has tried to impose some taxes to make up a very small part of the big deficit. They will make up about 2 crores of rupees this year out of a deficit of 26 crores. So in considering this Bill there are two considerations: firstly whether this particular duty on yarn and cloth is desirable, and secondly whether the Finance Minister's proposals are adequate or not. Dealing with the first of these, I think that the protest raised by some of my Madras friends has probably been anticipated by the Finance Minister himself by saying that this cloth sells at a much higher price in the country it is exported to and this small duty will not matter. I also know something of these things from experience. I live on the borders of Nepal, in the district of Gorakhpur, and a very large amount of handloom cloth is exported to Nepal, and probably the House will be amused to know that the prices of handloom cloth in Nepal are about twenty times what they are in the U. P. and that a very large amount of black-marketing is going on in order to supply cloth to Nepal, and I think crores of rupees have been made by those who have been doing this smuggling. So I do not think that a small duty of 4 annas or 8 annas, or whatever has been proposed, will in any way affect our exports. Probably there is not much cloth to be exported outside. At least there is none in our province. But if any part of the country exports yarn or cloth, I think this duty is not going to affect that and therefore I think my

[Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]

an encouragement to the export of raw cotton, unless there is a duty on the export of raw cotton.....

An Honourable Member: There is duty on the export of raw cotton.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: There is a maximum duty of Rs. 75 for a bale of 400 lbs. It is open to the Government to impose a maximum duty of Rs. 75 on a bale of 400 lbs. or reduce it. For a long time I have been opposed to the export of cotton for this reason. Cotton is one of the things which we grow to a large extent in this country. We export coarse cotton and we import long staple cotton from Egypt and other places. An attempt was made to grow the finer varieties of cotton in the Punjab but much of those areas have gone to Pakistan. Likewise large portions which have been growing jute in Bengal have gone into the Eastern Pakistan. We have therefore to raise the finer kinds of cotton or manage with our own coarse varieties of cotton in a number of ways. We must so adjust our machinery that even coarse cotton would look like fine cotton when it comes out as yarn or cloth. Similar attempts were made by Germany. I have been watching the reports of the Textile Commissioner from time to time. I found that Germany had adopted this method. Whenever there was any commodity in short supply, the Germans used to find out a substitute. During the war oilseeds were in short supply and they discovered a substitute by way of the whale oil. So far as cotton was concerned, though the finer varieties of cotton were sent to Lancashire and Manchester, Germany used to import from India only the coarser varieties. They so adapted their machinery that when cotton came out either in the form of yarn or cloth even short staple cotton looked like long staple cotton.

There is a Cotton Cess Committee here. A cess is imposed for the purpose of enabling research. In clause 3 you will find provision made for contribution to a fund for the purpose of research. The House will remember that in the recent Income-tax Act if any industry sets apart a sum for purposes of research in that industry that sum is exempted from taxation. I do not know what these millowners either at Ahmedabad or at Bombay have done with all those moneys for which they have been having tax-exemption. Why once again some more money should be given from this export duty? Why are we augmenting this research fund? These people cannot be called industrialists: they are merely traders or businessmen. They are only trying to make money all the time. They must try to improve their industrial plant and set apart some funds for research so that whatever commodity is available in this country may be used to the best advantage. There is no meaning in sending away our cotton which grows here and then falling on bended knees before America to send us some cotton. So far as the finer varieties of cotton are concerned they are grown by Egypt. America and the United Kingdom have got a monopoly over all the cotton that is produced in Egypt. They have entered into an agreement with Egypt for a period of ten or fifteen years to buy all the cotton that is grown by Egypt. Today if we have to get cotton from Egypt we have to go round about through the U. S. A. and the U. K. I would like to be corrected if I am wrong. I would urge that we should devise ways and means to see that all the cotton that is produced in this country is utilised in this country and we do not send even a particle of cotton in an unmanufactured condition. If anything goes out of the country it must be only in the form of manufactured goods. Before the war, large quantities of our raw cotton used to go to Manchester and Lancashire and the coarser varieties used to be bought by Japan. From Japan we used to get coarser kinds of yarn and cloth. Japan is now unable to produce much. Therefore there is an opportunity for us. The industries have not been taking advantage of the opportunity that has been afforded by the war and the abnormal conditions that have ensued and they are still having their own way. Cheap profits are their only motive. There is

absolutely no intention on their part to devise ways and means to absorb all the cotton that is produced in this country. I would like you, Sir, to judge the effects of this measure so far as industry is concerned. This Bill intends to impose a specific duty at a flat rate on cloth that is exported at four annas per yard and it imposes a specific duty of six annas on every pound of yarn that is exported. I would like to prevent the export of yarn and instead cotton cloth being exported. So far as cotton is concerned the export duty is not sufficient to prevent the export of raw cotton. I do not want any raw cotton to be exported from this country. As regards cloth and yarn I am glad that the honourable member has chosen to impose a heavier duty on yarn at the rate of six annas per lb. and four annas on cloth per yard. But it will have a deleterious effect upon the export of yarn, though the duty is not in terms of yard but of weight. This will have a deleterious effect on the export of handloom cloth. Four annas per yard is uniform whether the cloth is fine or coarse. Today there is a large volume of trade in *lungis* and the coarser varieties produced on the handloom in the southern parts of Madras Presidency. The largest number of handlooms is in Assam and next comes our Presidency. This measure will encourage the export of mill made cloth in preference to the handloom cloth and it may have a chilling effect on the handloom cloth. We ought not to judge its effects from a purely temporary point of view. It may come to stay and therefore we will have to consider its long-term effects. The Honourable Minister himself is in the industry. He is one of the industrialists of South India and himself owns textile mills. When he brings forward a measure of this kind I am sure he has considered all aspects of the matter but there may be one or two things which may have escaped his attention. I am trying to bring them to his notice. I notice the difference between the manner in which handloom cloth is treated from millmade cloth. I have received

a telegraphic communication from the South Indian Chamber of Commerce that this should be remedied as the export duty works out to 30 per cent. on handloom cloth and only to 20 per cent. on finer counts of cloth. This is not the final Bill. In March next we will have the regular Finance Bill. In the interval I am sure the Honourable the Finance Minister will watch the effects of this export duty on both finer varieties of cloth and coarser varieties or handloom cloth and try to adjust things later on.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have only one or two points to make. I am in general agreement with what my Honourable friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar has said except that I do not want the export of cotton to be discouraged unless and until our millowners are able to consume the whole of it. During the whole period of the war because cotton could not be exported they were exploiting the cotton grower. I agree with Mr. Ayyangar that the incidence upon handloom woven cloth is too high and that it should be lowered at the earliest possible opportunity. I hope that the Honourable the Finance Minister will agree to change over from the specific duty to an *ad valorem* imposition at the time of the next Budget if at all he thinks that this particular tax should be reintroduced at that time.

Thirdly, Sir, representing as I do the handloom weavers, I wish to draw his attention to the fact that there used to be a subvention of Rs. 5 lakhs set apart for the improvement of the handloom weaving industry and it was at that time collected from out of a small cess that was being levied upon. I think, the import of mill cloth and mill yarn. That subvention of Rs. 5 lakhs used to be utilised for very good purposes, namely, for the development of co-operative societies among handloom weavers. Grants used to be made from out of it for all Provincial Governments. In Madras, U. P., Bihar and also in C. P. the handloom weavers have come to be organised in a co-operative manner and the co-operative societies have stood them in good stead during the whole of the war and they have also helped the war-time cloth production. Unfortunately it has been given up in the last one year and a half. Since this tax is going to be

[Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena]

friends from Madras need not be afraid. I should have wished a much higher duty on its export. In my own province I think the Government should legalise the export of cloth that goes to Nepal by imposing a higher duty. This will systematise the export of cloth to Nepal which is friendly independent Hindu State and depends for all its imports on and through India. In that way black-marketing will stop. But while I support this duty, I am very much critical of the proposals contained in this Bill. I have no intention to speak on the Budget, but I feel that the uncovered gap of 24 crores in the budget was not a very wise policy and I do not think these financial proposals are adequate to meet the needs of a nation which has to make up for the backwardness caused by two centuries of slavery. We have emerged into a free State only four months back. Yesterday when Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar moved his cut, the guillotine was applied immediately after. The cut was intended to discuss the failure to appoint a Ministry for Planning to place before the nation a five year plan of national development as part of a long range programme to bring the country abreast of Russia and America within the next ten years. I had given notice of that cut myself, and if the guillotine had not been applied I would have explained how we must work at a tremendous pressure if we wish to realise our natural destiny as the greatest nation of the world with a unique culture and civilisation. Ours is a great country. The Prime Minister told us the other day that we want to keep an independent Foreign Policy in world affairs. We do not want to join any block, but if we are not going to join any block, we must be in a position to defend our freedom and independence with our own strength. Otherwise if we are not strong ourselves, some other power which is more powerful can exercise pressure and force us to yield. To be an independent nation in the world today we must be equal to the other big powers. Otherwise it would be impossible for us to maintain an independent position. India, by virtue of its population, its most ancient culture and civilisation, its great resources, economic, moral, intellectual and spiritual, and its eminent leaders, is entitled to a position greater than that of America and Russia in international affairs, but that position cannot be realised if the budget proposals are such as they are now. My friend Mr. Ayyangar very rightly said yesterday that there is not even a mention about planning in the budget proposals. He pointed out what our Prime Minister said the other day that in Russia our Ambassador has to go to Stockholm to purchase furniture because Russians have no time to produce these things and everybody there is at his assigned job in the planned development of.....

Mr. Speaker: Does the Honourable Member propose to go into the Budget again?

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: No, Sir. I want to say these proposals are inadequate and there must be much more taxation than what has been proposed to provide for the cost of National Development.

Mr. Speaker: How is it relevant to this. I fail to understand the connection between the two.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: The Finance Minister has moved his Bill "to give effect to the supplementary financial proposals for the year ending on the 31st day of March 1948". I consider these proposals inadequate. I think there should have been more taxation. I am pointing out the essential needs for which more money should be raised. I am saying.....

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid it will not be possible for me to permit the honourable member to go into the whole question of Budget and finances. There was a general discussion on the Budget, and all the Demands have been voted upon by this House. So that is concluded now. It is perfectly competent

for him to criticize this particular levy, this particular method of raising funds, and he can do that.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: May I say this, Sir, that these financial proposals are not adequate to meet our needs?

Mr. Speaker: He can at the most say that, but he cannot go into the discussion of the Budget over again; he is trying to open up the whole field of the Budget Discussion.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (Madras: Muslim): May I say, Sir, that the practice in this House has been that on the Finance Bill, every matter that comes within the purview of the Government of India can be discussed? Of course, that was in the old set-up; I do not know whether you are setting up a new practice.

Mr. Speaker: There is a misapprehension on the part of the honourable member. This Bill, technically speaking, is not a Finance Bill in the sense in which a Finance Bill is understood, and therefore the very basis of his argument falls through. I know that everything could be discussed—even the moon could be discussed, as I was told last year; but then, the moon may be discussed in relation to the Earth. Therefore, the honourable member can refer to some points in the general aspects. But the honourable member is trying to go into the whole field of the General Discussion again.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: I was under the impression, Sir, that this is a Finance Bill and therefore I thought I could go on. Any way, I want only to point out that our finances at the present moment should have been such that instead of a deficit we should have had large sums of money to invest into big schemes and plans. I saw the other day the Plan of Mr. Neogy, which probably has been there for the last one year. I do not know what has been done to give effect to it. But I do hope that the Finance Minister, in his next Budget, will bring before the House proposals in accordance with a comprehensive plan for the future so that we can have a lot of money to spend on the various projects.

Sir, this Bill is a very small one trying to get some taxation for a portion of the year and therefore it cannot help very much to reduce our deficit. Two crores is not a very big sum out of twenty-six crores, but still as it is something I welcome it. But I think there were ample opportunities to tax the capitalist black-marketers about whom we heard so much yesterday. Our Prime Minister had told us that they ought to be hanged. But here they are not even taxed.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The Honourable Member is not keeping to his promise.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: I therefore hope that next time we shall not be complaining about our finances or deficits. I also hope that next time the Finance Minister will provide us with large funds to really help us in making this country great.

Shri M. S. Aney (Deccan and Madras States Group): Sir, the Bill before the House is to give effect to the Supplementary Financial Proposals of the Central Government for the year ending on the 31st day of March 1948. That is the heading of this Bill, Sir. However, in view of your ruling, I accept that it is a Bill which is to be treated not as a Finance Bill but as a Bill confined to the enhancement of a particular tax in a particular way.

Sir, my object in rising on this occasion is to bring to the notice of the Honourable the Finance Minister one or two points which I think are of some importance in considering these proposals. As he comes from South India, he certainly knows that a large number of handlooms exist in Madura District and in other parts of South India, which mainly weave particular kinds of cloth that is consumed in Ceylon. There is a very large demand in Ceylon for a

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particular kind of *saris* and *lungis* which are produced by the hand-loom in Southern India. I think it is a very big market which South India has got in Ceylon as regards this commodity.

The present arrangement as regards the fixing of prices of these articles which are exported from South India to Ceylon, is this. According to some understanding between the Government of Madras and the Government of Ceylon, there is an Agency which fixes the prices of these articles manufactured in Madras and exported to Ceylon. Those prices are stamped on these pieces of cloth sent to Ceylon. Then, to that amount, certain extra charges required for transportation etc. are to be added, and the Ceylon Government has control on the prices; they have a certain fixed margin of profits which they want to allow and not more.

The complaint there has been that this control on prices which the Ceylon Government had over these articles, was not working satisfactorily; particularly that they were using that control in such a way as to leave a very little margin of profits for the importing merchant. Therefore, there were many complaints that something should be done with a view to see that the margin of profit is a bit higher so that the importing people may be encouraged in going in for these articles. Now, while I was there, I was also seeing a tendency of growing competition from America and Japan in this commodity. Well, to what extent the competition has now grown I cannot say after leaving that country, but attempts were made with a view to get similar kind of articles from America and Japan.

Now, the Honourable the Finance Minister is fully aware that Japan can manufacture things at a very cheap price. I do not know whether our products can stand the field against competition from Japan. I therefore want my honourable friend to carefully examine this point and see whether this additional duty of four annas per yard which he is imposing will be helpful. We may leave aside the question of the duty of six annas on yarn because this commodity that I refer to is all manufactured pieces of cloth and yarn does not come in. But as regards the duty on cloth, I want him to examine carefully and see whether it is not likely to affect adversely the export of this particular kind of cloth to Ceylon and make it difficult to compete with other goods coming from America and Japan. If that is so, I am sure he, as an industrialist and as one much more interested in the welfare of the handloom weavers of South India than I can pretend to claim, will see if there is any need to revise his policy.

I particularly wanted to bring this special aspect of the question to the notice of the Finance Member because while in Ceylon I was finding that there was a good deal of uneasiness there on account of the very strong policy of control which the Ceylon Government was pursuing. One of the objects of the Ceylon Government in pursuing that policy was construed by some persons as to make room for cloth coming from other countries rather than to allow Indian goods to be in the field. Sir, that was an interpretation put by some persons, but I am not prepared to subscribe to that view. Any way, it will be of great help to the handloom weavers if this aspect of the question is borne in mind by the Honourable the Finance Member in watching carefully the effect of the export duty on the market conditions for this commodity in Ceylon.

As regards other points, of course, I do not want to say anything except the fact that coming as I do from a tract which grows a great deal of cotton, namely, Berar, I am interested in the export duty on raw cotton. I would like to see that the Indian mills make more use of short staple cotton. They are not careful in making full use of it. In fact, prior to the war, there was a tendency on the part of these mills not to mind that a great quantity of cotton that is grown in short staple in these parts was lying idle. One of the greatest

customers was Japan in those days. Something like 7 lakhs or 8 lakhs bales of cotton were consumed by Japan. As the Honourable Minister may be aware, that after Japan was out of field there was a good deal of negotiation between the British merchants in England and Indian merchants here about these matters, but before any settlement could be arrived at, the war took a more serious turn and matters have remained at a standstill. My point is this, that there are a large number of cultivators in those parts who grow short staple cotton and anything that is likely to reduce the consumption of this cotton outside the country must be compensated for by an increased consumption of that cotton in this country. If export duties are likely to reduce the possibility of consumption of short staple cotton outside India without compensating increase of that consumption in India, it would be a terrible thing from the point of view of these cultivators. Therefore, I would like the Honourable the Finance Minister to bear this point in mind when increasing the export duty on raw cotton.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is said that 'Inscrutable are the ways of the Providence'. I might add another addage to that and say 'More inscrutable are the ways of some of our Honourable Ministers'. It was only yesterday that we heard the Honourable Minister in charge of Industry and Supply bitterly complaining that we are still short of the pre-war level so far as production of cloth was concerned. He mentioned that the figure was somewhere near 800 million yards. After that we should have expected the present Government to come out with an Ordinance that all export from India should be stopped so far as cloth and yarn is concerned. Until we are in a position to get our minimum requirements so far as cloth is concerned, not a single staple of yarn or a single yard of cloth should go out of India. The apology of an enhanced export duty shows how indifferent we are to the needs of this country so far as cloth and yarn is concerned.

Sir, if I tell the House the miseries which some districts in my Province undergo so far as supply of cloth is concerned, I am afraid the Honourable Members may be tempted to laugh, but it is not a matter of laughter. In our parts, in the districts where we want *dhoties* we get plenty of *saris* and where we want *saris* we get *dhoties*. Despatches are made in this way, that some districts are only given *saris* and some districts are given only *dhoties*. What is the result? So far as *dhoties* are concerned, the women are not at all in difficulty, because they have started taking to trousers and *pyjamas*.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I do not follow the Honourable Member's relevancy. He is referring to more distribution of cloth or defective distribution of cloth. I think his point is that there should have been a much heavier duty on export. That, of course, he can make, but he need not refer in detail to the stories about distribution.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Not stories, it is a fact.

Mr. Speaker: May be it is a fact, or it is not a fact. But a man dressing in *saris* or a woman dressing in trousers is a matter not relevant for the purpose of this discussion.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: I admit, Sir, it is not relevant for the purpose of this discussion that women should go about dressed in trousers. But what is relevant, Sir, is that unless we are going to adopt a policy of nudism or unless we are going to follow the preachings of great saints and discard men's clothing as far as possible, then, Sir, there is every justification for the complete stoppage of exports. But if you are not of that view, and if you consider that we should not be partial between man and woman and that we should cloth the men of the present day, then, Sir, greater attention must be paid for the requirements of men's clothing. Sir, it is perhaps very difficult to expect this much justice from the present Government. The powers are nowadays in the

[Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri]

hands of widowers, both in Pakistan as well as in India, and widowers we know are afraid of women if they were not afraid they would not have remained widowers. Therefore we can hardly expect any justice from them in matters like these.

An Honourable Member: How do you know it?

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: We are not getting justice. But this is by the way, Sir.

An Honourable Member: May I ask the Honourable Member to which category he belongs?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: I think, Sir, it is not proper for us to discuss one's own personal affairs. I am not going to discuss my personal matters.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member may come to the subject.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: I was talking with reference to public utility. Sir, as regards export of yarn, I think it is highly criminal to agree to having any kind of export of yarn from this country. What has happened in those provinces where people largely resort to handloom weaving is well known perhaps to this Government. Last year, discussing on the Budget, we laid very great stress on increased supply of yarn to the provinces, particularly Assam and Madras. Sir, it will surprise the House to learn that it has been decided in our parts not to supply any yarn to hosiery mills. They are going practically to stop for want of yarn. As is perhaps well known to the Honourable Minister of Government, a large number of *ganjis*, as we call them, used to be exported from East Bengal to Assam. Now this export has been practically stopped because they want these *ganjis* for themselves. On the one hand, supply of yarn has been stopped for the hosiery mills in Assam and on the other hand the import into Assam of *ganjis* has been stopped. I do not want to refer to our own women-folk because it may create jealousies amongst sisters in India, but it is a well known fact that practically every woman in our part of the country is a weaver. There is no class called "weavers" in Assam because every woman has got to qualify herself for her marriage by being a clever weaver. That is the custom but now on account of want of yarn supply to the Province handloom has been practically stopped. In every household, the wife, the daughter and everyone used to weave and there were at least 4 weaving looms in every house practically. Now that the supply of yarn has been stopped all that has gone and on the top of that and with all respect to my honourable friend, Mr. Aney, you send yarn to Ceylon instead of utilising them all in India. I can only say that it is a most criminal negligence. So, Sir, I humbly submit that the honourable Minister should seriously consider whether all export of cotton yarn should not be stopped, until we are in a position to produce yarn to the pre-war level, and secondly, if at all the export is to be allowed, the rate which has been fixed, namely six annas, should be very much more enhanced, so that practically the export will be stopped.

Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Bihar: General): The question be now put.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the question be now put."

The Motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to give effect to the supplementary financial proposals of the Central Government for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1948, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: I will take the Bill clause by clause.

Now is the time to consider the Honourable Member's amendments and may I point out to him that his amendments are not in order. Under Section 37 of the Government of India Act, a Bill or amendment making provision for or increasing any tax shall not be introduced or be moved except on the recommendation of the Governor-General. 'The Governor-General' here means the Government and there will be no recommendation coming from the Government about acceptance of these amendments or allowing it to be moved. Therefore, I cannot permit the honourable member to move his amendments. That disposes the various amendments. He can, however, address the House on the clause itself.

श्री लक्ष्मीनारायण साहू: सभापति जी, इस प्रस्ताव के बारे में जो संशोधन मैं लाया था वह मूव नहीं करने दिया गया। इस क्लॉज के बारे में जो चार आना स्क्वायर गज क्लॉथ पर जो एक्सपोर्ट ड्यूटी लगाई जाती है उसे ज्यादा करने के लिए तमाश आदमियों की मन्शा है।

हम लोग देखते हैं कि हिन्दुस्तान में लोगों को कपड़ा पहनने को नहीं मिलता है तो फिर क्या सबब है कि जब आदमियों को कपड़ा अच्छी तरह से पहनने को नहीं मिलता है तो हम लोग एक्सपोर्ट करें। जब एक्सपोर्ट हम करेंगे और इस देस से होगा तो जितना ज्यादा रूपया हम ले सकते हैं उतनी कोशिश करेंगे और वह ज्यादा रूपया जो आयेगा उससे हम हिन्दुस्तान की दुसरी व्यवस्था कर सकते हैं। लेकिन मैं सोचता हूं कि यह जितना भी प्रबन्ध एक स्क्वायर यार्ड के लिए चार आना लिया जाता है वह कफी नहीं है। लेकिन मैं सोचता हूं कि जो चीज हमारे यहां होती है और जब हम उसी चीज को बाहर भेजते हैं तो उसका इस देश में अभाव हो जाता है और फिर उसी चीज को बाहर से मगाने की कोशिश करते हैं। इस तरह की पालिसी से हम लोग हैरान हैं। मैं जब इतिहास की तरफ देखता हूं तब मालूम होता है कि मैं उस देश से आया हूं जिसे कलिंग कहा जाता था। वहां इतना कपड़ा होता था कि जावा और दूसरे देशों को भेजा जाता था लेकिन अब हालत यह है कि वहां कपड़ा नहीं मिला है, इसका क्या सबब है। आज प्रान्त के लोगों के पास सूत न होने की वजह से वे कुलीगिरी का काम करने के लिए कलकत्ता, बर्मा और जमशेदपुर जाते हैं। गवर्नमेण्ट को यह सोचना चाहिये कि प्रान्त की सुविधा के लिए प्रान्त के व्यवसाय के लिए जो सुविधा की जरूरत है उसकी कोशिश करनी चाहिये।

इसलिए मैंने अपने एमेन्डमेंट में यह चार आना पर स्क्वायर यार्ड क्लॉथ की एक्सपोर्ट ड्यूटी को दुगना या न आना कर दिया जाय ऐसा रक्खा था। इससे हम लोगों को ज्यादा पैसा मिलेगा और बजट में जो डेफीसिट है वह कम हो जायगा। इसलिए मैं प्रार्थना करता हूं कि जो एमेन्डमेंट मैंने दिया है उसको मिनिस्टर साहब सोच विचार करके मंजूर करेंगे।

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu (Orissa: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not been permitted to move the amendment proposed by me in connection with this Bill. It is the intention of all the people to enhance the levy of export duty of annas four per square yard of cloth imposed *vide* this clause.

[Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu]

We find that the people in India are not able to get cloth to wear. Then what is the reason that when the people are not able to get sufficient cloth to wear, we should export? When we export from this country, the more money we can get, the more we will try, and that additional amount which will thus accrue, we can utilize it to change the conditions in India. But I think that the levy of this custom duty of four annas per square yard of cloth is not adequate. But I feel that the things which are produced by us and when we export these, this results in scarcity in this country. And then again we try to import that thing from abroad. We are surprised over this sort of Policy. When I scan over the pages of History, then I come to know that I hail from a country which used to be called as 'Kalinga'. The cloth production there was so much that it was exported to Java and other countries. But now the condition prevailing there is that no cloth is available. What is the reason for this? To-day for want of yarn, the people in the Province are forced to go to Calcutta, Burma and Jamshedpur to seek the avocation of coolies there. The Government should consider over this and try to provide all the necessary facilities for the industrial development of the Province.

Therefore, I had proposed in my amendment to double this custom duty of four annas per square yard on the export of cloth i.e., it should be raised to eight annas. This would yield us an additional amount and thus reduce the deficit in the Budget. Therefore, I request that the Honourable Minister may kindly consider over the amendment proposed by me and accept it.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The Motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh (C.P. and Berar: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Ayyangar has already pointed out the fact that in spite of the provision for the creation of a Fund for research in cotton, the fund is not properly utilized and we do not see anything by way of a research that really benefits the agriculturists. Coming from an area where cotton is grown extensively, I would like to inform the Finance Member, Sir, that this provision is more by way of an eyewash and merely to take away the shock of additional taxation rather than an attempt to benefit the cotton grower. In fact, if he analyses what actually is being done in the way of cotton research, I am sure, Sir, like all of us, he will also be sorely disappointed. It is therefore necessary, Sir, that the whole question of cotton research ought to be examined and I would also suggest the creation of a Cotton Institute, where those people who have been growing cotton from time immemorial may receive training, so that the deficiency in the growth of long staple cotton which we are feeling and which we are likely to feel increasingly on account of the partition of the country may be made good and they may receive the education they require. Very often, Sir, such institutions are taken advantage of by those people who merely seek jobs and those who would really increase the production or would improve the land fail to secure admission. This difficulty also I hope he will examine. There is at present the Central Cotton Committee in existence which is supposed partially to look after scientific research in cotton growing. But actually that Committee which was meant to help cotton growers in getting better prices and all that, has dwindled into a clique of capitalists which helps the exploitation of cotton growers more than anything else. That is also one of the things which I hope this Government of Independent India and the Honourable the Finance Minister will examine. I think he also owes it to the House to explain what precisely

is the policy of Government so far as the export of Cotton and yarn is concerned. Everybody knows that there is very great deficiency of cloth and yarn in India, and therefore we are entitled to know whether Government want to export more yarn and cloth or whether they want to discourage it. Actually the situation is such that the export of both yarn and cotton should be altogether prohibited. And what will actually happen? I am not prepared to believe, even if the Finance Minister were to tell me so, that this duty is meant to discourage export; on the contrary I believe it is bound to encourage export because there is such a heavy demand from outside countries for cotton goods that this Bill will result in greater profit making on the part of mill-owners than anything else. This Bill is not going to benefit India in spite of the fact that it will bring some money into Government treasury. It is a matter of common knowledge that what is sold here for Rs. 2 per yard can easily be sold for about 6 to 8 rupees per yard outside India. So I would not be wrong in saying that this Bill is, comparatively speaking, going to realise for India a very insignificant benefit as compared to the huge profits that they are going to accrue to the cloth dealers and the Mill-owners.

Another point I want to make is this. In view of the fact that the textile industry is making such huge profits and as a result of this permission to export they will be making still larger profits, I think it is time that Government should pay more attention to the nationalisation of this industry. I am not going to enter into any arguments for or against nationalisation. But if we want to enrich our Government and enrich our nation and if we want larger funds for the development of India, the taking over of the textile industry by Government would really benefit us far more than this insignificant duty on export would. Although this point has been made by several speakers on various cut motions and so on, I do not think that as much pointed attention of the Honourable the Finance Minister has been drawn to it as in my opinion it is necessary to do. Sir, the Honourable Finance Minister happens to be a textile mill-owner, and I have also heard that he is a believer in socialism. So this will be capitalistic socialism which he will probably bring about in this country. How far that is possible is for the House to judge; but it would redound to his great credit if being a mill-owner he consents to and brings about the nationalisation of the textile industry. That will prove to us more than anything else that he is really a socialist at heart. Every duty that is imposed ultimately falls upon the grower and the unfortunate agriculturists. The first effect of this duty is going to be that the cotton purchasers will offer a much lower price to the grower than is done at the present time. So it is also likely to be misused by the cotton dealers. In addition to what I have said so far there are two suggestions that I want to make on this occasion, that he or his colleagues should try to reduce the number of middlemen who are dealing in cloth, and also see that some kind of co-operative cotton marketing is introduced in India on a large scale, if not out of this fund at least out of some other fund. This subject of sale of cotton is a very old one; for 20 years we have had conferences and the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has spent lakhs of rupees over meetings and conferences; but nothing very tangible has yet come out. I think that is one of the things that the present Government must attend to, and it is very necessary in order to safeguard the interests of the cotton grower to put more money into his pockets and to stop his exploitation. A better system of cotton marketing on an all India scale should be started as early as possible.

Shri Khandubhai K. Desai (Bombay: General): Sir, in supporting this clause I should like to put a few points for the sympathetic consideration of the Honourable Finance Minister. It is estimated that the export duty on cotton cloth and cotton yarn will bring in about 8 crores of rupees and Government is also given discretion to give such amount as it wants to the textile fund. I suggest that if not the whole, at least a large part of this fund should

[Shri Kharudubhai K. Desai]

be earmarked for encouraging the handloom industry for the future. As it is, the textile mills and textile interests in this country have collectively got huge funds at their disposal for any impetus or encouragement that may be required for the development of the textile industry. And particularly, the Honourable Finance Minister will be able to satisfy certain apprehensions that have been expressed by certain Honourable Members of this House with regard to the interests of handloom weavers. He should give an assurance to this House that a large part of this additional fund—if not the whole of it—will go to promote the interests of handloom weavers. Of course for the time being the handloom weavers' interests are not going to be jeopardised because there is a shortage of cloth in the country. This fund will be coming more or less from the middlemen and as there is no parity of prices between Indian cloth and foreign cloth this amount is coming from the present day profiteers. It should properly be utilised for encouraging the handloom industry. The Finance Minister said in his budget speech that he is a socialist and his definition of socialism is an equitable and fair distribution of wealth. So he may at least give us an example by earmarking this additional fund for equitable and fair distribution among those who require it most. Sir, I support this clause.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): I have only a short point to submit before the House. There is shortage of cloth in India due to our mills and our handloom industry not working or not being able to work to their full capacity. The permission to export cotton cloth and yarn seems to me

to be a confession of failure on the part of the Government to utilise our cotton and yarn in making more cloth through the mills and through our cottage handloom industry. This aspect of the matter should be remembered in connection with this subject.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: My Honourable friend, Dr. Deshmukh, has been under a misapprehension regarding the purport and scope of this taxation measure. He seems to be under the impression that this export duty is an open invitation for greater export of cloth thereby enabling manufacturers and traders to make more profit. It is not so. Our cloth export is very rigidly controlled by quota systems. In 1945 our export quota was fixed at 600 million yards; in 1946 we reduced it to 400 million yards and in 1947 we propose to allow only 300 million yards. So whether there is an export duty or not, the actual export of cotton textiles is very rigidly controlled. So the honourable member need not have any apprehension that this measure will be an invitation for the export of cotton textiles on a more extended scale.

With regard to the contribution to the Cotton Textile Fund, here again there has been some misapprehension. With regard to researches on the agricultural side, there is already a separate fund, the contribution for which is derived from an excise duty on the cotton consumed in the Indian mills. The proceeds of this excise duty are made available to the Central Cotton Committee, and honourable members must probably have heard of the very splendid work that is done by the Cotton Research Laboratory at Matunga. Now this Institute has done a great deal in the direction of improving the varieties of cotton grown in this country. The small *ad valorem* duty which it is now proposed to replace by a heavier specific duty was intended to build up a fund for setting up a large textile research institute in this country and a considerable amount has accumulated in this fund—I think over two crores of rupees, and Government are examining various schemes as to how best to utilise this fund.

My Honourable friend, Mr. Khandubhai Desai suggested that a substantial portion of this new duty should be earmarked for the improvement of the handloom industry. On general principles, I am, against earmarking the proceeds of any taxation for any particular purpose. It is not sound finance. The object of this present measure is to augment the general revenues of the

country. If the handloom industry is to be helped, and I can see that it has to be helped whether there is this duty or not, it will be the duty of the Central Govt. and the Provincial Governments to make handsome contributions for the development of that industry, and I have no doubt that the Central Government will be keenly alive to the needs and necessity for supporting the handloom industry in our country. In this matter, the Provincial Governments are really in a position to do much more than what the Central Government can do. But whatever financial assistance is necessary from the Central Government it will always be forthcoming whether there is any specific duty on cotton textiles or not.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

In doing so, I only want to give an assurance that I am keenly alive to the need for protecting the handloom industry, especially as I come from a part of the country which is vitally interested in the fate of the handloom industry. Just at present, the world shortage in textiles is so acute that there is really no need for apprehension that this duty will in any way affect the export of the handloom cloth from our country. As a matter of fact, considering the total volume of export, the handloom cloth plays only a very small part. It is only about 10 per cent. of our total export and even out of this very small part of export, except for certain varieties like *lougies*, which is manufactured in South India, the bulk of the export in handloom cloth is only of the finer variety and I think that this duty of four annas can easily be put on the export of our handloom cloth of the finer variety also. I can assure my honourable friend, Mr. Aney that as matters stand at present, there is no reason to apprehend any serious competition from American or Japanese textiles. As a matter of fact, the price of Japanese textiles today is more than three times our controlled prices in India. Besides, it will interests the House to know that sometime back with a view to create a cloth shortage in this country, the Government of India arranged for the import of some quantity of Japanese textiles and when the stuff actually arrived it was found we could not sell it because the price was so prohibitive. So just at present there is no apprehension that there is any jeopardy for the export of the handloom cloth. But in any case, as I said at the outset, the position will be very closely watched and if I decide to continue this duty in the next budget I will have the whole matter completely re-examined by that time. Sir, I move.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved.

"That the Bill be passed."

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I do not wish to say anything at this stage but one remark made by the Honourable the Finance Minister has provoked me to say just one or two things. The Honourable the Finance Minister said it is not sound finance to earmark any fund for specific purposes. But I wish to remind him of the fact that whatever might be his view, this certainly is against the practice till now. There have been many funds created, including the Road Fund itself by the result of such earmarking. I hope he will give some consideration to this matter before he actually comes to any decision and see that the existing funds which have come as a result of earmarking and

the funds that may have to be created in future are *given up* before he comes to any final decision in regard to this at the time of the next budget.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTRICITY (SUPPLY) BILL.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil (Minister for Works, Mines and Power and for Commerce): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to provide for the rationalization of the production and supply of electricity, and generally for taking measures conducive to the electrical development of the Provinces of India, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty, Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Shri B. Das, Shri M. R. Masani, Shri T. T. Krishnamachari, Shri K. Santhanam, Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth, Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri, Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala, Shri Mohan Lal Saksena, Shri S. K. Patil, Shri Sures Chandra Majumdar and the Mover, with instructions to report on the opening day of the next session of the Assembly, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Sir, there are only four minutes more and as I shall require about 40 minutes for my speech, I shall speak in the afternoon.

Mr. Speaker: Meantime, I shall put the motion to the House: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the rationalization of the production and supply of electricity, and generally for taking measures conducive to the electrical development of the Provinces of India, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty, Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Shri B. Das, Shri M. R. Masani, Shri T. T. Krishnamachari, Shri K. Santhanam, Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth, Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri, Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala, Shri Mohan Lal Saksena, Shri S. K. Patil, Shri Sures Chandra Majumdar and the Mover, with instructions to report on the opening day of the next session of the Assembly, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

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

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, let me admit at the very outset that this is a very big and complicated Bill. At the same time I would respectfully state that it is a very urgent Bill and I would request the House to accept my motion for reference to Select Committee.

Sir, it is well known that in any scheme of industrialisation basic industries have naturally the first priority and among the basic industries power must necessarily have the highest priority. In the plan which is known as the Plan of Economic Development for India which was worked out and which was published in the year 1944 the first place has been given to the development of electricity. It is well known that the great achievement of Soviet Russia in the field of industrialisation was mainly due to the fact that Soviet Russia undertook first their big scheme of electricity development. That also is true of Canada in recent years. It is therefore only fit and proper that this country which aspires for speedy industrialisation should follow in the footsteps of these big nations as far as possible so that this country may achieve the objective for which it stands.

So far as the development of electricity is concerned I may bring to the notice of this House that as early as 1940 the National Planning Committee has stated as follows:

"We are of the opinion that in order to implement the national policy on power it is necessary to create Provincial Electricity Boards and one Central Electricity Board. The

Central Electricity Board will co-ordinate the activities of the Provincial Boards and formulate the general national policy. Wherever necessary two or more Provinces or States may form a Regional Board."

That was in 1940. Later on, in the year 1945, the Policy Committee laid down the following principle:

"That the development of electricity supply in areas outside existing licensed areas should be actively pursued, as far as possible, as a State or quasi-State enterprise; but if for any reason the State is not prepared to undertake such development in any area within a reasonable time, private enterprise should not be excluded;

That, provided efficient and economic operation could be assured to the public, options existing under any licence to acquire an undertaking should, as a general rule, be exercised when they arise;

That steps be taken to eradicate any factors that retard the healthy and economical growth of electrical development on regional lines whether in Provincial, State and Local authority-owned or in commercially-owned electrical undertakings."

The Policy Committee further laid down:

"That the necessity both in the interests of public utilities as well as of the general public of laying down financial principles for the control of electric public utilities be accepted;

That an Advisory Board not exceeding 5 persons be set up under Section 35 of the Electricity Act to advise Government on the nature, extent and method of application of such principles."

In pursuance of this policy the Electricity Supply Bill was first introduced in the year 1946 by the Honourable Dr. Ambedkar. It was circulated to elicit public opinion by an executive order, and the date by which public opinion was called for was extended to April of 1947. In the month of June 1947 a Conference was held at Simla under the chairmanship of the Honourable Mr. Bhabha and it was attended by representatives of the relevant interests. Representatives of the electric supply undertakings, individually as well as through the Federation, and representatives of the investing public were present.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U.P.: General): Was there any representative of labour also present?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: There was not. Representatives of consumers were also present and among them was the honourable member, Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar. In that Conference which was held for nearly a week and probably for six hours a day, all questions relating to the principles on which this Bill has been based were thoroughly threshed out. As a matter of fact this Bill would have been on the statute book by this time but for certain political events that occurred between May 1947 and the present Assembly session. Under the Standing Orders the Bill lapsed as no step was taken in connection with this Bill in two consecutive sessions. Therefore it had to be introduced again. It was introduced and now a reference to the Select Committee is under discussion. Having accepted the principles and directions laid down both in the Report of the National Planning Committee of the Indian National Congress and in the Report of the Policy Committee appointed by the Government of India, I think there is not much on which people can differ fundamentally. It is an accepted fact that we are far behind in the matter of generation of electricity and its consumption in this country. The per capita consumption in India is 9.2 k.w. where as in England it is 906, in the United States of America it is 1,470, in Canada 3,510, in Norway 3,090. In other words we are far behind any other country although our resources are so plentiful. In fact a great English economist has said that India is a rich country with a poor people. I think that is a challenge both to the industrialists, to leaders, and to legislators also, that this contradiction must be resolved as early as possible and the standard of life in this country should be advanced. Today Sir, the total installed capacity is a little less than 2 million k.w. But the possibilities are so great Sir, that leaving aside thermal energy, the water power out of which electricity is possible, I am told by those whose

[Shri N. V. Gadgil]
 opinions are entitled to great respect, will be anything between 35 to 40 millions, and if we develop this industry on proper lines, it will not be long before we can achieve what we want to achieve, namely the betterment of the common man. Now looking to the pattern of the present development of electricity in this country, you will be surprised to know; Sir, that half the electricity that is generated in this country is consumed by four cities, Bombay, Calcutta, Cawnpore, and Ahmedabad. We find that over half the output of the Indian electricity supply industry is absorbed in the four cities which contain less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the population of the whole country. This may be excusable when the industry is in its infant stage, but there is no further excuse now when we are thinking of planning all round. It may be that in the infant stages when these undertakings were very anxious for not only a fair return but a considerable return, the area of operation should be limited to a town or perhaps a town and its few suburbs. But if we want to do good to the rural population, then some other methods must be thought out, some other lines of development must be fixed up, so that electric power will be available for transport, for agriculture and for domestic use; and I cannot contemplate a better conferment of benefit on the rural classes than to make electricity available to them at cheaper rates and throughout the year. That should be the desideratum which any planning authority should have before its mind. A number of factors have operated in impeding the growth of electricity in this country. Now it has been an accepted principle that in any scheme in which we want to have greater expansion of electricity, it can only be by following what is known as the Grid system. The essentials of the Grid system are firstly erection of large scale power stations located at suitable centres within a particular region and under the control of public supply undertakings; secondly, construction of main transmission systems with smaller secondary lines attached to it for tapping agricultural and other outlying areas; and lastly standardization of frequency as far as possible within the region to be developed by the power system. Now if that is to be accepted, it only means that the boundaries of provinces will have to be brushed aside so far as this question is concerned, and for such a purpose any legislation in any of the provinces will be of no avail, and perhaps of no validity. In these circumstances there is full justification and necessity for introducing a legislation of the kind which is now before the Central Legislature.

With these preliminary observations I want to explain, not in great detail, but briefly, some of the provisions of this Bill. The Bill, Sir, as you will see, is a pretty big affair. It contains nearly 80 sections and 9 schedules. Now, in the main body of the Bill, Sir, are principles relating to organization which is absolutely necessary if we are to have development of this industry on approved lines. There must be good mechanism, sound mechanism, through which the policy or policies have got to be operated. This Bill lays down that for every province there will be what is known as provincial electricity board. Then that board must have some powers. Those powers are also defined. Then there must be duties. Those duties are also defined. Then it is necessary that some provision must be made for the finances of the board itself. Those provisions are there in the Bill, and other miscellaneous provisions which find a place in every Bill and in every statute are there. The main objects of this Bill are the transfer of the direction of electricity supply development into the hands of entirely separate, specially qualified and semi-autonomous provincial bodies, as I said to be called Provincial Boards. Then, the provision of adequate powers and finance to enable these Provincial Boards first to co-ordinate and stimulate electrical development by technical method conducive to a progressive reduction in the prime cost of electricity. Secondly, to effect a form of financial control over commercially-owned undertakings whereby the investor is reasonably

assured of a fair return and the benefits arising out of limited profits are secured to the consumers in the form of low cost of electricity; to pay special attention to Districts not at present served by licensees and, wherever practicable, to prepare and put into effect schemes for affording supply in these areas.

Now, in order to achieve these objects, these Boards must be clothed with necessary powers, and that is exactly what has been done in the Bill. I may assure my esteemed friend Prof. Ranga that there is a provision in the Bill for representation of labour and agriculture.

An Honourable Member: Is there a provision for agricultural labour?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Provision is made for representation of agriculture, labour, commerce, industry and local bodies. I think that should satisfy every reasonable aspiration of a peasant leader as well as a labour leader. Sir, it is well-known that in this country opinion is sharply divided over the major issue of nationalization versus private enterprise. Now, what is sought in this Bill, Sir, is a sort of middle-of-the-road arrangement. I am told, Sir that this may be described as "Shanmukham Chetty's way". I do not share that view. This is not dictated by any personal consideration, I can assure my honourable friend Professor Ranga. What has determined this line of action is what is possible in the immediate future, and to do it in such a way that the ultimate object of public ownership of such public utility concerns is not prejudiced in the least. It appears today that there is only just one special angle from which the matter ought to be looked and it is whether that step is in the right direction or one in the wrong direction. After all, the speed or the tempo depends upon the strength of the public opinion in the country. Very recently, Sir, you have heard something said against control here as well as outside in organised political parties. My friends will agree with me that if it is going to be nationalization, it cannot be nationalisation unless there is a planned economy, and there cannot be a planned economy unless there is a system of control. In the absence of control no planning is possible; planning means that at every stage—production, distribution, and even in the matter of consumption—certain principles are laid down and they have got to be complied with. But as I said, in this atmosphere where opinion is sharply divided, it is the path of wisdom that we must necessarily take the line of least resistance. This is exactly what is done in this Bill.

Referring to the Constitution of this Board, I said that it has been based on democratic principles for it will contain the representatives of the following interests: Local Bodies, Commerce and Industry, Agriculture, and Labour. Now, I think that is a matter to which no exception can be taken. Going further, Sir, about the duties and powers of this Board, the principles are as follows. The duties of the Board which will be charged by the Legislature with the specific duty of developing and promoting cheap electric supply for the benefit of agriculture, trade and industry throughout the Province, will fall mainly under the following heads:

'The rationalization of the supply of power and promotional activities. The first head will include: preparation of schemes for specific areas which should provide for designation of generating station whether existing or new which will be a selected station at which electricity shall be generated for the purposes of the Board; inter-connection by means of main transmission lines, of selected station with one another and the system of licensees; such standardization of frequency as may be essential to carry out the inter-connection men-

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tioned above; such arrangements as may be required between a Board and the owners of a generating station whether such stations are chosen as selected stations or otherwise and such other supplemental, incidental and consequential provisions as may appear expedient and necessary for the purposes of the Board.

As regards the promotional activity, the Board will be charged with the duty of promoting the all-round development of electricity within the limits of its jurisdiction and in particular, in rural and other areas not served by a licensee.

I think that is fairly wide but I am prepared to accept any constructive suggestions in the Select Committee if those suggestions bring out in a better manner, and are calculated to serve, the purpose for which this Bill is undertaken.

Now, as regards the powers, Sir, it would include: to site and erect its own power stations and main transmission lines; to designate certain commercially-owned power stations as controlled stations and to extend for such stations a purpose for which loan may be granted to the licensee to purchase, but only in stations which are technically and commercially justifiable generating stations or main transmission lines owned by licensee on terms which will provide reasonable compensation; to inter-connect any generating station; to purchase the output of any generating station and the surplus output of any owner of generating plant, to close down any generating station belonging to a licensee giving the licensee certain option including purchase by the Board or any other power to act as a licensee in an area for which a station is in existence; to borrow any sum required, upto 10 crores, subject to the consent of the Provincial Government; to lend such loans to the licensees as the Board may deem necessary; to be primarily responsible for the development of hydro-electric power throughout the Province and subject to the consent of the Provincial Government to exercise control over licensees and to exercise a major control over licensees' rate of supply of electricity irrespective of their relation to the maximum charges permitted by the license.

In carrying out these duties and exercising these powers, the Board may take over a controlled station under direct supervision and management. It may close down controlled stations. In fact, the Board may do anything it thinks is calculated to develop this industry and to further the objects for which the Board has been brought into existence.

That is so far as the organisational aspect is concerned.

Now, Sir, it will be readily conceded that electricity undertaking is in the nature of a monopolist concern. In no city two electric concerns are allowed to function. Only one is allowed to function. That being the case, the necessity of controlling its rates and of laying down certain directions and limitations 3 P. M. is not only valid but it is in the highest interests of the community. If that is thoroughly appreciated, it becomes necessary, when we are planning on a very big scale, that certain principles about the Electricity Supply Finance must be clearly laid down. Some of the principles have been referred to in the various Schedules, especially Schedule VI. The other Schedules deal with assumption of control and other matters. I will only refer to one of the Schedules, namely Schedule VI, which embodies certain principles.

As I said in my preliminary remarks, Sir, an Advisory Board on the principles for the control of public utility concerns was appointed in terms of the policy

laid down by the Policy Committee. That Board has made certain recommendations. Those recommendations principally refer to four points.

- (1) What should constitute what is known as "capital base";
- (2) What should be the standard rate of profit;
- (3) What should be allowed by way of remuneration for managing agencies;
- (4) What should be the rate of depreciation?

Now, these are matters on which, as I said, difference of opinion has been expressed and I have no doubt will be expressed during the deliberations of the Select Committee and probably here. But if it is conceded that because this Electricity undertaking is in the nature of a monopoly concern, and it is therefore not only valid but necessary and in the highest interests of the community that some limit should be put on the profit-making capacity of the concern, then the details will not present any insuperable difficulty. What the Advisory Board has recommended with respect to Capital Base was discussed in the Conference which was held in the month of June 1947. Questions such as: whether preference capital should be included or not, whether working capital should be included or not and so on were, if I remember aright, were discussed when the predecessor of this Assembly was called upon last year to define what is "capital" in connection with the Business Profits Tax. But in this particular case, I have no doubt that if the central fact that this is a monopoly concern is thoroughly appreciated, there would be little opposition so far as the fundamental aspect of this question is concerned.

What is suggested by the Advisory Board in its recommendation with respect to standard rate of profit is concerned is that they should first determine what is the annual yield of the longest terminable Government security. That is the first fact to be taken into consideration in determining the standard rate of profit. After that, the recommendations suggests that if the concern's capital is below Rs. 10 lakhs, then it will be 2½ per cent. If it is more than Rs. 10 lakhs but less than Rs. 50 lakhs a little less than that and if it is still more, a little less than that and so on. Two principles are, so to say, coalesced in arriving at what is known as "standard rate of profit". It has been laid down that every undertaking is entitled to have standard rate of profit, and in this connection the term "clear profit" has also been defined as "gross income minus allowed expenditure"—very short and perhaps very sweet from the point of view of some of us. Now, when the concern earns standard rate of profit there is no difficulty. But if it earns more or if it earns less, provision has been made to meet either contingency. If it earns more, then one-third of the more, that is to say, the surplus over and above the standard rate of profit will go to what may be called Dividend Equalisation Fund. Technically, it is known as "Tariff and Dividend Control Reserve". And out of that, one can take it, if in any particular the standard rate of profit is not earned; then one-third is to go towards the benefit of the consumers and one-third towards payment of bonus to the industry. For, it is clear that this industry has to take into consideration three factors:

- (1) To safeguard the interests of the consumer by limiting interest and dividend payable to the minimum necessary to ensure an adequate flow of development capital and so effect a reduction in the selling price of electricity.
- (2) To safeguard the interests of the investor by insistence on a properly devised system of compulsory depreciation and at the same time permit the earning of a reasonable or fair return on investment.
- (3) To regulate the commission and expenses of managing agents to reasonable limits having regard to the special circumstances of the industry.

[Shri N. V. Gadgil]

Now, Sir, there may be some people who would not like the provision of payment of bonus to industry having once decided that it is entitled to what is known as "standard rate of profit". There is no limit to a man's greed. I am reminded, Sir, of the story that has been told in one of the books of Tolstoy "How much land a man requires". He was asked by the King to go ahead and circumscribe the area which he wanted, and when he said that it was finished he would get that portion of land free. From sunrise to sunset he went on, and he thought "Still a little more, and a little more", until at midnight he dropped dead. He found that the land a man really wanted was 6' x 3' x 2'. Now in this modern world, I do not think that even the blue-blooded industrialist claims that there should be no limit on his profit and no taxes on his profit and there must be a complete regime of *Laisses Paire* and no State control whatsoever. That is not the attitude. At least in the expression of their views, they appear to be eminently reasonable. Let us take them at their words and try to limit their greed in objective terms through taxation. Here is an attempt, Sir.

If you cannot straightaway nationalise and eliminate the present and existing vested interests, there is another way of doing it, although it is a slower way, viz., a limiting of profits, putting on controls, issuing directions both for running of the concern, for its expansion, for floating further additional capital; in other words the whole industry will be completely controlled by the State, if it cannot be owned and controlled. In the present context of circumstances, it will be, as I said, not very wise to eliminate private enterprise altogether, for we still have the experience that the majority of people look upon profit or money as the only incentive to constructive effort. And so long as the atmosphere in the community is conducive for holding such a belief and such an atmosphere continues, to go ahead with nationalization at one stroke will not achieve the object, namely, of securing better services for the community, but on the contrary, we might meet with some disaster. After all, in certain spheres, we have to accept the philosophy of the inevitability of gradualness. I know my friend, Prof. Ranga, may not like this but even in public life he must have found that when he was 20, he was not a big leader, but gradually he has emerged into leadership. If that is the experience in an individual's life, I am only generalizing that experience and probably because I am a little elder and I am actuated by no other consideration than to see that whatever we do, atleast it will give the result that we expect.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Can you go so leisurely?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Therefore, we must in the first instance so limit the profit or control the industry that they cannot move from one side to the other; they cannot do anything of major importance without permission of the Government, or in this particular context, without the permission of the Provincial Board.

As regards the third principle, namely, payment to Managing Agents, this is a very big question, Sir. In certain industries, the Managing Agents have earned a lot and created a lot of havoc also. I know, I will be borne out by my labour friend, the Honourable Mr. Khandubhai Dasai. Already under the amended Indian Company's Act, no managing agency contract can be valid for more than a period of 20 years. At that time, Sir, I quite remember, because I was fortunate enough to be a Member of this House, sanctity of contract was pleaded. It may be pleaded again, but when once the major principle that all private contracts must stand down in the interests of the Community is accepted, even here we may proceed on the recommendation made by the Advisory Board that reasonable expenses and reasonable remuneration will be allowed to the Managing Agents.

Another principle which has been recommended for acceptance by this Advisory Board is about the necessity for having depreciation fund and that, as I said, is in the interests of the investor himself. As I said, these were the points round which centred a good deal of discussion in the Simla Conference and I have no doubt if my honourable friend, Mr. Ayyangar is provoked into a speech today he will give something about these points in greater detail and I can assure you, Sir, that you can hardly find a stronger advocate of consumers' interests than Mr. Ayyangar, and I am very happy that he has agreed to be on the Select Committee. These, Sir, are the principles which govern the electricity supply finance.

To sum up, Sir, the whole object of this Bill is to secure speedy and wide expansion of this industry on the soundest and the safest possible lines. It should be the ambition of this country with all these resources that every village should have electric light and every home a radio. What revolution it will mean materially and morally also have only to be imagined to be experienced later on. I feel it to be my good fortune, Sir, that I have the honour to move this Bill and I have no doubt that this House will accept the Motion that I have made. I promise that every suggestion that may be made here or in the Select Committee will be given due consideration. There is no desire to expropriate any interests.

I have received, Sir, a number of telegrams and to all those who are unnecessarily nervous that something extraordinary, something revolutionary, something very radical, is about to come, and in fact, they expect some shock. (Well, when they deal with electricity, some shock must be there.)—I promise, as will be evident from the very moderate way in which I have put this motion, that there are really no shocks in store for them. The attempt is made only to relieve them of the unnecessary load of huge profits and opportunities of patronage not in the interests of a few, but in the interests of the whole community and in this noble task, I appear to the House to participate, Sir. I move.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Sir, I am very glad that a Bill like this has been moved, but I am bitterly disappointed at its provisions. For the last three or four days, I have been hearing the theory of mixed economy and my honourable friend, Mr. Gadgil has also said that this Bill is also based on that policy. I really wonder how our Government dare go against the accepted principle of nationalisation of all key industries. This Bill is the first great Bill which has been brought before the House for the development of the most important key industry of electricity, but here too the undertaking has not been fully nationalized. Today even in England we see important key industries are being nationalized. In India we shall have to go with much greater pace, for we have to make up much leeway to rise to a position worthy of our great country. My Honourable friend the Minister quoted the gradualness with which Prof. Ranga has risen into eminence, and he implied that the nationalisation of electricity will also be gradual. But can we afford to go so gradually in this matter? As I said this morning, we in India have emerged into a free nation after two centuries of slavery. We now want to rise to our natural position of greatness and world leadership. In the present world context, therefore, we must become the equals of Russia and America in the shortest possible time. We surely cannot be that if we go with the gradualness with which it is proposed in this Bill we should go. It has been said that the profit incentive is essential if this thing is to be accomplished. The Congress has passed solemn resolutions on many occasions that all the key industries shall be nationalised. Nationalisation means that production shall not be for profit but for use. If profit is the motive the country cannot have the development it requires, because the purchasing power of the people will be limited and only a few people will get the benefit of what will be produced. But we want to produce for the most up-to-date and powerful development of the whole

[Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena]

country so that we may be in line with the other most advanced and powerful countries of the world. That is only possible if the entire needs of the country are satisfied, which can only happen when the industry is nationalised and is run not for profit but for satisfying human wants. As is well known, the difference between a nationalised industry and a private industry is this; a private industry works for profit while a nationalised industry supplies the wants of the community. India contains 80 crores of people. My honourable friend just now quoted the figures of kilowatts of electricity which every country consumes, and he told us that in our country only 2 million kilowatts are produced and $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the population of the country consumes half of that total amount of electricity in the four cities of Bombay, Calcutta, Cawnpore and Ahmedabad. I have lived in Cawnpore for the last thirty years and I know that even Cawnpore needs more than twenty times the electricity that it gets now if it wants to be what it should be something like Stalingrad of Free India. If $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. is consumed in these four cities that shows that at least a thousand times of that will be required for the whole country. Can the profit motive supply that amount of electricity? I say it cannot. I therefore suggest that according to the Resolutions adopted by the Indian National Congress, this key industry must be fully nationalised forth with. There must be no provision in it for licenses and profits and one-third profit going to the industry and all that. The railways which have been nationalised are a source of very great strength to the national Government; they can meet emergencies like the one which arose recently in the Punjab, and yet they are making profits for the nation. If we want to be a great country, greater even than Russia, we will have to nationalise this key industry of electricity which will supply power for all other industries; and I think the Honourable Minister will be well advised to revise this Bill completely and begin by nationalisation in respect of this essential key industry. I hope the whole House will implore him to do so, because if we proceed with the development of this essential key industry in this manner and provide in this very first important Bill that electricity will be a private industry and Government will only control it, then I say, Good-bye to Nationalisation of key industries and in fact to all development. There is a controlled industry in our province,—the sugar industry, which was controlled in 1937. I have been on the Board of Control since 1937 and I know what controlled industry means and how many loopholes there is for illegal and abnormal profits for these mill-owners. These ten years that the Sugar Control Board has been in existence, the Government of the U.P. and Bihar have been controlling the price of sugar-cane; they have since 1943 controlled the price of sugar as well and also have been trying to see that the profits of the industry are distributed equitably between the growers, the labourers and the consumers. But what happened? The mill-owners made huge profits and out of these profits set up new sugar factories. But the sugar-cane growers never got more than five annas till 1937 and nine annas during the first Congress regime. During the last seven years of war the price paid was Re. 0-12-0 to Re. 0-14-0 which was even less than the cost price of production. When our own Government came they gave Rs. 1-4-0 last year and up till now this price has not been raised, despite prolonged strikes last year. Perhaps it may be raised after the control is removed and prices shoot up. But I know that a controlled industry is not be a nationalised industry; there is much room for profit and patronage and you cannot use it for promoting national interests in the manner in which it should be used. I therefore very bitterly resent the provision in this Bill for making it a private industry. I want that in accordance with the Congress resolution all key industries must be nationalised fully and immediately. There can be no tinkering with the problem of the nationalisation of key industries; and it is absolutely wrong for a Congressman to support private enterprise in key industries.

Then, Sir, I do not feel happy over many of the provisions in the Bill. The composition of the controlling authority is provided for in clause 3. I thought there would be adequate labour representation in it, but what is the actual position? The Provincial Electricity Board will consist of not less than four and not more than seven members of whom three will be full-time and the rest part-time members. Of the three full-time members two shall be engineers and one shall be experienced in financial and accounting matters. The part-time members will represent interests like "local self-government, electricity, commerce, industry, transport, agriculture and labour". So from among these seven interests there will be a maximum of four members; it does not show that labour will be at all adequately represented. Recently there was in Cawnpore a general strike in electricity; the electric company was completely paralysed by the stoppage of work for two days, and the entire machinery of the city with its numerous mills working there was at a standstill. The workers were fighting for increase in wages and a share in the reserve fund. The Government helped them but the company was owned by British people. They have a reserve fund of about one crore of rupees. They probably wanted to wind up the whole concern and take away the entire money to England; the labourers wanted that this should not be allowed and they should have a share in it because that was their own earning. After two days when the employers did not come down, Government had to issue an Ordinance and they took very strong steps. The adjudicator decreed that the reserve fund should be frozen and only a part of it was given to the employers. Of course they are contesting it in the High Court. But these people who owned the concern made large profits and the labourers suffered, and then Government had to use its extraordinary powers to give the labourers a fair deal. Even after this Bill I think it is the labourers who will do the bulk of the work and it is the skilled workers who will do the greatest part of the work in producing electricity. I am associated with the Union there through the Provincial Trade Union Congress and I know that there are only about two thousand workers who control the whole of that concern which runs the wheels of the electricity production in Cawnpore. I therefore want that on this Board there should be a strong permanent representative of labour; at least their interests should be fully protected. I am really surprised that such a Bill should be brought forward in which there is no provision for labour getting a fair deal. I shall quote the instance of some legislation in England. In 1925 they passed the Sugar (Subsidy) Act (15 Geo. V. c. 12). In section 3 of that Act they laid down as follows:

"(1) The wages paid by any employer to persons employed by him in connection with the manufacture of sugar or molasses in respect of which a subsidy is payable under this Act shall, except where paid at a rate agreed upon by a joint industrial council representing the employer and the persons employed, not be less than would be payable if the manufacture were carried on under a contract made between the Minister and the employer containing a fair wage clause which complied with the requirements of any resolution of the House of Commons for the time being in force applicable to contracts of Government departments, and if any dispute arises as to what wages ought to be paid in accordance with this section it shall be referred by the Minister to the Industrial Court for settlement.

"(2) Where any award has been made by the Industrial Court upon a dispute referred to that Court under this section, then as from the date of the award or from such later date as the Court may direct, it shall be an implied term of the contract between every employer and worker to whom the award applies that the rate of wages to be paid under the contract, shall, until varied in accordance with the provisions of this section, be in accordance with the award."

Mr. Speaker: Will the Honourable Member state from what he is quoting?

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: I am quoting from the British Sugar (Subsidy) Act, 1925.

Mr. Speaker: Page?

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Pages 748 and 749.

The Government in England pays a subsidy to see that in war there must

[Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena]

be sugar produced in the country itself and when they give public funds for Developing that industry they make provision that labour shall have fair treatment and give very elaborate details about that fair treatment in the Act itself.

I have gone through the whole of this Bill and I have found no provision which will guarantee to labour fair treatment. If we have a nationalised electrical industry, then I am sure our country will be able to put the same big projects into effect as Russia has done, as America is doing and as other countries are doing.

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General): Or may fail like the nationalized railways!

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: They were not nationalized. They were foreign concerns. They were exploited by the Britishers. Even now if you do not run them properly, then you must not be surprised at the results.

I therefore say that if in England their present Socialist Government is trying to socialise the key industries, I think our National Government, which probably has the biggest majority which any Government can ever have, should be able to pass this Act as an Act providing for the complete nationalisation of the electrical industry which must be rapidly developed. I sometimes think that history had presented to Lenin an unique opportunity in 1917. He seized it and created the great State of Socialist Russia which has changed the course of human history. I think a similar opportunity has again come and it is up to our leaders like Sardar Patel and Jawaharlal Nehru to seize it and to Act. They have an opportunity when they can change the whole course of human affairs by so fashioning this nation that it can be mightier than Russia or America and influence the world in the direction of peace by the emphasis of its ancient civilisation on spiritual and human values. It is time our leaders seized this opportunity, but if they do not, probably history will say that they failed. I think this Act is not conceived in the spirit in which it should have been done. I know we have to make up great leeway. We are far behind other nations. We have an army of 260,000. It is said that Russia has 40 lakh soldiers under arms, of which 20 lakhs are posted in occupied countries. I wonder how Russia can manage to keep 40 lakh of soldiers under arms even in peace time. Only their extraordinary planning and earnest effort has enable them to do it. Our Ambassador in Russia could not get furniture because they (the Russians) have their own planned programmes to fulfil. They have no time to make tables and chairs. We can only come up in line with them if we go with the same energy and earnestness, when everyone has an assigned job to do, and when there is a comprehensive plan.

What is our condition at present? We know how yesterday Honourable Members told the House how their own Government was functioning. Corruption is rampant. Probably no Government in the world has worked under such strain as our Government did during the last year. But I also know that the world will not judge us by our difficulties but by how we conquer them. In spite of the great achievements of one year, we have still to achieve much more. There must be comprehensive planning, and according to that planning all these key industries must be nationalised. I wish our most energetic and enthusiastic Minister the Honourable Mr. Gadgil who is in charge of this Bill will see that when this Bill emerges out of the Select Committee, it embodies a plan for the complete nationalisation of the industry of electricity.

I hope that he will not trust these capitalists who he thinks will be able to give him a very effective nationalised industry for producing electricity. In fact, I sometimes feel from my association with the sugar industry for the last ten years that you cannot get any advantage by controlling any Industry unless you completely nationalise it. I therefore hope he will reconsider the whole thing and see that those provisions of the Bill which provide for licensees and private enterprise are removed.

The second thing I desire to point out is that control has been given in the Bill largely to provinces. I know provinces have got autonomy but I think planning should be a Central subject. I know that is there but I want greater initiative from the Centre. I want that the Centre should be able to plan and direct and take the initiative to push the provinces with terrific speed. Some provinces may not be so quick as they ought to be. So I want that some of the autonomy of the provinces should be either voluntarily surrendered or that the Centre should take some away so that the whole thing can be pushed through with energy.

I think there are other clauses in the Bill that need improvement but because it is going to the Select Committee, I shall not say more at this stage. But I do request that the Select Committee of the Bill should have a proper number of labour representatives on it, and the Labour Minister should make it a point to attend it?

Kazi Syed Karimuddin: (C. P. and Berar Muslim): I have heard with great patience the speech of the Minister in charge of the subject. The major part of his speech was directed to cajoling Prof. Ranga and Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar who seemed to oppose the fundamentals of the Bill.

The Minister in charge has said that people should not be horrified probably because of the radical principles involved in the Bill. I am inclined to think, Sir, that the proposals made in the Bill are not radical but they are reactionary. I have spoken, Sir, about the socialization and nationalization of the key industries in my speech on the budget. The Minister in charge has assigned absolutely no reason as to why, if this key industry is nationalized there will be disaster. Merely by saying that there will be disaster he wants to terrify us. But what are those grounds? Has he stated any one of these grounds which would result in disaster if this key industry is nationalised? No. He has only said that the present atmosphere should be continued and it should be gradually changed. What is the present atmosphere? Capitalism? What is the present atmosphere—private enterprise? It should be accepted and continued. What is the reason? According to the Congress resolutions from time to time and according to the report of the Planning Committee, it is an accepted principle that all key industries should be nationalised.

Even according to the Minister in-charge, electricity is a very great and important key industry in the country, which is likely to help agricultural development. Then why is it to be controlled as a monopoly and is not being nationalised? We wanted to hear the Minister in charge explain why in spite of the spirit of the resolutions of the Congress and also of the Government he only wants to create a monopoly and not nationalise the industry. We are quite in the dark, why this particular course of action is being taken. In his speech the Minister has said that the time has come when this industry has to be controlled, because private enterprise should not reap huge profits. We have been hearing speeches on controls. We have heard speeches about the corruptibility of controls. This is one more control which is being created by the Government. Is there any guarantee that the control of this industry will be successful and would not fail as it has failed in many other departments of the Government?

An Honourable Member: He never controlled industries.

Kazi Syed Karimuddin: This industry is to be controlled by creating a monopoly and by restricting the profits.

Another thing which is very important is this. In the nationalisation of industry the standard and status of labour can be raised. As another Honourable Member of this House has remarked what is the guarantee that the status and standard of labour will be raised? What is the protection provided in the Bill? In all private enterprises labour is only at the mercy of those who run the enterprises. In the case of this key industry when we are

[Mr. R. K. Sidhwa]
 where? I should say that every village should have electricity. But this Bill is not going to expand electricity in the manner in which our Honourable Minister desires it to do. In England and other foreign countries when a new town is to be started or a city has to be expanded, the first thing a local authority does is to lay first the water pipe, drainage, electricity and transport, and after having done that they build the houses. But in India it is just the reverse. We build houses first and leave it to the others to see whether these necessities and comforts are provided or not. In fact these are not comforts but necessities. Water is a necessity and so also electricity. If anyone says that electricity is a luxury he is being in seventeenth century. Electricity is certainly a necessity. Transport is a necessity. Mr. Das asked 'what about the Railways?' The Railways certainly are running very well. After all it is a national asset. You cannot forget the fact that whatever defect there is in the present administration of the Railways it is due to extraordinary circumstances. But it is a pride of the country that the greatest transport organisation belongs to the State. It may also be argued that telephones were previously owned by private companies and that they were running efficiently but that ever since they were taken over by Government it is not so. I agree. But I take pride in the fact that the telephones are a national asset. We are not merely looking to the profits. And it may not be working efficiently due to various extraordinary circumstances. But we can on the floor of the House compel the Railways and the Telephones to work efficiently. If they are owned by private concerns how can we plead in this matter? What can we do when things go wrong? Under the bill a Board comprising of a few interests is to be established. The consumers' representation has not been provided. Representation of the consumers has been given to the local bodies and commerce. Commerce do require representation because they consume the energy for the purpose of expansion of industry. But what about the average consumer in the town or the village, or the small city? Who represents him? Is he represented by the local bodies? No. In that manner legislators also represent the people of the city. Representation of the consumer who consumes electrical energy has to be fully provided for. He is the proper person to know as to what are the defects.

The private electric concerns are prosperous. I can cite instances of companies who have given one fully paid share free to shareholders. The Companies in Ahmedabad, Poona, Karachi have given bonuses to the shareholders of the full value of the shares, free of charge. To that extent the electricity companies are making a profit to the industries. The charge for the supply of electrical energy is very high both for domestic and for industrial purposes. I have no figures with me here, but I can cite to you the costs. The object of electricity is to supply power at a very cheap price. In England it costs somewhere near 2 farthings for producing one unit of electrical energy. In India it is somewhere near half an anna. But you find that for domestic purposes the cheapest rate at which it is supplied is 1 anna six pies, plus so many other taxes levied by the Provincial Government. For industrial purposes also you cannot get supply of bulk energy and even then it is not less than an anna. How can the industry prosper under such conditions? If you want that the industry should prosper and if you want to expand the industry, do you for a minute imagine that this Bill is going to do that and do you good? The present Electricity Act requires thorough revision. I expected that the Electricity Act which is a setback upon the expansion of the industries would have been ushered in for reform for which the Honourable Minister could have taken pride. But he cannot take that pride because the Bill is of a retrograde measure. Leave aside the question of nationalisation of the big industries. Here is one public utility concern and the Government's main object should have been to see that public utility concerns are run by the state. The Calcutta Corporation has showed its intention to purchase the transport service, the

electric tramways, so as the Bombay and Madras Corporations. It is therefore very surprising that if such a measure is brought it will bring a setback upon further expansion. It will be a setback because many arguments will be advanced by the interested parties and the feeling will go round that the Central Government is not in favour of nationalisation. After all the Central Government's attitude will influence these matters. Interested parties will make people think that the Central Government does not demand nationalisation of this industry. The Provincial Governments and other people who would like nationalisation would hesitate to go ahead. I would therefore request that the sending of the Bill to the Select Committee should be postponed and that the Honourable Minister should reconsider this matter and bring in a Bill which should nationalise this key industry. I humbly appeal to the Honourable Minister and would tell him that the bringing in of such a measure will not create any impression—I do not use the word good impression—it cannot create an impression upon the country today, particularly when we, a free country, have actually committed ourselves that all these national utility concerns shall be nationalised.

[At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Shri M. Anathasayanam Ayyangar (one of the Panel of Chairmen)]

Honourable Ministers have been telling us frequently that we should be part and parcel of this Government and support them. I agree with that view, but then what shall we say to the constituency when they put us the question 'Your Government is not today nationalizing this key industry of which you have been all along proclaiming to the world'. What shall I say to that? I should like an answer from the Honourable Minister. Why should the Honourable Minister feel shy of private industrialists, I cannot understand.

4 p.m. They must compel the industrialists to feel that the time has come when they shall have to share their profit: not only that, they should take a prominent part in supporting the government in nationalising. When private owners feel that the Government itself is lukewarm over nationalising the industries and even the public utility concerns they will certainly use all their energy to continue private concerns to go on. Today, even on the Budget the capitalists and the industrialists are jubilant. They are jubilant because they view the policy of the Government beneficial to them. I do not yet know really what is the policy of the Government. The first thing the Government should do is to announce their policy and intentions to this House in this respect. I want to say with all the emphasis and seriousness at our command that there should be immediate nationalisation. We would look in the eyes of the public very small, Sir, if we today go and tell them that our Government, after having come into office, think it wise to go back upon their promises with regard to nationalisation. I am sorry to make these remarks but I am compelled to do so because I do feel intensely, seriously, sincerely, in the interests of the country, that such a measure should not have been brought before this House. If the Honourable Minister wanted some time, he could have taken his time. After all so much time has been taken. Various people have been invited to the conference. I do therefore, Sir, with all the seriousness and emphasis at my command submit that this Bill should not be sent to the Select Committee, and in view of the views expressed in this House the Honourable Minister should consider the view point not only of this House, but the commitments that have been made. They were real commitments. There is no reason why those commitments should not be fulfilled. Nothing has been said by the Honourable Minister to show why those commitments shall not be fulfilled. He should have explained to the House in his preliminary remarks that although the Congress is committed to nationalise all the key industries, it is not in a position to do so. I would have considered his point then, and it would have given an opportunity for an answer. The house may have been satisfied and the public would have had reason to agree with that voice. But he has not thrown any light on this matter. Therefore I

[Kazi Syed Karimuddin]

going to continue private enterprise it is the duty of the Government to provide certain provisions for the uplift of labour, for the raising of the standard of living of labour, for reducing the hours of work and all other factors which go towards the welfare of labour. I object to the fundamental principles involved in the Bill.

Prof. K. T. Shah (Bihar: General): Sir, I have only a few words to say with regard to the basic idea of this Bill. While welcoming the introduction of this Bill I entirely support Mr. Saksena's observation regarding the great mistake being made in making this a semi-private enterprise and not a wholly nationalised enterprise. I stand entirely for nationalisation of the key industries for at least four reasons which I fancy the Honourable Minister would be hard put to deny. First and foremost is the policy laid down by the Congress in 1931 in its celebrated resolution which makes all key industries from the start as nationalised enterprises. In spite of his great attachment to the policy of inevitability of gradualness in this matter, he is too loyal a Congressman I take it to deny the efficacy of this policy and to depart from it wherever he can help it. The second argument is also borrowed from Mr. Gadgil himself, that it is on his own admission a monopoly. It tends to be and will be a monopolistic industry and as such, if left in private hands, it is likely to be unfair and unjust to the entire community being run for the benefit of a fraction of its population. A third argument which also seems to me to be inescapable is that if this country has any ambition to be industrialised, this is the only real source of power which we can command in abundance. We are poor in coal, we are poor in oil, in fact we have not any. And we are fairly rich in hydro-electric possibilities, a source of power which belongs as must to generations unborn as to the present generation in India. If power-driven industry is to be established on a large scale in this country, all our industries will depend upon this industry and if this industry is left in the hands of private profit-seekers other industries will suffer in consequence. I am sure it cannot be the intention of the Honourable Minister to make other industries and the entire population of the country pay a tax or toll to the private owners of this great national key industry, which from the start ought to be a national concern. In this connection may I say that his emphasis on the inevitability of gradualness has not impressed me at all. For one thing, if we were to pin our faith to the gradual realisation of our dream, we should have taken 700 years to attain our freedom. It took 700 years from the time the Magna Carta was signed to the time when adult franchise was accepted in England. I am sure Mr. Gadgil will not have that type of gradualness to govern such great enterprises in this country. For another thing, after all one of the earliest establishment of the electricity industry in this country was not by private enterprise but by state enterprise. If I am not mistaken, the state of Mysore was the pioneer in starting this industry and that too as a state enterprise and I have yet to learn that that has failed. Whatever Mr. Das may have to say hereafter, the example that so far we have of enterprises failing are more in the hands of private people than in the hands of the public, wherever that is responsible to the country as a whole.

I was sorry to hear the Honourable Minister saying in a somewhat apologetic fashion about not alienating private enterprise. I do not know why he should feel so apologetic towards private owners of such key industries. They are not technically qualified—I mean the Directors, the Managing Agents and Proprietors. If anything they are probably less qualified, technically speaking, their charities. They are the safest investment, so far as you believe in God are qualified in another way. They are qualified in cheating labour of its due, they are qualified excellently in cheating the Government of its taxes, they are qualified even in cheating their wives and children when

they make their wills, they are qualified in cheating God himself by means of they make their wills, they are qualified in cheating God himself by means of or the other world. But so far as any contribution of technical skill, scientific knowledge or even of public spirit is concerned, I for one am unable to pin my faith to private enterprise to assist in the all-round development of this country.

There is one more point and I would have done; and that is: We are apt to run away with some fetishes. As I said I welcome the introduction of this Bill but let us not forget that after all even electrical power would be one means of industrialisation in an all round way. Unless you establish other industries at the same time, unless therefore you have a really comprehensive planned programme for the whole national development in all its aspects and in all directions, I am afraid you might find intensive development of electrical power to be a white elephant to support. Unless there is also a consumption of the power that you produce or it is properly distributed, unless therefore other industries are also developed, unless, may I say, even your agriculture is industrialised and becomes the greatest consumer of electrical energy, you will have this power on your hand, but you will not know how to dispose of it, and probably you will have a dead weight of charges accumulating with you, which will be capitalised. Or if you ever want to displace the private producer or generator of electricity, you will have in the final account-settling a heavy bill to pay which is not your own at all.

Those of us who have the least knowledge of the ways and means employed in acquiring enterprises which were once held in private hands but which subsequently have been acquired would be able to tell the House that in the keeping of accounts for example—and it is really cooking of accounts—these people are such experts, and that is another item of their cleverness which I forgot to mention in my earlier remarks. Perhaps Mr. S. K. Patil will be able to throw some light on the acquisition of the B. E. S. T. company in Bombay and the final award of the arbitrator in this respect. But in this matter also unless we take from the start every precaution that account keeping, if you must leave it to private enterprise, is so rigid and so constantly under supervision that no manipulated figures can be put up, I am afraid instead of being to the good of the country this may prove an unexpected evil upon us.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa (C. P. and Berar: General): Sir, the Honourable Minister in charge of the Bill has made an elaborate survey and explained to us the detailed provisions of the Bill. Probably he thought that he would be able to satisfy the House in convincing them that this is a measure in which the House should support him wholeheartedly. I am sorry I am not one of those who would like to congratulate him for bringing in such a measure when we do feel that this measure is the first step to the nationalisation of this key industry? May I ask him with respect whether the first step to nationalisation is the nationalisation of the key industry of electricity? It has been an admitted fact that the public utility concerns, namely transport, communications and electricity must be nationalised. That has been an accepted principle everywhere and to talk about it today as a first step when we have obtained our freedom and when we are out to do what we choose to do, is unnecessary. It is merely a first step towards the nationalisation of this big and key industry.

The Honourable Minister explained the position very briefly. He explained that electricity requires to be expanded and he compared the figures of India with those of foreign countries and rightly proved how far backward we are in this respect. In 1944 electricity was supplied in 1,950 towns. I have no figures for the increase between the year 1944 and 1947. I think it would not be more than 50 towns more. Conditions being such during the war it was impossible to import machinery and they could not have added more than that. Only 2,000 towns have today the benefit of enjoying electricity. There are 7 lakhs of villages and about 16,000 big and small towns in India. Is it not a disgrace for us to see that electricity which is a necessity has not been extended every-

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do feel, he personally feels that it should be nationalised. but I do not know for what reasons he has held over his own conscientious opinion. If he has changed his opinion, he must say so. If the Congress was not right at the time and if it is not possible for any reason to proceed with nationalizing immediately, the House would be delighted to hear the reasons from the Honourable Minister. We shall then very carefully consider the objections. For these reasons I submit that this Bill should be reconsidered by the Honourable Minister.

Shri Biswanath Das (Orissa: General): Sir, I rise to congratulate the Ministry for having brought this Bill at so early a stage of their existence. Sir, my Honourable friends have found fault with the Honourable Minister in charge of the Bill for having not thought of immediate nationalization of electric power. I think they should have thought twice before making this accusation. Though India is independent today, we should look at the present atmosphere, before thinking of the nationalization of the industry all at once. Sir, thinking of the present atmosphere, I feel myself depressed. We have to consider in the first instance that our independence is a child hardly of four months old. Conditions in the country are not at all happy. We are now having an undeclared war in Kashmir, and need I say with Pakistan, our neighbour, with whom we thought we would get on peacefully and well. Sir, the depressing conditions of labour in the country are horrible. Today you do not know where you will have a strike and where not. We have nationalized telephone services, and what is the result? Only a few days back an Honourable Member representing Bombay told the House that if this be nationalization then it will endanger nationalization and depress the hearts of those who are thinking of nationalization. The Ministry has taken a very bold step in taking up river projects, big hydro-electric schemes, costing hundreds of crores of rupees. All these have been undertaken to be run by the Government themselves. That means nationalization. A Ministry that has assumed office of independent India so recently as three months back should not be worried. They must have time to plan. They must have full time and opportunity to think for themselves, to plan for the whole country and devise ways and means. I am glad that my Honourable friend has taken this interim measure. I deliberately call it interim because it is a measure between nationalization and the existing state of things. The existing state of things are very depressing. I come from a province which stands last in the matter of electrical development. Sir, we pay six annas per unit along with the attendant difficulties and inconveniences.

Shri M. S. Aney (Deccan and Madras States Group): That is the case outside your Province also.

Shri Biswanath Das: Yes. Under these circumstances, I think this interim arrangement between nationalization and the present depressing condition is very welcome. But I would appeal to the Honourable the Minister in charge of the Bill to make suitable provisions in the Bill in order to make it possible to convert these concerns into national concerns if and when he is ready to undertake nationalisation. That will be eminently satisfactory and I think that is what the country desires.

Sir, my Honourable friends have spoken about the Bill as very reactionary. I join issue with them and say that the Bill is on no account reactionary nor can it ever be a reactionary Bill conceived by the Minister who thinks as much of the country as any one of us here does. Under the circumstances, it would be unfortunate to talk of bravery and propose to teach bravery to people who have been brave all along their life and who have been proved to be brave. I appeal to my Honourable friends not to be unnecessarily hard, where there is nothing to be hard. So, I give my fullest support to the Bill with the feeling

that this is only an interim measure and that necessary provisions will be incorporated in the Bill for nationalisation of these institutions if and when we are ready to take up those institutions.

Sir, taking the question of electric power, in U.P., Madras and the Punjab, hydro-electric power is being generated and supplied by Government themselves. Thus in these areas there is complete nationalisation—the hydro-electric industry being run by Government, barring the electric power installations in cities and towns. Under these circumstances, there is nothing to find fault with the Government and there is everything to congratulate them and to support them to our full. With these words, Sir, I congratulate and join in the chorus of congratulations to be showered on the Minister; I fully believe that the House supports this measure that has been brought forward by my friend and explained so clearly and lucidly to the honourable members.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari (Madras: General): Mr. Chairman, Sir, my provocation in interfering in this debate is to express a few of the difficulties that I encountered in trying to grasp the fundamental principles of this Bill. The Bill is not one of those which is easily understood. If I may be permitted to use the personal pronoun, Sir, I am accustomed to dealing with legislation. But this is a very complex measure. Assuredly, it has its limitations—limitations imposed on it by reason of the time when it was first initiated. I think the Honourable the Mover clearly explained that there is a history behind this Bill and that it has taken up a period of time to mature; it probably would have come before the Legislature earlier but for the uncertainties in the political situation in this country.

Sir, I feel the Select Committee is charged with a duty—a very serious duty—of streamlining the Bill so that it can suit modern ideas and modern conditions. In fact, the Department has done a lot of spade-work. The Policy Committee which functioned in 1945 had recommended certain procedure to be followed; in fact, Sir, the Policy Committee's views were not considerably at variance with those expressed by many honourable members in this House. The Resolution of the second meeting of the Policy Committee held on 2nd February 1945 says:

“That the development of electricity supply in areas outside existing licensed areas should be actively pursued, as far as possible, as a State or quasi-State enterprise; but if for any reason the State is not prepared to undertake such development in any area within a reasonable time, private enterprise should not be excluded.”

Again, Sir, that Committee recommended that there should be an Advisory Board of not exceeding five persons, which should lay down the financial principles that should govern the future policy of the Government.

Sir, you have in this Bill in Schedule VI, the financial powers that cover the entire scope of this Bill. But that will entirely be superseded by the recommendations made by the Advisory Board appointed by the Resolution of the Policy Committee and in my view that is a considerable advance on what the Bill intends to do in Schedule VI. If that is taken into account and the Bill is carefully studied, I do not see that there is much room for excitement. I am not one of those who believe in perpetuation of capitalism if it can possibly be avoided. I am myself a great protagonist in my own way, in my own sphere, of nationalisation as quickly as possible. But what exactly is nationalisation? What is the content of the nationalisation that my honourable friends want? Does it mean that the State should take over the control of these undertakings, that the State should regulate the amounts that should be paid to people who have invested in the undertakings, or do they say that the whole thing should be financed by the State?—money drawn out of vacuum for which they do not pay anything?

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Sir, let us look at the latest measure of the British Government, the Electricity Bill, which proposes nationalisation. But what are the implications of that Bill? That Bill proposes to take over the shares and securities held by private parties and in return issue Government Paper carrying more or less a similar rate of interest. Well, that is the nationalisation that is there and the private party is still there as the private party; it is the investors' money, only control has passed from the Director on to the Central Electricity Board and to the Area Electricity Board.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Madras: General): It is an important change.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is an important change, but I will ask my friend Prof. Ranga to read this Bill and find out if there is also not an important change in this Bill. Let my honourable friend read the Bill and if he reads it and notes the constitution of the Provincial Board, he will find that the Provincial Board is not the appointee of any shareholders' gathering—it is the appointee of the Provincial Government. It takes over the power of the Department of the Provincial Government that is now doing the function. And if that means that the State is giving away to some private interest all the source of power that we have, the only source of power that we have, I am afraid it is open to question. It is really not true in relation to the actual wording of the Bill.

My friend Prof. Shah who is old enough to have been my Professor if I had the good fortune to study in the Bombay University, has said that this is the only source of power; that we have no coal, no oil. But he forgets that all the power that we generate is not hydro-electric and that some electric power has got to be generated either by coal or by oil.

That is by the way. But I would ask my honourable friends to study the provisions of the Bill. It in effect creates a Provincial organisation which is charged with the task of taking over and controlling in a very effective manner the distribution of electrical energy in the area, in which it functions. Why is it so? My Honourable friend Mr. Shibbanlal Saksena said: "Why not the Central Government do this, that and everything else?" I may tell him that there is Section 100 and Section 126 of the Government of India and the fact that Electricity has a place in the Concurrent List, Part II, those are the reasons why the Central Government could not straightaway enact a Bill which will enable them to take over control of electricity all over India. Those are the limitations under which we are labouring, and very wisely skipping through the difficulties of Section 126, the draftsmen of this Act have given us an organisation which, if properly worked, may mean nationalisation at just one stroke of the pen. It is not the first step. The next step is only a stroke of the pen.

Sir, take for instance the province of Madras where, as it happens, 95 per cent. of the generating capacity is in the control of the Government and 98 per cent. of the electricity generated is generated by Government now. Well, my honourable friend Prof. Ranga, who is not very accurately informed as far as Madras is concerned, said the Madras Electric Supply Corporation has been taken over by the Municipality—the last thing we would permit, at any rate. It has been taken over by Government and it is a huge undertaking. Actually, the licences are so worded that after a period of time Government could take over everything else and it would possibly be that in a very short time the whole question of generation and distribution of power in Madras will be in the hands of the Provincial Government. I mean, there is nothing to prevent it. It may be wise; it may be unwise—it may be the proper thing; it may be the improper thing, but that is the logical evolution of the policy

pursued by the Provincial Government. And what has my Honourable friend done to aid the Madras Government by reason of this Bill? It may be that the Madras Electric Licensee's Association says: "We are not concerned". Well, they won't be concerned, because at the present moment they have not studied the Bill, but what really happens is this. My Honourable friend has provided means by which there would be a body in Madras which would be charged solely with the purpose of developing electrical energy, solely with the purpose of providing the agriculturists with power that is needed for them, solely with the purpose of providing urban amenities in villages but for which people in urban areas won't go back to the villages, so that they can have their electric lights, they can have their cinemas, they can have their radios. All these things will be part of the work which the Provincial Electricity Board will have to undertake, with, very possibly, the present Chief Engineer of the Government of Madras as the President of the Electricity Board. I see that there is no provision at all for any of the capitalists, shareholders, interfering in any manner in the composition and working of the Control Board. The assets of the Government will now be transferred to the Board. The Government can make subventions to the Board and the Board can borrow money. As against this, the Board is entirely appointed by the Provincial Government; it may be that people who are appointed there may represent certain interests. They may be representatives of labour, of agriculture, of commerce. After all, if a Provincial Government is under your control, you can make a member represent labour or agriculture or commerce in the Board so that their interests could be looked after. So here is a perfect scheme of nationalisation of the generation of electricity and also, if it is necessary, of the control and distribution as well. The only limiting factor is that there are licencees and their duration is governed by the terms of the licence. If you want to take over the distribution yourself, you will have to pay them compensation. If proper provision is not there—I think there is already provision for compensation—you can always amend it or improve it in the Select Committee.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: What about inflation of capital?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Where is inflation of capital? I have been a student of economics in my own way. I do not know what my Honourable friend means by "inflation of capital". I find no capital here at all. The capital is that of the Government.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Capital of the private concerns that are taken up.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Well, that is a matter for Mr. Sidhwa and the Government to which he belongs. Apparently now he is an orphan, he does not belong to any Government but if he does he will realise that capital will never be inflated. I can tell him, if the Chairman will allow digression for a minute,—in a scheme of nationalisation that we are pursuing in respect of certain types of ownership we are not giving any inflated capital in Madras, and if you have a Government strong enough to do that, you can do the same thing with all these people. You can give them stock and 3 per cent. That, I believe, Sir, will more or less knock at the bottom of many of the arguments of those who say that this Bill is a reactionary Bill. It is perhaps not very modern. The task of making it modern is vested in the members of the Select Committee who can copy *verbatim*, if they want, certain provisions of the latest Electricity undertaking of the British Government because there is a nucleus of nationalisation here.

Sir, one other point to which I would like to draw the attention of the House is this. Some members objected to this Bill, particularly the wording of Section 27. Section 27 defines the preparation of the scheme and Chapter III defines the powers and duties of the Provincial Electricity Boards have all to be modified, if necessary, so as to give the power to compel licencees to give it up if you find that the licencees are merely working for the sake of profit

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and are not responding. These provisions may be modified suitably and you will have enough power. Sir, that, I believe is quite enough for the time being against the charge that has been set out against the Honourable the Mover that he has brought forward a reactionary Bill.

To sum up, once again I will say there is a historical background to the Bill. The Bill has to be streamlined and it will take time, and all that is necessary can be done in the Select Committee. But in essence, this Bill provides all the preparation that is necessary for nationalisation. One of the factors I would like Honourable Members to bear in mind is that if you have an organisation of the electricity undertaking similar to what you have in Madras, it is pretty easy for you to nationalise, but I do not think that the development of electricity and electricity undertakings all over India is on a par with Madras. Probably we have reached the peak in regard to our hydro-electric schemes. The other provinces have to wake up. So if this Bill looks as though it is not particularly radical you have only to apply to it the analogy of a convoy where the slowest ship of the convoy dictates the pace at which the convoy moves. Actually, the framers of this Bill have had to take account of the financial and economic situation of the various provinces, because it is pure and simple a provincial subject and the limitations of the Government of India Act are there. They have done so to give the backward provinces time to come up on level with the more progressive ones. If necessary, they can quicken their pace. It all depends on the vigour with which the provincial representatives press forward with this matter. Sir, one other factor in this connection is this. My Honourable friends want straightway to nationalise. Well, as I said, I am perfectly in agreement with them. There is a Tamil proverb which says: "If you want to lie down, you must first sit and then lie." Even now certain things are necessary for nationalisation; you will want Electrical Engineers of a very high calibre. I can tell the House the experience in Madras. We have a very competent Chief Engineer. He is going on leave. He is in charge of two functions; he is the Chief Engineer, the Chief Administrative Officer and also the Operation Superintendent. We cannot find another person to take his job. We have had to split it into two. That is the position.

An Honourable Member: Why do not you send Mr. Sidhwa?Y

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: We did not know that he was quite so competent at that time.

It is rather difficult to get the necessary amount of personnel. Supposing we want to borrow personnel from other countries, what happens? We had an American Engineer some time back employed by the Central Technical Board. He found that he could not do much work for the last five years and he was rusting. His knowledge of modern developments had not kept abreast with modern times. So he felt he would go back so that he will be a live Engineer whereas he was a dead one by remaining in India. His ambition did not tempt him to stay on in a country which has not progressed fast enough. I challenge Honourable Members who want to nationalize straightaway to produce half a dozen Electrical Engineers of top class who will take over this job and carry it out successfully for 5 years. What has happened? We have got a few technical men at the top and there is a gap. We have got to train the younger people and my own feeling is this: This Bill will provide us enough time. We put the responsibility on the Provincial Boards. The Provincial Boards can nationalize. No reactionary Government has stated that it should not be made a State enterprise. All it has provided is that, if it possible, it should be a nationalized concern.

I will refer again to the experience of Madras in another matter. We are trying to nationalise our transport. If they had taken private companies, then they would probably have gone in a different way. They would have got the

help of the present operators. So the question really is even if you nationalize whether you manage to use the machinery that now exists which runs these undertakings. As my Honourable friend, Mr. Sidhwa mentioned they are all merely entrepreneurs or financial promoters; some of them are very clever and we have an undertaking in the south of India run by a man called Seshasayee; he is an excellent man, but not probably a technical man and he is extremely clever at this job. He is able to spread electricity to rural areas, which probably many technical people may not be able to do and at such a cheap cost and his capital undertakings are not very heavy. There is a certain amount of talent there. We have to rope in that talent. So we want time and my own feeling is that this Bill provides the necessary amount of time.

Sir, I have no desire to go into the clauses of the Bill. As I said, I wish the House makes it very clear to the Select Committee that they go 'full steam ahead'; they have got the full power of this House to alter the Bill in whatever manner they like, so that ultimately the project will be a good one which will benefit the country as a whole and will perhaps meet that end which is near to the hearts of most of our friends who wish ultimately to nationalize the undertaking. Well, give the sanction to the Select Committee; make it a mandate; "go outside the four corners of the Bill; extend it if necessary, so that we will have a good Bill which will probably meet the wishes of Professor K. T. Shah, Mr. Sidhwa and Mr. Shibban Lal Saksena", but I do maintain, Sir, here we have a nucleus of a very proper organization for running electricity concerns in this country in a manner where the private entrepreneur will not have his own say but which can be run so that people can get electricity in a reasonable time and the agricultural areas could be developed and later on in the industries which as my Honourable friend, Professor Shah visualises, come into being, they can be extended. Sir, I support this Motion.

Shri S. K. Patil (Bombay: General): Mr. Chairman, in rising to support the reference of this Bill to the Select Committee, I find myself, Sir, somewhat in the same difficulty, if it is a difficulty, in which the Honourable the Minister found himself, because he had to present a very practical case and not a sentimental case. To talk of full-blooded nationalism Sir, in these days is not only a necessity but as it has been said, it is also a fashion. It at once becomes unpopular if you differ by an inch from the accepted thesis that immediate nationalisation is not only the goal but our immediate concern. I have been Sir, in my humble public life a very great protagonist of nationalism and I am stating my present case not because I have resiled from that position, but I must state the case as a practical proposition.

Reference has been made, Sir, by my Honourable friend, Prof. K. T. Shah to the electric concern in Bombay about which I have something to do. It is indeed difficult, Sir, to differ from the cogent and weighty arguments advanced by my Honourable friend, Prof. K. T. Shah. As to the actual concern that he mentioned, namely, the Bombay Electric Supply and Transport, I shall come later to it. But I shall begin with the case about which there has been a lot said in this House and a lot more will be said hereafter that is the nationalization of all industries and particularly the key and the basic industries. That this particular Bill refers to an industry which is the key industry and the basic industry, there is no doubt about it. In fact it is so basic that many of our key industries and many other important industries depend upon how we conduct our electricity industry, and therefore, if there is any concern that ought to be nationalised immediately or in the immediate future, it is the electricity concern. Therefore, I do not join issue with those who want immediate nationalization of this concern. But when they talk of nationalization of a concern and sometimes talk in a manner which I do not say is light-hearted, but surely is not as practical as it ought to be, I do not understand really the content and import of that nationalization. What is after all the nationalization for? The other day when I was speaking on the Railway Budget, I said that

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on this outstanding concern, namely, the Railway, much of our success of nationalization hangs. I was very serious when I made that statement. Why? Because the people understand that the nationalization is not an end or goal in itself. Ultimately the content of that nationalization must mean that millions of our poor countrymen must get the direct benefit out of it. It is not a sentiment; it is Rupees, annas and pies; so much more facility, so much more convenience; if you do not get that facility and convenience out of that nationalization and if you have got the mere sentiment that so many key industries we have nationalised, and therefore we are a great nation, surely, Sir, I do not subscribe to that view at all. And therefore in order that our scheme of nationalization should be a complete success, I want to adopt means which will definitely lead me to that nationalization. Now when I scanned the provisions of this Bill, I saw such a scheme does exist in this Bill and therefore, I say that it is paving the way to nationalization although it is not a full-fledged or full-blooded nationalization here and now. People imagine that in any country you can have nationalization, because you are an independent country. Only by enactment of laws you cannot have nationalization. That is the practical view. You have already got one party Government; you have merely to bring a Bill, pass it through all the stages; then it becomes a law and it does not matter what the ultimate results are, and you may think you have brought about nationalization. Therefore for any scheme of socialisation or nationalisation—for which I also stand—we want to create the necessary conditions in this country. Unless those conditions are created I want to go slowly, if you call it so. But I do not want to go fast and jump into a deep well without knowing the depth of that well. That is exactly the mistake that I do not want to commit and which I think the framer of this Bill has not done. Therefore I congratulate him on this. He was appologetic and said he was hastening slowly, that it was a moderate Bill, and so on. Of course, it is a moderate Bill and he is hastening slowly, but you are hastening to the desideratum or programme which is going to be the ultimate programme, namely, nationalisation of all key and basic industries in this country. It has been suggested that the process of nationalisation or socialisation is very easy, and it also comes very easily; that if you say that an industry belongs to the State, it at once belongs to the State. There are three stages according to me in this process of nationalization. I do not go into a very elaborate and technical discussion of the question, but these three stages are easily understandable. The first stage is capitalism which you and I and everybody abhor and want to end as soon as possible. Having accepted that, before you reach nationalisation which is State ownership and State control put together, there is an intermediate stage which was described by the Honourable Minister as the monopoly or the State control stage. It is also a stage that leads you to nationalisation; it is not a retrograde step. Some people went to the extent of saying that this is a reactionary Bill, a retrograde Bill, and all sorts of epithets have been used. If you really want to reach the goal of nationalisation State control or State monopoly which is a form of nationalisation should not be eschewed; and if this Bill has incorporated State control it is an immediate step towards nationalisation or socialisation. Therefore when we think of this we have got very seriously to consider—as I tell all students of socialisation and nationalisation—the trends in the world today. The international world today is recognising the value of State control. State ownership is not everything; if you control the concern itself you get advantages which even under State ownership you may not be able to get. I am not arguing, mind you, against State ownership; in time to come you will have State ownership also. But before coming to that stage if you go through the intermediate stage of State control nothing is lost and everything is gained. You learn by experience: you create all the conditions and circumstances that are necessary for launching a full-blooded programme of socialisation or nationalisation of all

key and basic industries. I may say, Sir, that in order that any scheme of nationalisation should become a success in this country certain preliminary conditions have got to be created. When I gave the instance of railways the other day my honourable friend the Minister for Railways turned me down by saying that our railways are better than other railways, that more railways are asking to be nationalised. That is the criterion that he gave as regards the success of our railways. I do not want to go into that subject once again, but if we are to judge the success of nationalisation by what our railways and our telephones are doing, at least in the last two or three years after the war, I would say, "Woe be to all our chances of nationalisation in this country!" I repeat that argument *ad nauseam* not because I join issue with the Honourable Member; I know he is as keen as anybody else on the subject of nationalization of all our key and basic industries. But if the nationalisation of railways means that every year the Railway Minister has to come and say that he is increasing the First, Second, Intermediate and Third class fares and adding this charge and that charge and after five or six years more amenities and facilities will be established, then how can any one have patience about this nationalization? If anything good is to be realised after a process extending over so many years that, according to me, is not the success of nationalisation. I do understand the difficulties that are implicit in the situation; I do understand the obstacles that Honourable Ministers have to face. When we make this plea of nationalisation and socialisation it is not to criticise the actions of honourable members. And on this occasion I should like to tell our popular Ministers that they should not be so very thin-skinned, and imagine that every criticism means distrust. They must not forget that they used the same arguments against other Ministers; and now that fortunately they are there they should realise that when these arguments are advanced it is not to criticise them. If we were in their places, possibly we might do worse; I know they are doing it much better. But when we make criticism, it is to state the case—the practical case—and they should understand that the practical suggestions which in all sincerity are advanced are meant to help and not to retard progress. Can we call the administration of railways and telephones a success? You know what has happened in telephones. I am connected with the telephone system; I am a member of the advisory telephone committee of my city. I have to deal with this subject every day, and what do I find? It is the same experience everywhere. It is said that we must nationalise no matter what the results may be; without the technical skill and without many other essential requirements we are satisfied if all the telephones in the country belong to the State. And when they belong to the State I am happy because I think that I have nationalized the telephone industry. But that is not the right way of looking at this question. Apart from sentiment, money and everything else, the actual facilities and convenience which add so much to comfort and happiness of people are according to me, the real essence of nationalisation. If that essence is not to be achieved I do not understand this superficial talk about our being very happy under nationalisation. What is true of telephones is true of railways and every other nationalised industry.

• The question was raised as regards Bombay Electric Supply with which I am concerned both as leader of a very numerous party in the Bombay Municipal Corporation and as one who has something to do with the Transport Company also. It is one of the largest electric concerns in the country. Possibly, honourable members may not be knowing that we are not generators of electricity but we are only distributors. We have to take electricity from somewhere else. If half the country's electricity is consumed in those four cities which were mentioned by the Honourable Minister, I must say that greater portion of it is consumed in the city of Bombay. There were people who used to come and say that as soon as you take over the concern a miracle was going to happen, because it is a key industry. It has got to be municipalised, socialised,

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nationalised.—call it what you like. We did not wait for the intermediate or the second stage of the State control. Possibly for some years it would have been a better alternative but we walked straight into full-fledged municipalisation. My Honourable friend, Prof. K. T. Shah mentioned how the private companies cooked their accounts and so on. I agree that it is so, and we have to guard against that. I do not say much about it because it is before the arbitrators and the case is *sub-judice*; so we must not go into details of that case. But that consideration apart, when I tell you that after we have taken this nationalised industry of electricity in Bombay, you will perhaps not believe that our difficulties have been multiplied ten times today. For the last fifty years—or whatever the number of years may be—that concern was giving huge dividends of 14 or 15 per cent. If that company was so good as to give 14 or 15 per cent. dividend year after year, we all thought that when it was municipalised, we would be able to make a still greater success of it. It was municipalised and I am only hoping that it should not be my misfortune to say, when I have occasion to speak next year in this House, that not only we have not given any dividends but we have made losses; not because we have done anything wrong in nationalising that concern, but the conditions which were necessary for launching that scheme of nationalisation had not been created. And it is your duty and my duty to set ourselves to the task of creating conditions in which nationalisation becomes an easy task. It must become easy. It is not in a spirit of carping criticism that I am saying this. The truth is that though it is our duty we have not done it and those conditions have not been created. The moment a concern is nationalised our workers, who are really the backbone of any concern, also think that they are independent just as India is now independent. Therefore they may not work: of course they must have higher wages. We have all sympathies for their demand. But along with larger wages if there was responsibility on their part of adding to the production of the country and do many other things besides by which our national undertakings become a success, at the end of it we shall have rendered an excellent account of ourselves and we could tell the whole country “Here is a primary concern of outstanding importance: we have made it a success after nationalisation. So you also proceed in your own province with nationalising similar concerns.” At the present moment I have not that optimism that we shall be able to do that. Why? Because there is no national discipline. There are not the conditions that are necessary in order that every national concern becomes a success. We have not yet trained people in their responsibility towards nationalisation. If I summarise, according to me, there are certain conditions which are necessary before any scheme of nationalisation or socialisation of the basic or key industries is undertaken. They are practically basic conditions, the nonfulfilment of which will result in the failure of any scheme of nationalisation that you may take in hand. The first and primary condition is that our citizenship must be responsible. Responsibility of citizenship is the most important thing. We must understand what ultimately is our duty. Just now you find strikes and strikes everywhere and consequent indiscipline. I am not against strikes. I am not advancing the arguments of a capitalist. A sword is a weapon and a knife also is a weapon. But we must distinguish when a sword is to be used and when a knife is to be used. You should not strike for everything. So responsible citizenship is the first *sine qua non* of any scheme of nationalisation or socialisation of a key or basic industry.

The second requisite is national discipline. We have no national discipline amongst us. We talk of big things but what can a nation do without national discipline? We simply utter slogans “This must be nationalised and that must be nationalised.” I warn this House that all the schemes of nationalisation will prove utter failures if we have not really imbibed in us that national

discipline which is necessary for the success of nationalisation of our key industries.

Along with national discipline there should be national character. I do not really challenge that we have no national character. We are an infant or young nation or a nation just reborn. We have yet to build our national character. We have not got that at present. How many times are examples of corruption quoted in this House, and it is alleged that even Congressmen indulge in it. All that goes to show that we have not really yet formed the requisite national character which is necessary for the success of any national scheme in India.

Reference was made and rightly so by the speaker who preceded me that we must also cultivate high technical skill. You talk of nationalisation of electricity. How many engineers have you got who are experts in schemes of electricity? Mr. Sidhwa or some other member said that it was a shame that we had no engineers. It is a shame that ought to be shared by all of us. May I tell the honourable member that much as I was criticised in appointing an Englishman to continue as General Manager of our electric concern, however I tried to find out, even a second rate or a third rate Indian to step immediately into his shoes and take the responsibility of that concern, because we wanted that concern to be Indianised, I really confess my shame that I could not find one. We are not responsible for it. We were kept in a condition where this shame became inevitable. We had to continue an Englishman in the job. If I want half a dozen engineers in order that the scheme should be a success where can we get them immediately? Does any honourable member suggest that in order to make a success of nationalisation the technical experts required should be imported from England, America or Russia? That is not according to me full-blooded nationalisation. But we have to surmount those difficulties. We have got to train the personnel. Unless we have got the competent technical personnel both in quantity and quality it will not be possible to make a success of any scheme of nationalisation. Mere talk of nationalisation does not carry us anywhere nearer to nationalisation.

And last but not least, we must have a well trained sense of patriotism, which in the last analysis must get better of self-interest. But what do you see today. There is the self-interest of the capitalist and there is the self-interest also of the poor man who calls himself a labourer or worker. Whenever there is an emergency and you find that there is a strike and both sides are at a tug of war, there is no patriotism anywhere in evidence. From the capitalist we cannot expect it. But when we come to our own selves what do we find? My honourable friend Mr. Shibban Lal Saksena who is a supporter of nationalisation has got abundant experience of labour himself. If he goes and tells workers “You go on strike” he becomes their leader. But if he goes and tells them “Do not go on strike, it might react on our nation, we must build up the national wealth of the country”, I am afraid he would not be heard. That is my experience. I happen to be the President of the largest labour organisation in the city of Bombay. If I tell them “You go on strike and I shall be your leader” every worker will be behind me, because I am leading them to strike. As it is the strike seems to be the be all and end all for which a worker exists. If I tell them “Of course you have the right to strike but please wait. Our country is poor, our production has to be advanced; we have got to discipline ourselves. We should go a little slowly.” Immediately he will discard me and have somebody else who would help him in the step which he has already decided upon. This has become the leadership of labour in the country. So this is also a condition precedent to nationalisation, that your sense of national responsibility ought to be so great that in the last analysis—whether your country is going to gain or lose by that—you must rise superior to your self-interests. Here is the country's interest and I shall protect the country's

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interest even at the cost of my own interest. If that is the view that is really shared mutually by both capital and labour, by the industrialist and the man behind the wheel, then alone there is salvation or the success of nationalisation. Therefore, I would humbly appeal to those people who are the supporters of nationalisation and socialisation of the key and basic industries—and I am second to none in my desire for nationalisation—to be cautious in the national interest and accept for a while the immediate step of state control which in effect, means that 90 per cent. of capitalism and all other vested interests are trampled under the feet. It is not state control alone but also state-ownership that will have to be added to it in time to come. With the success of State control we shall have state-ownership also, thereby finalising the scheme of nationalisation or socialisation. If the Bill of the Honourable Minister is judged in that view, surely I should say that it is a step in the progressive and right direction and therefore I strongly recommend its reference to the Select Committee.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 8th December, 1947.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Monday, 8th December, 1947

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS.

RATES POLICY OF RAILWAYS

†658. *Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the Special Officer and the Committee of Rating Experts appointed by the Railway Board to work out the basis for revision of the rates policy of the Railways have submitted their reports to the Railway Board?

(b) If so, what are their recommendations?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The Special Officer, who is also the Secretary of the Standing Advisory Committee (Post-war Rating), has submitted several reports on the different aspects of rating practice and policy. Most of the reports have been examined and reported on by the Standing Advisory Committee, whose recommendations have been considered by the Railway Board. The subject, however, is a vast one, and there is still considerable work to be done.

(b) Among the more important recommendations of the Standing Advisory Committee, which have been accepted by the Railway Board, may be cited the following:

(i) Introduction of 10 telescopic continuous mileage 'class' rates, leaving only six 'flat' class rates in operation. It is hoped that the latter will be replaced by telescopic scales before the end of 1948.

(ii) Assimilation of 'schedule' rates. Only eight 'schedules' will be in use after the 1st of January 1948 in place of twenty-seven hitherto in force. Considerable simplification of procedure will result.

(iii) After the 1st of January 1948, all goods traffic is to be carried by the shortest route to the greatest extent possible. This will eliminate circuitous routing of goods and should improve wagon availability.

(iv) Two new rules of procedure are to be introduced as from 1st January 1948 as a convenience to commercial interests. These rules are:

(1) No rate shall be cancelled or enhanced by railways without three calendar months' notice to the trade and other railways concerned. The only exception to this will be the cancellation of 'dead' rates, i.e. rates at which no traffic has moved for a period of not less than six consecutive months. Such 'dead' rates will be withdrawn on one month's notice to those concerned.

(2) No rates shall be reduced without at least seven days' notice to the public, which notice shall be given through the medium of the

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

Press wherever possible. The intention of this rule is that publicity shall be given to reductions in rates, so that all concerned or affected may have advance information regarding the abatements to be made.

(v) As soon as conditions return sufficiently to normal and it is possible to obtain the required mechanical apparatus station rate registers are to be introduced at all railway stations. The preparatory investigation in this connection has been completed.

POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION OF RAILWAYS IN CHOTA NAGPUR DIVISION

†659. ***Shri Jadubans Sahay:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government have any schemes for the extension of Railway lines under the Post-War Reconstruction in the areas covered by the Chota Nagpur Division in the Province of Bihar?

(b) If so, have Government decided to drop any one of the above schemes so far as Chota Nagpur is concerned?

(c) If the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what are the reasons for the same?

(d) In view of the fact that Chota Nagpur Division is one of the richest areas in India in mines and mineral deposits, do Government propose to take immediate steps for the extension of Railway lines in the said area?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) In the Post-War Reconstruction Programme of Railways, the Government have under consideration the following projects for extension of Railway lines which are wholly or partly located in the Chota Nagpur Division of the Bihar Province: (i) Tori-Birmitrapur. (ii) Gaya-Ranchi. (iii) Barkagaon-Hazaribagh-Giridih. (iv) Barwadih-Chirimiri. (v) Barwadih-Manikpur.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Government have already sanctioned the construction of a line between Barwadih and Sarnadih the first 40 miles of the Barwadih-Chirimiri project. The remaining projects are still under investigation.

THROUGH PASSENGER TRAIN FROM PATNA TO RANCHI

†660. ***Shri Jadubans Sahay:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the attention of the Government of India has been drawn to a resolution passed by the Legislative Assembly of Bihar urging upon the Government of India the necessity of starting a through passenger train from Patna to Ranchi?

(b) Are Government aware that the absence of such a through train between Patna and Ranchi, is, to a great extent, responsible for the failure of the Bihar Government in maintaining a closer link between Bihar proper and Chota Nagpur?

(c) Do Government propose to take steps for starting a through passenger train as stated above? If not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The attention of the Government has not been drawn to any such resolution.

(b) The Government are not aware of this.

(c) The restoration of the Patna-Ranchi Road train service has been accorded high priority by the East Indian Railway Administration. At present, however, the Railway is short of Rolling stock. Meanwhile a through carriage for upper class passengers is provided each way between Patna and Ranchi Road.

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

AVAILABILITY OF GYPSUM

†661. ***Shri Amiyo Kumar Ghosh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state if gypsum in adequate quantity suitable for cement manufacture, is available within the Indian Union? If so, the places where it is available?

(b) If it is not available within the Indian Union, what step Government propose to take in order to procure the supply of the same from outside the Indian Union?

(c) Is it a fact that the Sone Valley Portland Cement Factory at Japla has closed one of its kilns due to the non-availability of gypsum, resulting in the retrenchment of large number of labourers?

(d) If so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Yes, Sir; in Trichinopoly, Bikaner, Jaisalmer Jodhpur, Garhwal and Dehra Dun.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The stocks of the Company are stated to be only about 40 tons while its immediate need is 100 tons to prevent a shut-down of the plant. A report from the factory dated the 2nd December stated that the kiln had not yet closed down by that date.

(d) The Railway authorities have been informed of the seriousness of the situation, and have been urged to move a sufficient quantity of gypsum in time to prevent closure of the works.

PRODUCTION OF STEEL

662. * { **Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:**
Shri K. Santhanam:

(a) Will, the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state what steps Government propose to take in order to increase the production of steel in the country?

(b) Have Government taken any action on the Report of the Advisory Steel Panel for setting up two new major steel works in the country and if so, what is the progress of their scheme in this respect?

(c) Do Government propose to investigate the possibilities of utilising the equipment and personnel in the Ordnance Factories for supplementing the production of steel as an immediate measure?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) and (b). Steps are being taken to set up two new major steel producing units, each of 500,000 ingot tons capacity and each capable of being doubled, at a total estimated capital cost of Rs. 48 crores. Matters regarding the operation, location, design and construction of the plants and the nature of foreign technical assistance required are under consideration. Government are also giving every assistance to the Industry to produce to capacity and for their expansion schemes.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Ordnance Factories are already producing various steel products against civil orders. Government will examine the possibility of increasing steel production in these factories.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know whether these two proposed factories will be state factories or private ones?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: They will undoubtedly be controlled by the State, but the details will be discussed at a conference which I have called a fortnight hence.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know where they are proposed to be located?

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

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The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: One is in Bihar and the other is in C.P.—that is the present proposal. That has not, however, been finally decided.

Shri Khandubhai K. Desai: Will there be some Government representation on the Board of Directors?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Certainly.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: One steel plant was allotted to India from the German reparations. Is this plant one of the two plants which are being set up in Bihar and C.P.? If not, when will the German plant be put up?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That will have to be considered. We will first consider the suitability of the plant.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know whether Government will consider the desirability of purchasing at least 50 per cent. of the shares of the factories?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It will be considered.

REPORT OF INDUSTRIAL PANELS

663. * { **Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:**
Shri K. Santhanam:

(a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state how many industrial Panels appointed by the Planning and Development Department have reported till now?

(b) Do Government propose to lay on the table of the House a statement, showing the action taken by the Interim Government and the present Government on the various reports?

(c) Do Government propose to set up any machinery for co-ordinating and implementing the recommendations of the various Panels?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) 25.

(b) Government have so far considered eleven reports and have accepted the main recommendations made. The Reports† have been published and Press Notes referring to each Report were issued at the time of publication. They are being again laid on the table. Steps are now being taken to give effect to Government's decisions in consultation with the various authorities and interests concerned. Eleven other Reports are under examination and three are still in the draft stage.

(c) The Ministry of Industry and Supply is now responsible for the co-ordination and implementation of the recommendations of the various Panels.

Shri K. Santhanam: Will the Honourable Minister consider the desirability of bringing all these recommendations together in one compendious volume for the convenience of Members?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That may be considered, if paper is available.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: And will those copies be circulated to the Members?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Not perhaps to all Members of the House but to those who are interested.

FERTILIZER FACTORY AT SINDRI

664. * { **Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:**
Shri K. Santhanam:

(a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to place on the table of the House a statement showing the progress made up to date by the Fertilizer Factory at Sindri, including capital and recurring expenditure incurred?

(b) What is the nature, the quantity of and the time when the various kinds of fertilizers will be available?

(c) Have Government arrived at any arrangements with the suppliers of machinery and the consultants in the United Kingdom and the United States of America in regard to the training of Indians in the various technical lines of the fertilizer industry and if so, what are the particulars of such a scheme?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) A statement has been placed on the table of the House as desired.

(b) For the present, only one kind of fertilizer, *viz.* Ammonium Sulphate, is intended to be manufactured at Sindri. The quantity of Ammonium Sulphate which the factory is planned to produce is 350,000 tons per annum.

The forecast for pilot production is the end of 1949 and full production end of 1950, though one or two months after this might be required in order to co-ordinate and tune in the various units to operate the whole most economically.

(c) Yes, Sir. Agreement with the suppliers of plant and machinery and the consultants provides for the training of personnel for operating the factory. A considerable number of applications for training have already been received, although the scheme has not yet been advertised publicly.

Statement showing the up-to-date progress of the Fertilizer Factory at Sindri.

(1) Agreements have been concluded with the Chemical Construction Corporation of the U. S. A. for the design of the factory and with the Power Gas Corporation of the U. K. for procuring plant and erection of the same.

Resident Engineers of the Chemical Construction Corporation and the Power Gas Corporation are in position at site and the necessary technicians for the erection of the factory are beginning to arrive.

(2) Orders for the most important items of plant have been placed, orders having been distributed between the U. S. A., the U. K. and India.

(3) After protracted negotiations the land required for the factory and township has been acquired and a great amount of preliminary work has been completed. Temporary housing for the construction staff and workmen has been built. Temporary water supply and power supply have also been arranged. Levelling of the site is practically complete, main roads have been built and the installation of the complicated reinforced concrete foundations is well advanced.

Most of the structural steelwork required for the building has been ordered and fabrication is well advanced notwithstanding difficulties regarding supply of steel. Some steelwork has been delivered at site. A considerable tonnage of plant has arrived at site, or is in transit.

(4) A permanent township is being built for housing the staff and workmen required to operate the factory and all necessary services such as water supply, electricity, etc., are being provided.

Contracts will have to be let out for executing the big water supply scheme for supply of some 12 million gallons of water per day for boilers and process work in the factory and for supply to the township.

(5) A temporary railway siding has been constructed for the receipt of plant. The permanent broad gauge connection, linking the factory with the E. I. R. system, is nearing completion.

The erection of the factory will commence in earnest early in 1948

Steps have been taken to ensure training of Indian nationals for the operation of the factory.

The amounts of capital and recurring expenditure incurred are as follows:—

Commitments made so far amount to Rs. 10.98 crores, and the actual payments made are Rs. 1.89 crores.

Recurring expenditure—Nil.

Shri K. Santhanam: Arising out of the answer to part (c) of the question may I ask if any persons have been actually sent for training?

assistance arrangement with the Percival Aircraft Company, Luton, England. The Ministry of Defence has placed an initial order with Hindustan Aircraft Ltd. for 50 such aircraft. The company has also undertaken the manufacture of an improved type of third class Railway Coaches for the Railway Ministry, which has already placed an order for 100 such coaches. Further development in constructing coaches of other types for Railways is shortly expected. To meet the expanded programme, it has been decided to increase the share capital from Rs. 75 lakhs to Rs. 175 lakhs.

(b) The first aircraft manufactured at Hindustan Aircraft Ltd. is expected to be out by May 1948. This, however, will largely be an assembly from imported components. The first aircraft of the same type manufactured in Hindustan Aircraft Ltd. using Indian raw materials to a large extent, with the exception of the Engine and Instruments, is expected to be ready by September 1948.

(c) The assembling and manufacture of aircraft mentioned above should provide adequate opportunities of training to Indian technicians and workers, as, with the exception of a few British and American supervisory personnel, the staff employed consists entirely of Indian personnel.

(d) Yes, Sir. It is the policy of Government that as far as possible the requirements of the Indian Air Force should be met by Hindustan Aircraft Limited. For this purpose, Government propose to constitute an Advisory Committee to advise the Directors on questions of policy and to constitute a Liaison Committee between the Company and the main indentors. This Committee will include representatives of the Ministry of Defence, the Director-General, Civil Aviation, and the Ministry of Railways. There is, in addition, a local Technical Committee of officers of Hindustan Aircraft Limited and the Indian Air Force to co-ordinate the activities of the Company on technical matters. The decision as to what aircraft should be manufactured at Hindustan Aircraft Ltd., is primarily a question for the Defence Ministry which is at present examining the matter. As soon as a decision on this major issue is reached, orders will be placed on Hindustan Aircraft Ltd. as far as possible for their manufacture. It will be appreciated that, in the first instance, the Indian Air Force will be confined to foreign designs but steps have already been taken to set up a Design and Development Section at Hindustan Aircraft Ltd. with the object eventually of manufacturing aircraft for the Indian Air Force entirely to our own designs.

(e) No. A copy of the Balance Sheet of the Company for 1946-47 will be placed on the table of the House as soon as it has been approved by the Shareholders at their next Ordinary General Meeting.

The strength of the factory is as follows:

Indian—			
Daily rated	.	2,341	
Monthly rated	.	1,187	
Officers and Executive	.	63	
Female	.	11	
		3,602	3,602
Non-Indian—			
British	.	16	
American	.	7	
		23	23
			3,625

Since October 1947, three British pilots have been engaged on an hourly basis for RIAF Dakota delivery flights.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know, Sir, if this aircraft factory has got an up-to-date designing and drawing section?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We advertised for a chief designer. It was difficult to get a fully qualified Indian for this post, but we have selected two of the best Indians who are available in the country. We have also scrutinized applications and have provisionally selected a German technician. We are in contact with our advisers in Europe for the purpose of ascertaining whether this gentleman will be suitable for our purpose. As soon as the design office is completed, we will get on with our programme.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know if it is proposed to have a Research Section also attached to it so that new designs to suit climatic conditions could be invented?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Certainly.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it the policy of the Government to encourage private enterprise in aircraft production or is it the policy of the Government to nationalize this vital key industry as early as possible?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It is now entirely under Government control. There is no other factory in India which is doing it.

Seth Govinddas: The Honourable Minister said that as far as the engine is concerned, it will be of foreign make. May I know, because that is the most important part of the machine, by what time Government expect that engines will also be made in this country?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Well, I believe that must be one of the industries which must be developed and which, given priority during the next one or two years.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: What will be the maximum capacity of the factory to produce aircraft?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I have just now stated that we are now producing about 50 of the specimens which have already been approved. Capacity will depend on further expansion.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: Since the factory will also be constructing military aircraft, will it not be necessary to maintain some amount of secrecy with regard to the working of this factory, and if so, are Government satisfied that the foreigners working in the factory will maintain such secrecy?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We are taking proper steps in that direction.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: What kind of facilities are provided for the purpose of training Indians in this Aircraft Factory?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: As I stated just now, practically most of the officers are now Indians and whatever facilities are available are at the disposal of these Indians.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: May I know what the arrangement is for future expansion?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Our scheme is that wherever necessary we shall have foreign technicians brought from outside, but we shall have an Indian under study attached to each one of them.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: No, Sir.

Shri K. Santhanam: If the factory is coming into operation in 1949 and if there is still delay in sending students for training, may I ask the Honourable Minister if it is not already late?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I agree that the persons to be sent for training might have been selected earlier. But now I am taking steps so that there may not be further delay.

Seth Govinddas: Is it not a fact that besides ammonium sulphate there are many other kinds of fertilizers according to the opinion of scientists which can be used in this country, and if so is the Government making any investigation in this respect?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That will also be taken up for consideration.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is the best training in this line available only in the United Kingdom and the United States and not in any other country in the world?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I suppose the sort of training that we require will be available in U.S.A. and U.K. and we are arranging with the companies who are coming here in connection with the installation of the factory to give us this training.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask my Honourable friend whether final decisions have been taken regarding the process to be employed in the manufacture of ammonium sulphate and the particular type of machinery to be imported for this purpose?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I suppose what the Honourable Member is referring to is the question of availability of gypsum. The gypsum that we expected to be utilised for this purpose has now fallen within Pakistan. But we have made investigations and we are assured that gypsum for our purposes will be available from Rajputana and also from Trichinopoly. The total quantity of gypsum which is expected to be available will be near about 28,000,000 tons, which means about twenty years' requirements. Of course I am not in a position to say anything finally on this subject as I have referred the matter to experts for further investigation.

Regarding machinery some parts of it have already arrived and others are now on the way. A portion of the machinery, I believe, has already gone to Pakistan. But we have taken steps to see that the rest of the machinery comes straight to Bombay and not to Karachi.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that nitric acid is considered to be very valuable for fertilizer purposes also, and further that it was found to be of very great strategic value during the last war, will Government consider the advisability of investigating the possibility of starting a factory for this purpose?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Yes.

Shri O. V. Alagesan: Arising out of the answer, is there any proposal to start any factory near about Trichinopoly?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: One factory has been started in Travancore, and that is working both on sulphate as also on gypsum. Whether another factory can be started in South India or not has not been considered.

Dr. V. Subrahmanyam: May I know the amount of production of the Trivandrum factory?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It is now producing about 50 tons per day.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: What will be the capacity of the factory at Sindri when it is fully equipped?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: 350,000 tons a year.

Shri Biswanath Das: Have the Government seen the statement of Mr. Kumarappa and also the writings of Mahatma Gandhi about the injurious effects of ammonium sulphate on the soil, and also certain writings of American scientists on this question before inaugurating such huge plans for the manufacture of ammonium?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: As the Honourable Member is aware, scientists and experts differ very much on that question, but the general trend of opinion is that this will be valuable for our agricultural purposes.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I also draw the attention of the Honourable Member to the fact that in mofussil agriculturists are unwilling to use ammonium sulphate for manuring paddy fields and all that they use is only for the purpose of sugar-cane?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That may be due to not educating public opinion properly, but that matter also may be examined by the Agriculture Ministry.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask if my Honourable friend will be able to get hold of the machinery which by mistake went to Pakistan?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That is a question which is very difficult to answer today.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that their own expert Dr. Mookerjee, who is the biggest expert on soils in this country, has expressed himself in favour of utilising to the largest extent green manure but with a small mixture of ammonium sulphate?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Both may be mixed.

HINDUSTAN AIRCRAFT FACTORY

665. * { **Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:**
Shri K. Santhanam:

(a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the position in regard to the Hindustan Aircraft Factory and its future programme of development?

(b) When will the first aircraft manufactured in the factory be ready?

(c) Is it possible to have any programme of assembling aircraft in order to provide training and apprenticeship to Indian technicians and workers?

(d) Have Government worked out any scheme in consultation with the Ministry of Defence for the manufacture of military aircraft in the Hindustan Aircraft Factory?

(e) Do Government propose to issue a press note indicating the expenditure on this Factory as well as the number of officers and workers, Indian and non-Indian, employed therein?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) From 1st April 1946, Hindustan Aircraft Ltd. ceased to be under the sole control of the Government of India. It has now reverted to the position of a private limited company with the Governments of India and Mysore continuing as the only Shareholders. The Factory at present acts mainly as an overhaul, repair, assembly and conversion depot for Civil Airlines and Air Forges. It is also doing a certain amount of General Engineering work for the public as well as for Government. The future programme of Hindustan Aircraft Ltd. envisages the manufacture of aircraft in India, as recommended by the United Kingdom Aircraft Mission, who visited India in March 1946 to advise Government on this subject generally. Hindustan Aircraft Ltd. has taken up the production of Percival Prentice Trainers for the Royal Indian Air Force under an

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I think there is a great deal of difference, but I could not give the figures offhand now. There is a difference between the procurement price in Burma and the price at which the rice is sold to us.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: What is the difference of percentage in the profits?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I could not say that.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Are we still getting these supplies through Britain?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: Yes.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know the method followed by Government in getting its statistics of additional yield for the additional land put under cultivation from year to year?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: We have not got any particular method for finding the additional yield from additional land. All the yield is estimated together as against the previous yield and the difference we take to be due to the extension in cultivation.

RECONSTITUTED FOOD POLICY COMMITTEE

667. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) who were the members of the recently re-constituted Food Policy Committee and on what representative basis they were chosen;

(b) why a representative of the Federation of Rural Peoples Organisations was not given a representation on the Committee;

(c) what steps were taken to give adequate representation to the All India Kisan Congress on that Committee;

(d) the purpose for which the recent food delegation to Australia was sent;

(e) who its members were and what their organisational capacity was; and

(f) why the Federation of Rural Peoples Organisations was not invited to send one of its representatives?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a), (b) and (c). The Members of the Foodgrains Policy Committee are the following: (1) Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, Chairman, (2) Seth Ghanshyam Das Birla, (3) Sir Shri Ram, (4) Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, (5) Thakur Phool Singh (Member, Indian Constituent Assembly), (6) Shri Dip Narain Singh (Member, Indian Constituent Assembly), (7) Mr. Husain Imam (Member, Indian Constituent Assembly), (8) Mr. Lakshmidas Purshotam, (9) Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao (Professor of Economics, Delhi University), (10) Mr. R. L. Gupta (Director General of Food, Ministry of Food), (11) Mr. D. S. Bakhle (Civil Supplies Commissioner, Bombay), (12) Mr. S. Y. Krishnaswamy (Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture), (13) Mr. D. R. Sethi (Agricultural Development Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture), (14) Mr. D. N. Mehta (Agricultural Commissioner, Bombay), (15) Mr. R. A. Gopalaswami (Regional Food Commissioner, Madras).

The members of the Committee were chosen with reference primarily to their personal knowledge and experience of the food problem in different fields of agriculture, industry, commerce, administration and public life. As almost all individuals and organizations are vitally interested in the food policy of the country, it was not considered appropriate that any particular organization should be represented as such. A Press Note was however issued inviting the views of all individuals and organizations interested in the terms of reference of the Foodgrains Policy Committee. The memoranda received in response to this invitation have been given due consideration by the Committee.

(d) and (e). The Members of the Food Delegation to Australia are the following: (1) Sir Kaghunath Paranjpye, High Commissioner for India in Australia, (2) Mr. Vishnu Sahay, Secretary, Ministry of Food, (3) Mr. A. L. Saksena, an officer of the Finance Ministry, (4) Mr. Neville N. Wadia.

The Delegation has been sent to Australia in order to negotiate the purchase of wheat required by this country during 1948.

(f) Having regard to the purpose in view, it was not considered necessary that any particular organization should be represented as such on the Delegation.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, in view of the fact that some well-known industrialists have come to be represented on these two bodies—the Committee and the Delegation—and also in view of the obvious conflict of interest that there is between the consumers interests and the producers' interests, will Government consider the advisability, at least for the future, of seeing to it that the relevant organisations representing the rural interests and the agricultural interests will be given due representation?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: Certainly, due consideration will be given to any such suggestion when the time comes.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: How long is this Foodgrains Policy Committee going to function and what are its terms of reference?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: The Committee had been asked to investigate two problems—one regarding the present distribution of food which covers the question of control and de-control, and second, how to increase production. The Committee has given its recommendations on the first part; it has not yet considered the second part.

PR FITEERING BY AUSTRALIA IN FOODGRAINS

668. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that when their Food Mission to Australia was being decided upon, the Australian Government chose to raise the level of prices of wheat to the highest extent so far achieved; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to consider the advisability of appealing to the F. A. O. and Social and Economic Council against this international profiteering in foodgrains?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) and (b). Negotiations with the Government of Australia are being conducted at present. It would be improper to make any comment or to take action as suggested by the Honourable Member before the outcome of the negotiations is known.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that Government's own representatives to the Paris Conference of the F.A.O. had complained that there was international profiteering in foodgrains and had to appeal to the F.A.O. Member States that they should put a stop to this profiteering and see that foodgrains are supplied to countries like ours at cost price?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: It is a fact that prices have been charged which, from our point of view, are very high and cannot be considered to be proper. But that is not the case with all countries.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the attitude of the F.A.O.? Are they in any way helping us in securing foodgrains at more reasonable prices?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: The I.E.F.C., which is a sort of branch of the F.A.O., does not concern itself with prices; it distributes the available surplus of foodgrains, and it is left to the parties to settle with the countries concerned the prices at which the grain would be available.

SUBSIDISING FOOD IMPORTS

666. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent in each year upon subsidising food imports ever since these subsidies have been commenced and what is the share of each country, and on what items of foodgrains;

(b) how much is expected to be spent this year for this purpose;

(c) whether any active steps are being taken by Government to minimise the dependence on foreign imports of food supplies, and if so, the steps so far taken; and

(d) the recommendations of the recent Food Policy Committee in this regard?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) The scheme of subsidising imported foodgrains supplied to deficit provinces was introduced from 1st April 1946 and the expenditure on this account during 1946-47 was estimated at Rs. 20.59 Crores. A statement showing the country-wise and grain-wise distribution of this amount is laid on the table of the House.

(b) The scheme of subsidy is sanctioned upto 31st December 1947 only, and the amount estimated to be spent during the period 1st April 1947 to 31st December 1947 is 17.35 Crores.

(c) and (d). Steps have been taken to increase the production of foodgrains in the country and to improve their procurement in the provinces and states in order to meet statutory commitment in regard to rationing. The recommendations of the Foodgrains Policy Committee have already been published and Government decision taken thereon will be announced on 10th.

STATEMENT

Subsidy on foodgrains imported from different countries during 1946-47 (1st April 1946—31st March 1947)

(All figures in lakhs of rupees)

1. Wheat		
Turkey	55.83	
Australia	29.86	
Canada	181.72	
U. S. A.	335.10	
	643.52	
2. Wheat Flour		
Australia	6.66	
U. S. A.	64.16	
U. K.	5.59	
	63.09	
3. Rice		
Brazil	83.68	
Siam	6.12	
Burma	287.68	
	377.48	
4. Maize		
U. S. A.	80.61	
Burma	16	
Argentina	416.53	
	497.30	

5. Millets		
Abyssinia	3.42	
Egypt	63.17	
Argentina	23.34	
Iraq	6.98	
Australia	1.85	
	98.76	
6. Barley		
Iraq	110.61	
Argentina	18.16	
Australia	28.13	
Egypt	12.87	
Turkey	157.45	
	327.22	
7. Milo		
U. S. A.	51.87	
	TOTAL	2059.24

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I ask the Honourable Minister to give the figures for Burma?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad:

Burma-rice.

From 1st April 1947 to 10th October 1947 Rs. 1,95,96,000

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know, Sir, if it is a fact that we have been exporting textiles to Burma, and whether Government have considered the desirability of introducing a system of barter between textiles and foodgrains in order to avoid the middleman's profit?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: That has been under consideration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is there any truth in the recent Press report that the Dutch have prevented the export of rice from Indonesia, and if so what steps have been taken?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: There was some paddy which had been collected for export to India, when these troubles arose there in Indonesia, and I understand that some of the paddy could not be exported to India. We have protested against that action.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What are the prospects, Sir, of increasing the exports from Burma of rice and paddy, and is that particular question also being mooted in these talks with the Burmese Delegation here?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: The system that has been followed so far is that the entire surplus which Burma can export is placed at the disposal of the I.E.F.C. and the I.E.F.C. makes allocation to the various countries. We have been allocated some thing for the next year, that is for 1948, and this amount is going to be larger than what we have imported this year—we expect something between 6,00,000 and 7,00,000 tons in the next year from Burma.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the position in regard to Siam?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: From there we get a very much smaller quantity; the real source of rice supply is Burma.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: What was the purchase price paid by the Government of India for this Burma rice and what was the selling market rate in Burma?

PRODUCTION OF SUGARCANE AND SUGAR

669. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is the policy of Government to make every province self-sufficient in the production of sugarcane and sugar;

(b) how many new sugar mills have been started since the end of the war and in what provinces;

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to improve gur industry and also to extract gur out of toddy in those provinces where prohibition is in operation; and

(d) what is the latest position of India in regard to sugar and gur self-sufficiency?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) No; the policy of the Government is self-sufficiency for the dominion as a whole;

(b) One in Bihar;

(c) Steps to improve gur industry have been taken by the different Provincial Governments from time to time according to the nature of problems arising there. The improvements have been mainly confined to improving the process of manufacture with a view to better the quality and yield of gur and the efficiency and design of the furnaces.

As regards palm gur certain Provincial Governments also took steps to develop it. The Government of India have now taken up development of this industry and recently research work has been undertaken to investigate the possibility of using mechanical devices for tapping, better preservation of the juice and the fuel problem. A Palm Gur Development Advisor is being appointed who will tour provinces and advise on schemes for development of palm gur, such schemes being assisted from the Centre as Grow More Food Schemes.

(d) India's annual requirements (excluding Pakistan) are estimated at 12½ lac tons as against this year's production of 9,05,548 tons. The existing factories are capable of producing upto our requirements. The Government of India had appointed a Sugar Panel to consider the immediate post-war expansion of the sugar industry and after considering its report it was decided to set up 45 new sugar factories in the various provinces and States of India. The decision is being reviewed after the partition of the country.

The annual production of gur in India is about 35 lac tons. There is no accurate estimate as to the demand for gur in the country but no shortage has been experienced.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How many of these proposed new factories are going to be started in Madras Province, and would Government be good enough to consider the advisability of appointing another Panel for the development of the Gur Industry?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: Madras has been allotted six factories.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the Honourable Minister has referred to the appointment of a previous Panel for the development of the Sugar Industry, may I suggest that they should appoint another Panel to suggest ways and means for the development of the Gur Industry?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: That has not yet been considered, but it will be considered.

Seth Govinddas: May I enquire from the Honourable Minister if Government are aware that there is not a single sugar factory in C.P. and Berar, and under these circumstances, if any new factory is going to be started?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: One factory has been allotted to C.P. and Berar, out of the new factories which will be built.

Shri S. Ragappa: May I ask the Government whether, in view of the fact that in 16 districts of Madras prohibition has been introduced, there was a petition from the Madras Government asking for permission to open a new factory to produce palm sugar from toddy?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I have said that steps are being taken to encourage production of gur or sugar from palm juice and the Government of India are just in the process of appointing an Advisor to assist in that enterprise.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Is the Government aware that there is not a single sugar mill in the province of Assam, and even then no machinery has been allotted to that Province?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: As a matter of fact, two units have been allotted to Assam.

Shri V. I. Munishwami Pillai: Is Government aware that from sugar beet root, good sugar can be produced, and has Government taken any steps to increase the cultivation of sugar beet root in any of the Provinces?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I shall have to look into the matter. The Honourable Member may put a question.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Government have said that they are reviewing the position after partition. May I know by what time they would have finished their review and determined how many factories will be put up and where?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: As a matter of fact, the factories have been allotted to the various Provinces and States. Some question may arise as to whether we require all the sugar that we produce when all these factories come into operation. That is being considered.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: May I know how long it will take?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I do not think it will take very much time.

CONTROL OF KHANDSARI SUGAR AND GUR

670 *Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state what steps have been taken in each province to control the prices of Khandsari sugar and Gur?

(b) Have their prices been reduced?

(c) How do they compare with the price of sugar?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) Khandsari sugar is mainly manufactured in U.P. Sugar has been decontrolled from today but the U.P. Government, with the concurrence of the Government of India, have decided to continue control over prices and movement of Khandsari sugar to cover existing stocks only. Gur also has been decontrolled.

(b) and (c). In view of answer to part (a), do not arise.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: The Honourable Minister says that the U.P. Government have decided to have control over the existing stocks. Is it on its price only?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: They have decided to have control over the existing stocks of Khandsari, price and movement both.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: How do they propose to control the price without controlling its distribution?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: As I have said, both price and movement are to be controlled.

Pandit Hriday Nath Kunzru: In other words, do I take it that the U. P. Government will control distribution also for some time more?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: In regard to existing stocks of Khandsari, yes.

Pandit Hriday Nath Kunzru: May I know what was the controlled price of sugar and what it is today?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: The controlled price of mill-made sugar was Rs. 20-14-0 ex-factory. I cannot say what the price is today.

Pandit Hriday Nath Kunzru: Can the Honourable Minister say whether it has risen considerably and that it is Rs. 56 a maund in Delhi?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I cannot say.

Pandit Hriday Nath Kunzru: Have the Government de-controlled sugar in order to raise its price?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: No.

Pandit Hriday Nath Kunzru: Then, what is the reason for de-control?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: The reason for de-controlling is one which will lead me into a discussion of the whole question. I shall do it on the 10th.

Pandit Hriday Nath Kunzru: The full policy of de-control?

Mr. Speaker: Yes, the full policy will be discussed, and this will be an incidental discussion in the motion upon de-control.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Have the Government seen in the Press that the U.P. Government have purchased all existing sugar stocks at Rs. 26 per maund from the sugar factories and have thus given an unearned profit of over Rs. 6 per maund? If so, do they propose to compel the millowners to allot part of this profit to the labourers and the growers?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: What I understand the U.P. Government have done is this: They are going to fix the wages of labour at Rs. 45 per month and they have also made arrangements with the millowners to purchase sugar cane at Rs. 2 per maund, and on that basis they have fixed the sugar price.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Has the attention of the Honourable Minister been drawn to the recent statement issued by the Sugar Syndicate in which they have fixed the price of sugar at Rs. 35?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: The Honourable Member may not know that we have also issued an order today freezing all the stocks of sugar with the mills.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Will the Honourable the Minister please state why the prices claimed by the Sugar Syndicate will not be enforced and why Government has stood in the way?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: We have frozen the stock for the present but an opportunity will be taken to consider the whole thing.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: May I know if the freezing order means that sugar will be sold at the existing rate or it shall be sold at the rate which has been fixed by the Sugar Syndicate?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: As I have stated, the Freezing Order has been passed with a view to enabling the Government to take steps as it considers necessary in order to make sugar available at reasonable prices.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: The Honourable the Minister has said about the charges of the price of sugar-cane during the new crushing season. Will he consider giving some of the new profit made on the existing stock of sugar manufactured last season to the growers of sugar-cane who supplied last year?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: That is really a matter for the Provincial Government.

INCREASED SUGAR PRODUCTION

671. *Pandit Hriday Nath Kunzru: Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state how far the scheme of Government for increasing the production of sugar by 8½ lakhs of tons has been carried out?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: To increase sugar production in the country the Government of India had after considering the recommendations of the Sugar Panel decided to allow the erection of 45 new sugar factories in certain provinces and states and to permit the existing factories to expand their capacity in certain circumstances and within prescribed limits. Licences for the import of machinery for 13 new units have already been issued. Some existing sugar factories have also been granted licences for the import of machinery for extensions. The Government of Assam, Bihar, United Provinces, East Punjab and West Bengal have not yet selected sites and promoters for the units allotted to them. The Government of Bombay have decided not to put up any new factories as long as the present shortage of foodgrains continues. The original plan for the development of the sugar industry will have to be revised in view of the circumstances created by the partition of the country.

PROCUREMENT BONUSES TO AGRICULTURISTS.

672. *Pandit Hriday Nath Kunzru: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state what are the provinces in which procurement bonuses were paid during the current year, to persuade the agriculturists to part with their produce?

(b) What was the amount of bonus paid in each of these provinces?

(c) Did the Government of India approve the payment of bonuses?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) Madras, Assam and Bengal.

(b) Madras Re. 1 per maund of paddy. Re. 0-8-0 per maund of millets.

Assam Re. 1 per maund of winter paddy. Re. 0-8-0 per maund of Aus paddy.

Bengal Re. 1 per maund of paddy.

(c) As regards Assam and Bengal, the reply is in the affirmative. So far as Madras is concerned, the question is still pending.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyaya: May I know, Sir, whether any procurement bonuses are given in Bihar?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: No.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I ask the Honourable the Minister when the dispute between the Madras Government and the Central Government is going to be settled?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: The matter is under consideration; it will be settled in due course.

Shri Robini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know why was it considered necessary to offer bonuses for procurement of paddy and also what safeguards are taken for preventing the agriculturist from exhausting his own stock by the temptation of getting these bonuses?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: The paddy was needed for deficit areas, and therefore procurement had to be made and these bonuses were given as an inducement to the cultivators to part with their paddy.

Shri Biswanath Das: In view of the fact that in certain Provinces this bonus has not been given, would the Central Government be pleased to consider the question whether or not it is fair that such of those Provinces who have not been given these bonuses should be reimbursed with something, so that the agriculturist may get equal benefit throughout India?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: It will be difficult to give retrospective bonus now; but when the demand was made, we conceded that and allowed the procurement on that basis.

Shri S. Nagappa: As regards Madras, may I know, Sir, what is the dispute due to?

Mr. Speaker: Questions on that dispute cannot be put in this House.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I know, Sir, whether the Government of Orissa have or have not protested against this policy and have also requested the Government of India to imburse the agriculturists with the loss that they incurred by this process.

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: The Government of Orissa have asked for an increase in the price of rice which was procured in that Province.

Shri Mihir Lal Chatteropadhyaya: May I know whether the Provincial Government or the Central Government determines the procurement price of rice and paddy?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: It is done by the Provincial Government, but in consultation with the Central Government and with the sanction of the Central Government.

Shri Mihir Lal Chatteropadhyaya: May I know whether the procurement price of paddy is the same for Bengal and Bihar?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: Bengal has been given this One Rupee bonus. Bihar has not been given any bonus.

Shri Mihir Lal Chatteropadhyaya: Leaving aside the question of bonus, is the price of paddy the same in Bengal as it is in Bihar?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I cannot say that.

Shri M. S. Aney: May I know whether the system of giving bonuses does not put a premium upon the unwilling provinces as against those who are willing to help the Government?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: It may amount to that, but we were helpless when we found that the situation was very serious and we had to get the rice at any price and in any way we could.

Shri M. S. Aney: Assuming that the Government was helpless at that time, is it not possible for the Government to be equitable and fair to the provinces which were willing to help after the emergency is over.

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I do not know if it is possible.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know if the Honourable the Minister is aware that in Madras the Provincial Government till now has not paid even a pie of the so-called bonus to the producers because of the dispute not being settled between the Central and the Provincial Government.

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I am not aware of that; if it is so, we shall look into it.

673*. [Postponed to 11th December, 1947.]

POTATO SEED FOR WEST BENGAL

674. ***Shri Prafulla Chandra Sen:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that West Bengal requires over three lakhs of potato-seed per year;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government of West Bengal was allotted fifty only three wagons per day were allotted; November, which again were reduced to only two per day for potato from Simla,

(d) whether Government are aware that, in view of this, only a quantity of seed allotted to West Bengal from Simla can be despatched;

(e) whether it is a fact that during the year 1946, Bengal was allotted two lakhs and sixteen thousand maunds of potato-seed from Simla and the number of Wagons allotted varied from six to ten per day and on a particular day as many as twenty wagons were given; and

(f) whether Government are aware that, in view of the short supply of seed-potato this year, potato cultivation will suffer in West Bengal causing loss to the potato growers of West Bengal to the extent of Rupees five crores?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) Yes. This is in addition to about 6 lakh maunds of seed potatoes stocked by the growers every year from the previous year's harvest.

(b) 50,000 maunds of seed potato from Simla as originally required by the West Bengal Government were allotted to them. This quota has been subsequently increased to 1 lakh maunds at the request of the Provincial Government by converting their quota of table potatoes to that of seed potatoes.

(c) The East Punjab Railway made available only 15 wagons per day for the transport of seed potatoes from Simla to various provinces including West Bengal. Allotment to the Recipient areas was made on *pro-rata* basis according to which West Bengal got 3 wagons a day. This quota was reduced to 2 wagons per day only for 4 days and has been restored after 23rd November 1947.

(d) The West Bengal Government have since reported that larger quantities of seed potatoes are arriving in Calcutta from Simla.

(e) In 1946, the Central Government recommended an allotment of 1,50,000 maunds only to United Bengal. This was subsequently increased to 2,16,000 maunds, by the provincial authorities as last year the estimated surplus of Simla potatoes was 7 lakh maunds as against 4,20,000 maunds this year. Number of wagons daily made available to Bengal last year is not known.

(f) According to the Government of West Bengal, the estimated loss resulting from the slow movement of seeds from Simla is expected to be Rs. 1½ crore. This will be further reduced if the remaining supplies from Simla arrive in Bengal within a week. The Central Government have moved the Government of East Punjab in the matter.

Shri Prafulla Chandra Sen: May I ask the Honourable the Minister whether his attention has been drawn to a Press note of the West Bengal Government dated the 27th November regarding the supply of seeds?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I have not seen the Press Note.

Shri Prafulla Chandra Sen: May I know if it is a fact that the West Bengal Government wanted exchange permits to import seed potatoes from Burma worth Rs. 20 lakhs.

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I think we have granted permit for importing 50,000 maunds of seed potatoes from Burma.

Shri Prafulla Chandra Sen: The West Bengal Government asked for a permit to import seeds worth Rs. 20 lakhs but they were given exchange permit for seeds worth Rs. five lakhs only.

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: 50,000 maunds was the quantity asked for by the Provincial Government. In addition they wanted 1 lakh maunds of table potato from Simla. 50,000 maunds of table potato from Simla were allotted to them, but this was later converted to seed potato at the request of the Provincial Government.

Shri Prafulla Chandra Sen: I wanted to know, Sir, whether the West Bengal Government wanted exchange permits for 20 lakhs rupees worth of seed potatoes from Burma?

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member is repeating the same question. He has replied to it, I think.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is it a fact that notwithstanding the very sympathetic attitude taken by the Honourable Minister for Agriculture and the Honourable Minister for Transport with regard to the supply of seed potatoes to West Bengal, actually no seed potatoes have yet arrived in Bengal?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I think seed potatoes are arriving now, and whatever is expected will reach there within the next fortnight or so.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is the Honourable Minister aware that in the last 15 days the Bengal Government have not received one single wagon though it has been transported from Kalka,—I do not know through whose fault?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: There has been a complaint from the Bengal Government with regard to the delivery of seed potatoes, and I have had a meeting with the Finance Minister of the West Bengal Government and special arrangements are being made for the necessary transport facilities. As a matter of fact there are two issues involved in it. The allocation of seed potatoes from Simla is a matter that rests with the Deputy Commissioner of Simla. We are only concerned with the question of providing the transport facilities. The necessary arrangements are being made and I expect that within the next fortnight the deliveries will be completed.

Shri K. Santhanam: Is it the Food Department or the East Punjab Government that is responsible for allocating seed potatoes to the various provinces?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: The surplus is to be declared by the Provincial Government and then the Central Government make the allocations.

Shri K. Santhanam: Is the Food Minister aware that there are complaints about the priority in which these seed potatoes are allocated to the various provinces by the Deputy Commissioner of Simla?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I have not received any complaints from the Honourable Member's province.

Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao: Has it come to the notice of Government that the allotment of wagons is done in such a way that it takes months to reach distant provinces like Mysore and Madras?

Mr. Speaker: That is a different question and perhaps does not arise out of this.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It does not arise out of this, but the allocation of wagons until a week ago has been on the basis of providing a fair proportion of the transport capacity available between the different provinces. But the position in Bengal now is particularly acute because the sowing season is likely to be over in about a fortnight and therefore we are endeavouring to make special arrangements for that province.

DECONTROL OF FOODSTUFFS

675. *Shri Satish Chandra Samanta: Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to consider the immediate removal of control over the prices, supply and distribution of Foodstuffs; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the difficulties in the way of immediate removal of control and how long Government propose to retain the control?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) and (b). The Government of India have taken decisions on the revision of their food policy which have been communicated to the Governments of Provinces and States. A statement in this connection will be made by me on the floor of the House on the 10th instant.

GROW MORE FOOD AND FODDER CAMPAIGN

676. *Shri Satish Chandra Samanta: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state how much the Government of India have spent on the Grow More Food and Fodder Campaign up till now?

(b) What is the total acreage of land brought under cultivation and the total amount of wheat, paddy and other cereals produced as a result of the above-mentioned campaign?

(c) What steps Government propose to take to make the campaign a success?

(d) What is the average production of paddy, wheat and other cereals per acre in the different provinces of the Indian Union?

(e) What immediate steps Government propose to take for the development of Agriculture?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member may please refer the reply to Question No. 132 on 20th November, 1947, given in this House.

(c) and (e). Five-year targets of food production have been drawn up for each Province and it is proposed to give financial and technical assistance to Provincial Governments for achieving these targets. For details of targets fixed for each Province, reference is invited to reply to Question No. 199 on 20th November 1947.

(d) A statement giving the required information is placed on the table.

(IN LBS.)

Provinces	Rice (cleaned)		Wheat		Jowar		Bajra		Maize		Ragi		Barley		Gram	
	Normal 1945-1936-37	1946	Normal 1945-1936-37	1946	Normal 1945-1936-37	1946	Normal 1945-1936-37	1946	Normal 1945-1936-37	1946	Normal 1945-1936-37	1946	Normal 1945-1936-37	1946	Normal 1945-1936-37	1946
	to 1938-39	1938-39	to 1938-39	1938-39	to 1938-39	1938-39	to 1938-39	1938-39	to 1938-39	1938-39	to 1938-39	1938-39	to 1938-39	1938-39	to 1938-39	1938-39
Ajmer-Merwara	...	...	659	581	86	61	90	56	448	206	...	...	672	922	264	336
Assam (excluding Sylhet)	754	911	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
West Bengal	895	808	560	498	560	747	747	...	723	747	...	...	747	517	589	506
Bihar	706	565	846	607	568	560	818	626	607	559	683	579	761	675	722	606
Bombay	905	923	391	324	359	198	269	211	747	337	650	710	700	373	320	240
C. P. & Berar	659	604	441	364	508	445	519	411	1,186	538	...	...	420	395	399	393
Coorg	1,449	1,674	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Delhi	...	...	823	527	124	498	366	489	1,120	747	...	...	800	640	682	647
Madras	1,031	861	...	...	561	397	560	344	964	573	1,047	771	...	...	434	354
Orissa	673	564	560	640	574	472	448	448	560	541	537	500	...	...	747	747
East Punjab	616	515	818	719	161	221	124	294	754	777	...	...	530	449	435	395
United Provinces	627	583	747	641	436	496	362	432	702	851	...	...	772	747	637	546

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Does not the Honourable Minister think that unless more comprehensive measures are taken to improve agriculture we shall not be able to meet our demands, because it involves planning on a large scale? Are any such plans in contemplation?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: That is just what is being done.

DIVERSION OF PETROL WAGONS TO PAKISTAN

†677. *Shri Damodar Swarup Seth: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, as reported in the Press, some wagons of petrol belonging to the Indian Union were diverted to Pakistan by some persons;

(b) if so, whether Government have made an enquiry into this matter; and

(c) whether the culprits have been found out and duly punished?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The Government have no such information.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

PRODUCTION OF POTATOES

678. *Shri K. O. Gajapati Narayan Deo: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the growing demand in rural areas all over India for potatoes as a food crop and whether there is inadequate supply of seeds at present for the producers?

(b) What arrangements Government propose to make to meet this growing demand?

(c) Has any soil survey been made both on the hills and plains and any publicity given to increase the production of this important food crop as an asset to the producers?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) The answer to both parts of the question is in the affirmative.

(b) Government propose to meet the growing demand, (i) by assisting in the movement of seed potato from Simla to the plains, (ii) by allowing imports of a larger quantity from Burma, and (iii) by encouraging the provision of cold storage facilities in the growing areas.

(c) No Soil survey has yet been made but increasing the production of potato and other vegetables has been encouraged as a part of the Grow More Food Campaign. The question of undertaking the Soil Survey and other measures necessary for the development of potato cultivation will be taken up by the Central Potato Research Institute which is shortly to be established.

Shri K. O. Gajapati Narayan Deo: Are Government aware that the supply of seed potatoes to Vizagapatam and Ganjam is very short?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I cannot say about any particular district whether the supply is short or not.

Shri K. O. Gajapati Narayan Deo: May I know what arrangements are being made by the railway authorities to supply seed potatoes from Ootacamund to Vizagapatam district?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I shall require notice of that question.

Shri Biswanath Das: Have Government heard the complaint that these seeds are supplied generally to the agriculturists some time after the growing season? If so, what steps have they taken to rectify it?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: We try our best to move the seeds to the areas in time for being sown.

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

Shri K. C. Gajapati Narayan Deo: Do Government propose to popularise the results of soil survey by publication in handbills in popular vernaculars in different provinces?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: When the survey has been made we would certainly like to popularise it.

Shri V. I. Munishwami Pillai: Are Government aware that quantities of seed potatoes that were set aside this year for the various provinces by the Madras Government have not been taken advantage of and are therefore used for edible purposes? Will Government now communicate with the Government of Madras for the seed supply from the present crop?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: All that we can do is to supply the seed; it is for the Provincial Government to make the best use of it and not to allow it to be used for food.

Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao: Has it come to the notice of Government that the importers of seed potatoes from Burma are finding it very difficult to get import licences here in Delhi?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I should like to have information about that; I will look into it if there is any complaint.

Shri K. C. Gajapati Narayan Deo: Who controls the transport from Mettupalayam to other parts of the Madras Presidency?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The Regional Controller of Railway Priorities in Madras.

SUPPLY OF AMMONIUM PHOSPHATE

679. ***Shri K. C. Gajapati Narayan Deo:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government are aware that Amaphos (Ammonium Phosphate) is an effective and useful substitute for green manure to encourage plant growth?

(b) Are Government aware of its great demand for sugarcane and paddy?

(c) Are Government aware that its supply is most inadequate today throughout India?

(d) What machinery is being set up to supply the public with this chemical manure?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) Ammonium Phosphate is a chemical fertiliser whereas Green manure is an organic manure. The Government are, however, aware that Ammonium Phosphate is a very useful fertiliser for crop production in India.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) At present the only source of supply is through imports from abroad. Since this fertiliser is in very short supply due to increase world demand, we are only able to obtain whatever is allotted to us by the International Emergency Food Council and supply the provinces and states *pro rata* to their requirements.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that experiments made at the Pusa Institute prove that ammonium phosphate is no substitute for green manure but that green manure when mixed with a small quantity of ammonium phosphate yields much better results?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: As far as I know it is a fact, that the result of experiments at the Pusa Institute shows that green manure mixed with phosphate gives better results.

PRODUCTION OF VIRGINIA TOBACCO

680. ***Shri K. C. Gajapati Narayan Deo:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government are aware that virginia tobacco is the most remunerative crop in India?

(b) Has any soil survey been conducted throughout India and publicity given to increase the area under Virginia Tobacco?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) No such comparative study of the cost of production of various crops and the prices obtained for each by the grower has been carried out for the whole country.

(b) No.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government aware that recently there has been a slump in the prices for tobacco? If so, will Government consider the desirability of asking tobacco growers not to place so much of their land under tobacco?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: That question hardly arises out of this.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Are Government aware that the progressive cultivation of Virginia Tobacco in the Madras Presidency has deprived the country of the food products which were usually grown there and has led to marked scarcity of foodgrains?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: As I understand, there is a great deal of land in the Guntur District particularly which is being used for tobacco cultivation. It will certainly have some effect on the food production.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Will Government be pleased to consider the advisability of restricting the land possessed by a particular holder to a certain portion only in respect of tobacco as against food crops?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: That is a matter for the Provincial Government.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

IMPORT OF TOBACCO

681. ***Shri K. C. Gajapati Narayan Deo:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any statistics are being maintained of the quantity of tobacco that is being imported into this country from abroad to feed the cigarette factories in India;

(b) whether the figures under import are increasing or decreasing;

(c) whether the quality of tobacco grown in India both indigenous and Virginia is up to the standard necessary for manufacture of good cigars and cigarettes; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, what measures are Government taking to improve the quality of Indian tobacco as a measure of economic help to the Indian producer?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) Yes.

(b) Imports during recent years have increased as compared with the pre-war triennium ending 1939-40.

(c) No.

(d) The Indian Central Tobacco Committee is enlarging the scope of work at the Tobacco Sub-Station at Guntur by converting it into an Experimental Research Station and is setting up a Central Tobacco Research Station at Rajahmundry for studying all fundamental problems relating to tobacco.

MEAT RATIONING IN INDIA.

The Committee has also taken up the question of cultivating the right types of tobacco required for the manufacture of cigars and is establishing an Experimental Station for research work devoted to this type of tobacco.

682. *Shri R. R. Diwakar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state whether Government are aware that in Bombay city alone, in the year 1946-47, the total amount of meat consumed was about 15,000 tons?

(b) Are Government aware that meat is not rationed in this country?

(c) Are Government aware that those who eat meat also draw full rations in cereals and other foodgrains?

(d) In view of the utter scarcity of food in this country, do Government propose to ration meat as in England?

(e) Are Government aware that the Foodgrains Policy Committee has recommended the adoption of the 'Point System' or the Slip System whereby the bringing of meat and fish under ration can be facilitated?

(f) Do Government propose to accept the above recommendation of the Food and Grains Policy Committee so that the quantity of meat or fish may be set off against equally nutritive quantities of cereals or grains?

(g) Are Government aware that the nutritive value of meat and fish is equal to or even more than cereals quantity by quantity?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) and (b). The replies are in the affirmative.

(c) Meat-eaters are not prevented from drawing full rations of cereals and other foodgrains as others but it is not known whether they actually do so.

(d) No. Because rationing of meat is impracticable as it will present insuperable administrative difficulties and is not worth the trouble and expense involved.

(e) No. The Foodgrains Policy Committee commended to Provinces for examination the suggestion that arrangements be instituted with a view to ensuring that some part of his cereal ration is surrendered by a consumer who buys meat in proportion to the quantity of meat purchased by him. The Provinces are not in favour of the proposal.

(f) No.

(g) Meat and fish have more protein values but less energy values than cereals.

FRUIT PRODUCTS CONTROL ORDER, 1946.

683. *Kunwar Shamsher Jang: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the fact that none of the provisions contained in the Fruit Products Control Order, 1946, promulgated under the Defence of India Rules have been strictly enforced by the officers concerned and whether Government have received any reports on the working of this Control Order?

(b) If so, what action have Government taken to remedy the evil?

(c) If not, do Government propose to investigate the matter?

(d) Are Government aware that a large number of so called Fruit Preserving Factories in India are not upto the standard required by the said Control Order and are incapable of any improvement?

(e) Is it a fact that some factories were reported unfit but they are still manufacturing Fruit products and are marketing them under Government Licences?

(f) Is it a fact that no Doctor or Hygiene Expert has been appointed to look after the hygienic conditions of these factories?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a), (b) and (c). Reports reaching this Ministry indicate that the promulgation and enforcement of the Fruit Products Control Order, 1946, have effected considerable improvement in the industry. In view of the genuine difficulties felt by manufacturers in complying strictly at once with all the provisions of the Order, Government did not enforce it strictly at the beginning. Since May last, after due warning to the industry, the provisions are being strictly enforced.

(d) and (e). As stated already Government recognise the difficulties of manufacturers and so while issuing licences granted them time to effect the necessary improvements. Factories incapable of improvement are being gradually weeded out.

(f) Yes.

CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF FRUIT TECHNOLOGY IN DELHI

684. *Kunwar Shamsher Jang: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up a Central Institute of Fruit Technology in Delhi for the purpose of carrying out experiments in the preservation of fruits grown all over the country?

(b) If so, what are the reasons for selecting Delhi for this purpose specially when it is not a fruit growing area?

(c) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the fact that fruits grown in various areas of the country cannot be transported to Delhi, without deterioration for research purposes due to non-availability of refrigerated transport in this country?

(d) Are Government aware that the development of the fruit preservation industry can be achieved better and more efficiently by having a number of regional research stations in the principal fruit growing areas rather than by having a central Institute at Delhi?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) and (b). The Institute of Fruit Technology proposed to be set up at Delhi is meant to carry out research on the preservation and nutritive problems of fruits and vegetables, to impart training on the subject to students coming from all over India, to give advice to prospective manufacturers of fruit products and to co-ordinate the work of similar institutes located in other parts of the country. It will consist of a research laboratory and also function as a teaching institute. Delhi has been selected as a suitable location in view of the other allied research institutes already located at Delhi.

(c) Apart from the main objectives of the Institute, Government are satisfied that the fruit-growing areas close to Delhi justify the proposed location of the Institute.

(d) Government are satisfied that, in the present stage of development of the Fruit Preservation Industry, the setting up of a Central Research Institute of this type is necessary and economical. The setting up of regional research stations in the fruit growing areas which will also help in the development of the Fruit Preservation Industry is also under consideration.

DELAYED DELIVERY OF LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS

685. *Shri Damodar Swarup Seth: Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the delay in the delivery of all sorts of letters and telegrams; and

(b) the steps Government have so far taken to remedy the general complaint?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: The attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to the reply given to starred question No. 156 by Shri Gopal Narain on the 20th November 1947.

INCREASED JUTE PRODUCTION IN INDIA

686. *Shri Damodar Swarup Seth: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate quantity of jute required for the use of the Indian Union;

(b) the quantity of Jute grown in the Indian Union; and

(c) the measures which Government propose to take to increase the production of Jute in India?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) The quantity of jute required annually for the use of the Indian Union is 64 lakh bales of 400 lbs. each, composed of 62½ lakh bales for mill consumption and 1½ lakh bales for domestic consumption in villages.

(b) The annual production varies from year to year. The average production during the years 1936-37 to 1940-41 was 20.2 lakh bales and that during 1941-42 to 1945-46 was 14.3 lakh bales. The Bengal Jute Regulation Act came into force in 1940. The estimate for the 1947-48 crop is 17 lakh bales.

(c) The Government of India have asked the Indian Central Jute Committee to submit proposals for intensive research both into the agricultural and technological problems of the jute industry and they have been asked to submit concrete proposals for increasing the production of jute, without encroaching upon the area under food crops, in the Indian Dominion. This subject will be considered at the meeting of the Committee to be held from the 10th to the 13th December, 1947, and suitable action will be taken on receipt of their proposals.

CATTLE FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES.

687. *Shri Ram Sahai: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what has been the average increase in the census figures during the last 50 years and what has been the average fall, in the number of cattle, cows and bullocks, that can be used for agricultural purposes?

(b) Have Government any schemes under consideration, by which agriculturists can conveniently procure oxen at cheap rates?

(c) If the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what are those schemes?

(d) What schemes have Government under consideration for the protection of cattle that can be used for agricultural purposes?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) The average annual increase in the human and cattle census figures relating to pre-partition Indian Provinces between 1915 and 1945 for which only comparable figures are available was 2.6 millions and 17 thousands respectively. During the 10 years ending 1945 the average annual increase in the human population was 3.9 millions while the

cattle population declined by 350 thousands per year. The average annual fall in the number of cows and bullocks that can be used for agricultural purposes during the ten years ending 1945 was 20,000.

(b) No.

(c) Does it primarily the concern of Provincial Governments. The Government of India have however sanctioned grants for two schemes of the Bombay Government for the immunization of cattle against diseases. A proposal to appoint a technical officer and a Standing Rinderpest Committee to consider the ways and means of eradication of rinderpest in India is also under consideration. Besides this the slaughter of male cattle between 3 to 10 years of age which are used or likely to be used as work cattle is prohibited in some of the Provinces and export of cattle outside India is also prohibited. Government of India have recently set up a Committee to advise Government on other measures necessary for conserving and improving the Cattle Wealth of the country.

ENCOURAGEMENT OF COTTAGE INDUSTRY

688. *Shri Ram Sahai: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the names of cottage industries to be encouraged by Government?

(b) What schemes have been given effect to and at what places?

(c) What schemes have not yet been given effect to and how long will it take to give effect to them?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Development of cottage industries is primarily the responsibility of the Provincial Governments. The subject has, however, been included in the agenda of the forthcoming Industries Conference with a view to discussing what assistance, if any, should be given by the Central Government.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

EXTENSION OF MYSORE RAILWAY

689. *Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Mysore have been pressing on the Government of India the necessity of linking up Erode on the South India Railway with Chamarajnagar on the Mysore Railways, so as to give a direct metre gauge connection to the South and also Chitaldrug Rayadurg;

(b) whether the Government of Mysore have sought permission to extend the Mysore Railway from Chamarajnagar to Sateyamanjalum;

(c) whether any steps are taken to survey the line and if so, by whom; and

(d) when the actual construction of the line is likely to be taken up?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The Government of Mysore have been keen on providing a metre gauge connection between their System and the S. I. Railway system. The proposal of linking Chamarajnagar with Erode was, however, abandoned in 1928 when the Erode-Trichinopoly Chord Line was converted from Metre Gauge to Broad Gauge.

No proposal for linking Chitaldrug on the Mysore State Railway with Rayadurg on the M. and S. M. Railway appears to have been received.

(b) The Mysore Government have sought for inclusion of the Railway project from Chamarajnagar to Mettupalayam via Satyamangalam in the Government of India's Post-war plan, for allotting it a high priority, and for having necessary surveys undertaken.

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(c) An aerial survey has recently been carried out by the Survey of India at the cost of the Mysore State. Traffic and Engineering, has been sent estimate for the land survey, both Government for acceptance. Since the project lies L. Railway to the Mysore of the S. I. Railway, the survey will be carried out by where of influence Administration in consultation with the M. and S. M. Railway and Railway Railways. A Traffic Officer of the Mysore State Railway will be associated with the fresh Traffic Survey.

(d) It is not possible to say at this stage when the actual construction will be taken up.

IMPORT OF ARECA

690. *Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of areca that has been imported into India from Singapore and Eastern Pakistan during the current year;

(b) whether the price of areca has fallen on account of the imports;

(c) what restrictions are proposed to be imposed to check the imports;

(d) whether it is a fact that the areca growers in India have made several representations for the removal of excise duty on areca; and

(e) the amount of duty collected during the years 1945-46, 1946-47 and 1947-48?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The question has been transferred to the List of questions for the 12th December 1947, when it will be answered by the Honourable Minister for Commerce.

FRUIT DISEASE IN ARECA NUT

691. *Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research has been carried out into the causes and prevention of fruit disease in areca nut;

(b) if so, with what result; and

(c) how many research Institutes are working and where?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) Research on causes and prevention of diseases of areca nut was conducted from time to time. Early in this century investigations were conducted by Dr. Butler in the then Imperial Agricultural Research Institute at Pusa. The Bombay Government also carried out some investigations and the Mysore State maintained an experimental farm where some diseases were studied. Much, however, still remains to be done.

(b) The investigations so far conducted have reached only tentative conclusions which remain to be confirmed.

(c) There is no research institute at present engaged in work on diseases of areca nut. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is now setting up an Areca nut Committee which among other matters will also conduct systematic research in the pests and diseases and their cure.

INCREASE IN BASIC RATION OF RICE IN MYSORE ETC.

692. *Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the basic ration of food in Mysore, Cochin, Travancore and Pudukottai is only 8 oz. while in all other provinces and States it is 10 oz;

(b) whether Government are aware that in all these areas rice is the staple food;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to increase the quota of rice allotted to the said States so that the basic ration may be raised to at least 10 oz; and

(d) if so, what are the quantities of rice and wheat allotted for the months of November and December 1947, to these States?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) Yes, except that in a few other States also, the basic ration is below 10 oz.

(b) Yes.

(c) The maximum possible quotas are being allotted to the States in question.

(d) The allotments for November and December are:

	November			December		
	Rice	Wheat	Millet	Rice	Wheat	Millet
Mysore	6,750	5,000	15,200	5,000	2,000	13,000
Cochin	3,000	3,200	..	5,000	2,000	3,000
Travancore	13,500	14,000	..	12,000	4,000	8,000
Pudukottai	720	..	80	720	..	80

TIN PLATE FACTORIES

693. *Shri Ramnarayan Singh: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tinplate factories in the country;

(b) the principles followed in allotment of quotas to them; and

(c) Government's policy as to whether they encourage or discourage any further increase in the number of factories?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) One, Sir.

(b) I presume the Honourable Member is referring to allotment of raw materials. The full quantity of tinbars produced in the country and a considerable proportion of tin available in India is allotted to the Company.

(c) There will ultimately be scope for further expansion of the Tinplate Industry. Government is unable to encourage extensions to the existing factory or an increase in its number until steel supplies are sufficient to meet the needs of the existing plant.

AMRAOTI-BADNERA MOTOR SERVICE

694. *Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state the condition on which the present Amraoti-Badnera motor service was started?

(b) Are Government aware that the Motor fare is Re. -/3/6 per passenger while the railway fare is only Re. -/2/-?

(c) Do Government propose to reduce the motor fare to Re. -/2/- per passenger only?

(d) When does the present agreement with the motor service company expire?

(e) Do Government propose to nationalize this Amraoti-Badnera motor service when motor services are nationalized by the Provincial Government? If not, why not?

(c) whether any biscuit companies have been refused supply of flour this year because of their being of comparatively shorter standing and if so, what their names are; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, how Government propose to keep such biscuit companies working?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad. (a) A statement is placed at the table of the House

(b) No.

(c) and (d). In view of reply to part (b) the question does not arise.

Statement showing the allotment of Flour to Biscuit Factories during 1947

Name of Biscuit Factories	(In tons) Quality Allotted	
	From Patiala	From Imports
1. M/s. Delhi Biscuits Co., Ltd., Delhi . . .	18	14
2. „ Modi Supplies Corpn., Ltd., Begumabad . . .	135	48
3. „ Parle Products Mfg., Co., Bombay—2. . .	55	40
4. „ Sathe Biscuit Co., 820, Bhawani Peth Poona—2. . .	71	52
5. „ Britannia Biscuit Co., Ltd., Reay Road East, Mazagon, Bombay. . .	95	141
6. „ Britannia Biscuit Co., Calcutta . . .	..	194
7. „ Lily Biscuit Co., Calcutta . . .	82	59
8. „ Shama Biscuit Co., Calcutta . . .	27	21
9. „ Patiala Biscuit Mfg. Co., Rajpura Patiala . . .	17	..
TOTAL . . .	500	569

N.B.—A further quantity of 659 tons wheat flour is being allotted during December 1947 of the All India Biscuit Manufacturers Association for allocation to its member factories.

FLUCTUATION IN *Supari* PRICES.

699. *Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the price of round *supari* has fallen by 25 per cent. during the past few weeks and that it is still going down;

(b) whether Government are aware that the fall in price is due to the smuggling of *supari* from Eastern Pakistan area not only of Eastern Pakistan *supari* but also of *supari* imported from Singapore through Pakistan ports to avoid import restrictions;

(c) whether representations have been received by the Government of India from the Karnataka and Mysore Areca growers' Association in this connection; and

(d) what action Government propose to take to check the fall in the price of areca and to restore its original price?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee. The question has been transferred to the List of questions for the 12th December, 1947, when it will be answered by the Honourable Minister for Commerce.

NEW RAILWAY LINES IN BIHAR.

700. *Shri Ramnarayan Singh: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state the stage at which the newly proposed railway lines in the province of Bihar, particularly in the Chotta Nagpur Division, stand to-day?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: A statement is placed on the table containing a list of 9 projects under investigation which lie wholly or partially in the Province of Bihar.

Of these, the first 6 projects lie wholly or partly in the Chota Nagpur Division. Construction has been sanctioned of the first 40 miles of the Barwadih-Chirimiri Project. The remaining projects are still under investigation.

Statement

- (i) Tori-Birmitrapur.
- (ii) Gaya-Ranchi.
- (iii) Barkagaon-Hazaribagh-Giridih.
- (iv) Barwadih-Chirimiri.
- (v) Barwadih-Manikpur.
- (vi) Conversion of Purulia-Lohardaga from N. G. to B. G.
- (vii) Sitamarhi-Sonbarsa.
- (viii) Chakia-Alwalia-Sidhwalia.
- (ix) Marliganj-Duram-Madhepura.

RAILWAY WORKSHOPS IN INDIA AND PAKISTAN.

701. *Shrimati Renuka Ray: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state the number of Railway Workshops in India and in Pakistan?

(b) Is it a fact that the plant and equipment of a Railway Workshop are being transferred to Pakistan area and if so, the reasons for such transfer?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) A list of workshops under the Mechanical Department only of Railways falling under India and Pakistan is being tabled. Indian Government Railways have been addressed to furnish a comprehensive statement of all the workshops under the control of different departments and this information will be placed in the Library of the House in due course.

(b) No. A few ticket printing machines from the Ticket Printing Press, Lahore are, however, to be transferred to India.

Mechanical Department Workshop of Class I Government Railways India.

Railway	Gauge	Description of workshops	Location	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
Assam	M. G.	Locomotive, Carriage and Wagon	Dibrugarh	
B.B.&C.I.	B. G.	Locomotive	Dohad	
		Carriage	Ahmedabad	
		Carriage	Parel	
		Wagon	Baroda.	
		Wagon	Mahalaxmi.	
		Wagon	Gangapur City.	
	M. G.	Locomotive, Carriage and Wagon.	Ajmer.	
		Wagon	Mhow.	
		Wagon	Abu Road.	

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The Amraoti-Badnera Motor Service was inaugurated in June 1945, by the Central Provinces Transport Services, Ltd., Nagpur,—a road undertaking with which the G. I. P. Railway and the C. P. Government are associated.

(b) The bus fare of annas 3½ per passenger is in accordance with the scale of road fares sanctioned by the C. P. Government for that Province.

(c) The level of road fares is a provincial responsibility.

(d) This is a matter for the C. P. Government, but so far as the Government of India are aware, operation on this route, as on other routes, is authorised by permits issued by the Transport Authorities and no agreement as such exist.

(e) The Provincial Government have declared their intention to nationalise all road services in the Province.

SOAP FACTORIES IN WEST BENGAL.

695. *Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of soap factories, specially in West Bengal, have lost their existence during the communal disturbances in that province; and

(b) whether it is a fact that their quota of caustic soda, has been discontinued and if so, whether Government propose to take any steps in that behalf?

The Honourable Dr. Sayma Prasad Mookerjee: (a) and (b). Details are being ascertained of soap factories which have closed down owing to communal disturbances. Orders regarding the discontinuance of supplies of caustic soda will be issued as soon as these details are available.

SALT AS A COTTAGE INDUSTRY.

696. *Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that as a result of the Gandhi-Irwin Pact of 1931 the preparation of salt became an important cottage industry in the coastal areas, affording means of livelihood to quite a large number of people;

(b) whether Government are aware that this industry has suffered considerably because of the fact that the firewood-plants available on the seashore and the banks of salt-water rivers which supplied fuel for the preparation of salt have been mostly uprooted in consequence of the cyclone and tidal bore in 1942; and

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what steps Government propose to take to improve the situation and to establish salt as a cottage industry for the poorer class of people?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Manufacture of salt in the coastal areas of Midnapore, Tamlok, Contai and parts of Sunderbans was practised on a moderate scale in the coastal areas in the period following the announcement of Gandhi-Irwin Pact. It afforded some means of livelihood to a few thousand people in the coastal areas.

(b) Yes.

(c) The salt industry in the coastal areas of West Bengal is proposed to be developed by an attempt to introduce solar evaporation methods in the existing cottage industry. The Bengal Government are also making an extensive survey of the Midnapore Coastal Area with the object of extending salt manufacture.

PRODUCTION OF SODA ASH.

697. *Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of soda ash produced in India in the years 1946 and 1947 and the names of the manufacturers with their annual output;

(b) the total quantity of soda ash imported from abroad during the years 1946 and 1947;

(c) whether the quantity produced in this country together with the imported quantity is enough to meet our present requirements and if not, what the amount of shortage is; and

(d) how Government propose to meet the shortage?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) and (b). A statement giving the desired information is laid on the table of the House.

(c) No, Sir; we are short of our requirements by about 30,000 tons per year.

(d) By assisting the existing works, whose potential capacity is about 55,000 tons, to produce the maximum quantity possible; by encouraging the installation of new capacity and by increasing imports in the mean time.

Statement

Production of Soda Ash in 1946 & 1947

Name of the firm	(a)		
	Production in 1946	Production during the first half of 1947	Estimated Production during the second half of 1947
Alkali & Chemical Corporation of India, Khewra.	Tons 18,339	Tons 11,436	Tons *
Dhrangadra Chemical Works, Dhrangadra	12,629	4,000	6,000
Tata Chemicals, Mithlapur	1,275	Nil	500
	22,243	15,436	6,500

*Khewra is now situated in Pakistan.

(b) IMPORTS

1946	1947 (Estimated)
70,000 tons	50,000 tons

MANUFACTURE OF BISCUITS.

698. *Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) the names of manufacturers of biscuits to whom a quota of wheat-flour has been allotted this year and the quantity allotted to each of them;

(b) whether in the matter of allotment of flour, the standing of a company is taken into consideration as one of the factors or the sole factor and if so, what limit is put thereto;

Railways	Gauge	Description of workshop	Location	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
B.N.	B. G.	Locomotive Carriage and Wagon	Kharagpur. Kharagpur.	
E.I.	B. G.	Locomotive Locomotive *Locomotive	Lucknow. Jamalpur Kanchrapara.	*For B.G. M.G. and N.G.
		†Carriage and Wagon Carriage and Wagon Carriage and Wagon Wagon	Kanchrapara. Lucknow. Lillooah. Ondal.	†For B.G. & N.G.
G.I.P.	B.G.	Locomotive Carriage and Wagon Carriage and Wagon	Parel. Matunga. Jhansi.	
M. and S. M.	B.G.	Locomotive Carriage and Wagon	Perambur. Perambur.	
	M. G.	Locomotive, Carriage and Wagon	Hubli	
E.P.	N. G.	Carriage	Kalka.	
O. T.	M. G.	Locomotive, Carriage and Wagon. Locomotive, Carriage and Wagon.	Gorakhpur. Izatnagar.	
E. I.	B. G. and M.G.	Locomotive, Carriage and Wagon.	Golden Rock.	
<i>Pakistan</i>				
N. W.	B. G.	Locomotive Carriage and Wagon	Moghalpura. Moghalpura.	
E. B.	M. G.	Locomotive, Carriage and Wagon. Locomotive, Carriage and Wagon.	Dacca. Saidpur.	

DETENTION OF RAILWAY WAGONS IN PAKISTAN.

702. *Shrimati Renuka Ray: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any trains and/or wagons sent to Pakistan with passengers and/or goods have not been returned to India; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken or propose to take any action in this connection?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes.

(b) Constant watch is kept by the Indian Railways concerned on rolling stock sent to the Pakistan Railways and when delays necessitate, reference is made to the Ministry of Communications (Railway Department), Government of Pakistan, by the Railway Board.

NATIONALISATION OF AIRLINES.

703. *Shrimati Renuka Ray: Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) how many private airline companies have been licensed;

(b) whether any proposal is being considered to consolidate these companies on the lines of the B.O.A.C.; and

(c) whether Government have taken any decision regarding the nationalisation of airlines; if not, whether Government propose to consider the proposal in the near future?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) The Air Transport Licensing Board have granted licences for the operation of air services in India to 8 companies.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The question of organisation of air services has been carefully reviewed by the present Government, particularly with reference to the operation of an air service between India and United Kingdom. As regards external services, I lay on the table of the House a copy of an announcement recently made in the press on the scheme for the operation of an Indian air service between India and the United Kingdom. It will be observed that the organisation which will undertake the operation will be a joint Government-Company enterprise in the capital of which Government will hold 49 per cent. with the right to acquire at any time a clear majority holding. The day-to-day management will be with a company which has established a name in civil air transport as well as in other fields of commerce. Losses, if any, will be made good to the company by Government by payment of subsidies which are repayable from subsequent profits. Profits in excess of 5 per cent. after repayment of subsidies, if any, will be shared equally by the Government and the Company.

Similar principles will apply to other external air operations also.

As regards internal air services, Government have not yet taken any decision. They will shortly place the matter before the Standing Advisory Committee attached to the Ministry of Communications.

PRESS NOTE

Indian Air Service to Europe.

Government approves formation of new Company.

It is announced that the Government of India have approved of the early establishment of an Indian air service to Europe. For this purpose a new Company is being formed under the name of "Air-India International, Limited", with an authorised capital of Rs. 7 crores and an initial paid-up capital of Rs. 2 crores, out of which the Government of India will acquire 49 per cent. with an option to acquire at any time a further two per cent. so as to bring up their holding to 51 per cent. of the total. Government will have a number of Directors on the Board of the Company. The Chairman will be a Director approved by the Government of India.

The Service which will operate between Bombay and London via Cairo, and one stopping place on the Continent, will be equipped with the latest model of the Lockheed "Constellation" aircraft, the leading long-range, high speed, four-engined transport in the world today. The service is expected to be inaugurated at the beginning of May, with an initial frequency of two a week in each direction. The frequency will subsequently be increased as the organization and traffic develop.

Air-India Limited will be in charge of the technical management of the new Company, and will provide crews and all operational and engineering services. Air-India will also act as Chief Booking Agents in India. Action will now be taken by the Government of India to negotiate bilateral agreements with the countries lying on the route.

The scheme represents a new and interesting experiment in joint State and private enterprise. Amongst its striking features is the fact that, as the largest share-holder in the Company, with a right to acquire at any time a clear majority holding, the Government of India will have effective control over the policies and operations of the Company thus safeguarding in full the national interests including those of the tax-payer and consumer. At the same time, by entrusting the day-to-day management of the Company to a sector of private enterprise well-established and highly experienced in the field of air transport, the important objective of efficient management based on commercial principles will be achieved.

The financial terms and provision of the arrangement approved by Government are also of special interest. Under the scheme, the Government of India have agreed, if necessary, to grant subsidies to the Company for a limited period in order to protect it from possible loss in the early stages, but any such financial aid will be re-payable from subsequent profits out of which 50 per cent. will, for the purpose, directly accrue to Government until the subsidies have been repaid in full. During this period the Company will be precluded from declaring dividends in excess of five per cent.

After the subsidies, if any, are repaid, half of the profits earned in excess of five per cent. on capital and share-holders' funds will accrue to Government who, in addition, will receive the dividends payable on their shares.

India has demonstrated her ability to operate domestic services on a large scale and with a high degree of efficiency and safety, but international air traffic to and from India, has upto now been the monopoly of foreign operators. It is, therefore, gratifying to know that India is at last entering the field of international air transport, with equipment and facilities which will compare favourably with those of its foreign competitors.

BENGAL-NAGPUR RAILWAY STATIONS WITHOUT LIGHT.

704. *Shri Santanu Kumar Das: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some of the stations on Bengal-Nagpur Railway remain without lights?

(b) if so, is it a fact that robbery and pick-pocketing are increasing day by day on account of this?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) No. Platform lamps are lighted at all stations where passenger trains halt during the hours of darkness, the number of lamps to be lit being dependent on the size of the station.

(b) Does not arise.

STOPPAGE OF PURI-HOWRAH EXPRESS TRAIN AT JAJPUR AND JENAPUR STATIONS

705. *Shri Santanu Kumar Das: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the Puri-Howrah Express Train passes without touching the main stations between Bhadrak and Cuttack stations?

(b) Has any representation been received from the public requesting Government to allow the said train to stop at Jajpur and Jenapur stations in Cuttack District?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The Puri-Howrah Express Trains stop at Kendrapara Road. They do not stop at Jajpur Road, the only other relatively important station between Bhadrak and Cuttack.

(b) Towards the end of 1946, representations were made to the B. N. Railway and the Railway Board that the Puri-Howrah Express Trains should be stopped at Jajpur Road, but no representation has been received suggesting a stoppage at Jenapur.

PROGRESS IN CONSTRUCTION OF TRICHUR-KOLLENGODE RAILWAY

706. *Shri P. Govinda Menon: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) what stage has been reached in the construction of the Trichur-Kollengode Railway; and

(b) when this Railway is expected to be opened?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Trichur-Kollengode Railway Project is still in the investigation stage. The construction has not yet commenced.

(b) The question does not arise at this stage.

REBUILDING OF SHORANUR-NILAMBUR RAILWAY.

707. *Shri P. Govinda Menon: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to build again the Shoranur-Nilambur Railway which was dismantled during the last war; and

(b) if so, when will the work be taken up?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) When the Railway Post-war Plans for construction of new lines and restoration of dismantled lines were originally prepared, it was decided, in consultation with the Madras Government, that the Shoranur-Nilambur Railway which was dismantled during the war should not be restored.

The Madras Government have, however, recently intimated that the question of restoration of this line is being re-examined by them and they have asked about the amount of guarantee that the Provincial Government will have to pay, should the line prove unremunerative in its working. This information is being compiled.

(b) It is not possible to state; at this stage, if the line will actually be restored and if so, when.

CLOTH AND SUGAR SUPPLIED TO ORISSA STATES.

708. *Shri Yudhisthir Misra: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the quantity of cloth, yarn and sugar supplied to the Orissa States during the year ending 31st October, 1947?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The Central Government make allotments of cloth and yarn to the Orissa Government, who are responsible for sub-allotting these supplies to the districts in the province of Orissa and to the Orissa States. The Central Government therefore have no information as to what quantities of cloth and yarn have been supplied to the Orissa States. The same is the case, I understand, with sugar. Enquiries have however been made from the Orissa Government as to the supplies of cloth, yarn and sugar made to the Orissa States during the year ending 31st October 1947, and the information will be furnished to the Honourable Member when it is received.

MALDISTRIBUTION OF CONTROLLED GOODS IN ORISSA STATES.

709. *Shri Yudhisthir Misra: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the maldistribution of controlled goods in some of the Orissa States and the export in large quantity of yarn from the States to the neighbouring provinces;

(b) whether Government have received any complaint regarding export of yarn from Patna State to the Central Provinces; and

(c) if so, whether Government have taken any action?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a), (b) and (c). Government have received no such complaints as the Honourable Member mentions regarding mal-distribution or exports, but would be glad to undertake investigations if the Honourable Member would let them have instances of what he has in mind. I must point out, however, that since internal distribution is a matter for the Provincial or State Government concerned, this question should be addressed to the administration concerned.

EXPANSION OF B. N. RAILWAY.

710. *Shri Yudhisthir Misra: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government propose to take up the construction of Sambalpur-Kondagaon and Khurda Road-Sonepur-Lochipore railway line in Bengal Nagpur Railway after survey, and if so, when?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The Government are not in a position at this stage to state if the construction of Sambalpur-Kondagaon and Khurda Road-Sonepur-Lochipore railway lines on the Bengal Nagpur Railway will be taken in hand after the surveys have been completed. The survey reports on receipt will be examined by the Railway Board and then placed before the Central Board of Transport for their consideration. Construction will be taken in hand only if the Central Board of Transport recommend such a course.

INSUFFICIENT SUPPLY OF WAGONS TO B. N. RAILWAY.

711. *Shri Yudhisthir Misra: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaint regarding insufficient supply of wagons has been received from Kantabanji (Bengal Nagpur Railway) in Patna State (Orissa) to export minor foodgrains; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to make any arrangements in future to facilitate export of foodgrains from that place to Madras and Bombay Presidencies?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes, such a complaint has been received by the B. N. Railway.

(b) Adequate facilities exist for the transport of foodgrains.

CONTROL OVER RAILWAY CATERERS IN RESPECT OF EMPLOYEES' SERVICES

712 *Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the Government of India have any control over the caterers in respect of the conditions of service the caterers offer to their employees?

(b) If not, do Government intend to assume any?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Railways at present have no control over the caterers in respect of conditions of service offered to their employees.

(b) The matter is still under examination.

DEVELOPMENT OF SANGAMESHWAR IRRIGATION PROJECT.

713 *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Rayalaseema (Ceded Districts) in the Madras province is specially liable to periodical famines;

(b) whether Government are aware that the Famine Commissions of 1897-1900 had recommended that irrigation projects especially the Sangameshwar project should be developed in order to protect the five million people of this area from frequent famines;

(c) whether Government are aware that this is at present a deficit food area and there is great need for making it self-sufficient in food; and

(d) whether Government propose to develop the irrigation projects referred to in part (b) above?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) Yes.

(b) The Famine Commission of 1898 recommended extension of irrigation as a first measure to protect the Ceded Districts from famine, but it did not refer to the Sangameshwar Project which was evolved in 1903.

(c) Yes.

(d) Staff for preliminary investigation of the project has been sanctioned by the Provincial Government and investigation is expected to commence shortly.

REFUSAL BY PAKISTAN TO EXCHANGE FOOD FOR TEXTILES

714. *Seth Govind Das: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of Pakistan have refused to take our textiles in exchange of their food, and that they have offered their food to Australia in return of Australian textiles?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what action do Government propose to take to consolidate our position, so that we may not depend on food supplies from Pakistan?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) No proposal on the basis of barter of textiles from India with foodgrains from Pakistan was ever put to or considered either by the Government of Pakistan or by the Government of India. The Government of India have not heard of any such barter proposal between Pakistan and Australia.

(b) Does not arise.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

FAILURE OF THE GOVERNMENT TO STOP TRIBAL RAIDS FROM PAKISTAN

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of an adjournment motion from Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena. There seems to be some confusion about this motion. It is verbose, argumentative and requires a lot of amendment, even if it is otherwise admissible. I would read only such parts, as I think are relevant.

The motion as amended by me will read:

"That the House do adjourn to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, viz., the failure of our Government to take effective measures to force the Pakistan Government to stop tribesmen from 'indulging in a reign of terror, loot and rape', and to discuss whether all talks of financial settlements and other agreements with the Pakistan Government should not stop immediately and what other effective steps should be taken in the matter."

I have amended the motion to bring it within parliamentary language.

Apart from the question of urgency, this motion on the very face of it is inadmissible because it seeks to discuss more than one definite issue.

I do not think I can give my consent to this motion.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

Mr. Speaker: I have to announce that under sub-order (1) of Standing Order 80 of the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) Standing Orders, the following Honourable Members will form the Committee on Petitions, namely: (1) Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, (2) Shrimati G. Durgabai, (3) Shri Arun Chandra Guha, (4) Shri Mohan Lal Saksena, and (5) Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed with further consideration of the motion of the Honourable Mr. Gadgil about reference to Select Committee of his Bill to provide for the rationalization of the production and supply of electricity and generally for taking measures conducive to the electrical development of the Provinces of India.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil (Minister for Works, Mines and Power): The debate that followed my motion for reference to Select Committee on the Bill now under discussion was marked with some heat, some light, but I am glad to say that there was no shock. The Honourable Members who participated in this debate—at least some of them—were good enough to congratulate me. Some were rather half-hearted in their congratulations and one Honourable Member was positive in denouncing this measure as reactionary. Now this honourable gentleman has quoted from the Bible, namely, some resolutions of the Congress. I only hope that this new found love of the Congress resolutions by this Honourable Member will be more enduring hereafter.

Now for those who welcome this measure as being good, although better was possible, to them my reply is that good cannot be the enemy of better. And if they do me the courtesy of going through the provisions of this Bill, which I stated at the beginning of my speech is a somewhat complicated measure, they will find that I have gone as much as possible in the present circumstances. This is exactly what I said, Sir:

"The fact that has determined this line of action is: What is possible in the immediate future? And to do it in such a way that the ultimate objective of public ownership of such public utility concerns is not prejudiced in the least."

Now a bigger issue was raised by some of the Honourable Members, namely, of nationalisation. Some sort of accusation was levelled against me that this Bill was definitely inconsistent with the Congress policy. My Honourable friend, Prof. K. T. Shah, for whom I have the highest respect, and who has often been my guide in matters of finance whenever I had an occasion to write something about it, referred to the Karachi resolution. Now that Karachi resolution says:

"The State shall own or control key industries and services, mineral resources, railways, waterways, shipping and other means of public transport."

This does not definitely lay down that there should be public ownership and control, but an alternative is left and it will not be considered as inconsistent if this measure is based on State control and public ownership also. In fact, I will be entitled to take some credit that instead of taking one alternative, as suggested in this resolution, I have taken both the things and tried to combine them in such a manner that the ultimate objective will be possible to be attained sooner than many of my Honourable friends realise.

Shri H. V. Kamath (C. P. and Berar: General): Is the Honourable Minister working out a synthesis?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I will leave it to your imagination because I do not want to say anything that will create any trouble in the realization of the objective that I have placed before you.

Referring to the latest Congress manifesto, which was issued in the year 1945, I find the same thing is repeated:

"The State must own, or control key and basic industries and services, mineral resources, railways, waterways and shipping and other means of public transport."

I therefore say this charge of having done something against the Congress programme or mandate is entirely without foundation. If it comes to a choice for me between loyalty to the Government and loyalty to the Congress, I can assure my friend that loyalty to the Congress will prevail in my case.

Now taking further this question of nationalization on merits: in other words some of my friends want that public ownership should be secured immediately. In this connection, the purchasing of existing interests offers a formidable problem. I do not think it is a point of view of any of the Honourable Members that existing interests should be ex-appropriated altogether. That also is not the Congress policy. The Congress policy has been laid down very often that no man will be deprived of his property except according to the process of the law: that in the case of *zamindari*, the Congress manifesto definitely laid down that equitable compensation would be paid. There is no desire to cut the existing interests with a shilling so to say. Now if that is the position, suppose if the Government were to start on having public ownership immediately? We would have to pay roughly about Rs. 100 crores. Today out of 412 electricity undertakings in this country, 300 belong to private companies. Out of these 300, 249 are in the Indian Union and 51 in the States. As regards the proportion of installed capacity 73.19 per cent. goes to privately-owned company and the remaining to municipalities and Government. In those circumstances I ask in all sincerity whether we can afford straight-away to purchase them and if we want to purchase them will it make any immediate improvement of the prospect, speaking from the point of view of the financial position of the country? In England under the latest Electricity Bill nationalisation has been visualised. But, Mr. Speaker, you will find from that Bill what the arrangement is.

"The holder of securities in any body, other than a local authority, whose assets and liabilities are transferred by the Bill is to be compensated by the issue to him by the Central Authority of British electricity stock of such amount as is in the hands of the treasury, at a value equal on the date of issue to the value of security. The value of any security for this purpose is to be deemed to be the average market value of the securities on a certain date."

It only means that we will have to pay heavily by way of interest, because the securities will be valued at their market rate today.

What is proposed under this Bill is that all the existing undertakings will be under the complete control of the Provincial Boards, the composition of which, I again repeat, is thoroughly democratic. There is not a single representative on the Provincial Board either of the shareholders or of the managing agents and it is a body charged with the entire work that is to be done under the provisions of the proposed Bill. If the idea is that these people should be paid at the very beginning, as I said, it will be a huge burden on the taxpayer. What is proposed under this Bill is to control these concerns, control their profits and the future expansion of the existing plants is also controlled. New undertakings will be mostly by the State and wherever it is impossible for the State to come in, private enterprise may be allowed. As far as the taking over of the existing undertakings are concerned opportunities will arise from now on in the course of the next 20 years under the terms of the various licenses. Meanwhile we will consider the question of the compensation to be paid. At present the provisions of the Indian Electricity Act of 1910 apply. The provisions clearly lay down that when an undertaking is to be purchased the value must be calculated by what is known as the fair market value. If I were to calculate the fair market value today, it is so much inflated that I will be run down as a man who knows very little about finance and probably will be accused of being pro-capitalist. In the present circumstances it will be considered a folly. But if we can in the near future make certain amendments in the Indian Electricity Act of 1910 in such a manner that the value to be paid may be either the book value or the written-down value but certainly not the market value, then in those circumstances it is possible considerably to reduce the burden on the poor taxpayer. But that is a matter which is receiving the attention of the Government. What I want to urge for the present is that this is a very big step towards nationalisation. Just as possession

[Shri N. V. Gadgil] is 9 points in law, I should say control is ten points in business. If we thoroughly and efficiently control the concerns in every respect, I have no doubt that gradually an atmosphere will be created when people will work more in a spirit of social service than for the sake of mere money or profits. They will develop a better sense of citizenship as was suggested by my Honourable friend Mr. Patil, than they possess today.

I also stated that if the speed with which things are being done today is not satisfactory, the only method of increasing the speed is to increase the strength of public opinion.....

Shri H. V. Kamath: Does the Honourable Minister think that private enterprise will inculcate these virtues?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I am not giving way. That is the only way to quicken the pace. But, at the same time, we must beware of the consequences of enforced development, for the simple reason that in the long run going slowly but surely pays better dividend in the matter of efficiency and outturn also.

Having disposed of this big issue which was raised by some of the Honourable Members, I would refer to another matter, which was mentioned in the course of the discussion by my Honourable friend Mr. Shibban Lal Saksena. He said that no fair wages clause has been inserted in this Bill. I regret to say that he has misunderstood the purpose of the whole Bill. This is not, so to say, a Bill in which something is being done for labour in this or that respect. It is only a Bill which lays down the provisions for the control of existing undertakings with provisions for expansion on certain well known lines. As regards wages and other labour conditions probably my Honourable friend is not aware that there is already a Bill before this House fixing the minimum wages in every business undertaking and as far as I remember it has been referred to a Select Committee. Whatever is the general law with respect to minimum wages and other labour matters will certainly apply to any undertakings, whether they are private or run by the Government.....

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U.P.: General): I quoted from the Sugar Subsidy Act passed by the British Parliament. There they have made a statutory provision to protect labour with respect to wages that should be paid in that subsidised sugar industry. The Minimum Wages Bill will not help labour in electric concerns. Here it is a case of skilled labour and no minimum wages are prescribed in regard to skilled labour in the Minimum Wages Bill. What I wanted was that some provision should be made in the Bill giving a statutory guarantee that labour employed in the proposed new electric concerns will not be exploited as has been done in the body of the British Sugar (Subsidy) Act.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: All matters relating to wages and other labour conditions are matters under the general law which governs wages and labour conditions. If you want to put in detail every thing that is covered, I think it will be a waste of time and I do not know how big the Bill will be. Here are provisions for compensation. Would you like to repeat all the provisions that you find in the law of land acquisition? I therefore want to say that if a dispassionate view of the provisions of this Bill is taken, I have no doubt that it is not only not a reactionary measure but it advances the cause of nationalisation considerably and if I am able to secure the co-operation of this House as well as the members of the Select Committee in its deliberations, much more is possible and the object for which this Bill has been introduced viz., public ownership of public utility services, will have been achieved to a substantial extent. Sir, I have nothing more to say except to commend this motion for the acceptance of this House.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Sir, I want to have some enlightenment from the Honourable Minister. The doubt lingers in my mind.....

Mr. Speaker: Will the Honourable Member say exactly what enlightenment he wants because I cannot permit any speech at this stage?

Shri H. V. Kamath: The Honourable Minister has not told us what are exactly the impediments, obstacles or difficulties in the path of forth right nationalisation instead of this half-hearted measure.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I think I have sufficiently answered that point. It only means that the Honourable Member was inattentive or unable to grasp what I said.

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General): In his conference with the representatives of electrical undertakings at Bombay the Honourable Minister gave an assurance that representatives of that body would be permitted to appear before the Select Committee and represent their case. May I know whether they will be permitted to do so and also whether the Honourable Minister will permit outside electrical experts to appear before the Select Committee?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The interests concerned will be given sufficient opportunity to say whatever they want to say.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the rationalisation of the production and supply of electricity, and generally for taking measures conducive to the electrical development of the Provinces of India, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty, Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Shri B. Das, Shri M. R. Masani, Shri T. T. Krishnamachari Shri K. Santharam, Haji Abbas Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth, Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri, Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala, Shri Mohan Lal Saksena, Shri S. K. Patil, Shri Sures Chandra Majumdar and the Mover, with instructions to report on the opening day of the next session of the Assembly, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall five."

The motion was adopted.

INDIAN NURSING COUNCIL BILL

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur (Minister for Health): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to constitute an Indian Nursing Council, be taken into consideration."

Sir, I am happy that it has fallen to my lot to ask the House to pass this Bill. Statutory provision for a Nursing Council has been a long-felt need, and the measure is very much overdue. The present position is absolutely untenable. There is no central body to co-ordinate or to ensure a uniform minimum standard of training. There is no inter-provincial recognition of nursing qualifications. It is not possible. Provinces have their separate Councils and they have separate standards. It is a most unsatisfactory position. It causes the utmost inconvenience to hospitals or other authorities who wish to employ nurses. Moreover it is a very great hardship on the profession itself. Further, there is no body to negotiate with foreign authorities for the reciprocal recognition of qualifications. That also is a very great lack. This Bill is intended to remedy these defects.

The Central Council that is sought to be brought into being will provide means for raising the standards of training or improving the status of the profession itself and for giving it international standing also for it will provide minimum standards of training, it will grant recognition to nursing qualifications and it will also negotiate with foreign countries for recognition of those qualifications. The Council has been sought to be made an extremely representative body. It will represent all the Provinces. It will be representative

[Rajkumari Amrit Kaur]

of the profession itself. It will have on its Board of Administrative medical officers in charge of the health services and it will be representative also of the medical profession as a whole in India and of all others that are qualified to contribute to the work of this Council.

There is one important thing which I should like to bring to the notice of the House and that is that the Council will also have powers to withdraw recognition of qualifications, and under the Bill only those with recognised qualifications will be enrolled as nurses, midwives and health visitors. This in itself will ensure that inter-provincial reciprocity in the matter of registration which is today absolutely lacking.

This Bill was brought in this House in the Budget Session of 1946, but alas, it has never been able to make any headway and so long was it delayed that the Government of India felt impelled to bring in an Ordinance. That Ordinance is now about to lapse. The Bill was published by Departmental order in the Central and Provincial *Gazettes* in order to elicit public opinion. Opinion has been elicited and it has been given very careful consideration. The principle of the Bill is unquestionable, its aims and objects are unexceptionable. I have purposely refrained from asking this House that the Bill should be referred to a Select Committee because the need for bringing this Bill on the statute book is urgent. In view of the fact that the principle of the Bill is, as I have said, unquestionable and the aims and objects unexceptionable I have no doubt that the House will not hesitate to give me the opportunity forthwith of raising the standards and status of one of the noblest and most essential professions.

I do not know, Sir, if the House is aware that today in the whole of India including Pakistan, there are only 7,000 nurses and only 5,000 midwives. This constitutes a ratio in our country of one nurse for every 43,000 of the population as against one nurse to 300 in the United Kingdom and one to 327 in the United States of America. Because of the need for nurses in the Kurukshetra camp I was impelled the other day to make a countrywide appeal for nurses. But as I was making that appeal I was wondering how it could be responded to. The hospitals that have spared me nurses from Bombay and elsewhere, and my own hospitals of Delhi, have been depleted of their nursing staff in order to provide the need for Kurukshetra. All of them are now working almost at breaking point and they say that they will have to close down a few wards on account of the shortage of nurses. This position is deplorable. Apart from the fixing of minimum standards for training and qualification I feel that this measure will give some encouragement to our girls and our women to come forward to enter this noble profession. We lose many lives today simply because we have not got midwives who are properly trained and because nursing qualifications are not as high as they should be. If this Bill is passed—as I hope—with one voice, I know that it will be a big step forward towards the attainment of our objects. But I also hope that Members of this House will not rest content merely with bringing this measure on to the statute book but that they will go back to their various Provinces and insist on the Provinces having at least one Nursing College, so that opportunity may be afforded to our girls to come and join this noble profession. We cannot render proper medical aid to our people without adequate nursing aid because nursing is one of the most important limbs of the medical profession. However skilled the surgeon is and however efficient the physician is, the life of the patient really is in the hands of skilled and efficient nurses.

With these very few words, Sir, I request that the Bill may be taken into consideration.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to constitute an Indian Nursing Council, be taken into consideration"

Shrimati Renuka Ray (West Bengal: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill brought forward by the Honourable the Health Minister to constitute an Indian Nursing Council.

Mr. Speaker: I would like to have the position clarified about Shrimati Durgabai's amendment.

Shrimati G. Durgabai (Madras: General): I am not proposing to move it, but with your permission, Sir, I would like to speak on the motion.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: It is a measure, Sir, that as the Honourable Minister said is long overdue, and it is more than welcome; I am sure, both by the House and this country. Sir, we are at last free in this country to shape our own future and to break through the morass of ignorance, superstition, ill-health, disease, hunger and want that has enveloped our people during the years of alien domination. We need nation-building work in many directions. But Sir, before we can attain a minimum of economic and social well-being for the people, the most essential factor that is needed is that the people should have the requisite minimum health. It is men and women who are builders of society, and unless they possess the requisite minimum of health and training, how can we possibly get on with any work of national development? It is a well known fact that both on the curative and on the preventive side, the Health services in this country are not only inadequate but hardly exist for the great majority of the rural populace in this country. If we are to make any improvement, the first consideration is of trained personnel, and the Honourable Minister has already told us in regard to the nursing profession there are only 7,000 nurses in this country. There are according to the Bhore Committee's report 5,000 midwives, and only 750 health visitors. Sir, of all sections of health work, to my mind the greatest necessity is to set up a net-work of maternity and child welfare centres throughout the country. The fact that infant mortality is appallingly high and large numbers of women die at child birth is well known in the country. What is even worse is that amongst the women who do not actually die at child birth, there are very large numbers who are seriously and permanently injured due to lack of care during pregnancy and child birth, and again there are large numbers of children in this country who are handicapped almost before they are born, for the same reasons. It is the lack of proper facilities for their care and also the fact that most of these women are at the mercy of the untrained Dai, who has been a great danger in this country, that is responsible for this woeful state of affairs. If we intend to set up an adequate number of maternity and child welfare centres in the country, again we are up against the greatest stumbling block, that is a lack of a sufficient number of trained midwives and health visitors. There are in this whole country only seven schools for training Health visitors, and in each of these schools I think they train 60 Health visitors per annum. Now if we are to cover this country with a sufficient number of maternity and child welfare centres, we need the services of at least 100,000 trained midwives and 20,000 health visitors to supervise them. The reason for the lack of a sufficient number of personnel is of course first of all this lack of training centres; but another reason, is the deep-rooted prejudice in this country against the nursing profession. It is so fundamental and deep-rooted that although today it is generally recognised that nursing is a noble profession, we do not find that nurses are treated in the manner they should be in India. The treatment that is meted out to them is so terrible that I do not see how suitable women can be expected to come forward to this profession unless something is done about it. I have myself, Sir, personal knowledge of many instances where a Health visitor or a trained midwife is obtained with great difficulty because their numbers are few to open a Maternity or Child Welfare Centre, and when she does take over in some small district town or in a village, the treatment that is meted out to her, and the outrageous behaviour towards her

[Shrimati Renuka Ray]

is such that only women with a great deal of courage can cope with it. This kind of thing will have to stop, and I feel that the Indian Nursing Council set up at the Centre could do much towards breaking down these prejudices. Prejudice existed against the nursing profession in other countries. A hundred years ago it was very considerable in England and it was Florence Nightingale who broke it down. A great deal has to be done to overcome the prejudice in this country before we can expect suitable women in sufficient numbers to enter the profession. A Nursing Council of this nature will do much towards it. As the Honourable Health Minister has already mentioned, this Council will prescribe the minimum standards which will bring about uniformity of nursing standards in the country and which I am sure will also help to raise the conditions of service, the status and pay of nurses, which are matters which need a good deal of attention. It will in fact be the counterpart of the Indian Medical Council for the nursing profession. I think there is another important function which this Indian Nursing Council could well take up. It is a well known fact today, Sir, that during the war a system of what is called Volunteer Nurse Aids as a part time nursing service came into England and did exceedingly well there. It had been introduced for the purpose of meeting emergency situations, but is now being made permanent there. Usually volunteer women are given a little training, and on a small honorarium work under the guidance of trained nurses. Women who are educated and of good families have come forward as volunteer nurses. I am sure that the Indian Nursing Council can do much to encourage and foster this system and get Provincial Governments also to take it up when the Council comes into existence. The need for this Indian Nursing Council is so acute that I fully agree with the Honourable the Health Minister that it should not be now sent to a Select Committee. There may be a few technical amendments here and there which may improve the Bill slightly and I am sure that if there are such amendments, the Honourable Minister will have no objection to incorporating them. But I do strongly support that this Bill should be passed into law immediately. It is a matter of urgent necessity in the country that the nursing profession should be immediately strengthened and that we should have a sufficient number of training centres to cover the country so that the Health Service in this country really become widespread.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa (C. P. and Berar: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, for lack of uniformity in the training of the nurses, there has been a great deal of discontent among the staff, and I am very glad that this measure has been brought before this House and I congratulate the Honourable Minister for the same. Sir, there are many Provincial Councils in the various provinces, but the qualifications vary from province to province. In some provinces the training period for a nurse is 3 years, in some it is 6 months, and in some it is 3 months, and the discontent amongst the staff has been mainly due to the fact that the seniormost nurse gets the same salary as the nurse who has just passed out within six months of her training in college. This is one of the improvements that has been brought out by making uniform qualifications in the provisions of this Bill and this will set at naught the long-standing grievance of the staff the nurses and health visitors. The Honourable Minister has really done a distinct service to this class of workers who are greatly needed in this country. Sir, having been associated with the Provincial Nursing Councils as well as the Health Association and Child Welfare Centres, I know very well how this measure will be welcomed when it is brought to their notice that this outstanding grievance has been removed.

There is another proviso: that untrained *dais*, who are at present a nuisance in this country, will not be allowed to attend to any maternity cases. Sir, it has been pointed out by the Honourable Minister that there are only a few thousands of nurses in our country, whereas there is in each village an indigenous *dai* who attends to maternity cases. These indigenous *dais* are so

harmful to the mothers that it has immensely increased infantile mortality in this country. If you take the figures of infantile mortality and compare them with figures in various other parts of the world, you will find that India stands highest. And that is due—and this has been stated by the medical profession—to the indigenous *dais* treating these maternity cases. I know of instances, Sir, where the methods employed are so crude: at the time of delivery, these indigenous *dais* put in a sort of fire under the cot to bring about an easy delivery of the child; and the result is that the mother is disabled for a long period. Sir, efforts have been made by some Provincial Councils to improve this, but there has been no radical change. I hope that when this Bill becomes law, the Central Council will bear in mind that this high infantile mortality which is really due to the indigenous *dais*, should be done away with absolutely. There are many indigenous *dais* who could be trained into midwives according to the modern system, but there has been luke-warmness shown by the Provincial Governments and Provincial Councils in this matter. The first step, Sir, if you really want to keep the health of a mother and also to reduce infantile mortality, is to remove these indigenous *dais* and convert them into regular trained midwives. I do not say that these indigenous *dais* should be done away with; they should be done away with as far as the present method of their profession is concerned, but what I feel is that they should be trained into midwives. In some villages, in some parts of the country, this thing has been done and those *dais* have taken it very nicely. I therefore hope that this Council which is coming into existence, will bear this in mind and see that this question, which is one of the important causes for the health of the mother and the infantile mortality, is taken in hand.

Apart from that, various other important and useful provisions have been included in this Bill for bringing it into conformity and also making it a Central measure so as to keep the Provincial Councils in check. All the nurses today are registered under the Provincial Councils; so also are the Health visitors. As the previous speaker has rightly stated, this profession is considered as a very noble one, but there is very little inducement for expansion of this profession. I know, Sir, that many of the good nurses come from the Harijan classes and the reasons are quite obvious. Those Harijan class nurses have proved absolutely first-class compared with any British nurse that I have seen; the British nurses have done very good work and are doing very good work; but I do feel that our Indian nurses are lacking in number to come forward for this profession for this reason that they have no proper encouragement, and that this profession is looked upon by some classes of the community as a degrading one or as one not desirable. I, therefore, feel that every kind of inducement and encouragement should be given by the Central Council to the Provincial Councils; all impediments should be removed and improvements for the purpose of bringing in more nurses should be encouraged; their wages and salaries should be immensely increased. Sir, this is the fundamental basis of a mother's health and as such there should be no question as regards the salaries and wages. Today they are very miserably paid; some of the nurses are paid only sixty to seventy rupees; I have not come across an Indian nurse who draws more than Rs. 120 a month. She does important work; she has to attend at midnight to maternity cases—and from statistics it has been proved that many of the maternity cases take place at midnight; so she has to attend at that time at the risk of her life and has to go from place to place. So, for the performance the salary paid is very low. Some uniformity in salaries should also be introduced; that is one of the encouragement for the nurses to come forward and take to this profession. I do not say, Sir, that there are no nurses who come from high families—I know there are nurses who have come from high families also; but their number to the number of those who have come from the average class of people, is not encouraging.

[Mr. R. K. Sidhwa]

Sir, I do feel that this is a very important and a very urgent measure, and I am glad that my Honourable friend Shrimati Durgabai has withdrawn her amendment for reference to Select Committee. I for one would always have welcomed to send it to the Select Committee but there is nothing in the Bill which is lacking. I do feel that the Members of the Central Assembly are not provided with representation; I do not attach too much importance to that but if Members want representation, I have no objection. This is a measure in which I have seen the Honourable Minister has provided full representation for all those who are really concerned in the matter, and if representation is given to this Assembly also, I should certainly welcome it; there is nothing wrong in it; on the contrary we would be able to give our advice and sometimes would advice as well. Therefore, Sir, I am glad that she has withdrawn her motion.

This measure was of such an importance that I am so glad that an Ordinance had to be promulgated; rightly, I congratulate the Government that they have promulgated this Ordinance. When that Ordinance is now becoming a law—I wish, Sir, that it becomes law today—and when it becomes law, the Honourable Minister will see that the provisions of this Act are put into effect immediately and without delay, calling upon the Provincial Councils to act forthwith, and not allow its provisions to remain on paper.

Sir, this is an important Bill. It is a social measure and some of the social measures are really important if you want to build up the nation; this is a measure which will build up the health of a mother and a child if the provisions mentioned here are put into effect. I again second it wholeheartedly and congratulate the Honourable Minister for having brought it forward so soon.

Begum Aizaz Rasul (U. P.: Muslim): Sir, this measure has not come a minute too soon and I congratulate the Honourable Minister for Health for having realised the necessity and the urgency of bringing forward such legislation as soon after this Government took over office as possible. This is one of the measures designed to meet a long standing need of the country. Nursing has been a part and parcel of the medical profession. It is unfortunate that in this very important part of our medical requirements a great deal of improvement has still to be effected. The Bhore Committee, in its Report, has very rightly given an important place to this requirement. I am a member of the Committee set up in U.P. to put into effect the Bhore Committee's recommendations and we have been discussing this important aspect of training of midwives, nurses and health visitors. There are various Provincial Councils for nurses and midwives, but it was necessary that these should be put on all-India and central basis, and I congratulate the Honourable Minister for having realised this and brought forward this measure.

It is unfortunate, Sir, that the nursing profession has been neglected so much in this country. The reasons are not far to seek. The British Administration, in addition to other neglects of various fundamental requirements, did not also think it necessary to provide ways and means of attracting Indian woman to the nursing profession. As has been rightly said, nursing is a very noble profession, but social conditions in our country have been such that the right kind of woman has not been attracted to it, with the result that today, on the withdrawal of British power from this country and the consequent disappearance of those British nurses who were in employment in this country in large numbers, we feel that a great void has been caused by the dearth of trained nurses who are wanted everywhere in hospitals and as private nurses. This dearth has been in the forefront during the last few years of the war and afterwards. On all Committees connected with hospitals, Sanatoriums, etc., of which I am

a member the need has been felt of some drastic action in order to attract more women to become nurses.

I think, Sir, the main reasons why there has been so much shortage of women belonging to good standards of life in the nursing profession are twofold. Firstly, the dearth of publicity. Secondly, the dearth of good educational arrangements for the training of nurses as well as unsuitable terms of service. These are the reasons which have not attracted women of good homes to come forward and take up this very noble profession. The Bhore Committee has dealt with this problem in a very effective manner and I am sure this Bill when it becomes law will, in addition to regulating the registration and provision of uniform standards in the training of nurses will also see that suitable hostel arrangements, good pay and emoluments and adequate safety and security arrangements are also provided to them. It has been rightly remarked by the former speakers that our Indian nurses require a great deal of security in villages and towns where they are required to work. That is specially the case with midwives and health visitors. The United Province is rather backward as far as social conditions go, and I know from personal experience that in the rural areas they are confronted with a great deal of difficulty in visiting homes freely at all times of day and night. I would suggest that some sort of facilities should be provided for nurses who are appointed in rural areas.

Referring to the indigenous *dais*, Sir, I know from personal experience that, as Mr. Sidhwa rightly remarked, they form a barrier to the effective working of these trained midwives in rural areas. These trained midwives are boycotted and ostracised by the population of the town simply because the indigenous *dais* create such conditions for these poor women that it is impossible for them to do their work as they should. It is necessary therefore that these indigenous *dais* should be given a certain amount of training and made to work in conformity and in conjunction with the trained midwives. They should not be altogether exterminated because they form a really formidable and important factor in village life, as I know personally. It would be better to get their co-operation by giving them training and enabling them to get certificates of midwifery so that they may not constitute a social and practical danger to these trained women who are sent by Government to these rural areas.

Then, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of Government that these health visitors that we have, although they are to be found in every town on paper really do not do the amount of work that is necessary. They do not possess the drive and energy required of these Health visitors. One sees a board put up in some towns. Thus we only know the location of the Health Visitor. But as far as practical results are concerned, they are not such as to be called very satisfactory. The number is also inadequate; their number should be far more than at present. There should also be stricter supervision because then only can the results be really satisfactory. Reverting back to the question of nurses, Sir, as I have said, it is necessary that attractive terms are given to Indian women coming from good families to take up the profession of nursing. That is one of the great requirements of our times today and I believe that if hostel arrangements are made satisfactorily for these nurses in hospitals and their pays and emoluments are brought on a par with those of the British nurses, who were serving here. I do not see any reason why girls of good families would not come forward in order to make this profession as brilliant and to raise it to as high a standard as is necessary. Now that the British nurses have nearly all left India it is necessary that the void should be filled as soon as possible by girls of good families so that they may go out and be really a source of inspiration to their other sisters.

1 P.M.

I do not want to go into details, but, as I said, publicity is also one of the

[Begun Aizaz Rasul]

great factors that is needed for attracting women of the right class to this profession.

With these few words, I give my wholehearted support to this measure and I also believe that every moment that this Bill is delayed will harm the country and therefore this measure should become law as soon as possible. This is one of the first social measures that has been brought forward and it is right and proper that it should have been done by the first woman Minister of our Government. I congratulate her on this legislation and hope that other measures that are so necessary for raising the social conditions of this country will also be coming soon before the House.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is with great pride and pleasure I rise to congratulate the Honourable the Mover of this Bill. Much has been said about my giving an amendment; I wanted the Bill to be referred to a Select Committee. But, Sir, let me make it clear at the very outset that when I have given my amendment, it is not with an idea to cause any delay in having this Bill placed on the statute book, but it is certainly to enable ourselves to have a comprehensive scheme of the All-India Organization of Nursing Council, because I am a believer that it does not serve our purpose merely because we are satisfied with having brought a kind of Bill and having placed it on the statute book. As soon as we have placed it, our worry starts and our anxiety starts as to how best we can give effect to all the programme that we have envisaged under this Act. That is really my anxiety. It is for this purpose that a little delay or time taken by ourselves will enable us to take into consultation various Provincial Governments and several other organizations which are very enthusiastic about doing this kind of work and also seek their advice in having a kind of programme which can be very enthusiastically and effectively worked out. That is the only purpose. But when I saw the Statement of Objects and Reasons as given by the Honourable the Mover, I understood the great urgency of an Ordinance already being there and the necessity for its being repealed. Therefore, I have agreed to withdraw my amendment to the Select Committee. It is really a pity to learn from so many Speakers and also from the figures that we have available in India that we have only 7,000 nurses. Is it because that India's population is so little that it does not require a larger number of nurses or is India's health of so high a standard that it does not require any more nurses to attend to this kind of profession? It is not that. It is because there is no extensive programme for enrolling many more ladies for this profession, and recently my experience is that under the Kasturba National Trust when so many lakhs of Rupees have been thrown away to give some kind of help to India's women to come and take this training and serve this noble profession, they would not come. I have seen in the Presidency of Madras some institutions for training nurses under the Kasturba National Trust have been established and several offers have been made, several advertisements and practically house to house propaganda have been made but in spite of all that women would not be coming forward to undergo this training and to take the benefit of the service rendered. When I see this condition in India and also compare it to the other countries, I am really surprised—it is a great pleasure to see the figures which we have available there—to see how those countries have progressed in this direction.

I am told that in the United Kingdom nearly even as early as 1924 there were 24,000 nurses with 42 branches throughout the United Kingdom and also in 1943 when an extensive scale of training had been started under Florence Nightingale, the figures were very very attractive. In 1943 there were nearly 25,000 nurses and in spite of that keen shortage was felt at that time. Therefore the Federal Act was passed and it provided for funds to give inducements to various schools and institutions to get more and more recruits and also to

put them under this training. It also provided for the establishment of a Cadet Nursing Corps and this took upon itself two primary functions. One is the extensive recruitment campaign and the other was to collect funds to be offered as financial inducements to get more and more high-school and college girls to undergo this training. Such is the Act which was passed during that time in 1943 as a result of which the number increased 76 per cent. more over the number in 1940. So that was the great progress made during that time. The United States today has a great nursing reserve upon which it can draw upon in times of emergency. Our problem when we compare to the others is really very grave. Ours is not a temporary urgency, or a temporary emergency. Ours is a permanent problem because we know what the condition of health in our country is. Therefore we require a great and permanent reserve of nurses in India. For that the Central Government and also the provincial Governments must all put their brains together to enable this nursing institution to make good progress.

Another difficulty is this. There are several defects today in the training given. In olden days the nurse was considered as one who simply performed certain useful functions; but now the doctor or surgeon looks upon her as of great assistance and acts on the accuracy of the report given by her, because the doctor sees the patient only at intervals while the nurse has got the patient under her observation all the time. Therefore the standard of training has to be raised and efficiency also to be cared for. These are factors which have got to be considered, and how can we do it? Today it is difficult to reconcile the hours of study with the hours of duty in the wards; the nurses while working in the wards have at the same time to prepare for her examinations,—those conducted by the State as also conducted by the classes. These have got to be reconciled. Also there should be some kind of post-graduate training and coaching by tutors so that these nurses may be able to work in the different sections. There may be mental nurses, sick children's nurses and also private nurses to attend patients at home. Before we actually try to work out this programme the most important and necessary thing is the recruitment. For that we have all to co-operate with the Government and with the Honourable Mover whom I consider as the Florence Nightingale of India. Whenever we think of the nursing profession we cannot forget the great work of Florence Nightingale which stimulated the training of nurses throughout the world. Today the institution of nursing in any part of the world is due to the inspiration of Florence Nightingale. And in this country whenever we think of nursing we cannot forget the name of Rajkumari Amrit Kaur who—it may be said without exaggeration—is closely associated with this subject. But it is not enough that she alone will think of it; we also have to think of it and consider methods by which we can induce many women to adopt this noble profession.

Sir, I again congratulate the Honourable Minister on bringing forward this Bill.

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

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): It is with a great deal of hesitation that I rise to say a few words on the Bill. It is not necessary for me to dilate on the importance of the nursing profession. Many of our lady members have spoken about it. My object is to draw attention to a few of the defects of the Bill as it stands at present. It is rather a slavish imitation of the Indian Medical Council Act and it is a pity that the new Health Minister did not herself modify the Bill so as to suit modern requirements. I think that it should

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have provided for an All-India Register of Nurses with superior qualifications; then that would have given a higher tone to the whole profession.

I am told that there are some constitutional difficulties in the way of instituting such a register. It is argued that as the profession comes under item 16 in List 3, the Central Government should not have executive or directive functions. But, Sir, this item also comes under entry 12 of the Federal Legislative List, which provides for federal agencies and for the varying purposes: for research, for professional or technical training or for the promotion of special studies. Therefore if a combined use had been made of the entries in the Concurrent List, as well as in the Federal List, a Bill with a Central Institute which will not only train but give qualifications, could have been brought into existence.

And then I do not see in this Bill any provision analogous to Clause 10 in the Pharmacy Bill, where they have given in detail what sort of educational regulations the Pharmacy Council is expected to lay down. Here everything is put in a small clause under the rule-making powers of clause 16, (g) and (h). I think a fuller provision would have suited the Bill much better. And most important of all, there is no real provision regarding finances. I think the finances of this institution should have been given more thought, especially provisions for taking endowments, instituting prizes and scholarships. It should not be merely examining bodies.

I think the whole conception of the Bill is that you want someone to issue instructions, to recognise certificates, and more or less be a sort of inspectorate. But it should have more constructive functions. This Council should take to fostering the profession. It must do something by itself so that the nursing profession might be fostered. Why should it not call for endowments from all parts of the country? Why should it not institute prizes and introduce scholarships inside and outside the country? It should become a real national institute which conducts research in nursing and fosters nursing, and does what other institutes in other countries do. We have the old idea of examining and issuing certificates. I think that part of it is very unsatisfactory, and I hope the Minister of Health will take the earliest opportunity to amplify the provisions of the Bill and make it a real centre for fostering the nursing profession.

With these few words I cordially support the motion for the consideration of the Bill.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya (Madras: General): This Bill relates to the organisation of motherhood. In one sense all of us are the children not merely of our mothers but also of the midwives who see to the delivery. And if the midwives had done anything wrong, either we would have died before we were born or we would have been born before we died. I know the difficulties of midwifery and nursing. Long nights of vigil I had kept for 90 days on end, 45 years ago in the obstetric hospital, without sleep, standing at the bedside of the woman in pains. These women are a very troublesome lot. They do not deliver when they are expected to: whole nights were spent in vain, and we never saw the baby. We saw the pains and to their pains we added our own. In the morning the case went to the next student. At the same time it was the patience of the nurses that helped to lighten the burden of the woman and also to put cheer into the lives of the students, both men and women.

Long years hence, it will be recalled how on the 8th December 1947, a maiden of a Minister had conceived and developed a full-term baby called the Nursing Bill, and three hundred men and women nurses had assisted at an easy delivery of it. To subject this Bill to the tortures of a select committee would have made it a forceps delivery or at least, a case of difficult labour. I therefore congratulate Shrimati Durgabai on her having withdrawn her motion.

This Bill is after all a very simple Bill. Nurses are so much in request that I only hope that the country midwives will not be told off their work at once. They too have played their part nobly and well. Every woman in confinement requires the assistance of a midwife in order to comfort her, strengthen her in bearing down pains and also to direct her attention away from her own sufferings. The nurse's one duty is to watch the patient in labour and spot the point of danger. Honourable Mr. Sidhwa was saying that infant mortality is largely due to bad nursing and bad midwifery. I do not know whether bad midwifery is reflected in infant mortality only or in maternal mortality as well. One essential point is that the nurse should not interfere with the passage of delivery. It is too often a temptation for the nurses or midwives, too strong for resistance. They think that by their frequent examinations they would help in quickening delivery, which is wrong. Also the relations of the woman in confinement are very anxious to know when the confinement is coming. Perhaps they expect a bad star to come in and would like the delivery to be expedited before the star rises. So many adventitious considerations always act and react upon the process of accouchement. The nurse must know when she must send for the doctor. After all the doctors are not always at our service. Half an hour after the presentation of the head the nurse should not allow any further time to elapse before the complete delivery takes place, otherwise there is the danger of the child being choked. That is the moment when the nurse should send an urgent message to the doctor. Doctors are callous; they are not as sensitive as ourselves, certainly not as kind as they ought to be. If they are sent for too soon they blame the nurse but if they are sent for too late, they say it is all over. Of English medicine it has been said that the English doctors say that in the earlier stages nothing *need* be done but in the later stages nothing *can* be done. Therefore the doctors are always a hard lot to deal with and the nurse is lost between the patient and the doctor. She must be a trained nurse, an expert and know when exactly to send for assistance. She must have judgment, balance and resourcefulness.

There is quite a lot of exaggeration of the troubles of labour. But 90 per cent. or more of the deliveries in the world take place normally, as if they were merely processes of physiology without the knowledge and assistance of a doctor or even a midwife. My mother begot me after fetching a pot of water and then she lay down in the house and I was born. There was no fuss about it, no sending for the doctor or nurse, no sepsis, asepsis or anti-sepsis. That is the way in which most rural labour takes place. The distempers of life grow in importance with the importance of the person involved. The cold of Mahatma Gandhi is more advertised than my appendicitis. Therefore we are apt to make much of the process which after all is a normal process in life. In 90 per cent. of cases I have said the process is *normal*, yet all human precautions are taken against the *abnormal*. Thefts do not take place every day. They may happen once in 40 years. Yet we do close every night and bolt 16 doors and 20 windows. Why do I continue to take this trouble? Because life must be judged and conditioned by the doctrine of averages. That 10 per cent. of cases of misadventure we should provide against.

The question sometimes arises whether the child's life should be imperilled or the mother's, if peril is inevitable. There are certain cases in which peril is inevitable. In Germany they do not mind killing the mother to save the child, whereas in Britain the mother must be saved at any cost even at the cost of the child. National ideals and angles of vision differ. Our nurses must be educated on these various aspects. With their technical knowledge and long experience they will be able to spot or sense the time at which they feel the doctor's intervention is necessary. For this purpose you must have the right training under the Nursing Bill. I welcome this Bill and I congratulate the Honourable Minister in Charge for having brought it before the House.

Shri V. I. Munishwami Pillai (Madras: General): Sir, in supporting the Bill introduced by the Honourable Minister for Public Health I would like to say that during the short period she has been in office she brought before the House the other day a motion for the ratification of the International Public Health Organisation Convention and again on the 2nd of this month she was able to accept a resolution for the amelioration of the condition of the depressed classes. Today she has brought a very noteworthy piece of legislation which will go a long way towards the amelioration of the people of my community. The provisions that have been made here I may say have not been obtaining in the villages. Midwives and nurses are not at all obtainable in the villages. Having taken the stand to improve the lot or the condition of the Harijans I may tell the Honourable Minister that it is high time that the people of my community, who as my friend Mr. Sidhwa rightly pointed out are the most efficient people in this respect, and need encouragement. These neglected people cannot get the services of midwives or nurses, for these latter are concentrated in towns. If you look at the living places of the aboriginal tribes it is appalling. In my province in some of the districts where these aboriginal tribes live in large numbers I do not think they have seen a midwife. My learned doctor friend Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya was explaining the way how these confinement cases are treated. I may tell the Honourable Minister that the aborigines have no midwives at all. When a woman is about to be confined she is left in a small hut and no man, woman or child is allowed to go near it until the woman of herself is confined. This is the state of affairs in the abode of the aborigines. When these councils come into existence they must recruit proper people from the villages and from my community. I know as a matter of fact that some people who have been taken from the Harijan classes have proved more than satisfactory in the services they gave to the public. When Missionaries had their institutions near villages they have been taking our people for training as midwives. Latterly they have been converted. With the disappearance of the Europeans possibly the Missionaries zeal in this respect will also disappear. I would like the Honourable Minister to see that wherever these missionary bodies recruit and prepare midwives and nurses from the depressed classes, these people are given only the training in the profession and not for purposes of conversion to Christianity.

With these observations, Sir, I support the Bill.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Sir, I am delighted that this Bill has received the support of the House. I do not think I need say any more except to tell the Honourable Members who have spoken that this is really only a first step towards the strengthening and encouragement of this profession. Until we are able to have a Council that can prescribe a uniform minimum standard for training and qualifications we cannot get any further. But I would like to assure the Honourable Member who talked about fostering the profession that we shall certainly foster this profession. This Bill is one of the means of doing what he would have us do, that is, to make this profession something worth while. I realize that we have not got enough nurses in the villages. It is for that reason also that I want nursing to become a first-rate profession. It is a scientific profession and we can no longer afford to neglect it. Therefore I am delighted that my Honourable friend Shrimati Durga Bai withdrew the amendment for reference to Select Committee. Whether the European Missionaries remain here or not is immaterial. We want the missionary spirit to come into our people. I hope that this nursing profession will be filled with that spirit and that we shall be able to encourage it in every way.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to constitute an Indian Nursing Council, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: I shall now take the Bill clause by clause.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): Sir, I beg to move: "That in part (c) of clause 2 of the Bill, after the word 'Province' wherever it occurs, the words 'or a State' be inserted."

Sir, the object of my amendment is to make it easy for even the acceding States, if they so choose, to bring their law regarding the Indian Nursing Council in harmony with that prevailing here. From time to time various States in India have been copying pieces of legislation made by the Central Legislature, but they took their own time. Instead of asking them to introduce similar legislation in those States, my amendment makes this applicable to the States also in case the Rulers of the States, by their Instrument of Accession or any supplemental instrument or agreement want to extend the provisions of this Bill, after it becomes an Act, to their own territory. That is the object of my amendment.

We have similar instances. For instance the Electricity Bill that was introduced the other day and which was discussed today and sent to Select Committee states (clause 3) that the Act will come into force in the Provinces on a notification being issued by the Provincial Government on such and such date. Some Provincial Governments may choose to bring it into operation immediately while some others may not wish to take advantage of it. We are therefore accustomed to this sort of provision in a legislation. The other day the Extra Provincial Jurisdiction Bill moved by the Honourable the Home Member was considered and sent to Select Committee. Under that Bill this Dominion Legislature gives power to the executive here, even over States and territories that have not acceded, and over States which have acceded, to the Union under their jurisdiction which they did not confer by virtue of the Instrument of Accession. We have got that right under Section 8 of the Government of India Act which says:

"Subject to the provisions of this Act, the executive authority of the Dominion extends to the matters with respect to which the Dominion Legislature has power to make laws, including the exercise of rights, authority and jurisdiction, in and in relation to areas outside the Dominion."

Their right extends not only to areas inside their jurisdiction but outside it also in matters with respect to which the Dominion Legislature can enact laws to be operative inside an acceding State. Clause 6, sub-clause (2) says:

"An Instrument of Accession shall specify the matters which the Ruler accepts as matters with respect to which the Dominion Legislature may make laws for the State, and the limitations, if any, to which the power of the Dominion Legislature to make laws for the State and the exercise of the executive authority of the Dominion in the State, are respectively to be subject."

Sub-clause (3) contemplates a supplementary Instrument. It says:

"A Ruler may, by a supplementary Instrument executed by him and accepted by the Governor-General, vary the Instrument of Accession of his State by extending the functions which by virtue of that Instrument are exercisable by any Dominion authority in relation to his State."

This Instrument of Accession need not be on stamp paper. If the Ruler writes a letter,—"for the sake of uniformity etc. I accept the Dominion laws with respect to such and such matters", the letter he writes and the acceptance thereon by the Governor-General become *ipso facto* a supplementary Act of Accession. That is all that is contemplated here. Then the Dominion Legislature has got power to pass laws with respect to all such matters—medical profession, nursing etc. We will be able to introduce pieces of legislation for regulating the medical profession, the Nursing Council and so on and so forth. All that I ask now is that a provision should be made here that in case the Ruler of an acceding State or territory signifies his assent that this Bill may extend to his State, there may be no need for enacting a separate legislation for the

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giving the Central Legislature the power to extend this legislation to the States, I am sure we could not anticipate that there might be an Instrument of Accession which the Governor-General might accept and then we might get a chance to extend this legislation. I am sure that is contrary to the principles of legislation. All that, therefore, we must hope for, for the moment, is to confine the Bill to the Provinces of British India, to hope that we will get similar Instruments of Accession—supplementary ones—from the Indian States, when we can by law either extend our legislation to the States or the States can *pari passu* along with this legislation have similar legislation in their own States and make the provisions of this law applicable to their territory. Sir, I therefore think that this amendment would make the Bill *ultra vires* and therefore could not be accepted.

Mr. Speaker: No argument is necessary over this. After all it is a question of discussing the legal position. The Honourable the Law Minister has made the position of the Government clear. I am not sitting here as a court to hear legal arguments from both sides.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I have a real point to make. This is a matter of the utmost importance because the same issue is bound to arise with almost any Bill that is coming before the House. I do not agree that the Law Minister is correct in his interpretation of law and I suggest that the Government of India should take this question to the Federal Court because I feel there is a fundamental distinction with regard to compulsory and enabling Bills. If it is a matter of compulsory jurisdiction, I entirely agree with him that we cannot extend the jurisdiction beyond the four corners of the Bill but so far as the enabling jurisdiction is concerned, I feel we shall be entirely within our powers to enact Bills which may at some time and some place come into operation. The whole question is, supposing we extend it, can that extension come into operation at some place and at some time? If it can, then it is a right Bill, if it cannot satisfy that test, then it is a wrong provision. I do suggest that it can come into force on certain conditions as described by my friend Mr. Ayyangar, on the execution of a supplemental Instrument of Accession; it can come into force in a particular State and at a particular time, and therefore I think it is an entirely right position, and I suggest to the Government of India that they should take proper legal opinion; they may refer this to the Federal Court and get its opinion under the Declaration Section.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I am only asking one question of the Honourable the Law Minister. He will see that under Section 5 of the Government of India Act as adapted, the Dominion of India includes "any other areas that may with the consent of the Dominion be included in the Dominion". We may assume that "any other area" comes into the Dominion; shall we once again pass a similar Act applying that to the Dominion? Automatically it becomes part of the Dominion. I suggest let us not restrict the scope to Provinces alone. Say "India", to whomsoever it applies.

Mr. Speaker: The point has been cleared. Does the Honourable Member press his amendment now?

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I do not, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Has the Honourable Member leave of the House to withdraw his amendment?

The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I move:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 3 of the Bill, the following new part (o) be added at the end, namely:

'(o) two members elected by the Central Legislature'."

In all the bodies which are set up and financed by the Central Government we have similar representation. We have representation in the Indian Institute of Science at Bangalore, the Delhi University and in other bodies. It may be objected that this is a purely technical institution and therefore there may not be any popular representative; but the people are very interested in this nursing profession and I think there should be some opportunity for our Lady Members, doctors and others in this Assembly to keep in touch and know how this Bill is working so that when there is an amendment of the Bill they may help us. I hope the amendment will be accepted by the Honourable the Minister.

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 3 of the Bill, the following new part (o) be added at the end, namely:

'(o) two members elected by the Central Legislature'."

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Sir, we had not included any Members of the Central Legislature simply because this Body was going to be concerned solely with educational standards, that is, professional standards of training, and it was to be and will be an expert body. But if the House wishes to stress this point, and if they are anxious, and also if it means that they are really going to be interested in the nursing profession and will give me every support in everything that I want to do for encouraging and raising the standard of this profession, I will accept the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 3 of the Bill, the following new part (o) be added at the end, namely:

'(o) two members elected by the Central Legislature'."

The motion was adopted.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I move:

"That in the Proviso to sub-clause (2) of clause 3 of the Bill, all the words occurring after the words 'Central Government' where they occur for the second time be omitted."

The point is very simple, Sir. Here it is said that the Central Government nominates certain members and for the first time when it nominates a President, it may be a non-member. I do not see any necessity for a non-member being brought in when the Central Government has power to nominate members. Therefore I move this amendment.

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That in the Proviso to sub-clause (2) of clause 3 of the Bill, all the words occurring after the words 'Central Government' where they occur for the second time be omitted."

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Sir, I accept the amendment.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): Sir, on a point of order, regarding the words "accept the amendment". The effect of that "acceptance" in a public meeting is at once automatically to convert the original Resolution and the amendment into one complete Resolution. But here in this Assembly we cannot accept a Resolution in the same sense. What "acceptance" should mean in the circumstances, should be that the Honourable the Mover of the Resolution or the Motion would be prepared to support the amendment. That is the constitutional significance of the word "acceptance" as it has been used here. But as it has already acquired a constitutional significance in regard to general meetings, I think the word "acceptance" should not be used in a

[Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]

purpose. The law says that as soon as the Ruler of a State accedes and confers powers on the Dominion Legislature it is competent to the Dominion Legislature to enact laws, whatever might be the nature of the subject in respect of which he hands over the jurisdiction to the Dominion Legislature. He may concede the jurisdiction in respect of the medical profession, nursing or anything else. This is in keeping with various enactments under which Provincial Governments by notification bring the law into force. This is also in keeping with the power that we have taken, the principle of which was accepted when we referred to Select Committee the Extra Provincial Jurisdiction Bill that was introduced the other day by the Honourable the Home Member.

Sir, there is one more point. The question might be asked what happens if the Dominion Legislature passes an Act, after the Ruler signifies his assent, with respect to a matter which he did not originally contemplate. I would meet it this way. The States' Representatives are here; they are the representatives of the rulers or of the people. They will be in a position to safeguard the interests of the State. They can take part in the discussion and there is nothing preventing them from voting one way or the other. We need not postpone consideration of this to a separate Act being brought into existence, but can immediately pass it because the States' representatives are here who can accept or reject it from their point of view. Instead of duplicating our efforts I would urge that this amendment be accepted. It will come into operation in relation to a State only when the Ruler of a State, by a supplementary Instrument of Accession, decides to extend the scope of this to his own particular State. I would commend this for acceptance by the Honourable the Law Member, the Mover of this Bill and the whole House.

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved.

"That in part (c) of clause 2 of the Bill, after the word 'Province' wherever it occurs, the words 'or a State' be inserted."

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Minister for Law): As the amendment moved by my friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar raises a question of law, it is only right and proper that I should take the responsibility upon myself to meet the point that arises out of his amendment. No one can deny that the object underlying the amendment of Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar is a very laudable one. A Bill like this which deals with the nursing profession and tries to regularize and establish that profession on a footing which would gain the confidence of all those who take service from the nurses and that it should be extended to the whole of India, I say, is a very laudable thing. But unfortunately, situated as we are, and governed as we are by the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted, I am afraid it will not be possible to accept his amendment because I have no doubt that his amendment would make the Bill *ultra vires* of the Legislature. Sir, to explain my point I should like to state to the House that for the moment the States are linked with the Union of India in two different ways. The one way by which they are linked is what is called the standstill agreement which has been made between the Union of India and the various Indian States. The second link by which the States are bound to the Indian Union are the Instruments of Accession. Now there is a fundamental difference between the two links. The standstill agreements are purely contractual. They preserve such agreements as existed between the old Government of India and the Indian States under paramountcy before the 15th of August 1947. As I said they are purely contractual. They do not confer any jurisdiction upon the Government of India to legislate either by way of altering those arrangements or making them the foundation of any law which would bind the Indian States. Therefore, so far as we are concerned, in the matter of making any law by this legislature which is intended to be applicable to the

Indian States, it is quite clear to my mind that we cannot take our stand on the standstill agreement. We must therefore rely upon the Instruments of Accession which is the only foundation which gives us legal jurisdiction to pass any law. My submission is this, that if you take the Instruments of Accession, the Instruments of Accession, as they stand now—and I shall presently explain to the House why I emphasize 'as they stand now',—this House has no jurisdiction. In the first place this legislation relates to entry No. 16 in the Concurrent field. It does not relate, so far as the matter under legislation is concerned, to the Federal List or to the Provincial List. It relates only to the Concurrent List. Now, as everybody is aware, the Instruments of Accession, whatever power they give to the Central Legislature to legislate, definitely exclude all items which are included in the Concurrent List. I should have thought that by that very proposition, that the Concurrent Lists are not covered by the Instruments of Accession, the jurisdiction of this House is completely ousted. The only thing therefore that we have to find out is whether the Instruments of Accession which have been passed by the different States in favour of the Union of India cover anything which relates or which is equivalent to entry No. 16 in the Concurrent List. Now, Sir, these Instruments of Accession were placed on the Table of the House, and anybody who has had the time to scrutinize them would have found that the States have acceded only in respect of three subjects, and none of the subjects can be so interpreted as to include an item like item No. 16 in the Concurrent List. Therefore my submission is this, that even if we were to rely upon the Instruments of Accession, this House cannot derive any jurisdiction from those Instruments of Accession. My Honourable friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar evidently realised this difficulty and put forth the proposition which he said was capable of being adopted by this House in order to extend the legislation to the Indian States. His proposition was this. There have been many pieces of legislation passed by this House which were limited in the first instance to certain areas, such as for instance a province or a district or any smaller area, and the Bill included a clause which enabled the executive, by a notification, to extend that particular legislation to other areas not originally included in the Bill. Now that proposition, so far as it applies to the provinces of British India, is perfectly sound. But if it were to be applied to the Indian States, it would be wholly unsound, and the reason is this. The analogy is absolutely false and not true. Now, Sir, when we apply the legislation, which is originally in the Bill itself confined to a particular area, to another area not made subject to that at the time when the Bill was passed, the position is this, that the area over which the legislation is subsequently extended to is not subject to the jurisdiction of that legislation. If the legislature wanted in the very first instance to apply that law to that area, nothing in the constitution of this Government or in the powers of the legislature could prevent the legislature from doing so. So far as the States are concerned, we have jurisdiction over their territory with regard to three subjects only; we have not got full jurisdiction. We are not limiting our jurisdiction when we are legislating with respect to a State in respect of the three subjects; we are in fact spending our legislative authority to the fullest extent that we have. The analogy, therefore, is not a correct analogy. So far as the Provinces are concerned, we have at the moment, when we are enacting the law, jurisdiction which we could exercise if we wanted to do so. That is not the case with regard to the Indian States. True enough, if a supplementary Instrument of Accession was passed we could get the jurisdiction necessary for the purpose of enacting the law; but what I would like to submit to my friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar is that the law can never be hypothetical and a law can never be passed in anticipation of some jurisdiction being acquired. That is contrary to the principle of legislation. Law must be definite, law must be absolutely clear as to what it applies, to what it cannot apply. And therefore unless and until we have with us a supplementary Instrument of Accession

[Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad]

different sense here as far as possible. In fact, it may have a misleading effect, although by your own ruling you have been making it absolutely clear that it is for the House to "accept" it or not. I submit, therefore, that the word "accept" should not be allowed to be used in the House. To use one expression in different senses, one in this House and one outside it, might lead to confusion and that confusion should not be allowed to creep in. That is the humble suggestion which I submit for your consideration.

Mr. Speaker: With due deference to the Honourable Member, I do not see any chances of confusion, because we are governed by our own rules and regulations; we are not governed by the law which governs public meetings. I do not see what other expression than "accept" can be used. It is competent for the House to reject the amendment, although she may accept it.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: I was suggesting that the Honourable the proposer of the original motion or resolution should say, she would be prepared to "support" the amendment. That would be more accurate and remove a legal complication.

Mr. Speaker: I think "accept" would be perhaps a more suitable term, because the Honourable Member is in charge of the Bill and it is her choice whether to accept any suggestion made or not. I would like to look at it from that point of view. However, the matter is not of very great importance.

The question is:

"That in the Proviso to sub-clause (2) of clause 3 of the Bill, all the words occurring after the words 'Central Government' where they occur for the second time be omitted."

The motion was adopted.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, before you proceed to clause 3, I have got a consequential amendment to make. The proviso to sub-clause (2) of clause 3, as amended by Mr. Santhanam's amendment reads:

"Provided that for five years from the first constitution of the Council the President shall be a person nominated by the Central Government. . . ."

The intention of Mr. Santhanam's amendment is that Government will not have the power to bring in outsiders. The Government have powers to nominate all members of the Council. They have also power to nominate the President. As the clause stands now, they have power to nominate even a non-member. Therefore, we should state wherefrom the President shall be nominated. I suggest that "from among the members of the Council" should be added immediately after the words "nominated by the Central Government".

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Sir, I have already got a similar amendment. The Honourable Member has intervened before I moved it. I beg to move:

"That in the Proviso to sub-clause (2) of clause 3 of the Bill as amended, after the words 'person nominated', the words 'from amongst the members of the Council' be inserted."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in the Proviso to sub-clause (2) of clause 3 of the Bill as amended, after the words 'person nominated', the words 'from amongst the members of the Council' be inserted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 4 to 9 were added to the Bill.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I do not wish to move amendment No. 7. I move only No. 8. I beg to move:

"That in part (i) of the second proviso to sub-clause (3) of clause 10 of the Bill, for the words 'subject to any earlier termination of the arrangements in accordance with the terms thereof' the words 'unless the Council decides otherwise' be substituted."

The proviso reads:

"any reciprocal arrangements subsisting at the date of commencement of the Act between a Provincial Council and any authority outside India for the recognition of qualifications continue in force."

The reciprocal arrangements are there, and the terms by which they can be terminated are also there. But there should be a provision that the Central Council shall have the authority to direct the Provincial Council to terminate them earlier because they may be inconsistent with the whole scheme. It is this lacuna which my amendment seeks to fill, by saying "unless the Council decides otherwise" instead of saying "subject to any earlier termination of the arrangements in accordance with the terms thereof".

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That in part (i) of the second proviso to sub-clause (3) of clause 10 of the Bill, for the words 'subject to any earlier termination of the arrangements in accordance with the terms thereof' the words 'unless the Council decides otherwise' be substituted."

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Sir, I accept the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in part (i) of the second proviso to sub-clause (3) of clause 10 of the Bill, for the words 'subject to any earlier termination of the arrangements in accordance with the terms thereof' the words 'unless the Council decides otherwise' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 10, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 10, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 11 to 15 were added to the Bill.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 16 of the Bill, for the words 'the President may, with the previous sanction of the Central Government', the following be substituted, namely:

"the Central Government may."

Sub-clause (2) reads thus:

"To enable the Council to be first constituted the President may, with the previous sanction of the Central Government, make regulations for elections. . . ."

Now, if a President may be nominated by the Government who is not a member of the Council, that is an outsider, then this provision is all right. But we have provided now that the President shall be a member of the Council and shall be nominated from among the members of the Council. Thus for the Council to be first constituted, the President is not there. He has not come into being. This seems to be a little inverted. I would suggest therefore that the Central Government may frame rules instead of the President. The simple thing, the President does not come into being. Wherefrom does he come into being when the Council itself has not been constituted? You must first of all have a Council. We have accepted the principle that Members of the Council have to be appointed and thereafter one of them must be made the President. I do not see how this clause will apply when the President will only be a member of the Council before he is appointed. The Government alone can frame the rules and regulations under which the elections can be held.

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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) [8TH DEC. 1947]

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The position is, as I said on the last occasion, this legislation refers to entry No. 16 in the Concurrent Legislative List. The executive authority with regard to the legislation framed under the Concurrent Legislative List does not vest in the Central Government. Rule-making has been interpreted to be in exercise of the executive authority and the Central Government does not possess that executive authority and therefore, they cannot make the rules. The rules may be made by somebody else. If my Honourable friend objects to the President making the rule, he may suggest some other method to making them, though he certainly cannot make any amendment whereby the responsibility or the authority for making the rules shall be vested in the Central Legislature. Section 8(1) of the Government of India Act and section 49 (2) of the Government of India Act of 1939 are quite clear on this point.

Shri K. Santhanam: Here again, I find that it is rather a curious law that has been expounded the Central Government cannot make rules. A nominee of the Central Government can make rules but not the Central Government. The present proposal is that the President should be nominated by the Central Government and he may make rules. After all it is a Council of All India and I cannot see any authority in the Government of India to make rules. It is only so far as Provincial Councils are concerned that directions cannot be issued. I therefore think that the law as expounded is altogether wrong. The Central Government should have the power. I therefore suggest that the amendment should be accepted.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I am appealing to my honourable friend for this reason. Assuming that the Government of India accepts and all these rules and regulations are incorporated in the Act itself what has my friend to say to that? We are now assuming clauses and brought this Act into existence and instead of giving the rule-making power to somebody, we will assume we will sit together and adjourn in a week; we incorporate it in this Act. Would he then say that we had no jurisdiction? Therefore whatever regulation is made shall have to be part and parcel of the Act itself.

Shri M. S. Aney (Deccan and Madras States Group): I find some difficulty in supporting the amendment of my Honourable friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar. It appears to me to be inconsistent with the scheme which the author of this Bill or the Government who had brought the Bill have in view. They want to create an autonomous Council to do all the work which this Bill has in view. It is for that purpose that the Central Government is denying the power of making rules to themselves and not conferring them upon any other Government. In this case it gives the power to the President of that Council to make those rules in the first place and also gives the power to the Council to alter them if necessary. The Government gives this power to the autonomous council which is to be created under that law. I therefore cannot support the amendment of my Honourable friend, Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.

Mr. Speaker: I have not much understood the legal niceties of the thing. May I point out one thing? The power is given here by clause (2) to make regulations for the conduct of the elections referred to in sub-section (2) of section 5 and section 5 specifically refers to elections under sub-section (1) of section 3 by Provincial Councils shall be conducted in accordance with...etc. So the rule-making, as the Honourable the Law Member has pointed out, is a matter for the Provincial Councils and not for the Central Government. This is his argument goes.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Then he must remove the words "with the approval of the Central Government".

Mr. Speaker: He need not necessarily remove it. That will be a sort of check. The initial power will be exercised by the Provincial Government, but this applies only at the initial stages and not later on.

Shri K. Santhanam: Then the Central Government is the arbitrator—the final authority.

Mr. Speaker: Whatever it may be, his position seems to be that, but that is a matter of opinion. It may appear to some as valid, but to others it may not. Does the Honourable Member press the amendment?

Shri K. Santhanam: Yes, Sir; otherwise the thing will be inconsistent.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: With regard to the contention that the Central Government have no jurisdiction to make rules even if this amendment is carried, I think the contention is not right. The House has jurisdiction to legislate over this matter. The Central Government has not power apart from this amendment, but we are by this amendment going to authorise and empower the Central Government to make rules. The authority which was not there is directly being conferred by this amendment. If this amendment is accepted, I fail to see why the Central Government will have no jurisdiction. If we have the power to authorise a subordinate body to make rules, I do not see how we cannot authorise the Central Government to make the rules. The question depends on the House having jurisdiction over the subject matter itself, and if we are assured of that, I think there will be no difficulty.

Mr. Speaker: I should not be taken to give a very considered opinion over this; it will require some time. To give power to the Central Government would perhaps be running counter to section 5 as incorporated. Is the Central Government to arbitrate in the matter, and sub-section (1) of section 5 leaves the election to the Provincial Councils, then the power should be left as it is. Otherwise the Central Government will be both a rule-making body and also an arbitrator. There seems to be some contradiction in the two positions.

Shri K. Santhanam: It is only for the first elections. Afterwards the Council will make its own rules.

Mr. Speaker: I do not propose to argue the merits at all. I am merely pointing out in the interest of better legislation what appears on the face, but it is entirely for the House to accept or reject it. I am putting the amendment to the House then.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Has the Honourable Minister accepted that.

Mr. Speaker: No. The question is:

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 16 of the Bill, for the words 'the President may, with the previous sanction of the Central Government', the following be substituted, namely: 'the Central Government may'."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 16 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 16 was added to the Bill.

Clause 17 was added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

DELHI PREMISES (REQUISITION AND EVICTION) BILL

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil (Minister for Works, Mines and Power): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to confer certain powers in respect of premises in the Province of Delhi, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

Much of the ground with regard to this Bill was covered at the time when the Select Committee motion was made and accepted by the House and this need not be repeated. In the Select Committee certain new provisions have been incorporated and the whole Bill has been arranged in such a manner as to make it more systematic. The main changes made in the Select Committee are these; firstly, with regard to the extension of the application of this Bill, in the original Bill the whole of the Delhi Province was to be the area from the beginning; now it has been accepted that it will extend to the Notified Area of the Civil Station of Delhi, to New Delhi and Karol Bagh areas, but the Central Government may by notification in the official Gazette extend this Act to such other area or areas in the province of Delhi as may be specified. The second change made in the original Bill is about duration. It shall remain in force till the 31st December, 1949, but the Central Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, extend it for a further period of one year. Then so far as the requisition procedure is concerned, it has now been laid down in clause 3 that there will be a sort of preliminary notice to the landlord or tenant or, possibly where necessary, to both, when an opportunity will be given to them to represent if they have any objections; and after what they have to say has been taken into consideration, final orders as regards requisition will be passed. There has been a further amendment which is in the proviso to sub-clause (4) of clause 3. That proviso states that where a landlord or tenant is using any premises for the residence of himself or his family the competent authority shall as far as possible provide alternative accommodation which in the opinion of the competent authority is suitable. In the original Bill this provision was not there, although while speaking on the motion I stated that as far as possible efforts were made to accommodate the actual occupant, whether it was the landlord or whether it was the tenant. Now what was being done actually has been incorporated in the Bill, although the House may find from the Minute of Dissent of certain members that they are anxious to delete this "as far as possible" and to make it a statutory obligation on the requisitioning authority that no house can be requisitioned unless an alternative accommodation is found out. If I were to accept that it would frustrate the whole object of the Bill and therefore it was not accepted in the Select Committee, and the majority in the Select Committee was convinced that such acceptance would be tantamount to sabotaging the whole Bill.

Then with respect to the procedure for taking possession after the requisition order has been passed certain difficulties have been experienced. In the original Bill the provision was that the matter was to be taken up to the civil court having jurisdiction and the order was to be executed as if it was a decree. But all those delays in which lawyers delight were experienced and in view of the very peculiar circumstances in which Government find themselves with respect to the accommodation question it was decided that a quicker remedy ought to be provided. Therefore it has been provided in sub-clause (2) of

clause 6 that as soon as an order is made and the person concerned does not comply with it the competent authority may take possession of the premises requisitioned forthwith. But we have also added a safeguard that as against this order provision has been made for an appeal.

Another important change that has been made by the Select Committee is with respect to the definition of 'compensation'. As a matter of fact many factors were taken into consideration and the original definition was not sufficiently definite. So it has now been decided that the word 'compensation' should consist as detailed in clause 7 and factors such as expenses required for going out of and coming into the premises may also be taken into consideration.

Then in the original Bill the rights and liabilities of the requisitioning authorities were not defined and matters were left vague. The question that was mooted was whether the relationship was one of landlord and tenant and, if that is so, whether the general provisions of the Transfer of Property Act applied or not. Then it was finally decided that such provisions of the Transfer of Property Act as were absolutely necessary for properly defining the relationship between the requisitioning authority and the landlord or the tenant, who-soever might be the occupant, should be embodied in this Bill. That has been done, as you will see, in clause 8.

Then there is only a small amendment made in the clause that reserves the power to make rules, and that is with respect to the procedure to be followed in taking possession of the premises required. And that has become necessary because of the fact that now the competent authority can take possession forthwith.

These are the main changes and in view of the great urgency of this Bill being enacted I request the House to pass this motion for consideration.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to confer certain powers in respect of premises in the Province of Delhi, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

پنڈت تھاکر داس بہارگو (ایسٹ پنجاب جنرل): مانینگ سپیکر صاحب اسمیں شک نہیں جیسا کہ آرہیل Mover نے فرمایا ہے یہ بل سلیکٹ کمیٹی سے جس شکل میں اب ہمارے پاس آیا ہے پہلے کی نسبت بہت اچھا ہے۔ اسمیں بہت سی ایسی باتیں ہیں جو کہ original بل میں نہیں تھیں۔ اسلئے اِسبارے میں میں کچھ عرض کرنا نہیں چاہتا کیونکہ آرہیل Mover نے پہلے ہی اس کے سلسلے میں ذکر کیا ہے۔ میں آپ کی توجہ اس کی اُن باتوں پر دلاؤں گا جو کہ unsatisfactory ہیں میں اس وجہ سے اُن تمام amendments کی مفصل دلائل میں نہیں جانا چاہتا جو کہ اس بل کے بارے میں میرے نام اور دیگر اصحاب کے نام پر ہیں۔ میں صرف اپنی دوسری amendment کے بابت کچھ عرض کروں گا کیونکہ میں شاید اسکو آئندہ move نہ کر سکوں۔ Land acquisition اور Land requisition کے سلسلے میں جس بات کی طرف میں توجہ دلانا چاہتا ہوں۔ اس بارے میں میری یہ گزارش ہے کہ گورنمنٹ کو مکانات اور گھروں کو requisition کرنے سے پہلے اسبات کا declaration کرنا چاہیئے کہ وہ کس پبلک purpose کے لئے لئے جاتے ہیں۔ اگر گورنمنٹ یہ نہیں کرتی ہے تو گورنمنٹ کو مکان

[پلڈت تھاکر داس بہارگوا]

لینے کا حق نہیں ہے۔ اس میں شک نہیں کہ پرائیویٹ مکانوں اور گھروں کے acquisition اور requisition کو public purpose کے لئے رکھا ہے۔ لیکن تاہم یہ ضروری ہے کہ ایسا کرنے سے پیشتر اس بات کا declaration کیا جائے اور اسکو حکم میں ہی ظاہر کیا جائے کہ یہ مکانات فلاں پبلک purpose کے لئے requisition کئے جاتے ہیں۔ اور اگر اس بل میں اس بات کا کوئی provision نہیں کیا گیا ہے تو ایسا کرنا چاہیئے تھا۔ تاکہ اپیل کرنے کے وقت ایسا کوئی سوال نہ اُٹھے۔ کہ اُسکو کسی خاص purpose کے لئے لیا گیا ہے یا نہیں۔ رول نمبر ۸ کے ضمن (۱) میں یہ درج ہے کہ گورنمنٹ جو public purpose ظاہر کرے۔ اس کے خلاف ممکن کو استعمال نہیں کر سکتے۔

اگر اس آرڈر میں جس کی رو سے ممکن requisition کیا گیا ہو اُس میں خاص پبلک purpose ظاہر نہ کیا جائے تو رول نمبر ۸ ضمنی (۱) بے معنی ہوگا۔ Land Acquisition Act کے دفعہ نمبر ۴ اور دفعہ نمبر ۳۵ میں یہ بات واضح طور پر درج کی گئی ہے۔ لیکن اس بل میں اسکو provide نہیں کیا گیا ہے کہ کس پبلک purpose کے لئے کوئی مکان یا مکانات requisition کئے جائیں گے۔ رول نمبر ۸ ضمنی (۱) میں اپیل کے متعلق درج کیا گیا ہے لیکن جب کوئی اپیل ہو تو وہاں پر یہ سوال ضرور پیدا ہوگا کہ کس خاص پبلک purpose کے لئے requisition کیا گیا تھا اس لئے یہ ضروری ہے کہ requisition کے حکم کے اندر یہ ظاہر کیا جائے کہ فلاں پبلک purpose کے لئے requisition کیا جا رہا ہے۔ دوسری بات جو اس بل میں ہے وہ یہ ہے کہ دفعہ نمبر ۴ کے تحت compensation دیا جائیگا اگر قانونی نقطہ نظر سے اسکو دیکھا جائے تو یہ درست نہیں ہے کیونکہ اگر فریقین آپس میں فیصلہ پر نہ پہنچ جائیں تو سنٹرل گورنمنٹ کو اختیار ہوگا کہ وہ arbitrator مقرر کرے arbitrator جو دراصل دونوں فریق رضامندی سے مقرر کیا کرتے ہیں لیکن اس دفعہ کی رو سے اسکا اختیار سنٹرل گورنمنٹ کو ہی ہوگا اور ان آدمیوں کو نہیں جن سے کہ مکانات requisition کئے گئے ہیں۔ اس دفعہ کی رو سے صرف سنٹرل گورنمنٹ کو ہی اختیار ہوگا کہ وہ arbitrator مقرر کرے چاہے وہ اُسکو arbitrator کا نام دیں یا assessor کا یا judge اس سے کوئی فرق نہیں پوچھا۔ کیونکہ ہر ایک آدمی اپنی بیوی کو بیگم کہہ کر پکار سکتا ہے۔ arbitrator مقرر کرنے کے بارے میں جو اس بل میں درج کیا گیا ہے اُس بارے میں میری یہ گزارش ہے کہ ہائی کورٹ کا جج ہر وہ practitioner ہو سکتا ہے جس کی پریکٹس دس سال کی ہو اس لئے اس کے متعلق میں یہ کہنا چاہتا ہوں کہ چاہے گورنمنٹ اپنے کسی افسر کو arbitrator مقرر کرے یا کسی دوسرے کو مگر وہ شخص impartial ہونا چاہیئے۔ تاکہ وہ کسی بھی compensation کے dispute کا غیر جانبداری سے فیصلہ کرے۔ یہ بات کا خیال رکھے کہ compensation کس بنا پر دیا جاتا ہے۔

Land Acquisition Act کا تعلق اس سے ہے اور اسکی دفعہ ۲۳ میں Land acquisition کے وقت معاوضہ تجویز کرنے کے لئے اصول درج کئے گئے ہیں۔ اس دفعہ کے اصول Premises Requisition Act کیلئے apply نہیں ہو سکتے۔ اگر آپ غور سے ملاحظہ فرمائیں تو معلوم ہوگا کہ Land Acquisition Act کے دفعہ نمبر ۲۳ کے principles اس کے ساتھ apply ہی نہیں ہو سکتے ہیں۔ اس

دفعہ ۲۳ کا حال ہے اور وہ سب غیر متعلق ہیں compensation کے بارے میں میری یہ گزارش ہے کہ اس کے لئے کچھ فیصدی مقرر کیا جانا چاہئے خواہ وہ پندرہ فیصدی ہو یا پانچ فیصدی ہو۔ لیکن مقرر ضرور ہونا چاہئے اور معاوضہ ضرور دیا جانا چاہئے۔ میری گزارش یہ ہے کہ اس بل میں کسی بھی اصول معاوضہ کو درج نہیں کیا گیا ہے۔ اس بل میں arbitrator کو یہ بتایا گیا ہے کہ compensation کو تجویز کرتے وقت اسکو کن کن باتوں کو consider کرنا چاہئے معاوضہ مقرر کرنے کیلئے arbitrator کو یہ نہیں بتایا گیا ہے کہ اُسکو یہ دیکھنا چاہئے کہ یہ مکان کس کرایہ کا تھا۔ پہلے اسکا کتنا کرایہ آیا تھا اور آجکل کتنا کرایہ آتا ہے اُس پاس کے مکانات کا اور ان کے متعلق باتوں کو زیر غور رکھ کر وہ compensation مقرر کرے اور اس کے علاوہ اس بل میں یہ درج ہے کہ جب ایک مکان requisition کیا جائے تو سنٹرل گورنمنٹ کی مرضی ہے کہ وہ جس طرح چاہے اسکو استعمال کر سکتی ہے۔ نہ ہی اس میں یہ بتایا گیا ہے کہ جس حالت اور صورت میں یہ مکان requisition کرتے وقت لیا گیا تھا اُسی حالت میں یہ واپس کیا جائیگا landlord پر یہ پابندی عائد کی گئی ہے کہ order of requisition ہونے کے بعد وہ اس میں کچھ بھی addition یا alteration نہیں کر سکتا ہے لیکن یہ نہیں درج ہے کہ جب وہ واپس کیا جائے تو وہ اُسی حالت میں ہو جس میں کہ وہ requisition کرنے کے وقت تھا۔ اس لئے میری یہ گزارش ہے کہ جس طرح سے ایک پرائیویٹ شخص landlord سے tenant کی حیثیت میں مکان لیتا ہے تھیک اُسی طرح گورنمنٹ کو بھی کرنا چاہئے اور گورنمنٹ کو اتنے اختیارات نہیں ہونے چاہیئے۔ اگر ایسا ہوگا تو یہ بے حد ناانصافی ہے۔ اس کے علاوہ جو بات میری سمجھ میں نہیں آتی وہ سلیکٹ کمیٹی نے بھی صاف نہیں کی ہے۔ اس بل کی دفعہ نمبر ۱۳ ضمنی (۲) میں درج ہے

“.....No suit or other legal proceedings shall lie against the Central Government, for any damage caused or likely to be done in pursuance of this Act or any order made thereunder.”

یہ جو protection گورنمنٹ کو اس دفعہ کی رو سے دی گئی ہے بہت زیادہ ہے۔ گورنمنٹ کو دفعہ نمبر ۸ میں کافی protection دیدی گئی ہے اس لئے اس بل کے اندر یہ دفعہ (۲) (۱۳) غیر ضروری ہے۔ جس طرح سے گورنمنٹ نے compensation

[پنڈت تھاکر داس، بیارگو]

قرار دی گئی۔ لیکن آئندہ کے لئے sub-letting ناجائز قرار دی گئی۔ یہ قانون دہلی اجیر مارواڑ ایکٹ مارچ اپریل ۱۹۴۷ء میں پاس کیا گیا لیکن اب جو بل پیش ہوا ہے اس کی رو سے ان لوگوں کو جنہوں نے Subtenants کی حیثیت میں جگہ لی تھی اور جو پچھلے قانون کی رو سے جائز قرار دی گئی ہے گلی میں پھینکا جائیگا۔ گورنمنٹ کو معلوم ہے کہ دہلی میں بے شمار شہزادہ تھی آگئے ہیں ان میں سے بہت کم آدمی گورنمنٹ کے Camps میں ٹھہرے ہیں اور زیادہ تر لوگ اپنے رشتہ داروں کے پاس ٹھہرے ہیں۔ حکومت نے خاص طور پر پچھلی دفعہ قانون ان ہی لوگوں کے لئے پاس کیا تھا۔ مدعا یہ تھا کہ ان لوگوں کو Accommodation مل جائے۔ جو کوارٹر گورنمنٹ کے تھے ان میں سے لوگ نہیں نکلتے تھے۔ گورنمنٹ کو معلوم تھا کہ ان کوارٹرس میں رہنے والے آدمیوں نے اپنے کوارٹرز کا کچھ حصہ Sublet کیا ہے اور وہ لوگ ان Subtenants سے کرایہ لیتے ہیں۔ جب گورنمنٹ کو یہ علم تھا اور اسکا علم ہوتے ہوئے بھی اس قانون کو اسوقت پاس کیا تو میری سمجھ میں نہیں آتا کہ اب یہ بل کیوں پیش کیا جا رہا ہے اسوقت آپ نے جو یہ بل پرائیویٹ مکانات کے بارے میں پیش کیا ہے اسکو آپ ان کوارٹرز پر بھی حاوی کریں انکو آپ نے اس بل کی رو سے مشتمل کیوں رکھا ہے اسمیں شک نہیں یہ گورنمنٹ کے اختیار کی بات ہے اور میں چاہتا ہوں کہ گورنمنٹ کو اختیار ہونا چاہئے اور مجھے آنریبل منسٹر جو اس قیادارمنٹ کے انچارج ہیں پر پورا وشواس ہے۔ لیکن میں یہ گزارش کروں گا کہ آپ کو ایسا قانون بنانے سے یہ کرنا پڑیگا کہ ان لوگوں کو جنکو کہ آپ نے پہلے قانون کو پاس کر کے Sub-let کرنے کی اجازت دی ہے۔ انکو گلیوں میں نکالنا پڑیگا۔ مجھے یہ وشواس ہے کہ حکومت کا مقصد نہ ہوگا۔ لیکن اگر ایسا ہو تو بھی میری یہ گزارش ہے کہ جب تک ان لوگوں کے لئے alternative جگہ کا انتظام نہ کیا جائے تب تک حکومت کو یہ اختیار نہ ہوگا کہ وہ اپنی مرضی سے ان لوگوں کو سڑک پر نکال دیں۔

یہ چند ایک خامیاں ہیں جو اس بل میں جھکھو معلوم ہوتی ہیں اور میں نے ظاہر کی ہیں۔

(The English translation of the above speech.)

Pandit Thakurdas Bhargava (East Punjab: General): Mr. Chairman, as stated by the Honourable the Mover, there is no doubt, that the form in which the present Bill has been received from the Select Committee, is much better than what it was before. It now contains many more points which were not there in the original Bill. I do not want to say anything in this matter now as the Honourable the Mover has already dealt with it, but, I shall certainly like to draw your attention to those points which I consider unsatisfactory. I also do not want to go into a detailed discussion of those Amendments which stand in my name or in the name of other members of this House. I shall speak only on my second Amendment which I may not be able to move later. About Land-Acquisition and Land-Requisition, the point, to which I wish to draw your attention, is

that of ownership. In this connection I have to request the Government that before requisitioning buildings and houses it should, by declaration, make clear the public purpose, for which a particular house or a building is being requisitioned. If the Government is not willing to do so then it has no right either, to requisition a house. There is no doubt that the requisition or acquisition of private houses and buildings is made for public purposes, yet before doing so it becomes necessary to make a declaration to that effect, in the form of an order, stating that such and such house or a building is being requisitioned for such and such public purpose. If this Bill does not embody a provision to that effect it should then be included in it, so that at the time of an appeal no question would arise, whether the building was requisitioned for any particular purpose or not. It is provided in Rule 8 (1) that a building, as declared by Government, cannot be used for a purpose other than the public purpose. If a particular public purpose is not declared in the order through which a house has been requisitioned Rule 8 (1) becomes quite meaningless. This has been clearly stated under clauses 4 and 5 of the Land Acquisition Act, but there is no provision for this in the present Bill. This is also given about making appeals under Rule 8 (1). But if an appeal is made the question arises whether the particular purpose for which requisition was made, was declared or not. Therefore it is very essential to state it very clearly in the order of requisition that a particular thing is being requisitioned for such and such purpose. The second point in this bill which I would like to bring out before the house is that of giving compensation under clause (4). If we look at it from the point of view of law, it seems quite incorrect, as the government has the right to appoint an arbitrator if two parties do not come to a compromise. An arbitrator is generally appointed with the approval of both the parties but under the present clause this right rests with the government alone and not with those whose houses have been requisitioned. Obviously it makes no difference if he is called an arbitrator, or an assessor or a judge, for every one is at liberty to call his wife a 'Begum'. To what has been said in this bill regarding the appointment of an arbitrator I have to say that any practitioner of ten years' standing can become a judge of the High Court. Therefore I would say that it does not matter whether the government appoint an officer or any other person as an arbitrator but they should appoint an impartial person, so, that he will decide disputes of compensation quite impartially. He will also have to bear in mind the basis on which he should base that compensation. If you will look carefully into the matter you will find that the principles related to clause (23) of the Land Acquisition Act do not at all apply here.

Regarding compensation I must say that some percentage must be fixed, it may be anything say fifteen per cent. or even five per cent., but it must be fixed and compensation must be given. Further I beg to say that there is no mention of the principles of compensation in this Bill. There are no instructions for the arbitrator in this Bill as to what are the points he should bear in his mind when determining the question of compensation. Again the arbitrator has not been told in this Bill, as to what are the points he should find out first—as for example what was the rent of this house? What was the rental value of the house? What is the present rent? He should really fix the compensation bearing these points in his mind. Again this Bill provides for the Government that they have the option to make whatever use of a house they like. Further it is not provided in the Bill that a house will be returned to its owner in the same condition in which it existed at the time of its requisitioning. On the other hand there is a restriction imposed on the land lord that he cannot make any alterations or additions in the building since after the order of requisition has been issued. But it is not mentioned there that the house will have to be returned in the same condition in which it was received at the time of requisition. Therefore I say that the Government should approach a land-lord in the same manner in which a tenant approaches him, and it must not try to exercise its very wide powers that it holds. If the

[پنڈت تھاکر داس بھارگو]

دینا مانا ہے اس طرح سے انہیں چاہئے کہ وہ arbitrator کو یہ حکم دیں کہ وہ نقصان مکن یا مختلف استعمال مکن کا خیال رکھ کر compensation دے جس غرض کے لئے گورنمنٹ نے کوئی چیز requisition کی ہو اور اس غرض کو پورا کرنے میں اگر مالک مکن کو کچھ نقصان ہوا ہو تو انہیں چاہئے کہ وہ یہ provision اس بل میں کریں کہ compensation کے criterion میں اس بات کو بھی درج کیا جائے تاکہ arbitrator compensation دیتے وقت اس بات کا خیال رکھے۔

[At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Mr. Hussain Imam (one of the Panel of Chairmen).]

دوسری گزارش میری یہ ہے کہ جس بل پر اس بل کے متعلق سلیکٹ کمیٹی میں note of dissent رکھا گیا ہے اس کے متعلق میں جناب کی توجہ کریسل Procedure Code کے دفعہ نمبر ۵۲۱ کے اصول کی طرف دلانا چاہتا ہوں اس میں درج ہے۔

“Whenever a person is convicted of an offence attended by criminal force or show or by criminal intimidation, and it appears to the Court that by such force or show of force or criminal intimidation any person has been dispossessed of any immovable property, the Court may, if it thinks fit, when convicting such person or at any time within one month from the date of the conviction, order the person dispossessed to be restored to the possession of the same.”

جناب والا - اصل قانون یہ ہے کہ اگر کسی شخص کو کسی جائیداد سے بے دخل کیا گیا ہو جس کا اس کو دخل ہوتا ہے - تو وہ دخل اس کو ملنا چاہئے اور اگر اس بل کی اس دفعہ کو مانا جائے تو معاملہ درہم برہم ہوتا ہے - جو اختیارات اس بل کی رو سے Estate Officer کو دئے گئے ہیں میری رائے میں وہ نہایت ہی غلط ہے - وہ قانوناً غلط ہے - انصافاً غلط ہے اور morally بھی وہ غلط ہے - وہ اختیار یہ ہیں

“Where any premises requisitioned under this Act are to be released from such requisition, the competent authority may, after such inquiry if any as he may in any case consider it necessary to make, specify by order in writing the person to whom possession of the premises shall be given.”

جناب عالی! جہاں تک عدالتوں کے civil and criminal اختیارات کا تعلق ہے مجھے ایسا کوئی بھی قانون معلوم نہیں ہوتا ہے - جیسا کہ اس بل کے اس دفعہ نمبر ۹ میں درج کیا گیا ہے - اس لئے اس دفعہ کو بل میں درج کر کے Estate Officer کو اس طرح اختیار دیکر لوگوں کے حقوق پر برا اثر پڑے گا - اس لئے یہ جائز نہیں ہوگا - مثال کے طور پر میں یہ عرض کروں گا کہ اگر کسی شخص نے پچاس ہزار روپیہ میں کوئی جائیداد خود خریدی ہو اور اسے پچاس ہزار کی قیمت بایع کو دیدی ہو اور اس کے بعد کچھ تنازعہ ہو جائے - اور مشتری کو قبضہ نہ مل سکا ہو بایع نے روپیہ لے لیا ہو - اور اس کی رجسٹری تنازعہ کی وجہ سے نہ ہو سکی ہو اور اس دوران میں کہ

اپنی مشتری کے قبضہ کو ساڑھے گیارہ سال ہوئے ہوں گورنمنٹ مکن کو Requisition کر لے اور ایک سال گورنمنٹ کا قبضہ رہے تو وہی گورنمنٹ کو دفعہ ۹ کی رو سے اختیار ہوگا کہ مشتری کو قبضہ نہ دے بلکہ اصل مالک کو دیدے اگر ایسا کیا جائے تو مشتری کا حق ہمیشہ کے لئے پایمان ہوگا۔ چاہے Estate Officer اپنی غلطی سے یا نیک نیتی سے ایسا کرے - اس بل میں اس بات کا بالکل خیال نہیں رکھا گیا ہے - حالانکہ یہ ایک بہت ہی اہم اور ضروری معاملہ ہے - آج آئریبل Mover نے خود یہ کہا کہ قبضہ Title ۱۰/۹ کا جزو ہوتا ہے - اس لئے قبضہ کی حفاظت کا خیال رکھنا لازمی ہے - لیکن جو اختیارات Estate Officer کو دئے گئے ہیں اُس کے مطابق اگر اُس نے اصلی آدمی کو حائیداد واپس کرتے وقت قبضہ نہ دیا تو وہ عدالت میں بھی قبضہ حاصل نہیں کر سکتا اس کو انگریزی میں Tertium-quid کہتے ہیں - جب وہ آدمی عدالت میں دعویٰ کرے جس کا بہتر right ہو تو اگر دوسرے آدمی کا right خراب ہو تو قبضہ اُسی شخص کو ملیگا جس کا possession ہو اس لئے Estate Officer کو اس قسم کے اختیارات دینا لوگوں کو دفعوں میں ڈالنا ہے - میری رائے میں اس بل کو منظور کرنے سے قانون کا یہ منشا نہیں ہے کہ لوگوں کے حقوق غیر محفوظ ہو جائیں - اس بارے میں یہ کہا جا سکتا ہے کہ اس میں کوئی ہرج نہیں ہے کہ قبضہ اُس کو نہ دیا جائے - اُس کو عدالت سے قبضہ ملیگا - لیکن میری گزارش یہ ہے کہ اس بل میں مد نظر رکھ کر اس قانون میں یہ provision کیا جائے کہ جس آدمی سے قبضہ لیا گیا تھا گورنمنٹ اُسی کو حائیداد واپس کرنیکی وقت قبضہ دے Estate officer کو اختیار ہے کہ اگر وہ مناسب خیال کر لے تو enquiry کرے - لیکن اگر وہ یہ مناسب خیال نہ کرے کہ enquiry کی جائے تو بعض حالات میں وہ جائیداد اُن کے ہاتھوں میں جایگی جو دراصل مالک نہ ہونگے - اگر آپ کا منشا یہ ہے کہ اُن کے حق چھلے جائیں تو ایسے اختیارات اُن افسران کو دیئے جائیں - ورنہ بصورت دیگر قبضہ اُسی کو ملنا چاہئے جس سے کہ requisition کے وقت لیا گیا ہو - اگر ایسا نہیں ہوگا تو یہ بے حد نا انصافی ہوگی اور لوگوں کے حقوق پائمان ہو جائیں گے - اس لئے میں نے ترمیم پیش کی ہے - اور میں آئریبل ممبران ہاؤس سے درخواست کروں گا کہ وہ اس کو منظور فرمائیں۔

دوسری بات جو میں گزارش کرنا چاہتا ہوں وہ یہ ہے - کہ دفعہ ۱۱ کی رو سے یہ قانون گورنمنٹ کے مکنوں پر بھی apply کرتا ہے - کیا گورنمنٹ یہ چاہتی ہے کہ جو شخص بہت عرصہ سے ان کے مکن میں رہتا ہے اُس کو اس قانون کی رو سے سڑک پر نکال دیا جائے - اس سلسلے میں میں آپ کی توجہ اُس امرت کی طرف دلانا چاہتا ہوں - جو کہ اس ہاؤس نے ۸ ماہ ہوئے پاس کیا - وہ بل سلیکٹ کمیٹی میں بھیج دی گئی وہاں سے وہ واپس ہاؤس میں آئی اور اس ہاؤس نے اُس کو پاس کیا اور فیصلہ یہ کیا گیا کہ پرائیوٹ مکانات کے بارے میں جو پرانی sub-letting ہوئی تھی وہ حائل

Kazi Syed Karimuddin (C. P. and Berar; Muslim): Sir the Honourable Member Mr. Bhargava has made a very exhaustive speech and I do not think I should repeat his arguments in opposing some provisions of the Bill. The definition of 'public purpose' is mentioned in clause 2. 'Public purpose' means any purpose which is so declared by rules made under this Act—that is the definition. The definition has been left to the rules to be made under this Act. Such a serious and important provision is being made that people will be ousted from their own houses, yet 'public purpose' is not being defined. The definition of 'public purpose' should be a substantive provision of law and it should not be entrusted to a rule-making body. Houses are to be requisitioned for public purposes which are not defined. It will be entrusted to the executive body. I have got a very serious objection and I submit this is against the principle of legislation. When a substantive provision of law has been left to the rule-making body there is no protection to the people whose houses will be acquired.

In regard to clause 9 I have got very serious objection. My learned friend Pandit Thakurdas Bhargava has already said that this is an unprecedented and arbitrary law in that it does not lay down that the houses would be handed over to those persons from whom possession is taken. What does the Government intend to? The Government should have made it clear as to why this arbitrary and unprecedented provision of law has been made. The ordinary rule of law, as my honourable friend has said, is that house should be restored to the man from whom possession is taken. But this is suppressed. Is there anything up the sleeves which requires to be suppressed and concealed? First of all they should have laid down that the house would be restored to possession to a man who is entitled to it or who is the owner of it. Secondly possession should be restored to a man from whom it was taken.

There is one more factor which has not been taken into consideration as regards this Bill. The question of several houses whose owners have vacated the houses and run away should be taken into consideration. Suppose a house is taken into possession. The man is not traceable for some time. Without defining what 'public purpose' is, the arbitrator or the man in charge will assign that house to anybody he likes. This will be in contravention of all principles of jurisprudence. In that case the Government should have taken the responsibility of taking such a house under the management of Government. Whenever, within a certain period, the owner or the man from whom possession was taken, or his heirs come and claim, it should be handed over to them. The Government makes no provision about it. This is going to be a very arbitrary provision of law. There will be thousands of houses in this dominion the owners of which will not be traceable for some time. Government has not said anything as to why it is not mentioned in clause 9 that the house will be returned to the owner, or that it will be returned to the man from whom possession is taken, or if the owner is not traceable for some time that the house will be kept under the management of Government unless a civil decree is obtained that another man is legally entitled to it. I am unable to understand why these matters have not been clarified. As my honourable friend Pandit Bhargava said, under clause 8, sub-clause (2):

"where any premises requisitioned under this Act or any material part thereof, are wholly destroyed or rendered substantially and permanently unfit for the purpose for which they were let by reason of fire, tempest or flood, or violence of any army or of a mob or other irresistible force, the requisition shall at the option of the Central Government be void."

The position is peculiar. According to me the rights of the parties have been suspended by this law. The house property for purposes of law, is entrusted to the Government. Now, during this entrustment, if a damage is caused for the reasons mentioned in clause 8(2), is the owner to suffer for that? Even if it is because of the negligence of the Gov-

ernment officers that the house is destroyed—even if it is not properly protected, Is the owner to suffer? The owner would have taken steps had he been in possession of the house. My submission is that Government should have made provision that in such cases insurance of those houses should be taken by Government. But there is no mention of it here. Government has made a drastic proposal that in all these cases Government would not be responsible. My submission is that Government should take steps to protect and get the house insured under the contingencies mentioned in sub-clause (2) of clause 8.

Shri M. S. Aney (Deccan and Madras States Group): See the Proviso to sub-clause (2).

Kazi Syed Karimuddin: It says that if the injury is occasioned by the wrongful act or default of the Central Government it shall not be entitled to avail itself of the benefit of sub-clause (2). Is it not arbitrary? The Government officer is to decide whether the damage is caused by the neglect of the officer or otherwise. Is there any civil remedy provided?

My submission is that some of the provisions of this Act are very arbitrary and unprecedented. I know the situation is unprecedented. But the Government should give due protection to the rights and privileges of those from whom possession of the house is taken.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, the arguments that have been advanced by my Honourable friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava are the same which he advanced when the Bill was referred to Select Committee. He still feels that the question of 'public purpose' should be a subject matter which should be gone into by an appellate authority. That is not done even under the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act. It is a matter for the executive government to decide what is a 'public purpose' and what is not. This has become necessary in view of the acute shortage of accommodation. Probably the House is aware that at present there are 23,000 officers of the Government of India who are not accommodated by the Government of India in any of their buildings. Added to this, we have to provide for nearly 50 Embassies and their staff. I know that certain refugees have come and have been in occupation of some of the premises probably belonging to them or to their friends. As I stated, wherever possible it has been the practice with the Ministry to accommodate the owner or the tenant, whosoever may be the actual occupant. But if you put this as a statutory obligation which the Government must honour, then the whole Bill will be completely frustrated and the object for which the ordinance was issued and the object for which this Bill is before the House will be completely sabotaged. Two lakhs of people have come here. It is not necessary for everyone of them to be here. The simple question before the Government is that they should either put up their own officers who are to run the essential services that are going to maintain the state, or put up persons who come as refugees in the houses. Any responsible citizen will agree that those who are responsible for running the essential services on which the very maintenance of the State depends must be given the first priority. The good of the state is supreme, it has priority over other things. There is no doubt a sort of arbitrariness but that cannot be avoided. Although we are not in war time, yet we are in a time in which the conditions are still worse.

Shri M. S. Aney: Does the Government claim that they have a right to create evacuees for the right of protecting other evacuees?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That does not follow from what I said.

With respect to the provision as regards the actual possession to be given under clause 9, some criticism has been offered by two Honourable Members. The idea seems to be that the Government should derequisition the premises in favour of one from whom possession was actually taken. As a matter of fact, Sir, in many cases experience has shown that the tenancy has expired between

[Pandit Thakurdas Bhargava]

Government is going to exercise these powers it will be a great injustice on the others. Again the point which I have not been able to follow in this Bill has also not been made clear by the Select Committee. Clause 13 (2) of this Bill reads as follows:—

"No suit or other legal proceedings shall be against the central government for any damage caused or likely to be done in pursuance of this Act or any order made there under."

The protection given to the Government here is rather too much. The protection given under clause (8) is definitely quite enough. Therefore the portion *viz.* clause 13 (2) is quite unnecessary in this Bill. Just as the Government have agreed to grant compensations they should in the same way instruct their arbitrators to take into consideration the damages caused to the property and the wrongful uses made of it when fixing compensation for land-lords. Where a Government requisitioned house is being used by the Government for the purpose for which it was requisitioned but the landlord is thereby put to some loss then the Government should see that this is also provided in the Bill where the criterion for compensation is laid down, so that the arbitrator will also keep this point in view.

[At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Mr. Hussain Imam (one of the Panel of Chairmen.)]

Secondly I wish to draw your attention to Clause No. 522 of the Criminal Procedure Code, regarding the basis, on which a note of dissent was placed before the Select Committee about this Bill. It says:

"Whenever a person is convicted of an offence attended by criminal force or show of force or by criminal intimidation, and it appears to the court that by such force or show of force or criminal intimidation any person has been dispossessed of any immovable property, the court may, if it thinks fit, when convicting such person or at any time within one month from the date of the conviction, order the person dispossessed to be restored to the possession of the same."

Sir, the correct law is, that if a person was dispossessed of an immovable property for which he had the right of possession he should get the possession of it. Therefore, if the present clause of the Bill is accepted everything will become topsyturvy. Further, the rights prescribed for an Estate Officer under this Bill are also quite wrong in my opinion. They are wrong lawfully; they are even morally wrong. Those powers are as under:

"Where any premises requisitioned under this Act are to be released from such requisition, the competent authority may, after such inquiry if any as he may in any case consider necessary to make, specify by order in writing the person to whom the possession of the premises, shall be given."

Sir, as far as the civil and criminal rights of the court are concerned I know no such law as embodied under clause (9) of this Bill. Thus to retain this clause in the Bill and to give such rights to Estate Officers will adversely effect the rights of the people. This is quite unjustified. Suppose a man purchases a property for Rs. 50,000. After making the payment to the seller a quarrel over the matter arises between them. Suppose the purchaser has now obtained possession of the property while the seller is in possession of the money the registration cannot be completed due to the quarrel between them. If during this period the building is requisitioned by the Government who keep its possession for one year then on returning the building after that period the Government under this clause (9) has the right to restore the building to its original owner who is the seller here and not to the purchaser although the latter had kept it for 11½ years in his possession. Therefore in such cases the right of the purchaser is lost for ever. It does not really matter if it was done honestly by an Estate Officer or through oversight. There is no provision in this Bill for the protection of such rights though it is so very important. The Honourable Mover has also stated in the house today that possession is nine points of law, therefore it is very essential to protect the rights of possession. But if an Estate Officer at the time of returning a property does not give possession of the property to its rightful owner according to the rights prescribed for him then the rightful owner will never be able to obtain possession of the property even through the court. This is called "*Tertiumquid*". If the matter

is taken to the court by the person who has the better right to the property, then the person who is in possession of the property will be held to continue to be in possession. Therefore to give such powers to Estate Officers is to bring a calamity to the people. I hope it is not desired to make the rights of the public unsafe by accepting this Bill. Perhaps one may say it does not matter if the right of possession is not given to the rightful owner; it may be said that he could get its possession through the court. But, in my opinion, keeping the above example in view, a provision must be made in this Bill so that at the time of returning the property the Government must restore the possession to the same man from whom the building was requisitioned. It will then rest with the Estate Officer to hold an inquiry if he considers fit. But if he considers that an enquiry is not required then, in some of the cases, the property will fall in the hands of those who were not the real owners. If, therefore, it is desired that they may be robbed off their rights, in this manner then the officers may be given those powers otherwise, it is but obvious that possession must be restored to the party holding the possession at the time of requisition of the building. If this is not done I should consider it a great injustice, and the rights of the people will be ruined. With this object in my mind I have placed this Amendment, and I shall request the Honourable Members of the House to kindly accept it.

My next point which I wish to bring to your notice is that under clause (11), the present Bill is applicable to Government building also. Is the Government willing to extern a man from the house in which he has been living for quite a long time? In this connection I would like to draw your attention to that Bill which was passed by this House about eight months ago. The Bill was first sent to the Select Committee from where it was received in the House and was then passed by the House. It was then decided to recognize all those instances of subletting that had been previously done, but subletting was forbidden for the future. This Bill was passed in March-April 1947, and was known as the Delhi-Ajmer-Merwara Act. But under the meaning of the Bill which is before us, these men who got accommodation as subtenants according to the meaning of the previous Bill, shall have to vacate these houses. The Government is aware of the fact that a very large number of refugees has arrived in Delhi and only a very few of them are staying in Government camps while quite a majority of them are actually staying with their friends and relatives. The previous Bill was passed by the Government only for the sake of these refugees as the Government had the intention of providing some accommodation for them. People who were living in Government quarters were not willing to vacate them. The Government knew that they were subletting a portion of their quarters and were charging rents from their subtenants. Though the Government was aware of all these facts, and knowing it they passed the previous Bill, but I do not understand, where is the necessity of passing the present Bill? Or, the Bill which has been presented now, and is about the private houses and buildings, should be made applicable to Government quarters as well. May I ask "Why have you exempted these quarters from the operation of this Bill?" Undoubtedly it is upto the Government to decide about this matter, and I sincerely wish that the Government should have the right to decide it. I have full confidence in the Honourable Minister, who is in charge of this department, but I have to state before him that by enacting such a Bill he will be throwing those people out in the open who under the previous Bill, were allowed to sublet. I trust the Government do not mean to do so, but if it comes to that, then I hope the Government will not be allowed to exercise its authority so long as an alternative arrangement of accommodation has not been made for these people.

These are some of the shortcomings of this bill—that I have tried to bring before you today.

[Shri N. V. Gadgil]

the date of requisition and the date on which the property is sought to be released. Therefore the Government has proceeded on a very cautious line, that after such enquiry if the Government finds that the tenancy has terminated and the tenant has no right, then the possession ought to go to the landlord. Then there is a proviso that the remedy of any party affected by the order made by the Government is not barred at all. They can go to a civil court and get the proper redress. Even as soon as they know that de-requisitioning is about to come, they can bring an injunction, and they can, if there has been any judicial decision in between the two dates, put that matter before the de-requisitioning authority and that is bound to be taken into consideration, and is taken into consideration.

There is another point which has been raised about the definition of 'public purpose', and it was suggested that it ought to be defined and not be left to be defined by the rules. I do concede there is some force in this. In the original Bill 'public purpose' was defined as anything connected with acute shortage of accommodation. In the Select Committee this was not accepted and you will find, Sir, that no amendment has been even suggested so far as this definition is concerned by any of the Honourable Members that this definition was not good, felt whatever the Government thinks to be a public purpose should be declared as a public purpose. But I may bring another point to the attention of Honourable Members, that in the Preamble which is supposed to govern the general tenor of the sections that follow, it is stated "whereas by reason of the shortage of accommodation" the necessity for this Bill has arisen. It would be only logical if I were to say that the rules cannot go beyond the purposes contemplated in the Preamble to the Act. You may trust the Government to be acting within the frame of the preamble, and not going beyond that.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): The preamble is no operative part of the Act. The preamble may be considered only when there is any ambiguity in the provisions, but this only to clear the ambiguity in the body of the Act but no further.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That is a thing I have often heard in the course of arguments in courts, but all the same it is a direction and to that extent you will not belittle what has been said in any preamble. When the rule-making power is given in any of the enabling sections, it is obvious that that power cannot go beyond what has been contemplated in the preamble itself.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta (Delhi): When does the Honourable Minister envisage the shortage to be got over? It has become a permanent thing.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The shortage of accommodation will go as soon as accommodation is available. My honourable friend who comes from Delhi knows very well that all efforts are being made by all the various bodies which are expected to do this work, including the Government themselves. If for one reason or another accommodation is not easily available, this transitory period has got to be provided for. I know that the normal rights of the owner and the tenant are suspended because of this Act. Nobody is very anxious to see that these ordinary liberties are circumscribed. But the logic of events has left no choice for the Government and that is a fact I know the House will readily appreciate and I hope it will agree to this measure, and out of deference to the wishes of the members of the Select Committee. I have limited its duration till the 31st December 1949.

Kazi Syed Karimuddin: May I put one question. Supposing the possessor from whom possession is taken or the owner is not found, then what happens to the house?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Then Government will keep the house

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the Bill to confer certain powers in respect of premises in the Province of Delhi, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I beg to move:

"That in sub-clause (3) of clause 3 of the Bill, after the words 'requisition the premises', the words 'for any public purpose' be inserted."

I have to say nothing more than what I have already submitted and I leave it to the House to judge if it is necessary.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Although it is not necessary, to show that I am extremely reasonable, I am going to accept it.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That in sub-clause (3) of clause 3 of the Bill, after the words 'requisition the premises', the words 'for any public purpose' be inserted."

The motion was adopted.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I beg to move:

"That in sub-clause (4) of clause 3 of the Bill, after the word 'premises', the words 'for any public purpose' be inserted."

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: For the same reasons I accept it.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That in sub-clause (4) of clause 3 of the Bill, after the word 'premises', the words 'for any public purpose' be inserted."

The motion was adopted.

Maharajkumar Balendu Shah (Punjab States Group): I beg to move:

"That for the Proviso to sub-clause (4) of clause 3 of the Bill, the following be substituted, namely:

"Provided that where a landlord or tenant is using any premises for the residence of himself or his family the competent authority shall provide suitable alternative accommodation."

I have very little to say in this connection except what Mr. Aney said. Is the Government contemplating creating further evacuees for accommodation beyond those who are already in the province of Delhi? Unless Government at least satisfy the public demand for further accommodation by further construction, I think it is very unjust on the part of the Government to kick out those people who are already in possession of houses and they are not living there very comfortably either. That is all I have to say in connection with this and I beg that this be taken into consideration.

Mr. Chairman: Amendment moved:

"That for the Proviso to sub-clause (4) of clause 3 of the Bill, the following be substituted, namely:

"Provided that where a landlord or tenant is using any premises for the residence of himself or his family the competent authority shall provide suitable alternative accommodation."

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The point is simply this, that houses are not requisitioned for the purpose of accommodating refugees. They are requisitioned for the purpose of accommodating government officers; secondly Embassies and their staff; and as far as I remember I have requisitioned only one house and that is for accommodating destitute women from among the refugees. So it is not the intention to encourage the refugees to come over here and make refugees of the citizens of Delhi and throw them on the streets; that is not the idea. I cannot accept this amendment.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That for the Proviso to sub-clause (4) of clause 3 of the Bill, the following be substituted, namely:

'Provided that where a landlord or tenant is using any premises for the residence of himself or his family the competent authority shall provide suitable alternative accommodation'."

The motion was negatived.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in the Proviso to sub-clause (4) of clause 3 of the Bill, the words 'as far as possible' be omitted."

In support of this amendment I have only to say that the principle which the Government had already accepted while passing the Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara Rent Control Bill was that it should apply only to vacant premises. As a matter of fact, the Honourable Member knows more than anybody else that today there is such a big pressure on private houses in Delhi that had never existed before and it would be a great hardship for the occupants of those houses to be displaced for reasons of State or for any other reason. Therefore, unless Government undertake to provide alternative accommodation, I see no reason why these powers should be given to the Government. Therefore, I would request the Honourable Member to accept this amendment.

Mr. Chairman: Amendment moved:

"That in the Proviso to sub-clause (4) of clause 3 of the Bill, the words 'as far as possible' be omitted."

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I cannot accept this amendment for the reasons I have already stated. If it is accepted the Bill will be reduced to a cipher.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my amendment.

Mr. Chairman: Has the Honourable Member leave of the House to withdraw.

The Amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That clause 3 as amended stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 as amended was added to the Bill.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: I beg to move:

"That for clause 4 of the Bill, the following be substituted, namely:

4. Exclusion of certain premises from requisitioning—

Nothing in section 3 shall empower the competent authority to requisition premises,—

- (a) which are exclusively used for the purpose of religious worship or which are in use for a school, orphanage, or hospital;
- (b) which are exclusively used for the purpose of carrying on business; and
- (c) whose rental value is less than Rs. 200 p. m."

Sir, I do not want to take up the time of the House in arguing a case in favour of these amendments. At the stage when the Bill was referred to the Select Committee, it had been suggested that the one consideration which weighed with the House in referring this Bill to the Select Committee was that the opinion of the Advisory Council of Delhi which represents the public opinion in Delhi should be consulted. An informal meeting of that body was held and in support of this they had submitted their views to the Select Committee. I would confine myself to the reading of the opinion expressed by that body and this opinion has further been endorsed yesterday when a formal meeting of that Advisory Council was held under the presidency of the Chief Commissioner

and the meeting unanimously accepted and confirmed that opinion. I personally feel that in this House, Delhi is very poorly represented; there is only one man who can put forward the point of view of the public and I can say that in all measures which affect the Delhi-wallas very little attention is really given to the point of view of the people of Delhi. The fact that the Members of the Advisory Council of the Chief Commissioner have unanimously expressed an opinion on this Bill, which has been disregarded, goes to show and goes further to confirm this point of view. In any case, Sir, I am in duty bound to place the views of the Advisory Council, with which I am in full agreement, before the House and I do hope that the Honourable Member even at this stage will show some consideration and accept such of the amendments as may not be found objectionable.

The opinion expressed by the Advisory Council was this:

"In view of the high pressure on housing accommodation in Delhi which has been further increased due to influx of refugees from Pakistan, a very large majority of whom are lodged in private houses, the Council held the view that it was not desirable to pass the Bill. It was of opinion that the powers already given under Sec. 11 of the Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara Rent Control Act were sufficient to serve the purpose. In any case, it felt that the powers sought in the Bill are far too wide. If the Bill has to be passed it should be amended in following respects:

- (a) Its scope should be restricted to Governmental requirements.
- (b) The period should be limited to two years at the most.
- (c) It should apply only to New Delhi and Civil Lines.
- (d) It should not apply to business premises and to residential premises of the rental value of less than Rs. 200 p. m.
- (e) No house occupied by the land-lord and his family for his own *bona fide* residential purposes should be requisitioned. Preferably only such houses as fall vacant should be requisitioned.
- (f) Dispossessed tenants should be provided alternative accommodation.
- (g) At least one month's notice should be given.
- (h) Repairs undertaken by Government should not exceed the equal of one month's rent.
- (i) No entry in premises except during day.
- (j) At the time of de-requisitioning the premises should be returned to rightful owners and in the condition in which they were taken."

I feel, Sir, that no reasonable exception could be taken to the views expressed by the Advisory Council. I am thankful to the Honourable Member that some of these recommendations have been accepted but the vital part is that the provisions of this Bill should not apply to premises which are not vacant. This principle was accepted by this House only six months back when they restricted the requisitioning of premises only to such premises.

Then, Sir, the purpose which has been put before the House by the Honourable Member is really the requirements of the Embassies and the requirements of the Embassies would not be served if houses below the rental value of Rs. 200 per mensem were to be requisitioned. Surely, no Embassy is going to lodge itself in a house which fetches rental less than Rs. 200. Moreover, they are not going to live outside New Delhi—at the most some of them may go to Civil Lines. Therefore, this part of the recommendation is also reasonable and it was in view of this that the House had accepted this principle while the Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara Rent Control Bill was being discussed in the House. Moreover, I would say, Sir, that there is very strong public opinion in Delhi

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Landlords.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Not landlords, because the Bill does not affect the landlords, because it is the occupants that are affected. In fact, my friend Pandit Thakurdas Bhargava was arguing that the occupants who were sub-tenants of Government houses should not be displaced and the recommendation

[Shri Deshbandhu Gupta]

is that all those—particularly the tenants who are to be displaced by requisitioning the house—should be provided alternative accommodation. Sir, as a matter of fact all requisitioning is bad and I know my Honourable friend realises it more than anybody else. An emergency, just as I said a few minutes before, ceases to be an emergency if it becomes permanent. This requisitioning has been there since 1939 and Delhi has been the greatest sufferer because whereas in January 1947 in Bombay only 115 houses were requisitioned and in Calcutta 83, in Delhi the number was 513.

Since 1939 this thing has been there. War emergency was pleaded at that time. Then people hoped that six months after the war terminated all the houses that were requisitioned would be returned to them. Then came an Ordinance and Government brought another Bill seeking to continue the powers conferred under the Ordinance. Then those powers were given but they were qualified. Then came Section 11 of the Rent Control Act. There again the powers of the Government were further qualified and now comes another Ordinance which exceeds all its predecessors. There is no war emergency. The emergency such as exists is not as grave as a war emergency. Therefore, in my opinion, the powers sought under this Bill are far too wide.

One more point, Sir. This Bill does not make an exception in the case of business premises. I would like to know from my Honourable friend whether any residential purpose could be served by calling upon business premises and requisitioning them. I see no justification whatever for it. It was suggested in the Select Committee that simply by keeping a gramophone, a typewriter or a radio, people would say that it was not a residential place. Steps could very well have been taken to see that no such subterfuge is played, because under the Rent Control Bill we have stated in more than one place that if a place was primarily used for residential purpose the Bill would apply to it. If the purpose was not to requisition business premises, there is no reason why it should not be made clear. I am very strongly against this measure and public opinion is behind me. It is really for the Government to go ahead with the housing problem. My Honourable friend said that steps have been taken, but in fact, I cannot help saying that Government have not yet realised the enormity of the problem. No practical steps have been taken, no encouragement has been given to private house builders. The 200 or odd houses sought to be put up by Government will probably take two years and that is not the way to meet this great demand on housing capacity. Unless the Government undertakes a bold programme of building houses, this Bill may be followed up by another. An assurance was given that perhaps all those houses which were requisitioned would be de-requisitioned. A Board was appointed in Delhi and in other places but no progress was made. In fact, I have seen Government servants who had honed one day after retirement to live in their own houses not getting their houses for seven years. My Honourable friend pleads house shortage. True, but the question is: Is he in a position to give the assurance that this Bill will not apply after two years? Otherwise, I am sure this Bill will become a permanent statute. Therefore, I say this measure should not be taken lightly. The plea of emergency and the fact that it will end soon will not convince anybody or deceive anybody. Therefore, I am strongly opposed to this measure and I do hope that the Honourable Minister will realise the volume of public opinion against this Bill and accept some of the amendments suggested by me.

Mr. Chairman: Amendment moved:

"That for clause 4 of the Bill, the following be substituted, namely:

4. Exclusion of certain premises from requisitioning—

- Nothing in section 3 shall empower the competent authority to requisition premises,—
- (a) which are exclusively used for the purpose of religious worship or which are in use for a school, orphanage, or hospital;
 - (b) which are exclusively used for the purpose of carrying on business; and
 - (c) whose rental value is less than Rs. 200 p. m."

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I am not in a position to accept any of the clauses suggested in the amendment.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That for clause 4 of the Bill, the following be substituted, namely:

4. Exclusion of certain premises from requisitioning—

Nothing in section 3 shall empower the competent authority to requisition premises,—

- (a) which are exclusively used for the purpose of religious worship or which are in use for a school, orphanage, or hospital;
- (b) which are exclusively used for the purpose of carrying on business; and
- (c) whose rental value is less than Rs. 200 p. m."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That clause 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 5 to 11 were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 12 of the Bill—

- (i) in items (a) and (b) for the figure '4', the figure '7' be substituted; and
- (ii) in item (c) for the figure '5', the figure '9' be substituted."

Mr. Chairman: Amendment moved:

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 12 of the Bill—

- (i) in items (a) and (b) for the figure '4', the figure '7' be substituted; and
- (ii) in item (c) for the figure '5', the figure '9' be substituted."

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: (C. P. and Berar: General): I want to know what is the amendment relating to figures 7 and 4 of clause 12 of the Bill? As a Member of the Select Committee, I do not know if this is any important change. If it is a typographical mistake, I have no objection. Rule 46 states that two clear days notice should be given for giving an amendment to a Bill. I would like to be enlightened if it relates to some arbitration act.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Absolutely minor.

Mr. Chairman: I think the Honourable Member has made it consequential because the section has changed. The question is:

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 12 of the Bill—

- (i) in items (a) and (b) for the figure '4', the figure '7' be substituted; and
- (ii) in item (c) for the figure '5', the figure '9' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That clause 12, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 12, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 13 to 16 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

DELHI AND AJMER-MERWARA RENT CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil (Minister for Works, Mines and Power):
Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to continue in force certain amendments of the Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara Rent Control Act, 1947, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the Select Committee has made only one amendment and that is with respect to the appeal provision. The appeals will now lie to the District Judge against the orders of the Rent Controller. Except that no other change has been made by the Select Committee. So far as the form of the Bill is concerned, the original form has been changed because in the original Bill reference was made to the continuance of the provisions as amended by the Ordinance issued on the 20th of September 1947 and a change was desired by some Members of the House as also by several members of the Select Committee. The provisions of the whole Ordinance have been incorporated and they have now been embodied in the Bill as reported by the Select Committee. Beyond that there is no change and I do not want to repeat the arguments unless it becomes necessary by way of reply. Sir, I move.

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to continue in force certain amendments of the Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara Rent Control Act, 1947, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta (Delhi): I would like to help the Honourable the Minister to rush it through if possible. I have no objection. I only want to take two or three minutes and the Honourable Minister is keen that the motion should be accepted, it may be accepted even now. I do not want to stand in the way.

Sir, when this Bill was referred to the Select Committee, the main objection taken at that time was that the Government had not taken any steps to encourage housing. I do not want to repeat the argument. I have already emphasized the fact. But I wish to draw the attention of my Honourable friend towards one specific provision of this Bill. This exemption was made in the old Bill with the specific purpose of giving encouragement to the landlords to put up new houses and at that time the Mover had made it perfectly plain that 'we do not want the landlords to feel that this is an expropriatory measure by which they are being penalized and that possibly after another few years there may be another Bill.' As my Honourable friend apprehends buildings which have now been excluded from the scope of Rent Control Bill will be again brought under Rent Control and landlords will be penalised for all the buildings which they put up hereafter. I am one with my Honourable friend to punish those who are charging excessive rents. I hold no brief for the landlords and if there are any who have abused the exemption, I am for giving the maximum punishment which should be given to them. But I wish to draw the attention of my Honourable friend towards these remarks which the Mover of the Bill at that time had made. The House very well knew at that time, Sir, that excessive rents were being charged by landlords and if this exemption was given in case of new houses it was done knowingly and with the definite purpose in view. The purpose was that the putting up of new buildings should not be retarded and a definite assurance was given out in these words which I have just read out that the landlords should not apprehend that another legislation would be brought forward to penalise them and to withdraw the exemption which had been given to them. I want to know from my Honourable friend whether his attention had been drawn to this assurance. It may be that the previous Government was certainly in the habit of breaking its promises, but we would not like that allegation to be made against our own Government. I would therefore request my Honourable friend to reconsider this matter and

(1506)

DELHI AND AJMER-MERWARA RENT CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL

1507

unless Government is putting up some more houses and make it easier for people to build houses, this exemption which had been there only for six months should not be withdrawn. Much can be said so far as the question of the impediments that are placed in the way of those who are out to help the Government or the people by putting up new buildings and the difficulties which they encounter on account of the paucity of building material, but I do not want to dilate on that. I only wish to draw my Honourable friend's attention to the strong feeling that prevails that unless Government come forward with a bold building programme there is no justification for withdrawing this exemption.

5 P.M.

Therefore I would plead that even at this stage my Honourable friend should agree to postpone this measure if not to withdraw it.

پندت تھاکر داس بھارگو : مانینہ سپیکر صاحب: میں صرف اتنا عرض کرنا چاہتا ہوں کہ جو مارچ اپریل سنہ ۱۹۴۷ء میں Ajmer Merwara Rent Control Bill اور Delhi ہاؤس میں پیش ہوا اور پاس کیا گیا تو عام مطالبہ منظور ہوا کہ Rent Institution Controllor کو ختم کیا جائے۔ کیونکہ اس کے خلاف بہت سی شکایات تھیں۔ اب اس نئے ایکٹ کے تحت دہلی کے نئے مکانات کے متعلق Court کو اختیار ہونا چاہئے کہ وہ Standard rent مقرر کر دے۔ ایسے مکانات سو یا دوسو سے زیادہ نہیں ہونگے۔ لیکن ان کے بابت جو یہ ایک نیا forum بنایا گیا ہے۔ مجھے اُس پر اعتراض ہے۔ اس Democracy کے زمانے میں Special jurisdiction بنا دینا ٹھیک نہیں ہے۔ اور ان نئے مکانات کے لئے Special forum نہیں ہونا چاہئے بلکہ ساری دہلی کے تمام مکانات کے لئے ایک ہی forum ہونا چاہئے۔ اگر آنریبل ممبر صاحب اس بات کو منظور فرماویں تو یہ Democratic ہوگا اور سب کے لئے ایک جیسا ہی forum بن جائیگا۔

(English translation of the above speech.)

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (East Punjab: General): Mr. Chairman, I wish to say that in March-April 1947, when the Delhi Ajmer-Merwara Rent Control Bill came before the House and was also passed by it, the public demand to end the Rent Controller Institution, was accepted, as there were many complaints against it. Under the new Act, therefore, the court should be given the rights to standardize the rents of the newly built houses in Delhi. There are not more than a hundred or two hundred of these houses but I object to the forum which has been formed for them. In this age of democracy it is not proper to introduce special jurisdictions. Therefore, there should be no special forum for these houses and there should be only one forum for all the houses in Delhi. If the Honourable the Mover approves of it then it will be a forum democratic and uniform for all.

आनरेबल श्री एन० वी० गेडगिल : माननीय साहब, मैं भी अदब से कुछ कहना चाहता हूँ। हमारे दोस्त गुप्ता साहब को मालूम होना चाहिये कि गवर्नमेंट ने मकानों के बनाने का प्रोग्राम (Programme) शुरू कर दिया है। मैं यह जानता हूँ कि यह मामला बहुत सीरियस (Serious) है और इसको गुप्ता साहब भी जानते हैं। लेकिन इस बारे में मैं इतना ही कहना चाहता हूँ कि ५०० मकान बनाने का प्रोग्राम इम्पूवमेंट ट्रस्ट (Improvement Trust) के पास है और इस में से ३०० बन चुके हैं जबकि पहला एक्ट पास किया गया था। अब सबसे ज्यादा दिक्कत यह है कि इनका रेंट (Rent) कोन मुकर्रर करे। रेंट कंट्रोलर (Rent

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Tuesday, 9th December, 1947

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

715. *Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) as to who took the decision of calling the present Central Indian Legislature by the name of the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative);

(b) whether Government propose to consider the question of giving some other name; and

(c) whether Government will consider the name of "Dominion Parliament"?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) The Honourable the President of the Constituent Assembly.

(b) and (c). Yes, but probably any formal change at this stage is not necessary as under the new constitution a new name will certainly be given to the legislature. That name will presumably be in Hindustani. The popular name which is finding increasing acceptance today is Parliament of India.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Would that be recognised as the official name of this Legislature—the Parliament of India?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I have already said that at present it is not necessary. The new Constitution when framed will adopt a name.

INDIA'S EMBASSIES ABROAD

716. *Shri Biswanath Das: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries in which India has established her own Embassies;

(b) the names of the countries in which she has High Commissioners or Agents or Trade Agents and the like; and

(c) the names of the countries referred to in parts (a) and (b) above wherein Indians enjoy equality of status and citizenship rights?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b). The information regarding countries where the Government of India have established her own Embassies, and where she has High Commissioners or Representatives is contained in the statement placed on the table of the House in answer to Question No. 241 on 21st November 1947.

As regards Trade Commissioners, the Honourable Member is referred to the statement placed on the table of the House by the Honourable Minister of Commerce in answer to Question No. 230 on 21st November 1947.

[श्री एन० वी० गैडगिल]

Controller) को हटा दिया गया है क्योंकि पुराने एक्ट के पहिले सब मकानों का किराया कायम करना पूरा हो गया था मगर अब थोड़े से ऐसे मकान हैं जिनका किराया मुकर्रर नहीं किया गया है। जो नये मकान हैं उनके लिए रेंट कंट्रोल बिल में इस तरह की कोई बात नहीं है। वह लोग कोर्ट के पास जायेंगे और कहेंगे कि सिमन्ट ज्यादा भाव से लिया है तो कोर्ट वाले इस बात को नहीं मानेंगे कि मकान वालों को क्या २ दिक्कत का सामना करना पड़ा। वे तो कैपिटल वैल्यू (Capital value) को सामने रखते हुए ५ पर सेन्ट (5%) ६ पर सेन्ट (6%) या ७ पर सेन्ट (7%) के हिसाब से लगायेंगे।

मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि रेंट कंट्रोल में इतने (judicial officers) ज्यूडिशल-आफिसर नहीं हैं इस वास्ते हमने सलैक्ट कमेटी (Select Committee) में यह प्राविजन (provision) रक्खा है कि रेंट कंट्रोल आर्डर (Rent Control Order) के खिलाफ डिस्ट्रिक्ट-कोर्ट (District Courts) में अपील (Appeal) की जा सकती है। सबसे ज्यादा हमारे गुस्ता साहब जान सकते हैं कि आजकल लाहोर से जो बिज़नेसमैन (Business men) आ गये हैं वे एक कमरों के ४०० रुपये तक दे रहे हैं।

श्री-देशबन्धु गुप्ता : वे किराया नहीं दे रहे हैं बल्कि पगड़ी भी दे रहे हैं।
आनरेबल श्री एन० वी० गैडगिल : अगर यह बात कोर्ट के सामने आयगी तो ठीक हो जायगी। इसमें कोई दिक्कत की बात नहीं है और हम समझते हैं कि यह आप टैनेन्ट (Tenant) के फायदे के लिये कह रहे हैं।

(English translation of the above speeches.)

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Mr. Chairman, Sir, with due respect, I want to say something. My friend Mr. Gupta may know that the Government have started the work of housebuilding. I realise the seriousness of this matter and so does Mr. Gupta. But in this connexion I have only to tell you that the Improvement Trust have already taken in hand the construction of five hundred new buildings. Of these three hundreds have been built, since the Act was passed. The greatest of all the difficulties now is that who should fix the rents of these premises. The post of the Rent Controller has been abolished because the rents of all the houses constructed before the Act was passed had been fixed. The Rent Control Bill does not contain any reference to the rents of these new houses. The public will go to the courts of law and complain that they purchased cement etc. at high rates. The court authorities will not recognise the difficulties which the house owners have to face. They will fix the rents with regard to the 'Capital value' of these buildings. It may be five per cent, six per cent or seven per cent etc.

I would also like to point out, Sir, that the Rent Control Department does not have enough Judicial Officers. The Select Committee have, therefore, made the provision that people can appeal in the District Courts against the orders under the Rent Control Order. May, I tell the House, Sir, and my friend Mr. Gupta knows it well, that the businessmen who have come from Lahore are paying upto four hundred rupees for a room.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: These men are not only paying exorbitant rents but they are also paying *Pugree* money.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: If it is brought before the courts it will be set right. It is not very difficult. I realise you are saying it for the sake of the tenants.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the Bill to continue in force certain amendments of the Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara Rent Control Act, 1947, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 7 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 9th December, 1947.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: It is already covered by the reply I have given.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is it that the Central Government has so far achieved by way of constructing houses for the industrial proletariat as well as the agricultural proletariat in Delhi Province itself?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Well, Sir, as regards the Central Government Department itself, the Department is trying its best to construct buildings to accommodate workers therein and we have taken up construction work in railway departments, in coalfields and in other Central Government departments.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government to construct houses for the benefit of their employees only and to relegate to the Limbo other employees in industrial centres?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Labour is a provincial matter as regards accommodation for workers, and the Provincial Governments were given this assurance that they would be subsidised to the extent of 12½ per cent. of the cost, the maximum being Rs. 200. But as indicated in the answer just given, none of the Provincial Governments came forward with their schemes for the construction of houses.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: May I know if the Government have any comprehensive scheme for industrial housing both for the areas under the Central Government and the Provinces separately?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: As I have already indicated, the matter is under consideration. Only recently I had a conference with the Provincial Labour Ministers when this question also came up for discussion. We are still considering the question.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: By what time do the Government expect to have some such scheme?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: It depends upon so many factors. It is very difficult to indicate any definite time limit.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Delhi being a centrally-administered area, have the Government made any progress in this respect at least with regard to this area?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: It is very difficult to give details about particular provinces. Delhi is also a Chief Commissioner's Province and unless the Provincial Government approached the Central Government for industrial housing, it is very difficult for the Central Government to consider all these details.

INDIA'S EMBASSIES ABROAD

†720. ***Shri Algu Rai Shastri:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state the names of the countries where Indian Embassies have been established?

(b) What are the personnel of their staff including the names of the Ambassadors?

(c) What are the expenses of the different Embassies, establishment, pay, allowances, all separately Embassy-wise?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a), (b) and (c). A statement is placed on the table of the House.

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Statement showing the names of the countries where Indian Embassies have been established, names of the Ambassadors, personnel of their staff and estimated expenditure.

Name of the country.	Name of the Ambassador.	Personnel of their staff.	Estimated expenditure for the period from the 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948.
1	2	3	4
U. S. A.	Mr. Asaf Ali	1 Counsellor. 1 First Secretary. 1 2nd Secretary. 1 3rd Secretary. 1 Assistant Secretary. 1 Private Secretary to Ambassador. 1 Financial Adviser. 1 Economic Assistant. 1 Transportation Officer. 8 Personal Assistants. 1 Cypher Assistant. 1 Establishment Officer. 1 Accountant. 1 Courier. 1 Registrar. 6 Stenographers. 10 Clerks. 2 Switch Board Operators. 6 Clerical Assistants.	Pay of Officers—Rs. 99,800. Pay of Establishments—Rs. 2,05,100. Other charges (including allowances)—Rs. 4,51,700. Total—Rs. 7,56,600.
China	Mr. K. P. S. Menon	1 First Secretary. 1 2nd Secretary. 1 3rd Secretary. 1 Accountant. 2 Assistants. 1 Stenographer. 1 Cypher Assistant. 1 Passport Assistant. 2 Clerks. 1 Assistant Accountant. 1 Chinese Translator. 1 Chinese Interpreter.	Pay of Officers—Rs. 50,000. Pay of Establishments—Rs. 22,800. Other charges including allowances—Rs. 3,79,300. Total—Rs. 4,52,100, plus Rs. 5,00,000 for purchase of land and construction of buildings for Embassy.
U. S. S. R.	Mrs. Vijaya Laxmi Pandit	1 Counsellor. 1 First Secretary. 1 Private Secretary to Ambassador. 1 Economic Advisor—(temporary for 6 months). 1 Additional First Secretary (Cultural Relations). 1 Superintendent. 1 Cypher Superintendent. 1 Cypher Assistant. 2 Assistants. 3 Stenographers. 1 Accountant.	Pay of Officers—Rs. 1,40,100 Pay of Establishments—Rs. 24,000. Other Charges including allowances—Rs. 5,41,600. Total—Rs. 7,05,700.
Nepal	S. Surjit Singh Majithia	1 Secretary. 1 Superintendent. 1 Stenographer (Other staff yet to be settled).	Pay of Officers—Rs. 12,000. Pay of Establishment—Rs. 12,800. Other charges (including allowances)—Rs. 27,200. Total—Rs. 52,000.

(c) Out of the foreign countries where India has established her own representation, U.S.A., Iran and Siam have accorded rights of citizenship to Indians. We have no precise information regarding other countries.

In respect of the Commonwealth countries, the Honourable Member is referred to the statement laid on the table of the House in reply to his Question No. 210 on 21st November 1947.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I know what is the position of British Colonies?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I do not know what is the position there. I will make enquiries.

EXPANSION OF INDIAN SHIPPING IN COASTAL TRADE

717* { **Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:**
Shri K. Santhanam:

(a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a statement issued by Mr. M. A. Master, President of the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and a member of the Indian Delegation to London, published in the press on the 3rd September 1947, in regard to the negotiations with British ship owners?

(b) What action Government propose to take in regard to:

(i) acquisition of more tonnage by Indian shipping interests;

(ii) speedy expansion of Indian shipping in the coastal trade of the country; and

(iii) participation of Indian shipping companies in the principal overseas trade of India?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me to Mr. Mandloi's Question No. 376 on the 27th November regarding the steps proposed to be taken by Government for the development of the Indian Mercantile Marine.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: May I know the position as regards the shipbuilding industry?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I require notice.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Was this matter ever placed before the Standing Committee for Commerce by the Honourable Minister before any decision was taken?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I require notice for that also.

COMMERCIAL TREATY WITH U. S. A.

718* { **Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:**
Shri K. Santhanam:

Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether Government propose to negotiate any commercial treaty or trade agreement with the Government of the United States of America?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: No such proposal is at the moment under the active consideration of Government.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know if it is not a fact that public opinion in this country is very strong for a Treaty with the United States of America?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: It is a matter of opinion.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know whether this matter has been before the Government for the last three or four years?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Every matter which relates to the interests of this country is before the Government.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know if it is not a fact that during the war the negotiation of a treaty was prevented by the British Government?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Well, I am not aware of that.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that one of the results of the Geneva, and now the Havana Conference, is to discourage these bi-lateral treaties and to develop multi-lateral trade agreements as between different countries with regard to various commodities?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That is the main objective for which the conference is meeting in Havana.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: With regard to specific commodities, are agreements being negotiated even with the United States of America today?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That is obviously within the framework of the proposed Charter.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How far has the Government of India progressed with the United States in its negotiations with regard to specific commodities?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I require notice for that.

HOUSING SCHEME FOR INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

{ **Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:**
Shri K. Santhanam:

(a) Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state the steps taken by Government to implement the proposed housing scheme for industrial workers in Labour areas, who are unable to pay an economic rent, under which Government were to make capital grants of 12½ per cent. subject to a maximum of Rs. 200 per house, of the cost of any scheme whether undertaken by Improvement Trusts, Provincial Governments, Municipalities or Employers, provided that Provincial Governments were themselves prepared to make an equivalent grant from their own revenues?

(b) Is it a fact that the Government of India have revised their original scheme and if so, on what lines?

(c) Does the revised scheme take note of the income-tax concessions announced by way of granting exemption from income-tax on income from buildings commenced and completed between 1st April 1946 and 31st March 1948, to encourage building activity?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a), (b) and (c). On account of the high building costs there was little response to the offer of the subsidy made by the Central Government. The matter is therefore, under further discussion with the Provincial Governments.

Shri S. Nagappa: Will Government give any subsidies to the Provincial Governments which have taken up the housing scheme especially for labourers?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I am sorry to inform the House that this proposal was before the Provincial Governments, and they were asked to forward their schemes for industrial housing, none of them came forward with their schemes.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is not it a fact that for the last two budgets, specific provision was made for encouraging the Provincial Governments, including the Delhi Province to undertake the construction of housing and with the promise that subsidies would be given by the Central Government?

Name of the country.	Name of the Ambassador.	Personnel of their staff.	Estimated expenditure for the period from the 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948.
1	2	3	4
Iran	Mr. Ali Zaheer	1 First Secretary. 1 Private Secretary. 1 Office Superintendent. 1 Cypher Superintendent. 2 Assistants. 2 Stenographers. 3 Clerks. 1 Persian Translator.	Pay of Officers—Rs. 17,000 Pay of Establishments—Rs. 13,000. Other charges (including allowances)—Rs. 16,000. Total—Rs. 46,000.

DISALLOWANCE OF ENTRY OF INDIANS INTO BURMA

†721. *Shri Algu Rai Shastri: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some Indians who went to Burma only recently were not allowed to land on the soil of Burma?

(b) If so, why?

(c) Have the Government of India made any enquiry and taken any action in the matter?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) They did not possess immigration permits required for entry into Burma under the provisions of the Burma Immigration (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1947.

(c) Yes. In order to avoid the recurrence of such incidents, our Protectors of Emigrants at Indian ports have been instructed to advise all intending passengers that they will not be allowed to land in Burma, if they do not possess immigration permits or valid passports. Further, the Government of Burma are being requested to authorise some officer of theirs stationed in India to issue immigration permits to persons embarking from ports where they have no Immigration Officers.

EVACUATION OF REFUGEES FROM JHELM, WEST PUNJAB

†722. *Shri Algu Rai Shastri: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state how many refugees have been brought to the East Punjab from Jhelum (West Punjab) by the trains which left that place on the 6th and the 11th of November 1947?

(b) Is it a fact that these refugees were collected from various suburbs of the Jhelum town on or about the 25th of September for evacuation and they were given only 20 hours time to collect at a place?

(c) Where are these refugees located now?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The information asked for is being collected and will be placed on the table as soon as available.

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

ATTACK ON NON-MUSLIM REFUGEES

†723. *Shri Algu Rai Shastri: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the non-Muslim refugees who were shifted from Muslim mohallah to Golipara were attacked by Muslim mobs, the Police and the Military?

(b) If so, what is the number of casualties?

(c) Is it a fact that on evacuations, these refugees were not allowed to take their valuables and the Military and the Police looted their property and valuables?

(d) What measures, if any, do Government propose to take to stop such brutalities in future and thus save the life and property of evacuees from the West Punjab?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The information asked for is being collected and will be placed on the table as soon as available.

COLLECTIONS FOR COALFIELD LABOUR WELFARE FUND.

724. *Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (on behalf of Shri Ramnarayan Singh): Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the amount hitherto collected at Dhanbad for Coalfield Labour Welfare Fund;

(b) the present activities of the Labour Welfare Department there; and

(c) the amount collected and the welfare work done at Bermo?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) The Honourable Member doubtless wishes to know the total amount collected by way of welfare Cess and not the amount collected at Dhanbad, collections being made at the railway stations from where coal or coke is despatched. The total annual yield of the Cess during the current year is estimated at approximately seventy-five lakhs.

(b) I place on the table of the House a statement giving a brief account of the welfare activities carried out by or on behalf of the Fund in the coalfields, including the Bermo collieries.

(c) Figures of amounts collected in different groups of collieries are not maintained. But from a very approximate basis the yield from collieries at Bermo is likely to be only about 1/20th of the total yield of the Cess.

Brief details of the activities of the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund.

Two Regional Hospitals each with 10—12 beds are being constructed for the Jharia Coalfield at Katras and Tisra and a similar number is being constructed at Chora and Searsole for the Ranigunj Coalfield. The buildings are ready and the hospitals are expected to function shortly. The construction of similar Regional Hospitals for the Pench Valley and Chanda Coalfields in the Central Provinces will also be taken up shortly. The construction of a dispensary has been sanctioned for Mugma.

2. Preliminary measures have been completed for the construction of a Central Hospital with more than 100 beds for the Jharia Coalfield at Dhanbad. The Hospital will have on its staff specialists in all branches. A similar Hospital will be constructed for the Ranigunj coalfield for which a site has been selected.

3. A certain number of beds has been reserved for colliery labour in the Hospitals at Jamadoba and Sanctoria.

4. An X-Ray unit has been sanctioned for installation at the State Railway Collieries Hospital at Giridih. The Unit is being imported.

5. Two ambulances for the transport of colliery patients for hospital treatment have been placed at the disposal of the Asansol Mines Board of Health and a similar number at the disposal of the Jharia Mines Board of Health. For coalfields in the Central Provinces, 3 such cars have been provided.

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

6. Grants are being given annually to the Asansol and Jharia Mines Board of Health for meeting expenditure on measures for the improvement of sanitation.

7. Schemes for improving the water supply at Jharia, Asansol, and Pench Valley are under consideration.

8. It is proposed to construct 50,000 houses for miners. A beginning has already been made. A number of quarters will be constructed to Railway collieries, also including those at Bermo.

9. Anti-malaria measures are being undertaken in all the important coalfields under the direction of the Director, Malaria Institute of India. A lump sum of Rs. 12½ lakhs has been provided for this purpose during the current year. D. D. T. spraying operations were carried out in Bermo during the last malaria season.

10. A Tuberculosis Specialist has been appointed and a scheme for the establishment of V. D. Clinics has also been prepared.

11. There is a mobile canteen which tours coalfields and sells tea, snacks, etc. There is also a mobile cinema which gives shows for a nominal admission fee. There is also a mobile shop for the sale of consumer goods to colliery labour. This shop visits Bermo coalfields, also.

12. A scheme for the welfare of women by providing visual and craft education at demonstration centres has also been put into operation. The scheme has proved very popular and a number of centres has been opened. It is proposed to cover the whole of the Jharia and Ranigunj coalfields by a net work of such centres.

13. Grants have been made to the Leprosy Associations in Bengal and Bihar for the maintenance of a certain number of beds. The Fund has also contributed towards the cost of refresher courses for colliery medical officers, for Baly Shows, Health Exhibitions, etc. The Fund is also meeting the cost of training of two nurses at the Delhi College of Nursing who will later work in the Fund's Hospitals.

14. The Fund has a number of Inspectors of Labour Welfare, Propaganda Officers and a Lady Welfare Officer. They visit collieries for general propaganda and for ascertaining the grievances of colliery labour. These officers have visited Bermo also.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: May I know what is the total number of labourers from outside who are working in these coalfields?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I want notice of that question.

PAKISTAN RAIDS ON INDIA.

725. ***Shri M. S. Aney** (on behalf of **Dr. N. B. Khare**): (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state, how many raids have been made on our country by Pakistan, after the partition?

(b) What losses have been suffered by our public in men and material?

(c) What action have Government taken to check further raids?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: This question should have been addressed to the Honourable Minister for Defence and has accordingly been transferred to the Ministry of Defence. It will be answered on a day allotted to that Ministry.

PAKISTAN HINDUS AND SIKHS AS NATIONALS OF INDIA.

726. ***Shri M. S. Aney** (on behalf of **Dr. N. B. Khare**): Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether Government propose to declare all the Hindus and Sikhs residing in Pakistan as Nationals of India and claim their protection as such?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The question of citizenship of the Indian Union and of Pakistan is rather vague at present. It will be finally determined by the provision of the new Constitution. Meanwhile it is for such residents of Pakistan as desire to become Nationals of India to declare this. Government cannot make a declaration on behalf of any group, nor is Government prepared to consider that the people of any particular religious persuasion should necessarily be Nationals of a particular country. Nationality and Religion are not synonymous.

LOSSES SUFFERED BY HINDUS IN PAKISTAN

727. ***Shri M. S. Aney** (on behalf of **Dr. N. B. Khare**): Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state, whether Government propose to prefer claims for the value of property and losses suffered by the Hindus in Pakistan?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The Honourable Member is referred to my answer to clause (b) of Starred Question No. 20 and clause (e) of Starred Question No. 23, on the 18th November, 1947. The entire question of evacuee property including the method of valuation is under discussion with the Pakistan Government.

EVACUATION OF HINDUS FROM N.W.F.P.

728. ***Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether Government are aware that owing to the Frontier raids, communal situation in the North West Frontier Province has worsened and that the lives and honour of the Hindus are in danger particularly in the pockets of Kohat, Bannu, Peshawar, and Mardan?

(b) What steps have Government taken so far to evacuate them from there, and how many of them have crossed the Indo-Pakistan border?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) The reference to Frontier raids is not understood. It is true that non-Muslims in N.-W. F. P. have a feeling of insecurity.

(b) Of the non-Muslim population of about two lakhs sixty thousand, considerable numbers migrated from the Province before the 15th August. Some have been evacuated by Air and some more by train. About forty-eight thousand are still left behind. Of these about twenty-four thousand are at Bannu and the others are mainly at Mardan and Peshawar. Evacuation will have to be made by train and the steps to this end are being discussed with the Pakistan Government.

کیانی گورمکھ سنگھ مسافر :- میں یہ دریافت کرنا چاہتا ہوں کہ کیا آپریبل منسٹر نے آج کے ہندوستان ٹائمز میں خبر پڑھی ہے جس کا Heading یہ ہے "Bannu Non-Muslims in danger" اس میں لکھا ہے کہ تیس ہزار ہندو اور سکھ وہاں پر بہت خطرے میں ہیں -

Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir: I want to enquire if the Honourable Minister has read in the 'Hindustan Times' to-day the news under the heading "Bannu Non-Muslims in danger". It has been stated therein that the lives of thirty thousand Hindus and Sikhs are in great danger.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The figures that I have got are these: 24,000 people are at Bannu, 6,000 at Peshawar, 5,000 at Mardan and 4,500 at Dera Ismail Khan. We got the statistics very recently from our Deputy High Commissioner.

Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand: Is it a fact that there has been no evacuation from the N.-W.F.P. for the last fortnight? Is it a fact that trains sent to evacuate non-Muslims from the N.-W.F.P. have returned empty, because the Frontier Government would not allow these people to come to India, though they are all anxious to be evacuated?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Evacuation by air has been taking place from the N.-W.F.P. As regards evacuation by railway train it is a fact that at one stage the Premier of the N.-W.F.P. stated that the non-Muslims there were not prepared to leave the province and therefore he was not in a position to assist evacuation by train. We took up this question with the Pakistan Government later, and then at the instance of the Prime Minister of Pakistan the attitude of the N.-W.F.P. Government has been changed and

trains are likely to be laid on in consultation with the Pakistan Government in the near future.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Am I to understand that the statement of the Premier of the N.-W.F.P. was not correct when he informed the Government of India that the non-Muslims were not prepared to leave the province for India?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The impression that we got from the statement made by the Prime Minister of Pakistan was that "some non-Muslims were now desirous of leaving".

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know if the Government have taken any steps to ascertain the number of non-Muslim Government servants killed in the N.-W.F.P.?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am afraid that question does not arise. If the Honourable Member is desirous of obtaining this information he can put down another question.

Shri M. S. Aney: May I know if the Government propose to send its own army for the protection of these non-Muslims in Bannu and other places in the N.-W.F.P. who are willing to come here?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I do not know whether that is contemplated. The guard may be provided by the Pakistan army for the purpose of evacuation by train of the non-Muslims.

Shri M. S. Aney: May I know whether the Honourable Minister is aware of the fact that the people in Bannu and other places are apprehensive that they will not be properly protected if they are not escorted by the Indian army?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am aware of that and this question is being taken up with the Pakistan authorities.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Is the Honourable Minister aware that on the 7th December a report was published in the 'Hindustan Times' (the message was from Amritsar) that at Jhelum and Rawalpindi there are regular bands of Frontier tribesmen who are carrying away abducted women brought from Kashmir and that they were being paraded in the streets of Jhelum and Rawalpindi with the open support of the Pakistan Government?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am afraid that question does not arise out of this.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is the Honourable Minister aware that there are about 8,000 Harijan refugees wanting to be evacuated from Bahawalpur State?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: That question again does not arise out of the question under answer.

Shri Balkrishna Sharma: Is there any reciprocal arrangement between this Government and the Pakistan Government regarding evacuees that they shall be evacuated under the protection of their own national army units?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: It is rather a complicated arrangement and I should not like to make a statement straightaway.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Is the Honourable Minister aware that our military forces which have gone to protect our people in the N.-W.F.P. have been insulted and detained by the Frontier military?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I have no such information.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I know if it is not a fact that substantial bodies of non-Muslims detained in the N.-W.F.P. are not allowed to come to India, because it is in the interest of the Pakistan Government to keep them for purposes of their public utility services going on?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: My Honourable friend was not perhaps in his seat when I made a statement as regards the question of some non-Muslims not being permitted to leave Pakistan. The general position has improved since; I am not aware whether any special impediments are being put in the way of the evacuation of the Harijans in the N.-W.F.P.

Shri S. Nagappa: May I know whether the Honourable Minister is aware that especially the Harijans are not allowed either to remain in Pakistan as Harijans or to cross over the border to India? Will the Government take steps to see that Harijans are escorted to the Indian Dominion?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I have not received any such specific complaint with reference to the N.-W.F.P. There is such a complaint with regard to certain other provinces of Pakistan.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I know whether the figure which the Honourable Minister gave the House for Bannu includes only the city of Bannu or also the surrounding areas of Bannu?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: As far as I am aware it includes all those collected at Bannu from the surrounding areas.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Have Government information regarding the people who are in the surrounding areas now in pockets which are located near Bannu?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I have not got that information now.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is any attempt being made to collect the necessary information regarding the pockets in the N.-W. F. P.?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Oh, yes.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: Have Government any information whether any Harijans in any part of the N.-W.F.P. have been forcibly converted to Islam?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: That question again, I am afraid, does not arise out of this.

Mr. F. R. Anthony: Sir, I visited the largest camp in Peshawar the other day. Is the Honourable Minister aware that to a man the refugees are insisting on coming to India?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: That is definitely our information.

Mr. F. R. Anthony: Is he also aware that the official communique from the North-West Frontier Province can have no basis of truth because from my experience I found that not even a Tehsildar has ever so much approached any of the refugee camps?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am prepared to accept the Honourable Member's statement.

COMMONWEALTH CUSTOMS UNION.

729. *Shrimati Renuka Ray: Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any communication from His Majesty's Government for a Conference to discuss the possibilities of establishing a Customs Union within the British Commonwealth;

(b) if so, whether the Government of India have accepted this invitation; and

(c) whether Government have formulated any views in regard to the proposal to establish a Commonwealth Customs Union?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: Will the Honourable Minister tell us if there are any talks expected on these lines at Havana?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Not exactly on these lines. The United Kingdom has expressed a desire that representatives of all the Dominions who possess the requisite knowledge should be made available at Havana with a view to having some preliminary discussion with respect to matters which relate to trade and commerce between the various Dominions constituting the British Commonwealth.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Minister assure us that before anything is decided in this matter the House will be consulted?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Nothing is going to be done over the head of the House. No such agreement is visualized at present, but whatever definite agreement may be made will certainly be placed before the House.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it a fact that an attempt is being made to form a European Customs Union, and if so has India been invited to any conference that they are likely to have there for this purpose?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The exact position is that certain countries have formed themselves into what may be called a Study Group in order to study the preliminary matters with a view to ascertaining the possibility of having a Customs Union or Unions between various European countries; and to that Study Group India has been invited.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that Europe happens to be the biggest importer for Indian agricultural exports, will Government consider the advisability of consulting the agricultural interests before they actually send their experts to the Conference?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: No expert is being contemplated to be sent. The Indian High Commissioner has been asked to go wherever it is possible.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: My question has not been answered, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Not answered to the satisfaction of the Honourable Member perhaps.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I wanted our agricultural interests to be consulted before the Indian High Commissioner is sent to the Conference.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The Indian High Commissioner is supposed to represent all Indian interests.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I know whether Government have considered the question of intimating the Commonwealth countries that they are not going to enter into the discussion of any question relating to Customs Union unless and until Indians in their Dominions get equal privileges and equal rights of citizenship?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That will be a matter which will be taken into consideration when the question arises.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it not more in the interests of India to promote an Asian Customs Union rather than join a Commonwealth Customs Union?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It is a matter of opinion.

EXCLUSION OF INDIANS FROM JAPANESE COTTON TRADE.

730. *Shrimati Renuka Ray: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the statement issued through Reuter's Agency on the 5th September 1947 by Mr. Tusidas Kilachand, Leader of the Indian Mission to Japan, and published

in the 'Statesman', dated the 6th September, 1947, stating that General MacArthur's Supreme Headquarters in Japan had "tied up" the Japanese cotton trade to the exclusion of Indians, with the result that the Indian Mission was able to arrange for only 170,000 bales of raw cotton instead of 394,000 bales as originally proposed?

(b) Have Government taken up this matter through their Representative in Japan with General MacArthur's Headquarters as also with the Government of the United States?

(c) Are the interests of Indian agriculture and trade fully safe-guarded in this matter?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) and (b). Government have seen the Press report, but it should not be construed as implying that the Headquarters of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers in Japan have been inimical to Indian interests, though there has been some delay in carrying on triangular correspondence between India on the one hand and Washington and Tokyo on the other. The Indian Trade Delegation has arranged for shipment of 170,000 bales but this is not to the exclusion or reduction of the original offer of 394,000 bales. That offer is still under negotiation at Washington and Tokyo through the Indian Embassy and the Indian Liaison Mission.

(c) Government are doing all they can to safeguard their interests.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that before the war more than fifty per cent. of India's exports of cotton used to go to Japan?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: It is a fact, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government satisfied with this offer of the Supreme Headquarters in Japan to take only 3,94,000 bales of cotton from India?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The continuance of the negotiations is a proof that the Government of India is not satisfied with the arrangement.

Shri B. A. Khimji: Has the Indian Delegation to Japan returned to India?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I think so.

Shri B. A. Khimji: Has it submitted a Report?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Not yet, Sir.

Shri B. A. Khimji: May I know when the Delegation has returned to India?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I cannot give the exact date, but it was about a few weeks ago.

Shri B. A. Khimji: Will the Government request the Leader of the Delegation to submit a Report as early as possible?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I shall do that.

Shri M. S. Aney: May I know from the Honourable Minister what is the target which the Government of India is having in view in their negotiations with the Government in Japan regarding the export of raw cotton from India to Japan?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: As much as we can export, consistent with the interests of this country.

Shri M. S. Aney: May I inform the Honourable Minister that prior to the war the amount of cotton exported to Japan was something to the tune of seven to eight lakhs of bales, and may I ask if the Government of India is keeping that target in mind now?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That is a fact. But the pattern of trade hereafter may be different, and different circumstances will obviously weigh.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar: Are exports of cotton from India to Japan replaced by exports from America or elsewhere? A large part of Japan's supplies used to be made from here.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I want notice of that question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not the policy of the Government to encourage consumption of Indian cotton in this country itself so that our exports may be minimised as far as possible?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That is generally the policy of the Government.

Mr. Hussain Imam: Is there any contract with the authorities in Japan to supply us cloth in place of the cotton that we supply to them?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: There is no such contract, but there is some barter arrangement.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I have got authority from Shri Ram Narayan Singh to put his questions. He has given authority to two of us.

Mr. Speaker: If it is a doubtful authority, it will not do.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: If the authority is given to two persons, the authority may be cancelled.

Mr. Speaker: I should think the latter authority will prevail. What is the date of the authority given to the Honourable Member?

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: There is no date. I am not putting the question on his behalf, Sir.

DAMODAR VALLEY AND KOSHI SCHEMES.

731. *Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (on behalf of **Shri Ramnarayan Singh**): Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state the stages of Damodar Valley Scheme and the Koshi Scheme?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: As regards the Damodar Valley Scheme, the attention is invited to the reply given by me on the 2nd December 1947 to part (a) of starred question No. 506 put by Prof. N. G. Ranga. The Damodar Valley Corporation Bill has since been introduced in the Dominion Legislature on the 3rd December 1947.

Koshi Scheme.—Regarding Koshi Scheme, preliminary surveys and investigations are progressing according to plan. Surveys of dam site, reservoir area and a portion of the area proposed to be brought under irrigation have been completed. Designing of dams and appurtenant works and other surveys e.g. forest surveys, geological surveys, are in hand and making progress.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How much is this scheme expected to cost and how much area is likely to benefit?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: It has not yet been finally estimated.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it expected to benefit Bihar Province or which Province?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The provinces through which the Koshi river runs.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: We are not expected to be acquainted with all that. That is why I asked the Minister to inform us which Provinces are expected to be benefited.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Mostly Bihar, Sir.

Shri M. S. Aney: May I ask the Honourable Minister if it would be necessary for him to bring forward a Bill for the Koshi scheme on the lines of the Damodar Valley scheme?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: If it is found that two provinces are involved, it will be necessary.

Shri M. S. Aney: Is he in a position to state whether more than one Province is involved in this scheme?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That will depend upon the final report of the engineers.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know whether any agreement between the Government of India, Nepal Government and Bihar have been arrived at regarding the Koshi scheme?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: So far as survey matters are concerned, there has been some understanding with the Nepal Government.

PROSECUTION BY SIND GOVERNMENT OF R.S.S. WORKERS

732. *Shri M. S. Aney: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the fact that forty persons alleged to be R.S.S. workers in Sind are being prosecuted by the Government of Sind for offences punishable under Sections 121 and 122 of the Indian Penal Code, as published in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 24th November, 1947, under the caption "Plot to overthrow Pakistan Government"—"Charges against twenty R.S.S. Workers"?

(b) Do Government propose to instruct the High Commissioner of India at Karachi, to watch the proceedings and keep the Government of India duly informed of the progress of the case and give all the assistance the accused may need for their defence in Court and arrange for a proper treatment while in custody as under-trial prisoners?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Government have seen the press report referred to by the Honourable Member.

(b) The High Commissioner for India in Karachi has already been asked to report the facts and to make such recommendations as he may consider necessary. Government will decide if any action is necessary on receipt of his report.

RESETTLEMENT OF BURMA LABOURERS

733. *Shri Santanu Kumar Das: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state the number of unemployed labourers and workers who left Burma during the War and are now unable to return there to earn their livelihood?

(b) Do Government propose to provide them with work so that they may eke out a living?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) According to the Census of evacuees taken in November-December, 1948, 3½ lakhs of Indians evacuated Burma during the War. Of these, about 1,88,000 were labourers. These figures include women and children. Government have no information as to how many of them are unemployed at present or how many wish to return to Burma.

(b) It is now five years since the evacuation took place, and such evacuees must be treated as part of the general population. Government cannot undertake to make any special provision for them.

Shri Santanu Kumar Das: Has Government any information that the labourers from Orissa are not allowed to go to Burma?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Government has no such information, but I am quite prepared to believe that.

Shri Biswanath Das: In view of the importance of the question, may I request the Government to state whether they have completed negotiations between the Government of Burma and India on this question of free entry of Indians into Burma?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: That question is under consideration.

REFUGEES RESIDING WITHOUT SHELTER

734. *Shri Santanu Kumar Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state the number of refugees residing in India without shelter and protection from Government?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: There must be a number of refugees in India living with their relatives and friends there are others who are being assisted by philanthropic bodies and individuals; but it is not possible for Government to give their number.

Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand: Is it a fact that more than 1,50,000 persons in the Punjab and Delhi are still living in the open without any shelter?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am not in a position to give any definite reply to this question, but I do admit that there must be a number of people who are now living in the open, but their number is fluctuating, and I hope the number is getting gradually reduced.

Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand: Is it a fact that 50,000 of the persons in the Kurukshetra Camp, which is under the direct charge of the Government of India, are still living in the open?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: As a matter of fact I might mention it to the House that the Kurukshetra Camp was intended to accommodate a maximum number of 2 lakhs of refugees, but the refugees simply continue pouring in without any previous intimation; and what the Honourable Member has said may be substantially correct. I may let the House know that I propose to proceed to Kurukshetra immediately after the question hour is over.

Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand: Is it a fact that in Karnal and Panipat over 50,000 persons were brought by trains from West Punjab which was arranged by MEOs and they have been dumped there without any accommodation? Many of these persons have been there for weeks in Karnal and Panipat and various other places. Similarly in Ambala there are about 30,000 persons in places where they have no accommodation.

Speaker: Order, order. The Honourable Member is giving information. What is the question?

Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand: The question is whether the facts stated are correct.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am afraid I am not in a position to give any categorical reply to these questions because these matters are not directly under the control of the Central Government, but I feel sure that the position is not so bad as the Honourable Member has depicted it to be at the present moment.

Seth Govinddas: Is it not a fact that now the refugees who are in Kurukshetra are being sent to different provinces, and if it is a fact will the Government see that they are sent to different provinces at an early date before the terrible cold starts?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: As a matter of fact a few trains have already left, and it is with the object of discussing a programme for the dispersal of the Kurukshetra refugees that I shall be proceeding there today.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyaya: May I know what is the total number of refugees the responsibility for whose shelter and protection has been taken over by the Government of India up till now?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I should like to have notice of that question.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask, Sir, what progress has been made in regard to the suggestion that the Government of India should take charge of all refugee camps?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: This matter was debated the other day, and I am sure my Honourable friend remembers the reply that was given to this point by the Honourable the Prime Minister. He said, as far as I recollect, that the Government of India would be prepared to take over any responsibility from the East Punjab Government provided that Government agreed to such a course.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask whether the Government of India has approached the Provincial Government with a request to that effect?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am afraid that was not intended.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask my Honourable friend whether it is now intended to proceed with the request to the East Punjab Government that all camps should be taken over by the Government of India?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: This request is expected to come from them.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask my Honourable friend whether, in view of the dreadful condition in which these refugees find themselves, it is not the primary duty of the Government of India to initiate progress in regard to the suggestion?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: We have been in constant touch with the East Punjab authorities, and I may tell my Honourable friend that whenever we have brought any specific case to their attention, remedial measures have been taken.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: Will the Honourable Minister please state whether it is their policy to wait and see that the number of persons now living in the open will slowly get dwindled and reduced, or do the Government propose to take any steps to give them some protection or other?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The primary object of the Government is to reduce this number gradually by affording them necessary protection. Pending the time which may be needed for the purpose of dispersing them to different places where there may be adequate accommodation, the Government will do their best to provide shelter.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is there any truth in the rumour that there is a hitch between the East Punjab Government and the Government of India with regard to the refugee question?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. No questions of controversy will be permitted.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is it a fact that a large number of evacuees have been deliberately dumped at Kurukshetra to make the arrangements there impossible for the Central Government?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am not prepared to accept that statement.

Shri Santanu Kumar Das: May I know the names of the philanthropic organizations?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I should like to have notice of the question.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: What is the agency through which Government ascertains the number of refugees who are without shelter?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: It must necessarily be the agency of the Provincial Government.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know if it is a fact that so far as the movements of these refugees are concerned, they are controlled by MEOs which are directly under the Central Government?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: As a matter of fact, this was a question to which I think I gave some kind of an answer a few days back. The trains that come from Pakistan to India with non-Muslim refugees are controlled by the organization of the two MEOs at Lahore, and the destination of these trains in India is prescribed by the Pakistan authorities with a view to these trains taking out Muslim refugees from particular stations to which the non-Muslim refugees may be brought, and so that the trains may immediately be loaded with Muslim refugees who may be waiting there. This has really been the reason for the state of things to which Bakshi Tek Chand referred.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Does it not follow that the East Punjab Government has no hand in dumping the refugees in Kurukshetra or any other particular camp? The Provincial Government is in no way concerned.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: So far as this point is concerned, certainly.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Do the Government get any information, Sir, about the state of health of these people who have no roofs over their heads, and if so, what is the latest report like?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: As a matter of fact, the latest report about Kurukshetra which I got from the Director-General of Medical Services reached me yesterday evening. I am sorry I have not brought it with me, but he is perfectly satisfied with the state of health of the refugees, having regard to all circumstances.

Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand: Does it refer to Kurukshetra Camp alone or to other places?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The report relates to Kurukshetra.

Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand: What about other places?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The Director-General has not perhaps visited other places recently.

Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand: Will the Honourable Minister take any steps to ask the Director-General or some other officer of the Ministry of Health to look at the places, particularly Ambala, Panipat, Karnal, Jullundur, and Ludhiana?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am sure there will be reports available from the medical authorities of the East Punjab Government and I will lay them on the table if that is desired.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask whether the MEO organization has brought non-Muslims into the territory of India at any particular centre? Who takes charge of these refugees after they have been dumped on at that particular centre?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: They are expected to be taken charge of by the authorities of the locality, but it so happens that there is not sufficient intimation received by these authorities in time to enable them to make proper arrangements.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask my Honourable friend as to who takes charge for the purpose of dispersal from that particular centre, whose responsibility it is, the Government of India or the East Punjab Government?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: So far as the Kurukshetra Camp is concerned, it is the responsibility of the Government of India; so far as other areas are concerned, the local authorities are responsible.

Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar: Sir, do I understand that when these refugee trains reach Lahore and enter the Indian Dominion, the Government of India has not got the right to decide as to where these passengers should be detained?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: That is more or less so.

Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar: Sir, will the Government kindly give the reasons as to why, when the trains come into the Indian Dominion, the Pakistan Authorities should decide as to where the passengers are to be detained?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The arrangement was arrived at for the purpose of facilitating removal of Muslim refugees from India; therefore, the trains come to such places where there may be Muslim refugees to be cleared.

Shri M. S. Aney: May I ask whether it is the experience of the Honourable Minister that this arrangement is really facilitating the evacuation as they expected, or is it creating some difficulties?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I may inform the House that a corresponding arrangement operates in Pakistan; that is to say, we can nominate the places wherefrom the trains should originate for the purpose of collecting the non-Muslim refugees, and therefore the trains that go from here actually go to destinations which we prescribe.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saxena: The Honourable Minister suggests that in Kurukshetra there was room for two lakhs only but more people reached there; was any arrangement made by the Government of India to receive the additional refugees in some other camp and did these additional refugees come to Kurukshetra by mistake?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Government have done their best to receive and accommodate them at Kurukshetra.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saxena: My question is, Sir, whether any arrangement was made to divert the additional people elsewhere when the accommodation at Kurukshetra was full?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: There was no other camp in the neighbourhood; and it would have been cruel to divert them from Kurukshetra; we have been doing our best to look after them at Kurukshetra.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I know from the Honourable Minister whether the Government has any plan under consideration whereby they would correspond with the educational institutions of the other provinces—not only the educational institutions run by the Government but also those run by private enterprise—for making some provision for the girl students from among the refugees who are here?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am sure the question is under the consideration of the Education Ministry, but as far as I know there is no discrimination made between girls and boys in the matter of educational facilities to be provided for the refugees in the different Provinces. I might tell the Honourable the Lady Member that arrangements have been made in different Provinces—particularly by the Universities—for taking in refugee students.

پنڈت تھاکر داس بھارگو : کوروکھترا کے کیسپ کے متعلق ایک سوال کے جواب میں کہا گیا ہے کہ اس کا انتظام گورنمنٹ مکمل طور پر نہیں کر سکتی۔ جب گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا کے پاس اتنے resources ہیں اور وہ ایک کیسپ کا انتظام نہیں کر سکتی تو وہ پنجاب گورنمنٹ سے کس طرح توقع کر سکتی ہے کہ وہ شرنارتھیوں کے سارے کیسپوں کا انتظام کرے ؟

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: In reply to a question relating to the Kurukshetra Camp, it has been stated that the Government cannot manage it adequately. When the Government of India who has got so many resources is

- (b) How many such applications were granted and how many were rejected?
- (c) What total quantity of Jute has been allowed as quota for export?
- (d) What was the principle of distribution of quotas to different applicants?
- (e) Is it a fact that every applicant was required to deposit Rs. 50 with his application?
- (f) What was the total amount thus collected?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Exports of raw jute and jute goods are allowed through established shippers as well as through new-comers to the trade in the ratio of 90:10. From part (e) of the question it is presumed that the Honourable Member has in mind the applications made by the latter. On this presumption the answers to the questions put by him are as follows:

(a) Raw Jute	588	Applications
Jute Products	6,886	"
Total	7,474	

(b) Applications for new-comers quota in respect of raw jute are still under consideration. With regard to jute products 347 applicants were granted quotas and 6,539 applications have been rejected.

(c) The total quantity of jute manufactures allotted to new comers for export is 68,657 tons.

(d) Firms or individuals were selected for allotment on their fulfilling two essential conditions, viz.: (i) The selected firm should not have received an allotment as an established shipper under the 90 per cent. reserved for such shippers; and (ii) The firm should have produced evidence of having received firm orders direct from the importing countries concerned. Preference was given to those who had produced evidence of letters of credit also.

(e) Those who applied for new comer's quotas were required to forward a Treasury Receipt for Rs. 50 along with their applications.

(f) Rs. 3,73,700.

IMPORT OF OILS AND GREASES.

†738. ***Shri Ramnarayan Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state, countrywise, what quantity of assorted lubricant oils and greases were imported in the years 1945 and 1946?

(b) What are the names of the importing firms and the countries from which the oils were imported?

(c) What is the quantity of oil allowed to each firm for which licenses have been issued in the current year?

(d) How many of such importers are foreign companies and how many are Indian?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a), (b) and (c). I lay on the table statements containing the information desired by the Honourable Member.

(d) Of the 78 firms who have been granted licences during the current year, 26 appear to be foreign. I would add for the Honourable Member's information that licences for the import of lubricants and greases are issued freely without distinction.

†Postponed to be taken up in the second round, the member being absent; but could not be reached during question hour.

Statement showing the quantity and country of consignment of lubricating oils and greases imported in the years 1945-46 and 1946-47

Country of consignment	Lubricating oils in galls.		Greases in lbs.	
	1945-46	1946-47	1945-46	1946-47
U. K.	84,247	2,811,487	69,277	524,913
Iran	8,665,614	13,453,312	...	...
Palestine	...	18,084	...	...
Ceylon	8,304	4,987	565	128
Canada	225	198,809	38,400	...
Kenya Colony	...	900	...	...
Union of South Africa	1,390	900	...	48
Commonwealth of Australia	225,000	...	...	18,027
Egypt	...	58,495	1,580	668
Portuguese East Africa	1,350	...	...	...
United States of America	23,674,614	20,123,443	3,880,040	5,660,9
France	...	...	...	1
Maskat	...	...	...	5
Total	32,661,244	36,670,417	3,989,862	6,203,939

Note:—The above statement is based on information so far available for the financial years 1945-46 and 1946-47. Information for calendar years is not readily available. The information is confined to the Indian Union.

Statement showing the name of Importers in the Indian Union with countries of consignment of lubricating oils imported in the years 1945 and 1946

1945		1946	
Name of Importer	Country of consignment	Name of Importer	Country of consignment
M/s. Bombay Cycle Stores Co.	United Kingdom, U. S. A., Iran and Ceylon.	Burma Shell & Oil Co. Ltd.	United Kingdom, U. S. A., Iran and Ceylon
„ Caudies Filter (India) Ltd.		Indo-Burmo Petroleum Co. (India) Ltd.	
„ Hard Castle Waud & Co.		Nowrojee Wadia & Sons Ltd.	
„ Don Watson & Co. Ltd.,		C. C. Wakefield & Co., Ltd.	
„ C. C. Wakefield & Co. Ltd.		Silvertown Lubricants (India) Ltd.	

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unable to manage one camp, then how can it expect from the Punjab Government that it should make arrangements for all the Refugee Camps?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I do not admit the assumption that the Government of India are not in a position to make adequate arrangements for the refugees at Kurukshetra. What I was saying was that we had actually made arrangements for two lakhs of people and that number has been very largely exceeded.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: In view of the admission, Sir, that there is obvious inconvenience in the distribution of the refugees coming from Pakistan to India or going from India to Pakistan and that the only consolation is that we have got a retaliatory power, will not Government consider the advisability of stopping all these refugees at the border and making a re-distribution of trains at that point so as not to inconvenience either party?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: May I inform the Honourable Member that evacuation by trains is about to be over?

REPRESENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING COMPANY LTD., AT THE
CONFERENCE OF SHIPPING INTEREST IN BOMBAY.

†735. ***Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri** (on behalf of **Shri Ramnarayan Singh**): (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether it is a fact that one International Shipping Company Limited which had applied for being represented at the Conference of Shipping interest in Bombay, on the 3rd November 1947 was not invited while some other Shipping Companies were invited?

(b) What was the reason for discrimination in issuing these invitations?

(c) Do Government propose to encourage the shipping trade by allowing new companies to function even with chartered vessels?

(d) What is the policy of Government with regard to the association of non-shipowning companies in Conferences and Delegations intended to increase the tonnage of Indian Shipping in order to reach the target figure?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) and (b). As the main purpose of the Conference was to consider certain proposals of Government for the expansion of the activities of Indian Shipping Companies on a Joint Government-cum-private ownership basis, it was considered unnecessary to trouble companies, including the International Shipping Company, which had no tonnage of their own, and had no practical experience of the shipping trade.

(c) Government consider that from the point of view of making the best possible use of India's foreign exchange resources as well as in the ultimate interests of Indian Shipping, Indian Companies should be encouraged to purchase rather than charter ships.

(d) The practice in such cases is to secure the best possible representation having regard in each case to the specific matters to be dealt with by the particular Conference or Delegation.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask the Honourable the Minister, that so long as the tonnage is there, will licences be granted and dollar exchange made available for persons who have chartered ships instead of allowing this cargo from being shipped from place to place?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Each case will be considered on its merits.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What is the present position regarding tonnage, Sir, and the availability of tonnage for removing of the cargo? Is it not limited?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Yes; it is limited.

†Taken up in the second round.

EXPANSION OF INDIAN SHIPPING TONNAGE

†736. ***Shri Ramnarayan Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state what measures, if any, were decided upon in the Conference held recently in Bombay for the development and expansion of Indian Shipping?

(b) How many shipping companies were invited to the Conference and what are the names of those companies?

(c) How many non-shipowning companies are there in India and how many such companies were invited?

(d) What facilities do Government propose to give to the shipping companies to increase the tonnage of shipping in order to reach the target figure?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) As stated by me in reply to the previous question, Government placed before the representatives of shipowners for their consideration certain proposals for the rapid expansion of the activities of Indian shipping. No decisions were taken.

(b) Fifteen companies were invited to attend. A list showing the names of the companies is placed on the table of the House.

(c) Government have no precise information but as far as they are aware there are over fifteen companies which own no ships. None of these companies was invited to the Conference.

(d) Government will render all practicable assistance to Indian companies in building or purchasing additional ships. The proposals now before the shipping companies are specially designed to encourage rapid acquisition of tonnage.

List of Indian Shipping Companies invited for the Shipping Conference, held in Bombay on the 3rd November 1947.

1. The Scindia Steam Navigation Company Ltd., Bombay.
2. The Bombay Steam Navigation Co. Ltd., Bombay.
3. The Eastern Steam Navigation Co. Ltd., Bombay.
4. The Indian Co-operative Navigation & Trading Co., Ltd., Bombay.
5. Shri Ambica Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., Bombay.
6. The Oceanic Navigation Company Ltd., Calcutta.
7. The Malabar Steamship Co., Ltd., Bombay.
8. The New Dholera Steamships Ltd., Bombay.
9. The India Steamship Co. Ltd., Calcutta.
10. The Chandbali Steamer Service Co., Calcutta.
11. The Ratnagar Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., Bombay.
12. The Kalwarsund Co., Bombay.
13. The Merchant Steam Navigation Co., Bombay.
14. The Bharat Line Ltd., Bombay.
15. The Bengal Burma Steam Navigation Co., Bombay.

APPLICATIONS FOR JUTE EXPORT

†737. ***Shri Ramnarayan Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state how many firms or individual dealers applied for quota of jute export?

†Postponed to be taken up in the second round, the member being absent; but could not be reached during question hour.

1945		1946	
Name of Importer	Country of consignment	Name of Importer	Country of consignment
M/s. Caltex India Ltd	United Kingdom, U. S. A., Iran and Ceylon.	Phirozsha & Sons	United King- dom, U. S. A., Iran and Ceylon
„ Silvertown Lubricants (India) Ltd.		Shah Trading Co., Ltd.	
„ Valvoline Oil Co		National Petroleum Co. Ltd.	
„ Martin & Co		Imperial Trading Co.	
„ Burmah Shell & Oil Co Ltd.		V. R. Shāh & Co.	
„ Standard Vacuum Oil Co		Tulshidas Khimji	
„ H. J. Leach & Co. Ltd.		V. B. Kusumgar & Co.	
„ Narotam Karsondas & Co.		P. D. Gupta & Co.	
„ Kela & Co.		Greaves Cotton & Co. Ltd.	
„ Tide Water Oil Co., (India) Ltd.		Famous Transport Co.	
„ Indo-Burma Petroleum Co., Ltd.		Standard Vacuum Oil Co.	
„ Turner Hoare & Co.		Hardecastle Waud & Co.	
„ Lubricating Oils & Fuels (India) Ltd.		Narotamdas Karsendas & Co.	
„ H. J. Mehta		Caltex (India) Ltd.	
„ U. D. Patel & Co.		General Motors (India) Ltd.	
„ G. H. Lentin & Sons		Vavoline Oil Co.	
„ Motor & General Stores Supply Co.		Kela & Co.	
„ The Chartered Bank of India & China.		James Finlay & Co.	
„ Maitland Craig & Co., Ltd.		Lubricating Oils & Fuels (India) Ltd.	
„ Mills Stores		Tide Water Oils Co. (India) Ltd.	
„ Powells Ltd.		U. D. Patel	
„ Saraswathy Importing Co.		Don Watson & Co., Ltd.	
„ Grieves Cotton & Co.		Andrew Yule & Company.	
„ Parry & Co.		Jardine Skimmer & Co. Ltd.	
„ Taylor & Co.		Martin & Co.	
		Victor Oil Co. Ltd.	
		Saraswathy Cycle Trading Co.	
		Parry & Co.	
		Taylor & Co.	

Statement showing the quantities of Lubricating Oils and Greases allowed to each firm for which licences have been issued in the current year.

Serial No.	Name and Address of Licence Holder	Description of goods	Quantity
1	2	3	4
1	M/s. Silvertown Lubricants (I) Ltd., Calcutta.	(a) Lubricating Oils (b) Greases	(a) 12,81,810 I. G. (b) 652 tons-520 lbs.
2	„ Caltex (India) Ltd., Bombay.	(a) Lubricating Oils (b) Greases	(a) 18,93,275 I. (b) 553 tons-1930 lbs.
8	„ C. C. Wakefield & Co., Bombay.	(a) Lubricating Oils (b) Greases	(a) 9,16,045 I. G. (b) 171 tons-1760 lbs.
4	„ Standard Oil Vacuum Co. Bombay.	(a) Lubricating Oils (b) Greases	(a) 9,18,976 I. G. (b) 6,116 tons-406 lbs.
5	„ Hard Castle Waud & Co., Bombay.	(a) Lubricating Oils (b) Greases	(a) 60,000 I. G. (b) 147 tons-720 lbs.
6	„ Meto Lubricants Bom- bay.	(a) Lubricating Oils (b) Greases	(a) 25,000 I. G. (b) 4 tons-1040 lbs.
7	„ Burmah Shell Oil (India) Ltd., Bombay.	(a) Lubricating Oils (b) Greases	(a) 19,94,800 I. G. (b) 6 tons-0 lbs.
8	„ Patel's India, Bombay.	(a) Lubricating Oils (b) Greases	(a) 50,000 I. G. (b) 17 tons-1920 lbs.
9	„ Amichand Das Dwarka Dass, Madras.	(a) Lubricating Oils (b) Greases	(a) 14,76,000 I. G. (b) 75 tons-0 lbs.
10	„ American Oil and Tra- ding Co., Ahmedabad.	(a) Lubricating Oils (b) Greases	(a) 81,092 I. G. (b) 13 tons-880 lbs.
11	„ Tide Water Co. (India) Ltd., Calcutta.	(a) Lubricating Oils (b) Greases	(a) 6,00,000 I. G. (b) 147 tons-720 lbs.
12	„ Freedom Kalholina Oil Co., Calcutta.	(a) Lubricating Oils (b) Greases	(a) 68,125 I. G. (b) 8 tons-480 lbs.
13	„ Bombay Mercantile, Bombay.	(a) Grease	275 tons-0 lbs.
14	„ T. Biramji & Co., Bombay.	Oils	41,500 I. G.
15	„ Nelson Petroleum Co., Bombay.	Grease	25 tons-0 lbs.

Serial No. 1	Name and Address of Licence Holder 2	Description of goods 3	Quantity 4
16	M/S. Duncan Bros. Co. Ltd., Calcutta.	Grease	12 tons.
17	„ Arjun Das Gupta Bros., Calcutta.	Do.	11 tons:1360 lbs.
18	„ Betco Ltd., Calcutta	Oils	45,000 I. G.
19	„ Atlas Trading Co., Calcutta.	Do.	8,100 I. G.
20	„ Surya Bros., Calcutta	Do.	20,000 I. G.
21	„ Phoenix Oil Co., (India) Ltd., Delhi.	Do.	67,500 I. G.
22	„ Motor General Stores Supplying Co., Bombay	Do.	6,30,000 I. G.
23	„ H. J. Leich and Co. Bombay.	Do.	3,25,850 I. G.
24	„ Chandu Lal T. Parikh, Bombay.	Do.	63,250 I. G.
25	„ Overseas Trading Co., Sialkot.	Do.	13,500 I. G.
26	„ Getty Bros & Co., Bombay.	Do.	2,25,000 I. G.
27	„ Danlal & Co., Murta-zapur.	Do.	80,000 I. G.
28	„ Martin & Co., Calcutta	Do.	1,84,770 I. G.
29	„ Chundri Sreromulce, Ellore.	Do.	5,850 I. G.
30	„ National Petroleum Co., Bombay.	Do.	1,40,000 I. G.
31	„ Mangal & Co., Calcutta	Do.	2,00,000 I. G.
32	„ J. Byron & Co., Bombay	Do.	9,000 I. G.
33	„ Toyal & Co., Hissar	Do.	3,00,000 I. G.
34	„ Prabhat Trading Co., Jamnagar.	Do.	9,000 I. G.
35	„ E. M. N. Sure, Bombay	Do.	13,500 I. G.

Serial No. (1)	Name and Address of Licence Holder (2)	Description of goods (3)	Quantity (4)
36	M/S. Asian Trading Co., Bombay.	Oils	1,500 I. G.
37	„ The Kela Co., Bombay	Do.	22,040 I. G.
38	„ M. C. Shah & Co., Calcutta.	Do.	22,500 I. G.
39	„ M. M. Robindernath, Bombay.	Grease	8 tons—1080 lbs.
40	„ Madhuns & Co., Bombay	Oils	25,000 I. G.
41	„ Girdhari Lal & Co., Karachi.	Do.	1,35,000 I. G.
42	„ India Motor Trading Co., Bhavnagar.	Do.	5,400 I. G.
43	„ Maya Shanker P. Pathani, Bombay.	Do.	1,00,000 I. G.
44	„ Parnand Manik Lal & Co., Bombay.	Do.	4,500 I. G.
45	„ Electric Trading Co., Bombay.	Do.	50,000 I. G.
46	„ A. R. Mookerji & Co., Calcutta.	Do.	90,000 I. G.
47	„ Janson Oil Co., Calcutta	Do.	90,000 I. G.
48	„ Indo Burmah Petroleum Co., Ltd., Calcutta.	Do.	24,000 I. G.
49	„ Balmer Lawrie & Co., Ltd., Calcutta.	Do.	3,00,000 I. G.
50	„ United Oil Co., Cawnpore	Do.	90,000 I. G.
51	„ Kilburn & Co., Calcutta	Do.	10,000 I. G.
52	„ Kaye Marden & Co., Calcutta.	Do.	1,00,000 I. G.
53	„ Greaves Cotton & Co., Bombay.	Do.	1,14,244 I. G.
54	„ P. K. Agneer, Bombay	Do.	10,000 I. G.
55	„ Shanti Lal Phulchand Shah, Bombay.	Do.	1,00,000 I. G.
56	„ Atlantic Oil Co., Calcutta.	Do.	90,000 I. G.
57	„ M. A. Malik & Co., Bombay.	Do.	50,000 I. G.

Serial No.	Name and Address of Licence Holder	Description of goods	Quantity
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
58	M/S. U. D. Patel & Co., Bombay.	Oils	13,500 I. G.
59	„ Valji N. Thakar, Bombay	Do.	5,40,000 I. G.
60	„ Farmego Ltd., Bombay.	Do.	4,50,000 I. G.
61	„ Hindustan Petroleum Co., Calcutta.	Do.	25,000 I. G.
62	„ Skri & Grover, Karachi	Do.	7,55,000 I. G.
63	„ Getz Bros. & Co., Bombay.	Do.	2,25,000 I. G.
64	„ Bhagwan Bulchand Malkani, Bombay.	Do.	53,000 I. G.
65	„ Mutual Co., Ltd., Bombay.	Do.	50,000 I. G.
66	„ Don Matson & Co., Ltd., Calcutta.	Do.	5,00,000 I. G.
67	„ Turner Hoare & Co., Ltd., Bombay.	Do.	2,02,500 I. G.
68	„ Sreepati Bros., Bezwada	Do.	8,595 I. G.
69	„ National Corporation Ltd., Lahore.	Do.	25,000 I. G.
70	„ Nowrowsji Wadia & Sons, Ltd., Bombay.	Do.	24,100 I. G.
71	„ Continental Oil Co., Madras.	Do.	9,000 I. G.
72	„ V. L. & Co., Bombay	Do.	10,500 I. G.
73	„ Vajinath & Co., Karachi	Do.	18,000 I. G.
74	„ S. N. Kashyap Bros., Lahore.	Do.	1,00,000 I. G.
75	„ G. H. Lentin & Sons, Ahmedabad.	Do.	9,000 I. G.
76	„ Sales Corporation, Bombay.	Do.	67,500 I. G.
77	„ Narottan Das Karam Das & Co., Bombay.	Do.	60,000 I. G.
78	„ Universal Oil Corporation, Lahore.	Do.	10,500 I. G.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1539

STAY IN INDIA OF MR. SATCHELL A SOUTH AFRICAN WHITE

739. *Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. Satchell, now at the Christa Prema Seva Sangh, Poona, is a South African White;

(b) whether it is a fact that he had championed the cause of Indians in South Africa and was imprisoned for his participation in the Indian Satyagraha movement;

(c) whether he had been in India before and if so, when;

(d) whether Government are aware of the purpose of his present visit to India;

(e) whether in coming to India he had fulfilled all the conditions imposed on South African Whites under the Reciprocity Act;

(f) whether Government are aware that before he disembarked in Bombay, he was taken to the police station;

(g) what action the police took before discharging him; and

(h) whether in view of his championship of Indians' cause in South Africa and the purpose of his present visit to India, he will be permitted to stay in India as long as he wishes?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) It is reported that he spent six years in India, his last visit to India being in 1938-39.

(d) Yes.

(e), (f) and (g). Information has been called for and will be laid on the table of the House when it is received.

(h) Government will consider any such request favourably.

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: May I know what is the real policy of the Government of India towards the entry of South African whites into this country?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The question does not arise from the reply given.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Arising from (b) may I know whether this is a British organisation or a Hindu organisation; whether it refers to Shri Krishna or Jesus Christ?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It is obvious.

MOVEMENT OF EAST BENGAL HINDUS TO WEST BENGAL

740. *Pandit Hriday Nath Kunzru: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state what is the number of Hindus who have moved from East Bengal into West Bengal since the 15th August 1947?

(b) Have Government established any organization to provide accommodation for them and arrange for their maintenance?

(c) Is a steady exodus of Hindus from East Bengal going on?

(d) If so, what is the approximate number of Hindus arriving every week in West Bengal?

(e) What is the exodus due to?

(f) Have Government taken up the matter with the Government of East Bengal?

(g) If so, what is the result of the negotiations?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) No detailed check has been made but it is estimated by the Government of West Bengal Province that approximately 2 lakhs Non-Muslims have arrived in West Bengal from East Bengal since the 15th August, 1947.

(b) The Provincial Government have reported that the majority of these evacuees appear to possess means with which to rehabilitate themselves. No large scheme of relief and rehabilitation has, therefore, been undertaken so far. For genuinely destitute persons who have migrated into the Nabadwip district, a former military camp is being used as a camp.

(c) The exodus is still continuing but at a reduced pace.

(d) No estimate of the approximate number is possible.

(e) The main cause is panic arising from alleged threats of violence; in some cases it was economic boycott by the majority community.

(f) and (g). The question of discussing the entire situation with the Pakistan Government is under consideration.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: As this exodus has been going on now for months, how is it that the Government of India are still considering the question of taking up the matter with the Pakistan Government?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: As the Honourable Member would realise, we depend upon the West Bengal Government to a very large extent in assessing the nature of the problem and the reports that reached us from West Bengal did not indicate the necessity of taking any definite action.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: When did the Honourable Minister of the Government of India come to know of the magnitude of the exodus?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Well, we made enquiries a few days ago and the result is what I have stated in reply to the Honourable Member's question.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Does the Honourable Minister mean that but for the enquiry made by the Government of India, the West Bengal Government would not have informed him of the scale on which the exodus was going on?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The West Bengal Government has been in touch with the Government of India, but I do not know if they gave any definite information requiring action on the part of the Central Government.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: May I ask the Honourable Minister if he can give me information regarding the number of people who are without any accommodation and who need relief?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am afraid this question does not arise from the present question. But I could make enquiries on the point raised.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Will the Honourable Minister make enquiries now?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Yes, if the Honourable Member so desires. As I have already said, according to the West Bengal Government, the evacuees appeared to possess means with which to rehabilitate themselves, apart from a number of persons who have proceeded to Nabadwip district and who have been accommodated in camps.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: Is Government aware that there is a very large number of women also who are destitute and have come across from East to West Bengal and arrangements for their accommodation and training are provided for by private organisations, and thus it is not correct to say that they are all able to rehabilitate themselves?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: We have to depend upon the Provincial Government for information on all these various points, and I have stated what

I have obtained from the Provincial Government in reply to the various questions.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Minister, now that he has got information from the Honourable the lady Member, make enquiries?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: We shall pass all the points that have been raised by the Honourable Members to the Provincial Government and I expect they will send us their replies in the near future.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyaya: May I know from the Honourable Minister what is the nature of assistance that has been sought by the West Bengal Government from the Central Government and what is the assistance that has been given to the West Bengal Government by the Central Government?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I do not recollect having received any request for assistance from the West Bengal Government in this matter.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Has there been any discussion about this matter so far between East and West Bengal Governments?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I have no definite official information on the point, but I understand there have been discussions.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyaya: The Honourable Minister has stated that about 2 lakhs refugees have come over from East to West Bengal. May I know up to what date does this figure relate?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Up to a few days ago, according to information received from West Bengal Government.

Shri K. V. Kamath: In answer to part (a) the Honourable Minister has referred to the movement of "Non-Muslims" from East to West Bengal. Does the Honourable Minister mean, by "Non-Muslims" Hindus only or all communities barring Muslims?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I would not definitely state that there were no other Non-Muslims evacuated from East Bengal. It is in these terms that we have received information from West Bengal Government.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: May I know the number of Muslims who have gone from West to East Bengal?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am afraid the question does not arise. However, I have not got that information.

DEATH OF BHAI PARMANAND

Mr. Speaker: Before we proceed to the next item of business, I, on behalf of the House, express the deep sorrow which all of us feel on account of the sad demise of Bhai Parmanand, who was a member of this House 12 Noon for about 15 years. He had a brilliant academic career and served his country to the best of his ability at great sacrifice. We are all very sorry that he has left us, and our sympathies naturally go to the members of his family. The House, by this reference may record its sense of sorrow and sympathy for the family of the deceased by Honourable Members standing and then resuming their seats.

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): Sir, before you proceed with the agenda, I have got to make a complaint. I got the papers this morning at 10 O'clock and I find that except for items Nos. 19, 20 and 21, in all the other new items included in the agenda are new and we must have some time to look through these matters and read them. I suggest, Sir, that arrangements should be made to give us at least 2 clear days' notice of motions. Otherwise, there is no time for us to table amendments.

Mr. Speaker: We will consider that point. The Honourable Member means to say about certain consideration motions that he did not know which specific motion was coming for consideration today. Of course, that is an important point. I will see to it that no inconvenience is caused and I will also see what is possible so far as waiving of notices of amendments is concerned.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U. P.: General): Will the Honourable the Speaker waive the rule in connection with the amendments that may be tabled with reference to the Bills before the House today?

Mr. Speaker: It is very difficult just to say generally about all such cases. It will depend upon the importance of the Bill, the nature of the amendment, the wishes of the House and so many other things. I cannot generally decide and say that in all cases I shall waive notice. I will consider each case on its merits and I will give each member all chance of having an equitable and just treatment in so far as tabling of amendments is concerned and if the Honourable Members have not got sufficient time, that fact and other circumstances will be taken into consideration.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

INTERRUPTION OF ELECTRIC SUPPLY BETWEEN JANGPURA AND NIZAMUDDIN ON THE 1ST DECEMBER 1947

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether Government are aware that there was a serious interruption of electric supply in the area between Jangpura and Nizamuddin of New Delhi on the evening of Monday, the 1st December 1947?

(b) Are Government aware that similar interruptions have taken place frequently in the last two months?

(c) Have Government made any enquiry in this connection and if so, what is the result of such enquiry and what steps have Government taken or propose to take to avoid such repetitions in the future?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). From enquiries it appears that electric supply was interrupted on four occasions in certain areas. The first interruption for two minutes on the night of 1st October 1947 was due to a fault in a pole mounting box. Supply of electricity was made available by an alternative route within two minutes. The second interruption was on the 5th October 1947 for 10 minutes due to drop of steam pressure in the boilers of the Central Power House. The third interruption for two minutes occurred on the 2nd November 1947 due to a transient fault in the mains of the Electric Lane Sub-Station in New Delhi. The fourth interruption on the night of 1st December was due to a stout piece of galvanised iron wire being thrown on the overhead high tension line between Nizamuddin and Jangpura. The New Delhi Municipal Committee who are in charge of this high tension line have made full enquiries and are considering the question of preventive measures. The Honourable Members will no doubt appreciate the difficulty of taking preventive measures against deliberate mischief.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I ask the Honourable the Minister whether Government had any information at all that deliberate mischief was really caused by any individuals or any group?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: If we only get that definite information, the men will be behind the prison walls.

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: May I know what was the duration of the last interruption on 1st December.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: It occurred three times at an interval of 10 minutes each.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Was any sabotage suspected and if so, were the police investigating the matter?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sabotage is not definitely suspected, but the matter has been reported to the police.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is the Honourable Minister aware that there was a break-down yesterday morning as well between 5 and 6 O'clock.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: As there was ample light, the Honourable Member did not notice it.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: If the Honourable Member is awake by that time, he will know that there is no light after 6 O'clock.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The Honourable Member is an early riser.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

Zulum on Harijans in PAKISTAN.

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of an adjournment motion from the Honourable Mr. Nagappa and two others and the subject-matter for adjournment is:

"The *Zulum* exercised on *Harijans* in Pakistan areas by compelling them to embrace Islam and preventing them from crossing the borders of Pakistan to come over to the Indian Union."

Whatever the importance of the matter, it does not come within what the rules prescribe as 'urgency' and I do not think therefore this motion.....

Mr. Nagappa: Sir, I do not wish to move it.

ELECTION TO ALL-INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION

آنریبل مولانا ابولکلام آزاد : جناب ! میں یہ تجویز پیش کرتا ہوں اس اسمبلی کو چاہئے کہ اُس طریقہ پر جسکو کہ آنریبل سپیکر منظور کرے اپنی تعداد میں سے پانچ ممبروں کو چنے یہ چنے ہوئے ممبران اُس آل انڈیا کونسل فار ٹیکنیکل ایجوکیشن کے ممبران ہونگے جسکو کہ گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا نے قائم کیا ہے ۔

جناب ! اس سلسلے میں میں صرف یہ کہنا چاہتا ہوں کہ ۱۹۶۵ ع میں یہ کونسل قائم کیا گیا اور اسوقت لیجسلیچر سے اس میں تین ممبر رکھے گئے تھے ۔ ایک کونسل آف سٹیٹ کی طرف سے اور دو لیجسلیٹو اسمبلی کی طرف سے ۔ اسکے بعد یہ تعداد ۱۹۶۶ ع میں بڑھائی گئی ۔ اور کونسل آف سٹیٹ کی طرف سے دو اور لیجسلیٹو اسمبلی کی طرف سے ۵ ممبران اس میں رکھے گئے ۔ اب ۱۵ اگست سنہ ۱۹۴۷ ع کو جیسا کہ آپکو معلوم ہے یہ پچھلے دنوں لیجسلیچرس ختم ہوئے اور انکی جگہ اسی دوماںہیں لیجسلیچر نے لی ۔ جب یہ مسئلہ منسٹری کے سامنے آیا تو اسہات کی ضرورت محسوس ہوئی کہ اس میں کچھ تبدیلیاں ہونی چاہئیں چنانچہ

چہ تبدیلیاں کی گئیں اور یہ قرار پایا کہ اس سال پانچ ممبران اس ہاؤس سے اس
نسل میں لئے جائیں۔

(English translation of the above speech)

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (Minister of Education): I move:

"That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as may approved by the Honourable the Speaker, five persons from among their own numbers be members of the All-India Council for Technical Education constituted by the Government of India."

Sir, in this connection I simply want to say that this Council was set up in 1945 and at that time it constituted of three members elected by the Legislature; one from the Council of State and two from the Legislative Assembly. Afterwards, this number was increased in 1946, and two members from the Council of State and 5 from the Legislative Assembly were included in it. As you are aware, these two former legislatures ceased to exist with effect from 15th August and have been replaced by the present Dominion Legislature. When this matter was brought up before the Ministry, the necessity was felt that some changes should be made in it. Consequently certain changes were made and it was decided that during the current year, five members from the House should be included in this Council.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Members of this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as may approved by the Honourable the Speaker, five persons from among their own numbers be members of the All-India Council for Technical Education constituted by the Government of India."

Shri M. S. Aney (Deccan and Madras Group): Sir, may I know why the membership which, as drawn from the Council of State and the Assembly, used to be seven is now reduced to five?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: اس بارے میں ہم نے قانونی منسٹری سے مشورہ کیا تھا۔ اور انہوں نے یہ رائے دی اس میں صرف پانچ ممبر کافی ہیں۔ اور سات کی ضرورت نہیں ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: In this connection we consulted the Ministry of Law, who expressed the opinion that it was quite sufficient to have only five members and that seven were not necessary.

श्री एम० एस० अणे: क्या सात से तकलीफ होती है?

Shri M. S. Aney: Was seven an inconvenient number?

مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: سات ممبر ضرورت سے زیادہ تھے

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Seven members were more than necessary.

श्री शिवन लाल सक्सेना: इस کمیٹی میں کل کتنے ممبر ہیں۔

Shri Shibban Lal Saksena (U. P.: General): How many members constitute this Committee?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: چونکہ اس میں ریپریزنٹیشن مختلف جماعتوں کی ہے۔ اس لئے وہ سب ملا کر اسکی تعداد اکاون یا بارن ممبران کی ہوتی ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: It consists of representatives of various classes, therefore taking all these together, their number comes to 51 or 52.

مسٹر حسین امام: کیا انکی اس تعداد میں بھی کچھ کمی کی گئی یا کہ صرف ممبران لیجسلیچر کی تعداد میں کمی کی گئی۔

Mr. Hussain Iman (Bihar: Muslim): Was any reduction made in respect of their number also, or only the number of members of the Legislature were reduced?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: انکی پوری تعداد میں کمی نہیں کی گئی لیکن یہ رائے قائم پائی کہ لیجسلیچر سے جز پانچ ممبران لئے جاتے تھے وہ بھی گائی ہیں۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: No reduction was made in the total number, but it was decided that the number of five members which are elected from the Legislature is quite sufficient.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh (C. P. and Berar: General): Will the Honourable Member take into account the request of this House and raise the number to seven?

Mr. Speaker: It is for the House to decide. There are so many Committees on which a large number of Members are working. But that is a matter of opinion and it is for the Honourable Minister to consider whether he will increase the number or not if the House so desires.

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: منسٹری نے پانچ کی تعداد کافی سمجھی اور میں یہ سمجھتا ہوں کہ ممبران کی تعداد سات تک کرنے سے کوئی خاص فائدہ نہیں نکلیگا۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The Ministry considered the number of five quite sufficient, and I think that no useful purpose will be served by raising the number of members to seven.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): Sir, the desire to increase the number expressed an earnest desire to work and to take an increasing part in the affairs of Government; it is not just for the sake of increasing the number.

Mr. Speaker: That is always presumed. The question is:

"That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the Speaker, five persons from their own numbers to be members of the All-India Council for Technical Education constituted by the Government of India."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform Honourable Members that for the purpose of election by means of the single transferable vote of members to the All India Council for Technical Education the programmes of dates will be as follows:

1. Nominations to be field in the Notice Office upto 12 noon on Wednesday the 10th December.

[Mr. Speaker]

2. Election, if necessary, will be held on Thursday, the 11th December, in the Assistant Secretary's room (No. 21) in the Council House between the hours of 10-30 A.M. and 1 P.M.

INDIAN COTTON CESS (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad (Minister for Agriculture): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Cotton Cess Act, 1923.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Cotton Cess Act, 1923."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

SALARIES OF MINISTERS BILL

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Minister for Home, Information and Broadcasting and States): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the salaries of Ministers.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the salaries of Ministers."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

AJMER-MERWARA (EXTENSION OF LAWS) BILL

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Minister for Home, Information and Broadcasting and States): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the extension of enactments to the Province of Ajmer-Merwara.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:—

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the extension of enactments to the Province of Ajmer-Merwara."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

FEDERAL COURT (ENLARGEMENT OF JURISDICTION) BILL

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Minister for Law): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the enlargement of the appellate jurisdiction of the Federal Court in Civil cases.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the enlargement of the appellate jurisdiction of the Federal Court in Civil cases."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

EXTRA-PROVINCIAL JURISDICTION BILL

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Minister for Home, Information and Broadcasting and States): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to provide for the exercise of certain extra-provincial jurisdiction of the Central Government, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

This Bill was referred to a Select Committee and their report is practically unanimous except on one point on which a minute of dissent has been appended by certain members. There are also several amendments of a similar type from several Honourable Members. But it is a short measure intended to fill a gap which arose out of the lapse of Paramountcy: As I have stated before Government had to intervene because in certain areas by the lapse of Paramountcy there was no authority at all and there was a danger of anarchy prevailing there. The Bill has with reference to a limited part of the country where non-jurisdictional or semi-jurisdictional States are situated, such as Kathiawar in Western India and Manipur round about that area. I think this is an absolutely non-controversial measure: an Ordinance is in existence and this Bill is based more or less on that Ordinance. I will not take any more time of the House. Sir, I move.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the exercise of certain extra-provincial jurisdiction of the Central Government, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras General): Sir, I welcome this Bill. It is wholly non-controversial and I will not take up much time of the House. But I want to make one point. I am glad that the Honourable Minister has made it clear that this House has the right to pass Bills relating to areas which are not only under our jurisdiction today but may come under our jurisdiction hereafter. The Preamble states:

"Whereas by treaty, grant, usage, sufferance and other lawful means, the Central Government has, and may hereafter acquire, jurisdiction in and in relation to areas outside the Province of India:"

This is amplified in the definition of 'extra-provincial jurisdiction' and in clause 3 where it is said:

"It shall be lawful for the Central Government to exercise extra-provincial jurisdiction in such manner as it thinks fit."

Sir, you may remember that yesterday this question came up as to whether this Assembly can pass a Bill which refers to jurisdiction which may hereafter come under its powers.

It was argued that we cannot have a speculative measure and I am glad that this point is made clear and I congratulate the Home Member on it.

Kazi Syed Karimuddin (C. P. and Berar: Muslim): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill as reported by the Select Committee be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon."

Sir, I fully realize that the matter under discussion is very delicate and I should not make any statement to complicate the relations between the States and the Union. I also realize that the relation between the States and the Union are in a great state of confusion, because we have to depend only on the Instrument of Accession. I fully realize that the Member in charge of the States has a stupendous work in establishing relations between the states and the Union and that he has been doing it with admirable skill.

Before I come to the particular provisions of this Bill, I submit that every one of us is looking forward to a time when there is no distinction between a

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[Kazi Syed Karimuddin]

Union Province and a State. The direct relationship between the States and the British Government was created only to avoid this day—that they should be away from the Government of India.

The Preamble of this Bill, Sir, is:

"Whereas by treaty, grant, usage, sufferance and other lawful means, the Central Government has, and may hereafter acquire, jurisdiction in and in relation to areas outside the Provinces of India:"

After the Independence Bill was enacted in Parliament all the relations between the States and the Government of India lapsed. In his speech in the House of Lords, Lord Listowel said:

"Clause 7, sub-section (1) and the proviso to the clause deal with relations with the Indian States. Your Lordships will remember that the Cabinet Mission in their memorandum of May 12, 1946, informed the States that His Majesty's Government would in no circumstances transfer paramountcy to an Indian Government. To that pledge we firmly adhere to. We are therefore proposing that from the date when the new Dominions are set up the Treaties and Agreements which gave us suzerainty over the States will become void and the States will be masters of their fate."

Now, Sir, the legal position is that after paramountcy lapsed, there is no usage, no sufferance, no grant, except the Instrument of Accession by virtue of which the States have acceded to the Union. The Instrument of Accession is very clear on this point:

"I hereby declare that I accede to the Dominion of India with the intent that the Governor-General of India, the Dominion Legislature, the Federal Court and any other Dominion authority established for the purposes of the Dominion shall, by virtue of this my Instrument of Accession, but subject always to the terms thereof, and for the purposes only of the Dominion, exercise in relation to the State of such functions as may be vested in them by or under the Government of India Act, 1935, as in force in the Dominion of India."

"I hereby assume the obligation of ensuring that due effect is given to the provisions of the Act within this State so far as they are applicable therein by virtue of this my Instrument of Accession."

"I accept the matters specified in the Schedule hereto as the matters with respect to which the Dominion Legislature may make laws for this State."

The relations between the States and the Indian Union are based on contract or on terms specifically mentioned in the Instrument of Accession and not based on usage, sufferance or grant. The wording in this Bill used regarding usage, sufferance and grant will be inconsistent with the terms of the Instrument of Accession. After paramountcy lapses, there is no usage, sufferance or grant that can continue. All these relations which existed between the Crown and the States have lapsed.

The Law Minister while arguing yesterday said that there could be no legislation on any matter which is not provided in the Government of India Act and Schedule. Now, the passing of this Bill with these words which I have already quoted, will be inconsistent with the terms of the Instrument of Accession. Therefore my submission is that in view of the provisions of the Independence Act, in view of the provisions of the Instrument of Accession, the words used—"grant, usage, sufferance" must be deleted.

Another matter which I want to bring to the notice of the House is Clause 6 of the Bill. Clause 6 of the Bill mentions:

"If in any proceeding civil or criminal, in a Court established in the Provinces or by the authority of the Central Government outside the Provinces, any question arises as to the existence or extent of any extra-provincial jurisdiction of the Central Government, the Secretary of the Government of India in the appropriate department shall, on the application of the Court, send to the Court the decision of the Central Government on the question, and that decision shall for the purposes of the proceeding be final."

The interpretation of the treaties, the interpretation of special terms of the Instrument of Accession and other terms between the States and the Indian

Union will be decided by the Secretary to the Government. If any such law point arises in a court of law about jurisdiction, the opinion and the findings of the Secretary of the Union will be final. My submission is that if contractual relations are established, if relations are based on terms of agreement by treaty or accession then it should be open to the judicial Court or the Federal Court of India or some other Court to interpret such terms and it should not be left to the executive authority vested in the Secretary to Government. The Government of the Union or the Secretary cannot be a judge and a party at the same time. Such a valuable right of interpretation regarding jurisdiction should not be vested in the executive in the person of the Secretary to Government. My submission is that with a view that the States may not be alarmed, we should not pass any law which is inconsistent with the Instrument of Accession.

I have moved this motion that the opinion of those concerned and those who are interested in the problem should be taken before such a Bill is enacted and brought on to the statute book.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member has used the words "eliciting opinion". Whose opinion?

Kazi Syed Karimuddin: The States and those interested in the matter.

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That the Bill as reported by the Select Committee be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon."

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Sir, I am surprised that this motion has been moved for circulating the Bill for eliciting opinion. The Bill is one which is absolutely harmless, which affects nobody, except, as I have said, where there is a possibility of a vacuum being created. I do not think there is any need for the States which have acceded to us to suspect anything in this Bill. The representatives of the States are here, almost all of them, and I do not see any point why a reference is to be made to them. I wish to make it clear that there is no desire to encroach upon the authority of any State. The object of the Bill, as I have made it abundantly clear (and it ought to be the object of every body in this House, even of the representatives of the States) is that in the Union of India or in any area outside the provinces within the Union of India there cannot remain any spot over which there is no jurisdiction. We cannot allow any such thing and therefore this Bill is introduced in order to legalise the existing Ordinance, the promulgation of which became necessary when on the 15th August there were certain areas in Western India and in the Eastern Agency and certain other areas where there were pockets over which there was no jurisdiction. Besides, apart from the Instrument of Accession, there have been cases where it has become necessary for the smaller states, even for their own protection, to approach us to take over jurisdiction. I would quote the instance of the Nilgiri State near Orissa where there was complete anarchy and danger of the ruler being killed. The ruler himself sent us telegrams and the people also approached us saying that there was going to be complete anarchy and violence and misrule. Uneducated people were incited and they took into their heads that there was neither the British rule nor any other authority, as paramountcy had lapsed. Such a state of affairs cannot be allowed. This was an acceding State which approached us to take over the whole administration. Therefore we had immediately to instruct the District Magistrate of the neighbouring area to go into the state with adequate forces and take over the administration. We received numerous congratulatory telegrams in this connection. We must remember that there are about four or five hundred petty or small states in which these conditions are likely to arise. This was contemplated by the Political Department before they left and tried to bring about mergers, groups or coalitions but these were all artificial arrangements, under which in spite of all

[Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel]

their efforts conditions are likely to arise when we may have to step in. We tried our best on behalf of the Government of India or on behalf of the States Department to give no cause to even the smallest state to feel that the Government had any design or intention to set up any paramountcy or any other authority except with their consent or their agreement. If there is a vacuum and there is nobody to step in, it would be a dangerous thing to allow. Therefore we have in this Bill introduced a phraseology which is copied from another enactment. Phraseology like "treaty, grant, usage, sufferance or other lawful means" has been taken from another enactment and there is no reason to suspect or doubt our *bona fides*. Therefore, as I said, there is no need for the circulation of the Bill, as it has been considered by the Select Committee. Even as regards consideration by a Select Committee I thought it was unnecessary. The states' representatives thought that it should go to a Select Committee and so I agreed. Sir, I oppose the motion. I have made it abundantly clear that there is no room for suspicion. I hope that the motion will be withdrawn.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): Sir, I sincerely thank the Honourable Minister for making the position absolutely clear. It is not now therefore necessary for me to support the motion for circulation; but the sentiments expressed by the Honourable Minister should I think be clearly put down in the text of the Bill. It is from that point of view that I have tabled several amendments. The object of my amendments is to secure clarification. If it is not intended to affect the present relations which have been created by the Government of India Act and the Indian Independence Act—a relation which is now purely contractual, then there is no harm in making it clear. As the Bill stands its terms are much wider than the orally declared object of the Bill. It is from that point of view, to secure clarification by the use of suitable phraseology, that I have tabled my amendments.

It is no doubt true that the wording "treaty, grant, usage, sufferance and other lawful means" has been taken almost bodily from the English enactment, the Extra-territorial Jurisdiction Act, 1890. But the circumstances prevailing when the Foreign Jurisdiction Act was passed the Rules relating to India thereunder were framed, were entirely different from what they are today. At this stage, when the motion for consideration is before the House, I need not go into much detail but I shall do so later on in connection with the amendments. Briefly the position that I would take is this. At the time when the Foreign Jurisdiction Act of 1890 was passed by the Parliament, the relation between the Crown and the various colonies was not dependent upon any treaty or grant alone but it was a question of gradual growth, a question of common law, which is peculiarly the English way of developing the law. When the English Act was adopted in India by means of suitable rules, the Indian (Foreign Jurisdiction) Order in Council, 1902, the same phraseology was used, because at that time the relation between the Crown and the States largely upon usage, sufferance and other lawful means. It is a well-known fact that the British Government did not acquire power in India by means of any statute or treaty on any particular day. The development of British power in India is a matter of slow growth. No one can say on what date, by what document, by what specific Act the British Government obtained jurisdiction over the States in India. The relations were than certainly dependent upon "grant, treaty, usage, sufferance and other lawful means." But since the Indian Independence Act was passed the Government of India Act has been amended in accordance therewith. On and from the 15th August the relation between the Crown and the Indian States has completely changed. From usage and other vague and undefinable sources of authority we have now come to contracts. It is definitely laid down that the relation between

the Government of India and the States would depend upon the Instrument of Accession or supplementary Instruments as the case may be. The Honourable Minister has been pleased to explain that there have been requests from some small States for interference, That would really be equivalent to an Instrument of Accession.

It is to make this point clear that I have tabled those amendments. I do not think any useful purpose will be served by sending the Bill for circulation, provided these points which are adequately covered by the proposed amendments are considered in the House and given effect to. On these considerations I should submit that the House should rather proceed with the consideration of the Bill.

As regards the amendment proposed by my friend Kazi Syed Karimuddin, it is a very substantial one, namely that these facts should be brought to the notice of the public, especially of those who are interested—for instance the States—and their views taken. But I believe that the States are represented here and there are also Members in the House who would always be ready to do justice to them. In these circumstances, when the point is clearly before the House, I think the matter can be adequately and properly dealt with here and now on the floor of the House. It is from this point of view and in the hope that the amendments will receive full consideration in the House that I think I should not support the motion for circulation.

The Honourable the Minister for Law yesterday made a very remarkable admission that this House has no jurisdiction to pass any law or accept any amendment which would go outside the scope of the Instruments of Accession or supplementary Instruments of Accession so far as the States are concerned. I should, at a later stage, very respectfully ask the Honourable Minister to stick to that statement because if that view is right—and I have not the least doubt that it is absolutely right and constitutional and is the proper view—I should then think the Bill should require careful revision in the House.

I think, Sir, it is not permissible to discuss or even to refer to matters which took place in the Select Committee. I would not therefore refer to them. I have carefully considered the Bill and I think its terms will lead to a great deal of complications. I shall submit my suggestions at the proper time when the appropriate amendments come before the House. At present I should rather support the motion for consideration of the Bill.

Shri N. Madhava Rau (Eastern States Group): Mr. Speaker, Sir I had not intended specifically to support this amendment. But after the explanation that has been given by the Honourable Minister as to the intentions of this Bill I feel that I ought to give expression to my views on this subject.

Looking to the Statement of Objects and Reasons, the Bill would appear to be a simple, if not a routine, measure of legislation; but the text of the Bill belies this impression. From the remarks which have fallen from the Honourable Minister I am led to think that this Bill rather marks a significant change of policy in relation at least to some of the States. While the Statement of Objects and Reasons specifically mentions "the semi-jurisdictional and non-jurisdictional States of Western India, Manipur, etc.," the Bill itself is not confined to these States, and the use of the word "etc." in connection with the Statements of Objects and Reasons seems to be rather unusual. The Honourable Minister assured the House that there is no intention of extending this measure to any States which had signed the Instrument of Accession. But he immediately also instanced a case in which the States Ministry had intervened, apparently under the only authority of usage and sufferance. With the passing of the Indian Independence Act all rights of paramountcy had ceased. In the Cabinet Mission statement this was made explicitly clear and the Indian Independence Act reproduces it in unmistakable language. It says:

"As from the appointed day the suzerainty of His Majesty over the Indian

[Shri N. Madhava Rau]

States lapses, and with it, all treaties and agreements in force at the date of the passing of this Act between His Majesty and the rulers of Indian States, all functions exercisable by His Majesty at that date with respect to Indian States, all obligations of His Majesty existing at that date towards Indian States or the rulers thereof, and all powers, rights, authority or jurisdiction exercisable by His Majesty at that date in or in relation to Indian States by treaty, grant, usage, sufferance or otherwise."

Consistently with this, the Government of India Act provides for the States executing Instruments of Accession and Standstill Agreements. In other words, the only source of authority for the Central Government today in respect of States, irrespective of whether they are semi-jurisdictional or non-jurisdictional, is by means of Agreements. The Agreements have already been executed. The Act provides a method for enforcing those Agreements, and I do not see why the States Department of the Dominion Government should seek a supplemental source of authority which no longer exists. I am afraid that this piece of legislation is somewhat wrongly conceived because it seems to apply to Indian States, which form part of the Dominion, the law that was in force under the Foreign Jurisdiction orders formerly. We cannot have a rule of law and at the same time claim the right of interference at discretion under the power alleged to have been derived by usage or sufferance. The two seem to be quite inconsistent. The relations of Indian States today, with the Central Government irrespective of their size or importance, are constitutional or contractual and not feudal.

There seems to be a little confusion in invoking the aid of usage and sufferance in addition to the powers (that are fairly ample) given under the Instruments of Accession, standstill agreements and any other supplementary agreements that may be made in future. I therefore support the amendment proposed by the Mover.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not support the amendment moved by my Honourable friend. There is a difference. The first set agreed to abide by the jurisdiction of the Dominion Legislature in regard to matters of Defence, External Affairs and Communication. The second set added to that instrument of accession a further clause stating that the Dominion Legislature may exercise criminal and civil jurisdiction over their States in all the ways in which the Paramount Power was exercising before the 15th day of August 1947. It is to give effect to that that this Bill has been brought into existence. It is true that the Dominion Legislature must have a right either constitutional or otherwise, by treaty or agreement. Clause 1 of that treaty, which is part I and printed as part II of the Instrument of Accession relating to different sets of States whose names are included in Schedule B, definitely contains a clause stating that the Dominion Legislature can enact laws and exercise jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters in respect of those States and this Bill gives effect to it. I do not know how this piece of legislation is *ultra vires* or tries to grab a jurisdiction which is not conferred. As a matter of fact it is conferred. What exactly is the manner by which that jurisdiction is being exercised by the Crown if not by treaty. It might have been by treaty or by agreement or by sufferance or by usage. In all those matters they themselves openly entered into an agreement that similar jurisdiction may be exercised by the Dominion Legislature. Therefore Sir, I do not see any reason why the amendment ought to be accepted.

Shri Lal Mohan Pati (Mayurbhanj State): Mr. Speaker, Sir, The Central Government seeks to get power for the purpose of dealing with matters arising in any area outside the jurisdiction of any province. Now evidently it includes areas outside the provinces, that is some State or States in India. Now by the Independence Act and also by the announcement publicly made by the Cabinet Mission, it is very clear that since the transfer of power by the British Government, all existing agreements between the British Crown on the one side

and the Indian States on the other arising out of any treaty, engagement, *sanad*, agreement or usage ceased to exist. That is, the States became so many sovereign States, and it is on the basis of this sovereignty of the States that subsequently some of the States entered into some relationship with the Government of India by what is called the Instrument of Accession. Now the terms and obligations arising out of the executed instruments of accession are the only basis by which any action to be taken by one of the parties to the agreement, be it the State or be it the Government of India, can be determined. That being so, the use of the words in the preamble "treaty, grant, usage, sufferance and other lawful means" appear to be not only very vague, but would appear to be rather very misleading and rather fraught with much misgiving. Again clause 6 of the Bill is still more ambiguous and appears to be for the purpose of conferring power on the Government itself constituting as the sole judge on any dispute which may ever arise regarding the existence of any usage or any jurisdiction between the State on the one side and the Government of India on the other side. Now what I beg to ask and put before the House is that if there is any instrument of accession executed by any State on one side and the Government of India on the other, that instrument is the only basis by which powers might have been derived by the Government of India for the purpose of either interfering or exercising any jurisdiction in or in relation to any affairs in any such State. That being so, this does not seem to be quite in consonance with the terms of the instrument of accession. The use of the words usage and sufferance make the Bill more dangerous. In view of this ambiguity and this dangerous position of the matter, I fully support the amendment, and further observe that the whole Bill may again be referred to a Select Committee.

Shri Yudhisthir Misra (Eastern States Group): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I oppose the amendment which has been moved by Honourable Mr. Kazi Syed Karimuddin, and I support the Bill moved by the Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Sir, I can assure the Honourable Minister on behalf of the people of Orissa and Chhattisgarh States that they have got full sympathy with the object of this Bill. It is contended by those who support the amendment that the Government of India has no authority to intervene and that the opinion of the public should be taken in this matter. Sir, as has been rightly observed by the Honourable Minister, the popular representatives from the States are present in this House and it is unnecessary to send this Bill for eliciting public opinion. Those representatives represent the popular wishes and they are in a position to say what the people want. Now after the lapse of paramountcy it is said that the Government of India does not exercise any jurisdiction which the previous British Government used to do on account of treaty, usage and sufferance. Sir, as you know, there are certain very small States not only in Orissa and Chhattisgarh, but in other parts of the country, the authority of which is quite incompetent to keep the peace in those particular States. As for example it has been rightly instanced by the Honourable Minister that a situation did arise in Nilgiri where the intervention of the Indian Government was necessary. In Nilgiri there were so many elements which were instigated by interested parties who created disturbances in that State. Sir, if the ruler who has made an agreement with the Government of India is unable to keep the State in peace, if he cannot rule the State according to the wishes of the people, is it the intention of this House that the poor people of those States should be left to the mercies of these people who want to butcher them, kill them, and do anything they like? Sir, much has been made of the legal position of these States. According to my opinion, authority which is derived from usage or sufferance cannot go away simply because the British Government said, "The paramountcy lapses, and we do not want to take responsibility". As far as I understand the law, the usage which

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[Shri Yudhisthir Misra]

is there still remains, even for the Government which comes in place of the previous Government.

Therefore, for the safety of the people and tranquility in the States, the Government of India which is a people's Government, should come to the rescue of the people of the States wherever necessary. When there is no authority in the States, when there is anarchy or disturbance, the Government of India should exercise the authority as has been contemplated in this Bill. Therefore, on behalf of the people of the States, I oppose the statements made by some of the Honourable members from the Eastern States Agency. I wholeheartedly support the Bill and recommend that this Bill be passed.

Shri M. S. Aney (Deccan and Madras States Group): Sir, the point raised by my Honourable friend Kazi Karimuddin is that by virtue of the lapse of paramountcy and Section 7 of the Indian Independence Act, the position to which the Government of India is now reduced is of such a nature that they can under no circumstances make any law which has got some bearing upon the position of the States that have acceded to the Dominion of India. That is the position which he has taken.

Sir, whenever there is a question of curtailment of jurisdiction, it is necessary to construe the law very strictly and not give it any wider extension. If this rule of interpretation is accepted, I have no doubt that Section 7 of the Independence Act which is invoked by my Honourable friend in favour of his argument, takes away only one thing and nothing more than that: and that is what may be called the lapse of suzerainty or lapse of paramountcy. Whatever is conveyed by the term "suzerainty" or "paramountcy", that was the right which the Crown had over the State, and that right is taken away. Any new developments or relations that may take place during this period by agreement, or usage or by sufferance or by other lawful means, have been left completely untouched by Section 7. It is true, so far as the Crown is concerned all those relations have completely ceased because the Crown has ceased to exist in this country. Therefore the wording which is there—

"all powers, rights, authority or jurisdiction exercisable by His Majesty at that date in or in relation to Indian States by treaty, grant, usage, sufferance or otherwise have lapsed".

only applies to the Crown. But those who have come after, here in power can only accept Section 7 to this extent that they will not exercise the right of paramountcy as Successor Government. But if certain circumstances arise in which the interference is in the interests of law and order, I say there is nothing to prevent it under the Section.

Therefore, what we have next to see is this, whether it directly conflicts with anything that is contained in the Instrument of Accession. So far as I have read it, I believe it is not directly inconsistent with it. There may or may not be occasion for the exercise of that right in any particular State, but there is nothing inconsistent in taking enabling powers which can be used only in a lawful way; and the lawful way presumes that either there must be a justifiable occasion for the State to exercise these powers or that the party and the people who are concerned give the lawful power to the Dominion Government to exercise administration or jurisdiction over those territories.

I say this, that the effect due to "usage, sufferance or other lawful means" which are mentioned here and any relations which have developed on account of that, remains unimpaired by Section 7 of Independence Act. If that is the position in theory, there is nothing objectionable, in my opinion, in having a Bill of this kind and asking this House to vote for the Motion which the Honourable the Minister for States has put before it. There is no advantage in ascertaining the opinion of the States on this point because there were

representatives of the States in the Select Committee; and I believe those representatives of the States who were on the Select Committee are probably the most towering persons who can be trusted as being the proper custodians of the rights and interests of the States as well as the states-people. Having discussed the matter with them and come to certain conclusions which may be taken as a result of a compromise made in the Select Committee, there is nothing to be gained by sending back the Bill for opinion to the States; actually they may not be able to throw any more light on this matter. I therefore think that the motion should be supported by the House.

Shri B. H. Munavalli (Deccan and Madras States Group): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I take this opportunity to support the motion of the Honourable Minister. The Honourable Minister has made it quite clear that certain circumstances arose when it was not possible for the Dominion Government to interfere. I am supporting this view of the Honourable Minister on behalf of the Deccan States people because in the Deccan States now a Union has been formed by the Rajas without the consent of the people. I apprehend there will be a struggle between the Rajas and the people if it is thrust on the people. The people have already declared that they will start *Satyagraha*. Under such circumstances, if there is *Satyagraha*, chaos may arise and the Union Government may have to interfere. If this Bill be not passed and is delayed, and if such circumstances arise, then things will be altogether hopeless. I therefore support this Bill which seeks to strengthen the Central Government to interfere in such matters, and oppose the amendment.

श्री गोकूल भाई भट्ट : सभापति जी, मैं इस विषय पर बोलना नहीं चाहता था, पर जब कि कई मित्रों ने या एक दो मित्रों ने आपत्ति उठाई है तब मैं भी एक छोटी सी रियासत के प्रतिनिधि की हैसियत से यहां आया हूं और मुझे भी कुछ बोलने का अधिकार है।

मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि १५ अगस्त के बाद आज दिन तक जिस प्रकार से States Ministry काम कर रही है और जिस दक्षता पूर्वक वह काम कर रही है उसे देखते हुए हमें किसी प्रकार का डर नहीं होना चाहिये कि हमारी रियासतों के अन्दरूनी कारोबार में यह States Ministry कोई दखल देगी लेकिन हमने यह देखा है कि जहां तक राजा और प्रजा दोनों के बीच में कोई क्लेश, कलह या मतभेद होता है तो States Ministry उसको आपस में ही मिटा देने की सलाह हमें देती है।

अब यह बिल जो यहां आया है वह बिल तो उस ordinance की जगह पर है जो ordinance अगस्त की १५ तारीख से जारी है, और उसी ordinance की जगह पर यह बिल आ रहा है। अगर उस ordinance के बारे में किसी को कोई विरोध होता तो अब तक वह विरोध दाखिल हो जाता। लेकिन मैं समझता हूं और मैंने जहां तक देखा है वहां तक अभी किसी भी State ने ऐसा नहीं किया है लेकिन जो non-jurisdictional ताल्लुके, States या छोटी छोटी जगहें हैं जहां कोई कारोबार नहीं और जहां कारोबार के लिये ब्रिटिश गवर्नमेंट ने एक अलग तरीका अख्तियार किया था वहां के कारोबार को संभालने के लिये और उसको अच्छी तरह से चलाने के लिये जो ordinance निकाला गया उस ordinance

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

STATEMENT RE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE DOMINIONS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN ON THE QUESTION OF DIVISION OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES ETC.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Minister for Home, Information and Broadcasting and States): Sir, before we proceed with the debate regarding the Bill, I have to make a short statement in connection with the negotiations that were going on between the two Dominions on the question of division of assets and liabilities and other allied questions. I am glad to say that there has been complete unanimity on these questions. Therefore, I will read this short statement:

A series of high-level discussions has been held in Delhi and Lahore during the last fortnight between the representatives of India and Pakistan to settle all outstanding issues between the two Dominion Governments relating to partition, including those affecting the Armed Forces. These discussions were conducted in a spirit of friendliness and goodwill. Complete agreement has been reached on all these issues. No references will now be made to the Arbitral Tribunal and those already made will be withdrawn.

The major issues on which settlement has been reached are:

- (1) Division between the two Dominions of the cash balances of the undivided Government of India as on 14th August, 1947.
- (2) The ratio in which the uncovered debt of the undivided Government of India being the excess of the liabilities over assets should be divided between the two Dominions.
- (3) The manner in which Pakistan would discharge its share of the public debt to India.
- (4) The division of the sterling balances between the two Dominions.
- (5) The division of military stores between the two Dominions.
- (6) The ordnance Factories.

A detailed statement will be made by me later in the session on the settlement reached on these and other items.

During the course of these discussions, problems relating to the property of refugees, bank accounts and safe deposit vaults were also considered. Both Governments reaffirmed the principle that the ownership of the property, both movable and immovable, of refugees continues to vest in the refugees. Custodians have been appointed to look after and manage the property on behalf of the refugees. Both Governments appreciate the anxiety of the refugees in this matter and are engaged in working out schemes relating to problems connected with the property of refugees, such as the sale of property and the transfer of sale proceeds and the extent to which exchanges of property would be permitted etc. These schemes will be discussed between the two Governments firstly at the official level in the third week of December, and as soon thereafter as possible at the Ministerial level.

A full statement regarding the policy governing the operation of safe deposit vaults, arrangements for the safe transfer of such deposits, and the transfer of bank accounts between the two Dominions will be issued within the next few days.

This is the general statement that I am making today. A detailed statement will be made by me either tomorrow or day after as soon as the statement

is ready. This will give an idea of the amount of work that has been done and the issues that have been settled between the two Governments so far as the partition of assets and liabilities and allied questions are concerned. It leaves no question to be decided by the Arbitral Tribunal. To that extent we have done the work very satisfactorily. I know there is considerable anxiety in the House and outside about the main question which gives us trouble; that is the question of Kashmir. That question is not before the Partition Committee and it is no part of this reference, but the manner and the method the time, and the process by which these will be executed will be decided later, but I can only announce this today that we are all anxious that if it is possible all issues should be settled including that of Kashmir, as far as possible simultaneously. Every effort will be made to that end; if it is not successful, we shall act in a manner which is to the best interests of the Dominion of India.

EXTRA-PROVINCIAL JURISDICTION BILL—contd.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Minister for Law): Mr. Speaker, I stand to make just a few observations in order to clear some of the doubts and suspicions which have been expressed by Members of the Assembly who have so far taken part in the debate.

Sir, the one point which was made by the Honourable Mover of the amendment was that this Bill was reviving the jurisdiction of paramountcy which was abolished by the Indian Independence Act. Now, it is quite true that the Indian Independence Act releases the Indian States from all the obligations that were imposed upon them by virtue of paramountcy. But, I think, what that means is this, that the Dominion Government cannot as a succession State inherit the jurisdiction which arose out of paramountcy. It means nothing more than that; it does not mean that any Indian State could not confer by an agreement upon the Dominion Government the rights and jurisdictions which were exercised by the British Government as against that Indian State. I think that point has been clearly lost sight of, and I should like to repeat it again that what the Independence Act means is this; that the Dominion Government cannot be regarded as a succession State to the British Government in so far as Paramountcy is concerned. It certainly does not mean that if an Indian State chooses, for reasons which it thinks are imperative, to confer jurisdiction of the analogous type that arose out of Paramountcy upon the Dominion Government, there is anything either in the Government of India Act or in the Indian Independence Act to prevent that Indian State from doing so. I think that point has to be clearly borne in mind. When the question is raised as to which are the Indian States to which this particular Bill and its provisions would apply, the answer to the question must be related to the Instruments of Accession which have been passed by the various Indian States in favour of the Dominion Government of India. Therefore in order to understand what are the States to which this Bill applies, what we have to do is to go to the Instruments of Accession and find out what is contained therein. As the House knows, so far as the accession of Indian States is concerned, they are divided into three categories: (1) fully jurisdictional States, (2) semi-jurisdictional States and (3) non-jurisdictional States. All the three classes of States have passed, barring a few exceptions here and there, Instruments of Accession in favour of the Indian Dominion. Now if Honourable Members were to refer to the Instrument of Accession passed in favour of the Dominion of India by States which fall in class (2) they will realise that their Instrument of Accession contains this very important clause

(श्री गोकुल भाई भट्ट)

को जाइर जायइ विल आता है वत में नहीं समझता कि रियासतों के प्रतिनिधि मेम्बर साहब हैं वह क्यों घबराने हैं। क्या हो जायगा ? नीलगिरि का दृष्टान्त दिया गया है जिससे यह बहम उनको पैदा होता है कि शायद हमारी छोटी States में यह States Ministry दखल देगो। लेकिन मुझे इतमीनान है, हम छोटी States वाले भी इसे विश्वास के साथ कह सकते हैं कि यह States Ministry अगर हमारी छोटी रियासतों के काम में दखल देने के लिये आयेगी, जब हमारे हुकूम वगैरह की हिफाजत में दखल देने आएगी तो हम States Ministry को भी कह सकते हैं कि आपका यह दखल हम बर्दाश्त नहीं कर सकते हैं। यह हम प्रजा की हैसियत से कह सकते हैं, पहले जमाने में, १५ अगस्त के पहले राजा लोग Political Department की तजवीज से जिस तरह से चाहते थे मदद लेते थे। हम लोग इस प्रकार की उलझन में पड़े रहते थे कि हमको मदद नहीं मिलती थी और हम एक तरह से मारे जाते थे। उस समय अलग सवाल था आज हमारी States Ministry और हमारे सर्दार वल्लभभाई पटेल, हमारी गवर्नमेंट इस रीति से काम कर रही है कि हमें विश्वास है कि वह किसी के ऊपर अन्याय नहीं कर सकते हैं न वहां के राजा के ऊपर और न प्रजा के ऊपर। इस प्रकार की जहां States Ministry काम करने लग गई है वहां किसी प्रकार से मन में खौफ लाना या एक प्रकार का शुबह लाना नाजायज चीज है और उसको निकाल देना चाइये।

हमारे मित्र ने कहा कि वहां etc. (एम्स्ट्र) शब्द लिखा है उससे भय पैदा होता है। मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि हमारी गवर्नमेंट के पास इतने काम पड़े हैं और वह इन स्टेटों के कारोबार में कभी घुसना नहीं पसन्द करेंगे क्योंकि उनके पास बहुत से काम पड़े हैं। हम लोग जो स्टेट के लोग हैं वह इतनी ताकत हासिल कर चुके हैं कि स्टेट का अपना कारोबार हमारे राजा के छत्र के नीचे जिसे Responsible Govt. कहते हैं वही Responsible Govt. कायम करके हम चलाने वाले हैं और इसमें हमको यहां की सरकार की पूरी मदद मिलेगी, यानी कारोबार को चलाने के लिये सलाह मिलती रहेगी।

मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि राजपूताने की जो रियासतें हैं वहां तो कमसे कम कोई ऐसा डर नहीं है, और यह विल जिसका मकसद यह है कि वह छोटी छोटी तालुकदारियां हैं, जहां बन्दोबस्त नहीं है, कारोबार नहीं है, वहां का इन्तजाम करने के लिये आया है। उसकी हमें पूरी तरह ताईद करना चाहिये और हमें किसी प्रकार का खौफ नहीं रहना चाहिये कि उसमें क्या होगा। मैं छोटी रियासतों की तरफ से यह विश्वास दिलाना चाहता हूं कि States Ministry जिस तरह से काम कर रही है उसी तरह अगर काम करती रहेगी तो हम उनके साथ हैं।

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri Gokulbhai Bhatt (Eastern Rajputana States Group): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I did not intend to speak on this issue. But when so many of my friends, or more precisely, a couple of them have taken this trouble, I feel as a representative of a small state that I have also the right to say something.

I like to say that after the 15th of August the way the States Ministry has been working and the astuteness and dexterity it has been exhibiting in handling the States issues should remove our fears that this Ministry will unnecessarily poke its nose in the internal affairs of the states. We have rather witnessed that whenever any tangles, conflicts or differences of opinion have arisen between the State rulers and the Ruled, the States Ministry has advised us to make mutual settlements.

The Bill that is before us now is only to replace the Ordinance which has been current from the 15th of August. It is the Ordinance in whose place this Bill is being brought. If anybody had any objections to this Ordinance, these objections must have been put on record by this time. I have observed and my reading is corroborated, that no state has so far done it. In the case, however, of 'non-jurisdictional' talukas, states and other such small territories where there was no proper Administration, the British Government had adopted another mode of Administration. When an Ordinance had already been in existence for running this Administration smoothly, I wonder why the States Representatives feel upset if the Ordinance is given the shape of a Bill. After all what will happen? The example of Nilgiri has been quoted. Perhaps this puts a doubt into their minds that the State Ministry will interfere with the affairs of our small states. I am sure, and we of the small states can say it with confidence, that if this States Ministry meddles with the Administration of the Small States, if it interferes against the safety of our rights, we can tell the States Ministry also that we cannot tolerate its interference. We can say this being the subject of the State. In the past, before the 15th of August, the Princes had been using the suggestions of the Political Department in whatever way they thought proper. We were always in such a fix that we never got the help. In a way, we were oppressed. It was a different matter then. Today our States Ministry, our Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and our Government are working in such a way that we can rest assured that nobody will be subjected to injustice, neither the Ruler of a State nor its subject. Where we have such a States Ministry, it does not behove us to harbour any such fear or suspicion. These thoughts must be expelled from our minds.

My friend pointed out the word 'etc'. He thinks it gives birth to fears. I like to say that our Government is already over head and ears busy with so many other affairs that it will never like to interfere in the Administration of the States. We who come from the States have gathered so much strength that we are bound to have what is called a 'Responsible Government' with a Prince as its Constitutional Head. For running this 'Responsible Government' we will be getting help from the Indian Government i.e. we will be always getting advice for running the States Administration.

I have to say, Sir, that at least the Rajputana States need have no such fear. This Bill aims at making proper arrangements for the administration of the small talukas which have no proper administration. We must fully support this Bill and should never have any fear about what is going to happen. On behalf of the small states I want to assure this House that if the States Ministry continues to work as it has been, we of the small states shall always be lending our help to it.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Minister will reply after Lunch.

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

[Dr. B. R. Ambedkar]

which, in order to remove all doubts and suspicions, I propose to read with your permission, Sir. This is the paragraph 1:

"And I further declare that the Dominion of India may through such agency or agencies and in such manner as it thinks fit exercise in relation to the administration of the civil and criminal justice in this State all such powers, authority and jurisdiction as were at any time exercisable by His Majesty's representative for the exercise of the functions of the Crown in its relation with the Indian States."

That, I submit is a very important clause in the Instrument of Accession passed by the semi-jurisdictional States. Now if my Honourable friends will turn to the third category of States and read the Instrument of Accession passed by them, it reads as follows:

"Whereas . . . of the said State or Taluka, am desirous that the Dominion of India should exercise in relation to the said *taluka* or state all the powers and jurisdictions which were exercisable before such attachment by His Majesty's representative for the exercise of the functions of the Crown in its relation with the Indian States," etc.

This is a clause which finds a place in the Instruments of Accession of the States falling in the second category or the third category; it has not found a place in the Instruments of Accession passed by the States which fall in the first category, namely, fully jurisdictional States. Obviously two things follow from this. The first is that this Bill does not apply to those States whose Instrument of Accession does not contain this clause; secondly, that this applies only to those States whose Instrument of Accession contains such a clause and which have voluntarily granted to the Dominion Government the rights, whether they arose out of treaty or sufferance or usage, which were exercised by the British Government; they have transferred them voluntarily to the Indian Dominion, and they may do so in future. Now the point is that all that the Bill does is this that wherever any State has granted to the Dominion jurisdiction by virtue of its Instrument of Accession the Central Government will have the legal authority to exercise that jurisdiction. There is no case of usurpation at all; it is merely giving legal authority to rights and jurisdictions which have been voluntarily transferred by the Indian States to the Dominion of India. Therefore the first thing that I should like to emphasise is that there is no clandestine effort in the Bill to usurp any authority as against any Indian State which has not voluntarily surrendered its authority in this respect to the Dominion Government. I think that ought to put at rest all the doubts and suspicions which have been expressed in this House with regard to this Bill. And I do not think that if Honourable members bear in mind what I have stated there will be any necessity for very many of the amendments which I find on the order paper.

I do not want to say anything more because that is all that I wanted to say, but my Honourable friend Mr. Santhanam while making his observations on the Bill said that there was an inconsistency in the position which I took yesterday and the position as it arises from this Bill. I think my Honourable friend Mr. Santhanam must have completely misunderstood what I said yesterday. What I said then was that having regard to the fact that the Nursing Bill had reference to entry No. 16 in the concurrent legislative list there was never any possibility of the Dominion Government acquiring any jurisdiction because the Instruments of Accession and the Indian States have made it absolutely clear that if they at all join the Indian Union they will join it only with respect to list No. 1 which is a Federal List, and that too with respect to some subjects only. Therefore my contention was that there was not even the remotest possibility, having regard to these circumstances, that the Indian Dominion should acquire any jurisdiction. And so any sort of legislation which he wanted to be introduced by his amendment to clause 1 would be purely speculative. Here so far as this Bill is concerned, there is nothing inherently impossible in the Indian Dominion acquiring further jurisdiction of an extra-provincial character, and therefore a legislation which looks

at the application of this by anticipation would not be speculative because the possibility is always there. I therefore submit that there is no inconsistency in the two positions I have taken.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Sir, I believe that there is a lot of misunderstanding about the exact purpose and the intention as to the operation of this Bill in spite of my having made the position clear. Therefore I want again to make it clear that there is no intention on our part to assume in any form or shape or to take the place of Paramountcy. Paramountcy is dead and gone and nobody laments or mourns it. There is no reason to think that because paramountcy has disappeared there is going to be no power in India: the Government of India proposes to function as a Government and will not leave vacuum or anarchy in any part of India whatever happens. That must be understood clearly, because it is neither in the interests of the States nor of the States' people nor of India. But it must also be understood that this Bill is not intended to serve the purpose of entering into places where there is a conflict between the people and the State. It is not the purpose of the Bill. The purpose is to step in where there is a vacuum and I do not think anybody will take exception to it. This Bill originated in this sense because several States were attached to bigger States. A large number of States were attached to Baroda: several States were attached to Jamnagar, some to Junagadh and some to others. Some objection was raised to some of these attachments. Some States were forcibly attached against their will by the Political Department. This issue was fought out in a civil court. A special commission was appointed by the Political Department before which, I remember Sir Chimanlal Setalvad appeared and argued the case on behalf of the States and that court which was appointed by the Political Department gave a decision that the attachment scheme was not legal and eventually it was legalised by Parliament passing a short Bill.

Now when paramountcy lapsed, these attached States were detached automatically. So the Parliament Act also did not justify or legalise the continuance of the attachment after the lapse of paramountcy. The States to which they were attached also announced that they did not want them because they found it a burden. Some of these small States were semi-jurisdictional and some non-jurisdictional and they were in such a state that they could not discharge their functions with any degree of responsibility. What is to happen to the people of these States? If we did not intervene, there was a possibility of complete lawlessness there. We were approached by the States as well as the people that we should take over these directly under the Central Government. Therefore we drafted an Instrument of Accession of two separate kinds: the first one was of the full jurisdictional States—the first class States. They had to accede. But these smaller States were of two varieties—one semi-jurisdictional State and some non-jurisdictional. Now we drafted two different Instruments of Accession for them, the relevant portions of which my Honourable friend, the Law Member has read out to you and under which we assumed jurisdiction and provided for a machinery for the exercise of that jurisdiction, e.g. for the establishment of courts and other necessary paraphernalia, we took over that jurisdiction by an Ordinance because there was no Legislature sitting.

Now is the opportunity for legalising the matter. In drafting the legislation, we took the phraseology from the Foreign Jurisdictions Act. The words there are:

"Whereas by treaty, capitulation, grant, usage or sufferance, and other lawful means":

We only drop the word "capitulation" and we agree to put in the word "agreement". The rest is kept intact. We use this wider phraseology in order to meet any contingency in any area where perchance there may be no

[Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel]

authority. So far as the full jurisdictional States are concerned, there is no reason to fear. In my speech in the morning I referred to the Nilgiris States. It was suggested that it was an improper interference by usage. On the contrary it was an interference by agreement because the State itself handed over and the people also approached us. They have not taken exception to it and they are very glad that we interfered.

I will suggest for the consideration of the House an instance in which, supposing there is a minority regime. During the period of the regency the minor disappears or dies, and the regency abdicates as has happened in some instances. Then there is no authority because there is no heir, and there is nobody to assume authority. Then we have to take a wider phraseology and accommodate all such instances where there are small areas in which such instances are likely to happen. So when we legislate, we do not want to come again for such emergencies with a separate Bill. Therefore, we have adopted a wider phraseology. At the same time I wish to draw the attention of the House that this is also a temporary measure, because you will see that when the permanent constitution is passed, then all these things will disappear. Then again, as this is a temporary measure to meet an emergency which arises out of a sudden disappearance of paramountcy, you will have to see that there is no cause given to any State or any people for any apprehension. Therefore, we have taken care, and as I have told you that in the administration of the Ordinance we have taken so much care that up till now no complaint has been received, and I have no doubt that no complaint will be received. There can be no desire on our part to assume jurisdiction by means of legislation. But I may be permitted to say that the States have no fear of encroachment on the part of the Government of India by means of legislation. They have every reason to fear if they do not progress with the times and do not meet the legitimate demands of the people.

Mr. Speaker: I am first putting the amendment to the House. The question is:

"That the Bill as reported by the Select Committee be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Speaker: I shall now put the original motion to the House. The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the exercise of certain extra-provincial jurisdiction of the Central Government, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I beg to move:

"That for part (a) of clause 2 of the Bill, the following be substituted, namely:

"(a) 'extra provincial jurisdiction' means any jurisdiction which the Central Government has acquired or may hereafter acquire—

- (i) in respect of any acceding State or of any State which may hereafter accede to the Dominion, by virtue of the Instrument of Accession or of any supplementary Instrument, or
- (ii) in respect of any tribal area, by virtue of any treaty, grant or agreement, or
- (iii) in respect of the acceding States or the tribal areas in relation to all matters referred to in the Proviso to sub-section (1) of section 7 of the Indian Independence Act, 1947 (10 & 11 Geo. 6, c. 30) and subject to denouncement in the said Proviso contained, or
- (iv) in any other area outside the Provinces which may with the consent of the Dominion be included in the Dominion by any treaty, grant or agreement."

Sir, before I submit the detailed technical reasons which induced me to move this amendment I should like to make a plain declaration that I am in full and respectful agreement with the clear statement made by the Honourable Minister for Law as well as the Honourable Minister in charge of the Bill explaining the precise object they have in view. I am in entire and full agreement with the purpose so ably and lucidly explained by them. But, Sir, in spite of my fully agreeing with their purpose, in spite of there being complete unanimity between my humble self and the two most eminent Ministers concerned, still I think this amendment is necessary. I submit that the amendment is only a conversion into words of the very purpose which the two eminent Honourable Ministers have in view.

I beg to submit that the kind admissions which have been made seem to me to be very remarkable and it seems to me that I could not have advanced anything better than those arguments and declarations which have been so clearly and kindly made. I humbly rely upon the admission that there is no real intention on the part of the Central Government to encroach upon any existing rights, to encroach in any way upon any State belonging to Class I or to encroach in any way with regard to class II or class III States except in so far as they agree to be bound by them. It is upon agreement, which is technically speaking the Instrument of Accession, through which the Honourable Ministers virtually agree to act.

I submit with great respect that the amendment tries to embody in legislative form the very purposes which the two eminent Honourable Ministers have in mind. The two Honourable Ministers have made it clear that they do not wish to go behind any agreement, except perhaps in the extreme case which is a remote contingency and which again, according to the picturesque phraseology of the Honourable Law Minister is speculative legislation. The only case where it is said that the Central Government may possibly interfere is the case of a minor who is represented by a regency, and the minor has fled or has vanished and the regency has resigned and then there is a consequent vacuum, then the Central Government proposes to intervene. I do not deny the justice of this claim. But I beg to submit that the Bill does not express this limitation. The lacuna in the Bill is that neither the savings have been expressed in the Bill, nor has the vacancy or vacuum justifying a direct intervention, been defined nor in any way indicated. The power that is sought to be taken by means of this Bill is too wide and all-embracing and absolutely uncompromising and unlimited in scope.

There is another proposition which I consider to be well-established and it is this. The scope of a Bill does not depend upon any verbally expressed intention of the Honourable Minister in Charge or anything that may be said in the House. Its scope must be determined by its own terms and by its logical interpretation alone. As it is, the terms of the Bill are considerably wider than the orally declared intention. A very sound and well-established proposition repeatedly laid down by the highest courts of law is that the scope of a Bill is to be found within the four corners of the Bill itself. In fact a Bill will stand or fall on its own terms. Therefore if the terms of the Bill are wider than what is orally declared to be the real intention of the Honourable Minister, then however clear and precise that expression of opinion might be, it does not form part of the Bill or the subsequent Act that is to be passed. It is for this reason necessary by means of clear expressions to guard against any encroachment upon ordinary rights which are never intended to be exercised. That would be, again to use the same picturesque phrase of the Honourable the Law Minister, speculative legislation. There should be no legislation on any matter in any direction whether it is never intended to act. Legislative measures should be accurately drafted to give exact effect to the precise purpose which the Government have in view but not more. I submit that the terms of the Bill are considerably wider and perhaps, if I may say so, in many respects *ultra vires* of this legislature.

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I am prepared to make another admission that the wording which is objected to, namely that the Central Government have acquired jurisdiction by "treaty, grant, usage, sufferance and any other lawful means", has been, as the Honourable Minister said, bodily lifted from the preamble to the Foreign Jurisdiction Act, 1890 which is a British statute (53 & 54 Vict. c. 57). It is said there: "Whereas by treaty, capitulation, grant usage, sufferance or other lawful means, Her Majesty....." This language appears in the Indian Foreign Jurisdiction Order in Council, 1902, made under the authority of this Act and is to this effect: "Whereas by treaty, grant, usage, sufferance or other lawful means, etc.". The word "capitulation" which appears in the British Statute does not appear in the Indian (Foreign Jurisdiction) Order in Council, which is the offshoot of this parliamentary legislation. The word "capitulation" does not appear in the Order in Council or in the present Bill.

But the question is whether the tests laid down in the Foreign Jurisdiction Act and the Order in Council, which were clearly applicable to India before the 15th August last, are now applicable to the circumstances of today. As I submitted briefly earlier in the course of the debate, the British acquisition of jurisdiction, or the very growth and development of British power in India was by slow gradual evolution. It was not made by any comprehensive legislation or by comprehensive treaties or grants but largely by convention and other subtle, vague, and undefinable things, namely, "usage, sufferance or other lawful means".

Leaving aside for the time being the Foreign Jurisdiction Act and confining ourselves to the Order in Council which directly applied to India before the 15th August, I submit that before that fateful day the British Government could legally claim over the States many rights, not only by treaty, grant, etc., but also by "usage, sufferance and other lawful means". The expression accurately represented the pre-existing sources of title of the Paramount Power. The British came first of all as so many traders, they acquired some parliamentary authority to legislate for the protection of their factories, and gradually, by slow imperceptible degrees, by accession, by usage, by sufferance and by other lawful means—and perhaps also by unlawful means, by force or fraud and by all sorts of means—they gradually acquired some kind of jurisdictions which were not derived from any definite legislative enactments or any definite treaties or grants. So British authority grew along with and is part of the history of the development of British power in India. Again, the authority varied with different States under different circumstances. The authority of the Paramount Power before the 15th August thus stood like this, namely, that it was a product not merely of treaties, charters and agreements but also of usage, sufferance and other lawful means and various other subtle and imperceptible factors.

The question then is what is the position of the States on and from the 15th August. The position has not been left in an indeterminate condition. I believe it is the policy of this House so long as we do not declare complete independence by virtue of the Constitution which is in the making, to regard the Indian Independence Act and the Government of India Act as adapted under the terms of the Indian Independence Act as binding. In fact the Honourable the Law Member said yesterday that the terms of the Government of India Act are binding, and an amendment proposed by Mr. Santhanam was supposed by him to have gone beyond the Government of India Act and for this reason he declared that amendment to be *ultra vires*. The relevant provisions of these two statutes are thus of supreme importance. I would like therefore respectfully to draw the attention of the House to the Indian Independence Act, clause (b) of sub-section (1) of Section 7. It deals specifically

and I submit conclusively with the question of "treaty, grant, usage, sufferance and other lawful means". It says:

"The suzerainty of His Majesty over the Indian States lapses (I shall omit a lot of things which are not of immediate concern here) and with it all treaties and agreements in force (on the 15th August) and all powers, rights, authority or jurisdiction exercisable by His Majesty by treaty, grant usage, sufferance or otherwise."

That was the previous claim of His Majesty and from 15th August that claim "lapses". By virtue of the Indian Independence Act these sources of title, namely, "treaty, grant, usage, sufferance or otherwise" absolutely go. I therefore submit that on and from 15th August the position is this. Instead of the vague relationship derived from treaty, grant, usage, sufferance and other lawful means we have now, on and from 15th August, the Instruments of Accession. Treaty, grant, usage, sufferance and other lawful means consisted of a nebulous and undefinable description of the relationship between the State and the Crown, but we have now a newly established relationship between the States and the Indian Government which relationship is to be determined solely and exclusively on the terms of the Instrument of Accession. Of course reference has been made in another place, to which I wish to draw the attention of the House, to supplementary Instruments of Accession.

So far as para. one of my amendment is concerned it says that "extra provincial jurisdiction" means "any jurisdiction which the Central Government has acquired (that is, by means of the Instrument of Accession) or may hereafter acquire (that is, by supplementary Instrument of Accession) in respect of any acceding State or of any State which may hereafter accede to the Dominion, by virtue of the Instrument of Accession or of any supplementary Instrument". That is exactly what has been graciously conceded by the two most eminent Members of the Government—that the relationship is now contractual, based upon agreement, except in the restricted and improbable case of a minor who may have vanished and a Regency who must have ceased to function. The whole relationship is now claimed by the Government to be entirely contractual and based upon agreement. I therefore submit that the Bill copies verbatim the language of the Foreign Jurisdiction Act and the Order in Council though the circumstances and conditions have changed, as I have attempted to show, not merely by the lapse of paramountcy but also by the express terms of Section 7 of the Indian Independence Act. The phraseology of the British Act and the Order in Council is today a phantasmic anachronism.

The Indian Independence Act goes further. Clause (c) of section 7 deals with tribal areas and it says "all powers, rights, authority or jurisdiction exercisable . . . by treaty, grant, usage, sufferance or otherwise" shall also lapse. In fact clause (b) of the section deals with the States while clause (c) deals with tribal areas. That is embodied in para. (ii) of my amendment which says "in respect of any tribal area, by virtue of any treaty, grant or agreement". In fact the other undefined, vague and shadowy sources of authority have also vanished on the Independence Day in the case of the tribal areas. The relationship must start afresh on contractual basis. The States, the tribal areas and ourselves must begin with a clean slate which must be written anew. And the new relationship must begin with the Instrument of Accession—call it as the agreement or consent and the like.

Then there is a significant passage which is embodied in the Proviso to sub-section (1) to section 7 to the Indian Independence Act. That proviso deals with certain aspects of the matter and gives jurisdiction to the Dominion Government on some specific subjects which have not been noticed by the House. It says:

"Notwithstanding anything in paragraph (b) or paragraph (c) (that is the lapsing of paramountcy in the States and in the tribal areas) of this Section, effect shall, as nearly as may be, continue to be given to the provisions of any such agreement as is therein referred to which relate to customs, transit and communications, posts and telegraphs or other like matters until the provisions in question are denounced" by the States or the tribal areas

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on the one hand or by the Dominion or the Province on the other, "or are superceded by subsequent agreement."

Thus only agreements are saved from any automatic lapse in so far as they clearly relate to "customs, transit and communications, posts and telegraphs and other like matters". The proviso thus provide an automatic "Stand Still Agreement" on these vital matters affecting the smooth working of the Governments on both sides. These would remain alive till they are denounced or superceded by new agreement.

Although paramountcy has lapsed and the Government of India has not stepped in as an heir to the Paramount Power, it can by virtue of the proviso, interfere in matters such as customs, transit and communications, posts and telegraphs and the like until the provisions in question are denounced by the ruler of an Indian State or by a proper authority in a tribal area as the case may be or by the Indian Dominion. Until therefore one of the parties repudiates these obligations, the Government of India, stepping automatically into the void, will have power to deal with and legislate with regard to these subjects until they are repudiated. This situation is covered by part (iii) of my amendment, in respect of the acceding States or the tribal areas as the case may be and in relation to all matters referred to in the proviso and subject to the right of denouncement in the said Proviso contained. I submit that the amendment which I have submitted to the House contains the three classes of cases in the States or the tribal areas in relation to certain specified subjects. Then to meet any possible residuary case *in vacuo* or something which we cannot now clearly define, I have inserted para. (iv) of my amendment which provides that "in any other area outside the Provinces (which is comprehensive enough), which may with the consent of the Dominion be included in the Dominion by any treaty, grant or agreement"; that is also provided for in clause (d) of section 5 of the Government of India Act. We may, if we like, thus incorporate within the Dominion any areas outside the Provinces and the States. Para. (iv) of my amendment covers a case of continued void where, as the Honourable Minister has said, it is necessary to step in. I have however no objection to para. (iv) of my amendment being re-drafted and more closely fit in with a case *in vacuo*. These I think completely exhaust all matters which are to be incorporated in the definition. I therefore submit that this amendment puts in exact and precise legislative form all permissible sources of authority for the Dominion. I have taken careful note of the Honourable Ministers' statements because they are very weighty pronouncements. The Honourable Minister for Law has made a contention, to which I readily agree, that the Dominion has not inherited the rights of the British Government described as paramountcy. Then he has been careful to explain that if any Indian State confers jurisdiction upon the Dominion, then we would be able to interfere, otherwise not. He has made this absolutely clear and to this proposition also I readily and respectfully agree. Now the only way in which the States can confer jurisdiction to the Dominion is by Instruments of Accession. That is provided in section 6 of the newly adapted Government of India Act. I submit with respect that the Honourable Minister has been pleased to virtually accept all the terms of my amendment. As I see it, this concession conclusively supports all the terms of my amendment. Then it is said that section 7 does not prevent this Legislature from making law. I readily agree, and go further that we have real power to legislate as to the States and others but the power must be found within the Instruments of Accession or supplementary Instrument if any. I find it difficult to make a distinction between clauses (a), (b) and (c) of sub-section (1) of section 7 of the Indian Independence Act. By virtue of section 7 all these clauses are now released from paramountcy and to be governed by Instruments of Accession. They were under the Crown and the exact relationship was a matter difficult of definition, and no one has attempted to define it. But whatever may be the relationship between the Para-

mount power and the State, paramountcy has gone and the States are now completely become independent. But they are independent only so long as they do not accede to the Dominion. If they accede, their independent status will be controlled and dominated by the Instrument of Accession. I beg to submit that we have power to legislate provided we do not transgress the limits imposed upon us by the two statutes and by the Instruments of Accession, and the Honourable the Minister for Law has made it absolutely clear that the government do not wish to go behind the Instruments of Accession, and my amendment attempts to make it quite clear that we stand or fall by the Instruments of Accession. The Honourable Minister for Law has also made it clear that if any State, great or small, Second class or Third class, or belonging to any class whatsoever, has voluntarily granted any power, the question of 'usage' does not arise. I am again in full agreement and this is the exact point which I have been making, that usage and other things must go and the Instrument of Accession alone must remain. Then again it is conceded that there is no desire to drag in class I States. But I believe the terms of the Bill are wide enough to drag them in. I have already accepted the plain declaration made that there is no such desire, but we are not to be governed by the private desires even of very eminent authorities but not incorporated in the Bill. In fact the desire must be expressed in the Bill, and if you look at the Bill, it would clearly include classes I, II and III, in fact all classes. In fact, in keeping this clause a court would be debarred from reading the Statement of Objects and Reasons, the proceedings in this House, and the declarations and concessions made during the debate. That proposition is also long well established. In fact all that we say here, all concessions and all declarations made, all safeguards agreed to during the debate, cannot even be referred to in a court of law in interpreting the Bill.

Then the Honourable Minister for Law has argued that there has been no inconsistency between the position taken by him yesterday and the position taken today. I submit there is still an inconsistency, and it is this. The Honourable Minister's contention yesterday was that the terms of the Nursing Bill could not be extended to any States, even when the State agreed to concede jurisdiction as to the Nursing Bill by a Supplementary Instrument. Even then, as he was of opinion we have no power to legislate. Firstly, he said that entry 16 in the Concurrent List did not apply to States. Secondly, as he said, there was no other power by which we could extend the Bill to the State because there is no entry anywhere except entry 16 which obviously did not apply to States. Today's contention of the Honourable Minister is inconsistent with that in this way. Today also we are faced with the same situation. This Bill is on the other hand on a stronger ground for rejection. There is even no entry, either in List One, or List Two or List Three,—Central, Provincial or Concurrent—to justify legislation in this respect. The only way we can do so is through Section 7 of the Indian Independence Act and Section 6 of the Government of India Act as adapted. But those Sections are absolutely strict as to the limitation of our power in this respect. In these circumstances, I submit that if any extension of the Nursing Bill to States—even with their consent—was impermissible by virtue of the fact that there was no entry in the Lists applicable thereto, this Bill suffers from the same difficulty, that it is covered by no entry in any of the three Lists; it is only covered by the two Sections which I have quoted and they absolutely bar our jurisdiction. Sir, ~~if~~ it was *ultra vires* on our part to extend the Nursing Bill to the States even where there is the Instrument of Accession to cover it, I do submit that it would be impermissible for us to accept the Bill on the same ground. On the other hand, here there is no Instrument of Accession covering the subject. Sir, Mr. Santhanam's amendment tried to cover a State which was covered by the Instrument of Accession; and if that was *ultra vires* then this Bill which is not covered by any Instrument of Accession should on the same argument be all the more *ultra vires* of this Legislature.

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Sir, I do not know whether this can be raised as a point of order or merely as an objection as to why the original clause should not be accepted and why the amendment or something on the lines of the amendment be accepted. I am not very sure, but these are very fundamental constitutional questions. I beg to submit it is not the Law Member's kind concession that will bind the Chair; I beg to submit that this has got to be considered independently. This may be taken as a point of order, but I do not raise it directly as a point of order; but the question may be considered as such because I am not very clear in my mind as to that.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps it might assist, if I explain the attitude of the Chair with reference to the question of *ultra-vires*. Generally, the Chair will not take upon itself the responsibility of deciding whether any particular Bill is *ultra vires*; it is a question for the House to decide. The opinion of the Chair though binding on the House, will not be of any avail so far as the courts are concerned in case the validity of a legislation is taken to the court. Therefore, the usual practice of the Chair is always not to interfere in the matter of questions of *ultra vires* and not to kill any Bill on that ground. The Chair will also tend in favour of assuming jurisdiction rather than denying it. So that is one point.

I would also request the other Members not to discuss this point of *ultra vires*; because, as I have said just now, even the unanimous opinion of the House that a particular Bill is *ultra vires* will have absolutely no effect on the judgment of the deciding court if the court comes to the conclusion that it is *ultra vires*. So, any discussion that honourable members carry on in this House over the question of *ultra vires* will be nothing but taking up the time of the House.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, your kind ruling I bow down to with great respect. I had some difficulty and misgivings about the correctness of the point of order and you have set that doubt at rest. But this ruling will be of some help to us in considering clause 6 where the jurisdiction of the court—to call a spade a spade—is attempted to be taken away. Although there is no desire to use it in any irregular manner, the very jurisdiction of the court, even of the Federal Court as I have been able to gather, would be largely taken away.

Supposing there is a State which accedes on three subjects but then there is interference by the Centre with regard to a fourth subject outside the scope of the Instrument of Accession. Then this interference will plainly be *ultra vires* although, as you have very clearly ruled that the entire House will not bind the court by virtue of clause 6, the discretion of the court to say that two plus two is four has been attempted to be taken away. So, if we come to clause 6, I shall try to submit my difficulties to the House, contending for the time being that you had not given a final ruling; though it is in my favour, it is a very important ruling and we may have to consider this once again when it comes to clause 6.

But, Sir, I find that the unfortunate courts, even the Federal Court, which are supposed to be absolutely independent, would be controlled by an order by a Secretary acting on behalf of the Government. So the courts will not be permitted to say, "Look here, here is a subject outside the scope of the Instrument of Accession, and here are two Honourable Ministers who have declared on behalf of the Government that they are absolutely unwilling to act in respect of those spheres, still, as they have acted in contravention of the Instrument, they have acted *ultra vires*", the court's right to declare this obvious fact which is conceded here will be taken away and along with it will be taken away the power of the court to call a spade a spade. A Secretary's report will be conclusive.

Pandit Thakurdas Bhargava (East Punjab: General): Can not any court declare that clause 6 is not *ultra vires*?

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: I am very grateful to the honourable the member Mr. Bhargava for raising the point. It is a very interesting point. I am not absolutely clear that the courts have no jurisdiction but as far as I have been able to think of it—it has given me several nights of work—I think that this Legislature is superior to all courts. In fact, this is the Legislature which can control the jurisdiction even of the Federal Court which will be the final court in India. Today the Honourable the Minister for Law has introduced a Bill to extend the appellate jurisdiction in civil matters of the Federal Court. That shows that this House can extend jurisdiction and this House can curtail it. If we say that clause 6 says this in simple words that if a question arises as to whether the Act is *ultra vires*, and if a Secretary in reply to a court's question says the court will be bound by the degree.

An Honourable Member: No, no.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Yes, yes. I am absolutely certain the courts would then be powerless to interfere. I think I am right and I respectfully ask honourable Members to think of clause 6 on its own terms, not by the headline. The marginal note purports to be a model of legal phraseology but the body is a draconian provision which gives absolute power to the Secretary.

An Honourable Member: On a point of order, Sir. Are we discussing clause 6 now?

Mr. Speaker: We are discussing clause 2, but the honourable member's argument, as it seems to me, is that in legislating as we are doing, we are doing something which is not within the power of this House. He is referring to clause 6 in order to point out what further difficulties would be created if this clause is passed. That seems to be his argument. But I would again repeat to the honourable member that arguments on the question of *ultra vires*, however interesting and learned, are not ultimately going to result in anything, because the courts will not be bound by anything that we decide.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, my object is exactly this. If clause 2 is beyond the scope of this legislature, as has practically been conceded, and if it is allowed to remain, and if any act is done overriding the provisions given here, the courts will be absolutely powerless to interfere if a Secretary's report is given. Clause 6 came in by way of argument. The argument on clause 6 was like a warning bell. Any power given in clause 2 beyond the scope of the Instrument of Accession should not be allowed to creep in. On these grounds I submit that at least the principle of my amendment should be accepted. I have no objection if a re-draft is made. My whole point is why should a legislative enactment go beyond the terms of the agreement? We should call a spade a spade. We should declare with clarity what we intend, and not give unlimited power to a Secretary who might at a later time not be under the careful and authoritative guidance of the Honourable Minister in charge.

Then there is another aspect of the matter. My object in trying to amend this clause is purely from a puritanists point of view. The passing of clause 2 will be a kind of mild corruption in the Legislature. It goes beyond the scope and purpose and authority of the House. Laws should be provided in language which should be free from doubt. Supposing a case comes before the court, the court cannot give effect to the concessions here because that would be absolutely useless. Under the circumstances, there is a clear case for accepting my amendment.

Then, Sir, there are misgivings in the minds of certain members representing the States. Personally I have no misgivings, but I do not see why at all misgivings should be allowed to creep in. The draft should be as clear as possible

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and I have attempted, as far as it lies in my power, to do so. I am in the hands of the House and of the Honourable Ministers and their draftsmen. Subject to any drafting changes, I think the principle of the amendment should be fully accepted by the House.

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That for part (a) of clause 2 of the Bill, the following be substituted namely:

'(a) "extra provincial jurisdiction" means any jurisdiction which the Central Government has acquired or may hereafter acquire—

(i) in respect of any acceding State or of any State which may hereafter accede to the Dominion, by virtue of the Instrument of Accession or of any supplementary Instrument, or

(ii) in respect of any tribal area, by virtue of any treaty, grant or agreement, or

(iii) in respect of the acceding States or the tribal areas in relation to all matters referred to in the Proviso to sub-section (1) of section 7 of the Indian Independence Act, 1947 (10 & 11 Geo. 6, c. 30) and subject to denouncement in the said Proviso contained, or

(iv) in any other area outside the Provinces which may with the consent of the Dominion be included in the Dominion by any treaty, grant or agreement'."

I was just considering as to whether the effect of the acceptance or rejection of this amendment by the House will be to bar the subsequent amendment which possibly seeks the same objective or an objective which is included in it. Will the honourable Members who have tabled the amendment No. 10 consider this point?

Shri Himmat Singh K. Maheshwari (Sikkim and Cooch Bihar Group): Sir the object of the amendment which stands in my name and the name of certain other gentleman is very limited. The scope of the amendment of Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad is far more wide. When the time comes, I shall only take two minutes.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I was putting it to the honourable Member that his amendment appears to be included in Mr. Naziruddin's amendment. Then the rejection of his amendment would mean that he would be barred from moving his. I may just help the honourable Member by suggesting that he may move his amendment now. I will put that first to the vote and then put the other amendment of Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad which is a wider one.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: May I submit, Sir, that rejection of my amendment would not necessarily mean rejection of amendment No. 10. Mine is a larger amendment. The rejection of the larger does not include the smaller. It may be that the House may accept the smaller.

Mr. Speaker: Of course this is ordinarily true in the case of the larger amendment, but if the smaller amendment is included in the larger and decision is recorded on that particular point, then it will be certainly barred. I do not want to leave the Honourable Member in the lurch about it. He may move his amendment at this stage.

Shri Himmat Singh K. Maheshwari: As I said the words, "usage and sufferance" which have been incorporated in the definition of extra-Provincial Jurisdiction are, in my opinion, unfortunate and unhappy reminders of Paramountcy. They have no clear meaning at all to most of us who are not lawyers. Therefore my submission to the House is that it will be better if these words were omitted. In view of the very reassuring observations made by the Honourable the Home Minister and the Honourable the Law Minister, it may be only necessary now to obtain one further clarification, namely, that so far as the States of the first class are concerned the words "usage and sufferance" are not going to be allowed to have any play in determining the

relations between the Government and Class I States. If that specific assurance be forthcoming, I do not press my amendment at all.

Mr. Speaker: I suppose the Honourable Member wishes to move the amendment at present.

Shri Himmat Singh K. Maheshwari: Yes and I would be grateful for a reply to the point that I have raised. Sir, I move:

"That in part (a) of clause 2 of the Bill, for the words 'treaty, grant, usage, sufferance or other lawful means', the words 'treaty or agreement' be substituted."

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That in part (a) of clause 2 of the Bill, for the words 'treaty, grant, usage, sufferance or other lawful means', the words 'treaty or agreement' be substituted."

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the two amendments although they are set out under different headings are in substance one. The amendment No. 10 may be put as the result of amendment No. 9 and from that point of view, there is no difference between the two. The aim of both the Honourable Members who have tabled this amendment is to delete the word "grant, usage and sufferance". I think that is what they want to do and in so far as that is their object, I have no doubt that the two amendments are one and the same.

Sir, I am sorry to say that I cannot accept this amendment and I am also sorry to say that the amendment has been based upon a misunderstanding. First of all, I should like to say with regard to the amendment moved by Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad that item (iii) in his amendment is entirely out of place. Tribal areas are part of British India or the Indian Dominion. Secondly there is no question of the Indian Dominion acquiring any extra territorial jurisdiction so far as the tribal areas are concerned. What does the Honourable member want to do? The Honourable member, if I understood correctly, wants to say that whatever extra territorial jurisdiction which the Dominion of India can exercise must be relatable to the Instruments of Accession. I think that is the sum and substance of his position and he wants to make it clear that the jurisdiction which the Central Government may exercise under the provisions of this Act must be in turn sanctioned by the Instruments of Accession.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: That is also conceded to by the Government.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Now, Sir, does the Act do anything different from what my Honourable friend wants us to do in this Bill? As I have stated, what the Instruments of Accession passed by the Indian States enable the Central Government to do is to exercise all such powers, authority and jurisdiction as were at any time exercisable by His Majesty's representative for the exercise of the functions of the Crown in relation to the Indian States. That is what the Instruments of Accession passed by the Indian States empower the Central Government to do, to exercise all such powers, authority and jurisdiction as were at any time exercisable by His Majesty's representative. Let us go back to the question and ask what are the powers which His Majesty's representative was exercising in relation to the functions of the Crown in relation to the Indian States. Any one who reads the Foreign Jurisdiction Act passed by the Indian Legislature where the powers, authority and jurisdiction, which were exercised by the representatives of His Majesty exercising the functions of the Crown in relation to the States, are described in the very precise terms which are used in part (a) of clause 2, namely "treaty, grant, usage, sufferance or other lawful means". These are exactly the words that occur in the Indian Foreign Jurisdiction Act and they are the words which we have adopted in our Act because the Instruments of Accession passed by the Indian States give all the power which His Majesty's representative exercises in relation to the States and Paramountcy. Therefore, it seems

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Mr. Speaker: Has the Honourable Minister anything to say as regards the clarification required by Shri Himmat Singh Maheshwari, about his amendment that the words "treaty" or "agreement" be substituted and that there was no desire, so far as the first class of States was concerned, to assume any jurisdiction except by Instrument of Accession?

Shri Himmat Singh K. Maheshwari: I understand the Honourable Home Minister to say that so far as States of the first class are concerned, the relations between the Government of India and the States will be governed by treaty and agreement only and not by usage or sufferance.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: That is what I said.

Shri Himmat Singh K. Maheshwari: On that assurance I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

Mr. Speaker: Has the honourable member leave of the House to withdraw the amendment?

The amendment, was by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker: I shall now put the amendment of Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad. I do not think it is necessary for me to read the whole of it.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: I would like to withdraw para. (ii) of my amendment and delete the words "or the tribal areas" from para. (iii).

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member is asking me to put the amendment in an amended form. The question is:

... "That for part (a) of clause 2 of the Bill, the following be substituted namely:

'(a) "extra provincial jurisdiction" means any jurisdiction which the Central Government has acquired or may hereafter acquire—

(i) in respect of any acceding State or of any State which may hereafter accede to the Dominion, by virtue of the Instrument of Accession or of any supplementary Instrument, or

(ii) in respect of the acceding States in relation to all matters referred to in the Proviso to sub-section (1) of section 7 of the Indian Independence Act, 1947 (10 & 11 Geo. 6, c. 30) and subject to denouncement in the said Proviso contained, or

(iii) in any other area outside the Provinces which may with the consent of the Dominion be included in the Dominion by any treaty, grant or agreement'."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Speaker: I shall now put Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar's amendment to the House. The question is:

"That in sub-clause (a) of Clause 2 of the Bill after the word 'treaty' the word 'agreement' be inserted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 2 as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 as amended, was added to the Bill.

Mr. Speaker: All Mr. Karimuddin's amendments to Clause 3 and Clause 4 appear to follow the same line of argument, on which the House has taken a decision, though they are put in different words. As a matter of fact the House has now taken a decision, on all the restrictive clauses which the amend-

ments seek to introduce, with the result, that any decision in respect of these amendments in the affirmative will be inconsistent with the previous decision.

Kazi Syed Karimuddin: In Clause 3 of the Bill, it is said that the Central Government may delegate any such jurisdiction as aforesaid to any officer or authority in such manner and to such extent as it thinks fit, and this is not quite in keeping with the agreement.

Mr. Speaker: But the previous clause explains that it shall be lawful for the Central Government to exercise extra-provincial jurisdiction in such manner as it thinks fit. The honourable member's amendment is not dealing with the manner of exercising it but he restricts the extra-provincial jurisdiction when he says "consistent with terms of treaty or Instrument of Accession". He restricts the jurisdiction and that is inconsistent with what the House has accepted so far as Clause 2 is concerned.

Kazi Syed Karimuddin: I accept the ruling of the Chair.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 3, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: I submit that in rejecting amendment No. 9, the House has rejected certain things in combination with others. They have not rejected item by item that is the component parts individually. The amendment as a whole consisted of a large number of parts. The parts have not been separately rejected.

It may be that if I ask anyone to have a dinner and I gave nine very good courses, and I ask him to take the tenth course also which is bad, he will refuse. That does not mean that he refuses to take the other nine or the best of the other nine. So the amendment which has been lost is a combination of parts. The House has rejected the combination. They yet may be tempted by the attraction of the taste of one of the parts!

Mr. Speaker: All I can say is that the argument is a very ingenious one. But the difficulty is that the 'one' thing runs throughout the other nine things!

As regards the amendments to Clause 4, I am inclined to take the same view as with regard to the amendment to Clause 3. The question is:

"That clause 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Mr. Speaker: Since amendment No. 16 will be the negative of the original proposition, it is out of order. The honourable member can however oppose the acceptance of the Clause.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: The object was to draw the pointed attention of the House that I object to Clause 5.

[At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Mr. Hussain Imam (one of the Panel of Chairmen).]

I oppose Clause 5 which says that "every act and thing done before or after the commencement of this Act..... in an area outside the Provinces shall be valid as if it had been done according to the local law then in force in that area". It validates with retrospective effect all acts done irrespective of the real validity or legality or impropriety of those acts. I submit that restrictive validity without recourse should be left so that the Ministers and the others

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to me purely tautological whether you say that you derive your powers from the Instruments of Accession or whether you say that you use the powers given to you by "treaty, usage, sufferance and so on" which were the modes by which power was acquired by the Paramount authority, I see no difference at all. It is one and the same and therefore, I submit that apart from the difficulty that I have pointed out that you cannot accept an amendment relating to the Tribal area, this amendment seems to be utterly based upon some confusion of understanding of the real position and seems to me to be tautologous and it is nothing more than what has already been done in the Bill.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): My Honourable friend the Minister for Law referred to the Foreign Jurisdiction Act. I come much nearer to the Indian Independence Act itself. Under clause 7 of the Indian Independence Act to which reference is made in this amendment of my Honourable friend, the Mover of the amendment, paramountcy lapses. How is it that Paramountcy conferred under the second part of the Accession which the Honourable the Law Minister read, exercised? I will read the relevant clause in the Indian Independence Act:

"... and all powers, rights, authority or jurisdiction exercisable by His Majesty at that date in or in relation to Indian States by treaty, grant, usage, sufferance or otherwise."

These are the very words that have been copied.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: This has now lapsed.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: It is true that this has lapsed. The British Government which had suzerainty over the Indian States did not transfer the authority in so far as they were not conferred or transferred to the Dominion of India. But what was done in its place was that it allowed the States themselves to confer that jurisdiction. And as a matter of fact the first set of States did not confer that jurisdiction; they have conferred jurisdiction only in respect of particular matters. The second set of States specifically entered into agreement conferring all that jurisdiction. They have said that all the rights and powers exercisable by His Majesty's representative as representative of the Crown are now exercisable by you on that date. Those rights are specified here. They might have been exercisable by treaty or by usage or by sufferance, etc. In one or other of these forms rights may have been acquired, and all these rights were acquired. It is true, that by the Indian Independence Act, Paramountcy lapsed, but by virtue of the Instrument of Accession all these powers are once again conferred. All that the Bill seeks to do is to give effect in a tangible form, appointing officers and telling them to carry it out; telling provinces that their officers serving in the Indian Dominion will exercise certain rights in relation to those States. It is not as if the Bill is trying now to confer on the Dominion legislature extra power which has not been conferred by the acceding States. So far as the first set of States is concerned what we are doing is this. It is open to the first set of States, though they have not acceded or given any particular right in relation to any treaty, usage, etc., they may do so now. They have acceded only in respect of three or four items and they have now entered into a standstill agreement; but with respect to other items they may confer rights. It is contemplated in the Government of India Act itself. There may be an original Instrument of Accession; by a subsequent Instrument of Accession for the sake of convenience they may concede some more powers in which case this Act will apply to the exercise of those powers also. Therefore in this Bill they are trying to give effect to those powers which have been already conceded with respect to the second set of States and to whatever other powers might be conferred upon the Indian Dominion by the first set of States, in case they may also think of conceding those powers. Therefore there is nothing which

tries to give extra jurisdiction over matters which were not conferred already. This is a matter of procedure only; there is nothing involving the substance, and therefore I submit that this amendment need not be accepted.

Sir, as this refers to clause 2, I should like to move a small amendment with your permission:

"That in sub-clause (a) of clause 2 of the Bill, after the word 'treaty' the word 'agreement' be inserted."

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I may cut the debate short. It has been pointed out that the tribal areas are not in dispute. I am prepared to cut out para. (ii) of my amendment and the words "or the tribal areas" in para. (iii).

Mr. Speaker: I will first put the amendment of Mr. Ayyangar. Amendment moved:

"That in sub-clause (a) of clause 2 of the Bill, after the word 'treaty' the word 'agreement' be inserted."

I believe the Honourable Member will also have to make consequential amendments in the Preamble when we come to it.

I do not wish to intervene in the debate on legal arguments, but it seems to me that confusion arises because of not properly appreciating all factors as they appear in respect of section 7 of the Indian Independence Act. As pointed out by the Honourable Law Minister, that section merely says that, whatever the Government of India may acquire independently it does not acquire powers as successor to the British Government. And if we read that section, it appears to me that, care is taken to see that His Majesty's Government is absolved from all liability. It is for that purpose and not for the purpose of conferring or not conferring any powers on the Government of India that section 7 was enacted. If this aspect of section 7 is remembered, perhaps the confusion that is felt here about that section and its interpretation will disappear. The Honourable Law Minister will correct me, if I am wrong.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: It provides for both lapsing and absolving.

Mr. Speaker: They are more careful to absolve themselves from liability than to confer power on anybody else. So they say, "Whoever comes in as our successor, we are not giving these powers to him". So they do not want to become responsible as predecessors-in-title.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: With regard to the amendment of my Honourable friend Mr. Ayyangar, for whose legal acumen I have got the greatest respect, I must say that by the insertion of the word "agreement" as he suggests no improvement is made. Instead of calling a spade a spade we are using roundabout language. The very ability which my Honourable friend undoubtedly possesses shows him the difficulties and he tries somehow or other to give us second-hand satisfaction by putting in the word "agreement". He feels the difficulty caused by the absence of the words "Instrument of Accession". Why not say that? No reply has been made to that.

Again with regard to second and third class States we have agreed that they enjoy powers which the British Government enjoyed. That is again contractual; that is, we are going back again to the Instrument of Accession. So there is no difficulty in accepting the amendment.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Sir, so far as the legal controversy is concerned, my Honourable friend the Law Minister has made things quite clear and I have nothing more to add. So far as verbal alteration incorporated in the amendment is concerned, I think the spirit of the Bill is that we are not going to take any powers except by agreement or by treaty; so that if the word "agreement" is put in I am prepared to accept it.

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already concerned may meet together to consider the propriety of any order made. If they sit together, they may come to a right understanding.

Today we have learnt with considerable relief that all the misunderstanding regarding partition and other things about Pakistan and India have been amicably settled. I beg to submit that this question should be settled.

And the second point is that the power of the Court to do justice according to law, according to its own sense of right and wrong should not be taken away. We do not know what acts and things have been done. We only know that some act may have been done. We are putting our seal of approval to acts unknown to us. It should be left to the parties or the courts to do justice according to the nature of the act also in the context in which those acts and the things were done. So in order to leave the parties and the court free to discuss the matter from a fresh angle, I submit that Clause 5 should be entirely omitted.

I therefore oppose its acceptance.

Shri M. S. Aney: This clause is a very important one. The very object of this Bill will be defeated if this clause is not passed by this House. The Honourable Minister in introducing this Bill as well as moving the motion for consideration explained the circumstances under which this Bill was conceived and the circumstances that made it incumbent upon Government to issue an Ordinance which is now being enacted in the form of a law. Sir, any adverse vote on this clause would mean absence of confidence in the present ministry. That is the net result of any opposition to this clause and I warn this House to bear this consequence in mind in considering the point of view of my honourable friend Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad. After all this is one of the usual features of a piece of legislation of this kind where Government is claiming certain jurisdiction which ordinarily is not expected to be possessed by Government. Having now thought it necessary to confer that jurisdiction by passing foregoing clauses and as a logical consequence of the votes we have recorded on other provisions of the Bill, we must concede the validity of the acts which had been done assuming that jurisdiction by the Minister in the best interests of the state itself. This clause asks you to do nothing more than that. What you have now conceded as a matter of principle has been anticipated by the Minister who has come before you with this legislation. You have only to express that what they have done has your full support. Otherwise you ask the present ministry to go out of office. The great ability that the Minister has shown in dealing with questions relating to states has created a very favourable situation in the whole country and I have no doubt that there will be no other minister capable of handling such a delicate situation with the same skill and ability in the country. Even my Honourable friend might not have meant what the consequence would be if the House were to vote in the way in which he wants it to do. It would be inconsistent with the vote which the House has given already upon the previous three clauses. So I urge the House to support the clause as it stands.

Shri Gopikrishna Vijayavargiya (Gwalior State): Sir, I come from an Indian State and I am speaking on behalf of the people of the Indian States. I am not a lawyer and therefore I cannot deal with the subtle legal points involved. I can make some observations as a layman.

India in its past history has been full of many small States and although the paramountcy of the British Government has passed I think that even the people of the Indian States do realise that we must have a strong central Government. Therefore whatever powers the Central Government of India is assuming through this Act must be there. The paramountcy of the British Government has lapsed but it does not mean that another strong Central Government should not exist

in India and that Central Government should not assume powers which it should have. The Government of India is the strongest power and the most dominant factor in India today and if there is a vacuum of authority anywhere, that authority must vest with the Central Government of India. Our country during its history of so many centuries has been weak on account of the existence of so many small States throughout the country. Now again there is a talk among big and small States of retaining their small chieftainship or principalities distributed throughout India and they want their own sovereignty. I say that although paramountcy has lapsed the paramountcy must take its rebirth and grow again and must be vested in the Central Government of India. In the law of England there is a saying "The King is dead, Long live the King". Even so, Paramountcy is dead but long live the Paramountcy of the Central Government of India.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: May I point out that the Honourable Minister has repudiated that theory?

Shri Gopikrishna Vijayavargiya: We want to create a new paramountcy—the paramountcy of the people of India and not of a foreign government.

Some Honourable Members: No, no.

An Honourable Member: What is there in a word?

Shri Gopikrishna Vijayavargiya: Paramountcy not of any foreign government but of the people of India—that is what we want. Therefore I fully support the powers which the Central Government want to assume under this Bill. The legal points raised have been answered by other people. I feel that this section should also remain and the Bill should be passed as it is.

Shri Jai Sukh Lal Hathi (Residuary States Group): Sir, I will restrict myself to the amendment for the deletion of clause 5.

An Honourable Member: No amendment has been moved.

Shri Jai Sukh Lal Hathi: What I want to say is that this clause is very essential in the practical working of the administration that has been taken over by the Central Government so far as the States are concerned. If this clause is not there there will be so many difficulties. Regional Commissioners have been appointed for the various states. Courts have been established. The machinery has been set in motion. If all the acts that are done as if by virtue of this act, are not regularised, what would be the position? The whole thing would be upset. This clause is essential and its absence is bound to have disastrous results. It is a misapprehension to say that parties should be allowed to say whether under a particular circumstance a certain act was necessary or not. That would give rise to various questions which no administration can be expected to tackle. Therefore I submit that clause 5 should be retained.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That clause 5 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5 was added to the Bill.

Mr. Chairman: The two amendments to clause 6 cannot be moved in view of the Speaker's ruling. One is negative and the other is restrictive in character.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I want to oppose the clause. Clause 6 is the most picturesque clause in this Bill. I do not wish to read the technical language of the clause but its purport in accurate language is this. If I am wrong I may be corrected. Suppose a question arises between a State and the Central Government as to the existence or extent of extra-provincial jurisdiction or a question arises whether the Central Government has any jurisdiction

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 on a particular matter or if it had a jurisdiction to what extent it goes. It goes to the very root of jurisdiction as well as the quantum. The existence of the jurisdiction as well as the quantum is the subject matter of dispute in a court of law. It might arise in a variety of ways. The clause says that the courts may on the application of a party ask for the decision of the Central Government through its appropriate secretary. I do not object to the Secretary being the agency. It is just, fit and proper that the Central Government should act through their secretary. But if the Secretary, purporting to act on behalf of the Government and by instruction from it says "We have jurisdiction over the matter or jurisdiction and to this extent" it will absolutely paralyse the Court. It takes it for granted that the courts cannot decide this matter. It is the greatest libel upon our courts. I presume no one will feel that our courts are intellectually or morally unable to decide these matters or that their legal knowledge is defective. If it is so then it is a case for abolishing the courts. Not only the smaller courts, but the bigger ones including the District Judges' Courts, the High Courts and perhaps even the Federal Court cannot decide these matters. Their power to decide these matters according to their light and according to the rules of justice, equity and good conscience is by an executive order taken away. If my fears are justified even the Federal Court's hands would be fettered. If that is so, the clause is beautifully vague in this respect. Then the verdict of this House, by accepting clause 6, would amount to this, namely, that our Judges are incapable of deciding right or wrong any matter according to their own light of justice, equity and good conscience. I think it gives the Central Government powers of a Draconian character. A guillotine rule is given in their hands. All discussions and all questions would be cut down by an answer of 'yes' or 'no'. I submit that the suspicion about the integrity, ability or the sense of justice of the courts is absolutely improper. My justification in supposing that even the Federal Court will come within, I should say, the mischief of this clause is this. The wording of the clause is "If in any proceeding, civil or criminal, in a Court established in the Provinces or by the authority of the Central Government outside the Provinces.....etc." and I submit that the Federal Court is also meant. God forbid that I should be right in my interpretation. But if I am right I am amazed at this provision that our highest judiciary which will have to consider the legality of a statute or the fundamental principles of a statute or the extent of the jurisdiction of this House, should be deprived of its powers. The description of Courts "in the Provinces" of course does not apply to the Federal Court, but there are the words "any court established by the Central Government outside the Provinces". We can think of a court outside the Provinces—that is the Federal Court. In fact the Court may be geographically within some Province, but legally is the Federal Court within any Provincial Jurisdiction? Certainly not. The Federal Court will thus be a Court outside the Provinces and will be within the mischief of clause 6. If we adopt this clause it would be the greatest disaster to the sense of justice and fairplay which everybody should expect in the Judges of the Federal Court which will be our highest judiciary. If a question arises as to whether the Central Government has jurisdiction or not and if, as is conceded the jurisdiction may be conferred by agreement, what harm is there in asking the Court to read the agreement and say "yes, the Central Government has or has not the jurisdiction"? Agreements involving crores of rupees and question affecting life and death and extensive properties are daily decided by our Courts. It is a question of plain interpretation. Our highest Courts are considered to be intellectually and morally fitted to pronounce their final judgment upon interpretation of contracts. If, as Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar thinks, the treaty, grant, usage, sufferance or other lawful means cannot be properly judged by the Court, then all reference to Courts should be eliminated and the clause should run "All

Courts should be considered to have been abolished in relation to a decision arising out of this Act." I think this is virtually the effect of the clause as it is. I ask what is the fear in relying upon the sense of justice of our Courts? What is the necessity of appealing to a Secretary? Then the Courts are made a mere post office. If a question is raised, the Federal Court sends a letter to the Secretary and the letter replied to it is to be conclusive. There is no sense of proportion so far as this power is concerned. It may be said that this power is analogous to certain power given to Secretaries of Government purporting to act on behalf of the Government when a letter signed by the Secretary is sent to the Court. The courts presume its authority. The Court will not question the genuineness of a letter, or authority or communication signed on behalf of the Government. But that is not the same thing as saying that legally they should accept as valid and binding everything contained in it. The Evidence Act does not empower courts to do that. The clause should be redrafted on these lines, namely, that "if any question arises as to what is the position, the Secretary should be empowered to give a reply and its genuineness would be conclusive and not open to question," but is legality should be left for decision by the Court.

Clause 6 is legislatively, judicially and constitutionally the most mischievous and the most dangerous section that I have ever come across. It may be said that this is exactly a copy of the Foreign Jurisdictions Act. There is an essential distinction which I submit with respect, has been missed, namely in dealing with matters arising out of foreign jurisdictions which formerly depended upon "usage, sufferance or other lawful means." It is not as if 'paramountcy is dead, long live paramountcy'. It is certainly a very attractive slogan to be uttered before a public meeting. But it is neither good sense nor good law and will not appeal to serious minded people in the House, and two Honourable Ministers who are serious minded people have not accepted that proposition. They have declared merely that Paramountcy is dead and cannot be resurrected. In those cases where the British Government exercised acts under the Foreign Jurisdictions Act, matters were left to be judged from a large number of records, from long practice and other things not known to the public and even to the Courts and the Government were the only suitable and fit persons to give an effective judgment.

But here we have started afresh on a clean slate with contractual relationships and my respected friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar thought that second class and third class States did not proceed to confer power by means of an instrument of accession, but agreement is nothing more than an instrument of accession. It is a glorified name for agreement by a State, however large or small it may be. I beg to submit that the entire position is contractual and the matter would be a pure question of interpretation of contract. Why cannot courts of law be allowed to decide according to plain interpretation of contracts? The object of the clause is in a manner to abolish courts of law so far as the propriety, the legality of acts done or purporting to have been done under this Bill if the Secretary gives a "decision."

With these few words I oppose the clause.

Shri M. S. Aney: Sir, the Honourable Member who has opposed this clause as also the previous clause has in the course of his arguments remarked that this indicates want of confidence in the courts by those who are bringing this law. I say nothing of the kind. This is a Bill, Sir, which deals mainly with relations between States and States, and I believe, as my honourable friend is very well conversant with constitutional law, he must have come across some such thing as an act of State. There are certain things in which the State claims to be the sole arbiter and judge, and not allow any court to come in and question its right in those matters. If there are any subjects in which the authority of the State is held supreme, it is in matters which essentially deal with relations between State and State, which intend to

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I submit, therefore, that this clause, clause 6, is a very right clause, appropriate, and should remain in the Bill as it is.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That clause 6 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 6 was added to the Bill.

Clause 7 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, consequential upon the amendment already accepted in relation to clause 2, I move:

"That in the Preamble, after the word 'treaty', the word 'agreement' be inserted."

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That in the Preamble, after the word 'treaty', the word 'agreement' be inserted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the Title and the Preamble as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill as amended be passed."

In doing so, I express my gratefulness to the House for the generous support that has been given to it.

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

"That the Bill as amended be passed."

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I express my gratitude to this House and to the Honourable Members and the Ministers for condescending to reply to my points which were raised in the interests of puritanism in legislation. I am very grateful to the eminent Ministers for clarifying the matter in spite of the fact that my amendment has not been accepted. The position is now clear as if the amendments were accepted. The extreme cases where interference will be justified have been conceded and the assurances so clearly given in the House will, I am sure, be respected by the Government. I submit that I yield to none in my respect for the very able manner, in which delicate negotiations between the States and the Government of India are being conducted and brought to successful conclusion. In whatever I have done, it is never in derogation to the respect and admiration which I feel for the present Administration. With these few words, Sir, I would now support the motion that the Bill as settled in the House be passed.

In passing, one remark may be made that my learned friend has said that there is a distinction between a "Sovereign Power" and a "State" but here we are concerned with two sovereign powers; when two sovereign powers disagree it is a question for the International Court and there matters are decided not by one party but by two. But that is only an academic aspect of the thing. I heartily and fully support the motion that the Bill as settled in the House be passed.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the Bill as amended be passed."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 10th December, 1947.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Wednesday, 10th December, 1947

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

SUSPENSION OF QUESTION HOUR

Mr. Speaker: Before I take up the questions, I should like to invite the attention of the House to one aspect about the time available to the Honourable Members for the debate on the food question. I have got here a list of over 16 speakers from the Congress Party only. I am sure there are other speakers from other parties, States and other Groups. If therefore it is desired that some more time for the debate should be taken, the only course that I find feasible is to suspend the question-hour.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Or apply control on the debate.

Mr. Speaker: That is the second point I was coming to. But even if that is done, I do not think that if a larger number of members wish to speak, more than ten or at the most fifteen minutes could be spared to satisfy each and everyone who wishes to speak. Therefore, the other remedy will be to control not only the number but also the length of the speeches, in addition to suspending the question-hour. What is the wish of the House? Should we suspend the question-hour?

Honourable Members: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: Then the question-hour is suspended. We shall now proceed with the other business.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS†

WRITTEN ANSWERS

BHORE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

741. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state how far the Bhore Committee Recommendations have been given effect to as far as short term plan is concerned?

(b) What action Government propose to take to meet the increasing demand for more doctors and nurses in the rural areas of the country?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of making it compulsory for medical students in various colleges to work in rural areas before they are given degrees?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) Some of the important recommendations of the Bhore Committee in their short term plan were considered at the Health Ministers' Conference in October 1946. A statement containing the Resolutions passed at the Conference is laid on the Table. The implementation of the recommendations is primarily a matter for the Provincial Governments.

†Answer to these questions laid on the table, the question hour having been dispensed with.

[Shri M. S. Aney]

renew old relations and create new relations in all matters arising out of treaties, grants and precedence. These are matters in which the ultimate judgment or opinion of the state itself must prevail against everything else. Nobody else except the state can determine in what relationship a state should stand to another state whose relationship is in question. This is a Bill of that nature, and therefore in my opinion this section lays down nothing more than that a decision taken under this clause is an act of State and therefore under constitutional law, being an act of state it is not to be questioned in any court at all. Such a provision would always find a proper place in any civilized constitution, if my honourable friend will take pains to go through it. In matters of this kind the ultimate verdict would always be that of the State, as that is the best authority to interpret it. He himself has given good reason for that when he said that such a state of things was justifiable when the British Paramount Power was here, and he justified a similar provision in the Foreign Jurisdiction Act on the ground that it essentially deals with matters of which a proper knowledge cannot be had by anybody else except the ultimate authority of the state. That position he conceded. Now, simply because the British paramount Power has gone and the Government of the Indian Dominion has come in as successor, although as successor it cannot assume paramount power, it does not cease to exercise those functions which it is necessary to exercise in its interests in order to keep its position, its prestige, and its good relations with every state. These are natural rights which would accrue to a sovereign state by usages and agreement. I am not quite prepared to say that they would be governed hereafter only by agreement. They will grow by usages also, hereafter as they have grown in the past. If certain usages have already grown in the past, this government will be entitled to make full use of them. Clause 7 of the Independence Act has been very clearly explained by Hon'ble the Speaker. H. M.'s Government wanted to absolve themselves of all obligations fastened on them by treaties, usurpation and other methods in those early days. How this successor Government would acquire those relations was a matter with which they were not at all concerned. That was left to be done as a matter to be decided between themselves, by the Government of India on the one hand and any other state that would come in relation to them on the other. With that, section 7 does not concern itself at all. Therefore what I say is this, there might be many considerations on which the ultimate decision in regard to matters covered by section 6 will depend, and as they will be governed by considerations which can be exclusively in the possession of the state itself, the decision of the government department, which is represented by the words 'the Secretary to the Government of India', itself must be a final and unimpeachable thing, a thing that cannot be questioned in a court of law. That is in reality the duty and the exclusive function of the sovereign power itself; and it can not allow any court to come in and say to it "you cannot settle relations; and if you do that, it will be *ultra vires* and not *intra vires*." The decision is indication of the sovereign right of the State. The question raised by my friend is this: whether the Union Government that is going to come into existence here or to be more precise which has already come into existence since the 15th August is a sovereign government or not? If it is a sovereign government, it must have its final voice in certain matters of the highest importance to the state, and I believe section 6 deals with matters of this type, and therefore the absence of any provision there allowing a court to interfere with the discretion of the state is one which is perfectly justifiable and valid. This House should uphold it.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Minister for Law): If this clause 6 had been described by a Member of the Legislature who is not a lawyer as an unusual thing, I would not have any complaint: But I think for a lawyer to get up and say that this clause is not only unusual and strange, but cuts at the very

foundation in the judiciary, I cannot help expressing my surprise. Sir, as every lawyer knows, the law makes a distinction so far as rights are concerned between two sets—political rights and rights which are justiciable. Justiciable rights must always be determined by a judicial decree founded upon evidence produced by the parties before the court. But the political right, and I shall presently explain what is meant by political right, is never submitted to a court in the ordinary sense of the word. Now rights, whether they are contractual or otherwise, between two states are never regarded as justiciable rights. They are always regarded as political rights: and that is the one reason why this clause has been introduced into this Bill. The extra-territorial jurisdiction which is being conferred by the Indian States upon the Indian Dominion is a matter between two states and not between two individuals; and being a matter between two states, obviously all the matters connected with that jurisdiction are political rights, and as such they cannot be left to the judiciary to determine. This clause, as I said, is in no sense an unusual one, for if my Honourable friend refers to the British Act, on which this one is modelled, and refers to clause 4, he will find, the language of clause 6, is absolutely the same as the language of clause 4. Now, my Honourable friend also said that he was aware of certain provisions in the Evidence Act where a certificate given by a Secretary of a Department of the Government of India was said to be conclusive evidence of his authenticity, but it was never accepted as deciding the status of any particular individual. I am sure that he must have forgotten Section 86 of the Civil Procedure Code. If he refers to the Civil Procedure Code, Section 86, he will find therein a provision which is very much analogous to the provisions contained in clause 6 of this Bill. Section 86 of the Civil Procedure Code relates to a suit against an Indian Prince or a foreign Envoy or any such person occupying the capacity or status of a non-Indian citizen. It is provided by Section 86 of the Civil Procedure Code that no suit against an Indian Prince can proceed unless and until the party suing the Indian Prince secures the consent of the Secretary of State that he may be sued. The object underlying Section 86 is to give the Government of India an opportunity to express an opinion whether they regard the particular Prince who is sued, as entitled to the status of a sovereign Prince. If they think that he is entitled to the status of a sovereign Prince, we issue a certificate that he is a sovereign Prince, and the moment that certificate is issued the matter becomes a political matter and ceases to be justiciable in the ordinary sense and the suit falls through. There is nothing unusual in it.

My Honourable friend wants me to state the reason for this somewhat anomalous position which the law recognises not only in this country but in every other country. I could state for his information the reason why this distinction is made. Sir, supposing the Department of a State upon the assumption that a particular Prince is a sovereign Prince deals with him on that basis, and suppose that if the question of his status was left to be decided by an ordinary court of law, where evidence was brought in, and the court came to the conclusion that he was not a Ruling Prince in the sense of a Sovereign Prince, what happens? We have in a situation like this two conflicting decisions—one decision given by the judiciary and another decision given by the State and both are irreconcilable. In such a situation the execution of a decree becomes absolutely impossible. In England, as my Honourable friend knows, there is no such thing as an Evidence Act, but there is a very well-established rule which the British Judiciary has adopted that in matters of this sort where they are likely to come into conflict with the Political Department of the State, they shall not entertain a plea and give a judgment because after all the judgment on a decree of the judiciary has to be executed by the Department of the State and they do not want themselves to be entangled with the State Department. That, I think, is a very salutary reason why the courts themselves have abnegated the right of exercising any jurisdiction in a matter which is likely to be political.

(b) The development programmes of Provinces include schemes for opening of new medical colleges, conversion of existing medical schools into colleges and establishment of institutions for training nurses and other auxiliary personnel, which, it is hoped, will result in a substantial increase in the number of doctors, nurses and other health personnel.

(c) This is a matter for Provincial Governments and Universities to consider.

Statement

AGENDA ITEM No. 2.

Objectives

"The Conference endorses the objectives proposed by the Bhore Committee as objectives to be kept in view in formulating plans for a national health service."

Agenda Item No. 3.

District Health Organisation

The Conference considers that the District Health Organisation proposed is administratively sound and acceptable in principle. The programme for the first five years is not within present financial resources but it is agreed:—

Firstly, that the scheme should be implemented on as wide a scale as possible consistent with financial limitations, taking full advantage of existing institutions and staff;

Secondly, that modifications in the scheme may be made where necessary to adapt it to local conditions;

Thirdly, that in areas where the full organisation cannot be set up immediately, schemes for development should be framed with due regard to the objective of building up a curative and preventive health service on the general lines recommended by the Committee;

Fourthly, that each Province should review its plans with these considerations in view.

Agenda Item No. 5

The Provision of facilities for the training of medical and other personnel

The Conference agrees that a review of training facilities in the light of probable future requirements should be undertaken and that particular emphasis should be laid on the training of personnel. It also agrees that as far as possible, the larger provinces should assist those provinces which have not yet been able to provide their own training facilities by admitting students to their training institutions.

Agenda Item No. 6.

Central and Provincial Boards of Health and Health Councils

The Conference agrees that Boards of Health and Councils of Experts should be constituted at the Centre and in the Provinces. It considers that representatives of the Central Legislature should be included in the Central Board of Health, that the constitution of the Provincial Boards should be left to the discretion of the Provincial Governments and that the health experts of the Central and Provincial Governments should attend the Central Board of Health. The Conference also considers that the functions of the Central Board and Council should be purely advisory.

Agenda Item No. 7.

The amalgamation of the Medical and Public Health Departments

The Conference accepts the principle of amalgamation of medical and public health departments and considers that amalgamation should take place when a suitable opportunity occurs.

The Hon'ble Ministers from Madras and Bombay, dissented from this view. The Hon'ble Minister from Madras considered that co-ordination between the two departments was preferable to amalgamation.

Agenda Item No. 8.

Water Supply and Sanitation.

The Conference agrees—

- (1) that an active programme for the improvement of water supply and sanitation in both urban and rural areas should be undertaken;
- (2) that in respect of water supply the objective should be to provide at least 50 per cent. of the population with a safe and abundant water supply within a period of not more than 20 years and the entire population within not more than 35 years.
- (3) that in urban areas the objective should be to instal adequate sewerage in all towns with a population of 50,000 or over during the first 10 years;
- (4) that the constitution and functions of provincial water and drainage boards should be left to the discretion of Provincial Governments.

Agenda Item No. 9

Establishment of Anti-Malaria Organisations

The Conference agrees—

- (1) that a vigorous drive against malaria should receive priority in development programmes;
- (2) that, subject to adaptation to suit local conditions, anti-malaria organisations should follow the general frame work of the organisation proposed by the Bhore Committee;
- (3) that anti-malaria personnel trained in the Defence Services should be utilised to the fullest possible extent.

Agenda Item No. 10.

The Policy in regard to quinine and other anti-malaria drugs.

The Conference agrees that quinine production should be continued and developed up to about 200,000 lbs. a year, subject to review from time to time. It was also agreed that the views expressed by the Provincial Ministers on the subject of a guarantee to the producing provinces should be further considered by the Government of India in consultation with Provincial Governments.

Agenda Item No. 11.

Indian Medicine

I. In accordance with the recommendations of the National Planning Committee, this Conference resolves that adequate provision should be made in the Centre and the Provinces—

- (a) for research in and the application of the scientific method for the investigation of the indigenous systems like Ayurveda and Unani with references to (1) maintenance of health and (2) prevention and cure of disease.
- (b) for starting schools and colleges for training for diploma and degree courses in Indigenous Systems of Medicine.
- (c) for post graduate courses in Indian Medicine for graduates in Western Medicine.

II. In accordance with Resolution No. 13 of the National Planning Committee this Conference resolves to absorb the practitioners of Ayurvedic and Unani Systems of Medicine into the State Health Organisation by giving them further scientific training wherever necessary as health personnel, like doctors, physical training experts (Ustads), Sanitary staff, masseurs, nurses, midwives, etc.

III. This Conference resolves that, in the Central Council and Provincial Health Boards and Councils the departments and practitioners of Indian Medicine should be given due representation, wherever possible.

Agenda Item No. 12.

Abolition of Civil Branch of Indian Medical Service

This Conference of Health Ministers is of opinion that there should be no civil branch of the Indian Medical Service and requests that the Central Government may arrange to take back immediately the Indian Medical Service personnel in civil employ in the Provinces, and post them on the military side to which they rightly belong.

RELAY BY ALL-INDIA RADIO OF B. B. C.'S NIGHT BULLETIN

742. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether Government have received any telegram on behalf of the citizens of Madura, requesting them to discontinue the relay by the All-India Radio of the night bulletin of the British Broadcasting Corporation?

(b) Are Government aware of the growing dissatisfaction among the public at the All-India Radio, using short wave stations for English music and giving inadequate importance to Indian items?

(c) If so, what action Government propose to take to satisfy the public opinion?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) Government repudiate any suggestion that English music is being given more importance than Indian music.

(c) Does not arise.

REVIVAL OF INFORMATION FILM OF INDIA

743 *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government are reviving Information Films of India?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to have a separate section to produce short films to be exhibited in foreign countries?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

IMPROVEMENT IN PUBLICATIONS DIVISION OF MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

744. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the Publications Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is still working in the same old way?

(b) Do Government propose to improve the get-up of the publications intended for foreign consumption?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of filling those publications with writings of Indian authors instead of reproductions from foreign journals?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Apparently Honourable Member's knowledge has not kept pace with the changes made.

(b) Honourable Member's knowledge about these matters is again at fault. The get-up has already been improved.

(c) I regret again to point out that the Honourable Member's knowledge is imperfect. Both the sources are already being tapped.

SCHEME FOR NEW BROADCASTING STATIONS

745. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state how many new broadcasting stations have been opened upto now, since the assumption of office by the Congress?

(b) What is the principle followed in such a scheme?

(c) In view of the emergency in this country, are there any chances of the five year and eight year schemes proposed by the Government during the interim period being materialized?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) One at Jullundur.

(b) This was established to meet the present emergency in East Punjab.

(c) We are trying to speed up the completion of schemes approved in the plans. The question of taking up any new schemes would arise only after the present schemes are completed.

RE-ORIENTATION OF SMALL SAVINGS SCHEME

746. *Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps are being taken to re-orient the Small Savings Scheme from a war-time measure to peace-time permanent organisation? If not, why not?

(b) if the answer to part (a) above to be in the affirmative, what are the steps taken so far in this direction; and

(c) whether the personnel already employed under this scheme in different provinces is controlled by the Government of India; and if so, whether the personnel is entitled to the benefit of the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) and (b) I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to paragraph 24 of my speech introducing the Budget for the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948.

(c) The personnel employed on the Small Savings Scheme in the Provinces are under the administrative control of the Provincial Governments and as such are not automatically entitled to the benefit of the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission.

FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

747. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state what measures have so far been taken to fulfil the long-standing need of including experts in the personnel of the Federal Public Service Commission?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of setting up two separate Boards, one for civil appointments and the other for Military appointments with branches at Provincial Headquarters?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) It is not clear what experts Honourable Member has in mind. Nor are Government aware of any such long-standing need as is referred to by the Honourable Member.

(b) The Federal Public Service Commission deals with recruitment to higher civil appointments. Honourable Member is probably not aware that military appointments are dealt with by the Defence Ministry.

SEIZURE OF RADIO TRANSMITTERS BY C. I. D. AT JUBBULPORE

748. *Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether a news item appearing in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 17th November, 1947, reporting the seizure of 4 powerful radio transmitters by the C.I.D. in a surprise raid on the stores of the Special Armed Constabulary, Jubbulpore, is correct?

(b) Is the report that, "a man was arrested in the act of sending messages to a destination outside the Indian Union" correct?

(c) If the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, to which country the messages were being sent and what the contents of the messages were?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) The Press report is correct except that six sets were seized and not four.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

ATTACK ON KASHMIR AND PAKISTAN MILITARY OFFICERS

749. *Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether there is any truth in the press report published in the *Evening National Call* of the 17th November 1947 that a "sensational letter from a very high Pakistan Official has been intercepted at Bannu by an Indian Army Officer, revealing that the attack on Kashmir was planned by Pakistan Military Officials long before the Red-Cliffe Award was announced"?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to publish the contents of the said letter?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) No, Sir. Government are not aware of any such interception by an Indian Army Officer.

(b) Does not arise.

INDIAN UNION NATIONAL GUARDS

750. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether Government propose to consider the desirability of creating Indian Union National Guards to serve as an All India Civil Force in peace time for the betterment of our people in the various educational and social spheres and as War Reserve in cases of emergency?

(b) If so, do Government propose to take necessary steps to constitute an Indian Union Committee for organising and recruiting the Indian Union National Guards?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me to Question No. 430 by Pandit Kunzru regarding the raising of Home Guards in India. The policy of the Government regarding the raising of an Auxiliary force has already been explained during the debate in the House on the 27th November on Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramaiya's resolution on the subject.

OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIPS TO INDIAN STUDENTS

**751. *{ Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:
Shri K. Santhanam:**

Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state the total expenditure incurred in respect of overseas scholarships awarded to Indian students, since the termination of the last war, showing separately the figures for students sent to the United Kingdom and to the United States of America?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The total expenditure in respect of Overseas Scholarships to Indian students borne by the Government of India since the termination of the last war up to 30th September 1947 under the Overseas Scholarships Scheme is Rs. 79,91,000 (rupees seventy-nine lacs and ninety-one thousand) out of which Rs. 32,77,000 (rupees thirty-two lacs and seventy-seven thousand) were spent on the students sent to the United Kingdom and Rs. 46,78,000 (rupees forty-six lacs and seventy-eight thousand) on those sent to the United States of America. The balance of Rs. 36,000 (rupees thirty-six thousand) was spent on a few students sent to other countries.

AMOUNT ADVANCED TO PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT

752. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state how much money, if any, has the Imperial Bank advanced to the Government of Pakistan?

(b) Were the Government of India consulted at any stage before the loan was given?

(c) Is it a fact that the Imperial Bank has been in charge of Government treasuries in several provinces of India? If so, will Government be pleased to state the terms of such agreements?

(d) Is it a fact that the Imperial Bank has been enjoying favoured treatment in certain respects as compared to scheduled banks? If so, do Government propose to consider the advisability of withdrawing the concessions enjoyed by the Bank?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) Government have no information.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Under Section 45 of the Reserve Bank of India Act the Reserve Bank is required to enter into an agreement with the Imperial Bank for a minimum period of 20 years providing for the employment of Imperial Bank of India as the sole agent of the Reserve Bank in all the provinces of India where the Imperial Bank had branches at the commencement of the Reserve Bank of India Act and where the Reserve Bank has no branches of its Banking Department. The provisions of the agreement which *inter alia* regulate the payment to the Imperial Bank for the services rendered are contained in the Third Schedule of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

(d) In virtue of the agreement referred to above the Imperial Bank's position is necessarily different in certain respects from that of the other scheduled banks. It is not possible to terminate prematurely the agreement unless the Imperial Bank fails to fulfil the conditions laid down or to maintain a sound financial position and disregard further instructions issued by Government as set out in proviso to Section 45(1) of the Reserve Bank of India Act.

GOVERNMENT SERVANTS OPTING FOR PAKISTAN

753. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government servants who had opted for Pakistan have been given a choice to revise their option?

(b) If so, will it be incumbent on Government to take them back irrespective of any other consideration?

(c) How many of such persons have already expressed a desire to revert and what is their number, communitywise?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government have no information.

COMPULSORY EDUCATION IN INDIA

754. *Shri Ram Sahai: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether there is any scheme under the contemplation of Government for the introduction of compulsory education in India?

(b) If so, when will that be brought into force?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) The scheme recommended by the Central Advisory Board of Education in their Report on Post-War Educational Development has been generally accepted by the Government of India for introduction of compulsory education in India.

(b) It is mostly for the Provincial Governments to enforce this scheme. The Government of Bihar, Bombay, U.P. and Madras have already started implementing schemes of compulsory Primary Education. Orissa, the Central Provinces and the three Centrally Administered Areas propose doing so from this year and the schemes of Assam, East Punjab and West Bengal are under revision. All the Provincial Governments have started schemes of training of teachers which are so necessary for any scheme of compulsory education. It is not possible to indicate exactly when these schemes will be fully implemented and there will be universal compulsory Primary education for all children between the ages of six and fourteen. The Central Advisory Board of Education had contemplated that in view of the practical difficulty or recruiting the requisite supply of trained teachers, it may take not less than forty years. The present Government of India, however, cannot wait so long. It feels that we should try our best to remove the difficulties and guarantee Primary Education to all children within the shortest time possible. Government has in view a special scheme for this purpose which it wants to place before the Provincial Educational Ministers and University representatives. A Conference of these Ministers and University representatives was actually fixed in last July, but due to certain political developments it had to be postponed. Now it has been decided to hold it at a very early date.

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION

755. *Shri Ram Sahai: Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) what portion of the entire Central Budget is spent on education; and

(b) the proportion of the amount spent out of the total budget on Higher, Secondary and Primary education?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) In the year 1946-47, out of the total Central Budget of Rs. 4,42,35,88,000 a sum of Rs. 1,87,13,500 or .4 per cent. was spent on education. If, however, the expenditure on Defence, Posts and Telegraphs and Railways is excluded from the Central Budget, the percentage of expenditure on Education would work out to be 1.3. This figure does not include the grants given by the Centre to the Provinces for their Post-war Educational Development.

(b) In the same year, Rs. 1,20,61,300 or .9 per cent. of total budget (exclusive of expenditure on Defence, Posts and Telegraphs and Railways), was spent on higher, Rs. 22,85,020 or .2 per cent. on Secondary and Rs. 12,77,010 or .1 per cent. on Primary Education. Here too these figures do not include grants given by the Centre to the Provinces for their Post-war Educational Development.

LICENCES FOR FIRE-ARMS IN DELHI

756. *Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received and licences issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Delhi, for fire-arms during the last 6 months;

(b) the number of applicants who were able to secure fire-arms during the same period;

(c) names of fire-arms vendors to whom licences were sanctioned during the above period and of those who have been able to start their business; and

(d) whether it is a fact that quite a number of approved vendors cannot start their business because they have not been issued import licences?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) About 5,445 applications were received and 3,245 out of these were sanctioned.

(b) 786.

(c) A statement is laid on the table.

(d) A majority of them have already started their business.

Statement

The names of fire-arm vendors to whom licences were issued during the last six months are as under:—

- (i) Sardar Rameshwar Singh of Abbottabad, Proprietor, Singh Bros., Kashmere Gate; (ii) Sardar Nanak Singh; Kashmere Gate, (iii) Lala Devi Pershad Bagaria, Birla Lines, Subzimandi, Delhi. (iv) Sardar Bahadur Sunder Singh Dhupia, Connaught Place, New Delhi. (v) Bawa Pardu Singh and Sons, Cloth Market, Delhi. (vi) Lala Fanwal Das, Hauz Kazi, Delhi and (vii) Shakti Arms Corporation, Connaught Place, New Delhi.

The first five have started their business.

BLACK-MARKETING IN SALE OF FIRE-ARMS

757. *Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of factories which are actually manufacturing fire-arms;

(b) whether Government are aware of the existence of black-marketing in the sale of fire-arms; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what steps Government have so far taken or propose to take in this behalf?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Apart from the Central Government's Ordinance factories there are none.

(b) Government have received some reports to this effect.

(c) Government have under consideration proposals for augmenting supplies to meet the Civilian demand.

EAST BENGAL OFFICERS OPTING FOR INDIAN DOMINION

758. *Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers who have opted from East Bengal for the Indian Dominion; and

(b) whether Government propose to grant subvention to the Government of West Bengal for the maintenance of these officers till such time as they are absorbed in the administration?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Presumably the Honourable Member is referring to officers of the Bengal Government who were given the option to serve either in East Bengal or in West Bengal. This is a matter which concerns the Government of West Bengal and the Government of India have no information on the point.

(b) No.

ADMINISTRATION OF WESTERN INDIA STATES

759. *Shri Jaisukh Lal Hathi: Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the administration of the estates of Chandap and Gazipur in the Gadhwa Thana in the Western India and Gujrat States Region has been taken over by the Ministry of States by virtue of the communique issued on the 13th August 1947; and

(b) if not, why not?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b) The matter is still under consideration.

RE-EMPLOYMENT OF I.N.A. PERSONNEL

760. *Shri Damodar Swarup Seth: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether Government are considering the proposal of taking back the I.N.A. officers and soldiers in the Indian Army and granting the privilege of pay and other allowances for the period they worked in the I.N.A., in view of their patriotic services to the country?

(b) If not, why not?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) The whole question is under the consideration of Government.

(b) Does not arise.

CONTRIBUTION FOR THE POST-WAR DEVELOPMENT

761. *Shri Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether any contribution has been made by the Government of India to the Provinces for the Post-war Developments in the current and the last two years, and if so, for what objects and to which Provinces separately?

(b) Is it a fact that the contribution has been withheld, and if so, why?

(c) Has any such amount been actually paid to the Provinces, and if so, what is the amount and to which Provinces it has been paid?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) Yes. Grants for development purposes have been given to all the Provincial Governments. The object for which these grants were made have been explained in the Budget speeches of my predecessors relating to the years 1946-47, 1947-48 and in my Budget speech delivered in this House on the 26th November, 1947.

(b) No.

(c) Payments have been made to all the provinces but the figures regarding actual amounts paid are not readily available as the accounts for 1946-47 have not yet been closed.

PETITION BY MINTOO MUKHERJEE *re* PENSION

762. *Shri Upendra Nath Barman: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether any petition by one Mintoo Mukherjee Ex. No. 272334 Sapper Loco Driver IIIA (File No. K. D. 1/211-Pension 1503) is pending for a long time with the Government of India, Defence Department (Pension Branch, Delhi) for adjudication and valuation?

(b) Are Government aware that Mintoo Mukherjee with his big family is practically starving?

(c) Is it a fact that some representations were made by him recently in this connection but no reply is being given?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken in the matter?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) to (d). The claim to disability pension on behalf of Mintoo Mukherjee, ex-Sapper Loco Driver IIIA, was received from the Controller of Military Accounts (Pensions), for orders. The claim was investigated, and certain documents necessary for establishing the disability on which the claim was based were called for. As the documents were not received within a reasonable time, the case has been settled without the documents and Government have decided that the disability of the claimant was aggravated by war service. Orders to this effect have already been issued to the Controller of Military Accounts (Pensions), Allahabad, who will take further action in regard to the payment of the pension, and Mintoo Mukherjee has been informed accordingly.

RELAXATION OF AGE LIMIT FOR POLITICAL SUFFERERS ENTERING GOVERNMENT SERVICE

763. *Shri P. Kunhiraman: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to relax the age limit for persons who participated in the national movements and suffered imprisonments and were thus barred from entering Government service; and

(b) whether any relaxation of age limits exists at present in the case of persons with war service?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b). No relaxation of age-limit has been allowed to war-service candidates. All that has happened is that their period of war-service will be counted, subject to certain limitations, for purpose of the maximum age-limit. No similar case has arisen in regard to the category of candidates referred to in clause (a) of the question. But if any does arise, Government would be prepared to consider it.

EDUCATION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS IN INDIA

764. *Shri P. Kunhiraman: Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the centrally administered Educational and Research institutions in India; and

(b) the allocation of seats in these institutions province-wise?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) A statement giving the names of Educational and Research Institutions maintained by the Central Government is placed on the table of the House.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(List of Educational and Research Institutions Maintained by the Central Government.)

1. Delhi Polytechnic.
2. National Archives of India.
3. Archaeological Survey of India.
4. Anthropological Survey of India.
5. Imperial Library, Calcutta.
6. College of Nursing, Delhi.
7. The Malaria Institute of India, Delhi.
8. The Central Research Institute, Kasauli, Simla.
9. All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta.
10. The Licentiate Medical College, Calcutta.
11. Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.
12. Zoological Survey of India, (Post-graduate Training Student Training Scheme).
13. Indian Dairy Research Institute, Bangalore.
14. Forest Research Institute and College, Dehra Dun.
15. Statistical Branch of Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi.
16. Central Drilling School, Roorkee.
17. L. R. M. S., Sanawar.
18. P. W. R. M. College, Dehra Dun.
19. K. G. R. I. M. College, Jullundur.
20. K. G. R. I. M. College, Ajmer.
21. K. G. R. I. M. College, Bangalore.
22. K. G. R. I. M. College, Belgaum.
23. Army School of Education, Pachmari.
24. Civil Aviation Training Centre, Saharanpur.
25. Indian Mercantile Marine Training Ship, Dufferin, Bombay.
26. Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad.

RECRUITMENT OF REFUGEES FOR MILITARY TRAINING

765. *Shri Santanu Kumar Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether Government propose to recruit people for Military training from amongst the refugees?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: It is open to the refugees to offer themselves for recruitment to the Armed Forces.

PUNJABI PROGRAMME ON ALL-INDIA RADIO, DELHI

766. *Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether it is a fact that only fifteen minutes have been allotted for programme in Punjabi on the All-India Radio Station, Delhi?

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to allot more time for programme in Punjabi?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) Government consider that in view of a station at Jullundhur no further facilities from Delhi are necessary.

NATIONALIZATION OF RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

767. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that last year the then Finance Member made a statement regarding nationalization of the Reserve Bank of India?

(b) If so, when Government propose to nationalize it and what are the steps taken so far in this direction?

(c) Is it a fact that most of the Directors of the Reserve Bank of India are either connected directly or indirectly with one or the other banks or with big business and have free access to all the records of all such banks?

(d) If the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative do Government propose to consider the advisability of divesting such directors of this right of free access to other banks' records and secrets?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) Yes.

(b) The consideration of the question had to be postponed as the Reserve Bank of India under present arrangements is the joint banker for the dominions of India and Pakistan. Government propose to take up this matter for further consideration after the arrangements envisaged in Pakistan (Monetary System and Reserve Bank) Order, 1947, have been terminated.

(c) and (d) Under Section 10 of the Reserve Bank of India Act no person may be a director who is an officer or an employee of any bank or is a director of any bank other than a bank registered under the Co-operative Societies Act 1912 or any other law relating to Co-operative Societies. The directors are men of integrity and on assuming office are enjoined by declaration of fidelity to maintain strictest secrecy regarding any information coming to their hands during the period of their duty while serving on the Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India. Government have no reason to believe that the directors serving on the Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India are in any way misusing the information that is put before them by the Reserve Bank.

TAKING OVER OF RECORDS FROM THE CROWN DEPARTMENT

768. *R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar: Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the old and new records, books, maps, registers, confidential and secret documents, etc., especially those of historical and political value maintained and preserved in the former Crown Department and the various

Residencies and political Agencies throughout India prior to their abolition, were taken over in their entirety by the Ministry of States of the Government of India, the various Regional Commissioners or the States concerned, as the case may be;

(b) whether any such records were destroyed by the representatives of the former Government shortly prior to the transference of power; and

(c) if the reply to part (b) above be in the affirmative, whether this was done under any general or special orders of the former Government and what steps, if any, were taken to stop it?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) The entire records prior to 1880 A.D. are in the National Archives of India; those of the period after 1880, with the exception of records relating to private lives of Rulers and the internal affairs of States, have been taken over by the Government of India.

(b) Records considered valueless for purposes of future reference or without any historical interest were destroyed by the Residents under instructions issued by the late Political Department.

(c) These instructions were in accordance with an agreement reached in June 1947 between His Excellency the Viceroy and the leaders of the Congress and Muslim League parties.

TRANSFER OF IMPERIAL LIBRARY, CALCUTTA

769. *R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar: Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal of transferring the Imperial Library, Calcutta, to Delhi, and if so, when it is likely to materialise;

(b) the total number of books in the Library; and

(c) the date of publication of the oldest book available in the Library?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) The matter is under consideration.

(b) The total number of books available in the Library is approximately 4,13,888.

(c) The date of publication of the oldest book traceable in the Library is 1481 A.D.

TRANSFER OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES TO PAKISTAN

770. *R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar: Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to transfer the originals or copies of any of the national archives at present maintained in the National Archives of India (previously known as Imperial Record Department) to the Dominion of Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the broad categories of such archives and how a selection is proposed to be made?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) and (b) There is no proposal for the transfer to the Dominion of Pakistan of the originals of any documents at present in the custody of National Archives of India. It has been decided that: (i) one printed copy of the records which are of interest to the Pakistan Government should, if available, be given to that Government; (ii) if any of the records in which the Government of Pakistan are interested are microfilmed in the ordinary course, one copy should be supplied to the Government of Pakistan free of charge; and (iii) if the Pakistan Government place additional microfilming units at the disposal of the Government of India, the

Government of India, with the help of the sub-units will agree to microfilm the records in which the Pakistan Government are interested and supply one copy thereof to the Pakistan Government free of charge.

TRANSFER OF EXHIBITS OF INDIA MUSEUM, CALCUTTA

771. *R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar: Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether any exhibits of the Indian Museum, Calcutta, and the Victoria Memorial, Calcutta, have been or are proposed to be transferred to the Dominion of Pakistan in connection with the proposed division of assets and liabilities between the two Dominions; and

(b) if so, how it is proposed to make a selection and to arrive at a fair valuation of such exhibits?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) No. The Trustees of both the Indian Museum, Calcutta and the Victoria Memorial Hall, Calcutta are autonomous bodies. The property, whether movable or immovable including the exhibits transferred to them from time to time by the Archaeological Department on a permanent basis vests solely in the trustees and hence cannot be recalled or made a subject of partition.

(b) Does not arise.

DESECRATION OF MOSQUES IN DELHI

772. *Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the report of the post prayer speech of Gandhiji published in the *Hindu* of the 23rd November and the *Statesman*, dated the 22nd November, 1947, in which he referred to the desecration and damage of 137 mosques in Delhi;

(b) whether Government are aware that one of such mosques which has been converted into a temple is situated in a prominent place in New Delhi opposite the Odeon Cinema; and

(c) what steps Government are taking for restoring all such places of worship to their original condition?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Government have already issued instructions to the Chief Commissioner to take very early steps to restore the Mosques to their original condition. Our information shows, however, that only three mosques have been converted into temples and 113 have been damaged. Instructions have been issued to survey the damage done and to prepare plans and estimates for repairing them. I would add that the Government stand by the statement I issued on this subject on the 7th November, 1947, and would draw the Honourable Member's attention to the Press Note issued on the 8th December, 1947. Copies of both the documents are laid on the table of the House.

Religious Institutions.

Further, the Government of East and West Punjab have already agreed that it is specially incumbent upon them to protect and safeguard property belonging to religious institutions and both Governments will endeavour to ensure the restoration at public expense or otherwise of all religious places in their territories that may have been destroyed or desecrated.

The Central Government has already taken action as though these undertakings applied to the Province of Delhi. It has had full inquiries made into the extent of damage done to mosques and other places of worship in Delhi and has issued strict instructions that those mosques that are being used as temples or as habitations for people should be restored

to their original condition as soon as possible and a survey should be made of the damage caused to such buildings. The Government of India thus intends to follow implicitly, in regard to Delhi, the policy that was settled between the representatives of the two Provincial Governments.

Press Note

The time allowed to those, who have trespassed on mosques during and after the recent disturbances in Delhi to vacate them expired on 6th December, 1947. Where trespass still persists, instructions have been issued to the Police to clear the mosques and to prosecute the offenders. Government would like to issue a clear and unequivocal warning to people that they cannot allow the sanctity of these places of worship to be violated in any manner whatsoever and will deal sternly with attempts on the part of any person to commit any sacrilege on mosques which have now been cleared of trespassers or restored to their original conditions. Government have already in hand the task of restoring the damage done to other mosques and plans and estimates are being prepared. Mosques which had been converted into temples have been restored to their original condition. Government trust that they will have the support and co-operation of the general public in discharging this obligation to maintain the inviolability of places of worship and that all citizens will assist in bringing breakers of the law to book.

NATIONAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY FOR INDIA

773. *Shri Balkrishna Sharma: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether Government propose to establish a National Museum and a National Library for India? If so, when and at what place?

(b) What decision has so far been taken on the recommendations of the Maurice Gwyer Committee Report for the establishment of a National Museum?

(c) What are the important collections of art, paintings, textiles, sculptures and images, etc., which exist in this country under the control of private persons and dealers?

(d) In view of the fact that the export of antiquities outside India has been prevented by a recent Act, do Government propose to acquire art collections as and when they are offered to them in order to preserve them for the galleries of the National Museum?

(e) What is the nature and extent of the collections of art, manuscripts and books in the possession of the late India Office, and what steps are being taken to secure them for this country?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) The Government of India have accepted in principle a scheme for the establishment of a National Museum of Art, Archaeology and Anthropology at Delhi. The proposal to establish a National Library including a copyright Section is under consideration. An Expert Committee is being appointed with a view to working out the details of the proposed Scheme.

(b) Provision has been made in the current year's budget for the first stage of the Scheme for the establishment of a National Museum, and expenditure sanction will be given in due course with the approval of the Standing Finance Committee.

(c) Government are aware of a number of collections of paintings, textiles, sculptures, etc., at present in the hands of private owners and dealers. It would not be in the public interest at the moment to publish names; but when the scheme of the National Museum is implemented all possible steps will be taken to prevent the dispersal of these collections.

(d) Government has recently acquired an important collections of Indian sculptures and paintings at a cost of rupees two lakhs with a view to preserving it in the proposed National Museum. It is proposed, as funds become available, to continue this policy.

(h) have Government considered the possibility of utilising some of these factories for manufacturing heavy chemicals, acids and road rollers?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) I lay a statement on the table of the House.

(b) Before the war there were eight Ordnance Factories all of which are still operating. To these twenty-one were added during the war. A number of these additional factories utilised leased property and have now been closed down or disposed of leaving the present total of 16, including pre-war factories.

(c) All. It is not in the public interest to disclose the monthly output of these factories.

(d) The capacity, surplus to Defence requirements, of all factories capable of making machinery is being utilised for civil requirements.

(e) The information is not readily available.

(f) It is a fact that these factories are not being utilised to the fullest capacity for the production of war-like stores, as service requirements are considerably smaller in peace-time than in war-time. The surplus capacity is, however, being utilised for civil needs.

(g) The question is not clear. All the Ordnance Factories are in fact producing arms, ammunition and other military equipment and stores.

(h) Yes. These items are in fact already being manufactured in the Ordnance Factories for civil use.

Statement

1. Cordite Factory, ARUVANKADU.
2. Ammunition Factory, KIRKEE.
3. Gun Carriage Factory, JUBBULPORE.
4. Harness and Saddlery Factory, KANPUR.
5. Metal and Steel Factory, ISHAPORE.
6. Rifle Factory, ISHAPORE.
7. Gun and Shell Factory, COSSIPORE.
8. Clothing Factory, SHAHJAHANPUR.
9. High Explosives Factory, KIRKEE.
10. Ordnance Factory, AMBERNATH.
11. Ordnance Factory, KANPUR.
12. Ordnance Factory, MURADNAGAR.
13. Ordnance Factory, KATNI.
14. Ordnance Factory, DEHRA DUN.
15. Ordnance Factory, KHAMARIA.
16. Clothing (ex-parachute) Factory, KANPUR. E.

REORGANIZATION OF ORDNANCE FACTORIES.

781. *Shri Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether Government have considered the question of re-organisation of the administration of Ordnance Factories in India after the administrative control of the Supreme Commander of the Joint Armed Forces of India and Pakistan has ceased after the 30th November, 1947? If so, what is the decision taken;

(b) is it a fact that more than 70 per cent. of the senior posts at the Headquarters and 80 per cent in Factories are at present held by Europeans;

(c) what steps do Government propose to take to effect speedy Indianization of all the higher posts in these factories and establishments;

(d) do Government propose to recruit technical personnel from countries overseas on short term contracts to fill some of these posts with a view to training Indians in this line; and

(e) do Government propose to send abroad Indians for proper training in this line? If so, when and how many?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) The administrative control of Ordnance Factories was taken over by the Government of India from the Supreme Commander on the 1st December 1947. To what extent the working of the factories needs to be altered to suit India's requirements is at present under consideration.

(b) The number of Europeans in gazetted appointments is roughly 50 per cent at Headquarters and 60 per cent in factories.

(c), (d) and (e). Government hope to be able to effect speedy Indianization by fresh recruitment and by intensive training of new recruits here and in Europe and U.S.A.

ANTI-INDIAN ACTIVITIES OF MUSLIM OFFICERS

782. *Shri Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that under the Supreme Command administration, Muslim officers who had opted for Pakistan, had been left free to carry on Anti-Indian and pro-Pakistan activities?

(b) Have all officers who opted for Pakistan in this branch been sent to Pakistan and if not, why not?

(c) Is it a fact that there have been cases of shortage of stores in some of the ordnance factories in India?

(d) Is it a fact that in some Ordnance Factories, finished rifles were rejected and sold as scrap and that in several cases they were smuggled into Pakistan and the State of Hyderabad?

(e) Have any enquiries been made into this matter and if so, with what results?

(f) What steps Government propose to take against fifth column activities in these factories and establishments?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) It is a fact that Muslim Officers who had opted for Pakistan were retained in the Supreme Commander's Organisation and no special restrictions of any kind were imposed on them. They continued, of course to be liable to the ordinary Government Servants Conduct Rules which require Government servants to desist from political activities generally.

(b) Yes.

(c) So far as the Government of India are aware, no shortages have been reported. By 'shortage' is understood the difference between the ground and book balances of stores in Ordnance Factories.

(d) No, so far as the Government of India are concerned.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Security measures at all factories and establishments have been strengthened and vigorous measures are being and will be taken to check fifth column activities.

ANTI-INDIAN PROPAGANDA BY AMERICAN FILM PRODUCERS

783. *Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to two photographs published in the *Amrit Bazar*

(e) It has been agreed to appoint a Committee consisting of representatives of Governments of the United Kingdom and India and Pakistan to make a report on the contents of the old India Office and the method of their disposal.

GOVERNMENT ACQUISITION OF HOUSES AND BUILDINGS AT BOMBAY AND POONA.

774. *Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have taken on lease the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd floors of Hari Buildings, Old Custom House Road, Bombay; and Bungalow No. 2, Bund Garden Road, Poona;

(b) whether it is a fact that the flats referred to in part (a) above have been lying vacant since April or May last; and that the Bungalow referred to in part (a) above is only partially occupied by one or two officers and their relations;

(c) the number of other buildings and houses taken by Government on lease which are wholly or partially vacant; and

(d) the total amount of rent per mensem Government have been paying for the Bungalow in Poona, the answer is 'No.'

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) As regards the flats in Hari Buildings, Old Custom House Road, Bombay, the answer is 'Yes'. As for the Bungalow in Poona, the answer is 'No.'

(b) No, not to our knowledge, so far as the flats are concerned. The question regarding the Bungalow in Poona does not arise in view of the answer to part (a).

(c) I presume the question relates to Bombay and Poona only. If so, the answer is 'No'. There is, however, a time-lag before a vacated house or building is re-allotted to a new occupant.

(d) The approximate monthly rent paid by Government for buildings requisitioned or hired is as follows:

Bombay	...	...	...	...	...	Rs. 41,667.
Poona	...	...	...	...	...	Rs. 13,683.
Whole of India	...	...	...	...	...	Rs. 2.5 Lakhs.

ALLOTMENT OF VACANT MILITARY BARRACKS TO REFUGEES.

775. *Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a large number of barracks constructed during the war for military purposes at Bombay, Poona and other places are lying vacant?

(b) Have Government considered the desirability of allotting vacant houses and barracks to refugees and returning buildings which are no longer required by Government to their owners and thus stop waste of public money?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) No, not to our knowledge. However, sometime necessarily elapses before a project declared surplus to military requirements is actually disposed of.

(b) Yes.

DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT OF V.C.OS. FOR CIVILIAN POSTS *vis-a-vis* K.C.OS.

776. *Shri S. Nagappa: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that those officers of the Indian Army who were holding Viceroy's Commissions prior to their release from the Army on the termination of the war, and who possessed all necessary qualifications making them eligible for the civilian posts like those of Executive Officers of Cantonments, Civilian Gazetted Ordnance Officers, etc., are considered ineligible for these posts whereas K. C. Os. are not? If so, why?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of issuing necessary orders to remove these disabilities?

(c) Are Government aware that this disparity in treatment between K.C.Os. and V.C.Os. has caused a serious discontent among the latter in view of their future prospects being marred on account of this differential treatment?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (b). No, Sir, except in the case of the Cantonment Executive Officers' Service. The question of removing the bar in the case of this Service is under consideration.

(c) No.

APPOINTMENT OF V.C.OS. TO CIVILIAN GAZETTED POSTS.

777. *Shri S. Nagappa: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state what civilian gazetted appointments are open to the class of Viceroy's Commissioned Officers, belonging to services like the I.A.S.C., and I.A.O.C., who formed an integral part of the whole organisation of the Indian Army during the war?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Generally speaking, there is no bar to the appointment of *ex-V.C.*Os to civilian gazetted appointments provided of course they possess the requisite qualifications.

MARTIAL AND NON-MARTIAL RACES CADRES

778. *Shri Chandrika Ram: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether the distinction between the martial and non-martial races has been removed?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Yes.

ENROLMENT OF DEPRESSED CLASSES TO MILITARY CADRES

779. *Shri Chandrika Ram: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state the number of members of the Depressed Classes enrolled in the last War in the following grades (i) combatants, (ii) non-combatants, and (iii) technical?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (i) Combatants—96,800. (ii) Non-combatants—622,910.

Separate figures, by classes, for technical and non-technical personnel (both combatants and non-combatants) are not available.

ORDNANCE FACTORIES IN INDIAN DOMINION.

780. *Shri Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state the number and location of Ordnance Factories in different parts of the Indian Dominion?

(b) how many of these Ordnance Factories have been closed down since the termination of the war?

(c) how many of these Ordnance Factories have been in actual operation? What is their monthly output?

(d) how many of these Ordnance Factories are now being run with a view to produce machinery for civilian requirements?

(e) what types of machines and machine-tools are at present produced in such reorganised factories?

(f) is it a fact that these factories are not being utilised to their fullest capacity? If so, why?

(g) what steps, if any, have been taken by Government to utilise these for the development of indigenous arms industry; and

Patrika, Calcutta Edition, dated the 10th November 1947, showing how anti-Indian propaganda is being carried on by American Film producers in the United States of America?

(b) Are Government in a position to state the names of the Film Makers concerned?

(c) What are the names of their representatives operating in India and the facilities, if any; they received from Government in taking these films?

(d) What measures have Government taken to counteract such propaganda?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) In view of answer to clause (b) it does not arise.

(d) I would invite Honourable Member's attention to the reply I gave to the question Nos. 257 and 313 by Mr. R. K. Sidhwa and Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru respectively on the 25th November, 1947.

SEARCHES OF MUSLIM PASSENGERS

784. *Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a press report published in the *Statesman*, dated the 17th November, 1947, under the Caption "Muslim passengers searched at Airport"?

(b) If so, how far is that report correct?

(c) What are the contents of the letter embodying instructions from a Muslim leader in Karachi?

(d) What action has been taken by Government in the matter?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) to (d). The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the answer given on the 6th December 1947 to Shri L. K. Maitra's Question No. 645. I have since received the report which shows that the press version does not represent the facts.

PAKISTAN'S EXPORT DUTY ON JUTE

785. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the Government of Pakistan have decided to impose export duty on jute in contravention of the stand-still agreement?

(b) If so, what steps Government propose to take to secure compliance of the stand-still agreement?

(c) In case of refusal by the Government of Pakistan to comply with the terms of the stand-still agreement, do Government propose to consider the advisability of terminating other stand-still agreements?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a), (b) and (c). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the Press Communique issued by the Government of India on the 23rd November 1947 explaining their attitude in the matter.

REVISION OF DECISION *re* GOVERNMENT SERVANTS¹, OPTION FOR PAKISTAN

786. *Shri Khurshed Lal: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of India had ordered that Government servants who had finally opted for Pakistan would not be allowed to alter their decision and to remain in the Indian Union?

(b) Is it a fact that the Government of India have subsequently revised their decision by allowing Government servants who had once opted for Pakistan to revise their decision and remain in the Indian Union?

(c) If so, are Government aware that this change of decision by Government has caused discontent among the personnel of services? Have the Government of the United Provinces lodged any protest against it?

(d) What are the reasons which led Government to change their previous decision?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given to question No. 753.

(c) and (d). Does not arise.

INELIGIBILITY OF V.C.OS. TO CIVILIAN GAZETTED POSTS

787. *Kunwar Shamsher Jang: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that officers who held Viceroy's Commissions during the last war, prior to their release from the Army, and who possessed all academic and other qualifications required for direct recruitment to civilian Gazetted posts like those of Administrative Officers, Executive Officers of Cantonments, Officers of Central Services Class I, have been declared ineligible for these posts? If so, why?

(b) Are Government aware that there are a number of such officers who had to accept Viceroy's Commissions in the early years of the war as a very limited number of King's Commissions were then being offered to Indians?

(c) Are Government aware that these officers had served in the Army most loyally throughout the duration of the war, like the K.C.Os. in their own spheres of work and duties and that there is great discontent and resentment among them for this differential treatment between them and the K.C.Os. so far as eligibility for direct recruitment to these post-war appointments is concerned?

(d) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of removing this disparity to enable these officers to apply for the posts for which they are at present ineligible?

(e) What civilian Gazetted posts are open to these V.C.Os. specially to those who held appointments in the I.A.S.C., I.A.O.C., etc., who have spent 5 or 6 years of their life in the service of the country and majority of whom are still unemployed mainly due to restrictions such as those mentioned in part (a) above?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a), (c) and (d). I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to Starred Question 776 asked by Shri S. Nagappa few minutes ago.

(b) During the last war practically all candidates who applied and were found suitable were granted Commissions as Indian Commissioned Officers.

(e) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to my answer to Starred Question 777.

SUPPLEMENTARY EDUCATION GRANT FOR SCHEDULED CASTES

788. *Shri Upendra Nath Barman: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state the amount budgeted in the year 1947-48 for Supplementary Education Grant for scheduled caste students by the Government of India?

(b) What is the amount spent upto now province by province?

(c) What is the principle of allocation?

(d) Is any provincial quota fixed on population basis?

(e) Do Government propose to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the names of recipients?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) The amount budgeted for the year 1947-48 (i.e. from 15th August 1947 to 31st March, 1948) for Scheduled Caste Scholarships is rupees three lakhs and eighty thousand.

(b) A† statement giving the amount, province by province spent during the last three years (1944-45, 1945-46 and 1946-47) is laid on the table of the House.

(c) and (d). The primary consideration in the award of Scheduled Caste Scholarships is merit and as such no specific provincial quota has been fixed; however, as far as possible, attempts are made to see that the awards are fairly distributed among different provinces.

(e) A† statement showing the names of the recipients of this scholarship from 1944-45 to 1946-47 is laid on the table of the House.

NAVAL WORKS DEPARTMENT AT AVADI BASE, MADRAS

789. *Shrimati G. Durgabai: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the Naval Works Department situated at Avadi Base, Madras, is still under the control of the British Government?

(b) Since there are more than 600 Indians working there, do Government propose to investigate into their working conditions?

(c) When Government propose to take over this department under their control?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Yes.

(b) Working conditions are in accordance with local regulations.

(c) The Government of India will take over this establishment after the stores earmarked for H.M.G. have been removed.

U. P. MEASURE FOR PEACE

790. *Shri Khurshed Lal: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news appearing at page 3 of the Delhi Edition of the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 27th November, 1947, under the caption "U.P. measures to keep peace"?

(b) Is it a fact that about 50,000 copies of a circular were smuggled into the United Provinces from Pakistan, inviting the Muslims in India to evacuate, and telling them "there is nothing for them to despair and that some day Muslims will rule India"?

(c) If the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what are the names of the signatories of the circular?

(d) Have Government taken any steps to find out the channel through which this circular was smuggled into the United Provinces from Pakistan?

(e) Have Government any information about this or some other similar circular having been circulated in other provinces?

(f) What steps Government propose to take to stop the smuggling of such literature from Pakistan into India?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) to (f). The Government of India have seen the press report referred to by the Honourable Member but have no information beyond what is stated therein. The Provincial Government have been asked to report on this matter and their report is awaited.

DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL DEFENCE FORCE

791. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

†Not printed in these Debates. A copy placed in the Library of the House.—Ed. of D.

(a) whether there is any separate directorate in the Home Ministry for developing Civil Defence Forces in order to scotch any sudden disturbances as between communities, parties and interests; and

(b) if not, whether Government propose to consider the advisability in the light of recent experience, of establishing such a directorate and advising the Provincial Ministries also to develop their wings of Civil Defence Force?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b). No.

TUBERCULOSIS BACILLUS HOSPITALS AND SANATORIA

792. *Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased state:

(a) the names of Tuberculosis Bacillus Hospitals and Sanatoria with number of beds, in different provinces, and of authorities managing them;

(b) whether Government are aware that in view of the fact that cases of pulmonary tuberculosis are on the increase, it has become exceedingly difficult for the victims of the disease to find accommodation in the existing Tuberculosis Bacillus Hospitals and sanatoria;

(c) whether Government propose to consider the desirability of taking early steps for removing the difficulty referred to in part (b) above;

(d) whether Government are aware that for want of any special arrangement in trains for the travelling of Tuberculosis Bacillus patients bound for admission into hospitals or sanatoria and also for want of shelter during preliminary examinations prior to admission into hospitals, the patients are compelled to take recourse to surreptitious methods for serving their purpose, causing the spread of contagion of the fell disease among the public; and

(e) if the answer to part (d) above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to consider the desirability of making suitable arrangements for segregation of such patients in the circumstances referred to in part (d) above and making provision for the removal of the difficulties?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. As regards Bengal and Punjab, the information furnished relates to these provinces before division.

(b) Government are aware that accommodation available in Sanatoria and Hospitals for tuberculosis patients is sadly inadequate in relation to the incidence of the disease in the country.

(c) The Health Survey and Development Committee made comprehensive recommendations regarding the matter. The Provincial Governments are primarily responsible for implementing the recommendations.

(d) and (e). The existing restrictions on the carriage by railways of persons suffering from infectious diseases do not apply to persons suffering from tuberculosis. The question as to what arrangements are possible will be examined.

SUMMARY OF TUBERCULOSIS INSTITUTIONS IN INDIA, PAKISTAN AND INDIAN STATES.

INDIA AND PAKISTAN—				
Tuberculosis Sanatoria	40	beds	3,288	
Tuberculosis Hospitals and General Hospitals	142	beds	2,743	
Total Number of Beds				6,031
STATES—				
Sanatoria	12	beds	439	
Hospitals	9	beds	298	
Beds in General Hospital for tuberculosis patients			401	
Total number of beds for tuberculosis patients				1,138

In addition there are 200 beds maintained by the Army and 744 all over India for the use of convicts.

Statement showing the names of Tuberculosis Sanatoriums and Hospitals with the number of beds available in different provinces.

Province	Sanatoria	Hospitals	General Hospitals	Number of beds	Managing Body (Central)
AJMER-MERWARA	The Madar Union Sanatorium, Madar. (Ajmer-Merwara)	...	...	52	Managed by a Board of Governors of the Sanatorium, mainly supported by the American Methodist Mission, in co-operation with the Scottish Presbyterians, United Church of Canada and American Presbyterian Missions.
		Victoria Hospital, Ajmer .	...	20	
ASSAM	Reid Provincial Sanatorium, Shillong	...	Total Ajmer-Merwara	72	Government of Assam.
		Civil Hospital, Kohima .	...	56	
		" " Makokchung .	...	6	
		" " Dibrugarh .	...	6	
		" " Shillong .	...	8	
		F. T. Civil Hospital, Sadiya .	...	6	
		Civil Hospital Haflong .	...	15	
		" " Gauhati .	...	4	
		" " Manipur .	...	8	
		" " " .	...	16	

BENGAL	Baikuntha Nath Roy Choudhury Phthisis Ward and Lewis Jubilee Sanatorium, Darjeeling. S. B. Dey Sanatorium Kurseong. Kancharapara Govt. Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Kancharapara.	Jail Hospital, Gauhati .	...	7	General Committee of the Lowois Jubilee Sanatorium, Darjeeling. Calcutta Medical Aid and Research Society. Bengal Government. Calcutta Medical Aid and Research Society. Tub. Hospital Committee under Darjeeling Municipality. National Infirmary Committee.
		District Jail Hospital, Sylhet .	...	22	
		...	Total Assam	154	
		...	...	8	
		...	...	43	
		...	...	200	
		Jadabpur Tuberculosis Hospital, Jadabpur.	...	230	
		Clark Tuberculosis Hospital, Darjeeling.	...	26	
		National Infirmary, 189, Manicktola Main Road, Calcutta.	...	42	
		Fraser Hospital, Burdwan .	...	8	
		Sadar Hospital Suri .	...	2	
		Sadar Hospital Bankura .	...	4	
		K. E. M. Hospital Midnapore .	...	4	
		Imambarah Hospital, Hooghly .	...	3	
		...	General Hospital, Howrah	2	
		Sadar Hospital, Nadia .	...	6	
		Sadar Hospital, Beriamporeh .	...	4	
		Sadar Hospital, Jessore .	...	2	

Province	Sanatoria	Hospitals	General Hospitals	Number of beds	Managing Body (Central)
BENGAL		Woodburn Hospital, Khulna	...	2	
		Mitford Hospital, Dacca	...	8	
		S. K. Hospital, Mymensingh	...	4	
		Sadar Hospital, Noakhali	...	2	
	...	...	General Hospital, Chittagong	3	
		Sadar Hospital, Tipperah	...	2	
		Sadar Hospital, Dinajpore	...	6	
		Sadar Hospital, Jalpaiguri	...	6	
		Sadar Hospital, Rangpur	...	6	
		Sadar Hospital, Pabna	...	4	
		Charteries Hospital, Kalimpong	...	18	
		Kurseong Hospital, Kurseong	...	24	
		Victoria Hospital, Darjeeling	...	3	
		Medical College Hospital, Calcutta	...	24	
		Campbell Medical School & Hospital, Calcutta	...	28	Under Bengal Government.
		Carmichael Medical College & Hospital, Belgachia	...	22	

BIHAR	Itki Sanatorium, Itki P. O., Dist. Ranchi.	Jail Hospital, Comilla, Dist. Tipperah	...	20	Under Bengal Government.
		Jail Hospital, Suri, Dist. Bhubhum	...	30	
		Total Bengal		796	
		...	...	194	Government of Bihar.
		Medical College, Hospital, Patna	...	18	
		Infectious Diseases Hospital Gaya	...	12	
		Sadar Hospital, Chapra, Dist. Saran	...	10	
		K. E. H. Hospital, Bettiah, st. Champaran	...	9	
		Sadar Hospital, Purnea	...	9	
		St. Columbus Zenana Hospital, Dist. Hazaribagh	...	6	
		Sadar Hospital, Purulia, Dist. Manbhum	...	2	Under Bihar Government.
		Central Jail Hospital, Bhagalpur	...	20	
BOMBAY	Turner Sanatorium, Bhoiwade Hill, Parel, Bombay Romes Prem Chand T. B. Hospital, Bombay.	Central Jail Hospital, Buxsar	...	12	
		Central Jail Hospital, Gaya	...	6	
		Total Bihar		298	
		...		80	The Municipal Corporation, Bombay.
				100	do

Province	Sanatoria	Hospital	General Hospitals	Number of beds	Managing Body (Central)
BOMBAY	Dr. Bahadurji Memorial Sanatorium, Devlali.	...	...	17	Trustees of Dr. Bahadurji Memorial Sanatorium.
	Hindu Sanatorium for Tuberculosis, Karla, District Poona.	...	...	34	Managing Committee of the Sanatorium.
	The Bel-Air Sanatorium, Dalketih, Panchgani.	...	...	160	Managing Committee and a Body of Trustees.
	Hillside Sanatorium Vengurta.	...	...	50	Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.
	Wanless Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Wanlesswadi, (District Satara).	...	...	214	Board of the Governors of the Sanatorium.
	The Maharashtra Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Panchwati, Nasik.	...	...	16	Poona Ananth Vidyarthi Griha Society.
	The Karnatak Health Institute, General Hospital and Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Hukeri Road, R. S. (District Belgaum).	...	...	28	The Karnatak Health Institute.
	.....	Maratha Tuberculosis Hospital, Connaght Road, Bombay.	...	80	Bombay Municipality.
		The Salvation Army Tuberculosis Hospital, Anand (Dist. Kaira.)	...	39	The Salvation Army Emery Hospital.
		The Parin Banoo Anti-Tuberculosis Hospital, Ashwanikumar Road, P. O. Katargaum (Dist. Surat).	...	27	Managing Committee.

...	Talegaon General Hospital and Convalescent Home, Talegaon (Dabhade), District Poona.	...	36	Managing Committee of the Talegaon General Hospital and Convalescent Home.
	S. W. Wadia Charitable Hospital, Sholapur.	...	55	Medical Relief Association, Sholapur.
	J. J. Group of Hospitals, Bombay. St. George Hospital, Bombay Civil Hospital, Nasik.	...	20 12 5	
	Civil Hospital, Alibag.	...	6	
	G. T. Hospital, Bombay.	...	26	
	Civil Hospital, Belgaum.	...	8	
	Civil Hospital, Bijapur	...	4	
	Civil Hospital, Sholapur	...	9	
	Sassoon Hospital, Poona	...	20	
	Roberts Hospitals, Borsad, Dist. Kaira.	...	12	Under Bombay Government
	Irish Presbyterian Mission Hospital, Anand.	...	20	
	Evangeline Booth Hospital, Ahmednagar.	...	12	
	Yervada Central Prison Hospital, Yervada.	...	6	
	Central Prison Hospital, Ahmedabad.	...	8	
	Central Prison Hospital, Nasik Road.	...	34	
	Total Bombay		1138	

Province	Sanatoria	Hospital	General Hospital	Number of beds	Managing body (Central)
C. P. AND BERAR.	Pendra Road-Sanatorium, Pendra Road.	...	...	150	Governing Body of the Pendra Road Sanatorium.
	...	Mayo Hospital, Nagpur.	...	14	Under C. P. & Berar Government.
	...	Victoria Hospital, Jubbulpore.	...	6	
	...	Main Hospital, Wardha.	...	10	
	...	District Jail Hospital, Chhind- wara.	...	22	
	...	Silver Jubilee Tuberculosis Hos- pital, Kingsway, Delhi.	Total C.P. & Berar	202	Delhi Municipality.
	...	...	Total Delhi	94	
	...	...	...	94	
MADRAS	Union Mission Tuberculo- sis Sanatorium, Arogya- varam.	...	...	254	Composed of representatives of 15 Missions & Churches together with the elected officers and cer- tain life members.
	Visantipuram Sanatorium Rajamundry.	...	...	95	Board of Governors which is res- ponsible to the Andhra Lutheran Church of which body the Sana- torium is an institution.
	Government Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Tambaram, P. O. Chromepet, Madras.	...	...	77	Madras Government.
	Coimbatore District Ju- bilee Tuberculosis Sana- torium, Perundurai.	...	...	112	The Coimbatore District Tub. Sanatorium Society.

...	Mount Rosary Tuberculo- sis Sanatorium P.O. Mood- bidri, South Kanara.	.....	...	28	The Very Rev. F. E. D'Souza Parish Priest, Moodbidri.
...	Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Trichinopoly.	.....	...	150	Trichinopoly Tuberculosis Relief Society.
...	...	Government Tuberculosis Hospi- tal, Royapettah, Madras City.	...	62	Government of Madras.
...	...	Tiruvoteeswaran Tuberculosis Hospital, Koonoor Road, Peram- bur.	...	150	Corporation of Madras.
...	...	Government Headquarters Hos- pital, Coimbatore.	...	20	...
...	...	Government Headquarters Hos- pital, Mangalore.	...	12	...
...	...	Government Headquarters Hos- pital, Calicut.	...	26	...
...	...	King George Hospital, Vizaga- patam.	...	42	...
...	...	Government Headquarters Hos- pital, Guntur.	...	20	...
...	...	Government Headquarters Hos- pital, Masulipatam.	...	14	...
...	...	Rajah Mirasdar Government Headquarters Hospital, Tanjore.	...	12	...
...	...	Government Pentand Hospital, Vellore.	...	10	...
...	...	Government Headquarters Hos- pital, Nellore.	...	6	...
...	...	Government Headquarters Hos- pital, Trichinopoly.	...	4	...
...	...	Government Headquarters Hos- pital, Palamcottah.	...	8	...
...	...	Government Headquarters Hos- pital, Madura.	...	32	...
...	...	Government Headquarters Hos- pital, Bellary	...	8	...

Province	Sanatoria	Hospitals	General Hospitals	No. of beds	Managing Body (Central)
MADRAS	...	The Wellesley Sanatorium Jail, Bellary.	...	160	Under Madras Government.
...	...	Pierce Memorial Mission Hospital, Madure.	...	20	
...	...	Railway Hospital, Perambur	...	4	
ORISSA	...	...	Total Madras	1,338	
...	...	...	General Hospital, Cuttack.	6	
...	...	Sadar Hospital, Ballasore	...	1	Under Orissa Government.
...	...	Moorshed Memorial Hospital, G. Udayagiri.	...	6	
PUNJAB	King Edward Sanatorium, Dharampore, R. S. (Simla Hills).	...	Total Orissa	13	Consumptives' Homes Society, Bombay.
...	Lady Irwin Tuberculosis Sanatorium, P. O. Jubar, (via Sanawar, Simla Hills).	...	...	105	Governing Body of the Sanatorium-Punjab Union Missions.
...	...	...	...	100	

...	Rajah Durga Singh Sanatorium, Baghat State (Solan), Mando Hills, P. O. Dharampore R. S. (Simla Hills).	...	...	18	Rajah Durga Singh Sahib Bahadur.
...	Lady Linlithgow Sanatorium, Kasauli (Simla Hills).	...	...	210	Managing Committee appointed by the Tuberculosis Association of India.
...	Jubilee Red Cross (Mohd. Hussain) Sanatorium, Samli (Distt. Rawalpindi).	...	...	88	Local Red Cross Society.
...	Krishan Bhagwan Sanatorium, Multan.	...	...	24	Krishan Bhagwan Sanatorium Society.
...	Mc Gwire Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Dharamsala, Kangra Distt.	...	...	7	Municipal Committee.
...	Rai Bahadur Sir Gujarmal Kesardevi Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Amritsar.	...	...	36	Governing Body of the Sanatorium with Deputy Commissioner as Chairman.
...	Garden Sanatorium, the Memorial Mission Hospital, Ludhiana.	...	...	25	Governing Body of the Women's Christian Medical College, Ludhiana.
...	...	Sh. Gulab Devi Tuberculosis Hospital, Near Model Town, Lahore.	...	61	Sh. Gulab Devi Memorial Hospital Trust.
...	...	Rai Bahadur Amar Nath Tuberculosis Institute, Mayo Hospital, Lahore.	...	74	Medical Supdt. Mayo Hospital is the Chief Executive Authority.

RECRUITMENT OF INCOME-TAX OFFICERS.

793. *Shri Satish Chandra Samanta: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether examinations and interviews for the direct recruitment of Income Tax Officers, were held at Calcutta and Delhi on the 30th and 31st of January 1947?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative (i) how many of the selected candidates were subsequently taken in services in the different provinces of the Indian Union; (ii) how many of them are on the waiting list (province-wise); and (iii) when are they likely to be appointed?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) Yes, on the dates mentioned and on other days as well, in January and February, 1947.

(b) (i) I lay a statement on the Table.

(ii) and (iii). There is no waiting list as hereafter direct recruitment to the posts of Income-tax Officers will be made exclusively by the Federal Public Service Commission.

Statement

Province in which appointments were made	No. of approved candidates appointed (as Income-Tax Officers Class II Grade III)
Bombay	59
Madras	31
East Punjab	21
United Provinces and Ajmer-Merwara	4
Bihar and Orissa	3
Central Provinces and Berar	1
Assam	1
West Bengal	10
Unallocated (Sind and Baluchistan)	8*
	138

(1) The figures given above are exclusive of officers who have since elected for service in Pakistan and have been transferred to that Dominion.

* (2) The number (8) shown as unallocated represents officers transferred from the Pakistan area to the Indian Union in accordance with their options and not yet allocated to different provinces pending completion of the training.

(3) To make up for the deficiency of Scheduled caste candidates in certain provinces, mainly Bombay and Madras, seven appointments are proposed to be offered shortly to selected members of this community from other provinces, from amongst those who appeared for interview but did not secure a rank high enough for appointment in their own province, as follows.

(a) West Bengal	5
(b) Assam	1
(c) United Provinces and Ajmer-Merwara	1
Total	7

REVISION OF PAY SCALE OF CENTRAL EXCISE DEPARTMENT.

794. *Shri Upendra Nath Barman: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether Government have received a memorandum, dated 9th September 1947, from the Secretary, Central Excise (N.G.) Employees Union, Calcutta, protesting against the recently revised scales of pay of Deputy Superintendents and Inspectors, class I and class II?

(b) Are Government considering the matter set forth in that memorandum? If not, why not?

(c) If the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, when Government expect to come to a decision?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes. The matter is under active consideration.

(c) Government hope to reach a decision within the next few days.

VANDALISM OF KONARAK TEMPLE IN ORISSA.

795. *Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to an article under the caption 'India's Art Treasures' in the Common Man of Madras (Volume 1, No. 1)?

(b) If so, is there any truth in the following sentences quoted from it, namely,—

"As a climax to this vandalism is a report that a well-known industrialist has been in communication with a widely respected Bengal artist with a view to buying up from the nation the Konarak Temple near Puri in Orissa. The industrialist is reported to be seeking information as to whether he could destroy the existing sculpture and idols which are not to his taste and substitute a fresh lot of his design. According to Indian art critics Konarak . . . contains some of the finest sculpture known to this country."

(c) Do Government propose to see that such a thing does not happen?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) Yes.

(b) Government has no other information than is contained in this publication.

(c) Should such a contingency arise, Government will take all possible steps to prevent it.

A. I. R. RELAYS OF B. B. C. BROADCASTS.

796. *Shri P. Kunhiraman: Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) the terms of the agreement under which A.I.R. relays B.B.C. Broadcasts;

(b) the special privileges allowed to the B.B.C. correspondents that are denied to Indian correspondents and the representatives of foreign Broadcasting Stations; and

(c) whether in view of the anti-Indian nature of the B.B.C. Broadcasts, Government propose to consider the question of terminating the A.I.R. relay of the B.B.C. Broadcasts forthwith?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) There is no specific agreement on this matter.

(b) None.

(c) No.

Province	Sanatoria	Hospitals	General Hospitals	No. of beds	Managing Body (Central)
Punjab	...	King George V. Memorial Tuberculosis Hospital, Rawalpindi.	...	30	Municipal Committee.
...	...	Ripon Hospital, Simla	...	5	
...	...	Victoria Jubilee Hospital, Amritsar.	...	52	
...	...	Borstal Institution and Juvenile Jail Hospital, Lahore.	...	16	
...	...	New Central Jail Hospital, Multan.	...	144	Under Punjab Government.
...	...	Central Jail Hospital, Montgomery.	...	10	
...	...	District Jail Hospital, Ambala	...	4	
			Total Punjab	1,009	
UNITED PROVINCES	Karelabag Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Allahabad.	...	...	24	Anti-Tuberculosis League, Allahabad.
...	The Sanatorium, Almora (U. P.)	...	...	36	Board of Management of the Almora Sanatorium Society.
...	King Edward VII Sanatorium, Bhowali.	...	...	178	King Edward VII Sanatorium Committee.

...	...	...	...	12	Managed by a Local Committee with the Commissioner of Benares as President.
...	Hillcrest Sanatorium, P. O. Gethia (Dist. Naimital).	...	...	42	Cap. R. K. Kacker to whom the Institution belongs.
...	...	Civil Hospital, Mainpuri	...	3	
...	...	Civil Hospital, Sitapur	...	4	
...	...	Civil Hospital, Jhansi	...	3	
...	...	Civil Hospital, Muzafarnagar	...	8	
...	...	Sadar Hospital, Basti	...	6	
...	...	Marris Hospital, Budaun	...	4	
...	...	Civil Hospital, Saharanpur	...	8	
...	...	Civil Hospital, Bareilly	...	6	
...	...	Sadar Hospital, Aligarh	...	12	
...	...	Jail Hospital, Sultanpur	...	158	
			Total U. P.	504	
					Under U. P. Government.

STEPS TO DETECT INCOME-TAX EVASIONS.

797. *Shri P. Kunhiraman: Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

- (a) what steps are taken to detect income-tax evasions;
- (b) the number of prosecutions launched against income-tax evaders in the years 1946-47 and 1947-48;
- (c) whether any special machinery is proposed to be set up, if so, the estimated cost to be incurred for its upkeep; and
- (d) how Government propose to tackle income-tax evasion by Firms operating in India with Head Offices in the Indian States?

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) It is not in public interests to give information on this point but Government are continuously striving to use all means available to them to detect evasions of Income-Tax.

(b) The number of prosecutions launched is small but exact information is not readily available. Government prefer in such cases to resort to the levy of penalties under the relevant powers given to them.

(c) This aspect of the question will, Government believe, receive due consideration by the Investigation Commission which is being set up. Government will take a final decision on receipt of their recommendations. This however does not imply that Government have no machinery now for such purposes.

(d) The matter is engaging the attention of Government. But if there is an impression that the income of the firms operating in India with head offices in the Indian States is not taxed, I would like to correct it. Such income is liable to tax under the Indian Income-tax law and is assessed either direct or through a statutory agent.

SELECTION FOR RECRUITMENT TO ARMY.

798. *Shri P. Kunhiraman: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

- (a) what steps are being taken to attract the right type of men to the Army;
- (b) whether Government propose to consider the question of associating non-officials with Army selection Boards;
- (c) whether applicants for recruitment are still classified under the categories of martial and non-martial races; and
- (d) the purpose of retaining the "Viceroy's Commission" as a designation?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) The following steps are being taken to attract the right type of men to the Army: (i) Personal contact by the recruiting and selection staff with Universities; Colleges and other Educational Institutions, influential men of different communities and civil authorities. (ii) Issue of detailed terms and conditions of service to all official and non-official bodies willing to assist in recruitment. (iii) Advertisements at suitable intervals in the leading Dailies, especially in the case of recruitment of officers and of classes and categories difficult to recruit. (iv) By displaying wall posters at suitable public places.

(b) Government do not consider that this is necessary to achieve the best results. Selection for the Army is done by officers trained in the technique of selection.

(c) No, Sir

(d) The question of changing the designation of "Viceroy's Commission" is under the consideration of Government and an early decision is expected.

REQUISITIONING OF LANDS BY DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, AGRA.

799. *Shri Jaspal Roy Kapoor: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the District Magistrate of Agra, served a notice under section 75A of the Defence of India Rules, in 1942 requisitioning certain lands in Agra Tehsil, which were needed for an aerodrome, and took over the said lands permanently in September or October, 1945, and undertook to pay compensation to the zamindars and tenants concerned;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether any compensation has been paid so far for the permanent taking over of the said lands and if not, why not;

(c) if the compensation has not been paid, whether Government propose to expedite payment of the same; and

(d) if the said lands are no more required, do Government propose to return them to the original zamindars and tenants, paying them the rent due?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Yes.

(b) No compensation has yet been paid owing to a difference of opinion as to the proper estimate of the value of the land.

(c) Steps will be taken to expedite payment of compensation.

(d) The land, or any part of it, cannot be de-requisitioned until the overall requirements of the Defence Forces have been reviewed. Rent will, of course, be paid for the period of occupation of the land by the Air Forces.

MILITARY TRAINING FOR STUDENTS IN HYDERABAD STATE.

800. *Shri Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the fact that the Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Mussalmeen in the Hyderabad State has recently called upon the Muslim students to give up their studies and to enroll themselves as a State Militia for military training?

(b) If so, have the Nizam's Government any right to do so to augment its military force in this way under the terms of the Agreement?

(c) What steps, if any, Government have taken or propose to take to see that the military force is not increased by the Nizam's Government during the period of the Standstill Agreement?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) It would be unfair to assume that Hyderabad Government is synonymous with the Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Mussalmeen.

(c) There is no reason to suppose that the Hyderabad Government will not honour the agreement.

UTILIZATION OF ORDNANCE FACTORIES FOR INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION.

801. *Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:

*Shri K. Santhanam:

(a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether Government have considered the possibilities of utilising the Ordnance Factories for augmenting and supplementing industrial production including specialised steel as well as machine tools?

(b) Have Government worked out any such scheme in consultation with the Ministry of Defence?

(c) What are the number of Ordnance Factories which have been closed down and the number of Factories existing at present in India and Pakistan?

(d) Are any Ordnance Factories established in India being shifted and transferred to Pakistan and if so, for what reasons?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Yes. The spare capacity of these factories is being used for the manufacture of a variety of articles against civil orders.

(b) The ordnance factories were under the control of the Supreme Commander until the 1st of December. The Government of India have become responsible only since that date. The Honourable Member will appreciate that there has not been time enough to work out new schemes.

(c) There are at present 16 ordnance factories in India and none in Pakistan. The total number of factories which have been closed down since the termination of the war is 13.

(d) No

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR INDIANS IN COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES.

802. *Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether Government propose to consider the advisability of awarding scholarships and fellowships to Indians who are in the Commonwealth countries, for purposes of study and lecture in Indian universities?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The question of awarding Scholarships to students of Indian origin domiciled in Commonwealth countries for study in Indian Universities is already under the consideration of Government.

No scheme is at present contemplated for awarding fellowships to Indians domiciled in Commonwealth countries for lecture in Indian universities. Government will, however, give due consideration to this aspect of the question also.

STATUS OF PAKISTAN CITIZENS IN INDIA AND *vice versa*

803. *Shri Satish Chandra Samanta: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether the citizens of Pakistan are considered as aliens in the Indian Union and *vice versa*?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to fix a date by which the citizenship of Pakistan and Indian Union may be interchangeable?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

LACK OF PUBLICITY BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IN U. S. A.

803A. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether the attention of the Government of India has been drawn to an article by Mr. A. D. Mani, published in the *Free Press Journal* of Bombay, dated the 29th November, 1947, under the caption, "India lacks publicity in U.S."?

(b) Are Government aware of the opinion expressed therein, "that India has been steadily losing in the United States on the count of publicity"?

(c) Do Government propose to augment their staff in the American Embassy on the lines suggested in the article?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The question of re-organising the Indian Information Services, Washington is engaging the attention of Government.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ACCESSION OF HYDERABAD STATE TO INDIAN DOMINION.

7. Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that H.E.H. the Nizam of Hyderabad, has not yet acceded to the Indian Dominion;

(b) whether Government are aware that the property and person of the majority community in that State are not safe and persons belonging to that community are leaving Hyderabad State, due to want of security;

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by the Government of India to improve this state of affairs;

(d) whether it is a fact that many residents of the Indian Dominion hold property and carry on business in Hyderabad State;

(e) whether Government are aware that due to the present disturbed conditions in the said State, they are unable to go there and that there is a likelihood of their properties being taken possession of by the unruly elements in that State and their dues becoming time-barred; and

(f) what steps are the Government of India taking to safeguard the interests of their citizens there?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b), (c), (d), (e) and (f). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the replies I gave to the supplementary questions on Dr. P. S. Deshmukh's question on the subject No. 649 on 6th December 1947.

EXODUS OF MUSLIMS TO HYDERABAD STATE.

8. Seth Govinddas: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there was an exodus of Muslims from the Central Provinces and Berar to Hyderabad State;

(b) whether Government are aware that these Muslims are now coming back and most of them have left their families behind in that State; and

(c) if so, whether, as a security and precautionary measure, Government propose to search such Muslims on their entering the borders of the Indian Dominion and to keep a proper watch over them after their return?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) I am satisfied that the Provincial Government are alive to, and competent to deal with, the problem stated by the Honourable Member. I should also like to add that in view of the agreement reached with the Hyderabad State, the question has now become out of date.

INSTRUMENT OF ACCESSION SIGNED BY THE STATES.

9. Shri Jai Sukh Lal Hathi: Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to lay on the table of the House:

(a) a copy of the third form of Instrument of Accession signed by the States other than those mentioned in part A and B of the Schedule attached to the Instruments of Accession in form I and II, and already placed on the table of the House by the Honourable the Minister of States; and

(b) a copy of the list of such States?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b). A copy of the third form of Instrument of Accession desired by the Honourable Member is placed on the table of the House. All the estates and *talukas* in Western India and Gujarat States which were formerly attached to Baroda, Bhavnagar, Chhota-Udepur Dhrangadhra, Gondal, Idar, Junagadh, Limbdi, Morvi, Nawanagar, Radhanpur, Wadhwan, Porbander and Rajkot have signed this Instrument.

Instrument of Accession

WHEREAS His Majesty's representative in the exercise of the functions of the Crown in its relations with Indian States has exercised certain powers and jurisdiction in relation to taluka/estate.

AND WHEREAS certain of these powers and jurisdiction were transferred to the State to which the said taluka/estate was attached.

AND WHEREAS such attachment has ceased by reason of the passing of the Indian Independence Act.

AND WHEREAS I

talukadar/chief of the said taluka/estate am desirous that the Dominion of India should exercise in relation to said taluka/estate, all the powers and jurisdiction which were exercisable, whether before, during or after such an attachment, by His Majesty's representative for the exercise of the functions of the Crown in its relations with the Indian States.

NOW THEREFORE I talukadar/chief of the said taluka/estate do hereby authorise the Dominion of India to exercise all the said powers and jurisdiction in relation to the said taluka/estate in such manner and through such agency or agencies as that Dominion may from time to time determine.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

INTERVENTION BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IN NILGIRI STATES.

Shri Yudisthir Misra: Will the Honourable Minister in charge of States be pleased to state the circumstances which led the Government of India to intervene in Nilgiri States?

Mr. Speaker: The reply will be in the nature of a statement and no supplementaries would be permitted.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: On the 28th October 1947 we received information from the Orissa Government that the situation in the neighbouring States in general was tense and that in Nilgiri in particular there was a general state of lawlessness resulting in systematic looting of property, riots and clashes between various sections of the people. The trouble soon spread in the neighbouring District of Balasore. The position assumed such dimensions that the only property which was secure in the State was the palace of the Ruler and its immediate precincts which were heavily guarded by armed guards whom the Ruler had recruited from the Eastern States Joint Police Force. The State Police was completely ineffective, incapable and even unwilling to suppress these disturbances. Telegraphic and postal services had also ceased to function. On 31st October the District Magistrate of Balasore contacted the Ruler who pleaded that the situation had gone beyond his control. Some negotiations were in progress between the Ruler and the Praja Mandal and in order not to disturb them the Government of Orissa held their hands in the hope that the affairs would be settled satisfactorily, but the situation suddenly took a turn for the worse on the 12th November when a serious clash occurred in which fire-arms were used and a number of persons died. On the same day elsewhere villages were looted and a number of houses burnt down. It was clearly impossible to wait any longer and in order to save the State and the neighbouring areas in Orissa Province from anarchy and chaos it was decided that law and order should be restored in the State. The Government of India, therefore, requested the Orissa Government to ask the District Magistrate of Balasore to proceed to Nilgiri and

STATEMENT *re* EMPLOYMENT OF GURKHA TROOPS UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT.

restore law and order and take over the administration. On the 14th of November, therefore, the District Magistrate, Balasore, with the consent of the Ruler, took over the administration of the State peacefully.

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of an Adjournment Motion, but I do not find the Honourable Member in his seat. I need not therefore take it up.

The Honourable the Prime Minister to make a statement on future employment of Gurkha troops.

STATEMENT *RE* EMPLOYMENT OF GURKHA TROOPS UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (Leader of the House): I should like to inform the House that the discussions recently held at Kathmandu between representatives of the Government of India, the Government of Nepal and His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, on the subject of the future employment of Gurkha troops under the Government of India and His Majesty's Government, have been satisfactorily concluded and a tripartite memorandum of agreement was signed on the 9th of November.

2. The documents signed by the heads of the three delegations include a number of detailed points on which further negotiations will be required to effect a final settlement, but the main principles have been agreed upon. The texts of the documents will not be published until these details have been settled. The main points on which the three Governments have agreed are as follows:

(i) Arrangements have been made for the continued employment of Gurkha officers and men in the Indian Army. The Government of Nepal have also agreed that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom may employ Gurkha officers and soldiers up to the number required to maintain eight battalions or their equivalent at peace time strength, on mutually satisfactory terms and conditions of service.

(ii) It has been agreed to transfer to service with the British Army all volunteers from the regular battalions of the 2nd, 6th, 7th and 10th Gurkha Rifles together with personnel from their regimental centres who opt for such service in the referendum about to be held. The Gurkha units not transferred to His Majesty's Government, as well as the Gurkha personnel of the units transferred but who do not opt for service with His Majesty's Government will remain in the Indian Army.

(iii) Representatives of the Government of Nepal and of the Government of India will be present with the eight units earmarked for H.M.G. while the referendum referred to above is being taken.

(iv) The Government of Nepal have agreed that Indian officers will in future serve in Gurkha units. Nepalese subjects with suitable qualifications will be eligible for Commissions in the Indian Army.

3. The Government of India have agreed that Gurkha soldiers from regiments in the Indian Army, who have completed their engagements and do not wish to continue in the Indian Army, may join the units earmarked for His Majesty's Government in order to make good any deficiency that may occur in those units by Gurkha soldiers declining to serve under His Majesty's Government.

4. It has been agreed that the Government of Nepal and His Majesty's Government will consult together on the question of recruiting Gurkha troops in excess of eight battalions, but that such additional recruitment will not in any way interfere with recruitment to the Gurkha units in the Indian Army.

[Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru]

5. In connection with the employment of Gurkhas by His Majesty's Government the Government of India have agreed to grant to His Majesty's Government certain necessary facilities such as the use, as a temporary measure, of the existing recruiting depots at Gorakhpur and Ghum and the provision on mutually satisfactory terms of transit facilities, postal and telegraphic facilities, special foodstuffs, Indian currency and remittance facilities.

6. The Government of the United Kingdom have agreed to use the corresponding Indian pay codes and rates of pay as the basis of the scale to be applied to Gurkha officers and soldiers and to give an appropriate additional allowance during service abroad.

7. The arrangements which I have described fully meet the requirements of the Government of India. The willingness of the Government of Nepal to allow us to retain in service in the Indian Army the full strength of Gurkha units which we desired is another indication of the close relationship that exists between Nepal and India. The negotiations proceeded in an atmosphere of cordiality and goodwill and I should like to express our appreciation of the co-operative spirit of the Government of Nepal and of His Majesty's Government in the course of these discussions, and our special gratitude to His Highness the Maharaja of Nepal.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru (U. P. General): May I enquire, Sir.....

Mr. Speaker: It has been the practice here that whenever any statements are made, no further questions are allowed.

ELECTION TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Minister for Home, Information and Broadcasting and States): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the Speaker may direct one member to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on the subjects with which the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is concerned, until the end of the next financial year vice Shri Feroze Gandhi resigned."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the Speaker may direct one member to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on the subjects with which the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is concerned, until the end of the next financial year vice Shri Feroze Gandhi resigned."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Minister for Home, Information and Broadcasting and States): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the Speaker may direct one member to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on the subjects with which the Ministry of Commerce is concerned, until the end of the next financial year vice Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar resigned."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the Speaker may direct one member to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on the subjects with which the Ministry of Commerce is concerned, until the end of the next financial year vice Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar resigned."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the Honourable Members that for the purpose of election of one member to each of two Standing Committees for the Ministries of Information and Broadcasting and Commerce, the Notice Office will remain open upto 3 p.m. today and that the election, if necessary, will be held on Thursday the 11th December, 1947. The elections by means of the single transferable vote will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room (No. 21) in the Council House, between the hours 10-30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

MOTION RE FOOD POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad (Minister for Food and Agriculture): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Food policy of the Government of India be taken into consideration."

The food policy, Sir, is the result of certain war-time emergency measures which had to be taken during the course of the war. It will be recalled that before the last war commenced India used to import something like 15 lakh tons of rice, mostly from Burma. The effect of the war was not felt during the first two years so far as food was concerned, but when Japan entered the war and Burma was overrun this import of rice from Burma ceased and difficulty began to be experienced throughout the country on account of the cessation of this import. The Government towards the end of 1941 took note of the situation and ordered control of the price of wheat in the month of December, 1941. But very soon the emphasis shifted from wheat to rice and the Provinces particularly in the South which were deficit in the supply of rice found it increasingly difficult to meet their requirements. It became necessary, therefore, to take steps to meet the situation which was becoming more and more acute. *Ad hoc* action was taken from time to time by Provincial Governments or by the Government of India and movement of grain from one Province to another was restricted. Sometimes even movement within a Province was restricted. The Government appointed a Food Grain Policy Committee which made certain recommendations. The principal recommendations of that Committee were: maintenance of pre-determined price level, movement of supplies in accordance with the basic plan and lastly the building up of a reserve. The Famine Enquiry Commission which was appointed after the Bengal Famine endorsed these recommendations of the Food Grain Policy Committee and the present policy which has been in vogue up till now is based principally on the recommendations of these two Bodies. As a natural corollary to these recommendations Government had to restrict movements, to control movements, to control prices, and had gradually also to adopt action for the purpose of distribution, that is to say, something in the nature of rationing. Rationing was introduced first in the bigger cities with a population of a lakh or more; gradually it was extended to smaller cities with a population of 50,000; and ultimately it had to be extended even to rural areas. The areas in the South like the States of Travancore and Cochin which are heavily in deficit had to resort to rural rationing almost from the beginning. Rationing gradually expanded. It was hoped that with the end of the war many of the restrictions which had been necessitated by it would disappear. But unfortunately a situation developed, largely on account of the failure of monsoon and other natural causes, which not only made it impossible for rationing to be abolished but actually expanded it. And the biggest increase in the rationing area has really taken place after the end of the war in 1946 and 1947. I may just mention that in 1944 when rationing was introduced, there were only 26 million people under rationing; in 1945 the number rose to 52 million, in 1946 it rose to 100 million, and in 1947 before the partition it came to as much as 171 million. Now in India it is something like 148 million.

[Dr. Rajendra Prasad]

The rationing at its start was with a basic ration of one pound per adult, half a pound for children and half a pound extra for heavy manual labourers. It has not been possible to maintain this rate, and in 1946 the over-all ration had to be cut down to 12 ounces for adults, six ounces for children, and an extra four ounces for heavy manual labourers. But it has not been possible to maintain even this, and in 1947 in many places it has had to be reduced to as low as eight ounces or even less. In Travancore the over-all scale was reduced to 9.2 ounces from August, 1946; in December, 1946 it was increased to 10.6 ounces; in January to 10.7 ounces, in May to 10.9 ounces, and in July last it had to be reduced to 8 ounces and in August to as low as 6 ounces. From October it has again been raised to 8 ounces at which level it remains today. In Cochin the scale of ration never came up to one pound except for a short while in February 1945. Since then it remained at 12 ounces till July 1947, when it had to be reduced to 8 ounces and then to 6 ounces for some time. In August it came to 8 ounces and remained there. In Mysore the over-all ration was reduced to 10 ounces in July 1947 and to 8 ounces in October at which level it remains. In Madras the over-all size of 12 ounces had to be reduced to 10 ounces in and to 8 ounces in July 1947; but it was again raised to 12 ounces from August 1947 except in the case of rice eaters for whom it is 10 ounces now. In other areas also there were reductions in the over-all scale from 12 ounces to 10 ounces, as for example in West Bengal, in East Punjab, in Delhi and Ajmer.

We thus see that it has not been possible to maintain rationing even at the low rate of 12 ounces per adult; but there have been other difficulties too which have been experienced. The problem of rationing has created other problems; it has brought in its wake corruption among the staff, unauthorised agents and prevalence of black marketing and of ghost ration cards. For this purpose a special enforcement staff has been appointed in all areas; instructions have been issued to give exemplary punishments to offenders; in many areas mobile inspection squads have been appointed to make surprise visits; and a drive to unearth ghost cards, particularly in Delhi and in Bombay, has had good results. A system of checking retail shops by surprise visits has been introduced. Apart from this austerity measures have had to be resorted to. But in spite of all this it has not been possible to maintain rationing at the low figure of even 12 ounces, and difficulties have mounted from day to day. There are only two ways in which Government could secure the supplies that were required for meeting their commitments: Government could get them from internal sources and they could get them from imports. The difficulties in procurement from internal sources have also mounted; it is becoming administratively more and more difficult for the provinces to enforce procurement. Various systems have been adopted in the different provinces; some have adopted a system of levy, some have adopted monopoly purchase, while some have adopted a combined system of levy and monopoly purchase. But the difficulties have not been solved and in one case at least force had to be used even to the extent of shooting to enforce procurement. There has been a general demand from the provinces that prices of foodgrains for procurement should be raised. In pursuance of the policy which was laid down by the Foodgrains Policy Committee and endorsed by the Famine Inquiry Commission, the Government of India have tried to resist this demand for increasing the prices. It has to a certain extent succeeded but I cannot say that there have not been breaches. We have had to allow bonuses which are only another name for increasing the prices. In one case at least we have had to shut our eyes and allow an increase in price in the name of cartage.

An Honourable Member: Which province is that?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: Bihar.

So while difficulties have increased our procurement has not increased much. The difficulty of import has also not been small. In the first place, there is an overall shortage of food in the world. The food that is placed at the disposal of the International Emergency Food Council is distributed to the needy countries by that international body. We have been making representations and we have been getting allocations from them. But our demand has not been fully met. We have only got something like say about 50 per cent. of our demands from the international body. But it is not only that we have not got what we wanted, but the prices which we have had to pay have gone on increasing. What we were getting at Rs. 10 a maund at the beginning of 1946 from Burma rose to Rs. 14 per maund in June of that year, and further to Rs. 17 per maund early in 1947. In 1948, the price that we have to pay is £38 per ton f.o.b., which comes to about Rs. 21 per maund landed in India. That is with regard to Burma.

The Brazilian and Egyptian rice is still more costly being at Rs. 26 and Rs. 24 per maund. Australian wheat has risen from Rs. 7 per maund in 1943-44, and if the negotiations that are now going on succeed, we may get it at Rs. 15 per maund. The Turkish wheat costs Rs. 20 per maund: Argentine maize has risen from Rs. 10 per maund last year to Rs. 13 per maund this year. Even these supplies at such high costs have been got only because our delegations and deputations have been running from country to country and making representations to them.

In order to meet the difference between the internal prevalent prices and the prices of imported foodgrains, the Government of India has had to pay a subsidy. The subsidy was sanctioned in April, 1946 and from April, 1946 to March, 1947 the amount came to Rs. 20.59 crores which the Government of India had to pay; and from April, 1947 to December, 1947 it is estimated to be something like Rs. 17.35 crores, and if it is continued to the end of the current financial year it will come to something like Rs. 22½ crores.

The price of the foodgrains that we have been importing is very high and the amount which the Government of India has to pay is tremendously high. Exchange difficulties have been mounting, and it is not known how long it will be possible for the Government of India to purchase this imported grain at such high prices to the tune of something like Rs. 100 crores a year.

It was because we felt that all these difficulties were mounting, our own procurement was not making as much progress as we wished, imports from other countries were becoming more and more difficult, we felt that something should be done to meet the situation.

I might just point out that with the expansion of rationing, the resources of the Government to meet the increasing demand for supplies, we did not have a *pari passu* increase in the supplies. As I have said, in 1944 the rationed population was something like 26 millions and the resources of supplies at the Government's disposal were 4.93 million tons from procurement, .76 million tons imported, total 5.69 million tons. In 1945, when the rationed population was 52 millions, procurement was 4.55 million tons, imported .91 million tons, total 5.46 million tons. In 1946 when the rationed population had increased to 100 millions, procurement was only 5.05 million tons, imported 2.1 million tons, total 7.15 million tons; and in 1947 up to September, procurement has been 4.17 million tons, imported 2.01 million tons, total 6.18 million tons.

This shows that a breakdown of rationing was inevitable because the amount procured and imported remained more or less at a constant figure, while the rationed population increased more than six times. It became inevitable therefore for the Government to take a stock of the situation and in July last

[Dr. Rajendra Prasad]

we had a conference attended by Provincial Ministers and others and the conference suggested that it was necessary to have some sort of an expert committee to advise the Government on this matter, and so a committee was appointed. The committee was asked to review the whole food policy, to make suggestions about the present programme and also to make recommendations as to how to increase production. It has made its recommendations on the first part: it has not yet made recommendations on the second part relating to increased production. The recommendations of this Committee were circulated to the provinces and conferences have been held with Provincial Ministers and Prime Ministers and after prolonged discussion, the Government of India has come to certain decisions which I understand have been placed in the hands of Honourable Members, so that they might study the decisions and take part in this debate.

It is not necessary for me to repeat the whole of the recommendations and I will just read different portions from the paper which has been circulated.

"The Government of India have decided that the existing policy should be revised and the revised policy should be one of progressive decontrol of foodgrains. Consistently with this basic decision of policy, the Government of India have advised Governments of provinces and States that they should progressively reduce their commitments under rationing and controlled distribution in the reverse order to the original process of extension so as to be able to withdraw and end all rationing and control as soon as may be feasible.

All the imports of foodgrains in 1948 will continue to be made by the Central Government only..... and the present Basic Plan arrangements will continue. Out of the quantities actually imported from abroad, not less than 5 lakhs of tons, and if possible up to 10 lakhs of tons, will be retained by the Centre as an emergency reserve. Provinces and States have been intimated the basic export quotas for surplus areas, and ceiling import quotas for deficit areas. Governments of surplus units have been asked to accept responsibility for procuring and making available the basic export quotas during 1948 and also to endeavour to make available as much additional grain as possible in the form of supplementary export quotas. Governments of deficit units have been asked to plan on the basis that ceiling import quotas will not be exceeded during 1948, and that they shall have to accept full responsibility for management of their food affairs without making larger demands on the Centre. They should also endeavour to reduce their requirements from the Centre as much as possible.

Decision regarding the prices at which procurement should be effected and foodgrains should be sold within their respective areas have been left to the Provincial Governments concerned.

They may fix the prices in such manner as may be considered by them fair and feasible in prevailing local conditions. * * *

In order to assist movement of decontrolled foodstuffs and for distribution of controlled foodstuffs by the trade within a Province or State, arrangement has already been made that movement of foodstuffs on private account will be classified in class II(b) of the Priority Schedule as against the present classification in class IV. Government-sponsored movements of foodstuffs will continue to receive higher priority as hitherto.

Since existing controls, their nature and their intensity, differ widely from area to area; the implementation of this policy will take widely different forms. * * * (and so it has of necessity to be left to the Provinces and States.) It is fully recognised that the decision taken by the Government entails a certain amount of risk. The present policy is based on the expectation that decontrol would bring out more stocks than at present under control; and that these stocks would be distributed without serious hoarding or profiteering.

Only experience will show whether these expectations will be fulfilled or not. If they are, the country would gain immensely: the pace of return to normalcy would be quickened, administrative personnel at present engaged on controls would be released for more urgent and productive tasks and there will be general public satisfaction. On the other hand should there be an outburst of hoarding the profiteering on the part of traders and large producers or panic among consumers, then the consequences would be extremely serious. While the Government of India consider that the risk involved in a policy of progressive decontrol of food should be taken in the larger national interest, they are fully conscious of the need for watching developments carefully and maintaining preparedness against possible emergencies. The Government of India have, therefore, advised the Governments of Provinces and States that the present food control organisation should be maintained substantially intact until the success of the revised policy has been assured. They have also been advised that existing arrangements of requiring holders of stocks of foodgrains to that out licences and submit returns should be continued. In order to watch the situation closely, the Government of India would obtain weekly information from provinces and States regarding stocks, procurement, prices and the general food situation. Besides the progress of the implementation of the revised policy will be reviewed at all-India Conference at Minister level to be held at quarterly interval. * * *

It will thus appear that the main decisions of the Government fall under four categories: (1) gradual curtailment of Government commitments by withdrawing rationing in the reverse order to the original process of extension. (2) to reduce the dependence on imports from abroad and to put greater emphasis on procurement within the country, (3) to give provinces greater freedom with regard to prices to be paid for procurement consistently with keeping them within reasonable limits for the consumer and (4) to watch developments and keep in readiness a reserve of grains to meet emergencies.

As I have said and as the statement which has been circulated to Members also states, it is recognised that there are risks. I think we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that there is a great deal of discontent against controls. Producers are dissatisfied because they feel that under control they cannot get the price which they ought to get and Government forces them to accept less than what they would otherwise get. Consumers, on the other hand, feel that they cannot purchase what they want and they have to be content with less than what they would like to buy if there were no controls and they have sometimes to put up with certain kinds of grains to which they are not used and the quality of which is not always of the sort one would like it to be. A vicious circle has been created by these controls.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): Producers do not want controls, the consumers do not want controls. What about the merchants?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I will come to the merchants also. The merchants feel that they have lost their jobs and naturally they do not like the controls. So a sort of vicious circle has been created on account of these controls. There is a sense of insecurity in the public mind on account of the continuance of the controls. They feel as if there is something very wrong and any day there may be trouble. And so the producer does not feel inclined to market all that he would if he felt secure about the future. The consumer also, if he can manage it, tries to get as much as he can, so that he might be prepared to meet emergencies. And the trader, wherever he can, also tries to hoard. So all these factors combined together lead to shortage and shortage in its turn necessitates control. This vicious circle sometime and somehow has to be broken at some stage. Government therefore had to take a decision. After all wartime emergency measures cannot be continued forever and especially when we feel that our difficulties are mounting we had to take some decision and we had to take a decision even though

[Dr. Rajendra Prasad] it involved a risk. We had to make a choice. The risk involved in the policy that is now proposed is that there may be a rise in prices. Let us not imagine that this rise in prices will effect all. At present we have a large population which is either under rationing or controlled distribution. But all this population does not purchase its foodgrains. A considerable portion of the population now under rationing comprises producers who produce more than they need. They are the surplus producers. Also there are producers who produce only a part of their own requirements and have therefore to depend upon rationing for the other part of their requirements. And it includes also non-producers who depend entirely upon rationing for their food. Any rise in the prices will not affect the first class which is of producers who are surplus producers. Any rise in the prices will not affect the second class which is of partial producers except to the extent of the deficit which they have in their food supply. It will affect the non-producers undoubtedly. These non-producers are not confined only to cities. They are spread over rural areas also while in the south rationing affects rural areas too, in the north, say in the U.P., C.P., Bihar and Bengal, rationing has not spread to rural areas to any appreciable extent. Therefore this element in the population which is of non-producers in the villages where there is no rationing today has to depend for its supplies on black market and it is already paying very high prices in the black market. Any rise in the prices of foodgrains as a result of decontrol, I imagine, will not be more than what is prevalent in black market.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (West Bengal: General): What about sugar? We are not getting a grain of sugar since yesterday.

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I will come to that. As I have said, any rise in prices will affect the non-producer who is now being rationed. It will not affect the non-producer who is not under rationing today. The number of such non-producers who depend for their food on purchases made by them is not inconsiderable. It is difficult for me to give figures, but I can say this that their number is not small. In these circumstances the risk of rise in prices affects only a part of the population; it does not affect the other parts. The risk is there. But if we did not take the decision that we have taken we would have to face the other risk, that is of a complete breakdown in course of time. I do not say that a breakdown was coming today. But I have no doubt that with the difficulty of procurement, with the rising prices of imported foodgrains, with the difficulty of exchange and generally the administrative difficulties which have arisen on account of control to which I have made reference, a breakdown sooner or later was inevitable. That breakdown would be infinitely more disastrous than anything that may happen on account of rise in prices. The Government had therefore to take the risk and it has decided to take what it considers to be the smaller risk.

I have said that I do not anticipate that the prices will go to the heights of black market prices. In this I am to a certain extent encouraged by what has happened with regard to prices of oils and oilseeds. In March last oils and oilseeds were decontrolled. This was necessary because in large tracts of the country edible oil was not available at all, and if it was available it was available at very high prices. The Government had in these circumstances to decide to decontrol oil. The result was in a sense very satisfactory. I will give some figures which will show how the decontrol of oil has worked. In Bengal and Assam particularly, where mustard oil is largely used, oil was not available at all in many places, and wherever it was available the prices were very high. The controlled price of mustard oil in Calcutta in March was Rs. 57-12-0 per maund. But it was selling at Rs. 120 per maund. In many places it was not available. Oil was decontrolled in March and the

effect was to bring down the price from Rs. 120 to Rs. 63—which was only Rs. 6 above the control price. Since then the price has fluctuated and as the stock of last season's produce has decreased and is now approaching its end, the price has gone up to Rs. 72 or Rs. 73. It is even then very much less than the black market price of Rs. 120. In the U.P. the control price was Rs. 45-8-0 a maund. The market price was Rs. 55 a maund. It rose in November to Rs. 68. Now it is worth, noting what the effect of this decontrol has been. The U.P. is a surplus province so far as oils and oilseeds are concerned. The effect of decontrol has been to push up the price of oil to some extent in that Province, whereas in the Provinces which are deficit the effect has been to bring down the market prices. The disparity in the price between the producing and the consuming Provinces which subsisted before decontrol has become very much less.

The same thing has happened in the case of groundnut oil. In March the control price in Bombay was Rs. 37-8-0 per maund and Rs. 35-2-0 in Madras. Madras is a surplus Province in regard to groundnut oil, while Bombay is a deficit Province. The market price was Rs. 75 in Bombay and Rs. 39 in Madras at the time when decontrol was introduced. After decontrol the price in Bombay went down, in June, from Rs. 75 to Rs. 55, and rose in Madras from Rs. 39 to Rs. 55. In November it came down to Rs. 51 in Bombay and Rs. 41 in Madras. So in this case also the result has been a levelling down in the case of deficit areas and a levelling up in the case of surplus areas and diminution in the disparity of prices between the two areas. I expect something similar will happen in the case of foodgrains also.

Now I come to sugar. When a decision was taken to decontrol, gradually and in a progressive way, foodgrains, it was felt that there was no justification for maintaining control in the case of sugar which after all is not as essential a foodstuff as cereals. The control of sugar has also created a most curious situation. Under rationing everyone is entitled to a certain quantity of sugar like every other foodgrain. Many people who are not used to taking sugar have under the rationing system to take it. Many others who used to take more sugar formerly have to be content with the quantity that is rationed out to them. So, while on the one hand people who do not need it have to take it, on the other people who do need it do not get it. Those who do not need it pass on the sugar to the black market, and that is one of the sources from which black markets are fed. The price of sugar in the black market has been anything between Rs. 55 and Rs. 65 as against Rs. 21-4-0, which was the ex-factory controlled price till yesterday. I am not hoping that as a result of this decontrol the price of sugar will not go beyond 12 NOON Rs. 21 where it has been, but I am hoping it will be nothing like Rs. 55 or Rs. 65, which has been the prevalent black market price today. There has been also another effect of control of sugar. The quantity of sugar produced in the country has gone on decreasing progressively and the season 1946-47 has seen the lowest on record within recent years. We have had only 9,05,000 tons produced in India in 1946-47, or if you add the production in Pakistan, 9,25,000, as against more than 11 lakh tons which it had reached some years previously. The reason for this reduction that is suggested is that the growers have not been paid the price which they ought to get, and they have not been able to produce as much as they used to produce before. The quality of cane also has deteriorated leading to a fall in the recovery of sugar from the sugar-cane from 10.5 to something about 10 or below 10. It is suggested that if the price of sugar-cane is raised, the price of sugar will naturally rise because sugar-cane is the biggest element in the production of sugar. The cost of labour is also going to be raised. It was something like Rs. 22-8-0 before last year. This year in the United Provinces and Bihar, the minimum is going to be something like Rs. 45. The price of sugar-cane was 14 annas before last year. It was raised to Rs. 1-4-0 during the last season. This season it is going to be nothing less than Rs. 2. Now these elements are bound

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to raise the price of sugar which will be produced in the season which is now commencing, and when we think of increase in the price of sugar, we should not attribute the whole of it to decontrol because the greater part of it will be due to these causes, and I do not know what part of it, but only some part of it may be due to decontrol.

All these considerations have led the Government to come to its decision. Within recent months Honorable Members are aware that Mahatma Gandhi has raised his powerful voice against control. That is sure to make the continuance of control even more difficult than it has been in the past. But I am hoping that the policy which the Government has now decided to adopt will in the same measure be benefited by the same powerful voice, and this policy has a better chance of success now than the policy which we are now giving up gradually. But we are not taking risks without making some arrangement to get out of the difficulty if a really difficult situation arises.

An Honourable Member: It is bound to arise.

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: As I have said, we have taken three or four precautions so that if a really serious situation arises, we may be able to avert it or at any rate to mitigate the effects of it. We have decided to continue the organization which is now in existence so that when we have to revert to control again, we may have the organization ready at hand. We have decided to build up a stock of grain which will be available in cases of emergency. It has been the recommendation of the Foodgrains Policy Committee, as also of the Famine Enquiry Commission, that this reserve should be built up. It has not been done up till now, but it has been decided to build it up this year to the extent of 500,000 to 1 million tons if possible. We have also taken the precaution of continuing control on traders by insisting upon their registration and declaration of their stocks from time to time so that if an emergency arises, the Government may be in possession of information about the stocks and may take necessary action to rush stocks from places where they exist to places where they may be needed. But while we are taking all these precautions, we also contemplate that in course of time it would not be necessary to resort to any retrograde backward step in the direction of control again. These precautions are taken only to meet emergencies if they arise. This new policy is undoubtedly a break from the policy which has been in force for some years now. A break has to be made at some time or other and it is much better that it is done at a time when we are still in a position to meet an emergency if it arises than when we shall be helpless and forced to abandon this present policy. In the course of these years such success as has attended the policy of control has been achieved by the co-operation of all. Let us not imagine that our policy of control has been a complete failure. Far from it. It has succeeded in a way which has attracted the attention and earned encomiums of foreigners. With all its defects, with all the other difficulties which I have mentioned, it cannot be denied that it has helped us in the past in tiding over crises which might well have overwhelmed us.

Pandit Hriday Nath Kunzru (U. P.: General): It can help us in future too.

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: If necessary we may come back to control in a more rigid form if that is forced upon us, but we must make a beginning to break it and that is what is proposed to be done in the new policy which the Government has adopted. We do not want to rush things. We want things to take their natural course so that ultimately normal conditions may be restored. When I have said that our policy has achieved some success, I must say that that success has been achieved by the co-operation of all concerned—officials of Government, Ministries in the Provinces, State Governments, the public at large, and last but not least, by the Legislature. We have had co-operation all-round so far, and I hope that in the new policy

which the Government is inaugurating today it will continue to get the same kind of co-operation and help so that the return to normalcy may be quickened, so that the emergency measures which have been necessitated by exigencies of war may disappear and the people in this country may begin to live once again in normal conditions.

I therefore do not accept this policy in a spirit of defeatism or of despair; I have accepted this policy full of hope, and if I get the co-operation, if the Government gets the co-operation which it has a right to claim and which it has received in the past, in the future also, I feel confident that it may succeed. More than that I cannot say; more than that you cannot expect anyone to say.

I am going to give up the Department with which I have been associated, to take up other duties very shortly. It would have been much better if my successor had had the opportunity of taking part in the decisions which have been arrived at by the Government.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Why not see this experiment through?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: but unfortunately we could not wait and decisions had to be taken. I have no doubt that the country and this House will realise that after all it is not a decision of an individual, it is the decision of the Government—although I cannot deny my own share in it which has not been small as I have been in charge of the Department.

If the country, if the Members of this House, if all who are interested in this, feel that this has to succeed, this will succeed. I am hoping that the producers will place larger quantities now when they get higher prices, when they feel that they are not compelled but are free to sell as they like. I am hoping that consumers will also put upon themselves some sort of a self-denying ordinance and will not, because of de-control, make unreasonable and unnecessary demands upon the stocks of food. Let us not forget that every grain that is wasted by a consumer means so much taken away from hungry mouth.

I have hopes that the trade will also play its part. If nothing else, its self-interest ought to dictate to it that it is not wise to kill the hen that lays the golden eggs. If this experiment fails unfortunately, there can be no alternative but a more rigid control which will eliminate the trade altogether. That will be one of the incentives if nothing higher counts, which will enable trade to play its part. But I am not counting only upon this; I am hoping and I have reasons to hope that trade will play its part honourably in this.

I am hoping that the Provincial Governments, the State Governments and all others concerned will so manage their affairs that dependence upon foreign imports will grow less and less. We are trying to encourage procurement by giving a bonus of eight annas per maund for every maund procured. We are giving an additional eight annas to every maund that is exported from a surplus area to a deficit area. On the one hand these will encourage procurement; on the other we are throwing a part of the burden which the Government of India has so far been bearing, of meeting the deficit between the imported price and the internal price, on the Provinces so that they may demand less and less of the imported stuff. The policy has been integrated in such a way that dependence on foreign imports may become less, more encouragement to procurement will be given, and in course of time we may come to a stage when normal conditions will prevail. Let me hope that this will succeed; and I hope the House will support this policy with all its strength and that the country will also give its fullest support.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Food policy of the Government of India be taken into consideration."

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma (U. P.: General): Sir, it is rather difficult for me, immediately after the lucid speech of the Honourable the Food Minister, to raise my feeble voice in criticism, and even in partial protest, of the policy which has

[Pandit Balkrishna Sharma]
been adumbrated today in his speech. I am one of those, Sir, who has, in this controversy, actually not been able to find my feet. I have been swayed with doubts one way some times, and the other way the other times. But when today we are taking a decision in this matter, it is well that I should speak out my mind and even express my doubts in order that the House may be in a position to make up its mind.

When we are taking into consideration the future food policy which our Government is to follow, we are, in a wider context, considering the question of control *versus* de-control. And when we as a Legislature are called upon to express our opinion in favour of de-control, I think we are taking a retrograde step. We are going against the trend of world-thought which is more and more inclined towards regulated, planned economy and controls over commodities.

Sir, as you are aware, the policy of *laissez faire* in the industrial and economic field came into existence after the Industrial Revolution of Great Britain, and for years on end that policy succeeded for the very simple reason that Great Britain was the first among the civilised countries of the West to achieve the industrial revolution and secondly because it was a country which had many colonies under it where it could dump its finished goods, with the result that in Great Britain every liberal minded person sang the song of free trade, free enterprise and *laissez faire*. The exploitation of colonial countries and the consequent inflow of wealth in that industrial country gave a fillip to the policy of *laissez faire*. But, Sir, a time came when a sort of saturation point was reached, when the colonial countries also began to develop industrially, when revolts and revolutions began to take place and when this policy of free trade and *laissez faire* brought into play all the forces of competition between nations and nations.

At that time, Sir, a great thinker, or rather, two great thinkers,—Marx and Engels—came on the scene. They put before the world a new idea. With a great vision they saw the end of that free economic enterprise and they placed before the world the idea that it will no more do for world economy to be carried on in the old way and that if the countries of the world persisted in that they will have to face damnation. The two world wars that we have seen in our life time are nothing but a result of that policy of free trade, free enterprise, economic competition and all sorts and manners of shibboleths by which liberal democracy flourished for about a century. By and by, Sir, the theory which Marx and Engels adumbrated was accepted by all the countries, so much so that even the parties which came into existence in order to fight the ideas of Marx and Engels had to adopt that policy of planned economy. The Nazis in Germany and before them, the Fascists in Italy started on the basis of planned economy.

Now, we have experienced the control business in our country for the last five or six years. The one reason—and it is a powerful one—which has been advanced against continuance of control is that the controls have failed, that they have given rise to corruption, that black-markets have been playing havoc with our national life and therefore the controls must go. This, Sir, is really a very poor argument. We have got law courts; we have got the Police, and yet the anti-social elements are at work. Do we, for that reason, propound the theory that all our law courts should cease to exist or that the police should cease to exercise vigilance over the society? There is no doubt that controls in our country have not worked so well, but when there is a scarcity of commodities, how can we think of ever living a life free from all controls? I for the life of me cannot understand it, Sir.

The Honourable the Food Minister gave certain figures in regard to oil seeds after de-control. To say that the prices will find a level which will be within the reach of the ordinary consumer and that the trade and commerce will rise to the occasion does not appeal to me. They have not risen to the occasion. 35 lakhs of people in Bengal died and the profiteers did not think of playing the game.

How can we today expect that after de-control the trade and commerce will co-operate with the Government and will give the society that co-operation which alone can bring success to this policy of de-control. If we accept today the theory of Mahatma Gandhi, if we accept today that we are nobody except trustees of the society's wealth, then alone can this sort of philosophic anarchism, which de-control is, can ultimately, succeed; otherwise, it cannot succeed, and I am afraid we shall have to revert to these controls. I am seeing before my eyes the effect of this de-control. We are bound to be caught in the rising spiral of inflation. Prices will rise; the labour will demand more; the Government employees will demand more and the Government will have nothing left but to go to the mint and print notes. We have seen the effect of it in China; we have seen the effect of it even in America. President Truman had again to go to the Congress in order to secure its assent for controlling the prices of certain articles which he had de-controlled so we can easily see that de-control is not going to help us in any way. Of course, the controls have failed, firstly for the reason that we have not been able to control the sources of production. Take for instance the control of iron and steel. The men who were asked to manage this control system are the men from the two great Iron and Steel producing concerns in our country. And how on earth can you expect these men to manage your Iron and Steel controls? Take the Cloth control, for instance. About the Cloth control we have said so many times that there has been a leakage. Here is my Honourable friend Mr. Khandubhai Desai; he can prove to the hilt that the leakages have taken place and yet we have not thought in terms of controlling the sources of production and now we say: "Let us remove the controls." I am against it, Sir, and I think it my duty to register my voice against this proposition that we can take back the society to decontrol. We cannot set the hands of the clock backwards; controls have come to stay; controls cannot be got rid off because unregulated unplanned economy can never prosper in this world any more and if the better organized countries have resorted to planned economy and they have to give the go by to this *Laissez faire*, then who are we to-day, in the year of Grace 1947 to think in terms of decontrol?

Pandit Hirday-Nath Kunzru: Mr. Speaker, I have studied the Government's decision on Food Policy with the care which it deserves. I have read it over and over again, but the more I have studied it, the more I have been disappointed. I have never read a document so fraught with grave consequences which was supported by such flimsy arguments as are contained in the Government's statement. I have tried to understand the reasons which have led the Government to accept a policy of progressive decontrol, but I have found no reason which would support the Government's view that if controls were taken off the consumer would be in a better position to obtain the food that he needs at the present time. Sir, we find that even surplus countries are trying either to re-impose the food controls which were in force during the war or to maintain them. America did away with all food controls shortly after the war, but President Truman has found himself compelled to ask Congress to give him the power to control prices again. In Australia a Bill has recently been introduced in the Federal Legislature, the object of which is to continue the war-time controls in respect of food and in respect of prices, rationing, etc. It is difficult for anybody to understand how a country with a permanently deficit economy can afford to do away with those salutary checks which countries more fortunately placed have found it necessary to continue. I hear it said frequently that if only controls were removed there would be an appreciable increase in the supply of food-grains. Sir, a simple consideration would suffice to dispel the apprehensions that exists on this score. It may be that the removal of food controls may bring about a slight increase in the stocks of food placed on the market, but we cannot overlook the cardinal factor that statistically there is an over-all shortage of food-grains in this country. We used to import annually about 1½ million tons of rice from Burma. The discontinuance of the rice imports was responsible for the tragedy

[Pandit Hriday Nath Kunzru]
of Bengal. According to the Famine Enquiry Commission, our food requirements are greater now than they were before the war, partly because of the increase in the population, and partly because of the higher standard of living to which people became accustomed during the war. Can we in this state of things be satisfied with the puerile argument that if only a few more tons of food which are sold in the black market were available to consumers, all would be well; our morals would improve and our material difficulties would disappear. My Honourable friend, the Food Minister in building up his case referred to the Provincial Governments and the consumers. It is stated in the Government's statement that at the Food Ministers' Conference, there was no unanimity on the question of the removal of controls. My Honourable friend is perhaps technically right, but my information is that when the exception of one Food Minister, all the others thought that the retention of food controls was absolutely necessary. Besides we know that the Food Minister in the United Provinces, speaking yesterday in the U. P. Legislative Assembly made it clear that the decontrol of sugar was forced on the U. P. Government by the Government of India.

Then, Sir, as regards the consumers, I do not know which class of consumers my Honourable friend had in mind when he said that they too were dissatisfied with the existing food controls. Of the English dailies, so far as I know, with the exception of the *Hindustan Times* all have criticised and disapproved the Government's policy, I cannot speak with the same confidence about the Hindi newspapers, but so far as I know, not one of these papers is enthusiastic about the policy adopted by the Government.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh (C. P. and Berar: General): You are wrong.

Pandit Hriday Nath Kunzru: Such of them as have agreed to this policy have done so subject to certain qualifications. It is clear, therefore, that Government cannot plead that they have changed their policy in the interests of the consumers. Apart from this the figures placed before us by the Food Minister show conclusively that appreciable benefit is conferred on a large section of the population by the present control; leaving out those who are in a position to grow food sufficient to meet their needs wholly or partly about a hundred million people are benefiting today by rationing. I understand that the population of India even after its division is estimated to be about 345 million today. If we deduct from this the number of people who are able to grow sufficient food to satisfy their own needs we shall have to deal with about 245 million people. It is obvious, therefore, that a little more than 40 per cent. of the people, and not 10 per cent. as was claimed the other day by the Finance Minister,—are able to obtain their food at controlled prices. What will happen to these people in future I cannot say. I have taken pains to speak to many poor people on this subject, but they are all filled with the deepest concern at the prospect of having to pay higher prices for their food. Sir, if this policy were accompanied by suitable measures for a rapid increase in our food supply something might be said for it. The Food Minister some time back announced that Government were going to take step to produce 4 million tons more of food during the next five years. It is obvious that had he waited till the end of that period or had modified controls in proportion as food supply in the country increased he would have been on much stronger ground. But it is amazing that he and the Government of which he is an important member have decided to take action even before the recommendations of Foodgrains Policy Committee with regard to the future production of food have been formulated. We know nothing as to what action Government are going to take in this respect or what recommendations the Committee is going to make in this respect; even Government, I understand, are unaware of it. Yet they have been in a hurry to announce the policy of progressive decontrol, but so great is their concern for the poor consumers that they have impressed on the

provinces that they should fix prices bearing in mind the need for preventing an undue increase in the cost of living. Sir, in the face of the facts that I have placed before the House this pious wish is indistinguishable from self-deception or hypocrisy. Government are going to thrust a dagger into the consumer and are yet going to take care to see that not a drop of his blood is shed.

Sir, the Honourable Minister started his arguments by referring to oilseeds and sugar. His arguments in regard to oilseeds are so weak that I cannot imagine how a man of his experience and intellect can put them forward. The only way in which my Honourable friend could show that the prices of oil-seeds and oil had gone down was to compare existing prices with the black market prices that ruled while controls were in force. Now my Honourable friend should realise that the prices in the black market were high not because there was a large quantity available for sale but because it was small. Had unlimited quantities been available to the black-marketeers it is obvious that the price could not have risen to such heights. Now there will be no black markets but everybody will have to pay the high prices mentioned by him as compared with only a few men who had to pay them while the system of controls was in force.

Sir, as my time is up I will not trouble the House any more. But it is obvious that decontrol cannot stop with foodgrains; it will have to be extended to things like steel and cement and cloth and coal. Our transport system has still to face serious difficulties. If Government were going to decontrol coal at the present time, I should not envy the position of my Honourable friend, the Railway Minister.

Sir, inflation has already begun. The prices of sugar have been raised. Therefore, higher prices will have to be paid to the cultivator and to the sugar mill workers. Now the increase in the price of the sugar workers will lead to further demands on the part of workers in other industries and on the part of the Government employees. It is with the greatest difficulty that the Railway Minister was able to balance the Railway budget. The Finance Minister has in the General Budget left an uncovered deficit of about Rs. 26 crores which is bound to add to the inflationary trend in the country. If in this situation Government are going to be faced with demands for large increase in the salaries of their employees, it is difficult to understand how the Finance Minister and the Railway Minister will be able to fulfil the responsibilities that have been entrusted to them.

With these words I strongly oppose the policy that has been put forward by my Honourable friend, the Food Minister. With his eyes open he asked us to go back to the state of things that existed in 1942 and 1943. My Honourable friend referred to Mahatma Gandhi at the end of his speech and that is the real reason for the decontrol system that he has now adopted.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The Honourable Member's time is over. I have already given him 22 minutes. It will not be fair to other members.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): I rise to support the Honourable Minister for Food in the appeal that he has made. The situation of the Government is not an easy one. It is easy to have difference of opinion on a difficult subject like this, and Government have after a considerable amount of care and attention, launched upon a programme which agrees psychologically with the expectations of the people. There is the weighty opinion of Mahatma Gandhi and also the people are absolutely tired of black markets. If decontrol will raise the price, it would distribute the higher prices amongst a larger class than at present. Control is enriching only a class of speculators and black-marketeers and I should like that the prices should rise to benefit the producers as well as others. There will be something like uniformity and for this reason I support the Government policy.

[Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad]

I should at the short time at my disposal, deal with one or two aspects of a minor nature.

There is the procurement policy of the Government. That has to continue for some time. With regard to procurement, the policy of the Bengal Government has been—and it is said that they are acting under the instructions of the Government of India—to force down the price of paddy to a very low level, and it is said that it is insisted by the Government that the low level of price is essential because unless the price of paddy and rice is brought down the prices of other necessary articles will not come down. So in order to lower the cost of living and the prices of necessary articles, this forcible lowering of the prices of paddy and rice, it is said, is an obvious necessity.

Sir, everybody has been thinking of the consumer. The black-marketeers are squeezing them, but no word has been said of the poor lot of the middle-class cultivator who is the grower. They have to pay high costs of cultivation. They have to pay much more for the cost of the bullocks, their maintenance and other things and cost of cloth and other things is also high. In fact, they have been subjected to double pressure—one the pressure of forced low prices of their produce and the other the higher cost of living mounting up day to day. They have been waiting for several years for the prices of necessary articles to come down but they have been waiting in vain. I think it is a terrible punishment to have to be forced to sell their produce at very much below the market price and forcing them to suffer the hardship of a much higher cost of living.

This reminds me of a story of a young man who was very much in demand in the matrimonial market. He had a few patches here and there on his head indicating a slight tendency to baldness. A hair specialist was consulted. He recommended a hair restorer and said that this was a very effective remedy but it worked by two distinct stages. The first stage, he explained, was that all the hairs will fall off but it was a necessary preliminary. It only prepared the way for the second stage in the process when very luxuriant hairs will grow all over the head. The whole process would take only three months. The credulous young man took to the medicine and stuck to it for six months. Later on when the specialist saw him and asked him very expectantly as to the effect of the hair restorer he said: "it is a marvellous remedy so far as the first stage is concerned. But so far as the second stage of the effect is concerned, there is no sign of it." He took off his *pagree* and showed him that his head had become absolutely bald. It is needless to add that he lost every promising matrimonial prospects.

The position of the paddy grower is exactly the same. They were directed to submit to low prices in the hope that it would bring down the prices of necessary articles. They have been waiting and waiting like the young man but there is no sign of a fall in the cost of necessities of life.

The Government of Bengal should be asked, rather induced, to pay higher prices—the market price. That would benefit the grower, whose lot is a hard one.

Then again, with regard to this policy of selling the rice, I should make a distinction between the rich, the middle classes and the poor. In Calcutta alone there are a large number of jute mills which employ millions of workers. There are the tea-gardens in Northern Bengal. They employ also millions of men. There are the coal mines of Asansol. There are the iron foundries which also employ millions of men. These multi-millionaire concerns owned by rich business men, buy their rice from Government at very cheap prices at the cost of the growers and supply them to their men. These concerns, even now, pay a dividend of 30 or 40 per cent. The jute mills also pay 40 to 50 per cent., and the tea companies pay something like 70 to 100 per cent.; and in one or two cases

150 per cent. I submit that to supply them rice at very low rates by depriving the growers of their just prices would be severe injustice.

The second class of consumers are the middle classes. Their lot is also hard and there are of course the poorer classes. I suggest that in fixing the selling

I P M. prices this distinction between the paying capacities of the different consumers should be taken into account. The coal, jute, tea and other industries can very well bear the burden of higher prices. Rice should be sold to the rich concerns at much higher prices to offset the higher cost of procurement. There is no point in making the prices equal for all when it affects the grower.

These are suggestions which the Honourable Minister will kindly consider. With regard to controls they have failed. There is one kind of control which has however been successful and it has stood all tests. It is the control of debate in this House. In fact the Honourable Finance Minister was faced with several dozens of cut motions and they were reduced to about half a dozen and Honourable Members were made to finish their debate within two days. That control has been successful. The other control is under your control. It is the time limit for speeches. That is also very successful, barring one or two exceptions.

These scarcities have produced another good effect. Some diseases due to over-eating, such as indigestion, diarrhoea, dysentery, etc., are by now scarce. In these circumstances if there is progressive decontrol in the cautious manner suggested, I think the country should be prepared to bear the burden. If the proposed scheme fails then there will be all the more reason for making the control more effective and drastic. At least by that time we would have gained further and newer experience as to how the situation then stood and it would be good time to attack the problem with greater experience and newer vigour. The present system has failed and ought to go. With these words I support the policy of the Government.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam: General): Sir, I rise not merely to support the wise and judicious policy which has been announced by the Honourable Minister in Charge of Food and to denounce the most unfortunate speech which has been delivered by my Honourable friend Pandit Kunzru this morning but also to pay an unqualified tribute to the Honourable Minister of Food. The walls of this House still rings with the echo of the speech which he delivered about two years ago on the food problem. That extorted the admiration of all sections of the House, Europeans and Indians equally. It showed that the Honourable Minister had grasped the situation thoroughly and having grasped it he set to work with a single-minded devotion which is his own and he has practically saved the country at a most difficult time. Whatever may be said of control or decontrol I think we are in a position to say today that man to man, status of society being taken into consideration, we are much better off today in India than in most countries of the world. I think I shall be voicing the sentiment of this House if I utter a prayer "May our Food Minister be spared for a long time to serve the country which he loves and which he had liberated from the shackles of foreign domination. May God give him health and vigour to continue as the President of this Free Assembly and the President of our Nation so that he may serve the country for long long years to come."

I was referring to the speech which my Honourable friend Pandit Kunzru chose to make this morning. I think that something which happened in his house before he left for the Assembly had angered him and he poured his venom on the floor of this House. He asked where was the justification for the belief that decontrol will ease the food situation. May I ask him what are his grounds to believe that control which has been imposed so long has eased the food situation. It is neither control nor decontrol that can really solve the problem. Only production of more food will ultimately solve the problem.

[Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.]
 would have never seen *ghee*. There are millions of men and women who never have even a drop of oil to grease their hair. We may leave oil too, though it is an edible article and it will not bring people to the verge of starvation. Then as regards sugar. Sugar is necessary for children also, but man would not die for want of sugar. Take any other article. Man would not die for want of it. Can we make an experiment with cereals for three days, I ask? I ask any man to lay his hand upon his heart and say he can experiment with his life on this for three days consecutively. We are already enervated. Have we sufficient stamina left after all these years of war. War has devastated millions of us. Whoever may want to make this experiment? The Honourable Minister, I find, had not his heart in this matter. From his long speech I gathered that left to himself he would not have brought this about. I am not making any accusation. But this is a very dangerous experiment. Many other experiments may be made. I would earnestly appeal to him to do this within the four corners of the decision that has been taken. But for Heaven's sake, allow the provinces to take care of themselves. He has said the Centre does not any longer like to take all the responsibility of procuring and paying for the provinces. Is this a matter of rupees, annas and pies? After the 15th of August, our friends have been anxious to have a strong Central Government, to bring in every unit and make it feel part and parcel of the Centre. Does he want that the Madras Province should feel one with him and the richer province of Bombay? It has been contended that we cannot go on importing cereals at the cost of our valuable dollars, and that we want to reserve them for capital goods for the Bombay and other industrialists. I am sorry if I am to be understood as making any personal reference in this matter. I would sell away all my belongings if it is only for the purchase of food. Sir, I am afraid that China will be repeated here. The dark days of Germany will be repeated here when 10,000 Marks could not purchase a single cigarette. I do not know what will happen in this country. I know some of us have aligned ourselves already as protagonists of the agriculturists. My friend, Professor Ranga, has a very kind heart, but he loses himself sometimes when he has to press the need of the agriculturist as against the consumer. He feels the consumer is different from the agriculturist. If any person should think there is such a cleavage between one belonging to the town and the agriculturist, I will give up my profession and go and take to the plough. I am not going to starve. Some of us are agriculturists; others are industrialists; some others are in professions. The Government by decontrol are driving every man to starvation. Let them not take this step. Sir, I appeal to the House and to the Government not to take this extreme step. Wait and see what will happen; some time later push it on slowly. That is the only way in which it could be worked.

It may be asked, what is the alternative? My answer is, to build up a reserve of 3 million tons; and to proceed slowly thereafter. Let the Government make this experiment. For a huge continent what is a reserve of five lakhs of tons? Is it anything worth counting under the circumstances?

Sir, I appeal to this House and to the Government to stay this experiment at least for a year until better times come.

پندت تھاکر داس بھارگو: مانیہ سپیکر صاحب! فوڈ کنٹرول کے معاملہ میں میں نے دو تقاریر ایک پندت کنزرو اور دوسری مسٹر بالکرشن کی سنی - اس سے پہلے مجھے یہ علم تھا کہ food کے decontrol کرنے کے بارے میں کچھ لوگوں کا ایسا خیال ہے کہ یہاں ہندوستان کے اندر supply اس قدر کم ہے جیسا کہ انہوں نے ظاہر کی ہے۔ میرے نکتہ نگاہ سے اگر یہ ہوتا کہ ہندوستان کے اندر food کی

supply اس قدر کم ہے تو میں یہ کہتا کہ ضروری ہے کہ control جاری رہنا چاہئے لیکن میرا خیال یہ ہے کہ جس قدر خیال کیا جاتا ہے کہ ہندوستان کے اندر food کی supply کم ہے - اتنی کم نہیں ہے - میں پنجاب کے علاقہ سے تعلق رکھتا ہوں - اور مجھے یہ معلوم ہے کہ ہمارا Province ہمیشہ ایک Surplus Province رہا ہے - ساتھ ہی میں اس بات سے بھی واقف ہوں کہ South میں food کی کمی ہے لیکن میں یہ بھی جانتا ہوں کہ جو figures ہم کو دیئے جاتے ہیں وہ قابل اعتبار نہیں ہیں - اگر ان figures کو درست مانا جائے تب بھی یہ کہا جا سکتا ہے کہ خوراک کی زیادہ کمی نہیں ہے - گذشتہ بارہ سال یعنی سنہ ۳۶ - ۱۹۳۵ ع سے لیکر سنہ ۳۷ - ۳۶ ع تک اس ملک میں کھانے کی چیزوں میں صرف دو سال کمی واقع ہوئی - لیکن اس سے پہلے کوئی کمی نہیں تھی - میں جناب کی توجہ ان figures کی طرف دلانا چاہتا ہوں جو کہ پچھلے بارہ سال کے عرصہ میں غلہ کے متعلق ہیں - پچھلے بارہ سال میں Total Production چوبیس کروڑ اٹھارہ لاکھ اور اکسٹھ ہزار تین تھی - اگر اس کا average لیا جائے تو سالانہ اوسط چار کروڑ اٹھارہ لاکھ اور پچپن ہزار تین بنتی ہے - سنہ ۳۶ - ۱۹۳۵ ع سے لے کر ۳۷ - ۱۹۳۶ ع تک imports کے figures اونستھ لاکھ اٹھارہ ہزار تین ہے - اس کی سالانہ اوسط چار لاکھ شتانوے ہزار تین بنتی ہے - اگر ان دونوں یعنی Imports اور Products کی سالانہ اوسط کو جمع کیا جائے تو وہ چھپن کروڑ سترہ لاکھ نو ہزار کے قریب بن جاتا ہے جیسے ہم اس نتیجہ پر پہنچتے ہیں کہ ایک سال کے اندر یہاں پر ہمارے خرچ کی اوسط چھتالیس کروڑ چھتر لاکھ اور پانچ ہزار تین تھا - جس پر ہم نے گزارہ کیا - جیسا کہ میں نے کہا ہے اگر Production کو لیا جائے تو صرف ہندوستان کے پچھلے بارہ سال کے Production کی اوسط ۲۵ کروڑ ۱۵ لاکھ پانچ ہزار تین سالانہ بنتی ہے - اس طرح سے یہ حساب لگتا ہے کہ سولہ لاکھ سٹھ ہزار تین کی کمی اس اوسط کے مطابق ہمیں ہے میں یہ مانتا ہوں کہ پاکستان کے جانے سے ہمیں تقریباً چار لاکھ تین کی کمی اور ہو جائے گی اور اس طرح سے تقریباً بیس لاکھ کی کمی کی اوسط بارہ سال میں بنتی ہے کمی کے بارے میں گورنمنٹ کا خیال ہے کہ خوراک میں اوسطاً کمی چھ فیصدی ہوگی لیکن جو figures میں نے عرض کئے ہیں اُنکے مطابق صرف چار فیصدی کی کمی رہتی ہے اس سے زیادہ نہیں رہتی - یعنی اگر آپ Total اور Total Products خرچ کو دیکھیں تو معلوم ہو گا کہ صرف چار فیصدی کی کمی رہ جاتی ہے - جس سے یہ نہیں کہا جاسکتا کہ ہمارا ملک ہمیشہ کے لئے economically deficit ملک ہے اور ہم کو باہر کے ممالک سے غلہ درآمد کرنا پڑے گا - دراصل یہ figures جو کہ گورنمنٹ نے ہم کو بتائے ہیں unreliable ہیں - اور کسی solid basis پر مبنی نہیں ہیں

[Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri]

My Honourable friend Pandit Kunzru looked askance at the decontrolling of mustard oil and mustard seeds. I suppose that he has very little occasion to come across persons who really use mustard oil in their food and who cannot do without it. Perhaps he is mostly concerned with those who take fats, ghee and butter and therefore

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: My Honourable friend is utterly mistaken. I use mustard oil too.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: But I can say with confidence and from my personal experience how decontrol has worked like magic in Bengal and Assam. Before mustard seed was decontrolled our Food Minister was attacked not by ruffians, *goonilas* or communally-minded persons but by women, housewives and their daughters. His own office room in the Constitution House was invaded by them and ultimately he gave them an assurance that he would do his best towards decontrol and ultimately he succeeded in getting it decontrolled. I can congratulate my Honourable friend Shrimati Durgabai and others that they are now in a position of influence not only in their homes but abroad also.

My Honourable friend Pandit Kunzru said that he had never heard a speech supported by such flimsy and transient grounds and he said that it was puerile to think that decontrol will bring more food. He said that the great famine in Bengal was due to stoppage of rice import from Burma. It is absolutely childish to imagine that stoppage of rice import into Bengal was responsible for the Bengal Famine. When people were dying at the doorsteps there was feasting going inside the houses. It was not due to stoppage of import of rice. It was due to the denial policy which was adopted by the Government at that time.

I am very glad that sugar has been decontrolled, not because I am more fond of sweet things but because everybody will now get sugar. Those who cannot afford to remain without sugar will be able to get the requisite quantity of sugar. I do not mean that only the rich will benefit. The rich are already getting their sugar. None of my friends on the front benches has ever complained about it. They will get the sugar by any means. Now, after decontrol, you will see, Sir, that the rich and the poor alike will get the sugar they want. What was the effect of the control? The rich men got not only their own sugar but also the sugar which is rationed to the poorer people. The poorer people who could not afford it had simply to put the sugar in the black market and were taking molasses. After the decontrol the richer people will get the sugar and the poorer people will be able to get their molasses which they were not able to get before.

It will be said, Sir, that millowners and businessmen will make a lot of money now. True. They made crores of rupees during the war period. But what happened? Scrupulous and unscrupulous income-tax officers had taken away the best part of it. Legitimate as well as illegitimate gains that they made were taken away—most of it—in that manner. The benefit of the additional income by this sugar policy may go to us. We may get some more temples, educational institutions and I think we may get a large grant.

All that I want to stress is that the Government must not follow a fitful policy, a policy which changes frequently. After all the success or failure of the policy of control or decontrol would be left to lie at the doors of the businessmen. If you say that if this policy is found to be a failure you will in a short time abolish it, then it will be a great temptation for the businessmen and millowners to make it a failure. I will say what happened in our own Province. *Dhal* was decontrolled in the early part of this year. After the merchants had brought *dhal*, the control was imposed with the result that they suffered a large amount of loss. Thereafter no *dhal* has been imported into the Province for same time. In Assam there is a movement, we have heard, to turn out the Bengalees. That silly movement has become a failure because that did not get support from

sensible people. But the scarcity of *dhal* has achieved the object which those who were interested in driving out the Bengalees from Assam wanted to achieve. The absolute shortage of *dhal* made the Bengalees in Assam consider whether they should remain there any longer. I do not want that the Government should by their policy turn away any community of people from one place to another. I would again urge that there should be no fitful or ever-changing policy in regard to this matter.

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

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel a little embarrassed, after the Government has taken its decision and has come to the Assembly having circulated its decision in advance. No doubt the resolution as it stands says that this matter may be taken into consideration. Members of the Assembly would have seen that food control being a very important matter, special days have been devoted to a discussion of the subject during every session of the Assembly. We have been accustomed to such debates and we have been exceedingly pleased with the manner in which the Honourable Minister in charge, Babu Rajendra Prasad, has been dealing with this matter. No better exposition on this subject has been heard by me during my long course of stay in this Assembly for over 12 and odd years. No doubt this matter did not come up before three or four years, but there was no occasion for that. But the exposition of the Honourable Minister of the whole subject was so lucid and I take this opportunity of paying my humble tribute, and I am sure my honourable friends will agree with me in saying that if he gives up this portfolio, we may not be able to get an equally competent person for his place, who ever he may be. We therefore thought that during these hazardous days he would be vouchsafed to us to steer clear of the impending trouble.

I come from a part of the Presidency, Sir, where out of its 20 odd districts, 5 districts have unfortunately been denied the grace of God. Almost every second year it has been in the throes of famine. Two or three days ago the Minister for Food in Madras, the Honourable Dr. T. S. S. Rajan, said that the food position in Madras was still grave. Sir, according to Western standards, 16 oz. of cereals alone per day may not be sufficient. If we adopt the standards of nutrition that prevail in America or England or any other country, we must be able to take 22 oz. of cereals *plus* meat and other things which give enormous calorific value. In my part of the Presidency, they started with 12 oz., reduced them to 10, then to 8 oz., and in some parts of the province to 6 oz. per week.

An Honourable Member: 6 oz. per day.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, it has come out as a slip of my tongue, possibly it may be 6 oz. a week if this decontrol should come about. Probably unwittingly God spoke through my mouth. I am sure those who are interested in decontrol are three sets of people—The merchants are there. They want higher prices; the producers are there. They want higher prices. The foolish consumers are there. Many of us have to be saved against ourselves. By standing for long hours in a queue, a man feels disgusted, and he cannot go and stand every Sunday. He forgets that at least by standing in the queue he is able to get 8 oz. a day; otherwise, he, his wife and his children will have to starve needlessly. Food ought not to be compared with other things. It is not every man who purchases cloth every year. Some people go naked, practically with a loin cloth. Therefore it is not safe to compare the seriousness of the cloth problem with the food problem. You can do away with control of cloth; similarly in respect of oil seeds. The lower class of the community, whether in the north or in the south, who live upon *jowar chapattis* do not want oil. They

[پنڈت تھاکر داس بھارگو]

بھی کیوں natural level پر نہیں آئیگی - اور اس کے آڑ جانے سے cultivators کو کوئی نقصان نہیں ہوگا یہاں پر نوے فی صدی producers & cultivators ہیں انکو ہر طرح سے کنٹرول ہٹائے جانے کی صورت میں فائدہ ہوگا اور اگر تھوڑی بہت قیمت بڑھ جانے سے انکو فائدہ ہی ہو جائے تو ہرج ہی کیا ہے جو کچھ آنریبل منسٹر نے اس کنٹرول کے ہٹائے جانے کے بارے میں کیا ہے وہ ملک کے لئے ہر لحاظ سے فائدہ مند چیز ہے - اسلئے میں انکی پالیسی کی تائید کرتا ہوں -

(English translation of the above speech.)

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (East Punjab: General): Mr. Speaker, on the subject of Food Control, I have heard two speeches: one delivered by Pt. Kunzru, the other by Mr. Balkrishna. Before this I did not know that in connection with Decontrol of Food, some of the people think that the supply of food in India is so small as indicated by them. If I had thought that the supply of food was so small, I would have advised for the continuation of the control. But I think that in India, supply of food is not so small as it is supposed. I belong to the Punjab, I know that my Province has ever been a surplus Province and I know this also that there is a scarcity of food in the South. The figures we have been given are, as I understand, also not reliable but, if these figures are accepted as true, even then, it is said that food is not so much scarce. During the last 12 years, that is, between 1935-36, and 1946-47, food has been scarce since 2 years only. I want to draw your attention to the figures about food which are available for the last 12 years.

The total production, in the last 12 years was 54,18,61,000 tons, and if its average is calculated the annual average comes to 4,51,55,000 tons. The total import between 1935-36, and 1946-47 for the same period are 59,78,000 tons, which gives an annual average of 4,97,000 tons.

If the annual averages of both Production and Imports are added it makes about 56,17,09,000 tons.

Thus, we arrive at this result that the average of our consumption of food per year was 46,76,05,000 tons on which we lived. As I have already said, taking only the average of annual production, for the last 12 years in India to be 45,15,05,000 tons, we calculate a deficit of 16,60,000 tons. I admit that with the separation of Pakistan we would have a deficit of nearly 4,00,000 tons, and in this manner the average annual deficit comes to about 20,00,000 tons during 12 years. As regards deficit in food, the Government is of opinion that it will be at an average of 6 per cent., but according to the figures, I have given here, there is a deficit of 4 per cent. only, and not more than this, i.e., if you consider the total production, and the total consumption, you will see that the deficit comes down to 4 per cent. only, and therefore, it cannot be said that our country is economically deficit for ever, and we shall have to import grain from abroad.

As a matter of fact, these figures supplied by the Government, are unreliable, and are not based on solid ground. Generally, the system of estimating production, except that in the Punjab and the U. P. is absolutely defective. Instead of the Patwari estimating how much each field has produced, and thereafter thoroughly scrutinizing it and then obtaining an estimate of the total production, he examines one field only and estimates its yield and then finds out the entire yield not only of the village, of the district and the Tehsil but of the entire Province. I would submit this fact also that the system of estimating the produce, in the Punjab and the U. P. too is defective. But, the system

of calculation of products at other places in India is extremely bad. The correct method was to see how much each village produced, and then it would have been correctly estimated how much each tehsil produced. But, on the other hand, the produce of only a small field is estimated and on this basis the production of the whole district, and even of the whole province is estimated. This system is not correct.

Sir, the Government has started 'Grow More Food Campaign' for the last few years, and a great enthusiasm is being shown for it. The figures are being cited to indicate that so many more acres of land have been brought under cultivation, under this Campaign. If it is a fact that the cultivable land is increased, it necessarily follows that the product also would have increased; since the more the acres of land brought under cultivation the more the produce of the land. If it is a fact, then why there was a deficit in supply during the last two years. There was a bumper crop of 48,85,00,580 tons, which means that by the average calculated by us we need 46,00,00,000 tons only, and the average of the production for 1943-44 and of 12 years is very large, and it far exceeds this 46,00,000 tons. Sir, I therefore, beg to state that the production before the introduction of 'Grow More Food Campaign' was quite sufficient to live on, and no body remained hungry, and here enough of food grain was raised. I say, therefore, that our country is not a deficit country, as regards food grains, and therefore I cannot understand how can there be any fear of scarcity of grain in future, and of the people dying of hunger.

The second fact, Sir, is this that the evil effect of the 'Control' over the moral plane of the people in India, cannot be estimated, because due to the 'Control', the Supply Department, the traders, the industrialists, the capitalists, and all others have become dishonest; so much so, even the producer has become evil minded. Had this not happened, none would have remained hungry due to de-control.

The third fact is when we realise that there is actually a deficiency of food in the country, all efforts on speeding up its production will be concentrated, and a huge movement will be started in this connection.

In this country, enough food can be produced, so that after satisfying the needs of the country, it can be sent out abroad. Before the war began we were keeping alive without any control. During the war, the control system introduced by the Government, was to enable the Government to purchase commodities at rates cheaper than the controlled rates and to send the same abroad. This was therefore introduced to meet their own ends.

Besides all this, this is also said that here, there is a deficiency of manure. Ammonium Sulphate is not found in this country, and Nitrogen too is insufficient here. In this connection I submit that there is a lot of Potassium Nitrate, and our country is rich in this. And we know from experience that it is sold here at the rate of Rs. 8 per maund.

Apart from this, we have not even considered what we are producing. The price of land which produces 7 maunds of wheat, is equally capable of producing 180 maunds of carrot per acre. From experience, it is found that in this country the insufficiency of food is felt because the Government is sending under the control system wheat to Madras, rice to the Punjab, and gram to Travancore. These grains are not articles of food of these parts of the country. The people of those provinces, therefore, conclude that they have no food.

For proper Nutrition we have not yet found out any standard food, though serious thought should have been given to this matter. In England, during the war, the price of food was reduced by 20 per cent., and the Nutrition also improved under the standard system.

[بلڈت تھاکر داس بھارگو]

عام طور پر پنجاب اور یو پی کے بغیر جو سسٹم Productions کے اندازہ لگانے کا ہے وہ بالکل ہی خراب ہے۔ بجائے اس کے کہ پتواری یہ دیکھتا کہ ہر کھیت میں سے کتنی پیداوار نکالی ہے۔ اور اس طرح سے خوب چھان بین کر کے Products کا تخمینہ لگاتا وہ ایک کھیت کو دیکھتا ہے کہ اس میں کتنی پیداوار ہوئی ہے۔ اور اس کے مطابق گاؤں کا نہیں تحصیل کا نہیں بلکہ سارے ضلع یا Province کا تخمینہ لگا لیتا ہے۔ میں یہ بھی گزارش کروں گا کہ پنجاب اور یو پی میں بھی جو سسٹم Products کا تخمینہ لگانے کا ہے وہ بھی Defective ہے۔ لیکن ہندوستان کے دیگر مقامات پر Products کے figures نکالنے کا بہت ہی برا سسٹم ہے۔ چاہئے تو یہ تھا کہ وہ دیکھتے کہ کس گاؤں میں کتنا خرابہ ہوا ہے اور پھر تحصیل میں پورا پورا اندازہ لگایا جاتا۔ لیکن اس کے برعکس چھوٹی کسی ایک کھیتی کی پیداوار کو دیکھا جاتا ہے اور اس بنا پر ساری تسکرت اور ضلع کے Product کا تخمینہ لگایا جاتا ہے۔ یہ سسٹم درست نہیں ہے۔

جناب عالی! چند سالوں سے گورنمنٹ نے 'Grow more food' campaign شروع کیا ہے۔ اور اس بارے میں بہت زور و شور سے کام کیا جا رہا ہے۔ اور figures میں بتایا جاتا ہے کہ اس campaign کی وجہ سے اتنے ایکڑ بڑھا دئے گئے ہیں۔ اگر یہ ٹھیک ہے کہ cultivable land میں اضافہ ہو ہے تو یہ ضروری بات ہے کہ products میں بھی اضافہ ہوا ہوگا۔ کیونکہ جتنے ایکڑ زمین کو زیادہ کاشت کیا گیا ہے اتنی ہی تعداد production کی بھی بڑھ گئی ہوگی۔ اگر یہ ٹھیک ہے تو پھر پچھلے دو سالوں میں supply میں کمی ہوئی ہے سنہ ۴۲-۱۹۴۳ میں جو پیداوار یہاں پر ہوئی ہے وہ بہت زیادہ تھی۔ اور وہ اٹھتالیس کروڑ پچاسی لاکھ پانچ سو اسی تین تھی اس کے معنی یہ ہیں کہ جو average ہم نے نکالا ہے اس کے مطابق ہمیں چھتالیس کروڑ تین ہی ہسکو ضرورت ہے اور سنہ ۴۲-۱۹۴۳ میں اور جو ہم نے بارہ سال میں پیداوار کی ہے اس کے اوسط بہت زیادہ ہے۔ اور وہ اس چھتالیس لاکھ تین سے بہت زیادہ تھی۔ تو جناب! میری گزارش یہ ہے کہ اس گرو مور فوڈ campaign سے پہلے جو پیداوار ہوتی تھی اس سے ہم گزارہ کر سکتے تھے اور کوئی بھوکا نہیں رہتا تھا۔ اور یہاں پر کافی غلہ پیدا کیا جاتا رہا۔ اس لئے میری یہ گزارش ہے کہ ہمارا ملک Deficit country نہیں ہے جہاں تک یہ غلہ کی پیداوار کا تعلق ہے۔ اس لئے میں یہ نہیں سمجھ سکتا کہ اس بات کے ذکر کی کیا گنجائش ہے کہ یہاں پر غلہ نہیں ملے گا اور لوگ بھوکے رہیں گے۔ دوسری بات جناب! یہ ہے کہ کنٹرول سے ہندوستان کے مورل پلین پر جو نقصان ہوا ہے اس کا اندازہ نہیں لگایا جا سکتا ہے کیونکہ کنٹرول کی وجہ سے

Supply Department تجار و industrialist کو گاندھار سبھی بے ایمان ہو گئے ہیں اور یہاں تک کہ producer کی نیت بھی خراب ہو جاتی ہے۔ اگر ایسا نہ ہوتا تو decontrol کی وجہ سے کوئی بھی بھوکا نہ رہتا اور تیسری بات یہ ہے کہ جب ہسکو یہ پتہ چلیگا کہ ملک میں واقعی خوراک کی کمی ہے تو سارے effort اس کے بڑھانے میں لگائے جائیں گے اور اس بارے میں زبردست کام شروع ہوگا اس ملک میں اتنا خوراک پیدا ہو سکتا ہے کہ اپنی ضروریات کو پورا کر کے باہر کے ممالک میں بھی بھیج دیا جاسکتا ہے۔ لڑائی شروع ہونے سے پہلے ہم بغیر کسی کنٹرول کے زندہ رہتے تھے۔ لڑائی میں جو یہ کنٹرول کا سسٹم گورنمنٹ نے کیا اسی غرض سے جاری کیا کہ چیزیں گورنمنٹ کو control کی وجہ سے سستی ملیں گی اور باہر بھیجی جاسکیں گی۔ تو یہ انہوں نے اپنی غرض کے لئے کیا۔ اس کے علاوہ یہ کہا جاتا ہے کہ یہاں پر کھاد کی کمی ہے۔ امونیم سلفیڈ اس ملک میں نہیں ملتا اور نیٹروجن کی یہاں پر کمی ہے۔ اس بارے میں میری یہ گزارش ہے کہ اس ملک میں پوٹاشیم نائی ٹریٹ بہت ہے اور ہمارا ملک اس میں rich ہے۔ اور تجربہ یہ ہوا ہے کہ یہ یہاں پر آٹھ روپیہ فی من کے حساب سے مل سکتا ہے۔ اس کے علاوہ ہم نے اپنی پیداوار کی چیزوں پر کبھی غور نہیں کیا جس زمین میں سات من گہریں فی ایکڑ پیدا کیا جا سکتا ہے اس میں ایک سو اسی من گاجر پیدا کیا جا سکتا ہے۔ تجربہ سے یہ معلوم ہوا کہ یہاں پر فوڈ کی کمی کو اسوجہ سے بھی متحسوس کیا جاتا ہے کہ یہاں پر کنٹرول کی وجہ سے گورنمنٹ مدراس کے لئے گہیوں پنجاب کے لئے چارل تیار کرنے کے لئے چلا بھیج دیتی ہے۔ یہ ان ممالک کے foods نہیں ہیں اور جب ان جگہوں کے لوگوں کو اصلی food کی بجائے دیگر صوبوں کے food grains ملتے ہیں تو وہ یہی خیال کرتے ہیں کہ یہاں پر Food نہیں ہے ہم نے یہاں پر یہ نہیں دیکھا کہ صحیح نیوٹریشن کے لئے کون سے standard food چاہیے۔ حالانکہ اس بارے میں بہت خیال کرنا چاہئے تھا۔ ولایت میں لڑائی کے زمانہ میں ۲۰ فی صدی خوراک کی قیمت میں کمی ہو گئی اور نیز nutrition اچھی اس standard کی وجہ سے ہو گئے۔ control کے ہٹا لینے سے سب کا فائدہ ہے اور consumer کو بھی نقصان نہیں ہوگا بلکہ فائدہ رہیگا۔ اور چیزوں کی قیمتیں ضرور natural level پر آئیں گی۔ جناب! یہاں دہلی میں چند روز ہوئے کہ ایک روپیہ سیر بکتی تھی لیکن اب control ہٹ جانے سے روپیہ کی قیمت سیر ملتی ہے۔ اسی طرح سے لوگوں کو آونی کپڑا نہیں ملتا تھا۔ اور کنٹرول کی وجہ سے اب چالیس چالیس روپیہ فی گز مہر رہا۔ لیکن decontrol ہونے کی وجہ سے اب ہنی کپڑا پندرہ اور بارہ روپیہ گز ملتا ہے۔ اگر ان چیزوں کی قیمتیں natural level پر آنے لگی ہیں تو کوئی وجہ نہیں کہ کنٹرول اڑ جانے سے غلہ کی قیمتیں

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

All will benefit by the lifting of the control, and the consumer also will not suffer loss but will gain, and the prices of commodities will come to the natural level. Sir, here in Delhi, a few days ago *dal* was sold at Re. 1 a seer, but now due to the lifting of the control the same is sold at 1½ seers per rupee. Similarly, the people could not get wollen cloth, and under control, it was sold at Rs. 40 a yard, but due to the decontrol the same is sold now at Rs. 12 or Rs. 15 a yard. There is no reason why the prices of the food grains also will not come down to the natural level, if those of cloth are coming down to the natural level. The cultivators also will not suffer loss. In India, there are 90 per cent. cultivators and producers who will be benefitted, in every way with the lifting of control. If they gain due to a little increase in prices, it matters a little. Whatever has been said, by the Honourable Minister in favour of lifting of the control is, in all respects, advantageous for the country. I, therefore, support this policy.

Shri Prafulla Chandra Sen (West Bengal: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the end of the war we thought that we had come to the end of all controls. Today the Honourable the Minister of Food has inaugurated gradual de-control and therefore the whole country will heave a sigh of relief. Mahatma Gandhi raised the slogan of 'Quit India'; our Honourable the Food Minister has raised the slogan of 'Quit Control', and if we co-operate with him—the growers, the consumers, the traders and the legislators—in the new policy enunciated by him, it will be a success. Mahatma Gandhi believes in decentralisation both in economy and in administration. We therefore do not want control. We know that this control only helped a small percentage of our population. It helped only the industrial population and the urban population. It did not help the growers. All the subsidy that was given by the Government of India to the extent of Rs. 20 crores or 22 crores went to the consumers and not to the growers. The present food policy enunciated by the Honourable the Food Minister will help the growers. The Provincial Governments will not get as much cereal as they had been getting. The commitments of the India Government will be less and India Government will pay a procurement bonus of As. 8 a maund. This will help the growers. They will purchase manures and other things.

Coming to the Provincial Governments, Sir, they should also get more help in the shape of small minor irrigation schemes. More impetus should be given to the 'Grow More Food Campaign'. The G.M.F.C. of the former Government miserably failed. It could not grow anything. It only grew food on leaflets, pamphlets and posters. Today the food policy enunciated by the Honourable the Food Minister is a revolutionary policy, because we want a decentralised system of economy in our country, and to make it successful we want de-control. We shall have one full year's time. We shall be able to grow more food during this time and then we shall see whether Mahatma Gandhi's de-control cry is a false cry or a true cry. As Indians we are individualistic as the Chinese are. In China the control system has absolutely failed. Here also it has failed. There has been bribery; there has been corruption and so many other anti-social things. It has failed because the Indian genius is against all kinds of controls. Therefore, I support the food policy enunciated by the Honourable the Food Minister. I hope our country will stand by his side and help him. I know he will not be here. But he will lead us outside as the President of the Indian National Congress and this is a work which the Indian National Congress will also take up. The All-India Congress Committee announced a new policy of gradual de-control in its Resolution. When we go back to our constituencies I hope we shall follow that new programme and make de-control a success.

Shri Khandubhai K. Desai (Bombay: General): Sir, it is rather difficult to say in any definite manner anything about the exploratory food policy

initiated so lucidly by Honourable the Food Minister. However looking to the present practical consideration before the country, I have no hesitation in according my qualified support to this policy in view of the assurance given by Honourable the Food Minister that if there is any sign of breakdown of that policy, he or the Government would have no hesitation in imposing rigorous and rigid control, particularly if the traders would not play a fair game. This policy has come before us as a result of the agitation of the producers as also by the traders. The producers wanted more prices; Of course the traders have

lost their trade and naturally they want de-control with a view to profit-
3 P.M. ing; and this policy appears to be based on the assumption that the country has got more food at its disposal, but it is not coming out and, therefore, Sir, I said that this is an exploratory policy to explore if there is really more food which the cultivator is not out to make available to the citizens who are non-producing. The House, no doubt, knows that in this country there are not less than about 100 million non-producers and they are more or less equally divided between the rural areas and the urban areas. If the prices were to go up, and it is feared that the prices may go up to some extent, the situation may call for consideration by the Government. The producers today want more prices; at the same time they also require agricultural labour to produce and ultimately agricultural labour will get better wages and higher prices they may get will thus be neutralized. Therefore, Sir, taking all these into consideration, the Honourable the Food Minister has stated that there is some hope of success and so I would consider his policy as a policy of suppressed or restrained optimism. Let us hope that this optimism may be fulfilled.

Now, Sir, Pandit Kunzru and some other Honourable friends have discussed this matter and have stated that this is a retrograde policy and it is against the accepted canons of present day economic philosophy in the world. Let us see to what extent it is true. I can certainly understand the economic control provided that control is evolved in this country with a plan, scheme and consideration. Has this policy of the control of food come into this country as a result of any planning, any scheme and any future consideration? No, Sir. This policy has developed in this country as a result of war, scarcity and as a result of artificial scarcity and it has grown as we have already seen in a haphazard way. We have seen throughout the last 3½ years that some Provinces have got their own prices, some provinces have got their ban on certain food products; sometimes the Government of India has accepted that as an accomplished fact without consideration as to what it is or what it is not. If the country wants to embark on a controlled economy with a view to control the profiteers and the interest or the dividend, it would have to be a whole integrated planning. You cannot have the controlled planning only in the matter of food. It has been stated that the food policy has failed. There have been difficulties, I know particularly for the high class of people who used to get very high quality of commodities and materials and there have been some black-marketing. Let us not, while criticising this food policy forget that the black-marketing, as far as food was concerned was negligible compared to the industrial products, because, after all, this black marketing also was the result of the black marketing in the industrial products. Let us see how many people have bought food in the black market. As I have stated, Sir, there are about 100 million non-producers, out of which I should say that more than 99 millions must have purchased their requirements at the prices fixed and very negligible rich persons would have gone in the black market. After all in a city, in the urban areas it is the rich people who indulge in that marketing and their number may hardly be 5 per cent. of the total number. When compared to the black market in other industrial products like cloth or steel or cement or even sugar, I think the food policy has to a certain extent succeeded.

[Shri Khandubhai K. Desai]

I give my qualified support to this policy in view of the fact that we want more food and there has been a cry round about the country that the producer is not giving the food. Let us try this; we want more food and I think the Government has come to this conclusion in order to see if we are able to produce more food.

Another important matter which I would like to place before the House is that if the prices will go up, as it is apprehended, there will be some sort of industrial unrest. Though most of the workers working in the factories are today getting dearness allowance according to the rise in the cost of living, I must admit and confess that during the last ten years even though the workers have got high money wages, their real wages have gone down. Somebody has raised the question that the standard of living has gone up; I do not agree with that, because the dearness allowance that they are getting does not fully equalize the rise in the cost of living and therefore Sir, may I suggest to the Honourable the Food Minister that it is in the interest of the national economy just at present to see that as far as cities are concerned, the prices should not go up in the matter of food. The Honourable Minister may say: "Where am I going to get the funds?" I may suggest that the industries may be called upon to give a levy to the Government, because if the prices will go up as the dearness allowance is correlated with the rise in the cost of living to that extent he may be able to save the large increase in the dearness allowance and this is a useful source of income which may stabilize our economy to some extent.

With these words, Sir, I have not the slightest hesitation in supporting the food policy enunciated by the Government of India, but at the same time, Sir, I must warn the Government and the Honourable the Food Minister, in the concluding paragraph of his food policy he has very clearly stated that there is risk and the Government is aware of the risk and they will see how the policy is going to be worked out by holding frequent conferences and if there is the slightest sign of the breakdown of the present policy, he would have no hesitation in imposing rigorous control, this present Government is the first democratic Government in this country and that as far as food is concerned, no Government much less the existing one can take any risk. I hope that this risk will not be taken and let us hope the country may not have to face any risk.

श्री जयनारायण व्यास : सभापति जी, जो वक्तव्य हमारे माननीय फूड मिनिस्टर साहब ने कंट्रोल के बारे में दिया है, उसमें कोई शक नहीं है कि हमारी जन-कारी के लिए बहुत रूपेण मसले हैं लेकिन साथ ही साथ इसमें कोई शक नहीं है कि हमारे कहने के लिए भी बहुत सारे मसले हैं, और मैं समझता हूँ जो बातें मेरे पूर्व वक्ता ने भाई खंडू भाई देसाई ने कही हैं उस डेमोक्रेसी (Democracy) का समर्थन तब ही होगा जब हम इस कंट्रोल की पौलिसी का पोस्टमार्टम (Post mortem) करें, अभी यह साफ़ तरीके से मालूम नहीं हुआ है कि आया यह डी-कंट्रोल है या री-कंट्रोल है, लेकिन यह बात जरूर कही जाती है कि यह कंट्रोल युद्ध की वजह से चालू किया गया था और चूंकि अब युद्ध नहीं है इसलिए इस कंट्रोल की पौलिसी को हमें खत्म करना चाहिये और पड़ेगा, युद्ध नहीं है यह कहना तो ठीक है लेकिन मैं समझता हूँ कि हिन्दुस्तान में अभी युद्ध है, काशमीर में जो युद्ध हो रहा है वह एक किस्म का युद्ध है और वह खत्म होता दीखता नहीं है, इसके साथ ही साथ जो अलग-अलग तत्व हैं वह युद्ध कर रहे हैं अमीर गरीबों के साथ युद्ध कर रहे हैं और हर प्रकार से षड्यन्त्र करने की

कोशिश कर रहे हैं। चीनी पर से कंट्रोल हटता देखते ही शूगर सैन्डीकेट ने एक किस्म से बार कर दी है, पहिले २१ रुपया प्रति मन का भाव था मगर जब कंट्रोल उठ जाने की खबर मिली तो उन लोगों ने ३५ रुपया प्रति मन का भाव कर दिया। साथ ही साथ युद्ध हिन्दुस्तान के लिए नहीं था बल्कि युद्ध का असर दूसरे मुल्कों पर भी पड़ा, इसका असर इंग्लैंड के ऊपर पड़ा, अमेरिका के ऊपर पड़ा और कनैडा के ऊपर पड़ा लेकिन अभी वहां कंट्रोल का सिलसिला जारी है, इसके बारे में हमें थोड़ा-सा ध्यान देना पड़ेगा, हम देखते हैं कि इंग्लैंड में अभी तक कंट्रोल है और वह उठाया नहीं गया है और वहां कंट्रोल जारी है, कनैडा और आस्ट्रेलिया में जहां कि अनाज बहुत पैदा होता है वहां कीमतों पर कंट्रोल है और वहां भी अभी तक कंट्रोल नहीं उठाया गया है, बेशक अमेरिका में कंट्रोल उठा लिया गया है, अमेरिका में लड़ाई के पहिले जो अनुपात था वह १४८ था और अब वह १६१ आ गया है, और वहां यह कोशिश जारी है कि जो डी-कंट्रोल हो गया है उसको उठाया जाय, इन हालातों में जब हम कंट्रोल को उठाये तो इससे पहिले हमें थोड़ी सी बातों की तरफ ध्यान देना पड़ेगा, इसके उठाने से हम सैल्फ़ साफ़िसेन्ट (Self sufficient) हो जायेंगे मगर यह डर है कि हम सैमी स्टारविंग (Semi starving) या डाइंग (Dying) में न पहुंच जाय, इसलिए हमें इस बात की तरफ ध्यान देना होगा कंट्रोल के सिलसिले में दूसरी जगहों और इलाकों में इसका क्या असर हुआ और क्या नुकसान उठाना पड़ा, चूंकि मैंने कंट्रोल देखा है और उसका अनुभव जानता हूँ, स्टेट में खास तौर से कंट्रोल का सिलसिला किस तरह से होता है, स्टेटों में इस जमाने में ५ फी एकड़ जमीन का घर है, दरअसल स्टेटों में जिस तरह से कंट्रोल किया जाता है वह कहने लायक नहीं है, मैं जोधपुर का रहने वाला हूँ वह जागीरदार सब बोरे के बोरे शक्कर अपने कब्जे में कर लेते हैं और किसी भाव अपने दोस्तों को देते हैं वे सामान्त लोगों के पास शक्कर चली जाती है और वे लोग किसी भाव उसको बेचते हैं, अनाज जो आता है तो सबसे अच्छा अनाज वे जागीरदार लोग अपने मित्रों को दे देते हैं और अन्त में जो खराब बच जाता है गरीबों को मजबूरन लेना पड़ता है, और उन गरीबों को ज्यादा दाम देने पड़ते हैं, वह कंट्रोल नहीं था बल्कि एक मखौल था। कंट्रोल कोई बुरी चीज नहीं थी बल्कि उस चीज पर कंट्रोल अच्छी तरह से नहीं किया गया अगर कंट्रोल को अच्छे तरीके से काम में लाया जाता तो यह चीज नहीं होती।

मैं आप से यह अर्ज कर रहा था कि स्टेट में इस कंट्रोल को एक वैपन (weapon) में की तरह से इस्तेमाल किया जा रहा था, हमारे स्टेट में जागीरदारों को ४ बोरे इस कंट्रोल की वजह से मिल जाते हैं। वकील को ३ बोरे और इस तरह से लोगों के लिए पर कैपिटा (per capita) काटो बंधा हुआ है, मगर गांव वालों के लिए जो पर कैपिटा (per capita) है वह उन लोगों को नहीं मिलता है।

Shri A. P. Pattani: Is the Honourable member speaking for all the states?

श्री जयनारायण व्यास : हां में सब रियासतों के बारे में कह रहा हूं कि जो पर-कैपिटा लोगों को मिलता था वह नहीं बांटा गया, भावनगर में भी यह बात हुई है और मैं चैलेंज देकर यह बात कहता हूं।

जनाब वाला, दरअसल चीज़ यह है कि कंट्रोल की जरूरत उस जगह नहीं पड़ती है जहां पर चीज़ बहुत ज्यादा पैदा होती है, जैसे कि पंजाब में अनाज बहुत पैदा होता है इसलिए वहां वगैर कंट्रोल के काम चल जाता है, लेकिन जिस जगह चीज़ कम पैदा होती है जैसे कि मद्रास और बम्बई में वहां कंट्रोल की जरूरत रहती है। कंट्रोल की वजह से इन प्रांतों में जनता को बहुत फायदा हुआ है और उनकी रक्षा भी हो गई है, अगर इन जगहों से कंट्रोल हटा दिया गया तो वहां बहुत से लोग भूखों से मर जायेंगे और यह चीज़ ऐसी ही होगी जैसे मौत में से जान उठा ली गई हो। इसलिए उन इलाकों से जहां अनाज की कमी है कंट्रोल को न उठाया जाय, लेकिन दो जगह दो नीति नहीं हो सकती हैं, जैसा कि अभी फरमाया गया है कि अगर यह कामयाब साबित नहीं होगा तो हम फिर कंट्रोल कर देंगे तो क्या यह बात सम्भव है? जैसा कि अभी इस भवन में बतलाया गया कि हमको अपने फीगर्स (figures) पर भरोसा है, मगर पंजाब से जहां से हमको काफी गेहूं मिलता था जब वह हमारे हाथ से चला गया है तो हमको किस बात पर भरोसा करना होगा, लेकिन कल्पना करना बहुत मुमकिन है खतरे से खाली नहीं होगा मगर अगर गवर्नमेंट इस कंट्रोल को करती है तो यह डेमोक्रेसी (Democracy) के खिलाफ है। अगर हमको इस में कामयाबी नहीं हुई और हमको फिर भी कंट्रोल करना पड़ा तो बहुत मुमकिन है कि यह सिस्टैमिक डेथ (systematic Death) हो जायगी और कुछ नहीं होने वाला है।

(English translation of the above speech.)

Shri Jai Narain Vayas (Jodhpur State): Mr. Speaker: There is no doubt that the speech which the Honourable the Minister of Food has delivered in connection with the control Policy contains many adages which have been added to our knowledge. But at the same time there are undoubtedly many problems which are to be discussed by us. And I realize that we could only support this Democracy which has been referred to by my previous speaker Shri Khandubhai Desai when we perform the post-mortem operation of this control policy. It has not yet been clearly understood whether this is de-control or re-control. But it must be said that this control was introduced on account of war. And now because there is no war, therefore, we should end this policy of control, and we shall have to do this. It is correct to say that there is no war. But I think that war still exists in India. The fight which is going on in Kashmir is a sort of War and it does not seem to end. Along with this there is a tug of war between separatist elements. The capitalists are at war with the poor, and they are trying to machinate in every possible manner. On the removal of control on sugar, the Sugar Syndicate has waged some sort of war. Formerly the rate was Rs. 21 per maund, but when the news regarding decontrol were received, then these people raised the price to Rs. 35 per maund. At the same time the war did not concern India only, but it had its effect on other countries also. It affected England, America and Canada, but the control system is still

existing there. We shall have to devote some attention to this. We know that control still exists in England and it has not been removed and it is continuing there. In Canada and Australia where the foodgrains are abundantly grown there is the price-control and there too the control has not as yet been withdrawn. No doubt the control has been removed in America. The ratio that was existing in America before war was 148 and now it has risen upto 191. And on the contrary, efforts are being made there that the decontrol should be removed. Under these circumstances, when we remove the control, we shall have to examine a few things. By its removal we will become self-sufficient but it is apprehended lest we may not be driven towards the semi-starvation or dying state. Therefore, we shall have to think over this matter—what has been the repercussion of control in other places and spheres and what loss has had to be sustained? I have seen control and have a personal experience of it. What is the particular type of control arrangement in force in the states? In the states now-a-days a house covers 5 acres of land. In fact I am not able to describe the manner in which the control is enforced in the states. I belong to Jodhpur. There the landlords keep all the bags of *shakar* in their possession and give it to their friends at any rate. This sugar goes into the hands of feudal landlords and they sell it at the desired rate. The best portion of the foodgrains that are produced are made over by the landlords to their friends; and ultimately the poor are compelled to purchase the balance that remains and these poor people are obliged to pay more prices. That was not a control but merely a hoax. Control was not a bad thing, but no proper control was imposed. Had the control been worked in a better way, then this state of affairs would not have arisen.

I was just telling you that this control was being used like a weapon in the state. In our state the landlords get 4 bags and pleaders 3 bags as a result of this control, and in this way the *per capita* quota is fixed. But the villagers are not able to get the *per capita* quota fixed for them.

Shri A. P. Pattani: Is the Honourable Member speaking for all the states?

Shri Jai Narain Vayas: Yes. I am speaking in respect of all the states that the *per capita* quota that was allotted to the people had not been distributed. This has happened in Bhavnagar also and while saying this I give a challenge.

Sir, as a matter of fact the necessity of control does not arise in a place where the commodity is abundantly produced. Take the case of Punjab which produces bumper harvests and there the control can be dispensed with. But the necessity of control remains in the case of deficit areas where the production is low as in Bombay and Madras. The people in these Provinces have been considerably benefitted on account of control and they have been saved also. If the control is removed from these places, then many people will die of starvation there. And this will mean an untimely death for them. Therefore, the control should not be removed from those places where there is a shortage of foodstuffs. But there cannot be different policies for different places. Just as it has been stated now that if this policy is not proved successful, we will re-impose control. Is it possible then? Just as it has been told in this House that we are depending on our figures (estimates), but on what source shall we have to depend when we have lost Punjab from where we could get sufficient foodstuff. But it is very likely that this assumption will not be free from risk. But if the Government imposes this control it is against democracy. If we do not succeed in this and have again to resort to remove decontrol, then it would result in 'systematic death'. And nothing else will happen.

Mr. Hussain Imam (Bihar: Muslim): Sir, I must confess that knowing the Honourable Food Minister as I do, knowing how great a disciple he is of Mahatma Gandhi and how greatly he is devoted to him, I was afraid that the statement of Government policy would be worse than what I found. I think he has tried to find a middle course between two dilemmas of irresistible force

[Mr. Hussain Imam]

and irremovable mass. On the one side, while the dictation of the Mahatma could not be disregarded, the apprehensions which his advisers felt and the facts and figures presented to him could also not be ignored. It is very essential that while we are considering the food situation, we should try and understand the background.

The first background which must be taken into consideration is that the cultivator is better off. He gets a better price for his produce with the result that in order to meet his requirements he need not now sell as much as he was forced to sell in the days of low prices. He consumes more himself. That is the first change in the situation which you must take into account.

Then the second factor which you cannot ignore is that your population is growing every day, and the means of increasing production—I mean available virgin soil or the soil which can be improved by means of irrigation or other methods—is not keeping pace. Therefore, there is always a lag between the requirements and the production, just as there is usually a lag between the wages and the rising prices.

The third item which must not be disregarded is, that it is not necessary for a country that it should be self-sufficient in the matter of food. England has been carrying on for all these years in spite of being in a deficit. It is the national income which is the real criterion of your wellbeing. If your national income, which means the sum total of productivity, including labour, is high, it does not matter if we have to import. There is no sin in it. There is nothing to be ashamed of. There is nothing which is categorically wrong in it. We have been always living on imports from outside geographical India but because of the fact that the British Empire had combined Burma with India, we were masking this factor. The separation of Pakistan will bring into prominence the dependence of Pakistan on the textiles of India and the dependence of India on jute from Pakistan. Formerly it was not apparent because the two formed part of the same country. Now these factors are operating. So it is not an easy matter to decide that imports are not in the best interests of the country.

There are certain standards by which we may go. Firstly, has the price of foodgrains gone up more in India than in other countries of the world? That is the first criterion by which I should judge whether the controls have kept the prices so low that production is not increasing. If we compare it either with the United States, Australia or Canada, we will find that increase even in the controlled commodities is much higher than in those countries. I admit that in England particularly they have kept down prices by means of subsidies, but America has not done it. There the prices are low because they have got a large production. But in spite of large production and in spite of the fact that they must find a market, they are taking advantage, as the Honourable the Food Minister has stated, of increasing the price which they are charging to us. Why? Because they think we are dependent on them. But I ask, is any single trader in a better position to bargain with America than the Ministry of Food was able to bargain? If there are five private buyers on behalf of India, each working in his own interest, will they be able to bring down the prices, or will the Central Purchase by means of the Food Ministry bring down prices? If you are to remove control, what will be the result? Please forget that India can be self-sufficient unless there has been a ten years' lag in which you may build up your irrigation works. Then you may be able to produce enough for your consumption; but today it is not a question of short duration, we have been working for six years and working at a deficit. The foodgrains is not a stable article which can be kept in storage for an indefinite period. It is liable to deteriorate as has been the sad experience of the Honourable Minister. We are

either ignorant of the factors or we are really taking things too easy. We feel that it is enough to accuse a person—Give a dog a bad name and then hang him for it: Put all the blame on the controls and ask for its removal, and the moment it is removed we will be on velvet. That is not so. You have got the example of the foreign Government which has gone. You have had your own men in the Government for over a year now. A large amount of foodgrains from India used to be exported in the past but today we know how great is the restriction on export except for victualling the ships.

I do not wish to take up the time of the House. I wish to say that control is very essential in the interests of the consumers—and let me tell you that the consumers are by far the greater proportion of the population of India than the producers. It is a truth that producers are always less than consumers. For instance, I find an interesting figure in the Famine Committee Report in which the number of surplus producers in Bengal was found to be less than 30 per cent. of the cultivators, not of the population. The rest of the producers are either deficit themselves or just sufficient for their consumption. They have not any surplus to sell out. Now the price structure is simply to attract the surplus produce out of the surplus producers: not from those who are deficit producers as they will always have to buy with the other consumers.

One factor which the Honourable the Finance Minister and the Transport Minister should remember is that according to the recommendations of the Pay Commission report any rise in food prices will mean a consequential rise in the wages which are to be given to the railwaymen, to the army and to other employees of Government. For every ten point rise, you will be called upon to pay three crores. So that is another argument in favour of keeping prices down.

Is it possible, I ask, to keep down prices in the condition of scarcity without control? It is begging the question. Until we are assured of either internal increased production or external imports in an increased proportion, we will have to continue to muddle through with controls. No one can take the cudgels on behalf of the control staff. There have been blunders and moral turpitude. There have been many mistakes and they must be removed. We wish, Sir, that this policy of wait and see should continue at least for one year more. That is the least possible period in which we should experiment. Secondly, we must build up a stock in our own keeping of at least one million tons as was recommended by the Krishnamachari Committee and endorsed by the Vijayaraghavachari Committee also. Surely we must see that prices in the meantime of other foodgrains which we decontrol do not rise above the controlled rates by more than 10 to 15 per cent. I think the Honourable Food Minister made a wrong comparison between the black market prices and grey market prices. He should have compared the white market prices and the present grey market prices. There is one fact which I got from the Government's own Blue Book on the food policy. That whereas the prices of foodgrains have risen from 100 in September 1939 to 360, the prices of the cultivators' requisites such as kerosene, galvanised sheets, textiles, etc., have risen to 233. As it is with the control the price is 50 per cent. higher. Therefore the present day prices are not unfair to the producer and it is wrong to ask that the surplus producer should be allowed to exploit the general public of India. If you take the population at 30 crores, I do not think that the surplus producers will reach a crore. It is not a big capitalist exploitation, it is a small capitalist exploitation. Therefore I think we should watch and see what is the best policy for the Government to adopt. I am grateful to the Government for the policy which they propose to adopt and I hope they will move slowly, cautiously and not in any hurry to do away with the controls.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa (C. P. and Berar: General): Sir, the House was supplied by the Honourable Food Minister with the recommendations of the Committee on the 1st December and today we are supplied with the recommendations of the Government. The materials before the House and the committee's report are so silent that the House is not in a position to come to any proper decision on the recommendations of the Committee. The recommendations should not be merely a guiding factor. The whole case is not made out by the Committee so that the House may know as to what led them to come to this conclusion. The Committee has not yet sent its report to the Government. I do not see why there should have been so much haste in Government deciding a policy, without themselves studying the report of the Committee. Sir, I know of a judge who in the text of the judgement had given very sound reasons for convicting the accused but at the end he had put in two sentences "I acquit the accused." Whereas the content of the judgment was for conviction the final decision was the reverse. Similarly I do not know what are the reasons that the Committee had for recommending this. Probably this House may come to a different decision if they knew the full facts and the reasons that led the Committee to make these recommendations. I therefore feel that the Government's decision is premature. There would have been nothing wrong in the Government waiting for sometime until the full report was received and considered by Government and also placed before this House for its final decision. At present I am at any rate at a disadvantage to come to a decision merely on the recommendations of the Committee.

The arguments advanced here are that unless there is planned economy for all articles the controls will never be successful. Granted that that in principle is correct, may I ask those who advocate that policy is it fair that the control which at present gives some relief to a large number of consumers should be taken away by the Government? Is it a sound policy? My friend Mr. Khandubai Desai said that there are only one crore of people who reside in the cities. If you take the Census Report you will find that 13 per cent of the population live in the cities. This means more than 5 crores of people live in towns and cities. After all these people have to live as well. If you remove the rationing system and gradually come to the decision that it should be decontrolled

An Honourable Member: What What about the *kisans*?

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: I am coming to *kisans*. It is stated that the *kisans* will be benefitted. While de-controlling sugar, sugar millowners have raised prices. The price was Rs. 20/12 before decontrol, and the Syndicate itself states that in future the price shall be Rs. 35 and Government have agreed to this price, so far as I understand

An Honourable Member: What about the *kisans*?

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: I am coming to *kisans*. It is stated that the *kisans* will be benefitted. While de-controlling sugar, sugar millowners have raised labourers and the growers of sugarcane. It is a very good thing to divide it this way but why at the cost of the consumers? Why should not the owners of the industry pay the labourer and the *kisans*? That would have been graceful, honourable and justifiable. That would really prove that the owners of the factories are now prepared to support the Government and to co-operate with the Government as the Honourable Minister has been pleading for. In his concluding remarks the Honourable Minister mentioned so many IFS—If this is done by so and so, etc., and he expected everybody will do so. He appealed to this House, to every member of this House and to owners, traders also the consumers to co-operate with him. We are ready to co-operate with him. I may inform him that the consumers have already co-operated with the Government when they reduced the rations from 16 to 12 oz., from 12 to

8 and from 8 to 6 oz. But how have the landlords or big *zamindars*, big food-growers have helped the Government?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Has my Honourable friend lived on 6 oz.?

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: It is therefore unfair to the consumer or the city people. Sir, I do not know the exact definition of an agriculturist. He may be a big *zamindar* or a small peasant. I know of two instances where a very big *zamindar* called himself an agriculturist. Government has given them 60 per cent more on the sugar price. How are we to be sure that the consumers will be treated fairly by this system of de-control. Government are a party to giving 60 per cent more to the sugar industry owners. Heaven knows what will the price when the sugar comes actually to the consumer. Sir we know the price in Delhi after decontrol. Sir, time is short and you have already warned me. The Honourable Minister should concentrate his attention on increasing the production. The Government have a policy in this matter of production of foodgrains. Also they should have a reserve by the import of foodgrains as also through internal purchase as much as possible. Much attention should be given to that part and then let us see what happens.

The policy which has been enunciated is one of gradual decontrol. But very sweeping reforms are advocated by Provincial Governments. The Provincial Governments are asked to fix prices as they like with the result that one Government may fix one price and another Government may fix quite another price for the same article.

Sir, as my time is over I would conclude by saying that I do not support the Honourable Minister's proposal for decontrolling gradually. Particularly in the interests of the consumers of the cities I would like him to see to it that there is no control for the time being.

Mr. T. J. M. Wilson (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset I would thank the Government for the manner in which they have considered the food problem and the evident hesitation with which they reconsidered question of controls. I am sure that all of us present here share with the Government the anxiety about the dissatisfaction of the people in regard to the controls. At the same time I am sure that the Government knows—and they have stated so in their communique—that this dissatisfaction on the part of the people is largely psychological. But what is the reason for the reconsideration of the question of controls and for the consequent policy of progressive reduction of the Government's commitments in the matter of control and rationing? The reason generally given is that there is in fact no shortage of foodgrains at all in the country and that therefore no control is necessary. This is far from the truth. India has always been short of foodgrains. And even before the war we were importing foodgrains, chiefly rice, in the neighbourhood of 2 million tons. Nothing that has happened either during the war or after the war is likely to have made good this shortage of food products. For, on the one hand, on the positive side the Government has admitted the ineffectiveness of the 'Grow More Food' Campaign, and on the negative side, we have had a fail in the last two years' *kharif* crop due to the vagaries of wind and weather and we have the other factors like increase in the population, rise in the incomes of people etc. Therefore the argument that there is indeed no shortage of rice or other foodgrains at all is not correct. The Government communique itself does not refer to it, and it can therefore be safely asserted that the official estimate of a deficit of 4 million tons is not far too wrong and that there is therefore a real gap between production and demand in this country.

Then the argument is that control in fact does nothing to bridge the gap effectively between production and demand. Their argument is that this control in fact impedes that process by acting as an obstacle both to increased production and to the free movement of foodgrains. Regarding this free movement, it is true that free market forces will enable free movements of foodgrains, but there is this fact, that free market forces will respond only to the price factor and

[Mr. T. J. M. Wilson.]

not to the need factor. Consequently the burden of the overall shortage of food products rests on the poor people. Regarding increased production it is said that control prices are unremunerative and that decontrol would fetch better prices for the producers, that is the ryots, in other words decontrol would stimulate production because it will send up the level of food prices. But then there will be a consequential rise in the wages and also in the general level of prices. In other words there will be inflation. Of what avail is it then to the producer or the ryot if the slight increase in food prices is offset by this all-round inflation? But the Government does not seem to take this view. On the contrary they seem to take the view that with the removal of controls and with the free movement of foodgrains the consumers will get these foodgrains at fair prices which, as I have already argued, will never be the case.

There is, however, one relieving feature in the Government policy and that is that it has not accepted *in toto* the spirit of the recommendations of the Foodgrains Committee in the matter of imports. There has of late been a good deal of talk about the heavy expenditure incurred upon these imports and the heavy drainage of our foreign exchange resources, etc., and that these imports should therefore stop immediately. It is well that the Government has seen that the question of stopping or of reducing imports does not arise at all unless the overall production in the country increases considerably. Increased production is a long process. It requires so many things. It involves a radical change in our land revenue system,—not only the *zamindari* but also other systems—a radical change in the outlook of government officials in charge of revenue who from my experience are largely responsible for the slow pace of the 'Grow More Food Campaign,' and also a number of scientific methods in agriculture. What is the Government going to do, I ask, by saving foreign exchange resources and by importing capital machinery if a number of people in the meanwhile die for want of food and if workers are made incapable of doing any physical work at all because of malnutrition and under-feeding spread over a length of time?

The decision regarding the Procurement Prices to be fixed by the Provincial Governments, the grant of bonus and its utilisation in the distribution of manures and fertilizers—is perhaps welcome though I doubt very much the success of the procurement on account of the increase of prices in the foodgrains. The reason is that I know from personal experience that it is the repeated offer of bonus and the temptation of an increase of price in the foodgrains that has made a number of producers to hoard in the hope that they will get more when there is a further increase.

After reading the Statement of the Government one feels, Sir, that the Statement itself makes a stronger case for controls than any arguments advanced from outside. Government themselves admit the food shortage in the country. They themselves admit that the policy entails a certain amount of risk. Why then does Government take the decision? Is it because of the dissatisfaction of the people which can be easily remedied by tightening the controls and by improving the control machinery? The only reason seems to be, as stated in the statement, the expectation that decontrol would bring out more stocks than at present under the control and that these stocks would be distributed without hoarding and profiteering. Does the Government really think that there are large supplies in the black market and that if released they would entirely meet the needs of the people? If that is so, the pressure of these supplies will itself smash the black market prices and the black market itself. That is a simple truth. Is it not a confession on the part of the popular Government with nearly 100 per cent. of the people behind it to say that it cannot bring out these small hoarded stocks unless it ran this grave risk—a risk which the Government itself admits? Or does the Government think, as it seems to do, that it is tired of the responsibility? If so, I ask, is it not unjust on the part of a popular Government

to shirk its primary and responsible duty of feeding the people entrusted to its care? The name of Mahatma Gandhi has often been drawn into this discussion. But one should not forget that Gandhiji has a different set of values altogether. He looks at it in his own characteristic way. He thinks that these controls have reduced men to a state of dependence, to a state of inertia and do-nothing and he thinks that people should suffer an amount of self-denial rather than depend upon the bureaucracy for even food. Can we rise to those heights? In fact he has his own solution. The solution is that every village should be self-sufficient. And unless we reach that village self sufficiency, I am afraid that we cannot cite him as against control. The position therefore is this: that if you think by removing control you can combat black marketing, you can remove hoarding, it is only a myth. You will only be legalizing black marketing and you will be giving not only legal sanction but also moral sanction to black marketing.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The Honourable Member has exceeded his time.

Mr. T. J. M. Wilson: With these few words I resume my seat.

श्री गोकल भाई दौलतराम भट्ट : माननीय सभापति जी, समय कम है। यह तो

मैं भी महसूस कर रहा हूँ, लेकिन यह सवाल इतना बड़ा है कि इस पर हर एक को बोलने की इच्छा होती है। मैं इसके विषय में यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि सारे हिन्दुस्तान में यह जो नियन्त्रण शाही नियन्त्रण राज्य चल रहा है, उससे इन्सान की वह इन्सानियत मिट गयी है, और आदमी नीति से गिर गया है। उस चीज़ को जब हटाने की बात आती है, तब हमारे जो गिनती बाज़ आदमी हैं, economists हैं, वह समझते हैं कि अरे ! हमारा क्या होगा ? कोई कहता है कि शरीर में खंजर भोंका जा रहा है। वह कहने लगते हैं कि हमारे यह फूड मिनिस्टर Food minister हमारे कंज्यूमर्स (Consumers) के शरीर में खंजर भोंक रहे हैं और चाहते हैं कि लहू न निकले। मैं कहता हूँ कि हिन्दुस्तान में लहू है कहां ! सिर्फ हड्डी २ है। उसमें से यदि खंजर इधर से उधर चला जाय, तो उसमें बहुत बड़ी आपत्ति नहीं है। मेरा तो अपना कहना है कि आज यह खंजर भोंकने की बात नहीं है। मैं तो यह मानता हूँ कि हमारे जो अहिंसक खंजर बाज़ है, वह उस नीति से खंजर नहीं चलाते हैं। वह तो एक डाक्टर, एक वैद्य की तरह एक ऐसा आपरेशन (operation) कर रहे हैं, जिससे हमारे में से बड़ी दूर हो जाय और अच्छी बात रहे और इस प्रकार का वह एक अहिंसक खंजर छुरी चला रहे हैं। वह सब हमारे लोगों की भलाई के लिये हैं। मैं आमतौर पर जबकि हृदयनाथ कुंजर का भाषण अखबारों में पढ़ता था और जानता था कि उनके जैसे अभ्यासी आदमी हिन्दुस्तान में हैं। लेकिन आज उनका भाषण सुन कर ताज्जुब भी हुआ जब वह कहते हैं कि वह गरीबों के साथ मिलने जुलने वाले आदमी हैं और जितने गरीबों से वह मिले, उन्होंने कहा कि यह नियन्त्रण रहना चाहिये, यह कंट्रोल रहना चाहिये और अगर कंट्रोल हट जायगा तो हम न मालूम कहां से कहां चले जायंगे। मैं भी एक अदना आदमी हूँ। मैं भी गरीबों से मिलता हूँ, टांगे वालों से, हमालों से सबसे मिलता हूँ और तब मुझे सब लोगों की पुकार याद आती है और वह कहते

[श्री गोकुल भाई दौलतराम भट्ट]

हैं कि अब लड़ाई तो खत्म हुई, अंग्रेजों को आपने भगा दिया। यह जो हमारे ऊपर बला है, छुरी जैसी यह जो (control) है, इसको कब निकालियेगा। यह भी निकल जाय तो अच्छी बात है। मामूली आदमी अपनी जरूरत की चीज आसानी से मुह्य्या नहीं कर सकते हैं और उसको मजबूरन ब्लैक-मार्केट (black-market) करना पड़ता है और उसको कीमत ज्यादा देनी पड़ती है और वह कीमत देते हैं, हमारे पास से लेकर देते हैं। आज मैं आपको यह दृष्टान्त देना चाहता हूँ। मेरे पास ऐसे आदमी हैं, ऐसे लोग हैं जिनको कह दूँ कि हमारे यहां रोटी खाओ तो कितना महीना लोगे तो वह पन्द्रह, बीस रुपये में राजी हो जायेंगे। लेकिन अगर उनको रोटी पर न तय करना हो, तो वह आज ६०-७० रुपये से कम न लेंगे। इससे समझ लीजिये कि एक आदमी को रोटी के लिये कितना खर्च करना पड़ता है। अगर कन्ट्रोल भाव से चीज मिल जाती होती शहरों में या कस्बों में तो वह आसानी से कह देता कि मैं अपनी रोटी खाकर ३०-३५ रुपये जरूर लूंगा। मिसाल के तौर पर मैं कहता हूँ कि बिना रोटी के एक मजदूर दिनभर का चार रुपये मांगता है, लेकिन अगर मैं उसको रोटी दे देता हूँ तो वह दो ही रुपये में सारा दिन मेहनत करने को तैयार है। जो कीमतें बढ़ गयी हैं, वह बढ़ गयी हैं अब उससे ज्यादा बढ़ने वाली चीज नहीं है। मेरा तो सवाल यह है कि हम एक रास्ते पर चलते हैं, आज उस रास्ते को छोड़ कर दूसरे रास्ते जाने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं। आज तो हमारा एक बुजुर्ग आदमी, महान नेता हमको कह रहा है कि यह रास्ता अब छोड़ो, उस रास्ते पर अब जाने से कोई फायदा नहीं है। हममें से कुछ कहते हैं कि उनका अजीब तरीका है। वह तो सन्त महात्मा हैं, उनको तो अलग एक कुटिया में बैठना है। वह तो बिरला हाउस के बगीचे में बैठे हुए हैं, उनको क्या पड़ी है। लेकिन मैं बहुत अदब के साथ उन मित्रों को कहना चाहता हूँ कि सन् १९२० से लेकर आज तक जो रास्ता उस महान नेता ने हमें दिखलाया है, उसी रास्ते पर हमको चलना पड़ा है। और मैं आज भी यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस समय यह नया रास्ता पागलपन ही क्यों न मालूम हो और यह महसूस हो कि गलत रास्ते पर हम जा रहे हैं और इस तरह हम हिन्दुस्तान को बर्बाद कर रहे हैं, लेकिन मुझे पूर्ण विश्वास है कि वह लोग जो आज (Planned economy) की बात करते हैं, आखिर मैं उन्हें उस बूढ़े की बात मानना पड़ेगी और वे समझ जायेंगे कि जो रास्ता वह बतला रहा है, वही रास्ता सही है। हमारे 'नवीन' जी श्री बालकृष्ण शर्मा जी जो मुक्त पंखी हैं वे बंधन में रहना चाहते हैं। आदमी का शरीर नाशवान् है। लेकिन यह हमारा बुजुर्ग और दूसरे नेता हमको एक उन्नत पथ पर ले जा रहे हैं और इस तरह वह हमारी आत्मा को उन्नत कर रहे हैं। आज इस कन्ट्रोल से हमारी आत्मा

गिर गयी है, हम नष्ट हो गये हैं और अगर हमारा शरीर भी नष्ट हो जाय और हमारे एक दो करोड़ आदमी अनाज के बिना भूखे मर जाय, तो मुझे उसमें कोई दिक्कत नहीं आयेगी। मैं उससे कोई डरता नहीं हूँ। मैं कहता हूँ कि यह मरने की बात नहीं होने वाली है।

मैं जानता हूँ कि आज किसान या जो पैदा करने वाले हैं, वह डरते हैं क्योंकि कन्ट्रोल के जमाने में उनके पास से अनाज चला जाता है। यह सारा का सारा अनाज राज्य के कुठार में या गवर्नमेंट के खजाने में चला जाता है? वहां तक तो बहुत कम पहुंचता है, लेकिन बीच में से बहुत सा अनाज चला जाता है। पटवारी, तहसीलदार और गिर्दावर ले जाते हैं और इस तरह बीच में से वह कईगुना अनाज निकाल लेते हैं। किसान यह कहता है कि अगर राज्य को चाहिये, तो हम देने को तैयार हैं, हमको भाव दीजिये। हम उनको आठ रुपया मन के भाव से पैसा देते हैं लेकिन राज्य उल्टा उसको १५ रुपये मन से सप्लाई (supply) करता है जब लोग गल्ला लेने जाते हैं किसान यह कहता है कि मैं आठ रुपये में दूँ और पन्द्रह रुपये में खरीदूँ? मैं ऐसा पागल नहीं हूँ।

अन्त में मैं यही कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस चीज को जो हमारी आत्मा को गिरा रहा है, उस चीज को जितनी जल्दी खत्म कर सकें, अच्छा है और उसको खत्म करना चाहिये। हमारे माननीय डाक्टर साहिब ने धीरे धीरे इस चीज को हटाने की बात कही है। कल से उठा दिया जायगा, ऐसी तो बात नहीं कही है। मैं यह मानता हूँ कि यह जो पालिसी है, वह हमारे लिए मुफीद होगी, इसमें मुझे कोई सन्देह नहीं है।

Shri Gokul Bhai Bhatt (Rajputana States Group): Mr. Speaker, Sir, time is short. I realize this, but this question is so vital that everybody desires to speak. In this connection I want to point out that this control regime which is prevalent in the whole of India has obliterated the sense of humanity in man and he has deviated from the righteous course. When the question for the removal of control arises, then our statisticians and economists say, "what will happen to us? Some say that they are being stabbed. The others say that our Food Minister is thrusting knife in the body of our consumers and wishes the blood not to effuse." I say where is blood in India? It does not mean much harm if the dagger pierces through it. To me it does not seem to be a matter of thrusting a dagger. I am of the opinion that our non-violent swordsmen do not use it with the same skill. They are operating us in the manner of a Doctor or a Vaidya rooting out evil and retaining good in us. In this manner they are indulging in non-violent knife attacks and all this is for our benefit. Generally when I read the speeches of Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru in the newspapers I came to know that a scholar like him still lived in India. But to-day I was rather surprised to hear his speech when he says that he associates with poor people, and all the poor who met him told him that this control system should continue—this control should remain—and if it is removed, we know not where it will lead us to?

I am also a humble being. I too mix up with the proletariat, viz., *tengra-wallas*, labourers and all others, and then I remember the cry of all people and they say that the war is over now—you made the Britishers to flee. When will

[Shri Gokul Bhai D. Bhatt]
 you relieve us of this curse which has been thrust on us like a dagger? It would be better if this too is removed. The ordinary man cannot easily procure his normal requirements and he is forced to resort to blackmarketing. He has thus to pay more price and the price they pay is taken from us. To-day I want to give you an instance of this. I have got such men with me who will be pleased to work on a salary of Rs. 15 to Rs. 20, if they are provided with free board. But if you are not to fix them up with free board, then they will not draw less than Rs. 60-70. From this you can understand as to how much a man has got to spend on his food. If he could get things on control whether from cities or towns, then he would have simply said that he surely required Rs. 30-35 and arrange for his own meals. For instance, I say that a labourer demands Rs. 4 per day without meals. But if I provide him with meals, he is ready to work for Rs. 2 only for the whole day. The rise in prices has already reached the climax. Now there is no possibility of further inflation. My point is that we took a particular line of action and to-day we are deviating from that course and resorting to another. To-day our veteran, revered and great leader is exhorting us to abandon this course, there is no use in going towards that direction now. Many of us say that he has strange ways. He is a saint—a Mahatma, he has got to live in a separate hut. He is staying in the gardens of Birla House—why should he bother? But with profound respect I would like to tell those friends that we had to follow the same way that has been shown to us by that Great Leader since 1920. And to-day also I wish to say that, however, absurd this new course may appear at present, and it may be felt that we are treading a wrong path and we are thus ruining India. But I have a firm conviction that those people who are to-day talking about planned economy shall have ultimately to accede to the views of that Old man and they will realize that the way which he is pointing out is the correct one. Our Honourable friend Navinji (Shri Balkrishan Sharma) who is a free-bird wants to live under shackles. Man is mortal. But this our reverend leader and other leaders are conducting us on a progressive way and are thus elevating our conscience in this manner.

To-day this control has demoralized our conscience, we have been disparaged, and even if our body is destroyed, and one or two crores of our men die of starvation for want of food, then it won't matter much to me. I am not afraid of this. I assert that this state unto-death will not arise.

I know that to-day the farmers and producers are afraid, because they are to part with their foodgrains during the control regime. This entire foodgrain goes into the godowns of the Government or treasury. Only a very small quantity reaches the destination, a good deal of the foodgrains is lost while in transit. This is carried off by the *Patwaris*, *Tahsildars* and *Girdawars*, and in this way they purloin a large quantity of the foodgrains. The farmer says that in case the Government wants, he is prepared to give, but he should be paid price for it. We pay him at the rate of Rs. 15 per maund. The cultivator asks: should I sell at the rate of Rs. 8 and buy at the rate of Rs. 15. I am not such a fool.

Lastly I would like to say that the sooner we end this evil which is degrading our conscience the better it would be; and we must wipe it off. Our Honourable Doctor has spoken about gradual de-control. He has not stated that it would be removed with effect from to-morrow. I admit that this policy would prove advantageous to our interests and I have no doubt about this.

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the policy of progressive de-control. I wish the Honourable Minister had said planned decontrol, because I hope that the progress of decontrol will not depend merely on the passage of time but on the progress of conditions which justify the policy of de-control. Sir, I shall spend the few minutes at my disposal in making some concrete proposals for this planned part of de-control which I think is as essential as the policy of de-control. We have seen how disastrous unplanned

de-control can be in the case of sugar. I shall not go into that question today but I do wish that the policy of progressive and planned de-control had been adopted in the case of sugar also. Sir, before I go to give my positive suggestions, I must refer to the attempt of some persons to convert this debate into the issue of controls *versus* no controls. I do not think that is a correct issue because one control is not the same as another.

[At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Mr. Hussain Imam (One of the Panel of Chairmen)]

I think it was Pandit Kunzru who said that if you de-control foodgrains, you will have to de-control steel, and you will have to de-control coal, etc.
 4 P. M. I think, Sir, the issues are entirely different. What is the position of control in the case of steel? There are only two or three concerns which produce steel; there are only a small number of traders who distribute it to the consumers. But in the case of foodgrains, there are millions and millions of small producers. They produce forty to fifty million tons. You actually procure four million tons. For getting ten per cent. of the foodgrains, you destroy the whole open market and completely dislocate it. For the sake of ten per cent., 90 per cent. of production is altogether demoralized and completely dislocated. It is to prevent this dislocation, this demoralization of the major part of the agricultural production of this country that I support the policy of de-control. I do believe that if this policy of de-control is adopted wisely, progressively and in a planned fashion, then this 90 per cent. of the agricultural production will be so reorganised that the present scarcity, which is considered to be the sole justification of control, will be eliminated.

Sir, there is also another reason in support of de-control which has not been referred to by any of the speakers. I refer to the quality of the foodgrains supplied in controlled areas. For the last five years this quality has been continuously deteriorating so that today though you may get rations, you do not get food—you do not get rice, you do not get wheat—you get some miscellaneous mixture which varies in quality from wheat to wheat, and which I do not know to what extent is disturbing the digestion and health of the people who consume these rationed qualities. I am told, Sir, that Argentine maize which was bought at four or five times the normal price, contains poisonous weeds; those weeds contain a property—the active principle of atropine—which is very poisonous. And the Madras Government is even now engaged in devising means to take out these weeds; if they do not succeed, the entire maize which was bought may have to be thrown into the Bay of Bengal. Again, Sir, the milo which we have been able to get at great cost has been largely ruined; though it is said that we are getting by imports 2½ million tons, we do not know—the officials have not revealed to us what proportion of this quantity—how much has been made unfit for human consumption. I think year by year we are spending crores and crores of rupees for getting food which is not available for human consumption.

Now, Sir, I know people are afraid of the consequences of de-control. I too am afraid. And that is why it should be a planned de-control. This plan must consist of three parts: First there must be a reserve. It is admitted that there should be a reserve so that this can be put in places where there might be acute scarcity. It is said that it should be five lakhs of tons or one million tons. Quantity is not so important as that the Government of India should have it ready in places where scarcity is likely to be acute. Sir, for this purpose I suggest that the Government of India and the Provincial Administrations are not competent; they have not established their competency either to build a reserve or to operate it. Therefore, I suggest to the Government of India that before they de-control, especially in urban areas, they should establish a Foodgrains Corporation which will hold reserves of at least a million tons, will hold them at proper places and will have the machinery to use these reserves effectively wherever and whenever they are wanted. Until this Corporation is established

[Shri Biswanath Das]

Sir, this question divides itself under two heads: De-control and Grow More Food. About de-control, I would warn the Honourable Minister of one thing, namely, that he has tolerated the bonus system which puts a strain on the provinces like Orissa which have been faithful to the understanding entered into between the Centre and the provinces and has been delivering the quantities that were expected of them in a perfectly orderly manner. It is therefore unfair, Sir, that the Central Government should have refused to the Orissa Government the bonus that was being given to other Provinces. It is all the more unfair because the standard of living in Orissa is very low. In the circumstances, I would appeal to the Honourable Minister to reconsider the position. Regarding Grow More Food, Sir, it is a question that requires more attention. England took a five year programme and everyone knows that England is nearer the goal. There is no reason why this country with a deficit of 5 per cent. cannot make up its foodgrains. I was looking to the reply given by the Honourable the Food Minister to my interpellation and there I find there is a lot of more land brought under cultivation. If that is correct—I do not believe it to be so—then there should have been more food. I would beg of him not to believe that the statistics that are compiled and gathered do not represent the correct state of affairs. I myself was in charge of the administration of a Province. There are few provinces, barring Madras, which could boast of proper statistics, because they have no village officials and the statistics compiled by those provinces have been recognised and admitted even by the highest officials in the provinces to be incorrect. Therefore, I beg of the Government to take a long range view whereby India would be self-sufficient and to have a system of village officials for compilation of proper statistics. Sir, we can no longer depend on Pakistan or Burma; much less could we depend on Australia or America. It is a disgrace. The time has come.....

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Member's time is up.

مولانا حسرت موہانی : جناب والا ! معزز فوڈ منسٹر نے جو تجویز اس وقت آپ کے سامنے رکھی ہے - میں اسکی تہ دل سے تائید کرتا ہوں - انہوں نے اپنی پوزیشن کے لحاظ سے اسکی تشریح کی ہے - لیکن میں ان سے یہ تجویز کرتا کہ وہ جیسے کہ انگریزی میں کہا جاتا ہے کہ to take courage in both hands کے کپڑے کے کنٹرول کے کنٹرول اٹھا دیا گیا ہے - تو بہتر ہوتا - میرے خیال میں تو ہر ایک چیز پر سے کنٹرول ختم کر دینا چاہئے - جب تک کنٹرول کو بالکل ختم نہیں کیا جاتا تب تک ہندوستان میں بلیک مارکیٹ اور پرافیٹرینگ ختم نہیں ہوگا - حضرات میری رائے میں گاندھی جی اور معزز فوڈ منسٹر نے جو بات کی ہے وہ نہایت اہم ایماں دارانہ ہے - آپ حضرات کو معلوم ہوگا کہ ہمارے صوبہ کی اسمبلی میں جب تھہ ماہ قبل abolition of zamindari کے متعلق ریزولوشن پیش ہوا تھا تو میں نے یہ کہا تھا کہ جب تک کنٹرول کا سسٹم ختم نہیں ہوتا ہے تب تک اس ریزولوشن سے کوئی فائدہ نہیں ہو سکتا - اور میں نے اس کے متعلق دلائل پیش کی تھیں - وہ ریزولوشن وہاں پر بہ اتفاق رائے پاس ہوا - اُس وقت انہوں نے یہ کہا کہ ریزولوشن کا مقصد اسوقت یہ ہے کہ جتنے بھی intermediaries ہیں ختم ہو جائیں - تو میں نے اس بارے میں ایک ترمیم پیش کی تھی کہ جتنے جب

تک intermediaries میں سے آپ موروثی کاشتکار کو بھی نہیں نکالینگے تب تک black marketing اور پرافیٹرینگ ختم نہیں ہوگی - اور اس abolition of zamindari کے معاملہ پر عمل نہیں ہو سکتا - میں نے کہا تھا کہ اگر آپ بڑے زمیندار کو ختم کرتے ہیں - تو اس کے ساتھ ہی آپ موروثی کاشتکاروں کو بھی ختم کریں - دوسری بات میں نے یہ کہی تھی کہ جب تک آپ Procurement پر کنٹرول نہیں کرتے آپ distribution پر بھی نہیں کر سکتے ہیں اور نہ ہی آپ distribution کی قیمتوں کو مقرر کر سکتے ہیں - آپ کو معلوم ہوگا کہ یورپی ایک surplus پر انوس ہے - وہاں پر جو پروکیورمینٹ سسٹم پختہ جی نے جاری کیا ہے - اُس میں انکو کامیابی نہیں ہوئی ہے - اور وہ اس لئے کہ جو غاہ وہاں پر پیدا ہوتا ہے وہ کاشتکاروں کے قبضہ میں ہوتا ہے - جب اس کو پروکیورمینٹ کے طریقہ پر غلہ دینے کے لئے کہا جاتا ہے تو اُسکو ساڑھے دس روپیہ فی من کی قیمت دی جاتی ہے - لیکن مجھے اچھی طرح سے معلوم ہے کہ کانپور شہر کے بلیک مارکیٹ کرنے والے وہاں پر آتے ہیں اور ان کاشتکاروں کو ساڑھے بارہ - پندرہ اور بعض دفعہ اٹھارہ روپیہ فی من دیکر غلہ لے جاتے ہیں اور شہر میں آکر دو روپیہ فی سیر کے حساب سے فروخت کرتے ہیں - یہ بات فطرت صاف کے خلاف ہے کہ اگر ایک کاشتکار کو اٹھارہ روپیہ فی من کوئی شخص قیمت دیتا ہے تو وہ حکومت کی طرف سے کس طرح ساڑھے دس روپیہ من پر اپنی پیداوار کو فروخت کرے گا - لہذا اس سے یہ گزارش کروں گا کہ یہ پروکیورمینٹ کا سسٹم تب تک تھیک نہیں چل سکتا جب تک کہ آپ موروثی کاشتکار کو بھی ختم نہیں کرتے - اس بارے میں میری یہ ایک گزارش ہے - کہ اگر آپ اس پروکیورمینٹ کے سسٹم کو کامیاب بنانا چاہیں تو ایک یہ صورت ہے کہ جتنی بھی پیداوار ہو وہ سب سٹیٹ کی ملکیت ہو جائے - اور اس طرح سے جب یہ گورنمنٹ کے ہاتھ میں آجائے تو وہ اُسکو اچھی طرح سے تقسیم کر سکتے ہیں - جناب والا ! اسوقت سب سے عمدہ کنٹرول جو ہے وہ سٹیٹ ریشا میں ہے - انہوں نے سب intermediaries کو اٹھا دیا ہے اور co-operative اور cultivative farms کو جاری کر دیا ہے - اسی طرح سے جب تک یہاں پر بھی نہیں کیا جائیگا - کنٹرول کا سسٹم فائدہ مند نہیں ہو سکتا - جب تک کاشتکاروں کے ہاتھ میں غلہ رکھتا ہے تب تک کنٹرول ہونے پر بھی بلیک مارکیٹنگ ہوتی رہیگی - یہاں پر سب سے زیادہ بلیک مارکیٹنگ کرنے والے کاشتکاروں کی تائید کرتے ہیں - میں جناب والا ! آپریبل فوڈ منسٹر کی پرزور تائید کرتا ہوں - اور میں اُمید کرتے ہوں کہ وہ رفتہ رفتہ ہر ایک چیز سے کنٹرول ہٹائینگے - ساتھ ہی مجھے یہ بھی اُمید ہے کہ جب تک وہ سب چیزوں پر سے کنٹرول رفتہ رفتہ ہٹائینگے تب تک اُس درمیانی عرصے میں یہ بھی کوشش کریں گے کہ یہاں پر cultivative اور Co-operative farms کو رائج کرنے کے لئے ایک بل بنا دی جائے - جب تک یہ ایسا نہیں کریں گے تب تک ہندوستان سے black marketing اور پرافیٹرینگ ختم

نہیں ہو سکتا -

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[Shri K. Santhanam]

and it is provided with the necessary reserves, this policy of de-control should not be extended to areas which are today under statutory rationing.

Sir, out of the so-called 108 million people under controlled distribution, only 32 million are under statutory rationing. It is only these people who are getting a fixed quantity of food, whether it is six ounces, or eight or ten ounces, every day every week. But the other people—the 70 millions who are under so-called semi-statutory rationing—are not getting any thing. At places I know they are getting one ounce and some times for weeks they do not get anything. This semi-statutory or controlled rationing is a farce. I would have gone further and said that it is a fraud, but I do not want to use strong language. Therefore, the officials' claim that they are feeding some 100 million people is not a fact. So, the first suggestion is to establish a Foodgrains Corporation which should hold a minimum of reserve and use it effectively in places and at times of scarcity.

The second point, Sir, is that one of the justifications for de-control is that it will increase production. For that the Government of India should take active steps. One of the steps is that they should institute five lakhs of prizes of Rs. 100 or Rs. 200 each so that some prizes will be available for each village and the entire peasantry, especially the tillers, the cultivators, should be made to participate in a nation-wide competition for more production. These prizes should be allowed only to small-holders. Sir, if you have prizes like these people will compete for them. If you say the minimum holding for a prize is three acres, and in every village entries cover sixty or hundred acres, there will be a big competition of people who want to win these prizes by producing the maximum yield. I am sure that three, or four or five million tons can be made up by this means of a nation-wide competition. These prizes, as I said, should not be available for bigger cultivators, the zamindars or rent-receivers; it should be available only for those who actually cultivate. I am sure this simple device will make them pretty active. I know what the small peasants are capable of; I come from a village where the poorer peasants bring out more yield than the richer *mirasdars* who merely receive the rent. Therefore, we should find a way to appeal directly to the actual cultivator and make him produce more. This is one of the concrete suggestions which I have to make to stimulate production.

Then, of course, there is the question of provision of manures, implements and all that. Now, we have spent nearly twenty-two crores this year on subsidy and if we continue this control we may have to continue to give at the rate of thirty crores for importing foodgrains from abroad. An equal amount is spent by the Provincial Governments. If these forty or fifty crores are spent in supplying manure and other materials to the peasants, I am sure the food production next year will be equal to all the needs of the country and the whole problem will be solved.

Sir, it is only in the light of the measures to increase production, to have stocks, and to see that wherever scarcity prevails that scarcity is immediately solved, that the policy of de-control can be judged. Therefore, it is not a policy of complete de-control; it is a policy of planned de-control, and I believe that the Government will resolutely execute this policy of planned de-control.

Shri Biswanath Das (Orissa: General): Sir, I rise to support the motion so clearly and lucidly explained by the Honourable the Minister for Food. In considering this problem, we have, in the first place, to realise that the Ministry inherited a worn-out cloth. All the time it had to be kept on by stitching, with the result that this process had to go on eternally. In the second place, the Ministry had to face the difficulty of having to go on with the organisation left by its predecessors. It is a well known fact that vested interests had been created by certain sections of officials and the Ministry had to face this trouble. It was with these difficulties that the food administration was taken in hand

by the Ministry. As I stated on another occasion, the adaptation of the Government of India Act gave the Ministry full scope for bringing out latent talents from 15th August. In the two or three months that followed the Ministry had full opportunity to have its own way. Unfortunately, now, we are missing the talents of a gentleman who had impressed his ability and devotion to the cause which he and ourselves have so much in heart. But it is our consolation that, though he will be away from the Cabinet, his talents, his experience and his usefulness will always be available to the Cabinet.

Sir, some of my Honourable friends disputed and hopelessly differed from the motion and point of view expressed by the Ministry, namely, the policy of gradual de-control. To them, I would make this appeal. Let them go to the countryside and see feelings. People in the provinces, both in mofussil and cities and towns are anxious to see that the controls are thrown out. Controls were introduced by the British Government for a different purpose. The purpose of the British Government was to purchase the raw materials of this country at the lowest possible price and utilise them for war purposes. It is the misfortune of this Ministry to use control for an absolutely different purpose, namely, the purpose of seeing that foodstuffs are imported from countries outside India so that our starving population are fed and kept alive. That being so, it is difficult to administer food control in this country as it has been done in other countries, say, Great Britain, France, Russia, or for that matter, America. I was surprised to read from a magazine that potatoes and certain other things are far cheaper in America, the richest of all countries, than what they are in India. That is the position in which we are today.

I admit, Sir, that there is some force in the assertion that controls have demoralised and degraded us, and have hopelessly encouraged black-marketing, profiteering and the like. The unanimous cry of the countryside being "de-control" of food-stuffs, it is no use and no gainsaying "Control, control". Control is necessary. I would join issue with my Honourable friend Dr. Hirday Nath Kunzru, for whom I have got high respect, in his plea for control. If you want control, there should be control of all commodities. There should be proper control—control in the way in which other countries are having it. A friend of mine in Ireland, with whom I was talking a few days ago, told me that people get necessities of life at minimum possible price and as much as are required, but when one comes to luxuries, he has to pay very heavy price. I want to have that system of control. The system that has been adumbrated by the Ministry seeks to give it breathing space, during which they will keep themselves always alert. I expect the Ministry, as it has made clear, to wait and watch the situation. In the meanwhile, I would beg of them to send our people to other deficit countries like Britain and study how the system of control has been exercised and administered there easily and conveniently.

One great result which accrues from this policy is that we shall be free from corruption, we shall be free from profiteering, we shall be free from black-marketing—things which have been going on under our very nose and from which we were not able to protect ourselves or keep ourselves away. An Honourable friend said that we are getting only 6 ounces and another friend asked him whether he was living on 6 ounces. No one is living on 6 ounces, and yet 6 ounces have been given. Wherefrom does the balance come? From the black-market. This goes to show that the demand of the people for de-control is right and must be respected. I am very glad and would like to congratulate the Ministry for having respected popular opinion. There is no need here to bring in the name of that great saintly personage, Mahatma Gandhi. He has, like every other individual, his right to state publicly and openly what he himself felt was the proper remedy for the disease. There is no reason why people should make use of his name for or against de-control. Indeed, the Ministry has taken an altogether different line and decision.

(English translation of the above speech)

Maulana Hasrat Mohani (U.P.: General): Mr. Speaker: Sir, I heartily support the motion which the Honourable Minister for Food has placed before you at this time. He has elucidated it keeping in view his position. But I would have suggested to him that he should have acted up to the saying in English, viz., "to take courage in both hands" and declared that the control has been withdrawn. Then it would have been better. In my opinion the control should be removed on every commodity. As long as the control is not absolutely withdrawn, the black-marketing and profiteering will not cease in India. Sir, in my opinion the action taken by Mr. Gandhi and the Honourable Food Minister is honest. You will, Sir, be aware of this that when eight months ago a Resolution regarding the abolition of *Zamindari* was brought up in our Provincial Assembly, then I had stated that unless the control system was not wound up, no useful purpose would be served by this Resolution. I had put forth arguments in support of this. That Resolution was unanimously carried. At that time it was stated that the Resolution was intended to do away with all the intermediaries. Then I had moved an amendment in this connection suggesting that until and unless you eliminate the hereditary cultivator, from these intermediaries the black-marketing and profiteering would not stop, and no practical effect to the abolition of the *Zamindari* could be given. I had stated that if you end the big landlords, you should also at the same time end the hereditary cultivators. The second thing which I had pointed out was that until you do not control the procurement, you cannot control the distribution. And further you cannot also fix the distribution prices. You might know that U.P. is a surplus Province. Pandit Pant has not been successful in the Procurement System introduced by him in the Province. This is due to the reason that the foodgrain that is produced there remains in the custody of the cultivator. When he is asked to supply the foodgrain in pursuance of the Procurement Policy, then he is paid @ Rs. 10-8-0 per maund. But I know fully well that the black-marketers from Cawnpore come there and purchase the foodgrains by paying these cultivators prices @ Rs. 12-8-0, Rs. 15 and sometimes even Rs. 18 per maund. They sell this in the city at Rs. 2 per seer. Sir, this violates justice. If somebody pays the price of Rs. 18 per maund to a cultivator, then how is it possible that he should sell his produce to the Government on the payment of Rs. 10 per maund? Therefore, I will submit that this procurement system cannot be worked successfully unless you do away with this hereditary cultivator. In this connection, my observation is that in case you want to make the procurement system a success, the only way is that the entire produce should be the property of the State; and in this manner when it comes within the hands of the Government, then they can distribute it properly. Sir, at this time, the best control system exists in Russia. They have dispensed with all the intermediaries and introduced Co-operative and Cultivative farms. Unless similar course is adopted here, the control system will not prove beneficial. The cultivators will continue to indulge in black-market so long as they are in possession of the foodgrains. Here the cultivators are supported by those who are the biggest black-marketers. Sir, I support the Honourable Food Minister with all the emphasis at my command and hope that he would gradually de-control every commodity. At the same time I do hope that up to the time the commodities are gradually decontrolled, he will try to formulate a Bill to introduce cultivative and co-operative farms in this country during the intervening period. Unless he does this, black-marketing and profiteering cannot be eradicated from India.

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad (Minister for Food and Agriculture): Sir, I am not at all surprised with the reception which the Government policy has got in this House. If in the course of the reply, I do not refer to every individual member who has participated in this debate, it is not for lack of

respect for the views expressed, but because I think it would be best to deal with the questions that have been raised in a comprehensive way rather than by taking it point by point raised by each speaker.

It has been suggested that control should be continued, because control is in consonance with modern economic thought and to the extent that we have already got it, we should not give it up, but rather we should extend it. I may assure Honourable Members that in coming to the decision to which I have come and which has been endorsed by the Government, we have not been influenced by any such larger issues as are involved in that suggestion. We have not been thinking of the Marxist theory or of any other theory in coming to that conclusion, but we took facts as they are, the difficulties that we have to face and the further difficulties which we anticipate and we came to certain conclusions. If it were a case of planned economy, as has been suggested by another speaker, which we were going to disturb, the position might be different. But, as we all know, these controls are a legacy of the war and war conditions. They arose, as has been pointed out, in a haphazard manner; they have grown equally in the same haphazard manner. And if we want to have planned economy the first step is to scrap this haphazard growth and then think of that planned economy. I should not like planned economy to be introduced by the back door in this way. Let the country, let this House, let Government make up their minds about planned economy; let them prepare a scheme of that planned economy and then introduce it. That may be something worth having, not this pseudo planned economy which has neither its birth—illegitimate birth—nor is going to have its end—in anything like planned economy. I would therefore not expect Honourable Members to look upon this de-control as a rejection of the policy of planned economy. It has nothing to do with that. That is a different matter, an independent matter which has to be considered and will be considered when the time comes for it.

We have been told that decontrol, even if it is in a progressive way gradually introduced, is bound to lead to a spiral of inflation. In the very beginning I was careful enough to inform the House that we did apprehend that there were risks in the policy which we are adopting. We did apprehend that there might be a rise in prices; and having appreciated the risks involved we decided that it was better to take those risks rather than to take the greater risk of a complete breakdown which will end in greater disaster. Therefore if there is a rise in prices we should be prepared for that; only it should not be allowed to go to such heights that it may upset our whole economy. If there is going to be a disturbance generally in our economic life we should be prepared for that; only it should not be allowed to go up to such an extent as to make our life difficult in this country and to upset our whole economy. Therefore the policy which Government have adopted is a policy of gradual decontrol. I am thankful to Mr. Santhanam who suggested the expression 'planned decontrol'. That is exactly what is intended; we are not going to decontrol—come what may—tomorrow or the day after; that is not the intention. What is intended is that we shall take each step, watch its effects, see the developments; and if we find that as a result of the step that has been taken any serious difficulties are taking place, we have kept the door open for retracing our steps if it becomes necessary. That does not mean that we are not going to stick to the policy which we have adopted; it only means that if this policy fails, if there are indications that it is going to fail and to end in disaster, we shall retrace our steps; not that the moment we have taken the step and we find that there is something wrong here and there we shall retrace our steps. That is not the idea and that cannot be the policy of Government under any circumstances. If Government have to take certain decisions they have to stick to those decisions until circumstances arise which make sticking to that decision detrimental to the best interests of the country; and that is what we propose

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[Dr. Rajendra Prasad]
to do. I am not at all afraid that the prices will go up to such heights as are feared by some honourable members of this House. As I said, my own appreciation of the situation is this that the prices may go up to some extent but they can never go to the heights which black market prices have reached. We were told that there are various kinds of prices and markets now prevalent,—white, grey, black, and another which was characterised by an Honourable friend as jet-black. While undoubtedly there are gradations I think we shall be somewhere near the grey; we shall not get near the black market and certainly not near the jet-black. I think in this country grey is the best colour for all things.

Sir, I listened with great respect to the speech of my Honourable friend Pandit Kunzru whose devotion to duty, whose sacrifices, whose learning and whose knowledge we all respect. I listened to him with all the respect that is due to him, but I found that he relied upon the kind of arguments on which all who have fought against decontrol have relied. I should have expected from him an analysis and a consideration of the situation as it prevails in this country and then to arrive at conclusions which will be in keeping with those conditions.

An Honourable Member: His time was short.

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: It may be that if he had more time he would have probably developed his argument, but I am sorry I can go only by the arguments that were advanced and I cannot wait for the other arguments that were not advanced by him. One argument that he put forward was that other countries like America are either maintaining or re-imposing control whereas we are thinking of removing control, even though in a gradual way. I do not think it is always correct to take the analogy of other countries and to apply them in their entirety to our own country, because conditions differ. If the arguments that have been put forward by several Honourable members in this House are to be accepted, namely, that decontrol can only be possible if there is a surplus, there is absolutely no reason why America should have control, because it has not only a surplus for its own needs but it has a tremendously big surplus which it exports to other countries. If the existence of a surplus is all that is required for decontrol there is no reason why a country with a surplus should have any control at all at any time. But in spite of that big surplus I understand America is now reimposing control, and control is being maintained or continued in some other countries which have a surplus.

It has been said that ours is a deficit country. Yes, from the figures available it is a deficit country. But the deficit is not very heavy and, as pointed out by an Honourable Member, it does not exceed 10 per cent.; the deficit is probably nearer 5 per cent.

Now in a country of our dimensions, if we could raise one maund more where we are producing 10 maunds, the deficit will be more than wiped out, and that I believe is not an impossible task. After all, whether we have control or not, the food position in this country can improve only if there is more production and that is true not only of food but of every other thing which is in deficit. Therefore naturally the attention of the Government must be concentrated more on the production side than on the distribution side. From my own personal experience of only 15 months in this office, I can say that this control has taken more of my time than production. I think that is a position with all who are engaged in this work and who are interested in it. Controls take an abnormally long time: they take a disproportionate amount of more attention than necessary and the result is that control requires more control, and more control requires still more control, and we are landed in what has been

called a spiral, not of inflation but of control with the result that we reach a position when we cannot think of getting rid of this control. As I said in the beginning, these controls are a legacy of the war. They are not normal things. The deficit which the country is now experiencing is not a new deficit. Even before the war we were importing 1½ million tons of rice. That deficit was there. Did we have control then? Did we not manage without controls till before the war? And if war had not come, could anyone have imagined that we would have introduced controls in this country? Now that the war is over, now that the exigencies which made these controls necessary on account of the war have disappeared, isn't it better to come back in due course to the position in which we were before the war, that is to say, even if there is a deficit, let the deficit be met in the normal way in which a deficit has been met in the past, in which it is being met in some other countries, or in which it may be met in this country—without control.

What I have been pleading for is this: that the time has come when we should think of going back to normalcy and not stick to the abnormal conditions which have been created by war, and this is a step in that direction. But as I have said, because we felt that there were risks involved, we thought of going slowly and of waiting and watching at every step the effect of the action taken and then proceeding without taking undue risks. That is what we propose to do. Therefore, if normalcy has to be restored, this vicious circle has to be broken at some place, and we have decided that we should begin the breaking at this point, and we are going to do it.

It has been pooh-poohed that decontrol will increase supplies, will release larger quantities of grain from producers which will be brought into the market. Personally, I do not think that it is a thing to be pooh-poohed. We know how panic works. The mere existence of control creates panic and that panic leads to hoarding: hoarding not in a bad sense. I do not mean hoarding of profiteers. I mean hoarding by people of ordinary prudence, with ordinary commonsense, with ordinary intelligence, so that they might not have to meet a certain emergency in future. Because of the existence of control they fear that something might happen when they would not be able to get grain, because if there were grain there would be no control. Because there is no grain, there is control, and therefore we must keep back something which may be of use in time of need. As soon as this panic disappears, as soon as people feel confident, more and more will come into the free market and more and more will be actually available, just as it used to be before the war, before controls were introduced and before controls were in force.

I anticipate that there will be not an inconsiderable amount of grain which will come into the market as a result of progressive decontrol, and there will thus be a larger quantity available. But let us look at it from another point of view. After all, by this method of decontrol, are we going to lessen the quantity of grain now available in any way? The grain that is now available in the country will be there. The imports will be there. We are not stopping imports. Therefore whether we control or do not, the grain that is now available will be available even after decontrol.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: But will you get foodgrains if you decontrol now?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: We used to get it before.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: But you used to after introducing rationing. Will you be able to get it now after accepting a policy of removing control over the distribution of foodstuffs?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I have no apprehension that we shall not get the grain. All that the international body is interested in is to see that the grains we get is not used for profiteering purposes or used by private individuals for making undue or illegitimate profit out of them.

[Dr. Rajendra Prasad]

The position of the country is well known. That we are a deficit country is well known and we shall continue to press our case before international organisations. We shall continue to import from other countries on the understanding and on the condition that no profit by private parties or by individuals will be allowed to be made out of this grain which is imported. There is no reason why they should withhold the grain which they have been giving us up to now.

Therefore, I do not apprehend that we shall lose our imports. After all, these imports are very costly for us. I wish we could do without them. We should try to do without them, and the Government must try to do without them as far as possible. Members will be shocked if they learn the prices that we have to pay simply because we import.

The procurement price of rice in Burma is only £18 per ton, to which may be added certain charges to make it £25. That is how it was calculated last year.

Procurement price in Burma	...	...	...	£ 18
Handling charges, sewing gummies, etc.	...	...	...	£1.25
Overhead and loss by deterioration at 7½ per cent.	...	...	...	£1.5
Export duty	...	...	...	£4.25
This came to				£ 25
				per ton.

*To this there is to be added 33.1/3 per cent. rehabilitation charges, coming to £8-6-6 and the price which we paid was £33-6-6 in 1947.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: What are these rehabilitation charges?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: Burma needs money for rehabilitation and she wants to get that out of her exports.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Something like a donation for the price?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I cannot say a donation but they are entitled to sell their goods at whatever price they want.

In 1948 this price is going to be £38 per ton. Now you can imagine how hard it is on this country to have to pay this high price. But Burma alone is not to blame. I have got the figures for Argentina. Let it be said to the credit of Argentina that it does not hide the fact but admits that it wants to make profits out of other countries as much as she can. The purchase price of wheat was 16 pesos per 100 kilos at port or Rs. 5-10-0 per maund according to our calculation. The export price was 40 pesos which comes to Rs. 14-1-0 per maund. These prices relate to 1946. In 1947 the producer's price of wheat was 15 pesos per 100 kilos which came to Rs. 5-7-0 per maund and the export price was 60 pesos, which came to Rs. 21-13-0. If we took corn their own procurement price was Rs. 3-10-0 per maund and we have got to pay 35 pesos which comes to Rs. 11-11-0 per maund. This is what we are paying to other countries on account of these imports.

Australia has been a very good neighbour, I must admit. Australia has considered our needs and at the present moment we are engaged in very delicate negotiations. But even with regard to Australia we have to say that we have to pay very heavy prices. The price guaranteed to the farmer by Government is 5s. 2d. per bushel F.O.R. at the port of shipment, which comes to Rs. 3-7-0 per maund. The export price to India is 109s. per 480 lbs. or 17s. 4d. per bushel which comes to Rs. 11-11-0 per maund. The price demanded now (and this is under negotiation at the present moment) is 18s. 6d. or Rs. 12-6-0.

For the purpose of maintaining control and rationing all this import becomes absolutely necessary and if Government has to import it has to pay the high prices. If things were left to return to normalcy I am not without hopes that the position might improve. I cannot say that it will improve. All that I can say is that it might improve. Our dependence upon imports must be reduced as far as possible and that is the policy which we have adopted. We have decided to encourage procurement within the country by giving bonuses for procurement, so that if we have to pay anything it goes to our own people and in any case it does not add to the poverty of the people but enriches them to some extent.

It has been complained that this policy does not say anything about increased production. As I said in the beginning, that matter is still under consideration and no decision has yet been taken. In fact the Committee itself has not made any recommendations on that point but that does not mean that no attention is going to be paid to that aspect. As a matter of fact with less of control with less attention required for maintaining control more attention is bound to be devoted to the production side and that is what is going, I hope, to take most of the time and attention and I hope also that the funds that are now being wasted on imports will also go to increase production.

What I have said is only hope and expectation or as Pandit Kunzru would have it, only pious wish, which he thinks is only another name for self-deception, if not hypocrisy. It all depends on how one looks at it. If one really feels that it is all false and still expresses the hope it is hypocrisy. If, on the other hand, one really hopes that things will turn out well and expresses that hope it is not hypocrisy. I submit that it is a genuine and real hope and sometimes hope is fulfilled, even though it appears at first that the hope may not be fulfilled.

I did not bring in the name of Mahatma Gandhi to support the policy of decontrol. I mentioned him as a difficulty in the way of maintaining the control. Pandit Kunzru thinks that that is the argument in favour of decontrol. To many people that should be a conclusive argument. In this country we have seen that it has proved a conclusive argument on many points. I can say from my own experience extending over thirty years of my close association with him that my intellect and my logic have very often failed to reconcile themselves to what I call his pre-science or what Pandit Kunzru will call his instinct or dictate. But I have found that his instinct has proved to be true and my intellect and logic have proved to be false. I am not without hopes that in this case, at any rate, his instinct will prove to be true and all our intellect, all our intellectual gymnastics and logic will prove to be false.

It is not necessary to go into the details of the other points that have been raised. I desire to give the assurance to this House that we propose to hasten slowly, to go along with caution and not to close the door for retracing our steps, if we find that we are treading on dangerous ground. As to the other assurances which have been asked for by some other members I am in a position to give some of them. I am prepared to say that we shall do the best that we can for improving and increasing our production. We shall try to build up a reserve. I must say that we cannot build it up in a day. In five or six years of control we have not been able to build up any stock at all. Now in a year of progressive decontrol we are going to try to build it up. Honourable Members can very well understand the difficulty. They can realise that what has not been achieved during the period of strict control all these years cannot easily be achieved in a period of decontrol. Nevertheless we are going to do it and I am prepared to give this assurance that we shall do our best in that line. There has been a lot said about deaths and things of that sort.

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[Dr. Rajendra Prasad]

Well, in spite of what has been happening I am not one of those who can revel in deaths, and I am sure nobody in the Government can think of deaths due to starvation with any sense of equanimity. The whole policy is not intended or even expected to bring about deaths, as some Member was pleased to say that it would end only in uncontrolled death. All that I say is that if any situation arises which threatens to bring about deaths due to starvation we shall be prepared to reconsider the whole thing and to do what is thought best in the circumstances. For that purpose, as I have said, we propose to keep the organisation more or less intact for some time. Whatever difficulty arises, it will be more in the beginning and gradually things will settle down. So it is in the earlier part of decontrol that all this difficulty will have to be experienced and faced, and we are going to face all these difficulties with the consciousness of being prepared to meet them, because we propose to have the organisation intact.

Some other suggestion has been made that in order to help grow more food we should institute a number of prizes. That is a good suggestion and I am sure the Government will bear that in mind and will take steps in that direction. Other suggestions for improving our production will also naturally be accepted with alacrity and pursued.

One word more about sugar. There has been a lot said about decontrol of sugar, that the price of sugar has suddenly shot up from Rs. 21-4-0 to something like Rs. 35. The increase in the price of sugar is not due to decontrol but, as I said, it arises out of conditions which now prevail when the new season is starting and when fresh sugar is being manufactured. The price of sugarcane is increased; the wages of labour are increased; and these two between themselves make a very big difference—from Rs. 1-4-0 per maund for sugarcane to Rs. 2 and from Rs. 22-8-0 of wages to Rs. 45. These are big differences and we can easily understand that if the price rises to Rs. 35 it is not on account of decontrol but on account of these other elements which have come into force.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: These two items account for only Rs. 8-8-0 out of the total increase of fifteen rupees. At seven rupees profit per maund of sugar the mill-owners will get an extra profit of about thirty crores of rupees in the next twelve months.

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: The Honourable Member wants to go into the figures meticulously. That can be done, but I am taking the figures by and large. And I say that these two big elements in the cost of production are largely responsible for the increase in the price of sugar.

An Honourable Member: What about old sugar?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: The price is that of the new sugar. Can you have in the market two prices of sugar—one for old and one for new sugar? Can we do that and is it possible? And how is the purchaser going to distinguish between the old sugar and the new sugar, and how can he insist on the old sugar for Rs. 21-4-0 or be prepared to pay Rs. 35 for the new sugar? That cannot be done. It can only be done by taking away the extra price which the old sugar now fetches, and that is exactly what has been done. All that Government has done is to freeze all the old stock at the price at which it was selling on the day of decontrol. It is now for the Government to release this sugar at whatever price it likes and it proposes to take the bulk of this increase to itself because it is not possible to maintain two prices in the market. That is what is being done.

I must pay a tribute to the Premier of U.P. who has been largely responsible for bringing this about. I cannot also refrain from paying a compliment

to the mill-owners who have been coming in for a certain amount of abuse. They have come forward with proposals to keep down the prices of sugar and there has been an arrangement made with them that the prices will not be allowed to go beyond what they would have been if control had continued. I think we should be satisfied with that. What we were able to enforce by law we are now getting out of them by their consent. I think that is any day better. I have no reason to think that we shall be let down. But, if that happens, we still have the power because we have still got sugar in our control.

I hope, Sir, I have touched the points which have been raised, and I am grateful to the Members for the interest which they have evinced in this. The difference of opinion in this House is only a reflection of what prevails in the country at large. If I am not disclosing a secret it is only a reflection of what we have in our own Cabinet. So there is no reason to fear that anything disastrous is going to come about and we can in a spirit of helpfulness accept the decision and go forward.

Shri Deshbandu Gupta: Before the House disperses, as Delhi is under the direct charge of the Honourable Minister, may I enquire as to what will be the effect of these decisions on control so far as Delhi is concerned, both in respect of cereals and sugar?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: As I have said, the decision is left very largely to the Provincial Governments.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: There is no Provincial Government as such in Delhi.

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: There is a Provincial Government even in Delhi.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: It is only in name.

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: We cannot do anything over the head of the Provincial Government. But there is no doubt that all points will be taken into consideration by that Government. If there is any question in which we can help we will certainly do so.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: But there is no sugar in Delhi for the last three days.

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: Sugar will be available very soon.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 11th December 1947.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Thursday, 11th December, 1947

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

SIGNING OF ATTENDANCE REGISTER BY MEMBERS

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): Sir, Before the proceedings begin, I have to bring to your kind notice a new practice which has been set up in the office to-day of requiring Members to sign in the attendance register. This is done in the Provincial legislatures, but it has never been done in the Central legislature here. It is very very troublesome and irksome. There appears to be a kind of suspicion about the Members.....

Mr. Speaker: I will just explain to the Honourable Member. He has been referring to the changed practice now of requiring Honourable Members to sign a register indicating their presence in the House on a particular day. The practice up to now has been that a clerk sits in the lobby. He just watches Members coming and going, and marks them present. That is one part of it. The other part of the practice was that cheques in respect of their travelling and other bills were prepared and distributed to Members and their signatures obtained in the House itself. I believe Honourable Members will agree that, if the register is to be kept more accurately and correctly, in view of the much larger number of Members coming and a large number of Members not being known to the clerk who comes in and goes round about in the lobby enquiring of a person as to whether he is a Member or not, the best course is that the clerk should sit in the lobbies, with a register and every Honourable Member who comes in should sign. That will make the list complete and accurate without the clerk having to move about. There is not so much the idea of saving trouble for the clerk as of having an accurate register. Sometimes doubt arises about a name and there is difficulty in knowing whether the particular Honourable Member was personally present or not. That is one difficulty.

The other inconvenience that I noticed here was, that every now and then I found a chaprasi coming from office for giving cheques to Honourable Members, crossing between the Speaker and the Honourable Member speaking at the time, and creating a little disturbance. Therefore, the best course would be to keep the cheques in the Notice Office and for Honourable Members to get them from there. I can assure Honourable Members that in requiring them to sign the register, there is no idea to have any proof of their presence in their own hands.

An Honourable Member: It is only incidental.

Mr. Speaker: It is not even incidental. I am sure Honourable Members would not claim the right of having their cheques honoured without signing when they are presented to the bank. It is similar to that, and a representation to me was made in this respect by certain Honourable Members. Therefore, I again considered the practice and I thought this would be the best procedure to follow. It is not done by the office *suo motu*. It is the result of representation from some Members of this House and of consideration given to it by me.

An Honourable Member: What is the objection to maintaining this attendance register?

DEATH OF SIR CHIMAN LAL SETALVAD

Mr. Speaker: We need not pursue the matter now. There is no particular objection. It is only a deviation from the old practice and therefore some explanation was necessary as to why the practice was deviated from. I do not think there is anything serious about it.

I think we should proceed with the legislative business. The agenda is so heavy that Honourable Members, if they want to have any discussion about the question of attendance register, may see me in the Chamber and discuss about it.

Now, before we begin the work of the day, there are two matters to which I should like to invite the attention of Honourable Members.

I refer first to the very sad demise of Sir Chimanlal Setalvad. He was a Member of the Council of State. Of course, he died at the ripe age of 83. We all know the services that he rendered to our country. The link between the old and the new in our fight for national freedom on all sides—political, educational and social—passes away with him. As a mark of respect, therefore, we record his services, mourn his loss, and convey our condolences to the family of the deceased; and the House will show him respect by standing for a minute.

SUSPENSION OF QUESTION HOUR

Mr. Speaker: Now the other matter to which I should like to invite the attention of the House is about the very heavy agenda that we have before us for today and tomorrow. If we mean business and are intent upon finishing the agenda by tomorrow evening by 5 O'clock, we must resort to several methods. One of them is to spare the question hour. That will give us two hours more; and the other will be to limit the length and the number of speeches.

An Honourable Member: Control.

Mr. Speaker: There is no question of decontrol here now. There is the question of more sterner controls, but these controls will come from within; because most of the business will be legislative business and I do not like to fix a time limit when the House is proceeding with legislative business. Therefore it will not be for the Chair to exercise that control, but it will be for Members themselves to exercise control as regards speeches, and such control from within must be of a sterner type. So what is the wish of the House as regards the Question Hour both for today and tomorrow?

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: The question hour should not be dispensed with.

Mr. Speaker: I have told the House that, even if there is one Member who would like to keep the question hour, I should not suspend it.

Is the Honourable Member persistent in his objection?

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: I leave to you, Sir, but I would appeal to you.....

Mr. Speaker: The matter is certainly in my discretion, but as I have told very often in this House, I would not like to exercise discretion in this matter without the unanimous consent of this House. It seems the Honourable Member, though very eager for having the question hour, is not pressing his objection. That is how I may put it. Then the question hour for today and tomorrow will be suspended, and the House will proceed with legislative business.

Before that I have to make some announcements. There are short notice questions. Of course, they will not stand suspended.

(1680)

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS†

WRITTEN ANSWERS.

PERMITS FOR SALE OF CEMENT

804. *Shri Amiyo Kumar Ghosh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a huge quantity of cement is lying in cement godown of the Sone Vally Portland cement factory, Japla?

(b) Are Government aware that the system of obtaining permits from Calcutta is leading to delay in the sale of cement and to corruption?

(c) Are Government aware of the resentment among the people of Bihar due to the above method?

(d) Do Government propose to abolish the system of obtaining permits and allow free local sale of cement at a controlled rate?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b), (c) and (d) The Government of India have decided to alter the existing system of distribution, and to introduce from the 1st January, 1948 a revised system under which each Provincial Government will be responsible for the distribution of cement allocated for consumption in their territories.

MANUFACTURE OF LOCOMOTIVES IN INDIA

805. *Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement regarding the position of the manufacture of locomotives in India?

(b) What is the number of serviceable and other locomotives with the railways at the moment?

(c) What is the number of locomotives immediately required by railways in India?

(d) How many locomotives are expected from abroad?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) A statement as desired by the Honourable Member is being tabled.

(b) Excluding the number of locomotives on the former North-Western and Bengal Assam Railways, to be allotted to India, the total number of locomotives on the Indian Government Railways now is approximately as under:

Broad Gauge	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,495
Metro Gauge	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,696
Narrow Gauge	...	...	...	...	...	...	142
							6,333

The division of the locomotives on the former North-Western and Bengal Assam Railways, on the basis of Radcliffe award has not yet been finalised.

(c) It was anticipated, before partition, that roughly an increase of 25 per cent. in locomotives as compared with the stock in 1946-47 will be required during the next 10 years. This estimate will have to be revised in view of the subsequent changes in the country. This estimate will require further revision if schemes for electrification on certain railways which are now under consideration fructify.

(d) 573 locomotives are expected from abroad and 68 locomotives from indigenous industry. The distribution of these locomotives between India and Pakistan has not yet been finalised.

†Answer to these questions laid on the table, the question hour having been suspended with.—Ed. of J.

Statement regarding position of the manufacture of Locomotives in India.

Two Senior officers were placed on special duty by Government to investigate the question of manufacture of locos. in Government Railway workshops in India. Their report which was received in 1940 was to the effect that locomotives could be manufactured in India by converting the existing loco. repair shops at Kanchrapara: they recommended that the work carried out in these repair shops should be distributed between the workshops of the other two contiguous railways at Calcutta and the entire capacity of Kanchrapara Loco. shops be utilised for the building of Locomotives and boilers. Owing to various developments during the war the Government loaned the Kanchrapara loco repair shops to the Supply Department for the manufacture of munitions; arrangements were made for the transfer of work then carried out at Kanchrapara. to the Khargpur workshops of the B. N. Rly. and Jamalpur workshops of the E. I. Railway. Government made the above arrangements in the belief that with this off-loading of the repair work, Kanchrapara repair shops would be available for the manufacture of locomotives on release by the Supply Department after completion of Munition work.

Due to the insistence of the War Resources Committee of Council it was decided in 1942 that planning for building locomotives in India should proceed. In October 1942 therefore the assistance of the Consulting Engineers for the preparation of a complete plan for re-modelling the Kanchrapara workshops to build 120 complete B. G. locomotives and 120 boilers per annum was obtained. The Consulting Engineers' final report reached India in a number of separate despatches, the first arriving in December, 1944 and the last in July 1945. Prior to the receipt of all these despatches certain Mechanical and Civil Engineering officers were placed on special duty with the B. A. Rly. to prepare final plans and estimates.

In April, 1945, however, it was found that the war time expedient of farming out the repair load of the B. A. Railway to the workshops of the two contiguous railways was not working satisfactorily and that the release of the Kanchrapara workshops for loco. building would cause the B. A. Railway serious embarrassment. In December 1945 the General Managers of the three Calcutta Railways considered the matter and stated categorically that alternative capacity for Kanchrapara did not exist and could not be provided on the East Indian and B. N. Railways. The Railway Department reviewed the entire position at a meeting in mid-July 1946 with the representatives of the railways concerned and the question as to whether a separate manufacturing works or a combined repair and manufacture works should be provided, was gone into great detail. The Government then decided that if locomotives were to be manufactured in India, a separate workshop for this purpose must be provided and the site selected was Kanchrapara (North). The Government also decided that the loco. building workshop should be designed for the production of 120 locomotives and 50 additional spare boilers per annum working single shift; that provision should be made for the construction of quarters, etc., for the staff and for the supply of water and lighting and building of roads, drains, hospitals, etc.

It may be mentioned that the then Honourable Member for Railways Mr. Asaf Ali approved of the actual site referred to above and initiated the arrangements necessary for the commencement of production of complete locomotives from December 1950. An estimate amounting to Rs. 11.4 crores was approved by the Standing Finance Committee for Railways and the Government appointed M/S. Braithwaites, Burns and Jessop group as the main, and M/S. Hind Construction Co., as the secondary contractors for the construction of workshop structures. Arrangements were made for the building of the workshop colony with a number of contractors and substantial initial progress was made. Arrangements were also made with the Industry and Supply Department to expedite procurement action for obtaining Machinery and Plant from U. K. and indigenous trade. In order to further expedite the procurement of machinery and plant from U. K. a senior railway officer was sent in May 1947 to U. K. to expedite the work necessary before tenders were called for from the manufacturers of machine tools in U. K. This officer returned to India in September after completing the preparatory work on a large majority of the item. The Government are also actively taking steps for procuring suitable machines of Indian Manufacture to the maximum extent possible.

Consequent on the announcement in June 1947 of the proposed constructional changes and pending the Boundary Commission's award, orders were issued to suspend all construction work at Kanchrapara (North). As considerable quantities of steel had been ordered by M/S. Braithwaites, Burns and Jessops, it was decided recently to authorise the firm to continue the manufacture of steel work to the programme originally drawn up for the project. It was also decided not to disturb the procurement action that was already in hand both in U. K. and in India for the machinery and plant required for this scheme. Though as a result of the Boundary Commission award, Kanchrapara (North), the site selected for loco. building workshop, falls in India, the Government decided that a workshop of this importance should not be located close to the frontier. Instructions have been issued to the East Indian Railway for surveys to be carried out for the selection of a suitable site in the area between Asansol, Jhaja of West Bengal.

It will thus be seen that the actual construction of the loco-building workshop is now pending the selection of a site. Arrangements will be made to proceed with the work with as little delay as possible; the Government have in fact accorded special priority for all questions in respect of loco-building scheme in India.

The E. I. Railway workshops at Singhbhum were sold to Messrs. Tatas during 1945. This has brought into being the Tata Locomotive and Engineering, Co., Ltd. (TELCO) who have entered into an agreement with the Government for the manufacture of 50 locomotives and 50 additional boilers per annum in this workshop. An order for 100 locomotive boilers has been placed on this firm; a further order for 58 locomotive boilers has recently been placed with them. The first locomotive boiler was delivered by TELCO in July 1947. The Company's scheme for the manufacture of locomotives in the workshops was approved by the Government in May 1947. Under the agreement with TELCO the firm is required to commence manufacture of locomotives within a period of two years from the date of receipt of the necessary plant and machinery at their works. No estimate can, however, be made of this date.

Ajmer workshops of the B. B. and C. I. Railway have been manufacturing locomotives to a limited extent for a number of years. At present these workshops are engaged on the manufacture of 10 XTI locomotives. Orders have been placed on this workshop for the manufacture of 58 YB locomotives, boilers for which will be supplied by TELCO. In view of the Government's scheme to have a separate workshop for loco. building and in view of the difficulties that exist in developing Ajmer as a repair-cum-manufacturing workshop the Government have decided that as soon as the Ajmer workshops have completed their present commitments they will cease to manufacture locomotives. It is the Government's intention that if the new locomotive building workshop comes into existence before the order for 58 YB locomotives is completed at Ajmer the entire work will be transferred to the new loco-building shop.

As far as the present position is concerned, it is possible for the Government to say that practically all the normal requirements of the Indian Railways in respect of locomotives would be met by indigenous manufacture. If the requirements of Indian Railways in respect of replacement over the next 15 years are taken into account it will be found that the capacity being provided for in the loco-building workshops of the Government and of the private enterprise, would be sufficient to meet these requirements. If, however, it is found that the railways have to undertake a large development of their lines and to extend the existing railway mileage, more locomotives would be required. As against this, the Government are considering electrifying certain sections of the Indian Railways which proposal if it fructifies would reduce the requirement of steam locomotives on replacement account during a period of the next 15 years.

REMOVAL OF CONTROLS.

806. *Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the Government of India's policy with regard to various controls now in force in the country?

(b) Do Government propose to decontrol commodities in the near future?

(c) If so, how do Government propose to give effect to that policy?

(d) What steps Government propose to take simultaneously with the lifting of controls against anti-social elements who want to create artificial shortage.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) to (d) The future policy of the Government of India regarding the controls with which the Ministry of Industry and Supply are concerned, namely, coal, steel, textiles and paper is still under consideration. A decision may be expected after the impending Industries Conference convened by Government, at which the future of controls amongst other matters will be discussed with Provincial Ministers and representatives of industry and labour.

FREIGHT PAID ON FOODSTUFFS IMPORTED.

**807. * { Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: }
 { Shri K. Santhanam: }**

Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state the amount of shipping freight paid during 1945-46 and 1946-47 in respect of import of foodstuffs from different countries such as the United States of America, Canada, Australia, Turkey, etc., showing the nature of foodstuffs, the quantities imported.

the names of the countries from which foodstuffs have been imported, the names of the shipping companies, the names of vessels in which foodstuffs have been imported as well as the rates of freight and the total amount of freight paid?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: The total amount of shipping freight paid by the Government during 1945-46 was 6.04 crores, and during 1946-47 was 17.36 crores.

Two statements are laid on the table of the House—one relating to 1945-46 and the other to 1946-47, in which full details have been furnished so far as the countries of origin and the quantities imported are concerned. Shipwise particulars are available, but, as the number of ships involved is over 700, I hope the Honourable Members will appreciate the difficulty of compiling and circulating a statement. The Ministry would however be glad to provide them all facilities for obtaining information regarding any particular shipping company, or particular ships or particular countries as the Honourable Members may desire.

Statement showing imports of Foodgrains and Foodstuffs from each country during 1945-46 and Freight charges paid.

Country of Origin	Nature of Food-stuff	Quantity Imported	Amount of freight paid in '000 (pounds) \$(dollars) Rupees.		
Australia	Wheat	36,000 tons	207	..	..
	Condensed milk	106,607 cases	..	..	167
	Cheese	27,128 cases	..	..	62
	Cheese	334 crates	..	..	5
	Canned meat	7,599 cases	..	..	25
Burma	Rice	75,000 tons	..	..	2,675
North America	Wheat	820,000 tons	3,193	3,570	..
Canada	Whole milk powder	1,500 drums	..	..	18
		4,300 cases			
New Zealand	Separated milk powder	39,654 cases	..	..	246
Total			£ 3,400	\$3,570	R3,195
Total			Rs. 604 lakhs.		

Statement showing imports of Foodgrains and Foodstuffs from each country During 1946-47 and Freight charges paid.

Country of Origin	Nature of Food-stuff	Quantity Imported	Amount of freight paid in '000 £(pounds) \$(dollars) Rs.(rupees)		
Australia	Wheat	375,000 tons	1,180	..	..
	Flour	134,000 tons	423	..	..
	Millets	1,000 tons	..	..	..
	Barley	18,000 tons	55	..	..
N. A.	Wheat	558,000 tons	1,708	6,566	..
	Flour	37,000 tons	221	..	..
	Maize	116,000 tons	290	1,631	..
	Milo	155,000 tons	776	611	..
	Whole milk powder	360,895 cases	..	..	792
	Separated milk powder	32,744 drums	..	..	1,187
		104,994 barrels	..	..	..
	Dehydrated potatoes	464,644 cases	..	..	1,459
		30 cartons	..	..	..
	Condensed milk	1,400 tons	..	..	140
Turkey	Biscuits	400 tons	..	..	75
	Barley	96,000 tons	408	..	..
U. K.	Wheat	38,000 tons	132	..	..
	Flour	4,000 tons	30	..	..

Country of Origin	Nature of Food-stuff	Quantity Imported	Amount of freight paid in '000 £(Pounds) \$(Dollars) Rs.(Rupees)		
Canada	Wheat	165,000 tons	989	..	..
	Oats	32,000 tons	353	..	..
	Condensed milk	280 tons	..	..	31
Burma	Rice	299,000 tons	..	..	13,736
	Maize	5,000 tons	..	..	240
Siam	Rice	26,000 tons	89	..	..
Indo-China	Rice	11,000 tons	38	..	..
Brazil	Rice	73,000 tons	..	1,754	..
Argentina	Maize	258,000 tons	183	..	..
	Millets	20,000 tons	106	..	..
	Barley	18,000 tons	95	..	..
	Oats	3,000 tons	1	..	..
	Millets	40,000 tons	..	..	2190
Egypt	Barley	7,000 tons	..	..	377
Iraq	Millets	8,000 tons	..	..	448
	Barley	123,000 tons	..	..	6,754
Indonesia	Rice	36,000 tons	124	..	..
Abyssinia	Millets	2,000 tons	*	..	..
New Zealand	Separated milk powder	37,500 tons	..	..	203
	Milk powder and malted milk	135,234 lbs.	..	..	10
	Biscuits	50,000 cases	..	..	313
			..	..	..
Total			8,281	10,562	27,955
Total			Rs. 1,736 lakhs.		

AVIATION TRAINING SCHOOL AT SAHARANPUR.

808. * { Shri T. T. Krishnamachari }
 { Shri K. Santhanam }

(a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether the school for training in various branches of aviation which is proposed to be established in Saharanpur has now been started?

(b) If not, what are the reasons for the delay and when is the school likely to commence working?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: (a) and (b) The Civil Aviation Training Centre with two Schools, viz., the Communications School and the Aerodrome School commenced functioning in Saharanpur in November, 1946. Necessary action to organise the Flying Training and Engineering and Mechanics Schools is in hand and it is expected to start them at an early date.

INDIA-BURMA AIR SERVICE

809. * { Shri T. T. Krishnamachari }
 { Shri K. Santhanam }

(a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Orient Airways still operates between Calcutta and Rangoon?

(b) Is this Company likely to shift its Headquarters to Pakistan and if so, do Government propose to give the license for Calcutta/Rangoon service to an Indian Airline?

(c) Is permission of the Burma Government necessary in respect of Indian-Burma Air Service; if so, was such permission obtained for the operation of Orient Airways?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: (a) Yes, Sir, but as a Pakistan Company and not as an Indian Company.

(b) Orient Airways have shifted their Registered Office to Chittagong. The Air Transport Licensing Board has granted a provisional licence to Indian National Airways Limited to operate the Calcutta-Rangoon route for a period of 90 days, with effect from the 1st November, 1947.

(c) The reply to both parts of the question is in the affirmative.

EXTENSION OF INDIAN AIR LINES TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

810. * { **Shri T. T. Krishnamachari**
 Shri K. Santhanam }

(a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state what progress has been made in respect of operation of Indian Air Service to foreign countries such as Iraq, Iran, Egypt, East Africa and the United Kingdom in the West and China, Burma, Malaya, Indonesia and Australia in the East?

(b) What are the difficulties that prevent the extension of Indian Air Lines to foreign countries in the vicinity of India?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: (a) and (b). Constitutional uncertainties in last 12 months have held up the progress of schemes for the development of external air services. A daily service between Calcutta and Rangoon has, however, been in operation for over four months. It is also expected that an Indian Air Service from India to the United Kingdom will commence operation in May, 1948. The question of establishing services to other countries mentioned by the Honourable Member is also being considered.

AIR AGREEMENTS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES

811. * { **Shri T. T. Krishnamachari**
 Shri K. Santhanam }

(a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state the number of countries with which the Government of India have concluded Air Agreements?

(b) Has specific provision been made in such Agreements for operation of Indian Companies on such routes when they come into existence?

(c) How is traffic to be apportioned between the Foreign Lines and the Indian Lines on such routes?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: (a) Three—United States of America, Netherlands and France.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Traffic is not to be apportioned, but the airlines of each country, i.e., India and the other country concerned, are to enjoy equal opportunity to offer capacity to meet the requirements of the public for air transport on the agreed routes.

SEONI SUB-POST OFFICE IN CENTRAL PROVINCES

812. * **Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government wanted to dispose of a part of the compound of the Seoni Sub-Post Office, in the Central Provinces, and a letter to that effect was addressed to the Sub-Post Master, Seoni, some time in 1938-39 or thereabout?

(b) If so, what has happened to the proposal thereafter?

(c) Was any inquiry received in this connection by the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department recently? If so, was not the person concerned directed to correspond with the Post Master General, Central Circle?

(d) Is it not a fact that no information has been supplied as yet to the inquirer by the said Post Master General?

(e) Will Government be pleased to supply the final and necessary information to the public of Seoni town, in this connection forthwith?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir. An enquiry was received in September last by the Ministry of Communications from a certain Zamindar of Seoni which was forwarded to the Postmaster-General of Nagpur for disposal.

(d) No, Sir. The Postmaster-General informed him in November that there was no proposal to sell any part of the Seoni Post Office land.

(e) Does not arise.

SCARCITY OF SALT

813. * **Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the hardship people experience due to scarcity of salt all over India?

(b) If so what are the causes of the scarcity and what steps have been taken to remedy the same?

(c) Are Government aware that the quality that is being supplied is very unsatisfactory?

(d) If so, what steps are being taken to improve it?

(e) Is it a fact that the supply of rock salt has been totally stopped?

(f) If so, what steps Government propose to take to get the full quantity of salt that they were getting before partition?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) According to our information, scarcity of salt has been felt in recent months not all over India but in certain areas, notably East Punjab, U.P., Bihar, south C.P. and Bombay.

(b) The causes were mainly: (1) Stoppage of supplies of rock salt from Khewra which affected East Punjab, U.P. and Bihar; (2) Railway transport difficulties which affected U.P. mostly; (3) Inadequate imports which affected Bihar; and (4) Cyclones and seasonal rains and labour troubles which affected supplies to south C.P. and Bombay.

Action taken to remedy the causes of the scarcity is as follows: (1) East Punjab and U.P. are being supplied from Sambhar. Daily despatches have been stepped up from about 90 wagons to over 160 wagons. (2) The import position is being closely watched and efforts are being made to increase imports for supplies to Bihar, C.P. and Bombay. (3) Production has been increased at the Government works in Rajputana and in private factories in Madras.

Government have a short-term and a long-term plan for increasing the production, bettering the quality and ensuring the distribution of salt at reasonable prices to the consumers.

(c) The quality supplied is in some cases unsatisfactory.

(d) A Committee of technical experts will shortly be appointed to suggest *inter alia* ways and means for improving the quality of Indian salt. In the meanwhile, the Salt Controller will take steps through a licensing system to ensure that bad quality salt does not get into the market in large quantities.

(e) Supplies of rock salt from Pakistan have been stopped since August 1947.

(f) Efforts are being made to get supplies from Pakistan in the way they used to come before the Partition. Action is being taken meanwhile to step up imports and increase production in India.

"RUNNING" AND "WORKING POWERS" OF PAKISTAN RAILWAY

814. *Shri Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state the sections of the Bengal Assam Railway and the North Western Railway belonging to the Indian Dominion, for which the Pakistan Dominion Railway authorities hold "running powers" and *vice versa*?

(b) What is the respective route mileage involved in part (a) above?

(c) What are the sections of the Bengal Assam and North Western Railways belonging to the Indian Dominion, for which the Pakistan Dominion Railway authorities hold "working powers" and *vice-versa*?

(d) What is the respective route mileage involved in part (c) above?

(e) What are the respective average annual incomes of the sections involved in parts (a) and (c) above?

(f) What are the agreed arrangements of the "working powers" and the "running powers" and the financial or other obligations involved on the part of either Dominion Government?

(g) For what period are these "running" and "working" powers held?

(h) How have these arrangements worked so far?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) to (d). A statement showing the sections of the old Bengal Assam and North Western Railways belonging to the Indian Dominion, over which Pakistan Railway authorities will hold 'running and working powers' and *vice versa*, with the route mileages involved, is placed on the table of the House.

(e) The information is not available.

(f) and (g) The details of the arrangements for 'working powers' and 'running powers' are still under consideration.

(h) These arrangements came into force only recently and it is too early to judge their working.

Statement.

Section	Route Mileage	Owing Dominion	Particulars of running and working power exercised by the other Dominion
<i>B. A. Railway</i>			
Dersana to Ranaghat	26,1/4	Pakistan.	Running Powers.
Benapol to Bongaon	3	Pakistan.	Running Powers.
Bongaon to Ranaghat	20,3/4	Pakistan.	Running Powers (for through trains to and from Khulna Section).
<i>N. W. Railway</i>			
Latu to Karimganj.	6,3/4	Pakistan	Running Powers.
Radhikapur to Parbatipur	30	India	Running Powers.
Golakganj to Bamanhat.	10	India	Running Powers.
Giladaha to Lalmanirhat	7,1/2	India	Running Powers.
Changrabanda to Lalmanirhat	53,1/2	India	Running Powers.
Chilhati to Siliguri.	38,1/2	India	Working Powers.
Singhabad to Godaghat	35,1/8	Pakistan	Working Powers.
Godagari Ghat to Lalgaolaghat	Ferry	Pakistan	Working Powers.
<i>N. W. Railway</i>			
Gandassghwala to Ferozepore Cantt.	7,1/2	India	Running Powers.
Dorabaha Nanak to Narowal	10	Pakistan.	Running Powers.
Khem Karn to Sasur	8	Pakistan.	Running Powers.
Atari to Lahore	15	Pakistan	Running Powers.
Chanawal to Mcleodganj Road	17	Pakistan	Running Powers.
Hindumalkot to Mcleodganj Road	9,7/8	Pakistan	Running Powers.

SCALES OF PAY FOR TEACHERS IN RAILWAY SCHOOLS

815. *Shri Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that since 1929 the scales of pay of teachers in State Railway Schools in the Indian Union have been assimilated to the scales of pay of teachers of the same status in the Government Schools in the provinces in which they are situated?

(b) Is it a fact that in accordance with the same policy, when revised (and reduced) scales of pay were introduced by the different Provincial Governments during the years 1931 to 1935, these were also made applicable to teachers in Railway Schools in the Provinces concerned?

(c) Are Government aware that Provincial Governments of the United Provinces and Bengal have recently sanctioned revised and enhanced scales of pay for teachers in the Government Schools under their control, the Government of the United Provinces in March 1947 and the Government of Bengal in April 1946 and January 1947?

(d) If the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, are the revised scales or interim increases of pay as sanctioned by the Governments of the United Provinces and Bengal, proposed to be introduced in the East Indian Railway Schools in those Provinces? If not, why not?

(e) Are Government considering the desirability of regulating the scales of pay in the Railway Schools in accordance with the recommendations of the Pay Commission contained in para. 19, page 247, Part III of their Report or do they propose to continue the Provincial Scales of pay for teachers in the Railway Schools?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) A decision to this effect was taken by the Railway Board in 1929 but it was given effect to only on the East Indian Railway.

(b) The answer is in the affirmative in so far as the East Indian Railway is concerned.

(c) Government are not aware of the scales of pay for teachers having been revised by the Governments of the U.P. and Bengal in 1946 and 1947. Information on this point is being obtained.

(d) and (e) The recommendations of the Central Pay Commission in so far as they relate to Railway Schools are at present under examination. In coming to a decision all relevant factors will be given due consideration.

DISPOSAL OF SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT.

816. *Shri P. Kunhiraman: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Government in the matter of disposal of scientific equipment by the Disposals Directorate;

(b) Whether Educational Institutions are allowed the chance of acquiring such equipment before they are offered for sale to others;

(c) whether any representations have been made by any University authorities in this matter; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken thereon?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Government's policy in the matter of disposal of scientific equipment, as of all surplus stores, is to meet the requirements of the Central Government and local Governments as a first priority.

(b) Recognised Educational institutions have been placed in priority No. 3, i.e., immediately after the Central Government and local Governments. If

their demands are sponsored by the Ministry of Education they are up-graded to priority No. 1.

(c) and (d). The Calcutta University authorities recently asked the Government of India for a general permit for the purchase of surplus stores for use in their laboratories. In reply they have been given inspection facilities to visit Disposal depots in order to make their selections, and have been asked to furnish Government thereafter with a list of their specific requirements. A similar request was recently received from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, and a similar reply has been sent.

ADMISSION IN CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

817. *Shri P. Kunhiraman: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the minimum requisite educational qualification for admission in the Central Agricultural College, Delhi;

(b) the reasons for the disparity if any; between the standards of agricultural education set by the Government of India and by the provinces; and

(c) whether Government propose to advise the provinces and the Inter-University Board to adopt the minimum qualification as prescribed by the Government of India for admission to the Central Agricultural College?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) The minimum qualification for admission to the Central College of Agriculture is Matriculation or Certificate of the Board of Higher Secondary Education, Delhi Province.

(b) The disparity that exists is due to the fact that the University of Delhi, to which the Central College of Agriculture is affiliated, has a three years Degree Course instead of four years duration as in the other Universities of the Indian Dominion.

(c) The suggestion will be considered by Government.

REMODELLING OF TELlichERRY STATION

818. *Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state, with reference to the answer to my starred question asked during the last Budget Session of the Central Assembly, whether the necessary preliminaries for the remodelling of Tellicherry Station have been taken in hand?

(b) If so, when will the work be started?

(c) Is the construction of the line between Tellicherry and Mysore under active consideration?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) and (b) In March, 1947, during the last Budget Session, the Honourable Member was informed that the remodelling of Tellicherry station was included in the South Indian Railway's Post-war plan for the year 1949-50. The Railway Board have very recently approved of the remodelling of this station being undertaken in 1948-49 now and the Railway will in due course take in hand the preliminary arrangements for carrying out this work.

(c) No.

CATERING ARRANGEMENTS IN S. I. RAILWAY

819. *Shri O. V. Alagesan: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Spencer and Company who cater for the higher class passengers, pay an annual rent of rupee one only for their catering arrangements on the South Indian Railway, which is called 'Pepper Corn' rent?

(b) Are there such establishments on other Railways paying such rent and, if so, what are they?

(c) Is it a fact that Indian catering establishments, stall-holders and even vendors on platforms who cater for the lower class passengers pay much more in the form of license fees fixed by the Railway Administrations on the basis of space occupied, volume of business, etc.?

(d) If the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to abolish this distinction and patronage and tax the establishments now enjoying concession on the same basis as applies to the Indian Establishments?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Messrs. Spencer and Co. pay a rent of Re. 1 per mensem per station on the S.I. Railway.

(b) There are four other Government Railways which are charging nominal rents as follows:—

Assam Railway	} European Style caterers
B.B. and C.I. Railway	
M. and S.M. Railway	

G.I.P. Railway—European-Style and Indian Refreshment Room Caterers.

(c) Yes. This is so in the case of Assam, B.B. and C.I., M. and S.M. and S.I. Railways.

(d) The whole question is now under examination.

COW-DUNG GAS PLANT.

820. *Shri O. V. Alagesan: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Pusa Agricultural Institute has been for some years experimenting with a plant to produce gas for fuel and lighting purposes from cow-dung with manure as a bye-product?

(b) If so, are Government in a position to place the plant on the market?

(c) In view of the great utility of the plant for the rural agricultural population, do Government propose to undertake the manufacture of the plant on a large scale and price it low, and if necessary, subsidise it?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) The process has not yet been tried under rural conditions. The out-put of gas varies according to seasons, there being a sharp decline in winter.

Prof. N. V. Joshi, formerly Assistant Agricultural Bacteriologist of the Institute, has taken out a patent for a design suitable for home use and has taken up the erection and supply of small scale plants at Poona for the production of fuel gas for domestic use as well as for use in small laboratories. The results of that experiment are awaited.

IMPORT OF MOTOR CARS AND TRUCKS.

821. *Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the present export prices in India of (1) a complete car and (2) truck chassis of each of the following makes:—

- (i) Ford;
- (ii) Chevrolet;
- (iii) Oldsmobile;
- (iv) Pontiac; and
- (v) Studebaker?

(b) Which of the above are assembled in India and where?

(c) What are their prices in the United States of America to (i) the trader and (ii) the consumer?

(d) Is the import of the cars and other motor vehicles which are already assembled abroad and are ready for use in India discouraged by import restrictions?

(e) Are the Studebaker cars and trucks handled in India by the Hindustan Motors?

(f) Is the Hindustan Motors owned or managed by the Birla interests?

(g) What are the reasons for the disparity in the prices in India of cars and trucks handled by the Hindustan Motors and others?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(b) All are assembled in India. Fords are assembled by Messrs. Ford Motor Co. of India Ltd., at Bombay, Madras and Calcutta, Chevrolet Oldsmobile and Pontiac by General Motor Works at Bombay and Studebaker by Hindustan Motors Ltd., at Okha and Calcutta.

(c) and (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House when ready.

(d) In order to encourage assembly and manufacture in India, the import of vehicles in a Knock-down condition is considered preferable to the import of fully assembled vehicles

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The Hindustan Motors is a limited liability Company and their Managing Agents are the Birla Brothers.

Statement

(a) Cars	Price
(1) Ford Super Deluxe Fordor Sedan Genuine leather upholstery 6.00x16 (4 Ply) (5)	Rs. 9,990 Ex-Bombay Retail.
(2) Chevrolet.	Rs. 9,195 Ex-Plant Bombay.
(3) Pontiac.	Rs. 10,930 Ex-Plant Bombay.
(4) Oldsmobile.	Rs. 11,250 Ex-Plant Bombay.
(5) Studebaker Champion Regal DeLuxe.	Rs. 12,950 Ex-Ports.
Studebaker Commander DeLuxe.	Rs. 14,950 Ex-Ports.
Studebaker Land Cruiser.	Rs. 15,950 Ex-Ports.
(b) Trucks:—	
(1) Ford 114" Wheelbase Light Delivery Van equipped with 6.00x16 (6 Ply) tyres (5)	Rs. 6,700 Ex-Bombay Retail.
114" Wheelbase Chassis with Windshield equipped with 6.00x16 (6 Ply) tyres (5)	Rs. 5,700 Ex-Bombay Retail.
122" Wheelbase Chassis with Windshield, equipped with 7.00x17 (8 Ply) tyres (5).	Rs. 6,375 Ex-Bombay Retail.
Super DeLuxe Station Wagon, Genuine leather upholstery 6.00x16 (6 Ply) tyres (5).	Rs. 9,515 Ex-Bombay Retail.
134" Wheelbase Standard Chassis with windshield equipped with 6.00x20 (8 Ply) tyres front (2) and 32x6 (10 Ply) tyres rear (2)	Rs. 6,775 Ex-Bombay Retail.
134" Wheelbase Heavy Duty Chassis with windshield equipped with 32x6 (10 Ply) tyres (6) dual rear and auxiliary rear springs.	Rs. 7,500 Ex-Bombay Retail.
153" W. B. Standard Chassis with windshield equipped with 6.00x20 (8 Ply) tyres front (2) and 32x6 (10 Ply) tyres rear (2)	Rs. 6,965 Ex-Bombay Retail.
158" W. B. Heavy Duty Chassis with windshield, equipped with 31x6 (10 Ply) tyres (6) dual rear and auxiliary rear springs.	Rs. 7,770 Ex-Bombay Retail.
176" Wheelbase Heavy Duty Chassis with windshield equipped with 34x7 (10 Ply) tyres (6) dual rear and auxiliary rear springs.	Rs. 8,655 Ex-Bombay Retail.
194" Wheelbase Special Bus chassis with windshield, equipped with 8.25x20 (10 Ply) tyres (5) dual rear, 6-volt Electrical System and Booster Brakes.	Rs. 9,445

Price

Trucks:—contd.

194" Wheelbase Special Bus Chassis with windshield equipped with 8.25x20 (10 Ply) tyres (6) dual rear, 12-volt Electrical system and Booster Brakes.	Rs. 10,330
(2) Chevrolet 3130 115" W. B. with Steel cab.	Rs. 5,995 Ex-Plant Bombay.
Chevrolet 3112 115" W. B. with Cowl and windshield (without cab)	Rs. 5,120 Ex-Plant Bombay.
Chevrolet 3603 125" W. B. chassis with steel cab.	Rs. 6,720 Ex-Plant Bombay.
Chevrolet 361 125" W. B. with cowl and windshield (without cabs).	Rs. 5,845 Ex-Plant Bombay.
Chevrolet 4103 134½" W. B. with steel cab.	Rs. 7,440 Ex-Plant Bombay.
Chevrolet 4112 134½" W. B. with Cowl and windshield.	Rs. 6,565 Ex-Plant Bombay.
Chevrolet 4403 116" W. B. with Steel cab 3 ton.	Rs. 8,625 Ex-Plant Bombay.
Chevrolet 4412 116" W. B. with Cowl and windshield.	Rs. 7,750 Ex-Plant Bombay.
Chevrolet 6403 160" W. B. with steel cab 5 ton.	Rs. 9,655 Ex-Plant Bombay.
Chevrolet 6412 160" W. B. with Cowl and windshield.	Rs. 8,780 Ex-Plant Bombay.
Chevrolet 6712 195" W. B. Bus Chassis.	Rs. 9,790 Ex-Plant Bombay.
(3) Pontiac	There is no truck of this make.
(4) Oldsmobile.	Information not available.
(5) Studebaker.	Information not available.

TOBACCO RE-DRYING MACHINES.

822. *Professor N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tobacco re-drying machines strengthen the capacity of tobacco growers to store their cured tobacco for a much longer period than at present in anticipation of better prices and also as an insurance against any temporary and sudden fall in tobacco prices;

(b) whether it is a fact that the All India Central Tobacco Committee has been assured that a re-drying machine would be obtained by Government and placed at the disposal of the Tobacco Growers Co-operative Societies;

(c) whether any steps are being taken to purchase such a machinery for our tobacco growers;

(d) whether Government are aware that at least 6 machines are needed, 4 for Andhra, 1 for Bengal and 1 for Gujrat; and

(e) when Government hope to bring that machinery actually and offer it at concession rates to Tobacco Growers Co-operative Societies?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) Yes.

(b) The Indian Central Tobacco Committee has decided to purchase, with the concurrence of the Finance Ministry, a Re-drying Machine for the exclusive benefit of small growers, but no definite assurance has been given yet that the plant will be placed at the disposal of the Tobacco Growers' Co-operative Societies.

(c) Yes.

(d) Government are aware of the fact that more than one plant are required, but the Indian Central Tobacco Committee, at its meeting held in October, 1947, decided to import only one on its account for the present and to assist private firms in securing import permits for more machines.

(e) If orders are placed abroad now, the machine is expected to arrive by 1949.

PISCICULTURE OF FISH IN WEST BENGAL.

823. *Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that fish is one of the principal articles of protein food in West Bengal;

(b) whether Government are aware that in West Bengal the supply of fish from natural sources like the rivers and the sea has suffered a serious deterioration and the situation is worsening from year to year;

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take for adequate pisciculture in West Bengal; and

(d) whether Government propose to consider the desirability of creating training centres for pisciculture and starting fisheries in suitable areas?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) Yes.

(b) No, Sir, the Government of India are not aware of any such serious deterioration.

(c) The development of Inland and Coastal fisheries is a matter for the Provincial Government but the Government of India are giving financial aid to such schemes as are expected to increase the production of fish. The Government of India have also established a research station for Inland and Estuarine fisheries near Calcutta.

(d) Yes. The Government of India had conducted at Calcutta 4 training classes in Inland Fisheries with the help of the Provincial Government. It is proposed to start the next training class in Inland Fisheries at Calcutta during the coming summer.

AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTIONS IN INDIA.

824. *Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the names of agricultural institutions in different provinces and the number of students in each institution;

(b) whether Government are aware that the present number of agricultural institutions is quite inadequate for a vast agricultural country like India;

(c) whether Government propose to consider the desirability of starting agricultural institutions all over India within as short a time as possible and of directing all Universities to make agriculture a subject in the course of studies for secondary education and for higher studies also; and

(d) whether, in view of the fact that the province of West Bengal, after partition has been left without a single agricultural school or college, Government propose to consider the desirability of taking such steps as may conduce to the establishment of an agricultural college in that province without delay?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) A statement giving the required information is placed on the table of the House.

(b) Yes.

(c) The matter is already under the consideration of the Government of India.

(d) Excepting the agricultural school at Chinsura and an institution of similar nature at Barrackpur, there is no other institution of this type of University or lower standard in the new province of West Bengal. The initiative for starting an agricultural College has to come from the Provincial Government. The Central Government have already started a Central College of Agriculture in Delhi to cater for the requirements of the Centrally Administered Areas, Indian States and those Provinces of the Dominion of India which do not possess Agricultural Colleges. Students from West Bengal are also admitted to this College and several have already joined.

List showing the names of agricultural institutes in different Provinces in the Dominion of India and the number of students in each

Province	Names of Institutes	Standard	Total number in all the classes	Total output in a year
1	2	3	4	5
Assam	Nil.		Nil.	Nil.
Bengal	Chinsura Agricultural School	School	20	11(1943-44)
(West)	Agricultural school, Barrackpore.		Not known.	
Bihar	Agricultural College, Sabou	Patna University	Not available.	
Bombay.	Agricultural College, Poona	Bombay University.	229	60(1943-44).
	Agricultural Institute, Anand		Not known.	
	Agricultural High School, Godhra.	School.	60	(1941-42)
	Agricultural High School, Jaigoan.	School.	62	(1941-42).
	Agricultural High School, Satara.	School.	126	(1941-42).
	Agricultural High School, Bijapur.	School.	126	(1941-42).
	Special Agricultural, School, Dhulia.		59	(1941-42).
	Special Agricultural School, Devihosur.		34	..
	Special Agricultural School, Rajapur.		25	..
	Special Agricultural School, Puntamba.	..	27	..
	Primary School, Agricultural Bias Classes.	..	43/43	..
	Special Horticultural short courses, Ganesh khind	Not known		
	Sheet Mansuk Lal Chagan Lal School of Agricultur, Anand	..	55	11
O.P.& Berar	Agricultural College Nagpur	University	131	..
	Government Agricultural Anglo-Hindi Middle School	School. ..	177	..
East Punjab	Khalsa College, Amritsar.	University	131	..
Madras.	Agricultural College, Coimbatore.	University.	122	33
	Agricultural College, Bapatla.	University.	Not known.	
	Juvenile Labourers School Co mbato'o	School.	25	
	Juvenile Labourers School Savalkot.	School.	15	..
	Juvenile Labourers School Palur.	School.	30	..
	Juvenile Labourers School Anakapalli.	School.	32	..
Orissa.	Nil		Nil.	Nil.
United Provinces.	Government Agricultural College, Kanpore.	University.	326	74
	Agricultural Instt. Allahabad.	University.	144	..
	Amarsingh K. E. M. U. Jat College, Lakhot.	..	236	42
	Jay Vedic Agricultural College, Baraut.	..	42	21
	School of Agricultural School, Bulandshahr.	School.	80	37
	Government Agricultural School, Gorakhpur.	School.	85	..

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) (i) Class II (a), (ii) Class V.

(b) 197 wagons were allotted on the G.I.P. Railway for loading firewood from stations in Bundelkhand Forest Division, under Government sponsor, and 9 wagons for private individuals for Belangunj (Agra). No wagons were allotted for despatch to Ferozabad, on Government or private account.

As regards Pilibhit Forest Division, 20 covered and 750 caged wagons were supplied to the Forest Department, for transport of firewood, during June, July and August, 1947, the actual allocation of these wagons between Government sponsored and private traffic being left to that Department. During September and October, 1947, one covered wagon was supplied for nominees of the Agra District Magistrate, for Agra City and nil covered and 81 caged wagons were supplied to private individuals. It may be added that caged wagons are not permitted to be sent to the B.B. and C.I. Railway, and were loaded to local stations on the O.T. Railway.

IMPORT OF AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.

830. *Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government have any statistics of draught cattle within the Indian Union?

(b) Are Government aware of the acute shortage of draught cattle for agricultural purposes?

(c) Do Government propose to import motor tractors from abroad to increase the production of food stuffs? If so, how many? If not, why not?

(d) Have Government received any requisitions from any provincial Government for import of motor tractors for agricultural purposes? If so, what are the provinces that have made such requisition?

(e) Do Government propose to import any other agricultural machinery or implements for the improvement of agriculture in India? If so, what are the categories of such machinery?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) Statistics are available for the Indian provinces as they were before partition.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes. 811 Nos.

(d) Yes. 1. Bombay, 2. United Provinces, 3. Bihar, 4. Madras, 5. Punjab, 6. Bengal, 7. Assam.

(e) Yes.

1. Grain Drills, 2. Ploughs, 3. Harrows, 4. Field Cultivators, 5. Power Sprayers, 6. Mowers, 7. Harvesters, 8. Ensilage Cutters, 9. Feed Grinders, 10. Ditchers and Terracers, 11. Leaning Wheel Graders, 12. Potato Planters, 13. Soil Pulverisers, 14. Thrashers, 15. Compost Turning Machines.

BUS SERVICE BETWEEN AMRAOTI AND BADNERA

831. *Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government propose to change the timings of the railway service in such a way as to obviate the necessity of the bus service in case a fare of Re. 0-2-0 is not considered sufficient by the motor company to run motor buses between Amraoti and Badnera?

(b) Was there any company operating a bus service between Amraoti and Badnera?

(c) What was the name of the company and when was this company started?

(d) What was the date on which the service was inaugurated?

(e) What is the name of the present company which runs the service?

(f) What is the railway fare from Amraoti to Badnera?

(g) What was the bus fare when the service was started and what is the bus fare now?

(h) Are Government aware that the railway service between Amraoti and Badnera was proposed to be completely stopped?

(i) Was such an order passed by the Central Government?

(j) Have Government received any complaints from the Amraoti public against inadequate passenger service between Amraoti and Badnera?

(k) Was any enquiry made to ascertain the advisability of stopping passenger service?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) No. The railway timings are fixed to suit the convenience of the majority of the travelling public and with due regard to junction connections. It would not be possible to increase the frequency of services sufficiently to eliminate the parallel road service, nor would such a course be desirable.

(b) It is understood that there was no bus company operating the service between Badnera and Amraoti immediately prior to the inauguration of the present service.

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

(d) The present service was inaugurated on 6th of June, 1945.

(e) The Central Provinces Transport Services, Ltd.

(f) Two annas for III Class.

(g) Three annas and three annas six pies respectively.

(h), (i) and (k). Owing to serious difficulty in meeting urgent civilian and military demands for passenger rolling stock during the war, the Central Government instructed Government Railways in December, 1944, that passenger trains on branch lines paralleled by nearby roads should, wherever possible, be withdrawn and replaced by road services. In pursuance of this policy, the G.I.P. Railway withdrew the passenger train service on the Amraoti-Badnera section in December, 1945, after enquiries had established that road transport would be able to provide an adequate substitute service for the public.

(j) Such representations have been made from time to time, but the Administration state that complaints have been less numerous on this section than on other portions of the system. The service has been restored as rakes became available, and today there are six trains in each direction as against seven trains in each direction provided before the war.

IMPORTS OF DRUGS AND MEDICINES.

832. *Shri S. Nagappa: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state what percentage of drugs and medicines is imported from foreign countries out of the total quantity needed?

(b) What are the countries from which they are imported?

(c) Is there any proposal under the contemplation of Government for the manufacture of such medicines and drugs in this country?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) About 30-35 per cent. of the country's total requirements of the items on the official list of drugs and medicines are imported. In addition, a large number of proprietary preparations are imported owing to their popularity in this country.

(b) The main sources of supply are the U.K. and the U.S.A. Small quantities are also imported from Australia, Canada, Belgium, Holland and Argentina.

(c) Yes, Sir.

825. *Shri Satis Chandra Samanta: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware of a case of pilfering by breaking open wagons lying between Machada and Bhogpur Railway Stations on the Bengal Nagpur Railway in the month of October 1947?

(b) Is it a fact that the case was enquired into by the Railway Police and the local Police and the culprits were found out in the presence of many gentlemen of the locality?

(c) If the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what steps have Government taken or intend to take against the culprits?

(d) Have Government received any representation from the public of the locality regarding the occurrence?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) and (b) No such case was reported in October, 1947. As a result of secret information, the Railway Police, in company with District Police, made searches in the neighbourhood of Bhogpur when some stolen cloth and tobacco were found. It is understood that those responsible have not so far been detected.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The local residents made certain allegations against the Police Officer in charge of the search party, as a result of which a chargesheet under Section 161, Indian Penal Code, has been filed and the officer in question is reported to be under suspension.

RELEASE OF WAGONS OCCUPIED BY STAFF IN B. N. RAILWAY.

826. *Shri Upendra Nath Barman: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that many wagons have been held up at Domohani Junction (Bengal Dooars Zone, Chaugrabanda to the north of old Bengal Assam Railways) for some months in order to shelter labour and office staff who opted from Pakistan?

(b) Is it a fact that Railway authorities sanctioned construction of about 60 quarters to be completed by 15th October last?

(c) Has the construction of quarters been completed and whether the large number of wagons occupied by labour and office staff have been released for normal transport?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a), (b) and (c) The information asked for is not readily available, and the reply from the Assam Railway, who were referred to, has not been received on account of the difficulty in communications. It will be placed on the table of the House, as soon as it is received from the Assam Railway.

CONSTRUCTION OF TELLICHERRY-MYSORE RAILWAY LINE.

827. *Shri P. Kunhiraman: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of the Railway line from Tellicherry to Mysore is included in the programme of the Ministry;

(b) what were the findings of the preliminary survey of this region conducted by the experts in 1937; and

(c) whether, in view of the fact that this line is expected to be a financial success, Government propose to consider the question of giving an early priority to it?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The construction of a railway line from Tellicherry to Mysore is not included in the Post-war Reconstruction Plan of Railways, which had been drawn up in consultation with the Provincial Governments concerned.

(b) It appears that no preliminary survey for the construction of a railway line from Tellicherry to Mysore was carried out in 1937, but a preliminary survey for a railway line between Tellicherry and Nanjangud on the Mysore Railway was made in 1923-24. The reports of this survey revealed that the chief obstacles to such a railway are the descent of the precipitous Western Ghats, and the difficulty of choosing an alignment, which would serve a sufficiently wide number of interests to make it remunerative.

(c) In view of the replies to parts (a) and (b), the question of giving an early priority to the project does not arise.

CULTIVATION OF FALLOW LANDS.

828. *Shri P. Kunhiraman: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) why the "Grow More Food" campaign has been a failure;

(b) whether Government propose to encourage the cultivation of fallow lands in and round big cities; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to allow vegetables to be grown in the five thousand acres of land in New Delhi?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) The Government of India do not agree that the Grow More Food campaign has been a failure. There have been some important limiting factors such as lack of materials like coal, iron and steel and fertilizers which have been in short supply for the last few years. Added to these has been the insufficiency of trained personnel. These factors, combined with the seasonal and natural causes over which Government has no control, explain why the results of the campaign have not been as satisfactory as one would wish. The Government of India have been rendering all possible financial, technical and other assistance to the Provincial Governments in implementing their Grow More Food Schemes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Delhi Administration, under whose jurisdiction the land mentioned lies, will undoubtedly consider this. They could not, however, in the nature of things, make any commitment without knowing where actually the land is situated, whether the authorities to whom it belongs are agreeable to its being utilised and whether the cultivation of the same will affect the sanitation of the city.

WAGONS FOR FIRE WOOD.

829. *Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the priority number for wagons for fire wood:—

(i) for civil supply under Government permit to District Magistrate's nominees in the United Provinces; and

(ii) for fire wood transported by private individuals for their own trade purposes; and

(b) how many wagons were allotted from stations in the Bundelkhand and Pilibhit Forest Divisions to Agra District Magistrate's nominees for Agra city and Ferozabad respectively between June 1947 and October 1947, and how many wagons from stations in the same Divisions in the same period were allotted to private individuals?

POSTPONED STARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

EXPLOITATION OF THE NORTH ANDAMAN ISLANDS

673. *Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Government of India propose to hand over the North Andaman Islands forests to a private corporation for being exploited?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, who are the persons or interests that are to constitute the said corporation and what is the previous experience of each person or interest included in the said corporation in such business?

(c) What are the terms and conditions of the proposed agreement with the corporation and what is the nature of Government's interest therein?

(d) What are the royalties stipulated by Government to be paid by the corporation?

(e) What is the type of control that Government propose to exercise over the corporation?

(f) Are Government working the forests in South Andaman Islands departmentally; and, if so, with what result?

(g) Have the Ministry of Finance been consulted in the matter and their approval obtained?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) to (e) and (g). In April, 1946 the then Government of India decided that exploitation of the Forests of North Andamans should be left to private enterprise. Applications were accordingly invited. Among the applicants the following four firms, viz.: (1) Messrs. Hind Construction, Limited, (2) Messrs. Dalmia Jain Ltd., (3) Messrs. Himatsingka Timber Limited, and (4) Messrs. Annamalai's Timber Trust Limited having sound financial backing and experience in Timber trade agreed to work the Forests jointly. The Government of India have been negotiating with these firms for the formation of a quasi-Government Corporation to work the Forests under adequate Government Control. The terms have not been finalised and are still under discussion with the Ministries of Agriculture, Home, Finance and Industry and Supply.

(f) Yes, with varying fortunes.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

COMMISSIONING OF CIVILIAN GAZETTED OFFICERS WITH AGE LESS THAN THIRTY-FIVE YEARS IN INDIAN ARMY

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state the number of Civilian Gazetted Officers on the 1st June, 1947, and the 30th November, 1947?

(b) How many of them were retained permanently before the 15th August, 1947?

(c) In view of the fact that a large number of British Officers will have to leave the Indian Army by the 31st December, 1947, and there is a shortage of Indian Officers, do Government propose to consider the desirability of commissioning those Civilian Gazetted Officers who are not more than 35 years of age?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) The number of Civilian Gazetted officers of the Indian Army Ordnance Corps serving on 1st June, 1947 was 818, and on 30th November, 1947, 654. The figures in respect of other Civilian Gazetted officers employed by the Defence Services are not readily available.

(b) None, as the permanent establishment has not yet been fixed.

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SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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(c) A proposal is under consideration regarding the grant of commissions to Civilian Gazetted Officers of the I.A.O.C.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: How long has this proposal been under consideration?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The proposal has been under consideration for the last few months and is now ready; I think it will be finally decided in the very near future.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Have the Government changed their minds since April or May last, when the idea seemed to me to dispense with the services of practically all the Ordnance Officers (Civilian)?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: We propose to retain as many Ordnance Officers as we require.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: My question, Sir, was that till May last the Government seemed to think that the services of only a very small number of the Civilian Gazetted Officers in the Ordnance Department would be required; have their ideas changed since then and do they contemplate a larger employment of these officers in future?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Yes, Sir.

COMMISSIONING OF CIVILIAN GAZETTED OFFICERS SERVING UNDER THE CONTROLLER OF STORES WITH AGE LESS THAN THIRTY-FIVE YEARS

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state the number of Civilian Gazetted Officers serving under the Controller of Stores in the Directorate of Technical Development?

(b) In view of the virtual disappearance of the British Officers employed in the section under the Controller of Stores do Government propose to grant permanent commissions to those Civilian Gazetted Officers who are not more than 35 years of age?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) 86.

(b) Government will examine this suggestion.

PROVISION OF RAILWAY STAFF WHO OPTED FOR INDIA

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that about 700 inferior and 200 superior staff (Railway employees) who opted from Pakistan to India and arrived here in September, 1947, have not yet been provided with posts?

(b) Is it a fact that almost all of them are informed that they have to wait until vacancies occur?

(c) Is it a fact that when they ask for their salaries they are told that they will not get their pay unless they make applications for leave salary?

(d) Is it a fact that most of them have no accommodation in Delhi and that they and their families are stranded?

(e) Why are they not being provided with posts and accommodation?

(f) What is the policy of Government in this respect?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) No. The position on 7th December, 1947 was that out of 24,000 India-opting employees of the North Western Railway who had reported to the Transfer Officers, India, up to that date, about 100 Class III (Superior) and 400 Class IV (Inferior) staff were awaiting posting orders.

(b) No. The staff for whom vacancies could not be found immediately have been and are being posted against supernumerary posts.

(c) No. Staff are being paid salaries either on the last pay certificates, where they are available, and in instances where they are not forthcoming, on the basis of their declaration of the particulars of their emoluments, previous employment, etc.

(d) No. The Railway Refugee Camp at Delhi has, with effect from 28th October, 1947, been transferred to Ambala. The only staff, from amongst those who came from the North Western Railway, who are remaining in Delhi at present are those who were living outside the Railway Refugee Camp under private arrangements.

(e) Does not arise in view of reply to part (b).

(f) The policy of Government is to provide employment for all railway employees who have opted for India.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Is it not a fact, Sir, that actually an order in writing has been given by the Department to those who have not yet been given appointments, saying that there is no vacancy? Is it also not a fact that they have to make an application for leave and on that leave application they were granted their salaries?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sir, as I stated in my answer, the position at present is that of these 500 employees who were awaiting posting orders on the 7th December, practically all were workshop employees. Now, it so happens that the Eastern Punjab Railway, under the partition arrangements, has no workshop at all; and therefore, it has been rather difficult to find positions for them here. For that reason now we have adopted the practice of creating supernumerary posts in Railway Administrations where there are workshops in order to have an opportunity of posting these people there.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Is it not a fact that about a hundred of them belong to the establishment of the Commerce Department and the Transport Department?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Even in those cases our idea at present is to provide supernumerary posts if there are no vacancies.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Is it not a fact that the non-appointment of this staff is due to the policy of the Government of India and particularly due to those juniors who were promoted in place of those who opted for Pakistan, and therefore vacancies could not be found for them?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: No.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Is it not a fact that in Bombay those who were asked to be posted to the B.B. and C.I. and the G.I.P., have all been appointed in all the Departments—if they belonged to Commerce they were taken on the establishment of Commerce Department? Is it also not a fact that in Delhi this has not been done?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The postings have been made with reference to the substantive appointments that they have been holding.

Diwan Chaman Lal: May I ask the Honourable Member whether there are any cases that have been brought to his notice where the postings have not been made on that particular basis and a lower salary or grade has been granted to these people who come from Pakistan?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: If there are cases of that kind, I am prepared to look into them.

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of an adjournment motion. The Honourable Member is not in his seat, I find; so I need not refer to it. We shall now proceed with the other business.

ELECTION TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR MINISTRY OF FOOD

Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Bihar: General): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the Speaker may direct, one member to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects with which the Ministry of Food is concerned, until the end of the next financial year *vice* Prof. Yeshwant Rai resigned."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the Speaker may direct, one member to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects with which the Ministry of Food is concerned, until the end of the next financial year *vice* Prof. Yeshwant Rai resigned."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION TO COURT OF UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Bihar: General): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the Speaker may direct, one member to be a member of the Court of the University of Delhi, *vice* Dr. P. S. Deshmukh resigned."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the Speaker may direct, one member to be a member of the Court of the University of Delhi, *vice* Dr. P. S. Deshmukh resigned."

The motion was adopted.

Shri M. S. Aney (Deccan and Madras States Group): May I ask you, Sir, if this is official work or non-official work?

Mr. Speaker: It is official work. The Honourable Member is authorised by the Minister.

I have to inform the Honourable Members that for the purpose of election of one member to the Standing Committee for the Ministry of Food and also to the Court of the University of Delhi, the Notice Office will remain open up to 8 p.m. to-day and that the election if necessary, will be held on Friday the 12th December, 1947. The elections by means of the single transferable vote will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room (No. 21) in the Council House, between the hours 10-30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO ALL INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND STANDING COMMITTEES FOR MINISTRIES OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMERCE.

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the Assembly that upto the time fixed for receiving nominations for the All India Council for Technical Education and the Standing Committees for the Ministries of Information and Broadcasting and Commerce, five nominations in the case of the first and one in the case of each of the second and third were received. As the number of candidates was thus equal to the number of vacancies in each of these Committees, I declare the following members to be duly elected:

The All India Council for Technical Education.—(1) Nawab Muhammad Ismail Khan, (2) Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, (3) Shri Biswanath Das, (4) Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar, and (5) Prof. Yashwant Rai.

Standing Committee for the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.—Pandit Balkrishna Sharma.

Standing Committee for the Ministry of Commerce.—Shri M. A. Srinivasan.

INDIAN COTTON CESS (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad (Minister for Food and Agriculture): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Cotton Cess Act, 1923, be taken into consideration."

The Bill is a very short and simple one. Under the Indian Cotton Cess Act, a cess of two annas per bale is levied on every bale of cotton which is exported from India or which is used in cotton mills, but the limitation at the present moment is that this cess can be levied only on cotton produced in India. Since the partition of the country, Pakistan now ceases to be part of India. Therefore, the cotton produced in Pakistan will not be subject to this cess, although the cotton may be used in Indian mills. This amendment is intended to make it liable to that cess. The money that is raised from this cess is used by the Central Cotton Committee in connection with research and improvement of cotton cultivation and cotton manufacture. Sir, I move.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Cotton Cess Act, 1923, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

AJMER-MERWARA (EXTENSION OF LAWS) BILL

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Minister for Home, Information and Broadcasting and the States): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the extension of enactments to the Province of Ajmer-Merwara be taken into consideration."

The House is aware that the Province of Ajmer-Merwara is peculiarly situated, surrounded on almost all sides by Indian States territories. The size of this province is almost the size of an old British district. Now, in this province, there is no arrangement for proper modern administration or any arrangement for passing any legislation. A similar province is the province of Delhi, with some differences as to the size and its surroundings. The Delhi Province also has no Legislative Assembly but it has the advantage of being situated near the capital, New Delhi and its administration is not therefore so detached or unaffected by modern trends of thought. In Ajmer-Merwara, however, the Administration is largely governed by rules and regulations which are very old and antiquated. So when we took charge, we thought that something should be done to bring its administration as far as possible to the level of the other provinces. But we found that it was very difficult to make any revolutionary changes which would be required to bring the administration to modern conditions. It would require a Legislative Assembly or Council and for that legislation will have to be passed here also. It would take much time and involve much labour. By that time the new constitution would be passed and then this question would solve itself. Therefore, I thought it better to bring into being some sort of Advisory Council.

We have set up Advisory Councils in both Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara. But in Delhi we have got the advantage of an enactment which authorizes us to apply the provisions of any law passed in any Provincial Assembly. Therefore

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AJMER-MERWARA (EXTENSION OF LAWS) BILL

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it is easy for us to bring this Administration of Delhi almost to the level of the adjoining Provinces of Punjab or the United Provinces, and we have in some manner applied the provisions of these acts from the adjoining Provinces recently. I may quote an instance. When I got representations from the Scheduled Castes people about the disabilities which they had to suffer in the Province of Delhi, we made use of this Act and extended the Scheduled Castes Disabilities Removal Act of Bombay to the Province of Delhi, in that way, we could easily set right or remove their difficulties. In Ajmer, unfortunately there is no such act in existence and therefore, for the short period till the passing of the new Constitution by the Constituent Assembly, it would be advantageous to have this power of extending the operation of the legislation of the adjoining Provinces. Therefore, I have come with this proposal to authorize Government to have this power to apply the legislation that have been passed in these Provinces, where the Provincial Assemblies have scrutinized by a popular House all such ameliorative measures. Any such ameliorative measure which it may be considered necessary to apply to this Province would be by notification. That would give relief to the people of Ajmer-Merwara during the interval and with this object I have come to this House. I do not think it is necessary for me to take any more time of the House. I hope that the House will help us in passing this legislation. I move the consideration of the Bill.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the extension of enactments to the Province of Ajmer-Merwara be taken into consideration."

Pandit Mukat Bihari Lal Bhargava (Ajmer-Merwara): I rise to give my wholehearted support to this motion. It is a very brief measure, Sir, but it is pregnant with possibilities of great benefit to the people of my province. As has been pointed by the Honourable Minister for Home Affairs, this unfortunate Province has been the greatest victim of British Imperialism. Its geographical and strategic position in the Centre of Rajputana and being surrounded on all sides by Indian States has been its greatest disadvantage. Ever since it was conquered by the British in 1818, it was transferred for administration to the North West Provinces, which is now known as the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh. It would have been better if it had remained so, but unfortunately owing to political reasons in 1871 it was dissected from the United Provinces and was transferred to the Political and Foreign Department of the Government of India and was placed under the administration of the Agent to the Governor-General, acting as *ex-officio* Chief Commissioner. Ever since 1871 and up to the present day, Sir, it has been administered on autocratic lines.

Now, Sir, in the year 1877 the Scheduled Districts Act of 1874 was extended to Ajmer-Merwara. Since that date it has come to be known as the non-regulated province. Therefore under this act all laws, regulations and orders have been promulgated in the name of the Governor-General in Council, but at the instance of the Agent to the Governor-General who acted as its *ex-officio* Chief Commissioner. In these rules, regulations and notifications, the public had never any voice and from time to time these notifications, rules and regulations have been promulgated in a haphazard manner. Some rules have been taken from this province and others from the other province and in fact the present state of the Province so far as the Provincial enactments are concerned is a state of perfect anarchy and chaos. Even in a Court of Law, sometimes the lawyer or even the judge is confounded as to whether this law will apply or that. The Constitutional Reforms that were introduced in the country as a whole, that is, the Morley-Minto Scheme in 1909 as also the Montagu-Chelmsford Scheme in 1919 left this Province untouched and the only benefit that was extended was the allotment of one seat in the Lower House of the Central Legislature. Since 1924 too, there was absolutely no improvement in the situation, as the Indian Legislature did not take any interest or had no time

[Pandit Mukat Behari Lal Bhargava] to devote to this unfortunate Province. From 1st April 1937 when part III of the Government of India Act 1935, came into force, the Scheduled Districts Act stood automatically repealed and the administration of this Province was transferred to the Home Department of the Government of India. In the last 10 years, not a single piece of legislation concerning this province with the exception of the Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara Rent Control Act 1946, has been discussed or debated upon in the legislature and there is hardly any hope of distinct improvement, pending the decision of its fate by the Constituent Assembly.

In this connection, Sir, the Honourable the Home Minister was pleased to refer to the setting up of the Advisory Council and in fact for this there was a great public demand and the Government is to be congratulated for setting up this Advisory Council on the first occasion available. Constitutional difficulties stood in the way of giving Legislative powers to these Advisory Councils, but all the same they are representative bodies and they have taken upon themselves the question of the revision of law and they are busy going through suitable enactments in other Provinces. I hope, Sir, that the Central Government before extending any Provincial enactment to the Province of Ajmer-Merwara will surely consult the Advisory Council before taking any decision in the matter. It should be accepted as a matter of policy that no enactment or law should be enacted in Ajmer-Merwara till the Advisory Council has given its opinion on the point, and I hope there will be no difficulty in the matter. Sir, I support the motion.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta (Delhi): Sir, I do not propose to take up much time of the House on this brief measure which was so badly needed. I hope the measure will be welcomed by the residents of the province to which it applies. I whole-heartedly support the point of view which my Honourable friend Pandit Bhargava brought forward in respect of the Advisory Council, and I have no doubt that the Honourable Minister who has been taking a kindly interest in this type of province will be pleased to assure the House that in future all enactments which will be extended to these two provinces will be so extended after consultation with the Advisory Councils which have been recently set-up by the Honourable Minister. There is a feeling in all these centrally governed areas that public opinion is not associated with the administration as it should be. There is no doubt that so far as Delhi is concerned the Honourable Minister is himself in charge of Home Affairs and takes so much interest in the administration that the interests of the public are safeguarded. All the same there are disadvantages which are well known to the Honourable Minister, and one particular disadvantage is that in matters which pertain to this province we have to approach different Ministries. I would make a suggestion to the Honourable Minister that so far as these two provinces are concerned, if he could find time to administer himself all matters pertaining to these provinces it will be a very great step forward. Take, for instance, the Improvement Trust of Delhi. If any suggestion has to be made it goes to the Health Ministry. All this takes a good deal of time; the same is the case with Works, Mines and other proposals. I suggest that if the Honourable Minister for Home Affairs could undertake to administer all the affairs concerning these centrally governed provinces, particularly Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara, it will simplify matters and it will be a very progressive step indeed. I have no doubt that the Honourable Minister will consider the advisability of adopting such a course and will also assure the House that the Advisory Councils which he has so kindly set up would be consulted in respect of all measures, whether they are borrowed from other provinces or whether they are sought to be enacted by the House, and that the views of the Advisory Councils will be given due weight and adopted. Sir, I support the Bill.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the extension of enactments to the Province of Ajmer-Merwara be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

SALARIES OF MINISTERS BILL

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Minister for Home, Information and Broadcasting and the States): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to provide for the salaries of Ministers be taken into consideration."

I will not take much time of the House over this small matter. I may take the House into confidence and say that although this is a small matter it has taxed our minds considerably and we have spent a considerable time over it. We considered this question several times, we had two or three meetings of the Cabinet, and we had to reconsider proposals that we had once arrived at because any salary that you fix is liable to be criticised from one point of view or the other. But I may inform the House that looking at all the circumstances it may be said that the salary that we have proposed is not unreasonable. It will give an adequate amount for proper living in Delhi; in some cases after the deduction of income-tax some of my colleagues who have got other sources of income may have a little surplus and some will be out of pocket. So on the whole taking everything into consideration the amount cannot be considered to be unreasonable. As we have given a good deal of time and consideration to it I hope the House will pass it without any dissent.

In the matter of allowances it is not necessary to come to the House because it can be done by executive order or by a Cabinet decision, but we thought it better to put it to the House so that the House may know what the actual position is. The provision of double accommodation may require some explanation. I may inform the House that although we have provided for house accommodation here as well as in Simla there is surely no probability of any of us going to Simla. Houses there are all occupied by the East Punjab Government who are short of houses. Even if it were not so, we have no time or inclination to go to Simla because we think it unsuitable to conduct administration from those heights right down to the south. We cannot, therefore go there. It may of course be necessary for some Minister or other to go there occasionally on State business or for a short change of climate and reasons of health. In such cases the House will not grudge them such accommodation for a short or temporary period. But on the whole all the houses in Simla which belong to Government are now occupied. My Honourable colleague in charge of Works, Mines and Power will know more about it than I do; but I thought that the House should not carry a wrong impression on this question and feel that we are providing for double accommodation. In fact there will hardly be any case for any of us going to Simla. Sir, I move:

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the salaries of Ministers be taken into consideration."

Shri H. V. Kamath (C.P. and Berar: General): Are not the Ministers in need of a conveyance or car allowance for which no provision seems to have been made in the Bill? I am just eliciting information.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: What does the honourable member say?

Mr. Speaker: There appears to be no provision for a car in this Bill!

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: We have not provided for it deliberately.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari (Madras: General): Clause 4—Residence of Ministers: I wonder if the Honourable Minister is aware that as the rules are at present, the rental value of the house will be taken into account for purposes of the compilation of income-tax. It may perhaps reduce the salaries a little further than what they have in mind if the rental value of the House is taken into account as part of the income.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I am not aware of the rules of income-tax and how it works and how it applies. But all these points of view must have been taken into consideration because the Finance Member was also a party to it.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Does the Honourable the Home Minister's reply mean that their cars are not bought and maintained at the cost of Government?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: That is so. The cars are purchased and maintained by the Ministers on their own responsibility and cost.

Mr. B. K. Sidhwa (C.P. and Berar: General): All credit to the Government.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the salaries of Ministers be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

FEDERAL COURT (ENLARGEMENT OF JURISDICTION) BILL.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Minister for Law): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to provide for the enlargement of the appellate jurisdiction of the Federal Court in civil cases be taken into consideration."

The Federal Court as constituted under the Government of India Act as adapted, exercises three kinds of jurisdiction:

(a) Original jurisdiction under section 204:

(b) Appellate jurisdiction over High Courts under section 205: and

(c) Advisory jurisdiction under section 213.

The present Bill is concerned only with the Appellate jurisdiction of the Federal Court. As I said, the Appellate jurisdiction of the Federal Court under section 205 is a very limited jurisdiction. It is confined in the first place only to those cases in which the issue involved is the interpretation of the Constitution, that is to say, the interpretation of the Government of India Act 1935.

Secondly, this limited jurisdiction accrues to the Federal Court only if the High Court, after deciding a case before it gives a certificate to the effect that a question regarding the interpretation of the Constitution is involved.

It is only when these two conditions are satisfied, namely, that there exists an issue relating to the interpretation of the Constitution: and secondly, when the High Court has given a certificate that an appeal can go to the Federal Court under section 205.

The result of this limitation is this. All other appeals from the High Court in which questions relating to the interpretation of laws, other than the Constitution or those in which the interpretation of the Constitution is involved but where the High Court has not given a certificate, go directly to the Privy Council without the intervention of the Federal Court.

The object of this Bill is to prevent direct passage of appeals from the High Court to the Privy Council. In other words, the aim of the Bill is to make it compulsory that all civil appeals which arise from the judgment or decree of the High Court shall in the first instance go to the Federal Court.

The method adopted by the Bill to achieve this object is as follows:

What the Bill first does is to fix a day, which is the first of February, and which in the Bill is called "the appointed day". The next thing that the Bill does is after the appointed day no appeals shall go to the Privy Council directly from the High Court unless and until the appeal falls in a category of what is called "a pending appeal". If an appeal on the first day of February can be described within the terms of this Bill as "a pending appeal" then the appeal shall be continued to be heard and decided by the Privy Council. But if on that day the appeal is not "a pending appeal" within the definition of this Bill, then the jurisdiction of the Federal Court extends to such an appeal as the Federal Court gets a right to hear and decide such an appeal.

Section 7 of the Bill describes what is "a pending appeal". Now for this purpose a rough and ready made rule has been adopted in the Bill: The rule is this: that if the records of an appeal are transmitted by the High Court to the Privy Council on the appointed day or before the appointed day, then the appeal is a pending appeal and the Privy Council continues to exercise its jurisdiction to hear such an appeal, although it is a direct appeal.

If on the other hand the appeal is in such a state that the records have not been transmitted, then the appeal becomes automatically transferred so to say to the Federal Court and the Federal Court gets the right to hear the appeal.

Appeals to the Privy Council go in two different ways. They go under what are called the provisions of the Civil Procedure Code, Sections 109 and 110, which are called appeals by grants or they are appeals where the party have a right to appeal. In addition to that the Privy Council also has got the right to give special leave to appeal and when a party obtains special leave to appeal, such appeals also go to the Privy Council. Appeals which go to the Privy Council directly from the High Court on special leave being granted by the Privy Council, are also dealt with in Section 5 of the Bill. The provision there is this:

"Every application to His Majesty in Council for special leave to appeal from a judgment to which this Act applies remaining undisposed of immediately before the appointed day shall on that day stand transferred to the Federal Court by virtue of this Act."

If it is disposed of, that is to say, if it is rejected no further question arises.

If it is admitted then the Privy Council will be competent to deal with it. But if the Privy Council has not passed any order, then such an appeal shall be deemed to be transferred to the Federal Court and the Federal Court will have the right to dispose of the matter.

[Dr. B. R. Ambedkar]

I should like to tell the House in very concrete terms what this Bill does and what it does not do. I have told the House what this Bill does. I will tell the House now what this Bill does not do.

In the first place, it does not abolish appeals to the Privy Council in criminal matters. Criminal matters can still be entertained by the Privy Council from the Judgments of the High Courts. Secondly, it does not abolish appeals to the Privy Council from courts which are not high courts, that is to say, the courts of the Judicial Commissioner of Ajmer-Merwara or of Coorg. Thirdly, it does not abolish appeals to the Privy Council from the judgment of the Federal Court.

The House would probably like to know why these deficiencies have been retained in the Bill and why we have not been in a position to provide in this Bill for the complete transfer in all cases, criminal or civil, from the High Court to the Federal Court and from the Federal Court to the Privy Council. The reasons are to be found in certain limitations from which the Dominion Legislature, i.e., the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) suffers. As members of the Assembly would realise we are exercising the powers for enlarging the jurisdiction of the Federal Court, which are given to us by Section 206 of the Government of India Act. If Honourable Members would refer to Section 206 they will see that it is a sort of section which gives constituent powers to this Assembly enabling it to alter the provisions of section 205 of the Government of India Act, 1935. Section 206 says:

"(1) The Dominion Legislature may by Act provide that in such civil cases as may be specified in the Act an appeal shall lie to the Federal Court from a judgment, decree or final order of a High Court without any such certificate as aforesaid."

(2) If the Dominion Legislature makes such provision as is mentioned in the last preceding sub-section consequential provision may also be made by Act of the Dominion Legislature for the abolition in whole or in part of direct appeals in civil cases from High Courts to His Majesty in Council, either with or without special leave."

Sub-section (3) requires the sanction of the Governor-General.

Anybody who reads section 206 will find that although the power to amend and enlarge the jurisdiction of the Federal Court is given to this Assembly, it is limited in certain particulars. It is limited to civil cases. Therefore no provision can be made for the abolition of direct appeals in criminal matters. Secondly, it refers to direct appeals, that is to say appeals from the High Court to the Privy Council. The reason why we are not able to abolish appeals from the Federal Court to the Privy Council is because of the existence of Section 208 in the Government of India Act. Section 208 says: (a) that an appeal will lie to His Majesty in Council from a decision of the Federal Court, from any judgment of the Federal Court given in the exercise of its original jurisdiction in any dispute which concerns the interpretation of this Act and (b) in any other case, by leave of the Federal Court or of His Majesty in Council. What I wanted to tell the House was that if it was desirable to abolish all appeals to the Privy Council and to enlarge the jurisdiction of the Federal Court in as complete a manner as we want to do, for that purpose we would have been required to hold a session of the Constituent Assembly and ask the Constituent Assembly to pass a Bill, which it can do, notwithstanding any limitations in the Government of India Act 1935, for the simple reason that the Constituent Assembly is a sovereign body and is not bound by the provisions of the Government of India Act 1935. The position of this Legislature which is spoken of as the Dominion Legislature is very different. It is governed by the Government of India Act of 1935 and therefore it must conform in anything that it wants to do to such provisions of the Act which permit it to do what it wants to do. As I said, the only permissive section which we have in the Government of India Act is Section 206 and we have taken the fullest liberty of this section to enlarge the jurisdiction of the Federal Court to the

fullest extent possible. The deficiencies in the Bill I do not think need worry any members of the legislature for the simple reason that this Act will be in operation only for a very short time. As soon as our constitution is framed and is passed by the Constituent Assembly, we shall then be in a position to make the amplest provision for the jurisdiction of the Federal Court and to abolish appeals to the Privy Council. For the moment I think the House must be satisfied with what is done under Section 206. Sir, I move.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the enlargement of the appellate jurisdiction of the Federal Court in civil cases be taken into consideration."

Shri Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar (Madras: General): Sir, In view of my state of health I request you to permit me to address the House sitting.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member may do so.

Shri Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar: Sir, in commending this Bill and in asking the House to give its support to it I should like to say a few words. In the Dominions, judicial autonomy has come in the wake of the independence of the legislatures and the executive from any interference from Whitehall. A good number of the Dominions has practically abolished the right of appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council and judicial autonomy is recognised as a fundamental principle even of Dominion Status. In Ireland appeals have been abolished both in civil and criminal matters, and a right to abolish the appeal has been upheld by the Judicial Committee. Quite recently in the Dominion of Canada the right of appeal in civil and criminal matters, including the right to special leave, has been abolished, and the Privy Council has held that the Dominion Legislature is within its rights in abolishing the appeal to the Privy Council altogether. It is thus clear that even in the Dominion stage it would be competent for India to abolish the right of appeal to the Privy Council. Apparently the Government are proceeding on the view that any provision involving a constitutional change even when India continues to be a Dominion must come before this Assembly in the sphere of its functions as a constitution-making body and the Government have thought it necessary to keep to the terms of the Independence Act in the light of the changes brought about by the Adaptation Orders of the Government of India Act. What I would lay stress on is that even as a Dominion it would be competent for this House, in one aspect or in another, to abolish the right of appeal to the Privy Council. But it would mean a certain change in the constitution of the Dominion because the Privy Council appeal is a part of the Dominion constitution. Therefore, if you want to abolish the appeal it would involve a change in the Dominion constitution. Under the terms of the Indian Independence Act it is competent even for the Dominion Legislature to pass an enactment repugnant to the provisions of the Independence Act, just as it is competent for the Dominion Legislature even to repeal the Independence Act. That is so far as the general aspect of the question is concerned. But anyhow the discussion is academic because it is only a question of time, and when the time comes we will be in a position to abolish the right of appeal to the Privy Council altogether.

There are a few minor points, however, which might merit the consideration of this House and of the Honourable the Law Member. Under the Government of India Act, as adapted, the appellant has to found his right of appeal in constitutional matters on Section 205 and to seek the leave of the court which passes the decree or the judgment. Under that section, as it stands, it will be noticed that if the High Court refuses leave, there is no provision for seeking the leave of the Federal Court. When an appeal is filed under the terms of the Bill now before the House, in cases where the valuation exceeds Rs. 10,000, a constitutional question may conceivably arise along with other grounds of appeal. Section 2 (b) of the Bill read with section 3 (a) provides that an appeal

[Shri Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar]
lies from a judgment in which an appeal would have been brought to His Majesty if this Act had not been passed. On a proper construction of section 205 the Privy Council has ruled that in an appeal to the Judicial Committee no constitutional point can be raised unless in the first instance the jurisdiction of the Federal Court has been invoked under section 205. If, therefore, a right of appeal to the Federal Court is to be limited to cases in which a direct appeal would have been brought to His Majesty, the clause might have the effect of precluding the Federal Court from going into any constitutional question if the procedure under section 205 has not been invoked or has been invoked and leave refused. That could not obviously be the intention of the framers of the Bill. Suppose the valuation and other tests are satisfied and if an appeal is lodged, the whole case is before the Court; then constitutional questions might arise, ordinary questions of law might arise, and the whole matter must be in a position to be taken up by the Federal Court. I may presume that it is of the value of over Rs. 10,000, that it otherwise satisfies the tests, that it is a reversing judgment or that it raises a substantial question of law and so on. Supposing it is so, then a question of constitutional interpretation arises before the Federal Court. What would be the effect then of the previous section which says, that in all constitutional matters you must first get leave of the High Court, and that is the final arbiter under the Act, as it stands, whether leave is to be granted or not. I would therefore suggest to the Honourable the Law Member the adoption by the House of a Proviso to section 3 (a) (i) permitting an appeal to the following effect, namely:

"Provided that notwithstanding the fact that no application has been made under the terms of section 205 or an application has been made and rejected by the High Court which decides the case, it shall be open to the appellant or the respondent to raise any question of law as to the interpretation of the Government of India Act or any Order in Council made thereunder before the date of the establishment of the Dominion, or any Order made thereunder on or after the date, or as to the interpretation of the Indian Independence Act, 1947 or of any Order made thereunder."

I have in fact given notice of an amendment and if the House gives me leave and if the Honourable the Law Member is disposed to consider it I shall move it. Otherwise I am not going to press it. The amendment I am suggesting may roughly run as follows:

"That to clause 3(a) (i) of the Bill the following proviso be added, namely:

"Provided that where an appeal has been preferred under this sub-section it shall be competent to any of the parties notwithstanding anything contained in section 205 of the Government of India Act to raise any of the questions of the kind specified in this section."

The present position, even as it is, is very unsatisfactory. A case involves constitutional points. It goes up before the Federal Court. The whole appeal is opened. I am therefore very glad that this Bill has been brought forward. But at the same time it ought to be made quite clear that when an appeal is lodged in the exercise of the general right of appeal with the litigant, under the Bill it ought to be open to the litigant to raise every ground that is possible to be raised in support of the appeal, and if it is a case of a respondent the appellant must be in a position to challenge the judgment of the High Court if really it is open to challenge, on a constitutional ground. Otherwise the Federal Court would be placed in a very very difficult position. An obvious question of constitutional law or constitutional interpretation might arise in the case of an appeal, and the court will have to state "This appeal is before us, but the first court has refused leave under section 205 in regard to the constitutional point; and notwithstanding the fact that the whole appeal is before us we are powerless to interfere with it." I would only appeal to the Honourable the Law Minister to consider the advisability of inserting a proviso of this type when the time comes.

With these few words I have great pleasure in supporting the motion before the House of the Honourable the Minister for Law.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): Sir, such a measure has been long overdue. Soon after I came to this Assembly in the year 1935 or 1936 when Sir N. N. Sircar was the Law Member, I moved that steps should be taken immediately under section 206 to abolish the jurisdiction of the Privy Council in civil appeals and confer that jurisdiction on the Federal Court. He took up my suggestion and sent it round for opinion to the various High Courts. Later on when I went to my own province I was disappointed to hear one or two Judges tell me that we were not yet fit to invest the Federal Court of India with jurisdiction in civil appeals in place of the Privy Council and that they had greater faith in the Privy Council's decisions. They must have been born a hundred years earlier. I was certainly surprised. Similarly some other persons also who were of a conservative nature from some other High Courts were of the same opinion. They had greater faith in foreigners who were whiter still! Later on in the previous Assembly a resolution was tabled about three years ago by a previous Law Member who also hailed from Bengal. He proposed that concurrent jurisdiction may be given. Whoever wanted to prefer an appeal to the Privy Council may do so; others who wanted to do so, may prefer an appeal to the Federal Court. But later on we wanted that the entire jurisdiction of the Privy Council should be abolished and he himself did not press that matter. We are still struggling on. The final stage will come when the Constitution Act is framed whereby the jurisdiction of the Privy Council is totally abolished. We do not have appellate criminal jurisdiction which the Privy Council may have in particular cases. Therefore we are not yet free. That freedom will be attained only when the Constitution Act is framed. We cannot wait for long. Appeals are being filed every day against the decisions of various High Courts to the Privy Council. The sooner those appeals are abolished, the jurisdiction of the Privy Council is abolished with respect to those appeals and it is made easy for litigants to take up these matters to the Federal Court, the better. I congratulate the Honourable the Law Minister and I thank him for having introduced this measure. I have tabled an amendment. The measure even in its limited form is not complete. He gives jurisdiction to the Federal Court with respect to appeals which may be filed and have yet to be filed with respect to which leave is given or still has to be given. He has not tackled the problem of appeals already filed but which have not yet been heard or have only been partly heard. I have tabled an amendment and I am sure he will accept the amendment whereby provision is made for any party to a pending appeal before the Privy Council to move the Federal Court for withdrawing such an appeal in case it is not part heard and in case advance is not made or the other party is not in enormous loss, and if this loss cannot be mitigated, it can be mitigated by some compensation. Under these restricted conditions any party to an appeal may apply to the Federal Court for withdrawing the appeal to the Privy Council.

Sir, I heartily support the motion for consideration of this Bill.

Shrimati G. Durgabai (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like with great pleasure to congratulate the Honourable the Mover of this Bill. Sir, this is a measure which is of somewhat historic importance because this is in a way stopping the flow of appeals further to the Privy Council and thus settling our own matters, which are matters of our own importance, instead of their being settled by the body abroad. Sir, there are several questions which are very special to Indians, such as the Hindu law of adoption or such other matters which are of very great importance and which only the Indian mind can understand. Such matters were hitherto settled by people abroad

[Shrimati G. Durgabai]

who have neither the necessary knowledge nor equipment of problems relating to ourselves in India. Therefore it is a measure which I say, Sir, is of great historic importance. The Bill as I see it, and as appears to be the object of the mover of the Bill, is to stop the further flow of appeals going abroad and also gradually to abolish in due course all appeals going to that body. I have examined carefully the provisions of this Bill, Sir, but I have found that the Bill is defective in one or two respects. His anxiety seems to be to stop the flow of as many classes of appeals as possible going to that body, and while giving the definition of a pending appeal, he said the test is the transmission of records to that body. Now in this class of cases there are three categories which have come under the benefit of the provisions of this Bill. One class is the class of cases where special leave has not been required by the Privy Council and also where special leave is granted by the Federal Court. Also the Bill envisages a class of cases where special leave is not required but where cases are already pending before the Privy Council. Such are the classes of cases which are deemed to be coming to the Federal Court as envisaged by this Bill. But, Sir, I would say that there is yet another class of cases where special leave is granted but where records in that case are not sent to the Privy Council. If his object is only to allow such appeals to be disposed of by the Privy Council where the records are sent and where the sending of records is the test for cases to be disposed of by the Privy Council, I would ask in such class of cases where special leave is granted but where the records are not sent, why should such class of cases be disposed of by that body. Why should not that special leave be deemed to be special leave given by the Federal Court? So I would appeal to the Honourable the Mover of this Bill to consider that class of cases also where special leave is granted but where records are not sent. Then it may be argued by the Honourable the Mover that already for special leave to be obtained, some records have been sent, therefore let such class of cases be there pending and be disposed off. But I may say this, that the huge expenditure involved in the disposal of such cases is only for obtaining special leave. Only some amount must have been spent. But when we admit that the special leave is obtained for final disposal, a lot of time is involved, a lot of expenditure will be involved, and the main records will have to be sent. To save all that, the class of cases where only leave is granted and records are sent, such class of cases may be permitted to come under the provisions of this Act. Therefore I would appeal to the Honourable the Mover to accept the amendment of which I have given notice to this effect, and consider this matter favourably.

There is another matter to which I would like to refer. Of course he has dealt when he was moving the Bill with criminal cases. The Bill is silent on that. It only applies to civil cases. But I hope that very soon he would bring another Bill to give the necessary effect. I am really disappointed to see that criminal cases are not covered.

And the third point is—there is some confusion in my mind about this—that the point of limitation has not been dealt with. Now, I would only ask: What happens to such cases between now and the 1st of February, that is the appointed date? Those cases where special leave has got to be obtained and for which the period of limitation will already have expired in the interval, should such class of cases also go to the Privy Council even after we have passed this Act? Of course it is left to the mercy of the High Court; the High Court may not send the records; but it is left to the mercy of the High Court not to send the records. So why not we make a suitable provision also with regard to that?

Therefore, I would ask the Honourable Mover to consider these three points, namely the special class of cases where leave is granted but records

have not been sent; the question of limitation; and thirdly, the question of criminal cases to be covered by this Act. With these few words, Sir, I would congratulate the Honourable Mover for having brought forward this measure.

Shri M. S. Aney (Deccan and Madras States Group): Sir, I do not want to make a long speech, but it will be admitted by all that the Bill which the Honourable the Minister for Law has just moved meets a demand that was being made in the country for a very long time. The Act of 1935 did provide for the enlargement of the powers of the Federal Court; but in spite of attempts made by some of my Honourable friends to move the Government in the matter, things did not succeed; and I am therefore very glad to say that the Honourable Dr. Ambedkar has taken the first opportunity of coming with a Bill to enlarge those powers, which could be done under the Government of India Act of 1935 as adapted by the Ordinance of 1947. It means a good deal of relief to the litigant world which for want of means could not go and appeal to the Privy Council or which had to go to the Privy Council at a cost sometimes prohibitive; we know of cases in which Privy Council appeals have been won only to find that those who have ultimately won had no means to get their decree executed.

Sir, in his speech while introducing the Bill, Dr. Ambedkar has very lucidly pointed out the limitations under which he had to enlarge those powers. The relevant sections of the Government of India Act lay down that the powers could be enlarged only in a particular way and in particular cases, that is civil cases only; and the criminal jurisdiction had to be left out. This indicates that although on the 15th of August we have got autonomy, we have still a Legislature which has not got all the powers of a Sovereign Legislature—it is suffering from certain limitations. We have yet to wait for the day when we shall not only have a Sovereign State but a full Sovereign Legislature as it should be. Here in the present Bill there is still ground for a man aggrieved by the judgment of the Federal Court, to go and appeal to the Privy Council. So long as that provision is there, the Indian Dominion stands on a different footing from other Dominions. May-be the view which has been very lucidly explained to us by our Honourable friend Sir Alladi may be correct, and if that is the position we may be in a position to bring in an appropriate amending Bill and to assert our right in that way. But so far as it has been explained to us by the Honourable the Law Minister, it seems to me very clear that till we have framed a Constitution and got a Legislature under it, we shall probably suffer under those limitations.

Anyhow, I am very glad, Sir, that this Bill has been brought forward by the Honourable Minister. Much of the difficulties of the litigant world who were suffering, will hereafter disappear. We shall have, so to say, a Federal Court with appellate powers—such appellate powers as have been given to it by this Act—and which in a very short time will develop into a full-fledged Federal Court, and there will be no necessity for the Indian public to go to the Privy Council. I congratulate the Honourable Minister for having done that; I am sure the House will accord its full support to the Bill.

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava (Ajmer-Merwara): Sir, I rise to accord my full and hearty support to this measure, specially as it is a milestone towards the abolition of our slavery in the real sense. I call it a milestone, Sir, because even after the passing of this Bill into an Act, there will still be the appellate jurisdiction of the Privy Council in certain matters, and particularly in criminal cases. While conceding the proposition that has been enunciated by the Honourable the Law Minister that there are certain limitations on the Constituent Assembly while acting as the Legislature as distinct from its Sovereign character as the Constitution-making Body, still within the framework of the Government of India Act, 1935, it was open to the Law Minister to provide for the abolition of appeal to the Privy Council from the

[Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava]

Court of the Judicial Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara. In fact, Sir, in all judicial matters we have to look for uniformity, and it will sound ridiculous and it will be a great anomaly if the appellate jurisdiction of the Privy Council from one single court or from the courts of the Judicial Commissioners of Ajmer-Merwara is kept alive.

In fact, Sir, this appeal to the Privy Council involves an enormous strain of money on the litigating public and the litigating public in a part of the country like Ajmer-Merwara, which is very poor, find the strain enormous. Consequently, the Law Minister ought to have seen some way by which the appellate jurisdiction of the Privy Council from the Court of the Judicial Commissioner could be brought to an end. It has been contended, Sir, that it was not open to him because the Court of the Judicial Commissioner is not a High Court within the meaning or within the purview of Section 206 of the Government of India Act; but I would respectfully invite the attention of the Honourable the Law Minister to the provisions of Section 219 of the Government of India Act which lays down what are the "High Courts" for the purpose of the Government of India Act. I would draw his attention particularly to the last three lines in Section 219, which lays down "any other comparable court in India which the Act of an appropriate legislature may declare to be a High Court for the purposes of this Act." Under this specific provision, it was open to the Law Minister to treat this court of the Judicial Commissioner of Ajmer as a comparable court in India because its jurisdiction is that of any High Court and it is the final court of civil jurisdiction in the Province, and from it appeal lies only to the Privy Council. Therefore, Sir, treating it as a comparable court in India, because like any other part of the country, this Dominion Parliament is the appropriate legislature and by this very enactment the court of the Judicial Commissioner could be treated as the High Court within the meaning of Section 219 and thereby to abolish the appellate jurisdiction of the Privy Council. I have tabled amendments on this point and I would urge upon the Honourable the Law Minister to give his careful consideration to them and to end the appellate jurisdiction of the Privy Council.

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): Sir, I want to make a simple point which has not been made by the other speakers. The whole plan of the Bill seems to suggest that the procedure for amending Sections 206, 207 and 208 of the Government of India Act is different from making an ordinary law in the legislature. I think the idea is there that in order to amend any section of the Government of India Act, you have to sit in a different place in a different manner and adopt some different procedure. I have tried to look through the Sections of the Government of India Act, the Indian Independence Act and the Rules of Procedure of the constitution-making Section and the legislative Section. But I do not find any warrant whatsoever for the idea mentioned above. I think, as the constitution stands now, a constitutional change and law making are entirely on the same plane and therefore, in the same manner in which the present Bill is introduced. Sections 206, 207 and 208 could have been changed by an ordinary Bill to abolish the criminal and civil appeals to the Privy Council by simply substituting three different Sections.

In this connection, Sir, I would refer to Section 18 of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted. It says:—

"The powers of the Dominion Legislature under this Act shall, until other provision is made by or in accordance with a law made by the Constituent Assembly under sub-section (1) of Section 8 of the Indian Independence Act, 1947, be exercisable by that Assembly."

Now Section 8 (1) of the Indian Independence Act simply says:

"In the case of each of the new Dominions, the powers of the Legislature of the Dominion shall, for the purpose of making provision as to the constitution of the Dominion, be exercisable in the first instance by the Constituent Assembly of that Dominion, and references in this Act to the Legislature of the Dominion shall be construed accordingly."

Sir, if you refer to Section 6 of the Indian Independence Act, the powers of the Legislature, which is the Constituent Assembly for the present time, are unlimited. Therefore, I do not see that there is any justification for thinking that a different procedure has to be adopted for changing the Government of India Act from ordinary legislation.

My argument is also reinforced by the fact that if you take the rules of the Constituent Assembly in the constitution-making side, there is no provision whatsoever for bringing in any Bill to change the Sections of the Government of India Act. Now, it is admitted that this Assembly has power to change the Government of India Act. But where is the procedure? Thus if we are not to use the ordinary rules of this legislature, there is no way at all of changing the Government of India Act. We cannot have any legislation on the constitution-making side. We can have legislation only here. Therefore, I think the Honourable the Law Minister could have brought in an amending Bill, amending Sections 206, 207 and 208, and that would have done away with all complications. It would have done away with all kinds of appeals, second appeals or indirect appeals, from the Federal Court and we could have taken criminal jurisdiction of the Privy Council. The whole thing would have been simplified. There is at present some legal mystification which is causing unnecessary confusion in what is plain. That is the only point I wanted to make.

Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand (East Punjab: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had no intention of speaking on this Bill today, for like most other members of the House I fully endorse the principle underlying the Bill and I join with them in congratulating the Honourable the Law Minister for bringing forward this measure, which has been long overdue. There are however two or three points, brought out by previous speakers, in regard to which I wish to make a few observations.

The first point which requires the consideration of the House is with regard to cases decided by the Judicial Commissioner of Coorg and Ajmer-Merwara. I fully sympathise with the views expressed by my Honourable friend opposite that there is no reason why appeals in civil cases to the Privy Council should continue from these two small parts of India while in regard to all other Provinces like Bombay, West Bengal, Madras, East Punjab and U.P. and the rest the same has been abolished. As far as I could see, the reason why the word "High Court" given in Section 219 of the Government of India Act has not been sought to be amended by the Honourable the Law Minister so as to include the Judicial Commissioners' courts of these Chief Commissioners' provinces is that, very probably, it may necessitate various consequential changes in regard to appointment, qualifications and salaries of judges, etc. But I would submit that it is not necessary to amend the definition of "High Court" in Section 219. All that would be necessary is in clause 2 (b) to say: "Judgment to which this Act applies means any judgment, decree or final order of a High Court or of Judicial Commissioners of Ajmer and Coorg." If you add those words, you steer clear of the necessity of amending Section 219. On the merits, I believe, the Honourable the Law Minister will agree that there is no reason why appeals from Ajmer and Coorg should lie to the Privy Council, while those in much bigger and more complicated cases which come from the other Provinces should go to the Federal Court. I would, therefore, ask the Honourable the Law Minister to agree to this amendment in section 2 (b) which will make the law uniform for the whole of the country including the Chief Commissioners' Provinces and would also obviate the necessity of amending Section 219.

[Dr. B. R. Ambedkar]

for no reason limiting the powers of this House. I am sure that that is a criticism which, to put it mildly, is certainly far from valid. I cannot accept the proposition that this legislature as distinguished from the Constituent Assembly is a completely sovereign body, as complete as the Constituent Assembly itself. It is true that the same Members who sit in this House sit in the Constituent Assembly, so that in regard to the personnel there is no distinction. But I have not the slightest doubt in my mind that so far as functions are concerned the two Assemblies are quite different. The function of the Constituent Assembly is to make the constitution and in making that constitution it is bound by nothing except by its own vote. So far as this Assembly is concerned, it is bound by the Government of India Act, 1935; that is the constitution which is binding upon this legislature. Except the British Parliament which has both sorts of powers, namely, ordinary legislative powers as well as constituent powers, I do not know of any Assembly anywhere which has got a written constitution which possesses powers to override a constitution which has created that particular legislature. I therefore submit that I am on perfectly strong and stable footing when I say that in carrying out the provisions of this Bill we must be bound by the limitations that have been imposed upon this legislature by the Government of India Act, 1935 as adapted.

I will now turn to the other criticism expression to which was given by my Honourable friend Shri Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar. With regard to his amendment I do not want to say that I regret that the amendment is something which I could not accept. All that I want to say is that according to my reading of the situation that amendment is probably unnecessary, and I will explain to him why I take that point of view. The ground that he urged for the amendment was that the Privy Council in a certain case decided in 1940 (as reported in the Punjab Co-operative Bank *versus* Commissioner of Income-Tax) stated, according to him, that they would not entertain any point relating to the consideration of the constitution if the High Court had not given a certificate; therefore the Privy Council said that they would have to send that case back to the High Court for a certificate. His argument was that the decision of the Privy Council in this case may also be accepted by the Federal Court as binding upon itself; and therefore wherever there was no certificate given and the matter came up before the Privy Council—and as a matter of fact it was found that a question relating to the constitution did arise—the Privy Council would find itself unable to deal with that appeal. I think that was the sum and substance of his argument. Now what I would like to point out is that I think he has read a little more into the judgment of the Privy Council than it really says. I will read a few lines from the judgment. They have laid down three propositions which they say would arise in the consideration of section 205. The second proposition is the only one which is relevant to our purpose.

"Secondly, if in the absence of a certificate it appears to the Board on an appeal that there is ground for thinking that that is a matter for the consideration of the High Court and that they ought to have given or ought to have withheld the certificate, the Board ought to decline to hear an appeal until the High Court had had an opportunity of doing one or the other."

That is what the Privy Council have laid down. Now my submission is that this matter was as a matter of fact considered by the department when this Bill was drafted, and it was felt that after all in the observations made by the Privy Council they have not said that they do not possess jurisdiction in a case of this kind. All that they have done is to lay down a sort of rule of prudence that if a case came in for which there was no certificate they would not deal with it directly—not they had no power to deal with it—but would send the case back to the High Court. Therefore it does not mean that the Federal Court which under our Bill would be inheriting the jurisdiction of the

Privy Council would have no jurisdiction because the Privy Council has laid down no such rule at all.

My second submission is that assuming that the Privy Council's dictum does go to the question of jurisdiction, is it necessary for us to presume that the Federal Court in exercising a new jurisdiction which we are giving to it would accept what has been laid down by the Privy Council? The Federal Court would be free to give its own interpretation. It may say that notwithstanding that that certificate was not given, we shall entertain the question and decide it.

Thirdly, the Privy Council has also got the power to give special leave and they may give special leave and get over the difficulty. What I am trying to do is to explain to the House that we did not incorporate the sort of provision which my Honourable friend Mr. Alladi Krishnaswami has tabled in his amendment. But if eminent lawyers in this House think that we ought not to leave this question in doubt, and I find that he is supported by my friend, Bakshi Tek Chand, I myself would raise no objection to the amendment if they insist that the amendment should be introduced in the Bill.

Then the question was raised with regard to the Courts of the Judicial Commissioners of Ajmer-Merwara and Coorg. It is quite true that it would be very anomalous that we should stop direct appeals from the High Court to the Privy Council and allow appeals from Judicial Commissioners to go to the Privy Council without the intervention of the Federal Court. The anomaly is patent and nobody can deny it. But the question is this: that unless and until we declare the Courts of the Judicial Commissioners as High Courts, we could not make this Bill binding upon them. Now I am told that the question of the declaration of the Judicial Commissioners' Courts as High Courts would involve certain administrative problems. For instance, all the provisions in the Government of India Act relating to High Courts would have to be applied to the Judicial Commissioners before they become High Courts. It seemed to me that that might create complications and that is the principal reason why we did not think it advisable at this stage to extend the provisions of this Act to the Judicial Commissioners. After all, as I said, this Bill will be of a temporary duration. It may not be in operation for more than two or three months, and I do not think that within these two or three months any very large number of appeals from the Courts of the Judicial Commissioners are likely to come to the Privy Council.

Therefore, I submit, rather than face the difficulties that may arise out of administrative considerations, it might be better for this House to suffer the anomaly and let the position stand as it is.

With regard to the question of criminal appeals that matter has been fairly disposed of by my friend who spoke before me, and therefore I do not think it necessary for me to touch upon that matter at all.

Mr. Speaker: I might just state what I was feeling about the amendment. In case the Honourable Law Minister is inclined to accept it, isn't it likely that an objection might be raised about the competence of this Legislature, inasmuch as the amendment uses the words "notwithstanding anything contained in section 205 of the Government of India Act"?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: That also is a point.

Mr. Speaker: So that will also have to be considered. The House will be rising and in the recess the Law Minister may consider this point.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes, I will consider it.

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

[Dr. Bakhshi Tek Chand]

It has not been possible for most of us, and certainly not for me, to send formal amendments because I received the copy of the Bill only yesterday and my first impulse this morning was to ask you, Sir, to disallow the motion for taking the Bill into consideration as three days' notice had not been given. But I felt that the principle of the Bill and, on the whole, the drafting of the Bill was such as would commend itself to the whole House and as the time is short and the House is going to break off tomorrow and will not meet until some time in the end of January or beginning of February, it was not advisable to raise that objection. At the same time, I would ask you, Sir, to allow these small amendments to be moved without formal notice and, further, hope that the Honourable the Law Minister would himself accept the force of this amendment and one or two other amendments which may be moved before the House.

The other point to which I wish to refer is the one to which reference has been made by Sir Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar in his speech while supporting the Bill, and that is that there is an obvious conflict between Section 205 as to the right of appeal to the Federal Court on certain points and the provisions of the present Bill. As pointed out by my Honourable friend, Sir Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar, under the existing law Section 205 of the Government of India Act prevents the Federal Court from entertaining an appeal on a substantial question relating to the interpretation of the Government of India Act unless a certificate has been given by the High Court. There might be cases in which the value of the case is over 10,000 rupees and the case satisfies all the requirements of Sections 109 and 110 of the Civil Procedure Code. The appeal, therefore, would lie to the Federal Court as of right. But if, in addition to ordinary questions of law, if a question of the interpretation of the Government of India Act is involved, and the High Court either has not been moved to grant a certificate or, if moved, has refused to grant a certificate, then the Federal Court will be competent under the provisions of this Bill, to entertain the appeal on all other points, but it may be barred to hear and decide questions for which the Federal Court was originally established, namely the question of the interpretation of the Government of India Act. The best course in the circumstances would be to accept an amendment like the one suggested by Sir Alladi at the close of his speech and to incorporate it in the Bill and, to put an end to any dispute as to the jurisdiction of the Federal Court to hear and adjudicate such questions without a certificate. I would, therefore, commend to the Honourable the Law Minister the suggestion of Sir Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar to incorporate an amendment to that effect.

The third point to which I wish to make a passing reference, is the one to which some Honourable Members have referred, relating to "criminal appeals" to the Privy Council. It has been suggested that the Honourable the Law Minister should have included in the Bill a provision for the transfer of the "criminal appeals" from the Privy Council to the Federal Court and to bar the Privy Council from hearing such "criminal appeals". With great respect to the Honourable Members, I think there is some confusion on this point. Under the existing law, no appeal in criminal cases lies with the Privy Council; the Criminal Procedure Code makes no such provision; the Letters Patent of the High Courts contain no such provision and there is no other law, which allows a litigant to have recourse as of right, to the Privy Council in criminal matters. What are loosely called "criminal appeals to the Privy Council" are merely cases in which the Privy Council, acting on behalf of His Majesty, grant special leave to appeal. It is only by special leave, which is really an exercise of the prerogative of His Majesty, that the Privy Council has got the power to deal with criminal cases. Now, I do not see how, so long as we are a Dominion, the Honourable the Law Minister can make any provision in this Bill to transfer the prerogative of His Majesty to the Federal Court. If it is intended to give

the Federal Court power to deal with criminal matters, a new Bill will have to be brought either in this Assembly or in the Constituent Assembly, as the case may be, to confer special jurisdiction on the Federal Court to hear appeals in certain cases. That is a matter of considerable importance which ought not and could not have been included in a Bill of this kind, because you cannot allow an unrestricted right of appeal in every criminal case to the Federal Court; you will have to restrict it to certain cases only. I, therefore, do not see the relevancy of the objection raised with regard to the transferring of criminal jurisdiction on the Federal Court relating to matters which might arise from decisions given by the various High Courts in criminal cases in India. Further, I do not think any great harm will be done to an "aggrieved person" if this matter is delayed for 3 or 6 months. After all, the new Constitution is likely to come into force, by October at the latest and in the meantime, while the Federal Court will not deal with ordinary criminal cases, the right of the Privy Council to grant special leave will remain intact. Therefore, an accused person who has been convicted by a High Court will have this satisfaction that until the Dominion Legislature or the Constituent Assembly has conferred the power on the Federal Court to entertain criminal appeals in certain cases, he has the right to move the Privy Council for grant of special leave in appropriate cases. I suggest, therefore, that this question relating to the jurisdiction of criminal appeals may very well be dropped.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): Sir, I rise wholeheartedly to support the principles of this Bill. We are going in due course and in the fullness of time to have a full-fledged Supreme Court which I P M. will really be supreme in all legal matters; but the House feels that the Bill does not go far enough. The reason is that there is a fear that some of the sections of the Government of India Act will stand in the way. There is also a view taken in this House that this House is not a sovereign legislature and the other House which is called a House for constitution making is supreme. The only distinction that I see between the two Houses is that this House sits in one room and the other House sits in another room, and while the other House has a President this House has a Speaker who are different persons. The members of both Houses are the same. This artificial distinction has been brought about for certain practical and administrative reasons. The distinction does not exist in the Indian Independence Act and must be rejected. I therefore fail to see how on account of these trivial and minute distinctions, which I do not consider to be relevant, the House loses the character of a sovereign body and shape our law in any way it thinks fit. Sir, Parliament has absolutely washed its hands of any further legislation relating to India. They say, "We are not going to make any further laws for India". On the other hand, we hold that this House is not sovereign and cannot pass certain kinds of legislation. We are thus in a state of *vacuo* and, as in the case of the Extra-Provincial Jurisdiction Bill, in a case of a *vacuo* we should intervene. I hope the House will agree with me that this House is identical with the House from which it is sought to be artificially distinguished. I hope this point will be carefully considered, and if necessary an amending Bill should be brought in. And if the Honourable Law Minister agrees with the suggestion by Shri Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar we can proceed with the amendments straightaway.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Sir, I am grateful to the House for having expressed its general satisfaction with this Bill. I will therefore deal only with certain points of criticism which have been raised by certain Honourable Members who have taken part in this debate. The first point of criticism relates to what I might call a timidity for my not going the whole hog and abolishing appeals to the Privy Council and conferring the fullest jurisdiction on the Federal Court. I am told that I am making a sort of artificial distinction between this legislature and the Constituent Assembly and that I am

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*The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock.
Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.*

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the enlargement of the appellate jurisdiction of the Federal Court in civil cases be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Sir, with regard to clause 3 I would like to move an amendment. I move:

"That in clause 3—

(1) The word 'and' at the end of sub-clause (a) (ii) be omitted;

(2) The following be inserted as sub-clause (b):

'(b) in any such appeal as aforesaid, it shall be competent for the Federal Court to consider any question of the nature mentioned in sub-section (1) of Section 205 of the Government of India Act, 1935'; and

(3) The existing sub-clause (b) be re-lettered as sub-clause (c)."

Mr. Speaker: I suppose this is an agreed amendment

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes, Sir

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That in clause 3—

(1) The word 'and' at the end of sub-clause (a) (ii) be omitted;

(2) The following be inserted as sub-clause (b):

'(b) in any such appeal as aforesaid, it shall be competent for the Federal Court to consider any question of the nature mentioned in sub-section (1) of Section 205 of the Government of India Act, 1935'; and

(3) The existing sub-clause (b) be re-lettered as sub-clause (c)."

Shri K. Santhanam: This amendment requires only one remark. As you pointed out, this does modify Section 205 and I am glad to know that between the two lawyers, the Law Minister and the greatest lawyer in this Assembly, they have decided to make a change in the constitution, though they considered it apparently illegal to do so.

Mr. Speaker: There seems to be some misapprehension. Instead of using the words "Notwithstanding anything contained in section 205" the amendment repeats what is contained in the Government of India Act, Section 205.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I submit that this legislature has full power to make law. This subterranean arrangement of compromises and half-hearted drafts are not necessary. In Section 8 of the Indian Independence Act sub-section 2 it is said that the Government of India Act may be adapted by the Governor-General. He can adapt, modify or even supersede the Government of India Act. Sub-section 2, proviso (e) says that the functions of the Indian Legislature shall be exercisable by the Constituent Assembly in addition to the power of making the constitution. If we sit as an Assembly on the legislative side, even assuming it to be a different body, this proviso gives the power to this Assembly.

There is one very important provision in Section 9, which empowers the Governor-General to make adaptations. Section 9, clause (5) which makes provision for additions to, adaptations or modifications to the Government of India Act, prescribes no limitation upon the Governor-General. I asked the Honourable Law Minister in the last session of the Constituent Assembly whether the Governor-General's power were exhausted by the first adaptation. He replied that his powers were exhausted. I ask the attention of this House to sub-section (5), which empowers the Governors to make adaptations to the

provincial constitution. Sub-section lays down that the orders made by the Governor of a Province adapting the Act for provincial purposes will be limited to the appointed day, that is the 15th August. So far as the Governor General is concerned his power may be exercised not after the 31st March, 1948. The Governor General's power has not yet been exhausted. He can by a further modification of the Government of India Act introduce any changes he likes. Now the Governor General does not act on his individual discretion but on the advice of the council of ministers. So the bar of the Government of India Act may easily be removed by a further adaptation of the Act under sub-section 5 of section 9. This gives the Governor General powers any number of times which may be exercised before the 1st April 1948. Here is a shortcut which will remove all difficulties. The Bill may wait and in the course of this day the different Sections may be amended, adapted or modified by the Governor General and tomorrow we can introduce amendments, and they will be agreed amendments. There is no difference as to the purposes of the Members of this House. The only difficulty was procedural. The difficulty was supposed to be raised by the existing Government of India Act. But that can be adapted as many times as the Governor General pleases, he not being a Provincial Government. This aspect of the question will perhaps remove our hesitations and doubts and probably be acceptable to all sections of the House.

Shri Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar: Sir, I heartily support the amendment proposed by the Honourable the Law Minister. That carries out the main principle of the amendment which I sought to introduce in the House. As a matter of fact, if I may say so, there is no constitutional point. The difficulty arises merely by reason of clause (b) of section 2 of this Bill which says 'judgment to which this Act applies' means any judgment, decree or final order of a High Court in a civil case from which a direct appeal could have been brought to His Majesty in Council, either with or without special leave, if this Act had not been passed." If you read it along with the interpretation put by the Privy Council, in regard to which some difference was expressed, you cannot bring a direct appeal if a constitutional point was raised unless through the medium of Section 205. As a matter of fact Section 206 itself provides that "the Dominion Legislature"—I am speaking of the Dominion Legislature and not of any other—"may by Act provide that in such civil cases as may be specified in the Act an appeal shall lie to the Federal Court from a judgment, decree or final order of a High Court without any such certificate as aforesaid", that is as mentioned in Section 205. So there is no constitutional point at all. The trouble arises because of the language of section 2 (b). That ambiguity is now removed. If section 2 (b) as it is, is read with the pronouncement of the Judicial Committee the difficulty may be created as by reason of the provisions of section 205 an appellant will be precluded from raising a constitutional point when a general appeal is lodged before the Supreme Court. But there is no constitutional point because section 206 itself provides that notwithstanding the absence of any certificate you can do this. The only difficulty that has arisen is by reason of the definition in section 2 (b) and the ambiguity has now been removed. There is no necessity for any further adaptation or any such thing. I need not go into the broader question as to what exactly is the power of this Dominion Legislature.

Mr. Speaker: That will be unnecessary at this stage. I shall put the amendment to the House.

The question is:

"That in clause 3—

(1) The word 'and' at the end of sub-clause (a) (ii) be omitted;

(2) The following be inserted as sub-clause (b):

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[Mr. Speaker]

(b) in any such appeal as aforesaid, it shall be competent for the Federal Court to consider any question of the nature mentioned in sub-section (1) of Section 205 of the Government of India Act, 1935; and

(3) The existing sub-clause (b) be re-lettered as sub-clause (c)."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 4 and 5 were added to the Bill.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I beg to move:

"That after clause 5 of the Bill, the following new clause be inserted, namely:

"5A. After the appointed day, any party to an appeal pending before His Majesty in Council, before that day, may apply to the Federal Court to withdraw the appeal to its own file, if the appeal is one which if filed after the appointed day before the Federal Court it could have jurisdiction under this Act to entertain it; and the Federal Court may after notice to the other party to the appeal withdraw the appeal to its own file on such terms and conditions as it may deem fit."

The object of this amendment is this. The present Bill seeks to transfer to the Federal Court all appeals to which special leave was granted by the Privy Council, cases to which special leave was granted by the High Court and also cases where no leave is necessary but appeals could straightway be preferred to the Privy Council. But the previous section contemplates only cases which are not pending on that day, that is where preliminary steps have been taken and proceedings went only up to the stage of papers being transmitted. I would like the scope of this Bill to be extended even to pending cases. But some of them may be part-heard. It may not be desirable to transfer part-heard cases to the Federal Court. The parties might have incurred a lot of expenditure. But cases where the appeals might have been admitted but the other proceedings might not have begun and consequently no expenditure incurred by the parties—such cases pending before the Privy Council but which have not been in the stage of hearing or not been taken up may on the application of either party be withdrawn by the Federal Court, provided the Federal Court may after notice to the other party to the appeal withdraw the appeal to its own file on such terms and conditions as it may deem fit. One party might have incurred a lot of expenditure: it might have spent money in engaging solicitors, barristers etc. and the other party may move for withdrawal of that appeal just for inconvenience to the first party, and make it undergo once again all the trouble and turmoil. It is open to the Federal Court before which an application for withdrawal is made to consider the circumstances and to grant or reject the application, and if it chooses to grant the application, it may do so on payment of costs, etc. Therefore this is an enabling provision which would not be binding because an application ought to be made to the Federal Court and it is open to it to accept it or to reject it. A similar provision is contained in section 20 of the Civil Procedure Code for transfer of appeals from one court to another. We want to enlarge the jurisdiction of the Federal Court and to limit the jurisdiction of the Privy Council except in cases where progress has been made already to a considerable extent. In all cases we need not go to the Privy Council.

Shri K. Santhanam: What if the Privy Council refuses leave to withdraw?

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: My friend Mr. Santhanam asks me what will happen if the Privy Council refuses leave to withdraw? Under this Bill I have not contemplated the willingness or unwillingness of the Privy Council. It is if the application was made before the Federal Court and if the Federal Court chose to withdraw, the case will automatically go

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That after clause 5 of the Bill, the following new clause be inserted, namely:

"5A. After the appointed day, any party to an appeal pending before His Majesty in Council, before that day, may apply to the Federal Court to withdraw the appeal to its own file, if the appeal is one which if filed after the appointed day before the Federal Court it could have jurisdiction under this Act to entertain it; and the Federal Court may after notice to the other party to the appeal withdraw the appeal to its own file on such terms and conditions as it may deem fit."

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Sir, I cannot accept this amendment. My honourable friend has not defined what is a pending appeal. The Bill defines a pending appeal. An appeal where papers have been despatched is deemed to be a pending appeal under the Bill. After the papers have been despatched there is no provision in this Bill for withdrawal for the simple reason that it is presumed that when papers and documents have been despatched, the parties have incurred all liabilities for payment of such costs as may be involved in that appeal, and there is therefore no reason why the appeal should be transferred to the Federal Court with the obligation of a double expenditure, once at the Privy Council end and once here: and I therefore think that we have to look at it purely from the point of view of the costs to the litigant. If sufficient costs have been incurred, then I think it is not right that the appeal should be transferred to the Federal Court. No doubt here there is provision that the terms of such transfer and withdrawal may be prescribed by the Federal Court. But I think it would be putting an unnecessary obligation upon the parties which they may not voluntarily accept and I therefore think that the provisions contained in the Bill ought to be regarded as satisfactory at the present stage.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I do not like to press my amendment. I do not want to divide the House on the matter. I consulted the Law Minister and I thought he consented.

Mr. Speaker: Apart from this, I was feeling another difficulty, and that was as to whether the Federal Court could be treated as a court superior to the Privy Council for the purpose of withdrawal of an appeal that has been filed. It would have been another matter if the amendment had sought to compel the litigant himself, but that is a question of phraseology of the section.

Has the Honourable Member leave of the House to withdraw his amendment?

The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Clauses 6 to 8 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, with your permission I would like to say a few words in this connection. We are trying to do away with one bad thing after another of inferiority to foreign domination. The link is not yet completely severed. I would urge upon the Honourable Minister to take immediate steps, even without waiting for the constitution being framed formally, to bring a small Act raising the Federal Court to the status of a Supreme Court. So far as clothing the Federal Court with power is concerned, with all respect to my Honourable friend Dr. Ambedkar, I feel that the Federal Court in withdrawing such appeals as are pending before the Privy Council,

[Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]

derives its power from this sovereign Assembly. Anyhow I have not pressed that matter and the matter does not arise. Therefore, Sir, with the help of the legislators and my Honourable friend Mr. Alladi, I hope very soon we will have a Supreme Court established in this country and do away with the Privy Council. We ought not to be satisfied with this and prolong the agony of going to a foreign court. They may not understand many cases where religious matters are involved and what the kind of mark is put on an idol. Muslim Waqf cases go there. They do not know any of our cases. They want to hold supreme authority over us, and it is for that reason that, though the Judges there may be impartial, they do not feel one with the community here. Therefore he alone would be wise who understands the manner in which the social trends work in a particular community. Therefore, Sir, without the least disrespect to the Privy Council I would urge upon our Minister and our Government to introduce a Bill immediately to raise the status of the Federal Court to that of a Supreme Court so that we may have independence in the matter of our own legal institutions at least as early as possible.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I also rise to support the motion. The Bill has raised high expectations which have not yet been fulfilled. There is section 6 of the Indian Independence Act which in sub-section (1) says that the Legislature of each Dominion shall have "full power" to make laws for that dominion, and as if there was any doubt, sub-section (2) provides—I read only the operative part—

"No law shall be void or inoperative on the ground that it is repugnant to.....the provisions of this or any existing or future Act of Parliament of the United Kingdom, or to any order, rule or regulation made under any such Act."

So the full power of legislation through the Dominion Legislature sitting as such is conceded, and an assurance is given that no law would be inoperative because it may offend against any Act of the Parliament including the Government of India Act. And then again if there is the slightest doubt about it, the Governor-General can be made to make further modifications in the Government of India Act. That can be done under section 9 (5) of the Indian Independence Act. I hope the Government would take courage in both hands and come to this House with the full assurance that it is a sovereign legislature, and if there is any lurking suspicion anywhere, then the Governor General can be utilised to assent to another suitable adaptation. I think the House is unanimous as to the ultimate purpose of this Bill.

Shri Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar: Sir, I just want to say a word or two about the Judicial Committee. While heartily supporting this measure, I must say that there is no doubt that in the long period of association of the Judicial Committee with the Judicial work of India, it has enriched considerably the jurisprudence of this country. There might have been occasional lapses in the interpretation of Hindu Law, which might have been set right. But on the whole I think even the Supreme Court cannot have a more illustrious example than the example of the Privy Council. Bred up in the tradition of law which the Privy Council has laid down, I feel that the Supreme Court in India can very well follow the illustrious example of the Privy Council. That does not mean any disrespect to our legal talent or our ability to master our own affairs. Every country would like to have its own judges, in particular its own law. That is so in Australia, in Canada and other countries of the world. We have come to our own and there is no reason why a distinction should be drawn between the judicial part of the administration and the other parts of the administration.

But at the same time, I must express my high appreciation of the work which the Judicial Committee has done during all these years; on very many important occasions the Judicial Committee has come out very well indeed though occasionally there have been lapses and there has been misinterpretation of our system of law.

Sir, that is the only reason why I have interposed at this stage of the debate.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

REPEALING AND AMENDING BILL

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Minister for Law): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to repeal or amend certain enactments be taken into consideration."

I do not think, Sir, any speeches are necessary because this is a very routine measure. There were certain enactments passed during the War; the powers given by them have exhausted; some of them have come to an end. It is very desirable that the Statute Book which has been so heavily burdened by these, should be pruned and curtailed. Sir, I move.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to repeal or amend certain enactments be taken into consideration."

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): Sir, I do not want to take up your time, but I am only sorry that he has not added to the list of one hundred and fifty odd, the Government of India Act.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to repeal or amend certain enactments be taken into consideration."

The Motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

INDIAN TARIFF (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil (Minister for Works, Mines and Power): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934, be taken into consideration."

Sir, this is a very small Bill which deals with two matters: one is protection for grinding wheels and segments; and the other is protection to fruit juices, jams and fruits dried and salted. It is very pleasant at least to utter these words if we cannot get the things.

You know, Sir, that at the request of the industries concerned, enquiries were ordered by the Government and the Indian Tariff Board went through the case of fruit preservation industry as well as the case of the industry of grinding wheels and segments. The recommendations of the Indian Tariff Board have been accepted by the Government; to give effect to these recommendations this Bill has been brought forward. There is nothing, so far as I am able to see, controversial about it and I do not want to take any further time of the House beyond stating that this protection is absolutely necessary. While granting this protection certain conditions have been laid down with respect to the grinding wheels and segments and one of them is that the principal company which

[Prof. N. G. Ranga]

been private firms, how can we satisfy ourselves that there is going to be effective and powerful competition between them, how can we satisfy ourselves that they will necessarily remain efficient in management, in their labour and various other respects? And why has it become impossible for the Government to think of themselves taking up this business and running it? If the production of these grinding stones is of such vital necessity for our national economy, and if the total amount of capital that is going to be invested in it is not going to be such an enormous thing, certainly Government should think of running it themselves and giving themselves necessary protection, or whatever it is, instead of encouraging these two private firms to start the thing run it and make it worth while to run it. Therefore, Sir, I want the Government to.....

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari (Madras: General): Switch on from log-rolling to grinding?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why, my friend knows the value of grinding because all these concerns of the capitalists have been grinding their teeth against us, the ordinary voters in this country.

Therefore, Sir, I want the Government to see that at least when they come forward with similar proposals next time, they would take greater care and attend to this point of efficiency carefully as also not distribute these gifts to the private firms.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I am extremely obliged to the Honourable Members for having shifted the emphasis from mere grinding business and fruit to one of protection *versus* free trade. I know, Mr. Speaker, that you will not permit me to dilate on this, but I claim your indulgence for just a few minutes to answer this issue, which is merely academic for the present. In a country like this, if we can't supply capital immediately from the State, some scope must be given for our private enterprise, and so long as private enterprise does the pioneering work it is entitled to the benefit as well as to bear the burden. I agree with my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga when he says that when a particular industry claims protection it must no longer remain a private and a proprietary concern. That is exactly the view of the Tariff Board. It says:

"So long as an industrialist is prepared to bear all the risk of a pioneer enterprise on his own shoulder, it is open to him to decide as to whether his business should be run as a proprietary or a public company. He bears all the losses and derives all the gains of his enterprise. But if and when he comes forward with an application for public assistance, he is asking the public to share his risks and losses so that his business can tide over its financial difficulty. In such a case, it is obviously fair that he should also admit the public to some of the advantages of his business. One such advantage is the right to participate in the share capital."

That is exactly the condition laid down in this particular case. Now with regard to the general question of protection, as I said this country is committed to a policy of discriminating protection and certain conditions have been laid down, which if fulfilled will entitle the industry to some protection at the hands of the State. One of the conditions is that within a reasonable time when protection is given the industry must stand on its own legs. That is exactly the purpose of limiting the present protection to the period that is stated in the Bill. Sir, I know that protection works against the interests of the consumer in the short term. If we allow our country's industries to go on by following an unmixed policy of Free Trade, there is no future even for the labourers. Therefore, we cannot but accept a policy which will try to balance the interest of the consumer as well as the larger interests of the country from the point of view of industrialisation and I think the policy of the present Government is on the right lines. Unless there is a radical change in it, the Bill cannot be said not to have complied with the broad outline of that policy.

Having said that, Sir, an important issue has been raised by my Honourable friend, Mr. Santhanam, that an attempt has been made, a back-door attempt, to bring in Imperial Preference. Apparently he may be correct, but I want to assure him that there is no such attempt; there is no such intention to bring in Imperial Preference, either by the front door or by the back door. The policy of this Government is to consider every trade, every business from the view point of India's best interests and to enter into agreement with other countries in the world. That is exactly the procedure that has been followed at Geneva and that is exactly the motive with which this Government has agreed to participate in the Havana Conference.

Now coming to these particular items, I want to bring to the notice of my Honourable friend, Mr. Santhanam, who is so very vigilant—I admire him for that—that only a few months ago, what he was complaining now was actually done in the amendment to the Tariff Act that was effected in April 1947. The broad point is that when revenue duties are converted into protective duties the preference ought to go automatically according to one interpretation of the agreement. The other interpretation is that the current preferences ought to remain till they are modified by mutual agreement or by the termination of the period for which the agreement has been entered into. I can assure my Honourable friend that it would not be very wise at this moment to unilaterally terminate the preferences which are being enjoyed for a pretty long time, although according to one interpretation, as I said, by simply turning the revenue duty into protection duty, we can end the preference, but in the present atmosphere, it will not be a wise step. We are already having some sort of negotiations on these matters at Havana and at Geneva. Therefore, this action on our part may possibly prejudice our chances in getting a better deal. I would, therefore, in all humility request Mr. Santhanam not to read too much in the Bill and agree with me that it has nothing to do with the larger question of Imperial Preference. But if this does not satisfy my Honourable friend, I give him a further assurance, that if after the return of Honourable Mr. Bhaba and if after studying the position that may arise as a result of our participation in the Havana Conference, we find that this preference has worked to the disadvantage of the industries for the protection of which this Bill has been brought, I assure him by an executive action, the preference will either be considerably reduced or eliminated. I think with that assurance and I am sure with his sweet reasonableness, he will not pursue the matter further, because if he does that, I will be forced to say something which may prejudice the chances of our people who are very skillfully and very delicately negotiating the situation at Havana.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

In moving this, I am extremely grateful to the Honourable Members of this House in making it possible to get through this Bill without obliging me to make any prejudicial or awkward remarks. I am also greatly obliged to Mr. Santhanam.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

[Shri N. V. Gadgil]

runs this industry has been asked to turn it into a public limited company and Government have been informed that the matter is being referred to the legal adviser of the company and that it will be done. There is another firm which deals in this; it is located in East Punjab and owing to the disturbed circumstances, conditions which were expected to be fulfilled by that particular firm could not be fulfilled in time. But the Government have been assured that those things will be done and on that assumption this Bill has been introduced. Sir, I move.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934, be taken into consideration."

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): Sir, it is said that the wheels of God grind slowly but the wheels of the Commerce Department seem to grind rather fast because in their anxiety to give protection to the grinding wheels, they have brought before us a measure which, for the first time after our Freedom commits us to the principle of Imperial Preference. If you look at the Schedule given, Sir, you will find that under 20(1), for the fruit juices manufactured in a British colony it is 27 per cent., and when not manufactured in a British colony, 40 per cent. The present revenue duty is 20 per cent and so the fruit juices manufactured in this country get little—only 7 per cent.—compared to the fruit juices manufactured in a British colony. Really it is a protection to the fruit juices of the British colony, not so much to the fruit juices prepared in India. The same is to be found in the next column about the canned or bottled fruits. I am afraid the Commerce Department did not reflect on the serious consequences of formally bringing forward a measure which, though it is minor, commits this Legislature of Free India to the principle of Imperial Preference. It is in this way, carelessly I think, big issues are being brought in by the back-door. I wish they had not done it and I have tabled an amendment to remove this objectionable principle of Imperial Preference. I hope the Honourable Minister will see his way to accept it.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U. P.: General): Sir, apart from what my Honourable friend Mr. Santhanam has pointed out, I would like to say one thing about protection. I have been connected with the sugar industry which is also a protected industry, for the last 17 years; and I find that sometimes protection becomes a cause for inefficiency. Today, in fact, the sugar industry has become very inefficient on account of protection given to it. Although the question is under consideration whether this protection should not be taken away now, and although I agree that protection has done a good deal of good to the industry in the beginning, still I think that when protection is allowed to an industry, it must be seen that there is also some method to see that the industry is efficient. Otherwise the consumers will be burdened with an additional amount of money and I think the country also will not benefit very much by it. I therefore warn the Honourable Commerce Minister that while giving protection to these industries, he must also see that this protection is not used in a manner which fosters inefficiency.

As for the other big principle of Imperial Preference which was pointed out by my Honourable friend Mr. Santhanam, I think my Honourable friend the Commerce Minister will see that no Imperial Preference is allowed by this Bill, because I do not think that he wants the consequences, that followed from the betrayal of national interests at Ottawa by accepting the system of Imperial Preferences, to be repeated. I therefore hope that this principle of Imperial Preference will not be brought in by the back-door as is done in this Bill.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala (Bihar: General): Sir, my Honourable friend Mr. Shibbanlal Saksena has said that he was not in favour of protection as it brings inefficiency and he quoted the example of sugar industry.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: I did not say that I do not want to give protection; I said efficiency must be kept up.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: He gave the example of the sugar industry and said that he had been attached to it for 17 years and he found that that industry had become very inefficient. Sir, I beg to differ from him. My experience of the sugar industry has been that it has attained good efficiency so far as manufacturing side is concerned. In that side it has attained approximating standard of efficiency as is in Cuba, Java and other foreign countries.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: No.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Inefficiency lies not in the manufacturing side but in the cultivation of cane. Here the whole thing was controlled by Government. It was controlled on the ground that millowners did not give sufficiently high price to the growers. Government imposed a cess with a view to improving cultivation of sugar cane. They promised to utilise the cess for the improvement of sugar cane cultivation, which they did not do. They utilised it for some other purpose, and as such the cultivation side remained neglected.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I am afraid any detailed discussion in regard to sugar cane cultivation and sugar manufacture will not be quite relevant to the present purpose.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Sir, I simply wanted to point out that sugar industry is not inefficient because of the protection as my Honourable friend has said. It is only inefficient in regard to the growing of cane, and that is because the Government imposed a cess which they did not utilise for improving the plantation of cane, and as such this should not be taken as an argument for withholding protection to other industries.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Madras: General): Sir, I wish to warn my Honourable friend the Minister for Commerce not to take it for granted that this House will always be ready to pass any Bill for protection to any and every industry. In the past it used to be the practice to supply to members relevant extracts or a copy of the Report of the Tariff Board which went into this sort of a question and made recommendations. Now, we have not got that information. The next thing is, even my Honourable friend in his speech made it clear that in regard to this grinding stone there are only two firms. They have been private firms till now, and now it is the Government which is asking them, "For God's sake, convert yourself into a joint stock company, so that it will be possible for us to help you by giving protection." It is extraordinary how the Government have become so very solicitous in regard to this protection. Are we to understand that the Government have become a sort of boon-giver or gift-giver to all and sundry, whether they call themselves 'industrialists', whether they are joint stock companies or whether they are sponsored by interested parties. It does not matter whether there is any control over them or not. Government are very anxious to give them protection and they are asking them to convert themselves into joint stock companies. I think this approach is really very wrong and I hope the Commerce Department will think about it twice before they make any proposal like this next time.

An Honourable Member: What about this time?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: This time they are log-rolling things.

Secondly, Sir, one of our friends Mr. Shibban Lal Saksena, said—and quite rightly—that there is every danger, once protection is given, of efficiency not being kept up so high. Of course, he was partly answered by my friend Mr. Jhunjhunwala that so far as the sugar industry is concerned, you cannot very well level that charge. May be so, but nevertheless, we must satisfy ourselves that there would be sufficient competition between these various firms in order to ensure the necessary standard of efficiency, if we are to give protection at all. But when there are only two firms and up till now they have

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh (Minister for Defence): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to enable certain special powers to be conferred upon officers of the armed forces in disturbed areas, be taken into consideration."

Sir, in the beginning of this year when communal riots broke out in the Punjab on an unprecedented scale, the administration of that part of the country completely broke down. The Police there failed to perform its duties and in some cases they even refused to work. Another factor which must be borne in mind is that in that part of the country the Police was 90 per cent. of one community. The communal riots took a very ugly shape and the Provincial Government requested the Government of India for military help. We sent a large number of troops, but the presence of troops there did not very much improve the situation. It was not on account of the inadequacy of the troops, but because the troops were spread over the whole of that part of the country and under the laws then prevailing they were not in a position to take any action. Representations were made to the Government of India by several people, by the Section 93 Administration of the Punjab Province, and also by publicmen that additional powers should be given to the armed forces. In deference to the wishes of the local administration and other bodies, an Ordinance was promulgated which is before the House. This Ordinance, Sir, expires early in January or sometime in the middle of February and if we do not pass this Bill, the Ordinance will lapse and the armed forces will find themselves in a difficult position. It is for this reason that this Bill is placed before the House so that we do not have to resort to an Ordinance again.

The provisions of the Bill, Sir, may look drastic, but I wish to point out that up till now they have been worked without any hardship to anybody. The powers cannot be used unilaterally by the armed forces. Firstly, the provincial Government has to declare an area as a disturbed area; and, secondly, the provisions of the Bill are only for a year. If at the end of this year we consider that it is necessary to extend the provisions of the Bill for another period of one year, only then the Bill will be so extended. Upto now this Ordinance was in force only in the Punjab and later on when the communal situation in other parts of the country deteriorated the Governments of the U.P., Bengal and Assam asked the Government of India to extend the provisions of this Ordinance to those parts of the country also. So at present the position is that this Ordinance is in force in four provinces of India. Under this Bill we will be taking power which will apply to the whole of India, but it will be open to the provincial Governments to enforce this Bill in any way they like. They have complete power, first to declare an area as disturbed area, and then only will the provisions of this Bill come into operation.

That in short is the history of this Bill and the provisions that are contained in the Bill seem to be rather drastic; but I can assure the House that after the experience we have up till now we are convinced that the powers have not been unnecessarily used and there have been no complaints from any of the provinces. I hope the House will be convinced, if amendments are moved, that these powers will be used in the right way and there will be no complaint about it.

Another thing is that we have no intention at all to extend the period beyond one year. Some Honourable Members may have a feeling that perhaps we will go on extending it beyond one year or even later. I can assure the House that we have absolutely no such desire and it will be extended only if the communal situation does not improve. Sir, I move.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to enable certain special powers to be conferred upon officers of the armed forces in disturbed areas, be taken into consideration."

(1732)

Pandit Thakurdas Bhargava (East Punjab: General): Sir, this is a Bill of a very special nature and I should like to make a few observations as regards its utility and also its legality. In my humble opinion this Bill is rather misconceived. I know that certain provincial Governments have passed certain Ordinances which are mentioned in clause 4 but, as was said in the debate on controls, it is a vicious circle. At a time when the Legislatures was not sitting certain Ordinances are passed; and when these Ordinances come into use it is taken for granted that since they have been there for a certain time they have thereby become sacrosanct. The reason advanced is that as no particular grievances have been brought before the House or before the country there is no reason why these Ordinances should not be regarded as having proved successful. My humble submission is that if you look into these Ordinances and the drastic nature of their provisions you will be convinced that they are nothing less than lawless laws. In the first place you have to consider the effect of a declaration under section 15 of the Police Act (V of 1861) which runs as follows:

(1) "It shall be lawful to the Local Government by proclamation to be notified in the official Gazette and in such other manner as the Local Government may direct, to declare that any area subject to its authority has been found to be in a disturbed or dangerous state or that from the conduct of the inhabitants of such area or class or section of them it is expedient to increase the number of police."

(2) "It shall thereupon be lawful for the Inspector-General of Police or other officer with the sanction of the Local Government to employ any police force in addition to the ordinary fixed complement to be quartered in the area specified in such proclamation."

The heading of the section is "Quartering of additional police in disturbed or dangerous districts."

The only purpose of making this declaration according to the Police Act was that power was taken by the Local Government to add to the number of police. This proclamation was intended for no other purpose. Now I understand the proclamation if made will entitle the military and air forces of the Crown to have certain powers. A reading of the Police Act will show that the situation contemplated by the Act is consistent with the idea that the civil authorities shall have power and authority in the province and not the military authorities. Now, Sir, we have just heard from the Honourable Mover of this Bill that in the Punjab there was complete chaos and the administration completely broke down and we have also heard that even troops could not give any protection. I know that in the Punjab there was an abnormal situation; I myself was a witness to that situation because I was in the Punjab in those days and I saw how the police and the troops were working. If a situation develops in such a manner as it developed in the Punjab my humble submission is that no provincial Government can properly control that situation. That was a case for declaration of martial law; that was not a case in which Ordinances like the one sought to be propounded would have been of any great use. When there is such a breakdown as we witnessed in the Punjab, and as has been admitted by the Honourable Mover of the Bill, it was a case where the civil administration should have stayed its hands and handed the administration over to the military authorities. In 55 Bombay, page 263 the conditions in which martial law can be declared have been laid down thus:

"Where a state of war, or insurrection amounting to war, exists, it is competent for the Crown in the exercise of its prerogative to place the country affected under martial law. Martial law in that sense. . . is no law at all."

The judgment then goes on to say:

"The civil authorities are not entitled to abrogate their duties and to hand over control to the military except in cases of necessity—in as much as martial law is no law at all. The existence of martial law places all citizens in the area to which it extends under the unfettered control of the military authorities, whose acts are not justifiable by the civil Courts. It is . . . plainly the duty of the civil authorities, assisted by

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all loyal subjects, whether civil or military, to carry on the civil administration, and not to hand over control to the military, unless the necessity of the case demands it . . . It is undoubtedly the duty of the Courts, if the necessity is challenged, to enquire into the matter, and if the necessity is not established, then any persons who have committed acts not sanctioned by the ordinary law are liable to be attacked in the Courts at the instance of those who have suffered from their lawless acts."—(*Ratanlal and Thakore's Law of Crimes*, page 153.)

My humble submission is that in this situation, which has been compared to the situation as it existed in the Punjab, the civil authorities should have ceased to function and the country should have been made over to the military authorities and the military authorities would certainly have rendered such service as they were capable of. But as long as this is there, under Section 15 the law assumes that even the additional police would have been able to restore orders. This is the plain meaning of Section 15 because after the declaration the consequences are that the Local Government is authorised to have additional police. Therefore my submission is that the law of the country is quite clear and I will refer you to sections 127—132 of the Criminal Procedure Code by virtue of which if the Magistrate is unable to disperse any unlawful assembly, he can call in the aid of the military to help him and certain restrictions are given in section 132 by virtue of which the military does not have their own way. And if we compare the provisions of these sections (127-132) with the provisions contained in this present measure, you will be astounded to see the difference.

My humble submission is that either the civil authorities can function or they cannot function. If they cannot function, it is a case of making over the command to the military authorities. As long as the civil authorities function, it is the civil authorities who have the last say in the matter. It is the Magistrate or the Courts who will decide the rights and liabilities of the persons affected by that situation and not the military. According to the provisions of section 127 to 132 when a riot cannot be quelled by the civil authorities, then in that case alone the Magistrate is entitled to call in the aid of the military and the military then acts under the supervision and under the control of the Magistrate as long as he is there. If he is not there and the military is called in, then in that contingency the military are given certain powers, but those powers are very limited.

As regards this Bill, there is another point of view from which I wish to place the provisions of this Bill before you and it is in this contingency. Suppose the magistrate or civil authorities call the aid of the military and the question arises about quelling the disturbance or the riot, would the provisions of this Act apply or the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code? I submit there would be conflict between the two authorities; but according to the authority of the Criminal Procedure Code, the Magistrate has the last say in the matter. But the military have no right if the Magistrate is there. According to the provisions of this Act, independent of the fact that the Magistrate is there or not, the military have the last say and they can shoot and kill any one they please. As long as the Criminal Procedure Code is not abrogated, this law will not have any force. In such circumstances, when a riot is quelled, this Bill shall have no force.

Now let us see to what cases and contingencies this Bill shall apply, and I wish to read to you the first section which shall show how misconceived and mischievous this Bill is:

"Any commissioned officer, warrant officer, or non-commissioned officer of His Majesty's military or air forces may, in any area in respect of which a proclamation under sub-section (1) of section 15 of the Police Act, 1861 (V of 1861) is for the time being in force or which is for the time being by any form of words declared by the Provincial Government under any other law to be a disturbed or dangerous area,—

(a) if in his opinion it is necessary so to do for the maintenance of public order, after

giving such warning, if any, as he may consider necessary, fire upon or otherwise use force, even to the causing of death, against any person, who is acting in contravention of any Law or order for the time being in force in the said area prohibiting the assembly of five or more persons or the carrying of weapons or of things capable of being used as weapons;"

After having read this, I will invite your attention to the salient points.

The first point is that any commissioned officer need not give any warning at all, because the words are "after giving such warning if any. . ." According to the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code, the Magistrate has to give warning; the police officer has to give warning; every person who disperses an unlawful assembly has to give a warning. If an unlawful assembly is sought to be dispersed, the magistrate and police officer have to give definite warnings. According to these provisions, if from the air there is bombing over the nationals of this country, if firing is opened upon an innocent crowd, upon an assembly which may or may not be unlawful, it will be the right of this commissioned officer to shoot or kill people in any manner he likes.

Now, Sir, this is not all. Then the words are: "who is acting in contravention of any law or order prohibiting the assembly of five or more persons". What is this assembly? I will give you an instance which happened with me. In Gurgaon sometime back there was a riot and it was a fairly serious riot. After three or four days I went to Gurgaon because I received a wire from a lawyer friend of mine. The authorities had taken upon themselves to arrest hundreds of persons. Many of them were lawyers. I went to a lawyer friend. I called some lawyers to know from them what the matter was but they could not come to my place because they said that five persons could not assemble. I asked them to come but they said they would not. I know it was wrong for the lawyers to think like that. But, if this Bill was there, the lawyers would be right, in view of the words "assembly of five or more persons". If such an ordinance is made, I think a commissioned officer will be within his right to go into a person's house and shoot the people there.

Then the words "who is acting in contravention of any law"—not that he is doing any particular act. "Acting in contravention" is too vague and any innocent person can come within the clutches of law. But if one or two persons are engaged in the act of looting—they cannot be fired at. If they are murdering people they cannot be fired at. If they are committing arson they cannot be fired at. But if they are acting in such a manner that they make an assembly of five or more persons however lawful, then they can be fired at.

Further on, there are the words: "or the carrying of weapons". What is a weapon? It is not defined. A *lathi* or a walking stick may be a weapon, a *dunda* may be a weapon, a penknife may be a weapon. Suppose a person has licensed firearms; even then he will come within the mischief of this Act. Then the words: "or of things capable of being used as weapons". This passes my understanding. Anything may be called as a thing capable of being used as weapons. This is very vague.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma (U. P.: General): May I interrupt my Honourable friend? I think there is a certain amount of misinterpretation regarding this clause of weapons. It is clearly said in clause (a) of sub-section 2 in contravention of any law prohibiting the carrying of weapons. So that the law under which the carrying of weapons will be prohibited will define what weapons are.

Mr. Speaker: Let him have his say. The Honourable Member may explain later on.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I was submitting that in my opinion if there was a law that if a person was committing murder, arson or loot and then he got fired at I could understand it. But to define the occasion in such

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a vague manner that any innocent person could be fired at the sweet will of a commissioned officer, is too much. Then again under the provisions of the Police Act a police officer must be on duty. A police officer belonging to any of the districts of the Punjab will not be on duty in Gurgaon unless he is posted there. But a commissioned officer is on duty wherever he is. There is no condition that he should be on duty or should be charged with the duty of maintaining peace and order. He is at liberty to act as he pleases. When an area is proclaimed as a dangerous or disturbed area, for a few days the emergency is there when disturbances are taking place and when control of freedom of action is necessary. But as soon as the emergency is over after a few days for some weeks thereafter there is a condition of suspense, when these powers can be abused a great deal.

I now come to the other powers. Clause (b) runs as follows:

"arrest without warrant any person who has committed a cognizable offence, or against whom a reasonable suspicion exists that he has committed or is about to commit a cognizable offence."

Sir, the armed forces of a country usually have the same character as the people of that country. If the police are bad, then I cannot say that our troops will be found to possess much higher character. According to the admission of the Honourable the Mover the police is corrupt and police rule has failed and therefore military is called in. What happened during the disturbances in the Punjab? When the Muslim police failed, the Baluchis came in and did things which the police could not do. So far as these powers are concerned I am of opinion that if these powers can be abused by the police, they can be abused much more by the armed forces. The words in section (b) are when a person is "about to commit a cognizable offence". According to the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code no police officer is given powers to arrest a person who is about to commit a cognizable offence. Under Section 54 no powers are given to police officers to arrest persons who are about to commit an offence. It is a very dangerous power that a person should be authorised to arrest a man who is about to commit a cognizable offence. When a man is going on the road how can you say that he is going to commit an offence. He may be going to a temple. In my humble opinion it is too great and arbitrary a power.

The safeguards which are given in the Cr. P. C. about arrests are not provided in this Bill. Those safeguards may not be observed by those who may not be fully conversant with the processes of law. The powers given in clause (c) are very drastic. Any commissioned or non-commissioned officer can enter any person's house at night or day, where ladies live and search and when they find nothing, they may prepare false records as the police usually do. In order to safeguard against the abuse of this power section 103 is provided in the Cr. P. C. that the search should take place in the presence of witnesses, that a person cannot enter a house without giving proper notice to the occupants and without giving all kinds of facilities to purdah ladies to avoid the police when a search is made. No such provision is found in clause (c). Giving of these powers without the safeguards is very dangerous.

Section 3 is more dangerous than the rest. Section 132 of the Cr. P. C. says:

"No prosecution against any person for any act purporting to be done under this Chapter shall be instituted in any Criminal Court, except with the sanction of the Provincial Government."

So when the military is called in, they are saved from prosecution. Another safeguard is in clause (2) of Section 130 of the Cr. P. C. which is very important. It says:

"Every such officer shall obey such requisition in such manner as he thinks fit, but in so doing he shall use as little force, and do as little injury to person and property, as may be consistent with dispersing the assembly and arresting and detaining such persons."

There is no such safeguard here that the military should do as little harm as possible. On the contrary power is given to kill or behave in any manner they please. The only protection afforded is under Section 132. According to the provisions of Sections 76 and 79 of the I.P.C. you will see that the law is very strict. When a commander asks a soldier to shoot and the soldier shoots, he does follow the orders of his superior but in spite of his duty of obedience he is also liable under the civil law. The soldier is under a double liability. If he does not obey his commander he is liable to be court-martialled and if he obeys an illegal order, he is liable under the civil law and can be imprisoned by the civil court. On page 141 of the Law of Crimes it is said:

"A mistake of law in either case would afford no protection, though it might go in mitigation of punishment, and thus military discipline, while it regulates the conduct of the soldier in military matters, is made subject to a higher law in favour of public safety, when the act which the military discipline attempts to enforce or to justify is one which affects the person or property of another. In such a case the civil law looks to the surrounding circumstances to see whether they are of such a character as would lead a man of ordinary intelligence to entertain a reasonable belief that he is bound by law to obey the command of his superior. Obedience to an illegal order can only be used in mitigation of punishment but cannot be used as a complete defence."

In this bill the officer concerned has been vested with a very large discretion. If he thinks necessary to do a particular act for the maintenance of public order, he can do so. An officer might think that unless he struck terror into the minds of the civil population he would not be able to maintain public order and with a view to strike terror he might behave in a particular manner. The provision under section 3 is far too wide of the mark. No prosecution, suit or other legal proceeding can be brought against him. The Cr. P. C. only gives immunity against prosecution suit or legal proceeding can be brought against him if he does any act without lawful excuse, without believing that he is acting rightly. In Sections 76 and 79 of the I.P.C. the words 'good faith' are used. They constitute a very real safeguard. In this bill no such words are used. It is just possible that the frame of the ordinance might have made a mistake when he drafted the ordinance. I hope it will not be supererogation on my part to say that one ordinance was copied from another. The gentleman who framed the original ordinance was under the mistaken belief that by enacting such an ordinance he would be able to help the civil authorities. The civil authorities will not be helped. They ought to be helped when there are unlawful assemblies and a riot is going to take place. In that contingency if there is a magistrate and a commissioned officer it is the magistrate who should have precedence and who should be responsible for peace and order. As between these two officers who will have precedence. This new act will only have reference to the assembly of five or more persons. I therefore submit that this law if passed will not help the civil authorities as it purports to do. The provisions of the Bill are too drastic and might result in a set of circumstances when people will be put to great hardship and suffering on account of these provisions.

[At this stage the Honourable Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (one of the panel of Chairman.)]

Shri M. S. Aney (Deccan and Madras States Group): May I ask the Honourable Member whether he is going to move an amendment for reference to Select Committee or any other amendment?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I am not moving an amendment for reference to Select Committee, nor am I moving any other amendment.
4 P. M. I am not moving any one of my amendments. The Honourable Member is perhaps getting bored. He will please excuse me for I am just going to finish. I know I have taken some time of the House—perhaps more.

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[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

than I ought to have. My only apology is that we are not taking the proper view of the legal provisions as contained in the Criminal Procedure Code with respect to this Bill. I am one of those who want that there should be peace in this land. I do not want that the scenes enacted in the Punjab should be re-enacted here. I do wish that the authorities were armed with full provisions to meet such contingencies. I wish that our civil authorities had more power and that in the proper way and by the proper laws they were authorised to deal with the situation as effectively as possible because I have myself seen the situation with which the people are confronted when there is no peace in the land and when the areas are disturbed or are dangerous. But this Bill will not go a long way in providing a solution to those difficulties. On the contrary, as soon as the emergency is over there will be such a reign of terror, as happened in the Punjab, which will be more terrible than the emergency itself when killings were going on. I have seen in Lahore that after the killings it was the Police and the Baluchis who were setting fire to the houses of Hindus and when the Hindus came forward to quench that fire they were fired at.

Shri Balkrishna Sharma: Did anything like that happen in East Punjab also?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I am only submitting to the House what I saw. I know that these things are not likely to happen in East Punjab. But where are those contending communities now?

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: What happened when the communities were there?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: The point has to be remembered that this measure applies to the whole of India. Therefore it is all the greater reason that we should be circumspect and not inflict any great hardship on the people whom you are not taking into consideration. If an Ordinance has been enacted in some provinces where is the occasion to make this an all-India measure. It is a very drastic measure as has been admitted by the Honourable the Mover. It really affects the rights of the public in general. It gives more power to the army than we are accustomed to. For the last, say, eighty years we have not seen such powers being given to the army. I submit there is no occasion for giving these powers to the army. Why not straightaway say that when an officer sees anybody committing loot, arson, etc. he should be allowed to fire at him or to kill him? There is no such provision. It is only in respect of one matter, that is 'acting in contravention of any law or order for the time being in force in the said area prohibiting the assembly of five or more persons or the carrying of arms'. This power should have been given in respect of more serious matters. The matter in respect of which power has been given is of not much consequence. The assembly of more than five persons may be for the purpose of combining together and going and seeing the authorities for help, and may be unarmed. But even then the powers will be exercised. I cannot agree to the powers given in this Bill. I cannot support the measure.

Shri H. V. Kamath (C. P. Berar: General): Mr. Chairman, for me it goes against the grain to welcome this measure on the morrow of our freedom and I have no doubt whatever in my mind that the Honourable the Defence Minister has brought this measure before this House with the utmost reluctance. There is a saying somewhere in the English language that desperate diseases need desperate remedies. But we have to consider here whether our body politic is suffering from such a desperate disease as to need such a desperate remedy. I believe today that we have tided over the worst crisis and that we have turned the corner so far as our internal disturbances are concerned. The Honourable the Defence Minister referred to the tumult, the shouting and commotion in the Punjab and other parts of our country and

on that ground sought to defend the enactment of this very extraordinary measure. This measure is intended to be temporary no doubt. Clause 1 says it will remain in force only for a period of one year and later on may be extended for a further period not exceeding one year. It may be that one year is a short period. But if during that period a certain section of our forces—be they the police or the army—is going to be invested with very drastic and extraordinary powers, then it is a matter for thought. I for one would say that even a day of unbridled tyranny will entail a very great deal of suffering. Who can say, looking at the provisions of this Bill, that these wide and sweeping powers sought to be conferred upon the armed forces of our country may not be abused? Power is all right so long as it is used for the benefit and the good of the people. But are our troops so perfect that they may not abuse such powers conferred upon them? The powers are intended to meet certain emergencies. We all know well to our cost how our own Indian troops behaved in 1942. I was inside a prison just before August 1942. I am doubtful whether even in those days when the British Empire was about to crumble, when as Haw Haw said Churchill was fast becoming the undertaker of the British Empire—he had undertaken so many things in his lifetime that he was going to become the undertaker of the British Empire—I am doubtful whether even in those days our troops were invested with these sweeping powers, for instance arresting and searching without warrant. Fortunately I was not arrested without a warrant. A police officer came to me and when I asked for the warrant he produced it all right. Now the troops are to be clothed with these wide powers, namely arrest without warrant, search without warrant, and do almost anything they like without any order or warrant. This, to my mind, Sir, is an appalling measure to be brought before this House by a popular government which claims that it has got the backing of the whole nation, that the people are behind it and that they are strong to meet any emergency. Only the other day Sardar Patel declared on the floor of the House that "we are strong to meet any emergency". Then, Sir, the question arises, if we are strong to meet any emergency, why invest our troops, the army, the land forces and the air forces, with these most astounding powers? I do not know, Sir, whether there is any precedent in any other state, in peace time at any rate, for such a measure. There are times, I agree, when a state in process of disintegration. Far back, during the days of the Roman Empire, when the empire was crumbling and was fast declining, the army became so powerful that there was a day when the Roman crown was put to auction for a mere song. The army could do anything and that marked the end that brought about the fall of the Roman Empire.

Sir, we know what the military mind is. We know what military methods are. I concede there are exceptions to the rule among them. Everywhere there are exceptions.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: You are an exception to the rule also.

Shri H. V. Kamath: My Honourable friend is an exception to many things. There are exceptions. There have been great military officers in the past, there are even now; and I have no doubt whatever there will be in the future. In recent times there has been a great military movement where the correct bias was given to military training. I refer, Sir, to the Azad Hind Fauj of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. In addition to ordinary methods of military training, they were given what was called spiritual training. That was why that army did such wonderful things. I do not know whether our Government, our Defence Minister, has under consideration the imparting of such spiritual training to our armed forces. If he has that in mind I feel very gratified and I welcome such an innovation in our military methods. That would give a completely new bias to military training and will reorientate the standards of the army. That will improve the morale of the forces and that will teach them how to contact the civil population, how to behave towards

[Shri H. V. Kamath] them, and how to mix with them as part of the people, as part of the nation. A movement of a similar sort came into being some 300 years ago in our own country, and that was through the agency of another leader, namely Shivaji. He also sought to inculcate a new outlook in his forces, and though it was a mere ragged army, a rabble in arms that force achieved something which perhaps we think today was an impossible feat. So my point is when we seek to clothe our army with powers, we should take care to see that they will use those powers, and not abuse them: and for that purpose, Sir, the cultivation of an outlook, of a mentality, of what the Germans would call *Weltanschauung*, is very necessary. Otherwise, Sir, we drift into disaster. We would merely make the army a dictator, make the army a totalitarian force, the very thing which we have been condemning all these years; the Nazi mentality, the Fascist mentality, the totalitarian mentality we will seek to foist on the soil of our mother country. Such a force might prove in emergencies, and even in peaceful times, a terror to the people, because there is a saying in the English language "So much a long communion tends to make us what, we are." There was a prisoner in a dungeon for twenty years, and when the time came for his release, he said he did not want to go and retain his freedom. So also our troops, if they are clothed with these powers and if they start exercising these powers for a considerably long period, I fear that that might become a habit with them, and as the saying goes, habit is second nature. Therefore we should be very much on our guard because, Sir, we are a popular legislature and we have a popular government; we must be on our guard to see that we are not putting on the Statute Book something which even the British Government in its worst days, in the days of the severest oppression and repression, did not dare to do. I do not think that the British Government even in 1942 and 1943 sought to clothe the army with these powers. After all, Sir, what is the function of an army in a modern state? The primary function of an army is the defence of the country, the defence of the people against external aggression.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: What about internal aggression?

Shri H. V. Kamath: I am coming to that shortly. That is the primary function of the army. There are occasions and emergencies when the assistance of the army is sought in civil disturbances: but when I said the primary function of an army is to defend the country against foreign aggression, I said what I meant, or I meant what I said. But here, Sir, we have a measure where if the provincial government declares a particular area as a disturbed or a dangerous area, then immediately certain things come into effect. I do not know,—because I am not very much conversant with what happened in the Punjab, Assam, Bengal, and the United Provinces,—but in the Central Provinces and Berar whence I come, some areas were declared as disturbed or dangerous on the very flimsiest pretext. After all you all know that the C.P. and Berar have been very free from communal disturbances.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: And yet the largest find of arms has been in the Central Provinces.

Shri H. V. Kamath: I am not referring to those areas where arms were found, but certain rural areas which were declared as disturbed or dangerous just because there was a sort of tavern brawl and here is a measure which confers upon the land forces and air forces certain powers which they would exercise in the cases which I have just cited. Suppose some Muslim *murgi* walks into a Hindu's compound and there is a sort of brawl, there is commotion. And there is a commotion and tumult and shooting. I am not joking; that thing has happened. And the next day the Deputy Commissioner or the Magistrate declares, "Here there is communal tension, and therefore it is declared a dangerously disturbed area". Well and good, the Chief Secretary says—after all the Chief Secretary does everything for the Premier

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: But it is responsible government.

Shri H. V. Kamath: I know, that is why I say a popular Government should not bring such a measure. Well, the fiat goes forth from the Provincial Government saying that, "such and such an area is disturbed, send your forces, arrest people without warrant, detain people without warrant, search people without warrant". And as my friend Pandit Thakurdas Bhargava said, especially in the searches, no safeguard has been provided. Most astonishing that searches of houses could be conducted arbitrarily by armed forces! I remember, Sir, if my memory does not betray me, that the fundamental rights—at least some of which were adopted by the Constituent Assembly only a few months ago—did regard the privacy of a home as more or less sacrosanct; but here, Sir, is a measure which confers upon the Armed Forces this power to enter and search without warrant any premises, make any arrests, recover any person wrongfully restrained, any property reasonably supposed to be stolen property, or any arms kept in the premises. I do not know whether the premises include persons too on those premises; whether when the officers enter the premises they would studiously refrain from searching the persons on those premises. I do not think that the military mind and the military method could pursue such a course as merely searching the premises and leaving out the persons on the premises. When the officer comes into the premises and if he has come for recovering stolen property or unlawfully kept arms, certainly if he does not find anything on the premises, I have no doubt whatever that he will go and search the person; and as my Honourable Friend Pandit Thakurdas Bhargava said, what about the women on the premises? Are they going to be searched without any safeguards? Are they going to be searched without even those safeguards which the British Government did include in the Statute Book as part of the provision relating to any searches by even the police? As I said, the primary function of the Army is to defend the country against aggression but there may arise certain emergencies where they may usurp the powers of the police. I deliberately, advisedly use the word "usurp" because when the Army is clothed with these powers then all but martial law comes into effect. Then the police and the Civil Authorities are put out of action, are completely put out of action; and the army assumes command and takes responsibility for maintaining law and order. There is one aspect of this matter which I would like to stress and that is that there is not always much love lost between the Army and the Police—unless of course we seek to cultivate, our Government and our people seek in that direction and attempt that there should be cordial relations between the civil population, the Army and the Police. If on the flimsiest pretext the police begin to feel that "For our part we are not trusted",—and today we have got the Police, the Armed Police, the Special Constabulary and these special police to meet grave emergencies—but on the slightest excuse or pretext if the police are put out of action and the Army comes in on the spot, the Police are likely to have the feeling, "What are we for? We are not trusted, we have nothing to do here; the Army comes and takes up and performs our functions". Thereby it is very likely that bad blood will be created between the Police and the Army. Sir, on the eve of the Russian Revolution the Army and the Police fired at each other. It is not a laughable matter—it is a very serious matter. On the eve of the Russian Revolution the Police and the Army fired at each other. I do not want that such a state of affairs should arise in our country. I want—and I am very keen on it—that the civil population, the common people, and the Police and the Army must be on the most cordial relations.

Sir, when the State is in a process of disintegration, when the State is crumbling, then the Army steps in as I have said and the Army becomes a dictator. There is perhaps another case when the Army may step in, and

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that is when the State is in the process of formation, when it is still inchoate, when it is still formless, when it is still gathering round itself all its forces, all its resources. Are we, Sir, today in that position that we are still inchoate? Are we still moving towards form? We have a name already. Does our Defence Minister say we are moving towards that day when we shall be clothed with a perfect form? Then, perhaps that will be a ground to justify this extraordinary measure of clothing our Armed Forces with these extraordinary powers.

I shall not take much more time of the House. There are just another couple of points to be dealt with and then I will have done. War deteriorates and lowers all values and all standards. Soon after the conclusion of any war, there is no greater need than for a transvaluation of values; a re-evaluation of values. A devastating, destructive war in human history has just now ended and all over the world there has been deterioration in human standards, human values and spiritual values. Our Army too has not been free from it. Our Army has been to Europe, has been to the Far East, has been to most of the battlefields of the world, and our Army there, along with the armies of the world, has suffered this deterioration in standards. It is not that it is a permanent deterioration—I would not say that—but, at present, all over the world there has been a very grave deterioration in values and standards and there is all round a tendency to regimentation, and from that too our Army has not been free. With this mentality of our Armed Forces it is a dangerous game to play. It is very dangerous to invest our Armed Forces with these powers. I would request the Honourable the Defence Minister to give us a positive assurance on the floor of this House—nothing short of it will do—that these powers will in no event be abused and I would even request him to tell us that as far as practicable—as my friend Pandit Bhargava remarked—the power to make arrests, entries, searches and dispersal of unlawful assemblies etc. will be tempered by adequate safeguards as provided in the Criminal Procedure Code. Those safeguards are not put in this Bill in so many words, but I would like the Honourable the Defence Minister to make it clear. My friend Pandit Thakurdas Bhargava made a point that as long as this Criminal Procedure Code is there, how it could abrogate all the safeguards. Of course, an emergency law like this could abrogate anything, but after all we are not legislating in war time. There is peace in India and we are legislating for certain emergencies. But the emergencies envisaged here are such that power has been given to “prohibit an unlawful assembly of five or more persons” or “the carrying of weapons”. At least, if it had been said, instead of “weapons”, “dangerous weapons” it would have been clearer. As my friend, Pandit Thakurdas Bhargava pointed out, what is a weapon? A pen knife could be described as a weapon. Even to forks the same term can be applied. Unless therefore we state definitely what is a weapon and what is a dangerous weapon, it is very misleading. When you want to clothe the Army with these powers, firing even to the extent of causing death, then, you should be more explicit in what you say. Just saying “carrying of weapons” is not adequate to my mind. After all, when our National Movement was born, it took its birth on the morrow—if I remember aright—on the massacre of Jalianwalabagh. That massacre gave the impetus to our National Movement, gave birth to it under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. What was it, let me ask, that Gen. Dyer did at Jalianwalabagh? What was it? Well, I was a mere school boy then—so you will excuse me if I make a misstatement, I am speaking subject to correction—Gen. Dyer was an Army Officer, and here is a measure which seeks to clothe an Army Officer with extraordinary powers. Gen. Dyer was an Army Officer, he had extraordinary powers, but he did give a warning before he fired upon the crowd at Jalianwalabagh. But, here, as my friend Pandit Bhargava pointed, it is stated that warning is not necessary to be given. It is merely

stated, “such warning, if any, as he may consider necessary”. This is most amazing.

So far as dispersing of an unlawful assembly is concerned, every time that occasion has arisen, in all times, and in all climes a warning has been given, unless it was in the deepest crisis of a war. If that was so, it is a different matter. But in peace time, in an emergency arising in peace time, no assembly has been dispersed without warning by an officer, whosoever he may be. But here, Sir, you are clothing the Army with certain powers and you have said “such warning, if any, as he may consider necessary”. This beats me. It is the most appalling power. That means the officer can behave as he likes, arbitrarily. He may not give a warning. He may straightaway fire upon the crowd, and as my friend remarked in his speech, the assembly may be going to the district officer to make a representation to ask for help in a certain emergency. Where are the safeguards for them? As they proceed, without any arms actually, where is the safeguard for them from death? You will very well say “Death is preferable to tyranny”, but the common man will not say that. After all, there must be something worth dying for. It is all right that death is preferable to tyranny.

*muhurtam jivalitam shreyo
nacha dhumantitam chiram*

Better to live for a minute like a flame and not for hundred years like smoke. It is all very well to say that. But, Sir, there should be something worth dying for. These people proceeding in a peaceful procession to make a peaceful representation to the Magistrate or the District Officer have no safeguards, and the Army Officer if he takes it into his blessed head—if he has one—to fire upon these people, there is nothing to prevent him. After all, we are human beings. We may have grudges to settle; we may have old scores to pay off. Paying off old scores is an ancient custom. I consider it quite possible that there may be an Army officer who may have been annoyed by certain civilian members of the population and if he likes to pay off his old scores, he may fire upon them. He may think: “Here is the occasion. I am the master. Who is there to question me?” “You can’t question me,” he will tell the people. “Here is no question of your escaping. Either do or die”. Do or die not in the sense of Mahatma Gandhi, but in a quite different sense. He won’t let the people question him. Where is your authority? How can you stop him? Nobody could stop him. And these people who were going without arms, who were going to make a peaceful representation, will die. Perhaps, Sir, I am trying to draw the dark side of the picture. After all, every picture has got two sides and it may be that I am overpainting the dark side.

An Honourable Member: Certainly.

Shri H. V. Kamath: May be, Sir. But it is necessary, when we are clothing the Army with such powers that we must see the darkest side possible of this picture and I for one would not like that such a measure should go on the Statute Book. It will become law. After all, every province has passed some law. The C. P. and Berar has passed, I hope Madras and Bombay Governments have also passed, Public Safety Acts, the Goonda Act and so on which have met the situation in quite an adequate measure. Then, as my Honourable Friend remarked, after all one or two provinces had passed such an Ordinance and not other Provinces. By passing this Bill, we are seeking to legislate for the whole of India and 3 or 4 or 5 Provinces had not pressed for such an Ordinance, and they have merely adopted the promulgation of the Public Safety Act and the Goonda Act. Speaking of C. P. and Berar, we have been able to cope with the situation without having such Ordinances at all. Therefore I would request the Honourable the Defence Minister to assure this House that these weighty powers, these sweeping powers conferred upon the armed forces.

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through this Draconian measure will not be abused, and if any army officer, if any officer of the Land and Air forces' who is clothed with this power, if he abuses these powers, he will be subjected to the severest punishment. It will be good if the Honourable the Defence Minister assures this House that if such an officer trespasses his powers, if he oversteps his powers, if he abuses his powers, it may be that the punishment meted out to him will be to the point of causing death. If he was instrumental in causing the death of another man, he too must be prepared to meet his death and on such an assurance only that the Honourable the Defence Minister may give us, we can agree to such an extraordinary measure which is designed to meet certain grave emergencies in the country. Thank you, Sir, for the patience which you and the House have exercised, I have done.

Shri K. M. Munshi (Bombay: General): Sir, I beg to intervene in the debate only because I feel that the Honourable Members who spoke last, forgot the reality of the situation altogether. Sir, I wish to bring to the notice of the House the provisions of this Bill which have been ignored largely in the last two speeches. But before that, I may mention to the House a little change in the situation to which I think, the attention not only of the House but of the country ought to be directed. The Criminal Procedure Code was passed in 1882. Its provisions were intended for the purpose of dealing with a situation where peace and tranquillity ordinarily reigned through the country and when it could be brought under the control of the ordinary normal police force. Sir, it has been found during the last 30 years that the Criminal Procedure Code is entirely inadequate to deal even with ordinary riots in the country, leave aside the present situation. It has been my—shall I say good or bad fortune—to have been associated in one way or the other with riots in Bombay since 1919—except as a rioter, of course. The evolution of the technique of rioting has been so speedy and so dangerous that an ordinary police force finds itself impossible to cope with it. I remember the riots of 1919 and 1923 in Bombay. Those riots were riots of two rival gangs throwing soda water bottles at each other, or at the highest, coming out with *lathis* and breaking each others' heads. Then, it took a communal turn—I am talking only of Bombay about which I have some knowledge. When even that happened, it did not take any serious shape. Soda water bottles was the fashionable missile in Bombay—soda-water bottles and sticks and very rarely knives.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maltra (West Bengal: General): Why not whisky bottle?

Shri K. M. Munshi: Whisky bottles are rather costly, and being a prohibitionist city, we do not believe in using whisky bottles. The riots then were really nothing as compared to the riots during the last ten years. But, Sir, even in those days sometimes when the situation became very acute, the military had to be called in and Martial Law had to be proclaimed. When Martial law is proclaimed, the whole locality is handed over to the Military. There is no resort to any magistracy; there is no restriction on the power; the military can shoot at anybody suspected of a crime; it can go into anybody's house. The very nature of Martial Law presupposes that the military are in complete control of the area.

What this Bill proposes to do, in the first instance, is to interpose an intermediate stage between a normal rioting in a city or a place which can be handled by the police and an extremely advanced stage when it has to be handed over to the military to be dealt with under martial law. That stage, according to this Bill, is when the 'Provincial Government' which means, under the present conditions, the responsible Ministry in the Province, feels that it cannot cope with the situation with the aid of the Police in a particular area. Then, what does it do? Under Section 2 it declares that a particular area is a disturbed or

dangerous area. Once that is done, the powers given to the Military by this Bill come into operation; but not till then. It is only when the Provincial Government feels helpless to deal with the situation with the ordinary police, that it will issue a proclamation under Section 2 and when that proclamation is issued the military comes in. But it does not exercise all the powers which would be exercised by it if Martial law were proclaimed. Under this Bill the charge of the area remains with the Provincial Government for all purposes except that the Military is used for restoring public order. The great safeguard under this Act is that it is only when the Provincial Government confesses its inability to deal with the situation that this Act comes into operation.

Since the last war the riots have changed their nature and temper. They are not the result of two rough gangs quarrelling, but masses of men flinging themselves on each other in a particular disturbed area; whole communities are at each other. Something was said about a weapon. We have a class of 'lethal' weapon as known to the criminal law. But is it not a fact known to everybody that even pocket knives, of late, have been dangerous weapons? Is not knifing going on in a manner unknown to the Criminal Procedure Code? In Bombay even to carry a pen-knife, a pocket knife, may be sufficient to draw upon the owner a penalty of six months or more. The reason is very simple. Today men have evolved a technique of using even something which is not a weapon, the most innocent thing, the knife with which to mend a pencil, as a dangerous weapon. Therefore it would not be right to use the word 'lethal' or dangerous before weapon. A weapon is a weapon with which you kill or injure somebody.

During the last one year—after the world war—the situation has deteriorated. The sanctity of human life has disappeared; and it is not a riot; it is not five men who are disturbing peace, but whole masses of men, tens of thousands, at the throat of each other. That is the new tempo. In this situation what is a provincial Government to do? Invoke the assistance of the Criminal Procedure Code? Go and get hold of a magistrate at 12 midnight, before somebody is shot at?

The only other alternative, if you do not pass the Bill, will be immediately to declare martial law in an area as soon as riot begins. And once martial law is introduced then of course the military will use all the force that they possess. Therefore the whole approach of my two Honourable friends who spoke last is not correct. This deals with the situation as it is today; and the Bill is only to be in operation for one year. If the present situation goes on, possibly it may run for a year more. Anyway Government will come before the House if an extension of the Act is required. But for the moment I submit that it is essential that the provincial Governments should be given the power to declare an area disturbed in which they can secure the assistance of the military.

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): May I ask one question? If the Bill is so essential and inoffensive why should it be only for one year?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The reason is that the present deterioration of the situation renders it necessary. It may be that within a year Honourable members may find that the situation is such that we can go back to the Criminal Procedure Code days; of course if you cannot go back, the Act may have to be extended. But as we see the situation around us there is no alternative but to take stringent measures for the purpose of maintaining law and order.

Pandit Thakurdas Bhargava: Even if this law is not enacted, cannot the military be called in?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I think I am trying to make it clear that if the aid of

[Sardar Baldev Singh]

Unfortunately it was during the last few months that we had to face the situation that is now before us.

Another point made was that we should give sufficient warning and that no action should be taken by the military without giving warning. I may cite one case in this connection. A military officer was living in a hotel and a crowd of about 6 or 7 thousand people attacked that hotel. This officer, finding the situation getting critical and feeling that he was doing a duty to his country and to his fellow beings, came out with a tommy-gun that he had with him and opened fire. No doubt he acted against the instructions and was responsible for killing a few people, but by that immediate action he saved the lives of hundreds of people. I give this example to show that if we lay it down that an officer must give warning, there were many occasions in the present communal disturbances when an officer had absolutely no opportunity to give due warning to the mob. I of course entirely agree with those of my Honourable friends who have criticised the Bill that warning should be given, but we must not forget that we are passing through extraordinary times. Hardly three months ago we got our independence after 150 years of slavery. And if we cannot manage the affairs of this country successfully we will stand condemned in the eyes of the world. It is therefore in order to enhance the prestige of the Government and to save innocent lives that it is necessary for us to have these powers.

A criticism was made that none of the Provincial Governments has asked for the enforcement of this Ordinance. I may inform my Honourable friend Dr. Deshmukh that three provincial Governments—U. P., Bengal and Assam—have asked for the enforcement of this Ordinance. I made that absolutely clear at the beginning of my speech.

A lot has been said about the risk of this power being misused by the army. My friend particularly mentioned the name of Baluchis. May I remind him that this power is not to be used by the Baluchis any more but it is to be used by our own troops, the troops who are your own men and are under

5.P.M. your control. If these provisions of the Bill were to be used by the military under the British rule, I would certainly have opposed it myself. Now the accredited leaders of the country are at the helm of affairs; the military is under them and not under a foreign power. Therefore, I do not feel that the army will in any case misuse the powers that are provided in this Bill.

A point was made by Pandit Thakurdas Bhargava about the Provincial Governments. He conceded the point that in case of an emergency we may have the provisions of this Bill. But he pointed out what happens if the emergency does not exist. In that case I wish to say that it is open to the Provincial Governments to withdraw that declaration of emergency any time they like. Take the case of the East Punjab Government. If they feel that the communal situation in the province is normal, it is for them to declare that the emergency does not exist and the provisions of these special powers will also cease to exist.

Therefore, as has been pointed out by my friend, Mr. Munshi, there are safeguards in this Bill and I think that with those safeguards we should have no fear that the provisions of this Bill will be misused.

I do not wish to add anything more as the different provisions of the Bill have been explained and I hope although the provisions in the Bill are drastic, it is necessary to meet the present emergency. I can say without hesitation that but for these powers it would have been impossible for us to check the situation that had arisen in Delhi and other parts of the country. Some hardships are however done to the people. There is no doubt about it and it is our duty to see that these powers are not misused. But in the circumstances we

are placed at present, and in view of the communal situation that prevails in the country, I am sorry to say that I have to insist on requesting the House to pass this measure.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will the Honourable the Defence Minister tell us why he is not in favour of the customary safeguards so far as searches are concerned?

Mr. Chairman: He has explained that already. They will take all necessary precautions!

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the Bill to enable certain special powers to be conferred upon officers of the armed forces in disturbed areas, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Sir, I move:

"That in the heading of Clause 3 of the Bill for the word 'Ordinance' the word 'Act' be substituted."

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That in the heading of Clause 3 of the Bill for the word 'Ordinance' the word 'Act' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 4 and 5 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, I do not think it is right for me to allow this Bill to be passed without a word of protest. I do not think the popularity of a ministry is proportional to the extraordinary powers it takes or proportional to the restrictive legislation it introduces. This is the second black bill we have passed in the legislature, the first being the deprivation of the liberties of the press. Sir, I protest.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, I join the protest.

Mr. Chairman: At this stage have we not had sufficient protests?

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa (C. P. and Berar: General): I am not protesting. I am congratulating the Government for bringing this measure.

[Shri K. M. Munshi] the military is called martial law will have to be proclaimed. The whole area would be handed over to the military. In the circumstances as at present it is not possible to merely call in the military; as I said, the military used to be called in the old days when the riots were in isolated groups of a particular locality. Now when you find a whole locality blazing with enthusiasm for murdering men it is highly necessary that an atmosphere should be created of such power that the people will immediately sink back into normal ways of life.

Begum Aizaz Rasul (U. P.: Muslim): May I know whether the legislation that has been enacted by the provincial Governments like the Public Safety Act and the Communal Disturbances Act are not enough?

Shri K. M. Munshi: A provincial public Safety Act can only amplify the functions of the provincial Governments. The Provincial Legislatures have no power to give any additional powers to the military because the army is a central subject. This Bill has become necessary because even the Public Safety Acts which have been passed in the Provinces are not adequate to deal with the situation in some parts of the country.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh (C. P. and Berar: General): Has any provincial Government made any reference about it?

Shri K. M. Munshi: That is a question which could better be addressed to the Honourable Minister and not to me.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: When my Honourable friend is arguing on that basis he ought to have got that information beforehand.

Shri K. M. Munshi: I am arguing as one who tries to study the present situation in the country and who has had something to do with riots for several years. I am giving my personal view; I am not concerned with what the Honourable Minister may say.

Begum Aizaz Rasul: The fear is that these powers will be abused and misused.

Shri K. M. Munshi: Therefore the first condition prescribed is that the provincial Government should declare an area disturbed. If, however, a provincial Government finds that the military is misusing its power it can certainly issue a proclamation saying that it is no longer a disturbed area and the powers will cease. In the last resort it is the provincial Government which is the sole judge of the situation and it can in effect recall the powers given to the military.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U. P.: General): What is the guarantee that it will not be used against labour movements?

Shri K. M. Munshi: If the labour movement is peaceful, no one will ever dream of using any force. If a labour struggle is an ordinary disturbance of tranquillity the police will deal with it. But if a labour struggle assumes such proportions that it threatens the existence of the public order or the State, not only this Act but the whole force of India must be used to suppress it. I refuse to be frightened by words. In the name of labour trouble we cannot allow the Government of this country to be reduced to Kerenskyism. We know what labour struggle means in some hands: Government in power should be made so weak and so frightened in the name of civil liberties that it may not take any drastic action, and totter. That situation I think no citizen of India is prepared to accept. We are passing through an unusual phase. One regime is over; the British Empire is gone; and we have secured a peaceful transfer of power. When the Moghul Empire collapsed there were 150 years of misrule and anarchy. We do not want to have a repetition of that particular phenomenon in this country at this stage. And during the short time at our disposal—the coming two, three or five years till we settle down to peaceful

conditions—it must be the duty of Government and of every citizen of this country to see that the Government functions as a Government and not as a Government run by Kerensky.

Sir, only one word more and I have done. My Honourable friend Mr. Kamatu talked of the military. This House and the country realise—and I think my Honourable friend will realise—that the army of today is not the army which was built up by the British as a mere adjunct to the army of military occupation which was principally British. Our army is manned by some of the finest and most patriotic young men in this country today; and I claim for them that when they will discharge their duty they will do it not as an instrument of a foreign power to keep this country in subjugation but as patriotic citizens whose sole interest is to see that law and order is maintained. Is it right to say that in the past some soldier did something or the other and therefore the lads of free India are going to perpetuate the same thing; I think all that is the result of distrust. We have acquired for 30 years a distrust of all forms of Government. We do not like the police, we do not like the military; we do not like Government; we want that Government should not be powerful; that is our habitual approach. But we are conscious of the reality too; this is our Government and we want it to be strong. If we want our Government to be strong I submit that these powers must be given to the military.

Several Honourable Members: The question may now be put.

Chairman: I think there has been a sufficient discussion of this matter and so I will accept closure.

The question is:

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Sir, it is not necessary for me to say anything more as my Honourable friend Mr. Munshi has made the position absolutely clear. I want to reply to one or two points raised by my Honourable friend Pandit Bhargava about the provisions of this Bill. One of the points he made was that it is not at all necessary, to have such a drastic Bill; in case the situation is beyond the control of the civil authorities the military should take it over under martial law. During the recent riots that we had in different parts of the country this situation was considered particularly in the Punjab when the communal riots went beyond the capacity of the local administration. I have not the slightest hesitation in saying that if to restore law and order and communal peace it is necessary to resort to martial law I will not hesitate to do so. But we have got an unhappy experience of martial law in this country and particularly in the province of the Punjab where we have had the worst type of communal disturbances. Now short of martial law this is the only alternative that we can resort to.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: This is very little short of martial law.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I do not deny that the provisions of the Bill are drastic; and, as I have explained if we have to maintain law and order and avoid communal disturbances we should not hesitate to take as drastic measures as possible.

Another point was made by my Honourable friend Pandit Bhargava that never in the last 80 years was such a Bill brought before the legislature. That is true; but I may point out that not to speak of 80 years, never in the history of this country did we have to face such a situation as in the last two months. Even during the Moghul times such a situation never arose; there were complaints of communalism, but it was possible for Hindus and Sikhs to live under that rule. Then there were other rulers also but such a situation never arose.

Several Honourable Members: That will do.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava and Mr. Kamath took an hour and a half and I am entitled to at least five minutes.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Aney.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Sir, I am on my legs.

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Member can stand on his legs again.

Shri M. S. Aney: Sir, I beg to point out that there is a motion before the House. No debate on that motion has taken place and I do not think that if any member wants to raise a debate any pressure can be put upon him. If there is a motion before the House and members of the House want a debate on it, so far as I know there is nothing to prevent such a debate.

Mr. Chairman: I do appreciate the position. One of the Honourable Members who rose up said that he wanted only one minute and another said that he wanted only three minutes. I therefore thought that the whole debate will be over in four or five minutes.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saxena: Sir, I want to speak for a longer time.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 12th December, 1947.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Friday, 12th December, 1947

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS†

(a) WRITTEN ANSWERS

ANTI-INDIAN PROPAGANDA IN THE MIDDLE EAST

833. *Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the intensity of anti-Indian propaganda now being carried on in the Middle East and Arab countries?

(b) Are Government aware that appeals to Pan-Islamism and religious sentiments are being made?

(c) If so, what action, if any, have Government so far taken to counter-act such propaganda?

(d) On account of the urgency of maintaining Asian solidarity and the consequent necessity of maintaining friendly relations with all the Middle East and Arab countries, do Government propose to expedite setting up of our embassies in these countries, and in the meantime to send a goodwill mission there?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Reports received indicate that anti-Indian propaganda is being actively carried on in the Middle-East and Arab countries.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to my replies to Starred questions Nos. 32 and 221.

TRADE AGENTS APPOINTED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT

834. *Shri Mohan Lal Saxena: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement giving particulars of the persons who were appointed Trade Agents by the Interim Government and the names of the countries to which they were posted?

(b) How many of them have opted out to Pakistan?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) and (b). A statement containing the information required by the Honourable Member is laid on the table.

†Answers to these questions were laid on the table, the question hour having been dispensed with.—*Ed. of D.*

Statement showing the Particulars of Persons and Offices where trade agents were appointed by the Interim Government and the number of such Persons and as have opted for Pakistan.

Place of appointment.	Name of person	Designation of post	Particulars of Persons appointed	Whether opted for Pakistan	No. of persons opting for Pakistan
1. London	Mr. A. S. Lall, M.B.E. I.C.S.	I. T. C. (officiating)	Is a member of the I.C.S. and belongs to Finance-Commerce Pool, was Dy. I.T.C. London, prior to this appointment.	No	
2. New York	Mr. L. Shafi, O.B.E.	I.G.T. (officiating)	Was Dy. I.G.T.C., New York, prior to this appointment.	Yes	Five out of the six persons appointed have opted for Pakistan.
3. Sydney	Mr. A. D. Azhar	I.G.T.C.	Belongs to the Indian Audit and Account Service. Was Dy. Financial Adviser, Communications, prior to this appointment.	Yes	
4. Rome	Mr. Ghulam Ahmad, O.B.E., I.P.	I.G.T.C. (Designate)	Was a member of the I. P. and was Dy. Director, Intelligence Bureau, prior to his selection for the post of Indian Government Trade Commissioner in Rome.	Yes	
5. Kabul	Khan Bahadur M. H. Commercial Secretary to the British Legation, Kizilbash,		Belonged to the U.P., P.C.S. and was officiating in the Senior time-scale of I.C.S. Was Commercial Attached to the British Legation at Kabul prior to this appointment.	Yes	
6. Kabul.	Mr. Saadullah Khan	I.T.A.	Belonged to the N.W.F.P., P.C.S. and was Secretary to the N.W.F.P. Legislative Assembly	Yes	

IMPORT AND EXPORT LICENCES

835. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement giving the names of persons who were granted import and export licenses by the Ministry of Commerce during the period of the Interim-Government?

(b) How many of them have migrated into Pakistan?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of cancelling the licenses of those who have gone to Pakistan and giving them to such refugees who were carrying on export and import trade in Pakistan?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Having regard to the number of import and export licences issued per day in the offices of the Chief Controller of Imports and the Chief Controller of Exports and the subordinate offices at the ports, the Honourable Member will appreciate that the compilation of a statement of the nature asked for by him would involve an expenditure of time and labour scarcely commensurate with the results likely to be achieved.

(b) I have no information on the subject.

(c) In the absence of information bearing on this point it will not be possible for import and export licences already granted to those who have migrated to Pakistan, to be cancelled and for these to be granted instead to such refugees as were engaged in the import and export trade in Pakistan.

EVACUEES FROM EAST BENGAL.

836. *Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there prevails a sense of insecurity among a large section of people in East Bengal and as such, many of them have moved to West Bengal while others are seeking facilities for moving to that area;

(b) whether Government have ascertained the number of persons who have moved to West Bengal in such circumstances, and if so what their number is;

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, whether Government propose to consider the desirability of taking a census of such people with special reference to their means of livelihood; and

(d) whether Government propose to consider the desirability of settling the evacuees from East Bengal in a planned way?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) Yes.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to my answer to clause (a) of Starred Question No. 740 on the 5th instant.

(c) and (d). The Honourable Member is referred to my answer to clause (b) of Starred Question No. 740 on the 9th instant.

LEGISLATION FOR WELFARE OF AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS

837. *Shri Satish Chandra Samanta: Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether the Government propose to consider the advisability of introducing legislation in this House for the welfare of the Agricultural Labourers in the Indian Union?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: As I have said in answer to another question the Minimum Wages Bill, now before the House, provides for the fixation of minimum wages in agricultural occupations. I intend bringing forward a Bill for regulating the conditions of work and making provision for welfare services in the case of plantation workers. Legislative regulation in the case of other agricultural workers in respect of matters, other than wages, is somewhat difficult. But I would be happy to consider any suggestions

which Members of this House may make in regard to matters which can suitably be made the subject-matter of the legislation. It is, however, proposed to hold a random sample survey of a number of villages with a view to collect data for taking definite action.

STRIKES IN COTTON MILLS

838. *Shri Prafulla Chandra Sen: Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of days lost due to strikes in the different cotton mills of India province-wise from the 15th of August 1947 to the 15th of November 1947, and the total yardage lost to the country during the period;

(b) the reasons that led to the strikes in each case; and

(c) the causes of delay in the settlement of strikes in each case?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: The information asked for by the Honourable Member is not readily available. It is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course.

PURCHASE OF STATIONERY STORES

839. *Shri Prafulla Chandra Sen: Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power, be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Stationery Stores are purchased by the Controller of Printing and Stationery, India, by calling annual tenders and sometimes by negotiations with the contractors, by the Deputy Controller, Stationery, Calcutta;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Central Stationery Office, Calcutta, has a well-equipped laboratory for testing tendered samples prior to the award of contract;

(c) if so, whether samples from the supplies delivered by the contractors are also tested with the approved samples in the said laboratory before accepting the supplies;

(d) whether it is a fact that supplies not conforming to the approved tender samples are in all cases rejected for replacement and that suitable action under the terms of the contract is taken against the suppliers;

(e) if the answers to parts (a) to (d) above be in the affirmative, under what circumstances, various items of stationery worth over 8 lakhs of rupees, have accumulated in the Central Stationery Stores, Calcutta, which have been declared quite unsuitable for issue to indentors, on account of their extremely poor quality; and

(f) whether there is a proposal for writing off the value of the aforesaid condemned stores and if so, what steps Government propose to take against the officers who are responsible for these purchases involving huge waste of public money?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Yes. Some samples, e.g., printing ink, water colours, cutlery etc. are sent to the Government Presses, Survey of India and the Government Test House, Alipore, for testing.

(d) No. Some are accepted at a discount.

(e) It is reported that these stores were purchased during the war when, due to scarcity of materials, the standards of quality dropped considerably.

(f) The matter is under consideration.

INVESTIGATION INTO CONDUCT OF OFFICER WORKING IN CENTRAL STATIONERY OFFICE

840. *Shri Prafulla Chandra Sen: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Assistant Controller of Purchase in the Central Stationery Office, had a fairly big amount of debt at the time he was transferred from the Central Forms Store as Superintendent to the Purchase Branch?

(b) Is it a fact that the said Assistant Controller of Purchase has now a total asset of about 4 lakhs of rupees in various shapes, either in his own name or in the name of his relatives and nearest friends?

(c) If so, do Government propose to investigate into the matter through the Enforcement Branch?

(d) Is it a fact that the said Assistant Controller has recently purchased Stationery worth about 40 thousand rupees for the Government of Pakistan without calling for quotations?

(e) Is it a fact that his Chief Assistant in these deals is allowed to usurp the duties of others whenever an occasion arises for a big purchase?

(f) Is it a fact that the said Chief Assistant has also built up a good asset?

(g) Is it a fact that the Chief Assistant attributes his hoard of wealth to gambling in the Races?

(h) Do Government propose to cause an investigation to be made into the case of the Chief Assistant also through the Enforcement Branch?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) and (b). Government have no information.

(c) and (h). A departmental enquiry in the matter has already been instituted. Further investigation through the Enforcement Branch, will be made, if considered necessary.

(d) No.

(e) No.

(f) and (g). Government have no information.

CHANGES IN PERSONNEL IN CENTRAL STATIONERY OFFICE.

841. *Shri Prafulla Chandra Sen: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some persons in the Purchase section of the Central Stationery Office, are not transferred even on promotion to other sections?

(b) Is it a fact that arrangements against vacancies of higher posts in other sections are made in such a way that those vacancies are ultimately created in the Purchase Sections to provide these men?

(c) Is it a fact that the following persons have been working in the Purchase Section of the Central Stationery Office for about 30 and 20 years respectively:

1. Mr. Sasti Das Kundu.

2. Mr. Jibendra Nath Banerjee?

(d) If the reply to parts (b) and (c) above be in the affirmative, what are the reasons for their non-transfer from the Purchase Section even on promotions?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) No

(b) No.

(c) Yes.

(d) Does not arise.

IRREGULAR PURCHASE OF STATIONERY.

842. *Shri Prafulla Chandra Sen: Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to refer to the questions put in the Autumn session of the Legislative Assembly (1946) by Mr. Tamizuddin Khan, regarding irregular purchase of (1) Wire Staples, (2) Docket Punch and (3) Copying pencils, made by Mr. Swaminathan, the Assistant Controller of Purchase, in the Stationery Office and state the result of the enquiry and the action taken thereon?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The Questions were disallowed excepting Unstarred Question No. 83. No enquiry was made in the matter. Attention of the Honourable Member is invited to my reply to Question No. 840.

REHABILITATION OF REFUGEES IN INDIAN STATES.

843. *Kanwar Shamsher Jang: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state which of the Indian States have offered to rehabilitate the refugees from the West Punjab in their respective states?

(b) What are plans of Government to rehabilitate the refugees in the Indian States?

(c) Has Alipura State in Central India offered to accommodate 10,000 refugee families?

(d) If so, have Government accepted the offer?

(e) If so, what action Government propose to take to transport the refugees to the state?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) A list showing the names of the Indian States which have agreed to absorb refugees is placed on the table.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to my answer to clause (e) of Starred Question No. 1 on the 18th November 1947 and also to my statement made on the floor of the House on the 29th November, 1947.

(c) No. Alipura State has offered to absorb ten thousand refugees or say about two thousand families, consisting of an average of five members each.

(d) Yes. The State has been asked to say when the refugees may be sent and the name of the railway station where they should detain.

(e) Refugees will be transported to Alipura State by special trains.

List showing the names of Indian states which have agreed to absorb refugee.

Alwar		Pudukottai
Alipura		Porbunder
Ajagarh		Panna
Alirajpur		Palitana
		Patiala.
Bhopal		
Benares		Rewa
Bhavnagar		Rajpipla
Bansda		Ratlam
Bijawar		Rampur
Bihar		Shahpura
Banswara		Sangli
Bharatput		Sant
Baroda		Sudasma
Bhasondha		Suket
Bhuj		Samthar
Cutch		Sirmur
Charkhari		
Chatterpur		Tripura
Chamba		
Dhrangadhra		Udaipur.

Dhar,
Dholpur
Dhurwai
Datia.
Dewas.
Gwalior,
Gondal,
Gaurihar
Indore,
Jai almer
Jaipur
Jhalawar

Jaso
Jhabua
Jigni.
Jam Nagar.
Kolhapur.
Kishengarh
Kota.
Kurwai.
Kashmir.
Lunavada
Limbdj.
Mayurbhanj.
Maihar.
Morvi.
Mysore.
Nawanagar.
Nagod.
Nimkhera.
Nimrand
Narsingarh.
Nabha.
Orchha.

Vala Vankaner

Wadhwan.

PURCHASE OF FIGHTER PLANES.

844. *Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the British Press reports that a Semi-Official Mission in Britain was purchasing Jet fighters for the Pakistan Air Force?

(b) Are Government aware that in this connection the spokesman of the Pakistan House in London has said that if there were individual merchants making such purchases, they knew nothing about it?

(c) Is it a fact that neither India nor Pakistan nor any individual can make purchases of Fighter Planes without the sanction of the Joint Defence Council?

(d) Had any sanction been accorded to Pakistan or to any individual on its behalf to make such purchases?

(e) Have any reports of such purchases by Pakistan or by any individuals on its behalf been received by Government from the High Commissioner for India in London?

(f) If the answer to part (e) above be in the affirmative, are the press reports referred to in part (a) above corroborated?

(g) If the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, do Government propose to call for a report from their High Commissioner in London as to the purchases reported to have been made by Pakistan in this respect?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (b). Yes, Government have seen Press Reports to this effect.

(c) and (d). The sanction of the Joint Defence Council is not required to the purchase of aircraft by or on behalf of either Dominion but, until the

1st December 1947, no fresh Squadrons could be raised without the approval of that Council.

(e) No.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) No.

DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR EASTERN PAKISTAN.

845. *Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the hardships and disabilities suffered by the non-Muslims in East Bengal and by the people of West Bengal while passing through the Eastern Pakistan territories to the other parts of the Indian Dominion?

(b) Are Government aware of the great delay involved in making representation to the appropriate authorities in this respect through the normal channels at present in existence?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of appointing a Deputy High Commissioner in Eastern Pakistan for the purpose of facilitating cognizance and disposal of such matters there? If not, why not?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Government have received several complaints of this nature.

(b) Yes.

(c) The question of appointing a Deputy High Commissioner in East Bengal has been considered in consultation with the Government of West Bengal. It was felt by both the Government of India and the Government of West Bengal that such an appointment would not prove of help at present in removing hardships and disabilities.

EXPORT OF JUTE AND GUNNY.

846. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in the year 1943 the Government of India ordered that only the old shippers will be allowed to export jute and gunny to all oversea countries and also destination quota for all oversea countries was fixed?

(b) Is it a fact that in January 1946, this export Trade was released from the hands of a group of old shippers and thrown open to all shippers, new and old, within the destination quota?

(c) Is it also a fact that in July 1947, the above system was cancelled and a new system was introduced classifying the shippers into two classes, the Established and the New Comers, reserving 90 per cent of the destination quota for the so called established shippers and only 10 per cent to the new comers and preventing all shippers from establishing connections with new ports and thus reserving the established trade to be handled only by a group of shippers and debarring the new aspirants to build up new connections and expand their trade in future?

(d) Are Government aware that this new system introduced by the then Commerce Member has failed to satisfy most of the established shippers excepting the European Shippers and a few Indian Shippers?

(e) Do Government propose to reconsider this question and restore the old system that was in vogue in 1946 to ensure equal footing for all and to enable all shippers to handle this business on the basis of their real capacity and merit?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The new system of classifying exporters into established shippers and new comers was introduced in July 1947 with a view to meeting the wishes of certain sections of the trade who had protested that the earlier policy had led to new comers not receiving their due share of the business. The new arrangements, therefore, far from preventing new aspirants from building up new connections and expanding their trade, have specifically been introduced with a view to affording them every facility to achieve this object.

(d) and (e). Dissatisfaction has been expressed with regard to the new system by certain sections of the trade in Calcutta, and Government propose to reconsider their decision at an early date.

REVALIDATION OF IMPORT LICENCES.

847. *Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether applications for revalidation of licences for import of goods such as motor parts from the United Kingdom were made by licence holders in May 1947 and some of their applications have not been so far disposed of for no fault of the licence holders?

(b) Is it a fact that some of these applications have not so far been disposed of for the reason that the papers relating to them have either been misplaced or lost in the office of the Chief Controller of Imports?

(c) How long will Government take to dispose of these applications for revalidation of licences?

(d) Is it a fact that Government have extended the time for import in respect of applications for new licences which could not be disposed of in time?

(e) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of adopting a similar course of action and extend the time for imports in respect of licences where applications for revalidation have not so far been disposed of?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Excepting a few applications for revalidation of licences which were received by the end of May 1947, the bulk was received in June 1947 and thereafter. All the applications received were disposed of by the end of September 1947, except those in which the applicants did not furnish the requisite information as required by the Public Notice, dated the 16th May 1947 in the first instance or the evidence in support of their claim. Further enquiries had therefore to be made from these applicants. Most of such applications have also been disposed of and the remainder is being dealt with as expeditiously as possible as and when replies are received to the enquiries made.

(b) No Sir. In this connection I may however, state for the Honourable Member's information that some applicants complained that they had not received any reply to their applications at all, but on enquiries being instituted, it was found that in a good number of such cases replies had already been despatched and the enquirers had been informed accordingly. In some other cases applications said to have been made to the Chief Controller of Imports do not appear to have been received by him and the applicants have been informed accordingly. In cases in which the applicants have produced the receipts for their applications received by the Chief Controller of Imports or given other proof of despatch of their applications, action has even been taken on the duplicate copies where originals could not be found.

(c) The work in connection with the revalidation of licence is almost complete.

(d) and (e). The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the Press announcement issued in the Gazette of India Extraordinary dated, the 1st September 1947 and the Public Notice issued on the 25th November 1947.

REHABILITATION OF RURAL POPULATION AMONG REFUGEES.

848. *Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether Government have succeeded in devising any scheme of permanent rehabilitation of the rural population among the refugees? If so, what is that scheme?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The Honourable Member is referred to my answer to clause (e) of Starred Question No. 1 on the 18th November, 1947 and also to my statement made on the floor of this House on the 29th November, 1947.

WEST PAKISTAN REFUGEES IN U. P.

849. *Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the number of refugees from West Pakistan in the United Provinces district-wise;

(b) the number of the said refugees in the Government refugee camps in the United Provinces district-wise; and

(c) the amount of money spent so far on maintaining or giving relief to the said refugees in the United Provinces?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a), (b) and (c). Detailed information is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course.

REHABILITATION OF WEST PUNJAB REFUGEES.

850. *Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state Province-wise and State-wise the number of refugees from West Pakistan whom Government propose to rehabilitate therein?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: A statement showing the names of the Provinces and States, with the number of refugees that they have offered to take, is placed on the table.

Statement showing the names of the Provinces and the states together with the number of refugees that are proposed to be rehabilitated in them.

S. No.	Name of the Province or state	Number of refugees to be rehabilitated
<i>Provinces.</i>		
1	U. P.	10,000 over 3 lakhs refugees have already entered the Province.
2	Bombay	10,000
3	C. P.	10,000
4	Madras	10,000
5	Bihar.	10,000
6	Orissa	2,500
7	Assam	Number not yet intimated.
<i>States.</i>		
1	Alwar	50,000 refugees.
2	Ajaigarh	400
3	Alirajpur	500
4	Alipur	10,000
5	Benares	100 Families.
6	Bhopal	800 Families (2000 persons).
7	Bijawar.	25
8	Bhavnagar	8000—10,000 Refugees

S. No.	Name of the Province or state	Number of refugees to be rehabilitated
<i>States—contd.</i>		
9	Bansda	300 Refugees
10	Bhor	200
11	Banswara	650
12	Bharatpur	5,000
13	Baroda	Number not yet specified.
14	Bhansoda	50 Refugees.
15	Bhuj	10,000 Families
16	Cutch	10,000 Refugees.
17	Charkari	500
18	Chamba	500
19	Chatterpur	Number not yet specified.
20	Dhrangadhara	275 Families.
21	Dhar	50 Orphans.
22	Dhuriwaj	5 Families.
23	Datia	50
24	Dholpur.	Number not yet specified.
25	Dewas	200 Refugees.
26	Gondal	100 Families
27	Gwalior	5,000 Refugees
28	Gaurihar	50 Refugees.
29	Indore	7,000
30	Jaisalmer	300 Refugees.
31	Jaipur	17,000
32	Jhalwars	1,000
33	Jaso	25
34	Jigni	25
35	Jhabua	Number is not yet specified.
36	Jam Nagar	10,000
37	Kolhapur	400 Refugee
38	Kishengarh	100
39	Kotah	2,000
40	Kurwai	100
41	Lunavada	50 Families
42	Luni	200 Refugees.
43	Mayurbhanj	100 Families.
44	Maihar	500 Refugees.
45	Morvi	1,000
46	Mysore	1,500
47	Navanagar	Number is not yet specified.
48	Nagod	10 Families.
49	Nimkhera.	200 Refugees.
50	Nimrandra	200
51	Nabha	Number is not yet specified.
52	Narsingarh	100 Refugees.
53	Orcha	50
54	Pudukotai	100
55	Porbunder	500
56	Panna	1500-2000 Refugees.
57	Palitana	30
58	Patiala	3,50,000
59	Rewa	10,000
60	Rajpipla	200—500
61	Ratlam	500
62	Rampur	Number not specified.
63	Shahpura	150 Families.
64	Sangli	200
65	Sant	100 Refugees
66	Sudana	50-60
67	Suket	400
68	Samthor	9
69	Sirmur	2,000
70	Tripura	1,000
71	Udaipur	1,000 Refugees
72	Vankaner	1,000
73	Vala	Number not yet specified.
74	Wadhwan	50 Refugees.

ENTRY OF REFUGEES INTO UNITED PROVINCES.

851. *Shri Jaspal Roy Kapoor: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether any ban has been imposed either by the Central Government or the Government of the United Provinces on the entry of refugees from West Pakistan into the United Provinces or any district thereof; and if so, whether Government propose to take any steps for the removal of such ban?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: No. The Government of India or the Government of U.P. have not imposed any ban on the entry of refugees from West Pakistan into U.P. The Government of United Provinces have under their care in relief camps over three lakhs of refugees from Western Pakistan. Difficulties arising from the law and order situation made it impractical for the Government of the United Provinces to receive any more refugees at present. They may be prepared to receive more refugees if extra accommodation can be found and other arrangements for care and maintenance of refugees can be made. This possibility is being investigated.

REFUGEES KILLED IN BHARATPUR STATE.

852. *Shri Jaspal Roy Kapoor: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether the District Magistrate of Agra was informed by the Railway Police of Bharatpur or Bandikui that about 1,000 Bharatpur state subjects were killed in Bharatpur State territory by the military escort with the Muslims refugee train from Agra to Ajmer on the 13th October, 1947;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware of the fact that the publication of this news caused great panic and resentment among the people of Agra;

(c) whether the District Magistrate of Agra made any enquiry in this connection, and if so, what were his conclusions;

(d) if the conclusions of the District Magistrate were that the said report of the Railway police was grossly exaggerated and that only about half a dozen persons were killed or injured, whether any action has been taken or is proposed to be taken against the Railway Police official who sent such exaggerated report; and

(e) whether any person in the said refugee train was killed or injured within Bharatpur State territory?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e). In regard to this incident an enquiry has been made from the U.P. Government, but no reply has yet been received. On 26th October, 1947, however, the Premier of United Provinces wrote to the Ministry of States that the Evening Train from Agra on the 13th October, supposed to be carrying refugees, was stopped between Bharatpur and Helak Stations by blocking the railway line with a log of wood. A gang of armed men consisting of misguided village folk and military and Police Sepoys in plain clothes (700 strong) lay in ambush near the railway line. It has been reported that the State Inspector General of Police also happened to reach the spot at or about the time of occurrence. Fire was exchanged between the military escort in the train and the attacking gang. It is learned that about fifty casualties, dead and wounded, were sustained by the gang of attackers. The people from the villages had been duped and persistently fed on the rumours that the military and police escorts on the trains and platforms would connive and even help them in such attacks. Strong representations have been made by the Ministry of States to the Bharatpur administration regarding this incident and they have been asked to take suitable steps to prevent recurrence of such incident.

INTERNMENT OF ORISSA M.L.A. IN INDONESIA

853. *Shri Raj Krishna Bose: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Sri Bijayananda Patnaik, M.L.A. (Orissa) was interned recently in Indonesia by the Dutch Government;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry was made by the Government of India as to the reasons of his internment;

(c) whether Mr. Patnaik has since been released and if so, after how many days' detention; and

(d) the steps the Government of India propose to take for prevention of any such action in future?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) No.

(b), (c) and (d). Does not arise.

CENSUS OF LABOUR POPULATION

854. *Shri Raj Krishna Bose: Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether a census of the labour population of India (both industrial and agricultural) is proposed to be taken in the near future;

(b) whether Government have in their possession an approximate census of labour population; and

(c) if so what is it?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) Yes, as part of the next All-India census which is expected to be taken in 1951.

(b) and (c). The 1941 census collected much material bearing on means of livelihood, but the then Government of India decided not to proceed with tabulation. It would be an extremely difficult and expensive task to carry out that tabulation now. Besides, it would not be worth-while to undertake this task as the next census is expected to be taken in 1951. Annual returns are received of workers in factories subject to the Factories' Act and Mines regulated by the Mines Act. Fairly accurate estimates are available of workers in Plantations and in the Communications group. The distribution is as follows—

Figures are to the nearest thousand

Factories (figures re- late to 1945) subject to the Factories Act	'Other Factories' (Estimated)	Plantations (Estimated)	Communications Group (Estimated)	Mines (1946)
26,23,000	10,00,000	11,65,000	12,15,000	4,13,000

EXECUTION OF MAHANADY VALLEY PROJECT.

855. *Shri Raj Krishna Bose: Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Powers be pleased to state:

(a) the agency Government want to set up to execute the Mahanady Valley Project in Orissa;

(b) whether it is proposed to set up an authority for the purpose; or

(c) whether the work will be taken up directly by the Government of India; and

(d) the extent to which the Provincial Government will have a responsibility in the execution of the project?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) At the request of the Government of Orissa, the construction of the Hirakud Dam Project of the Mahanadi Scheme has been entrusted to the Central, Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission. It is under consideration to set up a constructive organisation with a Chief Engineer at its head

(b) No.

(c) The work will be taken up by the Central Waterways Irrigation and Navigation Commission as agents of the Orissa Government.

(d) The Provincial Government is expected to co-operate very intimately with the Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission and the construction organisation set up under that Commission for the execution of the project.

WOMEN'S HOMES AND ORPHANAGES

856. *Shri Raj Krishna Bose: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is intended to start women's homes and orphanages for helpless refugee women and children who have been orphaned;

(b) if so, when these institutions are to be opened; and

(c) whether hand spinning is being introduced in the refugee camps to provide occupation to the refugee women and if so, in which of the camps?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is referred to my answer to Starred Question No. 511 on the 2nd December, 1947. Additional information is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course.

(c) Spinning has been introduced in the Kurukshetra Camp as also in the Kingsway Camp, New Delhi. Information in regard to the Camps in the East Punjab will be laid on the table when received.

TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES

857. *Shri Raj Krishna Bose: Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state the names of the countries with whom India has entered into trade agreements after partition of the country?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: This Dominion has not entered into any trade agreement after partition.

FORTIFICATION OF NEW FRONTIERS OF INDIA.

858. *Shri Raj Krishna Bose: Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken or intended to be taken by Government to strengthen and fortify the new frontiers of India created by the division of the country; and

(b) whether Government propose a change of policy towards the tribes who live on the frontiers?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to my answer to part (c) of Starred Question No. 260 asked by Mr. R. K. Sidhwa on the 25th November 1947.

(b) The Government of India are now concerned only with the tribal areas on the North East Frontier. The future policy regarding the tribes living in those areas is dependent on the decisions which the Constituent Assembly will take in regard to the future administration of tribal areas. Pending these decisions no change is contemplated in Government's present policy of taking all possible steps for the development and welfare of these tribes.

CONSTITUTION OF DEVELOPMENT BOARD

859. *Shri Raj Krishna Bose: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the constitution and functions of the Development Board; and

(b) the number of members constituting the Board?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b). The constitution of the Development Board is as follows:

Chairman.—The Prime Minister.

Members.—Secretaries to the Ministries of Agriculture, Communications, Education, Finance, Health, Industry and Supply and Labour.

The functions of the Board are: (i) to carry out for Cabinet a general examination of integrated Development plans; (ii) to carry out for Cabinet a detailed examination of memoranda on matters of general policy or administration affecting development as a whole, which may be submitted to them by the appropriate Ministries; (iii) to initiate action on any matter affecting planning, or development policy generally and to recommend that the appropriate Ministry should submit a memorandum or recommendations to the Board or take other appropriate action; (iv) to examine and recommend priorities among Development Plans, programmes and schemes; and (v) to keep a watch on development plans generally and to report progress.

The Board has not functioned for some time. The question of establishing a suitable machinery for planning is under consideration.

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICIALS FOR COUNTRIES OUTSIDE INDIA

860. *Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state the respective functions, the status and the salaries and terms of office of each of the following categories of officials appointed or contemplated to be appointed by the Government of India for Countries outside the Indian Dominion:

(i) Ambassadors and Embassies, (ii) Consuls and Consulate Generals, (iii) Agents and Agents General, (iv) Diplomatic Attache, (v) High Commissioner, (vi) Charge-de-Affaires, (vii) Public Relations Officers; and (viii) Personal Representatives of the Prime Minister?

(b) Are there any other types of officials other than these enumerated in part (a) above who are in the employ of the Government of India abroad?

(c) Is there more than one category of the above classes of officials in any one foreign country?

(d) If so, what are the countries and what are the classes of officials posted therein?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) A statement (No. I) containing the required information is placed on the table of the House.

The scales of pay and other terms for posts borne on the cadre of the Indian Foreign Service, have not yet been finalised but a copy (Statement No. II) of the relevant sections of the draft Indian Foreign Service Rules on scales of pay is laid on the table of the House. Pending a decision on this question, the pay and other terms of present holders of the posts have been fixed *ad hoc*, and a statement (No. III) showing these is also placed on the table of the House. The normal period of the appointments is three years but most of our heads of Missions have been appointed for one year in the first instance.

(b) Yes. In addition to the categories of officers mentioned in para. (a) above there are Counsellors, Deputy High Commissioners, Welfare Officers, Ship Welfare Officers, Liaison officers, Legal Advisers, Representative of India

to the United Nations, New York, Military Attaches in Washington and Nanking, Trade Commissioners, Vice-Consuls and Secretarial and Ministerial staff.

(c) and (d). Yes. A statement (No. IV) is placed on the table of the House.

STATEMENT No. I

(i) Functions and Status of Ambassadors:

Ambassadors are personal representatives of the Heads of their States and enjoy for this reason special honours. They are entitled to the title of "Excellency" and can at all times ask for an audience from the Head of the State to whom they are accredited. The universally recognised regular functions of Ambassadors are:

- negotiation of treaties, agreements, etc.,
- observation of every occurrence and event of interest to their Home State and reporting them to the Head of their State;
- protection of the persons, property and interests of the subjects of their Home States.

Besides, these, Ambassadors may be charged with other and miscellaneous functions such as issue of passports.

(ii) Functions and Status of Consuls-General and Consuls:

Consuls-General are appointed as heads of several consular districts and have subordinate consuls. Consuls are usually appointed for smaller districts and for towns or even ports only. Though Consuls-General and Consuls do not enjoy the position of diplomatic representatives, they are publicly recognised by the admitting State as agents of the appointing State.

Consuls-General and Consuls are appointed chiefly for the promotion of commerce and industry, supervision of navigation, protection of the subjects of their own Home States, and exercise of notarial functions. They make out passports and render assistance and help to paupers and the sick and to litigants before the courts.

(iii) Functions and status of Agents and Agents-General:

An "Agent" is an officer of the Government of India for safeguarding the interests of the Indian emigrants in any place outside the Dominion of India, and is subordinate to the Government of India's High Commissioner or Representative in the country where appointed.

(iv) Functions and status of Diplomatic Attaches:

Diplomatic Attaches are members of legations attached to the head of the Mission. It is the universally recognised rule of international law that all diplomatic members of a legation are as inviolable and extra-territorial as the head of the Mission himself and enjoy many of the privileges accorded to the head of the Mission.

Their functions consist generally in assisting the head of the Mission in the efficient discharge of his duties and functions.

(v) Functions and status of the High Commissioners and Representatives:

Functions:

The functions are very similar to those of Ambassadors.

Status:

A "High Commissioner" is a diplomatic officer of the Government of India in a British Dominion.

A "Representative" is a "diplomatic officer" of the Government of India in a British Colony.

(vi) Functions and status of Charges d'Affaires:

Charges d'Affaires differ chiefly in one respect from ambassadors in that they are accredited from Foreign Office to Foreign Office whereas Ambassadors are accredited from Head of State to Head of State. They do not therefore enjoy so many honours as Ambassadors and do not receive the title of "Excellency" even by courtesy.

Their functions as heads of Missions are the same as those of Ambassadors.

(vii) Functions and status of Public Relations Officers:

The term "Public Relations Officer" is a comprehensive term and may include all external publicity officers, i.e., Public Relations Officers, Information Officers, Press Attaches and Assistant Information Officers.

Their duties and status are in general that Indian news and views received due publicity abroad, that publicity measures are taken to foster trade and in other ways increase friendly intercourse of India with the foreign country and that the Government of India is kept fully informed of reactions of Press and public in that country to Indian affairs.

STATEMENT No. II

Extract from Draft Indian Foreign Service Rules Chapter 3

Grades and Pay:

3.1. (i) The grades and pay of members of Branch A are as follows:—

- Grade 1. Rs. 3,500 p. m.
- Grade 2. Rs. 3,000 p. m.
- Grade 3. Rs. 2,750 p. m.
- Grade 4. Rs. 2,250 p. m.
- Grade 5. Rs. 1,800—100—2,000.
- Grade 6. Rs. 1,300—50—1,800.
- Grade 7. Rs. 800—50—1,000—60—1,300.
- Grade 8. Rs. 500—540—30—690/EB/30—780—40—950.
- Grade 9. Rs. 350—50—450—450—50—500.

Grade 1 consists of the Foreign Secretary and Heads of certain major Missions.

Grade 2 consists of Heads of other major Missions and Additional Secretaries.

Grade 3 consists of Heads of certain Missions.

Grade 4 consists of Heads of other Missions and Joint Secretaries.

Grade 5 consists of Heads of Minor Missions, Senior Consuls General, and Selection grade Trade Commissioners.

Grade 6 consists of Consuls General, Counsellors, Trade Commissioners, and Deputy Secretaries.

Grade 7 consists of First Secretaries, Consuls, Assistant Trade Commissioners and Under Secretaries.

Grade 8. Rs. 500—540—30—690/EB/30—870—40—950.

Grade 9 consists of Junior Vice-Consuls, Third Secretaries and Paid Attaches.

STATEMENT No. III

Showing name of country, name of the diplomatic post etc. and emoluments

S. No.	Name of the country	Emoluments	Remarks
1	2	3	4
1	U.S.A. (Ambassador)	(1) Pay Rs. 3,500 p m. (2) Frais de Representation Rs. 5200 p.m. (3) Free furnished house. (4) Free car and chauffeur at Government expense. (5) Free heating of the house.	
		(1) Pay (consolidated)—Rs. 4,500 p.m. (2) Free furnished house. (3) Motor car and chauffeur at Government expense (4) Free service in the hours	

1	2	3	4
3	U. S. S. R. (Ambassador)	(1) Pay Rs. 3,500 p.m. (2) Frais de Representation Rs. 4,500 p.m. (3) Free furnished house and free heating of the house. (4) A car and chauffeur -at Government expense.	
4	NEPAL (Ambassador)	(1) Pay—Rs. 2,250 p.m. (2) Frais de Representation—Rs. 750 p.m. (3) Free furnished house. (4) A car with a chauffeur and a cleaner, the Ambassador bearing the running expenses.	
5	IRAN (Ambassador)	(1) Pay—Rs. 3,000 p. m. (2) Frais de Representation—Rs. 2,000 p. m. (provisional) (3) Free furnished house. (4) Provision of a car at Government expense.	
6	JAPAN—(Head of the Indian Liaison Mission in Tokyo and Political Representative of India with SCAP with personal rank of Ambassador	(1) Pay—Rs. 3,500 p.m. (2) Representation allowance Rs. 2,000 p.m. (3) Free car with chauffeur. (4) Free accommodation and free ration.	
7	FRENCH ESTABLISHMENTS IN INDIA AND PORTUGUESE POSSESSIONS IN INDIA. (Consul General)	(1) Pay—Rs. 2,000 p.m. (2) Representation allowance Rs. 300 p.m.	
8	INDONESIA (Consul General)	(1) Pay—Rs. 2,250 p.m. (2) Consolidated Foreign Allowance—Rs. 1,250 p.m. (3) Free furnished accommodation. (4) Provision of a car and chauffeur at Government expense, the maintenance charges being borne by the Consul General.	
9	SHANGHAI (Consul).	(1) Pay of rank in the Army. (2) Additional Pay—Rs. 350 p.m. (3) Special Pay—£ 200 p.a. (4) Local allowance—£ 300 p.a. (5) Sumptuary allowance—£ 200 p. a. (6) Free accommodation.	
10	INDOCHINA. (Consul)	(1) Pay of rank in the Army. (2) Special pay Rs. 150 p.m. (3) Foreign allowance—£ 400 p.a. (4) House rent allowance—£ 300 p.a.	
11	MALAYA (Representative)	Pay—Rs. 2,250 p.m. fixed. Local Allowance:—Rs. 500 p.m. Sumptuary allowance,—Rs. 500 p.m. Car allowance—Rs. 125 p.m. House Rent allowance—Rs. 150 p.m. Cost of living allowance Rs. 350 p.m.	

2	3	4
12	CEYLON (Representative)	Pay Rs. 2,250 p. m. (fixed) Sumptuary allowance: Rs. 500 p. m. Local allowance: Rs. 500 p. m. Car provided at Government cost.
13	CEYLON (Agent).	Pay—I.C.S. grade House rent Rs. 100 p. m. Car allowance: Rs. 100 Dearness allowance: as admissible in India.
14	MALAYA. (Agent)	Pay—In the scale of Rs. 375—15—600 plus a Special pay of Rs. 100 p. m. House rent allowance: Excess over 10% of pay subject to maximum of Rs. 150 p. m. Conveyance Car allowance: Rs. 125 p.m. Cost of living allowance: 33 1/3% of pay.
15	SOUTH AFRICA (High Commissioner)	£ 2,500 p.a. (fixed) Supmtuary allowance: £ 500 p.a. Special Allowance: £ 50 p.m. for period spent in Capetown for Parliamentary session Car allowance: 75 p.a. Car provided at Government cost.
16	AUSTRALIA (H.C.)	Pay—£ 2,500 p.a. (fixed). Equipment allowance: £ 250 (once only) Sumptuary allowance: £ 500 p.a. Car allowance: £ 400—(Including pay of Chauffeur). Free furnished house. Car provided at Government cost
17	Burma (C.)	Pay—Rs. 2,750 p.m. Sumptuary allowance: Rs. 750 p.m. Car allowance: Rs. 250 p.m. Car provided at Government cost House rent allowance: Excess over 10% of pay. Cost of living allowance: Rs. 300 p. m.
18	CANADA (H.C.)	Pay—Rs. 2,250 p. m. (fixed) Representation allowance: \$10,000 p. a. Free car and Chauffeur— Maintenance charges to be borne by the High Commissioner. Free furnished house.
19	UNITED KINGDOM (High Commissioner)	Pay £ 3,000 (free of incometax) p. a. Entertainment or Sumptuary allowance: £ 1,000 p. a. House allowance: Free furnished house, but maintenance charges up to £ 250 p.a. are paid by the High Commissioner. Motor Car Free car including cost of its maintenance and Chauffeur pay. Equipment allowance: £ 250, if at the time of appointment he is habitually resident in India.

1	2	3	4
20	PAKISTAN (High Commissioner)	Pay—Rs. 2,500 p.m. (fixed). Entertainment allowance: Rs. 500 p.m. Free House and free car for official use.	
21	SIAM (Chargé d'Affaires)	Pay Rs. 1,100 p.m. Foreign allowance £600 p.a. (inclusive of £150 as sumptuary allowance) House rent allowance £300 p.a.	
22	BELGIUM (Chargé d'Affaires designate)	Pay in the senior scale of I. C. S. Foreign allowance Rs. 1,700 p.m. Free furnished house. Free car and a chauffeur.	
<i>External Publicity Posts</i>			
23	WASHINGTON		
	(a) Public Relations Officer	Pay £1,200—50—1,500 p. a. Special pay Rs. 300 p.m. House Rent allowance \$220 per month. Local allowance £300 p.a.	
	(b) Director, Information Services (vacant).	Pay Rs. 1,100—50—1,300 p.m. Special pay Rs. 300 per month House Rent allowance \$220 p.m. Local allowance £300 p.a.	
	(c) Deputy Director, Information Services.	Pay Rs. 700—50—1,000 p. m. Special pay Rs. 150 p.m. House Rent allowance \$220 p. m. Local allowance \$300 p. a.	
24	LONDON—		
	(a) Public Relations Officer	Pay £1,200—50—1,500 p.m. House Rent allowance: £300 p. m. Consolidated add it on—(to cover local compensation allowance) £120 p. a.	
	(b) Information Officer (2)	Pay Rs. 700—50—1,000 p. m. Special pay Rs. 300 per month House rent allowance £150 p. m. Consolidated addition (to cover local compensation allowance) £90 p. a.	
	(c) Assistant Information Officer (posts vacant) (2)	Pay Rs. 500—30—620 in the scale of Rs. 350—25—500—30—620 Allowances not yet fixed.	
25	SHANGHAI—		
	Information Officer (designated as press Attache) Shanghai (Present incumbent working part time)	Pay Rs. 700—50—1,000 p.m. Special pay Rs. 300 p. m. House Rent allowance £200 p.a. Local compensation allowance: £300 p. m.	
26	CANBERRA—		
	Information Officer.	Pay Rs. 700—50—1,000 p. m. Special pay Rs. 300 p.m. House Rent allowance: Rs. 200 p.m. Local Compensatory allowance: Rs. 250 p.m. Conveyance allowance £10 (a) p.m.	

1	2	3	4
27	SINGAPORE— Information Officer.	Pay Rs. 700—50—1,000 p. m. Special pay Rs. 300 p. m. House Rent allowance: actual rent paid. Dearness allowance 10½% of pay and special pay. Conveyance allowance Rs. 125 p.m.	
28	RANGOON— Information Officer	Pay Rs. 700—50—1,000 p. m. Special pay Rs. 300 p. m. House Rent allowance: Equal to rent actually paid over 10% of pay. Conveyance allowance Rs. 100 p. m. Dearness allowance: As sanctioned by Government of India from time to time.	
29	TORONTO Information Officer.	Pay Rs. 700—50—1,000 p. m. Special Pay Rs. 300 p. m. House Rent allowance Rs. 300 p. m. Local Compensation: Rs. 300 p. m. Exchange Compensation allowance—on total emoluments at rates admissible to officer of the Government of India serving in Canada—fixed by High Commissioner, London.	
30	BATAVIA— Press Attache	Pay Rs. 720—40—1,000 Special pay Rs. 300 p. m. Local Compensation allowance: Rs. 400 p. m. House Rent allowance—Accommodation provided by Government, 10% of pay and special pay being charged from the Press Attache.	
31	LAHORE— Press Attache	Pay Rs. 720—40—1,000 p. m. Special pay Rs. 300 p.m. Dearness allowance—as admissible to Government of India, Officers.	
STATEMENT No. IV:			
1. United States of America.			
Ambassador.			
Public Relations Officer.			
Director, Information Services. (post unfilled).			
Deputy Director, Information Services.			
Counsellor.			
Military Attache.			

2. *China.*
Ambassador.
Consul.
Information Officer (designated as Press Attache).
Military Attache.
3. *Indonesia*
Consul General.
Press Attache.
4. *Burma.*
High Commissioner.
Labour Officer.
Information Officer.
5. *Malaya.*
Representative.
Agent.
Information Officer.
Welfare Officer.
Shipwelfare Officer.
6. *Ceylon.*
Representative.
Agent.
Information Officer.
Trade Commissioner.
7. *Australia.*
High Commissioner.
Information Officer.
Trade Commissioner.
8. *South Africa.*
High Commissioner.
9. *Canada.*
High Commissioner.
Information Officer.
Trade Commissioner.
10. *United Kingdom.*
High Commissioner.
Deputy High Commissioner.
Public Relations Officer.
Welfare Officer.
Officer on Special duty.
Legal Adviser.
Trade Commissioner.
11. *Pakistan*
High Commissioner.
Deputy High Commissioner.
Press Attache.
Liaison Officer.
Officer on Special duty.

AZAD HIND BANK IN BURMA

861. *Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether Government are aware that an Azad Hind Bank had been established in Burma by the Azad Hind Government of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and that many Indian nationals then residing in Burma; and particularly many I.N.A. soldiers who have since returned and are living in India had deposited their money in it?

(b) What has happened to the assets of that Bank, and how the depositors of that Bank now living in India can get back their money for which they hold passbooks and certificates of the Azad Hind Bank?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The only assets of the Bank which were recovered at the time of British occupation of Burma were in Japanese currency which was invalidated by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom. These assets are therefore valueless. The High Commissioner for India in Burma has been trying to find out if there are any other assets of the Bank but no authentic information has so far become available. The Indian Independence League in Rangoon is of the view that except for Japanese Currency nothing was left behind in the bank at the time of Japanese surrender. There seems little likelihood, therefore, of depositors being able to recover their deposits.

DEFENCE SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS

862. *Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the arrangements to pay off the Savings deposited in the Post Office Defence Savings Bank, particularly in districts where a cut was made from the price of sugarcane supplied by growers to sugar factories, such as in Gorakhpur District, are most unsatisfactory and serious complaints have been made in this connection?

(b) What is the total number of persons who have made Defence Saving Bank Deposits in the Post Offices and the total amount of such deposits in the whole of the United Provinces; and in the Gorakhpur and Deoria Districts?

(c) What is the total number of persons who have been able to get back their deposits between 1st April 1947 and 1st December 1947 in the whole of the United Provinces and in the Gorakhpur and Deoria districts?

(d) What is the period of time which it will take at this rate to enable the withdrawal of all these deposits to be completed in the whole of the United Provinces and in the Gorakhpur and Deoria districts?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: (a) Some complaints have been received by Government to the effect that illiterate depositors who have opened Defence Savings Bank accounts through the Cane Development Department of the Government of United Provinces are experiencing some difficulty in withdrawing amounts standing to their credit since they have to furnish identification at the time of making applications for withdrawals.

(b) (i) 4,873,113 Defence Savings Bank accounts were opened in the United Provinces. (ii) 624,476 of these accounts relate to the Gorakhpur and Deoria Districts.

Information with regard to the total amount is not readily available.

(c) (i) So far, 2,114,201 accounts have been closed in the United Provinces.

(ii) Out of these, 203,060 accounts relate to the Districts of Gorakhpur and Deoria.

(d) It is not possible to calculate the period which depends on the time taken by the depositors to present their applications for withdrawal, supported by proper identification.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST POSTAL STAFF AT GORAKHPUR

863. *Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether Government are aware that depositors of the Post Office Defence Savings Bank have to wait usually for three to four days in the Gorakhpur city after coming from far off villages in the rural interior, before they can get cash payment, when they come to withdraw the money?

(b) Are Government aware that specific complaints against the postal staff at Gorakhpur were made to the Post Master General, Lucknow, in a wire sent to him on or about 3rd October 1947, and in a personal interview with him on 6th October 1947, and if so, what action has been taken against the persons against whom complaints were made?

(c) Do Government propose to investigate these complaints about delay in payments of these Defence Savings Bank deposits to depositors?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: (a) Complaints have been received about the inconvenience caused to the depositors from rural areas owing to their having to travel to the Post Office where the accounts are maintained as also about the delay involved in establishing identity.

(b) The Honourable Minister had a discussion on 6th October, 1947, with the Postmaster-General, United Provinces, who issued instructions to his subordinate offices to expedite the closure of these accounts. The Posts and Telegraphs Department have also provided the following facilities to depositors:—(i) Such accounts can be transferred to the post office nearest to the depositor's residence. (ii) Withdrawals from such accounts may be made from any sub office under the head office in which the accounts stand, without formal transfer of the account to that office. (iii) Applications for withdrawal may be sent by post when the amounts due to the depositors would be remitted by money order.

As a further step the Posts and Telegraphs Department in order to minimise the difficulties about identification, has, in consultation with the Government of United Provinces, evolved a scheme by which such withdrawals would be allowed through the Tehsildar who would obtain the applications and pass books and forward them to the post office which will remit the amount to the Tehsildar concerned for payment to the individual depositors.

(c) In view of the steps already taken by Government, no further action in the matter appears necessary.

REVIEW OF EXPORT AND IMPORT LICENCES

864. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether the issue of export and import licenses made prior to 15th August 1947 has come to be reviewed after that date;

(b) whether Government have received any complaints about the basis on which licenses were given and quotas for exports and imports allotted as between old and new firms; and between big and small firms, especially in regard to jute and oil exports;

(c) whether any complaints were made to Government by new exporting concerns interested in Jute and also by oilcrushers of villages and *moffussil* towns about the unsuitability of the conditions imposed for the issue of export licenses; and

(d) whether in view of the new social set up of the country, Government propose to re-examine the whole policy of issuing licenses to various individuals and concerns?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Yes.

(d) The import and export licensing policy of Government is always subjected to review from time to time with a view to eradicating any defects that might have crept into the system. Government are aware in this connection of the dissatisfaction expressed by the public with regard to the manner in which their import and export licensing policies have recently been administered, and steps are being taken to remove such defects as have been brought to their notice.

OFFICERS EMPLOYED IN OFFICE OF DIRECTOR OF ORDNANCE FACTORIES

865. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state how many officers are employed in the office of the Director of Ordnance Factories?

(b) How many of them are Indians and how many are non-Indians?

(c) How many of the Indian Officers hold University degrees and how many of the non-Indian Officers hold University degrees?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) 22.

(b) 9 Indians; 13 non-Indians.

(c) 8 Indians and 3 non-Indians hold University Degrees.

PERSONNEL OF ORDNANCE FACTORIES

866. *Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state how many officers are employed in the various Ordnance Factories (including clothing and saddlery factories) in India?

(b) How many of them are Indians and how many are non-Indians?

(c) How many of the Indian Officers hold University degrees and how many of the non-Indian Officers hold University degrees?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) 108.

(b) 42 Indians and 66 non-Indians.

(c) Accurate figures are not readily available, but certainly nineteen (and probably twenty-eight) Indians hold University Degrees. Among the non-Indians, nine hold University Degrees.

PRICES FOR NATIVE AND CHERRY COFFEE

867. *Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the prices fixed for different varieties of plantation of native and cherry coffee?

(b) Is it a fact that Government fix these prices, on the recommendation of the India Coffee Board?

(c) Is there any representative of the small growers on the India Coffee Board?

(d) Have any representations from the small coffee growers been made to Government for taking their representatives on the Coffee Board?

(e) If so, what is the action taken?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) A statement showing the Basic Price Scale (inclusive of excise duty) for the season 1947-48 is placed on the table. This is approximately the price which accrues to the producer. Retail prices are roughly 20 per cent. higher.

(b) The prices are fixed by the Government on the basis of a Cost examination and in consultation with the Indian Coffee Board, but they are not bound to accept the Board's recommendations.

(c) Yes, the representatives of the Malabar-Wynad Coffee Growers' Association and Palni-Bodi-Sirumalai Coffee Growers' Association.

(d) and (e). Representations have been received from one Association, the Robusta Coffee Growers' Association of Southern India, Pollibetta, for increased representation on the Indian Coffee Board. They were turned down mainly on the ground that the representation of producers on the Coffee Board is not based on the type of coffee produced by planters but on a regional basis.

Statement showing the Basic Price Scale (inclusive of excise duty) of different varieties of plantation of native and cherry coffee.

Grade	Plantation (per cwt.) Rs.	Grade	Arabica Cherry (per cwt.) Rs.	Robusta Cherry (per cwt.) Rs.
P. B.	129 5 0	P. B.	113 15 0	93 7 0
O.	119 1 0	Flats Garbled	102 7 0	81 15 0
1A	116 8 0	Flats 5 per cent Triage basis	101 9 0	80 10 0
2A	115 4 0	Bulk 5 per cent Triage basis	99 14 0	79 6 0
B.	113 15 0	Blacks and Browns	75 8 0	65 4 0
C & T	108 13 0	Bits	62 11 0	52 7 0
Blacks and Browns	80 10 0			

ROBUSTA COFFEE PRICES.

868. *Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the price fixed for various varieties of Robusta coffee?

(b) How many members on the Coffee Board represent Robusta coffee growers?

(c) Is it a fact that there is considerable scarcity of coffee in the market?

(d) Is it a fact that huge stocks of coffee are held by hoarders and black-marketeers in spite of coffee control?

(e) If so, what steps Government propose to take to prevent it?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) A statement is placed on the table.

(b) Two.

(c) Government have seen Press reports making such complaints.

(d) There seems to be a tendency on the part of the dealers to withhold stocks.

(e) A meeting of the Marketing Committee of the Indian Coffee Board was convened on the 8th December 1947 to consider the alternative methods of sale with a view to ensuring coffee reaching the consumers. A decision will be taken when the proceedings of that meeting are received.

Basic Price Scale for Robusta coffee (inclusive of excise duty) for the season 1947-48.

	Robusta Cherry (Per Cwt.) Rs.
P. B.	93 7 0
Flats Garbled	81 15 0
Flats 5 per cent Triage basis.	80 10 0
Bulk 5 per cent Triage basis.	79 6 0
Blacks and Browns	65 4 0
Bits	52 7 0

RETURN OF MONEY DEPOSITED BY I.N.A. SOLDIERS

869. *Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether Government are aware that when the Indian National Army soldiers were brought under arrest to Calcutta all their money was taken away and deposited in the Imperial Bank of India, but this money has not yet been returned to them although the soldiers have been acquitted or released?

(b) How much money was deposited in this manner and from how many persons it was collected, and how and when Government propose to return it?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Yes, Sir. The amounts in question were deposited with the Reserve Bank of India.

(b) The total amount deposited in this manner was Rs. 1,93,967-7-5 in respect of 886 persons. This amount included forged currency notes and counterfeit coins amounting to Rs. 43,453-2-6.

There are still 457 outstanding claims and the amount to be paid is Rs. 41,840-5-4. Only a few claims have been received in respect of the amount now held in deposit. These are being investigated and payment will be arranged soon. The bulk of this amount still remains unclaimed.

CENTRAL COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, DELHI

870. *Shri R. R. Diwakar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether a Central College of Agriculture has been started by the Central Government at Delhi this year at a cost of Rs. 85,00,000?

(b) Why was it thought necessary to incur such a huge expenditure for an ordinary Agricultural College?

(c) Is any special research work carried on? If so, what?

(d) Is it a fact that even matriculates who have not studied science are admitted to the College?

(e) Is it a fact that the full curriculum for the course is not ready even though the College has already started functioning?

(f) Is physical training a part of the course? If so, are the students provided with all facilities for physical training?

(g) Is it a fact that an Aerogen Gas Plant was sold and sent to the College by a Lahore firm in June, 1947, but it was found missing and that later the same Gas Plant was sold by another firm in Delhi at about a thousand rupees?

(h) Is the Gas Plant now in the premises of the College?

(i) Was it through the Federal Public Service Commission that the appointments were made to the staff of this College?

(j) Has the Federal Service Commission any instructions to give preference to refugees?

(k) Is it a fact that the Principal of the College is a retired official?

(l) What was the special reason for choosing a retired person for such an important post?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: (a) and (b). A Central College of Agriculture has been started to impart agricultural education to students, from Centrally Administered Areas, Indian States and Provinces which have no Agricultural Colleges of their own.

A permanent site for the College is yet to be selected and no estimates of the cost involved have yet been finally approved.

(c) None at present. The College is mainly a teaching institution for imparting education and training leading to the B.Sc. (Agriculture) Degree of the University of Delhi.

- (b) whether the price of areca has fallen on account of the imports;
 (c) what restrictions are proposed to be imposed to check the imports;
 (d) whether it is a fact that the areca growers in India have made several representations for the removal of excise duty on areca; and
 (e) the amount of duty collected during the years 1945-46, 1946-47 and 1947-48?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) 2,03,898 cwts. of arecanuts were imported from the Straits Settlements by sea into India during the three months ending June 1947. Figures of later imports as also imports from Eastern Pakistan are not available.

(b) Prices of imported arecanuts fell to a certain extent, particularly during September and October. There has, however, been a general improvement in the prices of local arecanuts.

(c) Licensing of imports of arecanuts during July-December 1947 shipping period were restricted to a monetary ceiling. It is likely that similar restrictions may continue during the January-June 1948 period as well.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) I lay on the table of the House a statement showing the required information.

Statement showing amount of Duty collected on Areca during the year 1945-46, 1946-47 and 1947-48.

Year	Amount of duty collected (import duty plus excise revenue).
	Rs.
1945-46	2,22,26,000
1946-47	3,34,73,000
1947-48 (1-4-47 to 30-9-47)	1,12,2,000

PAKISTAN RAIDS ON INDIA.

876.*Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state how many raids have been made on our country by Pakistan, after the partition?

(b) What losses have been suffered by our public in men and material?

(c) What action have Government taken to check further raids?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) to (c). I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to Starred Question No. 563 asked by Shri Ajit Prasad Jain on the 3rd December 1947.

FALL IN THE PRICE OF ARECA

877.*Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao: Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the price of round supari has fallen by 60 per cent. during the past few weeks and that it is still going down;

(b) whether Government are aware that the fall in price is due to the smuggling of supari from Eastern Pakistan area not only of Eastern Pakistan supari but also of supari imported from Singapore through Pakistan ports to avoid import restrictions;

(c) whether representations have been received by the Government of

India from the Karnataka and Mysore Area growers' Association in this connection; and

(d) what action Government propose to take to check the fall in the price of areca and to restore its original price?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) No, Sir. On the contrary, the tendency has recently been rather upward. I lay on the table of the House a statement showing the prices of supari at Bombay for the twelve weeks ending the 29th November 1947.

(b) Firstly, I have already stated that there has been no fall in prices. Secondly, the question of smuggling does not arise in view of the fact that the two Dominions of India and Pakistan follow the same import restrictions on supari and that the export into this country of supari previously imported into Pakistan is free, under the terms of the standstill agreement.

(c) Government have received some complaints alleging that imports of areca and betelnuts have resulted in a fall in the prices of these commodities. There have also been some representations for liberalising imports of these articles on the ground of their being a poor man's luxury.

(d) Does not arise, in view of my answer to part (a) above.

Statement showing the prices of supari at Bombay for the twelve weeks ending the 29th November 1947.

Month	Price per Cwt.
	Rs. A. P.
<i>September, 1947.</i>	
Week ending the 13th	109 0 0
" " " 20th	109 0 0
" " " 27th	109 0 0
<i>October, 1947.</i>	
Week ending the 4th	107 8 0
" " " 10th	109 0 0
" " " 18th	110 0 0
" " " 25th	110 0 0
<i>November, 1947.</i>	
Week ending the 1st	110 0 0
" " " 8th	110 0 0
" " " 15th	110 0 0
" " " 22nd	110 0 0
" " " 29th	110 0 0

(d) The Candidates admitted fulfil the minimum qualification for admission viz. Matriculation or Higher Secondary Examination.

(e) The Courses of study, as required, have been prepared and approved by the University of Delhi.

(f) Physical training is not a part of the course of studies, but arrangements for games and exercises by students have been made. A proposal for appointing a Physical Training Instructor is under consideration.

(g) and (h). One Aerogen gas plant, supplied by a Delhi firm, is at the premises of the College. The Lahore firm has not yet supplied the plant. No plant is missing.

(i) and (j). The gazetted posts at the College have been filled temporarily by the appointment of refugees. Permanent recruitment to these posts is, however, being made through the Federal Public Service Commission who have already invited applications for them.

(k) Yes.

(l) He has been appointed temporarily in view of his qualifications and experience. No other suitable officer was readily available. The permanent incumbent of the post is being selected through the Federal Public Service Commission.

PRODUCTION OF ARABICA AND ROBUSTA COFFEE.

871. *Shri C. M. Poonacha: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state what is the average annual production of Arabica and Robusta coffee in India?

(b) Is it a fact that the price of Robusta coffee is kept at such a low level that Robusta coffee growers, especially the small growers, are very hard hit?

(c) Do Government propose to increase the price fixed for Robusta coffee by at least 25 per cent of the present price?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) The average production during the 3 years ending 1945-46 was:—

(i) Arabica	...	...	14,880 tons.
(ii) Robusta	...	...	5,033 tons.

(b) Prices of different varieties of coffee are fixed in accordance with a Price Differential Scale laid down by the Indian Coffee Board. If the Robusta growers feel that they are not getting a fair deal, it is for them to make out a case based on facts.

(c) No, Sir.

SEIZURE OF RICE BY DUTCH GOVERNMENT.

872. *Shri B. Das: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the press interview of Dr. Shahriar, published in the *Hindustan Times*, dated 1st December, 1947 that the Dutch Government has seized the 30 lakh tons of rice which the Indonesian Republican Government had deposited in the port of Java for transshipment to India?

(b) What steps Government propose to take to secure immediate delivery of five lakh tons of unhusked rice from Java Port as was arranged?

(c) What representations have been made to the Netherlands Government over this seizure of rice, which became the property of the Government of India the moment it reached the port?

(d) Do Government propose to make a statement on the situation?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The figure of five lakh tons mentioned in this question is far in excess of any quantities for which arrangements had been made. So far as I am aware, a quantity of 9,000 tons of paddy collected by the Indonesians at various ports and earmarked for India was seized by the Netherlands Government. This was not the property of the Government of India in the sense that delivery had been taken over, though it was expressly intended for India and awaited the arrival of a ship. No representations have been made to the Netherlands Government.

(d) No.

WAGES TO REFUGEE WORKERS AT KURUKSHETRA

873. *Shri Santanu Kumar Das: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the refugees of Kurukshetra are demanding wages for doing the work of distribution of cloth and ration among themselves?

(b) If so, how much is the daily wages demanded by a refugee worker?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) and (b). The Question is not understood. But the position in regard to employment of refugees and the wages thereof, in the Kurukshetra Camp, is this:

Refugees who are engaged on any whole time organisation like the Rationing Department, are being paid according to the nature of duties entrusted to them, whether as Ward Rationing Officers, Supervisors, Ration Clerks etc. The same applies to refugees, who are engaged for unloading tentage and other materials and those engaged on hard manual labour. Full wages, according to market rate, are given to refugees when employed for whole time Governmental work. Work parties from amongst the refugees, are organised on a voluntary basis for work like distribution of cloth etc., for which no payment is made.

REHABILITATION OF REFUGEE VAIDYAS.

874. *Sri Algu Rai Shastri: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether Government propose to rehabilitate the Refugee-Vaidyas in suitable places just as other classes of professional evacuees from Pakistan are going to be rehabilitated?

(b) Have Government received any representation from Refugee-Vaidyas as to their appointment in Medical relief centres in refugee camps as also in other towns and villages?

(c) Do Government propose to consider cases of Vaidyas as a class while distributing loans from the funds of Refugees Finance Corporation, the establishment of which is under the contemplation of Government?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) Government will bear in mind the cases of different professional classes among the refugees in working out schemes for rehabilitation.

(b) Yes.

(c) Rehabilitation Finance Corporation is intended for industrialists and not for Vaidyas and Doctors. The latter will be eligible to apply for small loans under a scheme which Government expect to announce shortly.

IMPORT OF ARECA

875. *Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao: Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of areca that has been imported into India from Singapore and Eastern Pakistan during the current year;

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

(INFORMATION PROMISED IN REPLY TO CERTAIN QUESTIONS—LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE TO-DAY).
Mr. Manu Subedar Starred Question No. 628(b) and (c) of 16th November 1946.

RECOVERY OF EXPENDITURE INCURRED IN INDIA ON BEHALF OF U.K. AND EASTERN GROUP COUNTRIES.

Statement showing the expenditure incurred by the Government of India (Civil Estimates) on behalf of H.M.G., in respect of various items.

Serial No.	Item	1941-42	1942-43	1943-44	1944-45	1945-46	1946-47
		Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.
1	Evacuees	5, 42, 163 11 3	16,81,226 4 5	14, 35,565 9 9	8 12 120 1 0	32, 41,499 0 9	7,56,471 3 0
2	Internees	30, 86,800 0 0	up to 31-3-46. Estimated expenditure during 1946-47 is Rs. 10,50,000.				
3	Lascar's Pensions.	1,02,312 2 0	3,34,168 3 0	0,34,318 14 0	11,68,651 9 0	15,93,723 4 8	5,10,857 14 0
4	Mica Bonus	..	..	..	..	7,85,086 12 0	4,88,566 0 0
5	Requisitioned Ships.	47,49,664 3 0	1,36,77,228 9 0	1,05,78,222 13 0	1,02,26,592 7 0	92,44,961 4 0	2,63,38,798 12 4

The figures do not include those relating to the Punjab, which are not yet available.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

Prof. N.G. Ranga's Unstarred Question No. 22 (b) and (d) of 6th February 1947.

INDIANISATION OF THE OFFICER PERSONNEL IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DEPARTMENTS.

Statement showing vacancies filled during the period between the 1st September 1946 and 1st April 1947 in the Central Services (excluding those in the Defence Headquarters).

Name of service	No. of vacancies filled			
	Permanent	Contract for a specified period	Temporary	Total
I. All India Services —				
(a) Salary less than Rs. 1,000	..	..	..	..
(b) Salary Rs. 1,000 but less than 2,000	1	..	5	6
(c) Salary Rs. 2,000 and over	..	..	4	4
II. Central Services Class I—				
(a) Salary less than Rs. 1,000	2	4	6	12
(b) Salary Rs. 1,000 but less than 2,000	..	11	9	20
(c) Salary Rs. 2,000 and over	..	8	11	19
III. Central Services Class II—				
(a) Salary less than Rs. 1,000	1	..	3	4
(b) Salary Rs. 1,000 but less than 2,000	..	..	..	..
(c) Salary Rs. 2,000 and over	..	..	..	..
IV. Central Services Class III—				
(a) Salary less than Rs. 1,000	1	..	29	30
(b) Salary Rs. 1,000 but less than 2,000	..	..	..	..
(c) Salary Rs. 2,000 and over	..	..	..	..
V. Unclassified Posts—				
(a) Salary less than Rs. 1,000	..	2	105	107
(b) Salary Rs. 1,000 but less than 2,000	..	..	..	..
(c) Salary Rs. 2,000 and over	..	..	..	..
Total	5	25	172	202

Seth Govind Das, unstarred Question No. 29 (h) and (c) of 7th February, 1947.

USE OF RAILWAY LINES CONSTRUCTED FROM JUBBULPORE STATION TO CENTRAL ORDNANCE DEPOT, JUBBULPORE, FOR CIVIL INDUSTRY.

(b) From the information available, it is understood that the Ordnance Factory, Khamaria, and the Arsenal Sub-Depot of the Central Ordnance Depot, Jubbulpore are being retained as permanent establishments and that the C. O. D. will carry on, as such, for at least another five years. The rail connection must therefore be maintained in order to handle any inward receipts and outward despatches of surplus stores and machinery. The lines in question are therefore not surplus.

(c) No request for the use of any of the sidings for Civil Industries has so far been received by the General Manager, G. I. P. Railway.

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava's Starred Question No. 201 (b), (c) and (d) of 11th February, 1947.

NUMBER OF NON-INDIANS EMPLOYED ON HIGH SALARIES UNDER THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

Statement showing the number of non-Indians in service in the Central Services on the 1st April 1947 (excluding Defence Headquarters personnel).

Name of Service	No. of persons employed			Total
	Permanent	Contract for a specified period	Temporary	
I. All-India Services—				
(a) Salary less than Rs. 1,000	4	..	1	5
(b) Salary Rs. 1,000 but less than 2,000	45	3	12	60
(c) Salary Rs. 2,000 and over—	33	2	31	66
II. Central Services Class I—				
(a) Salary less than Rs. 1,000	92	5	14	111
(b) Salary Rs. 1,000 but less than 2,000	299	19	32	350
(c) Salary Rs. 2,000 and over	153	18	16	187
III. Central Services Class II—				
(a) Salary less than Rs. 1,000	45	6	12	63
(b) Salary Rs. 1,000 but less than Rs. 2,000	2	..	1	3
(c) Salary Rs. 2,000 and over	2	..	..	2
IV. Central Services Class III—				
(a) Salary less than Rs. 1,000	296	6	244	546
(b) Salary Rs. 1,000 but less than Rs. 2,000	..	..	..	..
(c) Salary Rs. 2,000 and over	..	..	..	..
V. Unclassified Posts—				
(a) Salary less than Rs. 1,000	190	4	369	563
(b) Salary Rs. 1,000 but less than Rs. 2,000	10	7	15	32
(c) Salary Rs. 2,000 and over	3	6	5	14
Total	1,174	76	752	2,002

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava's Starred Questions Nos. 351 and 352 of 17th February, 1947.

PROMOTION OF INDIANS IN CARRIAGE AND WAGON DEPARTMENT OF B.,B. & C. I. RAILWAY.

Question No. 351.—(a) Government are informed that the communal composition of the promotions made since 1931 to the categories mentioned by the Honourable Member are as follows:—

Asst. Loco and Carriage Supdt.

Europeans	5
Indians (Hindu)	2

Foreman.

European	1
Hindu	1

Junior and Asst. Foreman.

Anglo-Indian	1
Hindus	4
Indian Christian	1
Goanese	1

The allegation made by the Honourable Member is therefore not correct.

(b) Does not arise.

ANGLO-INDIANS OF LOCO DEPARTMENT PROMOTED TO CARRIAGE AND WAGON DEPARTMENT OF B.,B. & C. I. RAILWAY.

Question No. 352.—Government are informed that the only Anglo-Indian who had been transferred on promotion to the Carriage and Wagon Department since the amalgamation of the Loco and the Carriage and Wagon Departments of the B.,B. & C. I. Railway has since been re-transferred to the Loco Department.

Mr. Ahmed B. H. Jaffer's Starred Question No. 526 (b) and (c) of 24th February 1947.

REQUISITIONING BY THE ARMY OF BUILDINGS AND BUNGALOWS IN BOMBAY CITY

(b) Details of the 206 buildings and flats derequisitioned in Bombay City from the termination of the war to 31st December 1946.

S. No.	Name of Property	Location
1	Khalsa College, Matunga Road	Matunga.
2	Sunderdas Show Rooms	Esplanade Road Fort.
3	Bldgs. on No. 73—75, Warden Rd.	Cumballa Hill.
4	Flat 'B', Amarchand Mansions	Mayo Road, Fort.
5	"Sorab House"	Oak Lane, Fort.
6	Asian Restaurant	Rampart Row, Fort.
7	1st floor, Monginis Ltd.	Churchgate Street, Fort.
8	Grd. floor, "Wakefield House"	Ballard Estate.
9	Jerbanoo Hall, Warden Road	Cumballa Hill.
10	Metro Building, Dhobi Talao	Dhobi Talao.
11	Flat No. 3-A, Mafatlal Park	Malabar Hill.
12	Grd. Floor Part Wakefield House	Ballard Estate.
13	Trading Hall, Cotton Green Road	Cotton Green.
14	3rd Co-operative Insurance Bldg.	Sir P.M. Road Fort.
15	Godown No. 165, Sassoon Dock	Colaba.
16	Basement, New India Assurance Bldg.	Mahatma Gandhi Rd. Fort.
17	Godowns at Kalachowky Road	Lower Parel.
18	Ground floor, Famous Pictures	Sandhurst Bridge, Chowpatty
19	No. 'E' Shed Cotton Green	Sewri.
20	Parsee Gymkhana	Marine Drive.
21	Flat No. B, "Victory Court"	Queen's Road.
22	Kutir Guest House	Marine Drive.
23	Max Lessor Hotel	Do.
24	Flat No. 5-A, Habib Park	Byculla.
25	Show Room No. 3, Deepak Mahal	Marine Drive.
26	1st floor, "Samudra Tarang"	Cadell Road, Mahim.
27	Ground floor, "Guzdar House"	Warden Road.
28	Homji Hall	Mazagaon.
29	1st & 2nd floors, New India Assurance Building	Mahatma Gandhi Rd., Fort.
30	Shed 'A', Grain Depot, Sewri	Sewri.
31	Shed 'C', Grain Depot, Sewri	Do.
32	Elphinstone High School	Cruickshank Rd. Fort.
33	Wakefield House, Part of 2nd floor	Ballard Estate.
34	No. 534, Sandhurst Bridge	Chowpatty.
35	Shed 'B', Grain Depot, Sewri	Sewri.
36	Shed 'D' Grain Depot, Sewri	Do.
37	Flat No. 1-A, Amarchand Mansion	Mayo Road, Fort.
38	3 Rooms, Burjor Building	Garden Road, Colaba.
39	Bank of India Building	Esplanade Rd. Fort.
40	Godown No. 162, Sassoon Dock	Colaba.
41	Sunday Standard Building, Sassoon Dock	Do.
42	Raval Tiles Godowns Arthur Bunder Rd.	Do.
43	Godown 'C' Kalachowky Road	Lower Parel.
44	Natin Mahal	Churchgate Reclamation.
45	Wellington Mews & 24 Garages	Colaba.
46	Hindu Gymkhana	Marine Drive.
47	Islam Gymkhana	Do.
48	No. 14, Mount Pleasant Road	Malabar Hill.
49	Madhu Kunj	Ridge Road, Malabar Hill
50	Gamadia House	Warden Road.
51	Darbhanga Flats, North Block	Peddar Road.
52	Meher Bldg., No. 69, Ranade Rd. EXTN.	Dadar.
53	Flat No. 27, Maison Belvedere	Queen's Road.
54	2nd floor flat No. 14, Ormiston Rd.	Colaba.
55	Flat No. 10, Oval View.	Churchgate Reclamation.
56	Flat No. 3, "The Beacon"	Do.
57	Flat No. 405, "Sea Croft"	Wedehouse Rd., Colaba.
58	1st Floor flat, "Samundra Trang"	Cadell Rd. Mahim.
59	Flat No. 5, Ravindra Mansion	Ch' gate Reclamation.
60	Prospect Lodge	Altamont Road.

S. No.	Name of Property	Location
61	Prospect Annexe	Altamont Road.
62	Prospect Lodge (small)	Do.
63	Lincoln Lodge	Do.
64	Lincoln Lodge (Annexe)	Do.
65	Baker's Bungalow	Do.
66	Raghavji Building	Do.
67	Flat No. 8 Kay House.	Colaba.
68	Flat No. 7, Javeri Mansion	Ridge Road, Malabar Hill.
69	Flat No. 5, Cleave House	Wodehouse Rd., Colaba.
70	Flat No. 7, Chateau Windsor	Marine Drive.
71	Flat No. 4, Chateau Windsor	Do.
72	Whole Building excluding Shops 'Chateau Windsor'	Do.
73	First floor, "Asian Building"	Churchgate.
74	1st floor flat, "Summer Queen"	Arthur Bunder Road, Colaba.
75	Flat No. 10, Dossa Court, Colaba	Cuffe Parade.
76	V.C.O.'s Club, Brabourne stadium	Churchgate.
77	Flat No. 6, Hussain Manor	Warden Road.
78	Flat No. 14, "Rupa Yatan"	Marine Drive.
79	Flat No. 17, Maskati Court	Queen's Road.
80	Flat No. 9, Jyoti Sadan	Marine Drive.
81	Marble Villa, Warden Road	Cumballa Hill.
82	Flat No. 25, Corner House	Shivaji Park, Dadar.
83	46 Bhimriwala Building	Worli.
84	Patil's Bungalow Lady Jamshedji Road	Dadar.
85	Godown No. 163 Sassoon Dock	Colaba.
86	Godown No. 164, Sassoon Dock	Do.
87	"Goolshan"	Pedder Road.
88	4th floor, "Mustafa Building"	Sir P.M. Rd., Fort.
89	Satar Sea View	Chowpatty.
90	Flat No. 11, Bhilika House	Ch'gate Reclamation.
91	"Flower Mead", Warden Road	Cumballa Hill.
92	Room No. 18, Central Ice & Cold Storage	Saboo Siddique Road.
93	Bombay Cotton Mills Godown C(i)	Kalachowky.
94	4th & 5th floors, New India Assurance Building	Esplanade Road.
95	Ground floor Flat, "Mithi Lodge"	Colaba.
96	Godown No. 169-170, Sassoon Dock	Colaba.
97	Flat No. 5, "Shalimar"	Marine Drive.
98	Flat No. 2, "Bhagwan Mansion"	Dhobi Talao.
99	Flat No. 22, "Shanti Kutir"	Marine Drive.
100	Flat No. 4, "Horizon View"	Churchgate, Reclamation.
101	No. 66, Walkeshwar Road	Malabar Hill.
102	Flat No. 5, "Queen's Mansion"	Boston Rd., Fort.
103	Flat No. 13, "Solanki Sadan"	Sion Road.
104	Terrace Flat, "Eddoe House"	Pedder Road.
105	Flat No. 4, "Gulbahar"	Dhobi Talao.
106	Flat No. 6, "Prem Court"	Ch'gate Reclamation.
107	1st floor flat, "Dhun Mahal"	Garden Road, Colaba.
108	Grd. Floor Flat, "Hamilton Bldg."	Fort.
109	Flat No. 3, "Sea Side"	Colaba.
110	Flat No. 17, "Marine House"	Marine Lines.
111	Flat No. 10, "Habib Park"	Byculla.
112	"No. 15, "	Do.
113	"No. 24, "	Do.
114	"No. 33, "	Do.
115	"No. 34, "	Do.
116	Bipin Silk Mills	Dadar.
117	Flat No. 306, "Silverton"	Colaba.
118	Plot: "P" Amarchand Mansion"	Mayo Road Fort.
119	Flat No. 13, "Zainab Manzil"	Ch'gate, Reclamation.
120	Flat No. 2A, "Connaught Mansions"	Colaba.
121	36, 61 & 72, Great Western Building	Fort.
122	Flat No. 6, "Podar Mansion"	Marine Drive.
123	Flat No. 16, "Shanti Kutir"	Do.

S. No.	Name of Property	Location
124	Wakefield House, 1st floor, Room No. 6	Ballard Estate.
125	" " " Room No. 2-A	
126	" " " Room No. 6-B	
127	" " " Room No. 9	
128	" " " Room No. 7-A	
129	" " " Room No. 7	
130	" " " Room No. 5	
131	" " " Room No. 3	Do.
132	" " " Room No. 1-A	
133	" " " Room No. 3-A	
134	Mario's Restaurant	Rampart Row Fort.
135	5th floor "Winston House"	Ch'gate Reclamation.
136	Terrace flat, "Kali Lodge"	Garden Rd., Colaba.
137	"Ewart House"	Fort.
138	"Wakefield House" 1st floor (Part).	Ballard Estate.
139	Flat on 3rd floor, "Dil Pazir"	Warden Road.
140	2nd floor flat, "Oomer Mansion"	Do.
141	Flat No. 7, "Malabar Court"	Ridge Rd., Malabar Hill.
142	Flat No. 8 & Terrace flat, "Malabar Court"	Do.
143	Flat No. 3, "Javeri Mansion"	Do.
144	Bombay Bar Gymkhana	Fort.
145	"Rasik Niwas"	Marine Drive.
146	No. 76, Marine Drive (Block of flats)	Do.
147	"Empress Court" Grd. floor flat	Queen's Road.
148	"Empress Court" 5th floor flat	Do.
149	Flat No. 2, "Earl's Court"	Marine Drive.
150	2 Rooms, "Khatau Bhuvan"	Colaba.
151	No. 77, Marine Drive	Marine Drive.
152	No. 78, Marine Drive	Do.
153	4th floor, "Amar Building"	Sir P. M. Road Fort.
154	Flat No. 2, "Palm Court"	Ch'gate Reclamation
155	Flat on Regal Theatre Building	Apollo Bunder.
156	Flat No. 1, "Western Breeze"	Colaba.
157	3rd floor, "Contractor Bldg."	Ballard Estate.
158	First floor, "Farnham House"	Colaba.
159	Grd. floor, "Palitana House"	Malabar Hill.
160	Flat No. 8-A, "Patel Manzil"	Nepean Sea Road.
161	Flat No. 20, "Habib Court"	Colaba.
162	1st floor flat, "Sater Villa"	Oomer Park, Warden Road.
163	No. 84, Nepean Sea Road	Nepean Sea Road.
164	Shamsher Printing Press	Sion Road.
165	4th floor, "Karim Court"	Colaba.
166	3rd floor, "Mustafa Building"	Sir P. M. Road, Fort.
167	Pure Products, Sion Road	Sion.
168	Flat No. 5, "York House"	Henry Road, Colaba.
169	Shed No. 163-166, Sassoon Dock	Colaba.
170	Flat No. 8, "Padma Mansion"	Malabar Hill.
171	Flat No. 1, "Habib Park"	Byculla.
172	"Apollo Chambers"	Apollo Bunder.
173	"Wakefield House" 2nd floor	Ballard Estate.
174	"Lentin Chambers"	Fort.
175	Fort Press Garage	Colaba.
176	Argentina Hotel	Churchgate.
177	Grd. floor flat & shop No. 3 & 142, "Deepak Mahal"	Marine Drive.
178	1st, 2nd & 3rd floors, Hotel Delamar, "Deepak Mahal"	Do.
179	4th and 5th floors, Hotel Barkley Court "Deepak Mahal"	Do.
180	Fredricks Hotel	Apollo Bunder.

S. No.	Name of Property	Location
181	Victoria Mills, Gamdevi	Gamdevi.
182	Flat No. 20, "Firdaus"	Marine Drive.
183	"Brightlands"	Apollo Bunder.
184	"Warden House"	Sir P. M. Rd., Fort.
185	Corn Products Godown	Sassoon Docks, Colaba.
186	Arthur Road Garage (Municipal)	Arthur Road.
187	Godown No. 51(1) 6(a), Bombay Cotton Mills Estate	Kalachowki.
188	The "Anchorage"	Apollo Bunder.
189	New India Assurance Bldg., Ground floor Part	Mahatma Gandhi Road, Fort.
190	Astoria Hotel	Churchgate Reclamation.
191	Two Garages in "Dhunraj Mahal"	Apollo Bunder.
192	"Beverley Court"	Carmichael Road.
193	"Prabhod Dhairya Prasad" Flat No. 10	Sir Bhalchandra Rd., Dadar.
194	Grd. floor, "Bode House"	Colaba.
195	"Marble Hall", Wodehouse Rd.	Colaba.
196	Flat in No. 147, Esplanade Rd.	Fort.
197	Building at No. 9, Bell Lane	Fort
198	Sakina Mansions	Carmichael Rd., Cumballa Hill.
199	2nd floor flat, "Dubash House"	Cadell Rd., Mahim.
200	Flat in Excelsior Theatre Bldg.	Fort.
201	No. 31, Queen's Road	Queen's Road.
202	Flat in "Kumar House"	Sassoon Dock Rd., Colaba.
203	Flat in No. 1, Club Back Road	Byculla.
204	Flat No. 65, "Indra Bhuvan"	Dadar.
205	Flat in "Moti Mahal"	Ch' gate Reclamation.
206	"Construction House"	Ballard Estate.

(c) (i) Details of the 18 (not 12 as stated before) buildings and flats in Bombay City which were derequisitioned during the quarter ending March 1947.

S. No.	Name of Property	Location
1	Flat No. 24, St. James Court	Marine Drive.
2	Flat No. 1, "Brightlands"	Landsdowne Road, Apollo Bunder.
3	"Villa Moderna" (Flats)	Worli.
4	Godown 'G', Sassoon Dock	Colaba.
5	Flat No. 5, "May Fair"	Ch'gate Reclamation.
6	Windsor Hotel	Kumpta Street, Ballard Estate.
7	Ground & First Floors, Kanji Khetsi Wadi	Mint Road, Fort.
8	Maneckji Wadia Building, Ground Floor	Mahatma Gandhi Rd., Fort.
9	Maneckji Wadia Building, 5th Floor (Part)	Do.
10	Flat No. 2, "Bombay View"	Krittridge Rd., Colaba.
11	Grd. Floor Flat, "Wellesley House"	Cooperage, Fort.
12	Samarock Cafe	Colaba Causeway (Colaba).
13	West-half of Godown No. 166, Sassoon Dock	Colaba.
14	Wakefield House, 2nd floor Room 10-D.	Ballard Estate, Fort.
15	Wakefield House, 2nd Floor, Room 2	Do.
16	Wakefield House, 2nd floor, Room 4-E	Do.
17	Garage No. 10, "Raj Mahal"	Ch'gate Reclamation.
18	"Colaba Castle"	Colaba.

(ii) Details of the 8 buildings and flats derequisitioned in Bombay City during the quarter ending June 1947.

S. No.	Name of Property	Location
1	"Contractor Building" Grd. Floor, North	Ballard Estate.
2	"Manekji Wadia Building" remainder portion of 5th Floor.	Mahatma Gandhi Road, Fort.
3	"Haroon Building", Gd. Flr.	Bazar Gate, St., Fort.
4	R.I.N. Hospital, Sewri	Sewri.
5	Dhanraj Mahal, 5th Floor	Apollo Bunder.
6	Godown No. 173, Sassoon Dock, Compartment C-14	Colaba.
7	Godown No. 173, Sassoon Dock, Compartment B-13	Colaba.
8	Flat No. 12, Block 'D', "York House"	Henry Road, Colaba.
9	Portion of 1st Floor, Contractor Building	Ballard Estate.

Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop's Starred Question No. 806 (a) of 10th March, 1947.

GRADUATES AS 'B' GRADE GUARDS ON E. I. RAILWAY, DURING WAR PERIOD.

(a) The number of graduates appointed as 'B' grade Guards on the East Indian Railway during the war was 86.

Sri V. Gangaraju's Starred Question No. 815 of 10th March, 1947.

TEACHING OF TELUGU IN HIGH AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY ZONE

(a) The number of schools on the B. N. Railway are as follows:—

(i) European Schools—

High—1.

Middle—2.

Primary—5.

(ii) Indian Schools—

High—3.

Middle—7.

Primary—16.

(b) Nine.

(c) 585.

(d) Telugu is taught up to Standard III in 5 of the 9 schools referred to in the reply to part (b) and upto Standard II in two of the schools. In the two remaining schools it is taught up to the VIIth and VIth Standards respectively.

(e) In regard to the vernacular language taught in any particular Railway School, railway administrations are guided by the advice and instructions of the educational authorities of the Province in which the school is situated. I am, therefore, bringing the Honourable Member's suggestion to the notice of the B. N. Railway administration with a view to the matter being referred to the Educational authorities of the Provincial Governments concerned.

Babu Ram Narain Singh's Starred Question No. 1401 of 3rd April, 1947.

RUNNING OF PATNA BOGEY FROM CHAIBASA INSTEAD OF JAMSHEDPUR

Only one representation for the extension of the Patna/Tatanagar through carriage to and from Chaibasa has been made to the E. I. Railway. This was made by Mr. S. C. Banerjee, M. L. A., Member Bihar and Orissa Local Advisory Committee. The B. N. and B. I. Railway Administrations have not been able to agree to the suggestion for the following reasons:—

(i) *Insufficiency of through traffic.*—The amount of through traffic booked from stations between Patna and Asansol on the one hand and Chaibasa on the other is insufficient to justify a through carriage, as will be observed from the following figures of passengers booked and reservations made:—

B. N. Railway.—

From Tatanagar and Chaibasa to Patna and stations via Asansol.

	From	Monthly figures (January 1947)				Daily average			
		1st	2nd	Int.	3rd	1st	2nd	Int.	3rd
Tatanagar		15	69	280	422	$\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	9	14
Chaibasa		...	7	18	90	...	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	3
Total		15	76	298	512	$\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	17

are certain prohibitory orders in force in the Province of Sind regarding removal out of the Province of articles like unsewn woollen piece goods, unlicensed arms and bulk merchandise and random searches had led to periodic discoveries of such goods in the luggage of the evacuees. The Pakistan Government also admitted that abuse of authority by their officials had undoubtedly accrued and would tend to recur while the tension continued, as they recurred on our side of the Frontier.

The result of this exchange of views was that we had the following telegram from our High Commissioner at Karachi on the 17th October, 1947 :—

“Had talk over 'phone with Pakistan Finance Minister Ghulam Mohammad today. Met Khudro at dinner last night. Both promised stringent action for unauthorised searches. Four policemen suspended. Viswanathan visited Keamari harbour and found picture completely changed for the better. Ghulam Mohammad assured me that detained goods are not confiscated but can be taken back by owners.”

It was found, however, that improvement similar to that in Sind was not perceptible in West Punjab and N.W. F. P. To our protest on this point, Pakistan Government replied that no violation of agreement regarding searches in West Punjab or North-West Frontier had come to their notice and in their turn pointed out various cases of searches of Muslim evacuees leaving India.

The Governor of East Punjab has now been informed by the Governor of West Punjab that a directive has been addressed to all Deputy Commissioners in West Punjab by the Chief Secretary to the Government of West Punjab relating to the policy in the matter of searches. Unfortunately the directive was issued more than two months after the actual agreement between the two Dominion Governments and when evacuation of non-Muslims from West Punjab was nearing completion. The following is a copy of the directive supplied by the West Punjab Government :

“I am directed to address you on searches on evacuee camps and convoys. The representatives of the two Dominion Governments have agreed that such searches should not take place. It is the definite policy of the West Punjab Government that this agreement should be fully respected, because otherwise the evacuation of Muslims from the East Punjab will be greatly retarded. You are personally responsible that this policy is strictly adhered to in your district. The word ‘convoy’ of course includes not only road convoys but also trains. The word ‘camp’ bears the same definition as in para. C1 of the revised statement of policy regarding Evacuees and Refugees which was enclosed with my immediate letter No. 1009.H.47/795, dated Lahore the 4th September, 1947, addressed to all Deputy Commissioners.

2. The two Dominions also agreed that the prohibition of these searches is without prejudice to their right to prohibit the bulk transfer of merchandise from the Province. You should, therefore, take steps to prevent the removal of merchandise in bulk (i.e., merchandise in amounts which an ordinary person would not at one time buy retain in a shop) from the West Punjab to Evacuee Camps or Convoys. I am to emphasise, however, that this must not be done by searching Evacuee Camps or Convoys. Action must be taken before the merchandise search before he reaches such a camp or convoy merely because he claims to be an evacuee or says that he is going to the East Punjab. The same applies to removal of controlled articles in such quantities as are prohibited at present, but the rule that this prohibition cannot be enforced by searching camps and convoys also applies to this case”.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh's Starred Question No. 468 of 1st December, 1947.

WIDENING OF OVERBRIDGE AT BADNERA

- (a) It is not considered that the bridge is too narrow for the traffic.
- (b) It is recognised that there may be some inconvenience when there is a rush of traffic but the bridge is not considered dangerous to traffic. Neither has any accident on account of the narrowness of the bridge occurred, nor has any complaint on this score been made upto now.
- (c) There is no proposal for widening the bridge.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Mr. Speaker: There is a large number of short notice questions, though the Question Hour is suspended.

DISPOSALS ARTICLES DISPOSED OF ON CREDIT SYSTEM

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: (a) Will the Honourable Minister for Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the articles disposed of under Disposals are on credit system?

(b) If so, within what period a purchaser has to pay the amount due to the Government?

(c) What is the total amount due to Government?

(d) Is it a fact that one single purchaser owes to Government about five crores of rupees?

(e) If not, what is the largest amount due from one single individual?

(f) Are all these monies considered as safe?

(g) What steps Government propose to take to recover these large outstandings?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) and (b). There has been only one case in which Disposals articles were disposed of on credit.

(c) Messrs. Allen Berry Ltd. The total value of the sale was Rs. 5,86,32,500/-. The transaction was concluded between July and September, 1946. The total amount still due to Government is Rs. 1,35,32,500/-.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Rs. 1,35,32,500/-.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) Government have taken suitable security, and consider this a good debt. Payment is being made in regular instalments.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: May I know why an exception was made in the case of Messrs. Allen Berry & Co. to which the Honourable Minister referred and why was it not on a cash down basis?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: As I said, this was done between July and September 1946 when the Caretaker Government was in charge.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Were the parties unable to pay the whole amount?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Apparently that was so.

Shri Khurshed Lal: May I ask the Honourable Minister whether the parties are paying any interest on this?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I believe so.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I know the approximate value of the undisposed of goods with the Government?

Mr. Speaker: It does not arise.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: May I know the book value of the amount that was sold to this firm?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I cannot say exactly what the book value is.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I ask whether the disposals purchased by private firms like Allen Berry & Co. include dangerous vehicles and weapons and whether these things are being offered by them for sale to states outside India?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: No, Sir.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I know what profit this firm are making on the goods sold to them?

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: The Honourable Minister said that Government have taken suitable security. May I know what kind of security it is?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: There is a Bank which has stood as security.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Which Bank?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I think I had better not mention the name of the Bank as it might create complications. A Bank has stood as security and also the firm of Dalmia Jain. Further the entire stock is mortgaged to us.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: My question has not been answered, Sir. I asked what profits are the firm making on the goods sold to them.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We have no information.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Are Government aware that for purposes of banking, securities are not accepted from partnerships and members of the joint family?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: This matter was gone into by the previous Government and we have tried to improve matters as far as possible. For the last three months Rs. 20 lakhs per month is being paid.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: If the Government are not satisfied with what has been achieved by the previous Government, will they care to reopen the subject?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We have already made some arrangements in this respect.

RETRENCHMENT IN GENERAL HEADQUARTERS

Shri Jaipal Singh (on behalf of **Dr. Dharam Prakash**): (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether the Chief Administrative Officer, Supreme Command and India Command after preparing a joint retrenchment list on Saturday, the 29th November, 1947 gave notice to 280 employees of the General Headquarters, on the morning of the 1st December, 1947 at 10 O'Clock that their services were not required after the 30th November, 1947?

(b) If so, on what authority have these people been discharged?

(c) Why was no notice given to these employees some time in advance, when the question of abolition of the Supreme Command had already been decided?

(d) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of withdrawing this notice and terminating the services of these employees with effect from 1st January, 1948 instead of from 1st December, 1947?

(e) If not, will the employees be given one month's pay?

(f) Is it a fact that the staff employed in the General Headquarters have given a notice of their resorting to strike to protest against this action?

(g) Do Government propose to give an assurance that the staff who are discharged from service in future will be given at least two months' notice?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) The services of 239 temporary employees of Supreme Commander's Headquarters were terminated with effect from the 1st December 1947.

(b) They were discharged in accordance with the retrenchment rules which were framed, in early 1946, in consultation with the Heads of the various Branches of Armed Forces Headquarters, the Financial authorities and representatives of all classes of the staff concerned.

(c) When the Supreme Commander's Headquarters was formed, it was arranged to staff their Headquarters with clerks, etc., who, in pursuance of Government's retrenchment plans and by the length of their service, were due to be discharged with effect from the 1st October, 1947. A list of such personnel was circulated as long ago as the 5th August, 1947. These individuals, therefore, knew that they were due for retrenchment as soon as the Supreme Commander's Headquarters was wound up. It was not possible to give them a month's notice as the final decision to close down the Supreme Commander's Headquarters with effect from the 30th November, 1947 was taken by the Joint Defence Council only on the 8th November 1947, and as some time was required to examine the lists prepared in August to see how many could be absorbed in any existing vacancies in the three Service Headquarters. A month's pay, however, is being paid to these personnel in lieu of notice.

(d) No, Sir, as one month's pay in lieu of notice is being given to all the personnel affected.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) According to rules, only one month's notice or a month's pay in lieu is required to be given. Government do not see any reason to change the rules.

DISPOSAL OF INDIA OFFICE BUILDINGS AND ITS CONTENTS

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of India have received an invitation from the British Government to send their representatives to London to settle the question of complete transfer of records library, curious objects of arts, jewels and botanical specimens from there to India?

(b) If so, has the invitation been accepted, and have Government decided upon the personnel of the representatives to be sent for the purpose and the time when they are likely to leave India?

(c) What decision, if any, have the Government of India taken upon the policy to be pursued by these representatives in their discussion with the British Government and the representatives of the Pakistan Government?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b). The Government of India have been asked by the United Kingdom Government to discuss with them the whole question of the disposal of the India Office building and its "contents", and that with that view the United Kingdom Government are setting up a fact finding committee to start work on the question of disposal of surveying the "contents" of the India Office. The committee's functions are to be the preparation of a statement of "contents" which they came, the various claims made to the "contents" and the various suggestions for their disposal. The Government of India were invited to send a small party of representatives to London to join this committee. This invitation has been accepted and a tentative selection has been made of Government's representatives on the committee. According to the latest information the committee is likely to meet about the third week of January 1948.

AGREEMENT WITH TATA AIRWAYS

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (on behalf of **Prof. N. G. Ranga**): Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state;

(a) Whether Government have reached an agreement with the Tata Airways for their participation upto 49 per cent of capital;

(b) Whether Tata Air-ways employ mostly Indian personnel even in the higher fields of pilots;

(c) what control Government have secured over the management and participation in the capital of other Air-ways;

(d) whether it is a fact that most of the personnel in other Air-ways are non-Indians; and

(e) whether Government consider the advisability of seeing that their superior personnel also become Indian and Government secure controlling interest in their capital and management?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: (a) Government have approved broad plans for the formation of a new company called Air-India International Limited for the operation of an air service between India and the United Kingdom. Government will subscribe 49 per cent of the capital of this Company and Air India between 20 and 25 per cent.

(b) The personnel of Air India (the Tata Airline) is almost wholly Indian. Out of about 70 pilots employed by the Company; only two are non-Indians.

(c) Government have not taken any share in the capital of any of the air transport companies in India, nor have they any control over the management. The provisions of the Indian Aircraft Act and the Rules made thereunder give Government adequate power to control the operation of air services, both in the technical and the economic fields.

(d) The majority of the pilots in Indian air transport companies other than Air India, Ltd., are non-Indian.

(e) It is Government's policy to facilitate the employment of Indians in the superior cadres of air transport companies. The question whether Government should secure any share in the capital and management of air companies is under consideration and the policy will be announced at an early date.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know what steps have the Government so far taken to give effect to their policy of getting more Indians employed in place of non-Indians?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: Trained personnel are not available in India and a training college is shortly being opened to give training in flying and other operations.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know what percentage of Directors the Government propose to have, or has, in the directorate?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: A final settlement has not yet been reached but I think 50 per cent; Government will appoint half the Directors of the Company.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Managing Director be an appointee of the Government?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: Air India Ltd., are the Managing Agents and the Chairman of the Company will be appointed with the approval of the Government.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Why is this decision that Government take only 49 per cent of the shares?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: The Government has already reserved its right of *lien* on another 2 per cent. which they can get transferred at any time, if they so desire.

Shri H. V. Kamath: The Honourable Minister has stated that so far as the Tata Air Lines is concerned the personnel is almost wholly Indian and that among the pilots only two are non-Indians. What about the other staff—ground engineers and the rest of them?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: They are mostly Indians.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know, Sir, whether any portion of the balance of the share capital is subscribed by the general public?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: Yes.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

NON-REPUDIATION BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA OF U. P. GOVERNMENT'S DEAL WITH ALL-INDIA SUGAR SYNDICATE, LUCKNOW.

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of adjournment Motion from Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena. It reads thus:

"That the House do adjourn to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, viz., the failure of the Government of India to repudiate the sugar deal made by the U. P. Government with the All-India Sugar Syndicate, Ltd., Lucknow without prior consultation with it, fixing wholesale ex-factory prices for sugar manufactured in U. P. and Bihar at Rs. 35-7-0 per maund, and purchasing all their present stocks at Rs. 26 per maund which deal is extremely detrimental to national interests."

In my opinion, this matter is not at all urgent for the simple reason that this question was more than amply discussed during the Food Debate, during previous questions and debates and Budget speeches. Further it appears to me that the matter relates only to a Provincial Administration, though I do not know how far it is the responsibility of the Government of India to enforce consultation on the Provincial Government in a matter of this type. I believe it is entirely a question of Provincial administration. If that is true, then of course, this matter is purely a Provincial matter and no Adjournment Motion on this matter can be moved in this House.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

EXEMPTION TO MEMBERS OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY FROM PROVISIONS OF ARMS ACT.

Mr. Speaker: Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra being absent his question was not called but it is desirable and the Honourable the Home Member agrees, that that question should be put and answer given. I would allow any Honourable Member to put this Question.

Shri M. S. Aney: Sir, I will put the Question.

(a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the provisions of (1) (a) in the table attached to schedule (1) under rule 3 of the Indian Arms Rules, 1924 made under section 27 of the Indian Arms Act (XI of 1878) by which the following among other classes of persons, are exempted from the provisions of the Arms Act, namely:

"Members of the Indian Legislature during the tenure of office and for six months thereafter".

(b) In view of the fact that the Constituent Assembly of India has now taken the place of the Indian Legislature referred to in part (a) above, will the exemption from the licensing provisions of the Arms Act continue to apply to the Members of the Constituent Assembly as well?

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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) [12TH DEC. 1947]

(c) The committee is only of a fact finding nature and will not have anything to do with questions of policy. The idea is that after the committee's work is finished any questions which may arise for decision should be discussed at ministerial level, and only at that stage the question of a policy decision will arise.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will our Government representatives be officials or non-officials?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am not quite sure whether all will be officials: there will perhaps be officials and non-officials, and they will all be experts.

DISPOSAL OF CERTAIN SERVICEABLE AEROPLANES AS SCRAP

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state with reference to the answer to a supplementary question arising out of starred question No. 474 asked on the 1st December, 1947 regarding the disposal of aeroplanes, whether Government propose to make a statement as to the total number of planes declared as unserviceable and subsequently found to be serviceable?

(b) What is the total amount involved in connection with these planes, their book values, real values and the value to have been realised if sold as scrap?

(c) Are there any other articles also under disposal discovered as serviceable and declared as unserviceable by the officials concerned?

(d) Who is responsible for making the preliminary report regarding these planes and what steps have Government taken or propose to take against the official or officials concerned?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) In 1946 about 80 surplus Dakotas suffered damage in a storm at Panagarh. The Director General of Civil Aviation (who is not under my Ministry) considered that it would be worth while to repair only 4 or 5 of the damaged machines as he considered that (a) repairs would be uneconomical in view of the extensive damage and (b) major components would be difficult to find. He considered that the rest of the damaged Dakotas were fit to be used only for purposes of cannibalisation. Recently an inspection has been carried out by representatives of the Director General of Civil Aviation, Air Headquarters, India, and Tata Aircraft Ltd. They have recommended that 44 of the machines should be made flyable, as compared with the previous recommendation that only 4 or 5 should be made flyable.

Apart from the Dakotas I have mentioned, there were also 70 Curtis Commandos, which is a freight carrying type. These were all condemned by the Director General of Civil Aviation as being not fit for use. The inspection team which I have already mentioned has now recommended that 18 of these Curtis Commandos can be put into service after inspection.

(b) The book values of the Dakotas range from 115,000 dollars to 130,000 dollars. The present sale value in flyable condition is about Rs. 35,000/-. Their cannibalisation value would be about Rs. 10,000/-.

The book values of the Curtis Commandos are 245,000 dollars and 350,000 dollars; there are two types. No sale value in flyable condition has been fixed, but their scrap value would be about Rs. 3,500/-.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The matter is under enquiry.

Shri H. V. Kamath: The Honourable Minister referred to something like cannibalization. What exactly is the meaning of that?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That means it has to be broken up, and parts utilised as spare parts.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Who was the Director-General of Civil Aviation?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: I do not know exactly who was the Director-General of Civil Aviation at that time. I require notice of that question. I can send the information to the Honourable Member if he so desires.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Has he been changed now?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: Yes, we have got a new Director-General.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: May I know whether Government is serious in taking action against the officials concerned? What action is Government taking?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I have said that the matter is under enquiry. One has left service and others are still in service. The matter is under investigation.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Have the Government considered that auction system is better than sales by tender?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Sales by tender are encouraged. That is the main policy which is pursued.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa: Are sealed tenders invited and opened in the presence of tenderers?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Wherever possible.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: In view of the disclosures, will the Honourable Minister consider the desirability of going into the question of motor vehicles because there seems to be a good deal of scandal about motor vehicles of (a) (b) and (c) types. They are just classified according to the whim of the person who gets them.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We shall look into the matter, and if any further information can be supplied, I shall welcome it.

Shri Raj Krishna Bose: Is the officer who has left service receiving any pension or is he absolutely beyond the reach of Government?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I do not know whether he is receiving any pension.

Shri Biswanath Das: I believe the Honourable Minister stated that there are certain officials who have retired from service. Whether they have retired or not, will the Honourable Minister please consider the question of taking action in respect of the pensions of such officials if they were found so negligent?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: They have mostly gone to Pakistan.

Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar: May I know if the Government would stop the disposal of new vehicles that may not have been still disposed of?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: So far as aeroplanes are concerned, none can be disposed of without the previous specific sanction of Government.

Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar: Is it the intention of Government to take steps that no new vehicles may be sold and that used vehicles may only be sold after due inspection, so that scandals associated with disposals of aeroplanes may not be repeated in the case of disposals of these motor vehicles also?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We have taken necessary precautions.

(c) If the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to make a statement so as to remove all doubts and uncertainties on the question?

(d) Do Government propose to issue a revised Departmental Notification to the same effect at an early date?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d). In view of my answer to clause (b), no doubt or uncertainty need arise and instructions will issue to continue the exemption from the provisions of the Arms Act in favour of members of the Constituent Assembly.

Shri Balkrishna Sharma: May I know if the Government of India contemplate amending the Arms Act to the effect that the members of the Provincial Legislatures also may be exempted from the operation of the arms licence?

Mr. Speaker: That does not arise out of the present question, which deals with certain existing exemptions.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I ask if this exemption will be made effective by actually providing cartridges and other arms to the Members?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: So far as Government is concerned, they will give necessary facilities to make it effective, but it will depend upon the members themselves to use the arms effectively.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Is the Honourable Minister aware that during the last session of the Central Assembly he had given an assurance that Government would help in getting the requirements of Members of the House in respect of fire arms? In spite of that fire arms have not been available and I myself applied for such a facility and was never granted.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: It was not proved to the satisfaction of the Government that the Member in question would be able to use arms effectively.

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER CENTRAL EXCISES AND SALT ACT, 1944— LAID ON THE TABLE

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Minister for Finance): Sir, I lay on the table a copy of the following notifications in accordance with Section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944, namely:

- (1) Central Excises Notification No. 2, dated the 29th March 1947,
- (2) Central Excises Notification No. 8, dated the 5th April 1947,
- (3) Central Excises Notification No. 10, dated the 12th April 1947,
- (4) Central Excises Notification No. 13, dated the 17th May 1947,
- (5) Central Excises Notification No. 14, dated the 24th May 1947,
- (6) Central Excises Notification No. 16, dated the 12th July 1947,
- (7) Central Excises Notification No. 18, dated the 9th August 1947,
- (8) Central Excises Notification No. 20, dated the 9th August 1947,
- (9) Central Excises Notification No. 21, dated the 11th August 1947,
- (10) Central Excises Notification No. 22, dated the 23rd August 1947,
- (11) Central Excises Notification No. 29, dated the 18th October 1947,
- (12) Central Excises Notification No. 30, dated the 29th October 1947 and
- (13) Salt Notification No. 3, dated the 29th March 1947.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT (REVENUE DIVISION)

NOTIFICATION CENTRAL EXCISES

New Delhi, the 29th March 1947

No. 2.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that with effect from the 1st April, 1947, the following further amendments shall be made in the Central Excise Rules, 1944, namely:—

In the said Rules—

(1) in clause (ii) of rule 2—

(a) for sub-clause (a) the following sub-clause shall be substituted, namely:—

"(a) in the Provinces of Sind and Baluchistan, the Collector of Central Excise, Karachi."

(b) in sub-clause (d), the word "Assam" shall be omitted;

(c) in sub-clause (f), the word "Baluchistan" shall be omitted;

(d) after sub-clause (f), the following sub-clause shall be inserted, namely:—

"(g) in the Province of Assam, the Collector of Central Excise, Shilong."

(2) In Appendix III, in item (iii) under the heading "Sections 14 and 21" the words "other than the Province of Sind" shall be omitted.

W. A. ROSE, Under Secy.

The Chief Officer, Statistics and Intelligence, Branch.

The Political and External Affairs Departments.

The Director of Commercial Intelligence for Publication in the Indian Trade Journal.

By order, etc.,

W. A. ROSE,

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT (REVENUE DIVISION)

NOTIFICATION

CENTRAL EXCISES

New Delhi, the 5th April, 1947

No. 8.—In exercise of the powers conferred by sections 6 and 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following further amendments shall be made in the Central Excise Rules, 1944, namely:—

1. For rule 27 of the said Rules, the following Rule shall be substituted, namely:—

"27. Deposit of products in curer's bonded storeroom:

(1) If the curer wishes to deposit unmanufactured products in a private bonded storeroom on his own premises, he shall apply for a license in the proper form to the Collector who may require him to furnish a bond in the proper form in such sum and under such conditions as the Collector approves, binding himself to pay the duty due on the goods so deposited and for the due observance of the terms, conditions and requirements of the Act and these Rules and of any orders made thereunder in respect of such goods.

(2) The unmanufactured products to be deposited in the storeroom shall be produced before the proper officer and weighed in his presence. The licensee shall enter in a register in the proper form, or in such other form as the Collector may in any particular case allow, full details of all products received into the storeroom or removed therefrom.

(3) The unmanufactured products deposited in the storeroom, shall, not later than the thirtieth day of June in the year following that in which they were harvested, be cleared on payment of duty, or deposited in a public warehouse, appointed for the storage of such products, or sold to a wholesale dealer possessing a private warehouse licensed for the storage of such products."

II. In Appendix I to the said Rules—

(1) in the Table under the heading 'Forms'—

(a) After entry 25, the following entry shall be inserted, namely—

25-A	for a curer's private bonded storeroom	27	B 4(A)
(b) For the heading "WAREHOUSE REGISTER (IN THREE PARTS)", and entries 80 and 81, the following heading and entries shall be substituted respectively, namely:—			
"REGISTER FOR WAREHOUSES AND CURERS' STOREROOM" and			
"80	for a public bonded warehouse	168	W.R.G. 1
81	for a private bonded warehouse	173	W.R.G. 2
81-A	for a curer's private bonded storeroom	27	W.R.G. 3."

(2) After Form B-4 (Sec.), the following form shall be inserted, namely—
"Central Excises Services No. 25-A."

Range.....
Circle.....

FORM B-4 (A)

Bond to be entered into by the licensee of a curers' private bonded storeroom.

(Rule 27)

(Delete the letters and words not applicable).

I/We _____ am _____ residing at _____ (hereinafter called the obligor(s)) _____ are jointly and severally bound to the Governor General in Council in the sum of _____ rupees to be paid to the Governor General in Council for which payment _____ bind myself/ourselves and my/our legal representatives.

The above bounden obligor(s) being the licensee of the _____ storeroom at _____ appointed by the Collector of Central Excise at _____ (hereinafter called the Collector) as a curer's private bonded storeroom and registered in the Central Excise Records as No. _____ dated _____ for the storage of _____

The condition of this bond is that if the obligor(s) and his/their legal representatives shall observe all the provisions of the Central Excise Rules, 1944 to be observed in respect of a curer's private bonded storeroom;

And if all dues, whether duty or other lawful charges which shall be demandable on the goods admitted to this storeroom as shown by the records of the proper officer of Central Excises, be duly paid into the treasury to the account of the Collector within ten days of the date of demand thereof being made in writing by the said officer of Central Excises;

This obligation shall be void.

Otherwise and on breach or failure in the performance of any part of this condition, the same shall be in full force.

I/We declare that this bond is given under the orders of the Central Government for the performance of an act in which the public are interested.

Signature(s) of obligor(s)

Place
Date

Witnesses (1) _____ Address (1) _____ Occupation (1) _____
Witnesses (2) _____ Address (2) _____ Occupation (2) _____
Accepted by me this _____ day of _____ 19 _____
Collector of Central Excise."

(3) After Form W.R.G. 2 (Part III), the following form shall be inserted, namely—
"Central Excise Series No. 31-A"

Range.....
Circle.....

FORM W. R. G. 3

Register for Curer's Private Bonded Storeroom (Rule 27).

Name and address of licensee..... Commodity.....
Village..... Licence No.....

Date	Receipts		Processing				
	No. of packages, bundles, skeins, or strands	Net weight in lbs. or standard maunds of each kind of package	Nature of processing during storage	No. of packages etc., taken for processing	Net weight in lbs. or standard maunds of packages in column 5	Total No. of packages, etc., after processing and description of contents of each lot	Total net weight in lbs. or standard maunds of processed commodity according to lots in column 7
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER CENTRAL EXCISES AND SALT ACT, 1944

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Issues				Balance			
Person to whom sold	Number and date of		No. of packages sold and description of contents of each lot.	Net weight in lbs. or standard maunds according to contents as in column 13	No. of packages etc.	Net weight in lbs. or standard maunds according to contents	Remarks
	Name and address.	Licence No.					
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16

W. A. Rose, Under Secy.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE DEPARTMENT (REVENUE DIVISION)

NOTIFICATION

CENTRAL EXCISES

New Delhi, the 12th April, 1947

No. 10.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following further amendment shall be made in the Central Excise Rules, 1944, namely—

In sub-rule (1) of rule 213 of the said Rules, for the words "An appeal against an order or decision of an Assistant Collector shall lie to the Collector to whom such Assistant Collector is subordinate," the words "An appeal against an order or decision of an officer not above the rank of an Assistant Collector shall lie to the Collector to whom such officer is subordinate." shall be substituted.

W. A. ROSE, Under Secy.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE DEPARTMENT (REVENUE DIVISION)

NOTIFICATION

CENTRAL EXCISES

New Delhi, the 17th May, 1947

No. 13.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following further amendment shall be made in the Central Excise Rules, 1944, namely—

In sub-rule (1) of rule 213 of the said Rules, for the words "Assistant Collector" the words "Deputy Collector" shall be substituted.

W. A. ROSE,
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE DEPARTMENT (REVENUE DIVISION)

NOTIFICATION

CENTRAL EXCISES

New Delhi, the 24th May, 1947

No. 14.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following further amendment shall be made in the Central Excise Rules, 1944, namely—

In the Table set forth in sub-rule (2) of rule 176 of the said Rules, in item 4 for words "of such products" against entry (f), the following shall be substituted, namely—

"of such products during the 12 months preceding the 30th day of September prior to the year for which the licence is to be granted."

W. A. ROSE,
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

FINANCE DEPARTMENT (REVENUE DIVISION)

NOTIFICATION

CENTRAL EXCISES

New Delhi, the 12th July 1947

No. 16.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following further amendments shall be made in the Central Excise Rules, 1944, namely—

1. In rule 7, after the word 'produces' the word 'cures' shall be inserted.
2. In rule 9—
 - (a) after the word 'produced' the word 'cured' shall be inserted.
 - (b) in the second proviso, after the word 'production' the word 'curing' shall be inserted.
3. In rule 25, the following shall be omitted, namely—
 "If the duty is not within the prescribed period, the products maw, without prejudice to the provisions of section 10 of the Act, be confiscated."

W. A. ROSE,

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT (REVENUE DIVISION) (INDIA)

NOTIFICATION

CENTRAL EXCISES

New Delhi, the 9th August 1947

No. 18.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following further amendment shall be made in the Central Excise Rules, 1944, namely:—

In rule 168 of the said Rules, after the words "register in the proper Form" the following shall be inserted, namely:—

"or in such other manner as the Collector may in any particular case allow."

W. A. ROSE, Under Secy.

No. 18/C. No. 20/20-CXT/46.

Copy forwarded to—

- All Collectors of Central Excise.
- The Inspectorate of Customs and Central Excise.
- The Chief Officer, Statistics and Intelligence Branch.
- The Director General, Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, for publication in the Income-tax Journal.

By order, etc.,

W. A. ROSE,

* Under Secretary to the Govt. of India.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

FINANCE DEPARTMENT (REVENUE DIVISION)

NOTIFICATION

CENTRAL EXCISES

New Delhi, the 9th August 1947

No. 20.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following further amendment shall be made in the Central Excise Rules, 1944, namely:—

For rule 174 of the said Rules, the following shall be substituted, namely:—

"174. *Persons requiring a licence*.—Every manufacturer, trader, dealer, or person herein after mentioned, shall be required to take out a licence and shall not conduct his business in regard to such goods otherwise than by the authority, and subject to the terms and conditions of a licence granted by a duly authorised officer in the proper Form:—

(1) *Matches*.—Manufacturers of matches, and of splints and veneers;

(2) *Unmanufactured products*.—Curers; brokers, commission agents and wholesale dealers who purchase such products from curers; all brokers, commission agents and wholesale dealers doing business in unmanufactured tobacco; all holders of private bonded storerooms or warehouses;

(3) *Other excisable goods except salt*.

(a) Manufacturers; and

(b) Persons using excisable goods, without payment of duty for special industrial purposes.

[NOTE.—The provisions relating to the licensing of manufacture of salt and saltpetre are set out in Chapter VI of these Rules and in the Rules issued in North-Eastern India, North Western India, Bombay and Madras respectively in regard to salt]."

W. A. ROSE, Under Secy.

No. 20/C. No. 2/4-CX/47.

Copy forwarded to—

- All Collectors of Central Excise.
- The Inspectorate of Customs and Central Excises.
- The Director of Commercial Intelligence for publication in the Indian Trade Journal.
- The Chief Officer, Statistics and Intelligence.

By order, etc.,

W. A. ROSE,

Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

FINANCE DEPARTMENT (REVENUE DIVISION)

NOTIFICATION

CENTRAL EXCISES

New Delhi, the 11th August, 1947.

No. 21.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that with effect from the 9th August, 1947, the following further amendments shall be made in the Central Excise Rules, 1944, namely:—

In the said Rules, in clause (ii) of rule 2—

(a) for sub-clauses (d), (e), (f) and (g), the following sub-clauses shall be substituted namely—

"(d) in the provinces of Bihar and Orissa and the following districts of Bengal, namely, Chittagong Hill Tracts, 24 Parganas, Calcutta, Khulna, Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling, Burdwan, Birbhum, Bankura, Midnapore, Hoogly and Howrah, the Collector of Central Excise, Calcutta.

(e) in the districts of Bengal not specified in sub-clause (d), and the district of Sylhet in the province of Assam, the Collector of Central Excise, Chittagong;

- (f) in the United Provinces, Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara and the following districts of Punjab, namely Amritsar, Kangra, Hoshiarpur, Jullundur, Ambala, Rohtak, Hissar, Gurgaon, Simla, Ferozepur, Karnal and Ludhiana, the Collector of Central Excise, Allahabad;
- (g) in the North-West Frontier Province and the districts of the Punjab not specified in sub-clause (f), the Collector of Central Excise, Lahore;
- (h) in the Province of Assam other than the district of Sylhet, the Collector of Central Excise, Shillong."

W. A. ROSE,

Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

FINANCE DEPARTMENT (REVENUE DIVISION)

NOTIFICATION

CENTRAL EXCISES

New Delhi, the 23rd August 1947.

No. 22.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following further amendments shall be made in the Central Excise Rules, 1944, namely—

In the said Rules, for clause (ii) of Rule 2, the following shall be substituted, namely—

"(ii) 'Collector' means—

- (a) in the province of Bombay and in the Central Provinces and Berar, the Collector of Central Excise, Bombay.
- (b) in the provinces of Madras and Coorg, the Collector of Central Excise, Madras;
- (c) in the provinces of West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, the Collector of Central Excise, Calcutta;
- (d) in the United Provinces, East Punjab, Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara, the Collector of Central Excise, Allahabad;
- (e) in the province of Assam, the Collector of Central Excise, Shillong;
- and includes any officer specially authorised under rule 4 or 5 to exercise throughout a province, or any specified area therein, all or any of the powers of a Collector under these rules."

W. A. ROSE,

Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF FINANCE (REVENUE DIVISION)

NOTIFICATION

CENTRAL EXCISES

New Delhi, the 18th October 1947

No. 29.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following further amendment shall be made in the Central Excise Rules, 1944 namely:—

In rule 174 of the said Rules for the words "and of splints and veneers" the words "and of splints, veneers and composition for match heads" shall be substituted.

W. A. ROSE,

Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

No. 29/C. No. 2/4/CX/47.

Copy forwarded to:—

All Collectors of Central Excise.

The Inspectorate of Customs and Central Excises.

The Chief Officer, Statistics and Intelligence Branch.

The Director of Commercial Intelligence for publication in the Indian Trade Journal.

By order, etc.,

W. A. ROSE,

Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF FINANCE (REVENUE DIVISION)

NOTIFICATION

CENTRAL EXCISES

New Delhi, the 29th October 1947

No. 30.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following further amendment shall be made in the Central Excise Rules, 1944, namely:—

In the proviso to rule 12 of the said Rules:

(i) to clause (b), the word "or" shall be added; and

(ii) after clause (b) the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

"(c) the goods are exported to Pakistan".

W. A. ROSE,

Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

No. 30/C. No. 33/69-CX/47

The Collectors of Central Excise, Allahabad/Bombay/Calcutta/Madras/Shillong.

The Inspectorate of Customs and Central Excises.

The Chief Officer, Statistics and Intelligence Branch.

Ministry of States, Government of India.

Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations.

Ministry of Finance (Revenue Division), Government of Pakistan, Karachi.

The Director of Commercial Intelligence for publication in the Indian Trade Journal.

By order, etc.,

W. A. ROSE,

Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

FINANCE DEPARTMENT (REVENUE DIVISION)

NOTIFICATION

SALT

New Delhi, the 29th March, 1947

No. 3.—In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to make the following rule:—

"On and from the 1st April 1947, no salt shall be removed from the place of manufacture or production except upon payment of charges at the rates specified in the following Schedule. Such charges shall be payable in addition to any other charges due or leviable on such salt under the Central Excise Rules 1944.

SCHEDULE

If removed from a licensed salt works or factory.	2 annas per standard maund
If removed from any salt factory or source administered by the Central Government.	3½ annas per standard maund.
If removed from any salt works, factory or source for despatch by sea to the ports of Calcutta or Chittagong.	Nil

W. A. ROSE,

Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

STATEMENT ON SOUTH AFRICA

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable the Prime Minister to make a statement regarding South Africa.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (Prime Minister and Leader of the House): Sir, I seek the indulgence of the House to make a statement on a subject which is of deep interest to the House and the country.

The House is aware of the text of the resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on the 8th December, 1946, on the treatment of Indians in South Africa. To refresh the memory of Honourable Members, I would quote the substantive part of the resolution:

"THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

IS OF THE OPINION that the treatment of Indians in the Union should be in conformity with the international obligations under the agreements concluded between the two Governments and the relevant provisions of the Charter; and,

THEREFORE REQUESTS the two Governments to report at the next session of the General Assembly the measures adopted to this effect."

The House is also aware of the correspondence which took place between me and Field-Marshal Smuts with a view to giving effect to this resolution. The Prime Minister of South Africa was insistent that, before any negotiations could take place between the two Governments, the so-called sanctions which India had applied against South Africa, namely the severance of trade relations between the two countries, should be withdrawn and the High Commissioner for India should return to the Union. We, on our part, while expressing a sincere desire to settle the problem of the treatment of Indians in South Africa by friendly means, expressed our inability either to resume trade relations, or to enter into negotiations, except on the basis of the Assembly resolution of 1946.

2. Since no agreed basis for discussion between the two Governments could be reached as a result of this correspondence, we instructed our Delegation to the Second Session of the United Nations Assembly, which commenced in New York last September, to work for a resolution which, after expressing the regret of the Assembly at the failure of South Africa to accept last year's resolution as a basis of settlement by negotiation with the Government of India, would require South Africa to enter into negotiations with this country on the aforesaid basis and would request both India and South Africa to report the result to the Security Council not later than three months from the end of the Assembly session. Subject to this broad directive, the Delegation was given discretion to adjust the exact terms of the resolution to the exigencies of the atmosphere and the mood of the Assembly.

3. After sounding opinion amongst other Delegations, the Indian Delegation presented a resolution, of which the operative part ran as follows:

"The General Assembly, having considered the reports submitted by the Government of India and by the Government of the Union of South Africa pursuant to the aforesaid resolution;

"Expresses its regret at the refusal by the Government of South Africa to accept implementation of the resolution of the General Assembly dated December 8, 1946, as a basis of discussion with the Government of India and of its failure to take any other steps for such implementation;

"Reaffirms its resolution dated December 8, 1946;

"Requests the two Governments to enter into discussions at a round table Conference on the basis of that resolution without any further delay and to invite the Government of Pakistan to take part in such discussions;

"Requests that the result of such discussions be reported by the Governments of South Africa and India to the Secretary-General of U. N. O. who shall, from time to time, make inquiries from them, and

"Submit a report on the action taken on this resolution by the two Governments to this Assembly at its next session."

(1808)

STATEMENT ON SOUTH AFRICA

1809

In the course of the discussion of this resolution by the Political Committee, the Delegations of many countries who had supported India's cause during the 1946 debate urged that the part of our resolution which invited the Assembly "to express its regret at the refusal by the Government of South Africa to accept the implementation of the resolution of the General Assembly dated December 8th, 1946, as a basis of discussion with the Government of India and of its failure to take any other steps for such implementation" was tantamount to a condemnation of South Africa and likely to be regarded as evidence of a desire on the part of India to humiliate the South African Union. Since our purpose was not to humiliate the Union Government or show any spirit of vindictiveness but only to work for a settlement which would safeguard Indian interests, the Delegation, with our approval, agreed to accept an amendment, moved by the Mexican Delegation, which had the effect of deleting the words which I have just quoted. With this amendment, the resolution was adopted by the Committee by 29 votes against 16. On the 20th November, the same resolution was placed before the Assembly. 31 countries voted for the resolution and 19 against it. The resolution runs as follows:

"THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HAVING CONSIDERED the reports submitted by the Government of India and the Government of the Union of South Africa pursuant to the aforesaid resolution;

REAFFIRMS its resolution, dated 8th December, 1946;

REQUESTS the two Governments to enter into discussions at a Round Table Conference on the basis of that resolution without any further delay and to invite the Government of Pakistan to take part in such discussions;

REQUESTS that the result of such discussions be reported by the Governments of the Union of South Africa and India to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall, from time to time, make enquiries from them and submit a report on the action taken on this resolution by the two Governments to the Assembly at its next session."

4. The majority in favour of this resolution, though substantial, fell short of the requisite two-thirds figure by three. According to the rules of the Assembly which require a two-thirds majority for all resolutions on important subjects, this year's resolution is not binding. Its moral importance, however, is in no way diminished by the shortfall of three votes in the requisite two-thirds majority. In any case, we are advised that last year's resolution remains operative. I should like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all those countries which supported us on this occasion and to pay a tribute to our own delegation for the ability with which they pressed India's case. The outcome of debate on issues such as that of the treatment of Indians in South Africa is to be measured not in terms of arithmetic but the intrinsic merit of the cause and the support of enlightened world opinion for that cause. Judged by these tests, the stand taken by the Government of India at the last session of the Assembly has been fully vindicated. In supporting the cause of Indians in South Africa, we have worked not only for the rights of people of our own race but for the rights of oppressed people throughout the world. That attitude we are determined to maintain, in the firm faith that our cause is right and that ultimately right will prevail.

5. The House will not expect me, so soon after the conclusion of the Assembly session, to make any definite announcement as to our future course of action in this matter. Government must have time to study developments and to chart their future course in the light of such developments, particularly in the light of the views of those Indians in South Africa who, in order to uphold the honour of their race, have undergone and still are undergoing heavy sacrifices. All that I can do now is to give the House the assurance that we shall not falter either in our resolve to secure justice for Indians in South Africa or in our desire to achieve this object by methods which are consistent with the letter and the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations.

STATEMENT ON PARTITION ISSUES BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Minister for Home Affairs, Information and Broadcasting and the States): Sir, with your permission, I should like to make before the House a detailed statement on partition issues between the two Dominions which I promised on the 9th December.

As soon as the principle of partition was accepted by the major political parties, the Interim Government appointed a Special Committee of the Cabinet to examine the administrative consequences of partition and to take necessary steps for the transfer of power to the two Dominions. This Committee was composed, at the outset, of H.E. the Governor General, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, Sardar Abdur Rab Nishtar, Dr. Rajendra Prasad and myself. From the 1st of July this Special Committee of the Cabinet was replaced by the Partition Council, again with H.E. the Governor General as the Chairman, and two representatives each of the Indian National Congress and the Muslim League as the parties which would be called upon to form the Dominion Governments after partition. Dr. Rajendra Prasad and myself with Mr. C. Rajagopalachari as alternate represented the Congress while Mr. Jinnah and Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan with Sardar Abdur Rab Nishtar as alternate represented the Muslim League. The Cabinet Committee—later the Partition Council—worked through a Steering Committee composed of two officers—Mr. H. M. Patel and Mr. Mohamad Ali. In addition there were appointed 10 Expert Committees which among them covered the whole field of administration and dealt with important and varied subjects, such as division of the Armed Forces, of the existing administrative organisation, of records, of personnel, and of assets and liabilities; problems relating to currency and coinage, domicile and nationality, trade and economic controls, central revenues and budget and accounts. It was the function of the Steering Committee to ensure that concrete proposals were evolved within the given time by these Expert Committees, adequately dovetailing into each other to form a comprehensive whole, and to present these proposals to the Partition Council for decision, and after obtaining these decisions to take steps wherever necessary for implementing them.

The Partition Council was continued after the 15th of August by an Order issued by the Governor General under the Indian Independence Act, 1947. Its composition was revised, two members being drawn from each of the Dominion Cabinets; India's representatives continued to be Dr. Rajendra Prasad and myself, Pakistan being represented by such Ministers as were able to attend the meetings which were held in Delhi.

2. Expert Committees commenced investigations in the third week of June and were called upon to submit their reports within a month. Over a considerable area the Committees were able to make agreed recommendations, while the Steering Committee, which considered the reports in the first instance was successful in reaching agreement on the bulk of the unsettled points. The field of differences was further reduced by the Partition Council, leaving over on the 15th August only a few important matters to be settled by the Arbitral Tribunal. The Partition Council had not altogether given up hopes of an agreed solution being found by discussion, and its confidence in this respect has been fully justified.

3. It will give the House some idea of the work of these Expert Committees if I review very briefly—indeed, it must, I fear, be a rather sketchy review—the more important of the numerous problems for which the Partition Council had to find solutions.

4. Perhaps the first important problem set to us was to reconstitute the personnel of the Civil machinery of the undivided Government of India into two cadres to serve the two Dominion Governments. For this purpose it was decided to give every Government servant an opportunity to select the Government he wished to serve and also to say whether he wished to have an

opportunity to reconsider his choice within a period of six months from the day of transfer of power. Separate cadres were then drawn up on the basis of replies received but actual transfers had necessarily to be arranged over a period of time. To enable the new Government to function effectively, provision was made on an agreed basis for the supply to Pakistan of office equipment, furniture, stationery etc., belonging to the old Government of India. It was also decided to make over to the new Government records and documents of exclusive concern to them and to duplicate those of common interest.

5. It was no easy task to list and divide the assets of the then Central Government, but when the problem was examined in detail by the departmental Sub-Committees of the Expert Committee on Assets and Liabilities there was found a wide measure of agreement regarding the allocation of the fixed assets on a territorial basis. The division of the railways, telegraph lines, the post offices, the mints, etc., was decided in this manner. Movable stores obviously could not be shared on this basis, and the basis adopted varied with the type of stores. Thus, the railway rolling stock was divided on the basis of mileage cum traffic, while other stores including the postal and telegraph stores were divided on the basis, broadly, of maintenance requirements. Before the 15th of August 1947, agreed decisions had been reached on the division of all fixed assets other than Ordnance factories and of all movable stores except Army stores and stocks of lease-lend silver. No agreement could also be reached on the basis for the division of the cash balances of the old Central Government and the sterling assets of the Reserve Bank of India. Nor was agreement reached as to the share of each Dominion of the old Central Government liabilities, though, as regards the initial responsibility for the liabilities of the old Central Government, it was agreed that India should assume it, subject to Pakistan contributing its share fixed either by agreement between the two Dominions, or if agreement were not possible, as determined by the Arbitral Tribunal.

6. In regard to the Central revenues accruing in the two territories after the 14th August 1947, it was decided by the Partition Council on the report of the Committee on Central revenues that each Dominion would retain the amounts collected in its territory. India agreed, however, to discuss at a later date, if Pakistan so desired, its proposal for pooling and sharing the revenues collected up to the 31st March 1948. Arrangements were also agreed upon for the avoidance of double taxation of income.

7. As regards contracts, certain principles for the allocation of contracts to one or the other Dominion, or for sharing the rights and liabilities arising from them, or for terminating them were evolved, and the contracts of the old Government are being dealt with in accordance with these principles.

8. Complete agreement was reached in the Partition Council over the issues considered in the Committee on Currency and Coinage except the allocation of the Sterling assets held by the Reserve Bank. As Pakistan naturally wished to have its own coinage and currency as soon as possible, India readily agreed to assist in every reasonable way and with that end in view undertook to make available for a period of time a portion of the capacity of the Nasik Security Printing Press and of the Mints at Calcutta and Bombay. Since, however, it would take some time to have the new coins and overprinted notes ready, it was decided that the existing India currency and coinage should remain common to both Dominions up to 31st March 1948 and that the Reserve Bank of India should be the common Currency Authority and the Central Bank for the two Dominions. It was realised, however, that it would take some time before the Pakistan overprinted notes could be issued in sufficient numbers to replace adequately the India notes already in circulation. It was agreed, therefore, that the period from the 1st April 1948 to 30th September 1948 would be treated as a transitional period.

[Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel]

and during that period India and Pakistan notes and coins would circulate freely in Pakistan, the India notes and coins being gradually withdrawn. The Reserve Bank of India would of course continue during the transitional period as the common Currency Authority. On the 1st October 1948 Pakistan would take over the management of its own currency and the currency reserve held by the Reserve Bank will be allocated between the two Dominions under the provisions of the Pakistan (Monetary System and Reserve Bank) Order, 1947.

9. When the questions relating to trade and economic controls were examined, it was found that the long term policies to be pursued by the two Dominions could only be discussed after the new Governments had had time to examine their respective problems. Meanwhile, it was agreed that until the 31st March 1948 *status quo* should be maintained as far as possible and modifications in and removal of controls should not be effected except by consultation between the two Dominions. It was decided that during the interim period terminating on 29th February 1948—

- (a) no customs barriers should be raised between the two Dominions;
- (b) existing import and export policies should be continued,
- (c) existing customs tariffs, excise duties and cesses should be left unchanged;
- (d) no restrictions should be imposed on free movement of goods and remittances, including capital equipment and capital;
- (e) no transit duties or taxes should be levied on goods passing from one territory to another and the existing trade channels or pattern of trade should not be interfered with.

It should be added, however, that Pakistan reserved the right to revise her attitude in regard to these matters in view of the fact that her proposal that the customs revenue should be pooled and shared during the interim period had not been accepted.

The House will be interested to know that the two Dominions have agreed to initiate discussions with a view to formulating an agreed policy in regard to the trade and economic relations of the two Dominions.

10. When the jurists examined the question of nationality and domicile, they came to the conclusion that as India and Pakistan would both be members of the British Commonwealth their citizens would continue to be regarded as British subjects. No immediate change was, therefore, called for as a result of partition: the two Dominion Governments could be left to formulate their respective nationality laws at their convenience. The Partition Council further decided that passport rules should be amended so that there should be no restrictions on the movement of persons from one Dominion to another. It is of course open to either to introduce such restrictions later.

11. The arrangements agreed to in regard to Foreign Affairs were embodied in the Indian Independence (International Arrangements) Order, 1947. According to this Order the membership of all international organisations, together with the rights and obligations attaching to such membership, devolves upon India; it being left to Pakistan to apply for membership of such international organisations as it desires to join. Rights and obligations under the international agreements to which pre-partition India was a party devolve upon both Dominions and can, if necessary, be apportioned between them, such rights and obligations as have exclusive territorial application devolving exclusively upon the Government of the territory to which they relate.

12. As for the Armed Forces, it was agreed that the personnel would be divided on a territorial basis with the exception that Muslims from India and non-Muslims from Pakistan would have the option to choose the Dominion which they wished to serve. The division of regimental centres, installations, equipment, stores etc. raised innumerable complex problems mainly of an administrative nature which were dealt with by the Armed Forces Re-constitution Committee acting under the instructions of the Partition Council. By the 15th of August sufficient progress had been made to enable the two new Governments to assume the operational control over the Army, the Navy and the Air Force. A good deal of work of the reconstitution of Forces however remained, and for this purpose a Joint Defence Council was established, consisting of the Governor-General of India as the independent Chairman and the Defence Ministers of India and Pakistan as members. A Supreme Commander was appointed to act as the executive authority of the Council.

13. By the 30th November 1947 when the organisation under the Supreme Commander was abolished, virtually all the work of the reconstitution except that of actually dividing and moving the stores had been completed. The Joint Defence Council has been reconstituted, with slightly modified functions, and is working through an executive committee consisting of the Defence Secretaries of the two Dominions and at least one Service Chief from each Dominion. The House will be gratified to learn that the Joint Defence Council which dealt with hundreds of complicated military problems was able to reach agreed decisions on all except two issues which at one time it was agreed to refer to the Tribunal, *viz*, the division of ordnance factories and the division of Army stores.

14. A renewed attempt was made in the last fortnight to settle all the outstanding issues. As I informed the House on the 9th instant, complete agreement has been reached on all of them and it will no longer be necessary to seek the assistance of the Arbitral Tribunal so far as the two Dominion Governments are concerned.

15. I shall now state briefly the details of the agreements reached on the more important of these matters:

(a) The undivided Government of India's cash balances as on the date of partition are estimated at a little under Rs. 400 crores, inclusive of the securities held in the Cash Balance Investment Account. Of these, Pakistan's share has, by agreement, been fixed at Rs. 75 crores. To this amount will be debited the Rs. 20 crores already made available to the Government of Pakistan on the 15th August 1947 and the expenditure incurred on that Government's account to date.

(b) Under paragraph 4 (3) of part IV of the Pakistan (Monetary System and Reserve Bank) Order, 1947, Pakistan's share of sterling assets will be the ratio of the note circulation after adjusting any expansion against Pakistan securities in that Dominion. It has now been agreed that India should sell to Pakistan, for Indian rupees, additional blocked sterling up to an agreed limit as and when demand is made until the 31st December 1967. The formula for working out this agreed limit will be found in the paper which I am placing on the table of the House.

(c) As I mentioned a little earlier, the Government of India have assumed initial responsibility for all the liabilities of the old Government, subject to an equitable contribution by the Pakistan Government. It was agreed that Pakistan's share would be made up of the value of assets, physical and financial, which lie in Pakistan or are taken over by the Pakistan Government plus the share allocated to Pakistan of the uncovered debt, namely, the excess of liabilities over assets of the undivided Government, less the liabilities assumed directly by the Pakistan Government. Pakistan's share of the uncovered debt has now by agreement been fixed at 17½ per cent.

ARMED FORCES (SPECIAL POWERS) BILL

Mr. Speaker: I would like to make a little observation. I believe we are all determined to finish our labours of this Session by 5 p.m. sharp today. The business that we have before us does not appear to be heavy, because I find there are two motions for Select Committees and a recommendation for circulation for eliciting opinion. Therefore, there should not be much discussion over these. So the House may agree that, in case any discussion is prolonged and goes up to five o'clock, we shall follow, by agreement, at five o'clock, the procedure of demands of grants and all questions outstanding at that time will be put to the vote of the House.

The House will now proceed with the third reading of the Bill of the Honourable the Defence Minister, namely:

"That the Bill to enable certain special powers to be conferred upon officers of the armed forces in disturbed areas, as amended, be passed."

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U.P.: General): It is with great sorrow that I have to oppose this Bill. I have the mandate of my party to support it.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member need not disclose what has happened in his party. It is irrelevant here.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: When there is a conflict of duties, and the choice is between obeying the command of the party and the dictate of conscience which is the voice of God, I must obey the higher voice. My conscience tells me that this Bill is a "black" Bill, blacker than the Rowlatt Act, and blacker than even the Defence of India Act and the Rules made thereunder and it should not be on the statute book. I think that this Bill proposes to make martial law the normal law of this land. Martial law is abhorred, and there is a stigma attached to its very name. By passing this Bill, we shall make martial law the normal law of the land. The abhorrence and the stigma which have got associated with the very name of enforcing martial law will be absent in the promulgation of this present Bill which it is proposed to pass into an Act. So this Act will be far more dangerous. I cannot allow this Bill to be passed without bringing on record my emphatic protest against it just as my esteemed and Honourable friend Mr. Santhanam recorded his protest yesterday in a most emphatic manner. I think that if I do not oppose this Bill, then I would be betraying the principles of the Congress that I represent, and I would be false to my conscience. During all its long history the Congress has fought and suffered for extending the civil liberties of the people. This Bill is a negation of all civil liberties of the people. I represent the peasantry of Gorakhpur where there are 40 lakhs of people. I also represent the labourers in Railways, in the Post and Telegraph Departments, in sugar and jute factories and all other labour, and I feel that this Bill is bound to be used against all progressive kisan and labour movements and I feel it my sacred duty to resist the passage of this Bill with all my strength. I have seen the working of many Public Safety Ordinances recently promulgated in the provinces. The other day I received a letter from Bengal. My friend, Mr. Soumendra Nath Tagore, a great peasant and labour leader from Bengal and a relation of the great Poet, has been taken away by the police from his house and there is no knowing where he is and every effort of his wife to find out has been met by the authorities with the answer that she cannot be told. I have seen the working of these Ordinances in my province. Recently I have had occasion to speak bitterly against the working of these Ordinances in my province. How then can I support this Bill which is far worse than any of those Ordinances. I have therefore decided to do my duty and to oppose this Bill. I would rather be expelled from my party than suppress the voice of my conscience.

(1816)

PHARMACY BILL

1817

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill as amended be passed."

(On a division being challenged, a count was taken and only three members stood up for Noes.)

Mr. Speaker: The Noes are 3 as against the entire House.

The motion was adopted.

Dr. N. B. Khare (Alwar State): Sir, I want to suggest that the names of the Noes should be recorded.

An Honourable Member: Do not bother, your names will go down in History.

ARMED FORCES (EMERGENCY DUTIES) AMENDMENT BILL

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh (Minister for Defence): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to amend the Armed Forces (Emergency Duties) Act, 1947, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the Bill that I have just moved is a simple one and does not need any explanation. The House will remember that earlier this year we passed a Bill empowering the members of the armed forces to perform certain duties in case of emergency. That Act applies to all the provinces in India and the present amending Bill is intended to give further power to the Government of India to make the provisions of this Bill applicable to the States which have acceded to the Union of India after the 15th August. In this Bill that power is sought and I hope the House will agree to this. I do not think that there is anything objectionable in this Bill. It only requires a provision to be made that in case any States ask for the services of the members of the armed forces it should be made available to the States which ask for it.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to amend the Armed Forces (Emergency Duties) Act, 1947, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

PHARMACY BILL

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur (Minister for Health): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to regulate the profession of pharmacy be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi, Dr. V. Subrahmanyam, Shri Vinayakrao B. Vaidya, Dr. H. C. Mookerji, Mr. R. K. Sidhwa, Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava, Mrs. Renuka Ray, Kazi Syed Karimuddin, Shri M. S. Aney, Shri O. V. Alagesan, Shri Bikramlal Sondhi, Prof. Yashwant Rai, Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, and the Mover, with instructions to report on the opening day of the next session of the Assembly, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

[Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel]

(d) For the valuation of the assets taken over by the two Dominions it has been agreed that book values should be adopted in all cases; in the case of the strategic railways, however, the book value by agreement is being written down arbitrarily by about 50 per cent.

(e) With regard to the payment of debt by Pakistan to India, it has been agreed that the total amount will be paid in Indian rupees in fifty annual equated instalments for principal and interest combined. The instalments will be payable on the 15th of August each year but no instalments will be payable for the first four years from the date of partition.

The rate of interest adopted will be the same as the average yield over a period of two years preceding the date of partition of the rupee and sterling 12 month securities of the Government of India, with an unexpired currency of 15 years or over rounded to the nearest one eighth of one per cent.

(f) Each Dominion will continue to disburse the pensions now in payment in its territory, India continuing to pay the overseas pensions. The value of all pensions, both part earned pensions and pensions in issue will be capitalised and the liability shared in the ratio agreed upon for sharing the uncovered debt. To the extent that the capitalised value of the pensions disbursed by a Dominion is more or less than its share thus determined, an appropriate adjustment will be made in the financial settlement.

(g) It has been decided that Pakistan's share of the military stores will be a third of the stocks held in India and Pakistan on the date of partition or a third of the maintenance and reserve requirements of the two Dominions calculated on an agreed basis, whichever is less. The balance, if any, will fall to India's share.

(h) As for Ordnance factories, no physical division will take place, the Indian Dominion taking full liability for their book value. India has agreed to make available to Pakistan a sum of Rs. 6 crores to be drawn as and when required by way of assistance towards the setting up of Ordnance factories and a few other essential institutions like a Security Printing Press. This amount will be added to Pakistan's debt to India.

16. Rarely indeed have matters of such complexity been settled in so reasonable a way between two independent and sovereign States. Both India and Pakistan may justifiably take pride in this achievement.

17. Sir, I have now given the House a complete picture of the machinery that was set up to devise plans of partition and of the negotiations which have been carried on to settle outstanding issues ending in the final settlement of all complicated issues amicably. I am sure the House will appreciate that the Partition Council and other Committees and organisations set up to devise these plans and secure their implementation have accomplished a great deal within a comparatively short time. The House would perhaps appreciate it better if I reminded it that on the only previous occasion when a sort of partition took place in India, viz, the separation of Burma, two whole-time special officers with staff were appointed in the latter part of 1930 and took eight months to complete their preliminary report. The Reforms Office then continued the work for four years when in 1934, for adjudication of certain unresolved points, the Amery Tribunal was appointed in December 1934 and took another four months to produce its award. In short, that comparatively small undertaking took five years to complete at considerable cost. The present partition plans were, however, completed within a short period of six months at little additional cost to the Exchequer. This was made possible by the devotion to duty of our representative on the Steering Committee and all officers and men who were engaged in the task and spared no pains to secure quick and satisfactory results. I am sure when the history of the stress and strain through which we have passed comes to be

written the partition will be recorded as a miracle of concentrated effort and consummate ability. In this connection, I would particularly pay a tribute—and I am sure the House will join with me in doing so—to the drive, energy, broadmindedness and impartiality of Lord Mountbatten, to whom we all owe so much for the quickening of the pace.

18. One word more and I shall have done. I hope the new State of Pakistan and their Government will regard this settlement as a gesture of our friendliness and goodwill. The successful implementation of these conclusions obviously depends on the continuation of the spirit of accommodation and conciliation on both sides. Discord or estrangement on any vital issue—we have many vital issues yet to settle—is bound to place the good work which we have achieved in jeopardy. I hope, therefore, that, not only in the interests of the successful implementation of these conclusions but also in the interests of peace and prosperity in both the Dominions, cordiality, tolerance and amity will continue to guide both of us in the solution of other problems which demand urgent and speedy disentanglement.

Arrangement between India and Pakistan regarding the Sterling assets of the Reserve Bank of India.

[Vide paragraph 15(b) of the Statement]

It is agreed that in addition to the sterling to which Pakistan would be entitled under para. 4(3) of part IV of the Pakistan (Monetary System and Reserve Bank) Order, 1947, an amount of sterling calculated as below will be made available to Pakistan in the manner stated below:

- (a) The total of the Sterling assets in both the Banking and Issue Departments on the 30th September 1948 will be taken together.
- (b) From this total will be deducted the lump sum payable to H. M. G. at the time of the final settlement of the sterling balances on account of the capitalisation of pensionary liability for H. M. G.'s military stores and fixed assets as on 1st April 1947, in India, etc.
- (c) Out of the remaining balance a sum in sterling which taken together with the gold held in the Issue Department will be equal to 70 per cent. of the total liabilities of that Department as on 30th September 1948, will be allocated in the manner prescribed in para. 4(3) of Part IV of the Pakistan (Monetary System and Reserve Bank) Order, 1947.
- (d) Of the remainder, 17½ per cent. will be allocated to Pakistan.
- (e) The difference between the total of what will fall to the share of Pakistan under (c) and (d) and what Pakistan would obtain under para. 4(3) of Part IV of the Order is the amount of the additional sterling to be made available to Pakistan.
- (f) In regard to the amount of this additional sterling, India agrees to sell to Pakistan from its Account No. II or similar Account, sterling for Indian rupee on demand being made by Pakistan up to the 31st December 1967.

ELECTIONS TO STANDING COMMITTEES FOR MINISTRY OF FOOD AND TO COURT OF UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the Assembly that upto the time fixed for receiving nominations for the election of a member to the Standing Committee for the Ministry of Food and to the Court of the University of Delhi, one nomination in each case was received. As there is only one candidate for a vacancy in each of these Committees, I declare the following members to be duly elected:

Standing Committee for the Ministry of Food.—Dr. V. Keskar.

The Court of the University of Delhi.—Shri Deshbandhu Gupta.

[Shri T. T. Krishnamachari]

Central and the Provincial, so that more representation and more opportunity will be given for those who practise the profession to associate themselves in the matter of regulation not merely of the educational curriculum but also the regulation of the work of the pharmacists, so that the profession will as a whole develop some responsibility in the matter without which I think the Bill will be a dead letter.

Before going into one or two details of the Bill I would like at once to tell the House that there would be no use this House or the country at large feeling now that we have a Drugs Act and now that we have a Pharmacy Bill which will be passed into an Act we will be controlling the manufacture, sale and consumption of all kinds of drugs.

I was listening to the Honourable Mover the other day when she was more or less forced into admitting her interest in the various indigenous systems of medicine in vogue in this country, systems of medicine which will not bear any kind of regulation or control, and any attempt at regulating or controlling them will probably provoke the wrath of many of our people whose atavistic inclinations given full and free play are solidly behind the support given to the Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani systems of medicine. This is only one side of the medal. The Drugs Act and the Bill before us avowedly relates only to drugs which fit into some one of the western pharmacopeas such as British, German and American, but there will be quite a large number of people engaged in this trade who can take cover under the fact that the drugs they vend belong to Ayurveda, Siddha or Unani systems while the drugs used by them will undoubtedly be the same type of drugs as are used in the practice of allopathic medicine and we will have no control over such people at all. Not that I suggest the Honourable the Mover should do something in the matter because I think it will baffle all human ingenuity to bring the vending of drugs used by practitioners of these systems into line. Besides that will be a very unpopular thing indeed. I should like to say that the country had better realise that this Bill is only a very imperfect attempt at safeguarding the health of the people, that the health of only those people that prefer to buy and use drugs and medicines which fit into one of these western pharmacopeas, is attempted to be safeguarded by this Bill. In regard to some of the details of the Bill, I would like to add that it would be better if the Honourable the Mover could give some more information regarding the composition of the Central and Provincial Councils. We have professors in it, often times it happens that professors have no experience at all of the practical side of the trade. I am not pleading for any representation for the All-India Chemists and Druggists Association or any other similar body as such, but I would like some provision to be made, if not in the Act itself, at least some kind of indication given that Government should seek out some of the practising pharmacists and put them in the Central Council.

In regard to sections 10 to 17, I think the indication of what the Government wants here is not very clear. I would like to preface this particular remark, or rather to reiterate what I said before, that apparently Mr. Oulsnam did not have a very clear idea of what he wanted Government to do. What is it that the Government is going to do in this matter? Is it a question of having two sets of qualifications a diploma and a degree? The position has to be clarified. For a diploma it would probably be sufficient for entrants for this course to have the minimum educational qualifications. We could leave the regulation of the degree course syllabus to the universities, if it is decided that it should be a university degree.

There is one other matter on which I would like to lay some emphasis. In the case of the British Pharmacy Act, it starts with the proposition, that every registered pharmacist shall pay £2 a year to the Pharmaceutical Society. It starts with the fundamental fact that the organization which will be set up for the purpose of control and regulation will have adequate finance. I am sure the intention in this Bill is to authorize the controlling bodies to collect fees from people who seek to practice the profession, but it does not seem adequate. It is not made clear what the fee will be and whether it will be sufficient to cover the needs of these bodies. The financial aspect of the Bill finds mention towards the end in section 44, which says that the Provincial Council shall pay so much out of the fees collected by it to the Central Council. I would rather, Sir, that in creating autonomous bodies of this nature, the Government had better link them up with the taxpayer so that the tax-payer's representatives would be able to exercise some vigilance in regard to the working of these bodies. If it happens that the responsibility for the finance of these bodies is made part of the general revenues, it will appear in the demands for grants made by the Centre and by the Provinces. To that extent it might provoke some kind of interest in the Legislature. I would rather that the Government, Central and Provincial, take over the amounts collected by the various bodies in their particular spheres, but make themselves responsible for providing the finances for the Central Council as well as the Provincial Council for operating in their respective spheres. That is a point which the Select Committee would do well to examine.

Again in regard to the Provincial Council—Chapter III—I would like an enlargement of the scope for inclusion of representatives of people who practise the profession of pharmacy. These two factors, I think, if given some attention and amendments made suitably, will help in bringing out a better Bill at the end of the Select Committee stage.

I find there is no provision in the Bill to dissolve the Central and Provincial Councils. Notwithstanding the fact that the omnibus rule-making power will perhaps enable the Government to make some provision in this respect, I think there should be some specific provision for the Government to dissolve the Boards when it feels it necessary to do so.

With regard to section 45, I think some enlargement is necessary. I think it should be made clear to the public that dispensaries dealing with allopathic drugs employ competent people as dispensers. It is very necessary in view to what I have said with regard to the vendors of drugs which come under the category of the indigenous systems of medicine, being entirely out of the scope of this Bill. I think it would be necessary for all these dispensaries to have exhibited in some prominent places the names of those people who are responsible for dispensing the drugs and their qualifications. These are some of the points on which the Bill can be improved upon.

I would like before closing, Sir, to draw the attention of the Honourable the Mover that it would be the wish of many of the members of the House that the Government should not merely go forward with this measure and when it is passed, go ahead quickly to implement it, but also Government should take steps to pay some attention to the complementary measure which is already on the statute book and which is languishing because of want of attention by a government with other preoccupations presumably, but at any rate by a government which was more or less indifferent to the primary needs of the people of the country. I have no doubt that in the skilful hands of the Honourable the Mover this will prove to be a useful measure which will prevent those people who go to the allopathic system of medicine for treatment from suffering at the hands of unqualified people and quacks. I support the motion before the House.

[Rajkumari Amrit Kaur]

Sir, in asking the House to accept this motion, I would just like to say a few words about the very unsatisfactory position that exists today. There is no authority whatsoever to regulate the profession and the practice of pharmacy. The practice is largely in the hands of persons known as 'compounders' and they are both trained and untrained. The profession is unorganised. There is no provision for registration. There is no check to prevent untrained persons from undertaking this very responsible work of compounding and dispensing medicines without any restriction. Compounders are trained today in provinces but the training is not of a high enough standard. A Drugs Act actually exists to control the quality of drugs that are imported and those that are manufactured at home but how can this Act be effective if we have not got an organised and trained profession of pharmacists for dispensing those very drugs. The position in advanced countries is that every pharmacist is required by law to be registered and he cannot be registered unless he has gone through a particular course of studies and passed an approved examination. I submit that it is only right that we also should have such rules in our country. This Bill that has been brought forward is intended to remedy these glaring defects. It is sought to provide Central and Provincial Councils that will not only prescribe minimum standards of training and qualification but will also inspect training institutions and will maintain registers of qualified persons. It is absolutely necessary that dispensing by unqualified persons should be stopped. The Bill was actually introduced in January 1946. It was circulated for opinion to all Provincial Governments and later circulated again. Replies have been received. The Bill was drafted after consideration of those replies. The measure is long overdue. I therefore hope that the House will have no hesitation in accepting the motion to refer it to a Select Committee.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to regulate the profession of pharmacy be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi, Dr. V. Subrahmanyam, Shri Vinayakrao B. Vaidya, Dr. H. C. Mookerji, Mr. R. K. Sidhwa, Pandit Mukat Bihari Lal Bhargava, Mrs. Renuka Ray, Kazi Syed Karimuddin, Shri M. S. Aney, Shri O. V. Alagesan, Shri Bikramlal Sondhi, Prof. Yashwant Rai, Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, and the Mover, with instructions to report on the opening day of the next session of the Assembly, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Shri H. V. Kamath (C. P. and Berar: General): On a point of information, may I ask the Honourable Minister if she could kindly tell us how many Members of the proposed Select Committee are either doctors or are interested in pharmaceutical science or are at least Graduates in Chemistry?

Mr. Speaker: I do not think the point is within the special knowledge of the Honourable Minister. The Honourable Member can get the information, himself.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the motion before the House and in doing so I am constrained to remark that a Bill of this nature which has far reaching implications so far as the health of the people is concerned is one which cannot in its very nature command the attention of a thin and tired House on the last day of its session. The Honourable the Mover has had this Bill as a legacy, a legacy which originated after a period of 18 years of incubation. I wish the Honourable the Mover had taken us through the various and devious ways in which this question of controlling drugs as well as the controlling of the profession of the people who compound drugs had gone through during these years. The House would perhaps know, or at any rate such of the Members who were here in 1940 would know, that a Drugs Enquiry Committee or Chopra Committee as it was called, which reported in 1931, had prescribed that the Government should bring out two pieces of legislation, one to control the import and sale of drugs and the

other to control the profession of pharmacy. In 1938 some attempt was made to frame a Drugs Bill but that was dropped. By the end of 1938 Provincial Legislatures were asked to pass a resolution authorising the Central Government to initiate legislation in this respect. I was in the Madras Assembly at that time and I remember that we enthusiastically passed a resolution on these lines hoping that the Government of India would do something to enact legislation on such an important matter and bring in line the sale and compounding of drugs in India on a par with what exists in the matter of its regulation in other advanced countries. The Drugs Act was passed in 1940. But I do not think the country knew of the existence of a Drugs Act. I do not know if it was the habit of the Ministry of Health, or the Department of Health of the Central Government as it was formerly called, to issue reports in regard to these various Acts which it was supposed to administer. The Drugs Act of 1940 contemplated the setting up of a Central Drugs Laboratory, a Technical Board and a Consultative Committee. I do not know what the Government has done in the matter. I see that the Rules in regard to the Drugs Act were framed in December 1945 simultaneously with the announcement in the Gazette of a framework of the Pharmacy Act in December 1945. I would like the Honourable the Mover to tell us before the House votes on this motion whether the complementary legislation that has been enacted, the Drugs Act, is now in operation, whether the various Committees and Boards have been set up and what is being done in the matter, because without the Drugs Act working, a Pharmacy Act will be practically useless.

Sir, I have no doubt that everybody in this House will agree with the Honourable the Mover that this measure is very necessary. As I said before I would add that this measure is necessary notwithstanding the fact that people do not realise the importance of a measure of this nature in this country of ours. I wish the Government had placed in the hands of the Members of this House a precis of the opinions that have been elicited by circulation of this particular Bill to various Governments and interested parties. It might be said that the scrutiny of those opinions is primarily the work of the Select Committee. But it is also the duty of this House on a motion like this to indicate to the Select Committee how far they would like the scope of the Bill to be enlarged and in what manner they would like it to be changed. I think the Health Ministry should have devoted some effort in condensing the various opinions obtained reports of which I have been able to get from a friend. The opinions expressed are rather loose and it will probably take me hours to find out which are the more important of the opinions expressed on the Bill. Even so I can see that this Bill which was drafted in 1945 by the then Secretary of the Health Department, Mr. Oulsmann, is very imperfect indeed. It may be said that it has been based more or less on the British Act. But the British Act has changed so many times. In fact it has changed even after the Drugs Enquiry Committee had reported. There is a fundamental difference between the British Act and this Bill, namely that the control of the profession in the British Act rests on the Pharmaceutical Society. The Society is composed of members of the profession. Here we have to create a body for that purpose. And in the creation of the body I am afraid sufficient consideration has not been bestowed on manning that body with material that will be competent not merely to lay down what ought to be the curriculum in respect of the education of those who are to engage in the trade of pharmaceutical chemists but to lay down also how the profession is to be controlled. It is true that in a country like ours professional control is rather difficult even in the matter of the allied department of human activity, the medical profession. The Honourable the Mover will realise that it is not possible to control this profession by leaving it entirely in the hands of the professional people. Even so I believe that there is room for the Select Committee to change the composition of these Councils, both the

[Shri Ram Sahai]

a very good thing if we could, by means of this Bill, prevent these people who are seen by the road side, from selling medicines to the passersby. So long as we do not impose restrictions on this class, the real object of this Bill will remain unfulfilled. The imposition of restrictions on simply the Allopathic Medicines will not be of much use. We must see that this law applies to those also who sell indigenous medicines or deal in *Ayurvedic* or *Unani* medicines or sell medicines on the roadside. I only like to draw the attention of the Honourable Members on this Select Committee to this thing.

Mr. Speaker: There is just one amendment before I call on the Honourable Minister. Shri Satyanarayan Sinha.

Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Bihar: General): Sir, I beg to move.

"That the name of Dr. Dharam Prakash be added to the names of the members of the Select Committee."

Mr. Speaker: Is the Honourable Minister agreeable?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Yes, I am agreeable.

Mr. Speaker: Then, I shall just put the amendment to the House, not for vote. Amendment moved:

"That the name of Dr. Dharam Prakash be added to the names of the members of the Select Committee."

The Honourable Minister may now reply.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Sir, I am very grateful to the House for the kind reception which was given to my motion and for the support that I have had and the recognition from them that a measure of this nature is very necessary. I need hardly assure all the speakers that the suggestions that they have put forward will receive the greatest consideration when the Bill is referred to Select Committee. I agree with one of the speakers who said that unless we properly control all systems of medicine, including our own indigenous medicines, we shall not really get very far. I am hoping great things from the Report which is shortly expected of the Committee on Indigenous Systems of Medicine and I hope it will be possible to standardise their practice and profession of pharmacy no less than those who dispense medicines for Allopaths. I do not think I need say any more at this stage except express my gratitude once again to the House for accepting the motion.

Mr. Speaker: I shall first put to vote the amendment moved by Shri Satyanarayan Sinha. The question is:

"That the name of Dr. Dharam Prakash be added to the names of the members of the Select Committee."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to regulate the profession of pharmacy be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi, Dr. V. Subrahmanyam, Shri Vinayakrao B. Vaidya, Dr. H. C. Mookerji, Mr. R. K. Sidhwa, Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava, Mrs. Renuka Ray, Kazi Syed Karimuddin, Shri M. S. Aney, Shri O. V. Alagesan, Shri Bikramlal Sondhi, Prof. Yashwant Rai, Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, Dr. Dharam Prakash, and the Mover, with instructions to report on the opening day of the next session of the Assembly, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

The motion was adopted.

DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION BILL

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil (Minister for Works, Mines and Power):
Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the establishment and regulation of a Corporation for the development of the Damodar Valley in the Provinces of Bihar and West Bengal, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Shri R. K. Shammukham Chetty, Shri Surendra Mohan Ghosh, Shri Arun Chandra Guha, Shri Prafulla Chandra Sen, Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, Prof. N. G. Ranga, Shri Satyanarayan Sinha, Shri Jaipal Singh, Shri Ram Narayan Singh, Shri N. C. Mehta, Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad, Shri Mihirlal Chattopadhyaya, Shri B. A. Khimji, and the Mover, with instructions to report on the opening day of the next session of the Assembly, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Sir, although this motion is the last item on today's agenda.....

Mr. Speaker: It is the last but one. There is one item in the name of the Labour Minister who is not here.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Anyway, this is a very important subject and I really was attempting to make it more important so far as the procedure of this Assembly is concerned. (*An Honourable Member:* "Last, but not least!"). In spite of what is happening in this country, this Bill is an attempt towards building on the most approved and sound lines the economy of this country. It provides an agency, a mechanism so to say, for carrying out the scheme which is now sufficiently known and has become familiar as the "Damodar Valley Scheme". It will be in the fitness of things if I give some rough idea of what the Damodar Valley Scheme means in all its aspects. I am sure it will be welcomed by the members of this House.

It is a well known fact, Sir,—and certainly within the knowledge of those who although not resident in either Bihar or Bengal have been watching developments—that the Damodar River is a river which has worked havoc in course of history. I will not go into the details of the destruction which this great river has caused partly in the province of Bihar but mostly in the province of Bengal, but merely refer to certain incidents to show that a scheme of this character has come before the public none too soon.

In 1943 this river flooded so much that for days together the city of Calcutta was cut off. The railway traffic had to be diverted. Crops were completely ruined. Fertility of the soil was greatly affected. There was also loss in life. This has been going on from time to time, although this river is seasonal. But in the rainy season the rainfall, although not very great compared with other areas, is sufficient to cause floods with consequent destruction of life and property.

Many attempts have been made in the past to control these occasional floods, but so far nothing has been found effectively to check or regulate the waters of the Damodar. In 1943 a Committee was appointed with a view to further investigate this aspect and that Committee made a Report. It was considered by the Government of India, who came to the conclusion that it was high time that this problem ceased to be tackled in an isolated manner but a full-fledged scheme embodying the principles of what is now known as "multi-purpose scheme" was adopted as the right line of approach for the solution of this problem.

The matter was then referred, Sir, to the Central Technical Power Board. That Board made a report early in 1944. Government of India then invited two experts from America. Those experts visited the Damodar Valley. They also scrutinised the preliminary report made by the Central Technical Power Board. The principle was then accepted that Damodar Valley should be developed on the lines of a "multi-purpose scheme". These multi-purpose schemes have achieved considerable success in America and everybody now knows the romance of the Tennessee Valley Authority. It was only in the fitness of things, Sir, that

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[Shri N. V. Gadgil]

the Government of India should accept this line of approach for the solution of the problem. They engaged further experts and a preliminary Memorandum on the unified development of the Damodar Valley was submitted in the month of August 1945. As it is, this Valley runs through two Provinces, namely, Bihar and Bengal, and it was necessary to bring the two Provincial Governments together and with their co-operation finalise the scheme. In the course of 1945 and 1946 and part of the year 1947, several Conferences were held which were attended by the representatives of the Bihar Government as well as representatives of the Bengal Government. Questions relating to the development of one aspect as against the other, as also questions relating to the financial aspects were discussed.

Mr. Speaker: I believe the Honourable Minister will take some time?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I will require one hour, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: We better adjourn at this stage and the Honourable the Finance Minister will lay on the table the authenticated schedule of expenditure.

AUTHENTICATED SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURE FROM 15TH AUGUST 1947 TO 31st MARCH 1948—LAID ON THE TABLE.

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Minister for Finance): Sir, in pursuance of the provisions of sub-section (2) of section 35 of the Government of India Act as adapted, I lay on the table of the House an authenticated Schedule of the expenditure for the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948.

In pursuance of the provisions of sub-section (1) of section 35 of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted by the India (Provisional Constitution) Order, 1947, I, Louis Francis Albert Victor Nicholas Earl Mountbatten of Burma, Governor-General of India, do hereby authenticate by my signature the following schedule of expenditure from the revenues of the Dominion for the period from the 15th August, 1947, to the 31st March, 1948, namely:—

SCHEDULE

Amount (in thousands of rupees)

	Voted	Charged	Total
A. EXPENDITURE MET FROM REVENUE:			
1. Customs	68.98	..	68.98
2. Central Excise and Salt	2,29.59	2.50	2,32.09
3. Taxes on Income including Corporation Tax	94.54	..	94.54
4. Opium	14.59	..	14.59
5. Provincial Excise	2.75	..	2.75
6. Stamps	63.54	1.39	64.93
7. Forest	16.43	..	16.43
8. Irrigation (including Working expenses), Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works met from Revenue	6.71	60	7.31

Amount (in thousands of rupees).

	Voted	Charged	Total
9. Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)	13,31.57	54.28	13,85.85
10. Cabinet	2.63	7.92	10.55
11. Constituent Assembly of India	23.75	..	23.75
12. Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative)	14.29	..	14.29
13. Ministry of Home Affairs	20.17	..	20.17
14. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	28.02	..	28.02
15. Ministry of Law	5.49	..	5.49
16. Ministry of Education	21.29	..	21.29
17. Ministry of Agriculture	12.69	..	12.69
18. Ministry of Health	3.75	..	3.75
19. Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations	20.76	..	20.76
20. Ministry of Finance	49.55	..	49.55
21. Ministry of Commerce	28.13	..	28.13
22. Ministry of Labour	12.78	..	12.78
23. Ministry of Works, Mines and Power	11.28	..	11.28
24. Ministry of Communications	3.03	..	3.03
25. Ministry of Transport	12.58	..	12.58
26. Ministry of Food	30.68	..	30.68
27. Ministry of States	4.71	..	4.71
28. Ministry of Defence	15.70	..	15.70
29. Ministry of Industry and Supply	12.03	..	12.03
30. Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation	8.00	..	8.00
31. Ministry without Portfolio	1.10	..	1.10
32. Payments to other Governments, Departments etc., on account of the administration of Agency Subjects and Management of Treasuries	19.86	..	19.86
33. Audit	1,08.55	40	1,08.95
34. Administration of Justice	4.60	2.40	7.00
35. Jails and Convict Settlements	13	..	13
36. Police	11.59	..	11.59
37. Ports and Pilotage	21.53	..	21.53
38. Lighthouses and Lightships	6.73	..	6.73
39. Ecclesiastical	2.21	..	2.21
40. Tribal Areas	55.22	..	55.22
41. External Affairs	1,11.13	..	1,11.13
42. Survey of India	64.91	..	64.91
43. Botanical Survey	1.43	..	1.43
44. Zoological Survey	1.92	..	1.92
45. Geological Survey	14.15	..	14.15
46. Mines	5.80	..	5.80
47. Archaeology	12.61	..	12.61
48. Meteorology	30.93	..	30.93
49. Other Scientific Departments	68.12	..	68.12
50. Education	79.51	..	79.51
51. Medical Services	21.19	..	21.19
52. Public Health	36.31	..	36.31
53. Agriculture	1,14.29	..	1,14.29
54. Civil Veterinary Services	17.37	..	17.37
55. Industries and Supplies	1,98.79	..	1,98.79
56. Overseas Communications Service	28.17	72	28.89
57. Aviation	1,98.62	..	1,98.62
58. Broadcasting	57.22	..	57.22
59. Emigration	20	..	20
60. Commercial Intelligence and Statistics	27.99	..	27.99
61. Census	1.50	..	1.50
62. Joint Stock Companies	2.32	..	2.32
63. Indian Dairy Department	8.39	..	8.39
64. Miscellaneous Departments	78.94	..	78.94
65. Currency	52.38	1.19	53.57
66. Mint	66.43	..	66.43
67. Civil Works	5,20.44	13.85	5,34.27

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya (Madras. General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, The Statement of Objects and Reasons states that "it is desirable that as in most other countries only persons who have obtained the minimum standard of professional qualifications should be permitted to practise the profession of pharmacy". I sometimes doubt whether pharmacy is a profession or a trade. I do not know whether anybody practises the profession of pharmacy. The pharmaceutical chemist engages a compounder who practises the profession of compounding. He sub-serves the purposes of the doctor who requires invariably the assistance of private dispensers and pharmaceutical shops in order to supply the medicines prescribed by him. In any case, between the doctor and the patient, there certainly intervene two other people, namely the pharmacist and the compounder. Each of them requires training. There is no doubt about that. And as things stand, anybody who can gather together a number of bottles and medicines opens a shop and advertises himself as pharmaceutical chemist. Whether he has the necessary authority to hold such a shop and expose various articles for sale there, some of which are highly poisonous, is a matter to which attention has not been paid so far. We all know that every medicine is a poison in a sufficiently large dose; at any rate every poison is a medicine in a sufficiently small dose. Much depends, therefore, upon the correct knowledge of the dosage or the science of dosology, as it is called, of these various drugs. But the pharmaceutical chemist himself does not compound and does not dispense, and therefore these qualifications are more essentially required in the compounders than he employs than in himself.

Now, with regard to this Bill, this is one of the series of three connected Bills as I had indicated on the first day when the Dentistry Bill was considered; and in each of those two other Bills relating to Dentistry and Nursing there is at the end a Schedule, if I remember right, which contains a category of qualifications and also of the schemes of instruction and of the syllabuses offered and the diplomas and degrees conferred. But here this Bill does not contain any such category or Schedule—not that such courses are not offered. I know in the Madras Medical College there is a course offered in pharmaceutical chemistry. But in any case there are Sections 10, 11 and 12 which amply provide for the educational qualifications that must be attained before one can practise the profession. Now it appears to be contemplated under this Bill that special schemes of instruction or special institutions are likely to be brought into existence for the sake of facilitating the imparting of this education. Personally I should think that the courses offered in the Medical Colleges are ample as providing qualifications for a pharmacist. After all, what are the subjects that he must know? He must know inorganic chemistry, and then possibly a bit of organic chemistry, at least as much as students of the M.B. class know; then he must know all about *Materia Medica* and the process of compounding; and finally I should like him to know something about Medical Jurisprudence and in particular about that branch of the medical jurisprudence which is known as Toxicology or the science which relates to poisons and their antidotes. The pharmaceutical chemist is suddenly called upon to provide immediate remedy for a case of opium poisoning in which a person either by mischance or deliberately has taken a big dose of opium. Possibly, if he knows some thing about this toxicology, he may immediately prescribe a dose of potassium permanganate as an immediate remedy, as an antidote.

So, medical jurisprudence and Toxicology, Chemistry, Organic and Inorganic, *Materia Medica* and the Art of compounding are the essentials that must be known to this gentleman. Now, all these are offered in the Medical Colleges and therefore there is no reason why, when a student enters these colleges he should not be marked off as a student of pharmacy and might be given suitable titles or degrees as he finishes his courses. As a matter of fact, in Medical Colleges you have mixed classes—classes for the military medical people, the

civil medical people of the lower grade and of the higher grade—and they branch off at various points into various courses of study, some of them are given advanced courses and others are given shorter courses. If the Select Committee is so pleased and is convinced of the wisdom of my suggestion, it may simply adopt this course, namely that the syllabus of studies offered in the Medical Colleges may be grouped together suitably into a pharmaceutical syllabus.

Otherwise, the Bill is purely an administrative measure. It is a Bill to organise the Provincial Councils and the All-India Council and establish a relationship between them, prescribe the fees and exact rules and regulations in order to bring into existence a scheme of disciplinary control. That discipline is very much required, there is no doubt about that and I welcome the Bill. This is one of the three sister graces of Legislation which a fourth sister has offered to us and I hope that you will allow this to go to the next stage.

श्री राममहाय : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इस बिल की तारीफ करने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ। मेरा यह अर्थ करना है कि इस तरह का कानून न होने की वजह से बहुत सी गलतियाँ होती हैं। बहुत से गैर जिम्मेदार लोग जो इस तरह का धंधा करते हैं उनकी वजह से लोगों को बहुत नुकसान पहुँचता है। इसलिये इस बिल की बहुत सख्त जरूरत है।

मैं सिलेक्ट कमेटी के मेम्बर साहबान का सिर्फ यह ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि वह इस बात का खयाल रखें कि ऐसे लोग जो देशी दवाइयाँ जैसे कि आयुर्वेदिक, यूनानी दवाइयाँ बेचते हैं वे भी इस कानून के अन्दर आ जायें। बहुत से लोग मारकेट में सड़कों के किनारे दुकान खोलकर बैठ जाते हैं और ज्यादा जानकारी न होने की वजह से लोगों को बहुत नुकसान पहुँचाते हैं। मैं यह चाहता हूँ कि जो लोग इस तरह से आम तौर पर सड़कों के किनारे दवाइयाँ बेचा करते हैं वे भी इस बिल के अनुसार रोके जा सकें तो बहुत अच्छा होगा। जब तक हम इन सब लोगों पर पाबन्दी या रोक नहीं लगायेंगे तब तक जो अस्ली मकसद इस बिल का है वह हल नहीं हो सकेगा। महज एलोपैथिक की दवाइयों पर ही रोक लगायें तो कोई विशेष लाभ न होगा। जो लोग देशी दवाइयाँ, यूनानी और आयुर्वेदिक दवाइयाँ बेचते हैं या सड़क पर बैठ कर दवा बेचते हैं उनके लिये इस कानून के तहत पाबन्दी जरूर होनी चाहिये। मैं सिर्फ इसी बात के लिए सिलेक्ट कमेटी के मेम्बर साहबान का ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ।

(English translation of the above speech.)

Shri Ram Sahai (Gwalior State): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. I would like to point out that the absence of a law of this kind creates many mistakes. Several irresponsible persons who carry on such business are responsible for great loss to many people. This Bill is, therefore, badly required.

I want to draw the attention of the Honourable Members on the Select Committee to this thing that they should bring under the purview of this law those people as well who sell indigenous medicines, viz., the *Ayurvedic* and the *Unani*. Many quacks spread their paraphernalia in the public places, along the road sides and start advertising and then selling their medicines. These men have little knowledge of medicine and therefore they do more harm than good to the public. I wish we could stop this quackery. It would indeed be

Amount (in thousands of rupees)

	Voted	Charged	Total
68. Central Road Fund	86,65	..	86,65
69. Territorial and Political Pensions	13,69	..	13,69
70. Superannuation Allowances and Pensions	1,69,36	3,32	1,72,68
71. Stationery and Printing	1,14,80	..	1,14,80
72. Miscellaneous	23,32,69	..	23,32,69
73. Expenditure on Refugees	22,00,00	..	22,00,00
74. Defence Services Effective Army	57,47,19	..	57,47,19
75. Defence Services Effective Royal Indian Navy	3,91,43	..	3,91,43
76. Defence Services Effective Air Forces	9,22,50	..	9,22,50
77. Defence Services Effective Supplies and Stores	19,01,67	..	19,01,67
78. Defence Services Non-effective charges	7,71,69	..	7,71,69
79. Miscellaneous Adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments	70	..	70
80. Resettlement and Development	3,59,78	..	3,59,78
81. Civil Defence	1,08	..	1,08
82. Delhi	98,78	20	98,98
83. Ajmer-Merwara	42,64	22	42,86
84. Panth Piploda	14	..	14
85. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	56,90	22	57,12
86. Relations with Indian States	36,52	..	36,52
Interest on Debt and other obligations and reduction or avoidance of Debt	..	20,52,40	20,52,40
Staff, Household and Allowances of the Governor-General	..	11,80	11,80
Grants-in-aid to Provincial Governments	..	44,03	44,03
Federal Public Service Commission	..	7,20	7,20
Total	1,93,80,80	22,04,62	2,15,85,42

B. EXPENDITURE MET FROM CAPITAL :

87. Capital Outlay on Forests	33,01	..	33,01
88. Capital Outlay on the India Security Press	10,02	..	10,02
89. Capital Outlay on Indian Posts and Telegraphs (not met from Revenue)	3,11,70	..	3,11,70
90. Indian Posts and Telegraphs Stores suspense (not met from Revenue)	1	..	1
91. Capital Outlay on Industrial Development	5,30,92	..	5,30,92
92. Capital Outlay on Civil Aviation	1,58,65	..	1,58,65
93. Capital Outlay on Broadcasting	32,78	..	32,78
94. Capital Outlay on Mints	57,45	..	57,45
95. Delhi Capital Outlay	62,04	29	62,33
96. Capital Outlay on Civil Works	64,21	..	64,21
97. Commuted value of Pensions	1,02	..	1,02
98. Payments to Retrenched Personnel	1	..	1
99. Capital Outlay on Schemes of State Trading	2,32,71	..	2,32,71
100. Capital Outlay on Development	24,27,64	..	24,27,64
101. Capital Outlay on Currency	1,20	..	1,20
Total	39,23,37	29	39,23,66

C. DISBURSEMENTS OF LOANS AND ADVANCES :

102. Interest-free and Interest bearing Advances	6,55,05	26,50,00	33,05,05
Grand Total	2,39,59,22	48,54,91	2,88,14,13

New Delhi, the 12th December, 1947.

Governor-General of India.

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

*The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half-past Two of the Clock
Mr. Speaker (the Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.*

DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION BILL—contd.

I was referring to the various conferences that were held under the auspices of **The Honourable Shri H. V. Gadgil:** Sir, when the House rose for Lunch the Central Government and which were attended by representatives of the Bengal and Bihar Governments. As a result the Damodar Valley scheme has been fairly finalised and, as I stated, the Government of India have accepted the view that the scheme is the right solution of the problem of flood control; and as such this Bill in order to give a sort of mechanism and agency has been introduced in this House. As I stated, this scheme is based on the principles of a multi-purpose scheme, and it is only fair that I should deal with some of those principles as briefly as possible. Before I do that, just to give an idea as to the gigantic nature of this enterprise, I may mention the area that will ultimately be affected for good by the scheme when it materialises. Roughly the area of Damodar basin at the mouth is about 8500 square miles; up to its confluence with Barakar river it is about 6960 square miles; and the drainage area that can be controlled by the dam would be 6620 square miles. The total control storage capacity will be 4,700,000 acres and the submerged area would be roughly 145 square miles or 1,05,750 acres. In terms of population the benefit that will accrue will be to about 50 lakhs of people. As against this some people will have, so to speak, to be expropriated or uprooted from the soil, and that will be round about one lakh of people. Now this is a very great problem of resettlement. I shall refer to that later on, but I am just giving an idea of the gigantic nature of this enterprise which is—let me say for the delectation of my Honourable friend Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena—a State enterprise; and more and more such enterprises are to be undertaken by this Government, because this Government does not believe that its duty to the people ends with the maintenance of law and order. A modern State is something more than a police State; the modern State has come to mean a social service State. How far and to what extent these functions should be carried out is a matter which will have to be considered in the circumstances then existing. But on the major question I think there can be no doubt that the State must guarantee every person a decent standard of life. That also means full employment; and in order to effectuate this policy if it becomes necessary to socially own the means of production, the State will certainly be justified in doing so.

Now, Sir, this scheme, as I said, is based on the principles of a multi-purpose scheme. It means that in the first place the flood that occasionally does harm and causes loss of life and property has got to be controlled. Even from the point of view of purely financial considerations this has got to be undertaken. A few minutes ago I referred to the flood incident in the year 1943 when the great city of Calcutta was cut off from the rest of the country for some days together. An expenditure of about 75 lakhs of rupees had to be incurred by the railway alone in diverting the traffic. It is estimated that the annual loss in terms of money on account of the uncontrolled nature of the waters of this great river Damodar is 25 lakhs a year. That itself, as I said, is a good consideration, and if a scheme which visualises complete control of the waters and their regulation is to be financed, it even deserves to be financed irrespective of any consideration of return, because it has an insurance value of its own. Therefore, the most important aspect of this multi-purpose scheme is the flood control aspect. Undoubtedly this has more to do with the province of Bengal and not much to do with the province of Bihar, but that is no argument to say that such a scheme ought not to be undertaken.

[Shri N. V. Gadgil]

so much mineral wealth, with such a vast population and with such great leaders, if this contradiction cannot be solved, there is no bright future for this country. I have always looked upon this as a great challenge to the constructive ability of our people. Here are the opportunities. As I said the other day, 40 million kilowatts can be generated from water power alone and if we succeed in doing that, as I pointed out, you will have electric light in every village and a radio in every home. Taking this scheme in particular, as I have stated, this is going to benefit more or less 50 lakhs of people. In what way? Additional land under irrigation, facilities for intensive agriculture, scope for industrialisation, abundant electric power. Not only this but it has been provided that centres of recreation may also be developed by the Corporation. As you go on thinking about the problem many ideas suggest themselves, as they did to those who worked out the Tennessee Valley Scheme.

Fish can be made available. Mr. Munshi is looking askance at me as he perhaps thinks that there is some contradiction in a Brahmin talking about fish. I am purely looking at it from an economic point of view, at any rate a modern Brahmin does not worry when he talks about fish. It is possible to develop fish culture to the extent of giving Rs. 50 lakhs every year. That is the estimate given by one of our planners. There will be recreational grounds which will be a source of happiness to the people. These are some of the main aspects but, as I said at the beginning, about one lakh of people will be uprooted. That creates a great problem of resettlement. Any multi-purpose scheme consists of several aspects, such as planning, designing, construction, resettlement and utilisation. I will not deal with every aspect, because I have promised you, Sir, that I shall not take more than 40 minutes of this House. So far as the stage of planning is concerned it is nearly over. Let me tell this House that although, as I said, the scheme has been finalised, every criticism that appears in the press or is addressed to the Ministry is taken and will be taken into consideration. It is important to note that we have to work not on a clean slate but on the facts and circumstances that exist, and one of the most important circumstance is the existence of coalmines there. We have to consider whether by fixing up a dam at a particular place we are going to submerge an area which is rich with coal. In that case we have to balance the disadvantages of this as against the advantages I have just mentioned.

3 P. M. Let me assure the House that whenever it was found that the location of any particular dam at a particular place was going to affect us substantially so far as the coal resources are concerned, that has been modified and the loss—because apparently it is a loss—has been reduced to a minimum and it will be reduced to a minimum. Suggestions have been made that it is possible to work coalmines although they may be submerged in water. I am very much encouraged by this report but at this stage it seems to me somewhat—I do not say fantastic but—impracticable. Anyway the line of approach is to see that the area which is likely to be submerged and which contains coalmines will be reduced to a minimum, also that the area which is to be submerged should be such as would contain less population as against any location in which the population of the area that may be submerged would be more. As planned at present the area that is to be submerged is two-thirds waste and one-third under actual cultivation. But you will agree with me, Sir, and the House will also agree that the scheme being in the interest of the community as a whole the interests of a few must not stand in the way for it is intended for the benefit of the many.

I will say nothing about the designing aspect beyond saying that it is being actively prosecuted. We propose to invite experts. You will remember, Sir, the other day the Honourable the Prime Minister stated that the Government was so anxious to complete the schemes earlier than what is budgeted for by engineers that it was even thinking of inviting foreign firms and asking them

to undertake on contract some construction or part of construction of this scheme as well as of other schemes.

As regards the problem of resettlement let me confess that this is a very delicate problem. It is obvious that we are going to deprive one lakh of people not only of their means of livelihood but we are taking them away from their homes, from the villages in which they and their ancestors have lived. But it is the intention that they will be given land for land as much as possible and, where it is not possible or where a particular individual does not want land, they will be adequately compensated. We have been very much familiar with the description that Indian villages are not well-planned, they are dirty, they are mere hovels, no amenities are provided in them. Here is an opportunity to translate some of the best conceptions which have been given expression to in the course of the last so many years by our social workers. They can resettle these people in their new habitation, in modern villages which will provide decent and pleasant houses, pleasant surrounding, playground, and schools. Where industrialisation takes place inasmuch as the power that is to be used is electric power, there will be no smoke and the factory will not be merely a place where one has to slave but even in work it may be possible to say that man may take some pleasure. Here is a field in which the socialist can have co-operative societies of these people who are to be expropriated and settle them if they cannot or do not wish to follow agriculture on industrial lines and in business activity. When I think of the possibilities of the scheme I often become poetic and you know that there is no limit to a poet's imagination. But being a very practical man and charged with the piloting of a Bill in a House which is not always very friendly I have to come down to brass tacks and hard realities. Therefore, this problem of resettlement, as I said, has got to be handled with great delicacy and in this particular aspect of the scheme the utmost co-operation of the people, of the leaders and of the workers is necessary and is in fact a *sine qua non* of the success of the scheme. The other day I saw a film in which the development of the Tennessee Valley was shown. I saw a peasant following old style methods of agriculture. He would not come and sign the contract to give up his land. He went on holding. Another went in and when in a few days' time he found that the other fellow who agreed to go into the scheme gradually had a good house, a piano, found his wife better clothed, his children more cheerful and schools coming into existence for them he also joined. I propose, Sir, with the help of the Honourable Minister in charge of Broadcasting and Public Information to have a film so that people may know the present state of the valley. I would not hesitate to call it a valley of death and destruction today and to say that when the scheme becomes a reality the valley will be turned into a valley of prosperity and happiness. Unless there is a lot of propaganda, a lot of educating the public—not only that section whose area is to be submerged but others also—there is no possibility of pushing through this scheme or other schemes which the Government propose from time to time push. These are the facts.

This scheme is to be brought into existence and hence the problem of the agency becomes very relevant. The Bill that is now before this House is modelled on the provisions of the Tennessee Valley Bill which was passed by the Congress of the United States of America.

It is not my intention, Sir, to go on explaining in detail the various principles on which this Bill is framed. But I will be failing to do my duty if I do not give very briefly the main points in this Bill. It is proposed, Sir, to constitute a Corporation and a Board of Directors, as you will see, consisting of three persons, and let me say, Sir, that upon these three people depends the success of the whole scheme. In the American Legislature it was stated:

"It is a great responsibility imposed upon the members of the Board, but it is a great opportunity that will come to those chosen for this great service. For such position of trust and responsibility, undoubtedly the President will search the nation over for the right men

[Shri N. V. Gadgil]

If you remember, Mr. Speaker, I said that this whole scheme is worked on the principle of a unified scheme and no particular aspect of that can be isolated and can be given undue importance. I will request the House and the public at large to look at this scheme as a whole, not in terms of this district which may be submerged; not in terms of some benefit that may accrue to another district; not in terms of another province which may get the benefits of irrigation; but take the Damodar Valley area as a whole and let us see if we are able to show and possibly to convince that as a result of this scheme the standard of life will decidedly be better, and this valley which has been the subject of flood and consequent destruction of life and property is turned into a valley of prosperity and happiness.

Now, Sir, the aspect of flood control apparently does not go to show that there will be any return in terms of money. But as I said, it has an insurance value of its own. But when we take into consideration the other aspect, I will be able to show, Sir, that even from the point of view of financial consideration, this scheme is going to pay its own way. And even if it does not, I will ask those who are acquainted with advanced economic thought in the world to apply to this what is known as multiplier conception. In other words, if say public expenditure is undertaken and some purchasing power is, so to say, injected, the result is not merely proportionate to the purchasing power spent but it goes on multiplying. The wheels of industry move, employment grows and the return may be not only three times or four times but it may be much more. In other words, prosperity begets prosperity. It is infectious and in a sense it is invisible. Therefore, when we look upon this scheme from a point of view in which objectively we may not be convinced that it is a paying proposition, or a productive scheme, yet I make bold to say, Sir, that the returns in terms of invisible dividends are so great that any Government charged with the duty of bettering the lot of its people will not shirk from undertaking it.

Now, Sir, coming to the second purpose, which is one of the principles upon which the scheme has been worked out, is navigation. I do not want to detain the House by giving detailed figures. I will only say, Sir, that about nine lakhs of acres will be brought under cultivation and quite a large area in which at present only a single crop is grown may be turned into a double crop area.

Shri Biswanath Das (Orissa: General): How much is that?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Not only this, but it is the intention that by having research made, it may be possible to turn certain areas in which three crops can be grown in the course of a year. It has been estimated that such a thing is a possibility. By scientific land management, by using modern appliances and fertilisers, by improved methods of agriculture, such things are possible. But I am only under-estimating when I say that so far as the irrigation aspect of the scheme is concerned, it is going to confer a definite benefit on the people of this valley.

It is true, Sir, that a substantial benefit of this will go to the province of Bengal. But it is possible, Sir, that in course of time additional benefit in the matter of additional areas under irrigation may be made available in certain areas of Bihar also. But as I said, the right approach to the whole thing is not to consider this area or that area but to look upon the whole Damodar Valley area as one and upon the scheme as one unified scheme. As I stated that the net profit, so to say, after deducting expenditure and also debiting interest on the capital that may be considered to have been expended on this particular aspect, in the beginning may be none, nor there will be any deficit too.

The water rate that our planners have calculated is considerably lower but when the price of paddy increases, when an increase in the water rate is justified, I have no doubt that the balance sheet, so far as this particular aspect is concerned, will show that this is a very sound investment.

Now I will briefly deal with the third aspect, namely, generation of power. It is calculated, Sir, that as a result 300,000 K.W. will be available and even assuming that we sell electricity at a fair rate in relation to rates available elsewhere in India, the whole thing will give us an annual profit of little more than a crore of rupees. We may, if things permit, follow the principle of the great industrialist, Henry Ford, viz., lowest margin of profit on the highest turnover, but that depends upon the possibilities of the utilisation of power in the area. It is no use having installed capacity without a plan for utilisation. I remember the other day Prof. K. T. Shah remarked that unless we have a plan for the use and utilisation of the power that we propose to generate all this effort will prove a white elephant. I want to assure him, although he is not present in the House today, that this aspect had been taken into consideration and let me tell him that before the scheme has actually started, industrialists from Bengal and other Provinces also are making land purchases and the price of land is steadily going up. The whole scheme means, to put it very shortly, water for irrigation, power for industry and employment all round. That is how we can describe the whole scheme in a nutshell.

In connection with power there has been two considerations before the engineers concerned. One is to have only hydro-electric power and another is to have a combination of hydro and thermal energy, so that the cost per unit would be considerably less. I am told that if such a combination were to be effected the cost of total production of energy will be less by Rs. 60 lakhs. In that case the returns would be considerably augmented. In other words, this scheme becomes more productive and more profitable than what we think it would otherwise be.

There is another aspect of this multi-purpose scheme, which I should refer to briefly, viz., waterways. Our engineers say that it is possible that if the scheme materialises nearly 600 miles of waterways will be available. That may be useful for the transport of coal or other merchandise and the House will agree with me when I say that when a full economic development of this valley takes place the whole transport system, which includes highways, waterways and railways, will have to be integrated into some unified system so that goods might be taken from the place where they are produced to the place where they may be consumed cheaply and quickly.

There is another aspect and that is supply of water to the civil population. I have not the actual experience of the exact difficulties of the people living in this valley but as I know the nature of this particular area it is possible that many villages may be going without good water for drinking purposes and also there may be water shortage in some towns and cities which are situated in the Damodar Valley area. Supply of adequate water is a great boon. So these are some of the aspects which have been taken into consideration while formulating this scheme.

The scheme consists of a series of eight dams—four dams on the Upper Damodar and four on the Barakar. The idea is that in order to control the floods you must control the tributaries. It is said that a man is known by the company he keeps. Similarly in regard to a big river its character, its flood and its utility also are greatly determined by the character of the tributaries that flow into it. It is much better to have some dams on some of these tributaries, so that the water may be controlled at places in such a manner that the flood which ultimately overtakes the area in Bengal may be so controlled that this waste of water may be turned into wealth. A great English economist has said that India is a rich country with a poor people. With so many rivers, with

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to whom to entrust not only this vast investment of money but this great responsibility not only to the people of that section of the country but to the people of the whole nation. If through the incapacity or the indifference of the members of the Board, this great humanitarian project should fail, then progress along this line in other parts of the country will be set back for two or three generations."

Nearly 52 crores are to be spent over the scheme, and these three gentlemen must be not only practical administrators, incorrupt, honest and thorough, but they must be visionaries as well. There are plenty of practical, efficient administrators in the secretariat. They are good in noting they are good in many other things; but here is a job in which the vision of a poet and the practical knowledge of an engineer are expected. Therefore it will be a big task for the Government to select three people, and as has been said in the United States Congress, the Government will have to look over the whole nation to find out such capable men. It will not be relevant to urge that they must be necessarily from Bihar and Bengal, or one must be from Bihar and another man must be from Bengal, although that aspect cannot be altogether brushed aside; but let us agree that when we entrust such a big sum running into 52 crores, practically handling the destinies of 50 lakhs of people and their welfare, in fact it becomes a sort of administration by itself, charged with everything—their welfare, industrialization of the area, agriculture, even municipal administration, everything that a government is expected to do—naturally these men must be of a very high character and capacity. The other principle that has been accepted in this Bill is that all appointments must be made on merit. Nobody can take exception to it. Other provisions for the financing of this corporation, laying down its powers and its duties are there.

There is another thing, Sir. As this becomes a sort of autonomous body, the question naturally crops up, what should be the relation of the Central Government with this Corporation? A *via media* has been found out which lays down that questions of policy will be laid down by the Central Government, but in the actual day to day administration of the Corporation, the Central Government will not interfere. Every year a statement of account will be sent to the two Provincial Governments and to the Central Government; accounts will be audited; the treasurer is to be appointed by the Central Government—I am sorry to say, Sir, there is a mistake in printing. In clause 6 it ought to be:

"The treasurer of the Corporation shall be appointed by the Central Government."

It is wrong to say "by the Corporation with the previous approval of the Central Government."

These are some of the main principles on which this Bill is based. In fact there is not much to which exception can be taken, but I myself decided to move a reference to the Select Committee because I thought that this should be a model for many other schemes to come. So it is much better that it should be thoroughly discussed in the House and that it should be discussed more closely and in greater detail in the Select Committee, and it should be passed in the House in as model a form as possible. My own idea is that this should serve as a model for other schemes to come.

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to detain the House further. I would welcome every suggestion, and the members of the Select Committee would also welcome, and you will be pleased to find that I have given representation in the Select Committee to both the provinces of Bihar as well as Bengal. I have no doubt that the two governments will co-operate in this joint endeavour, which is going to confer benefits on the people of both the provinces. Before a few months it was impossible to expect co-operation with the same intensity with which I may expect today because we are living under a different political set-up. Today we are all anxious to give ample power to the Centre so that that power may be used for the conferment of benefits on the people of the provinces. If you study the financial provisions of this scheme, the Central Government is going to share quite a large portion—50 per cent. so far as flood

finances are concerned, and in other matters also to a considerable extent. It is therefore only meet and proper that the Central Government must have some voice—some power to issue instructions, and to see that the development and execution of this scheme is in consonance with the general policy laid down by it in this connection for the whole country. There should be no lop-sided development; we are all thinking of planning and we are also thinking that the planning should be on regional basis, there should be fair decentralization of industry. If industrialization is to depend upon power and if power is to be mainly supplied by hydro-electric energy, we are very fortunate that our rivers are so situated that we can easily have decentralization and regional planning so far as industrialization is concerned.

Sir, this Damodar Valley Scheme is the first of its kind and I feel it to be my singular good fortune that I should be called upon to pilot this Bill. And may I also say that the Members of the present House also have the singular good fortune of saying that here is an effort which is going to revolutionize the entire economy of this country, and when years hence those who come to take our places in this very House will say, "here is some thing which they started and made our country as worthy as is described in our national song: *sujalam suphalam: sasya shaamalam*: Sir, I move.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the establishment and regulation of a Corporation for the development of the Damodar Valley in the Provinces of Bihar and West Bengal, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty, Shri Surendra Mohan Ghosh, Shri Arun Chandra Guha, Shri Prafulla Chandra Sen, Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, Prof. N. G. Ranga, Shri Satyanarayan Sinha, Shri Jaipal Singh, Shri Ram Narayan Singh, Shri N. C. Mehta, Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad, Shri Mihirlal Chattopadhyaya, Shri B. A. Khimji, and the Mover, with instructions to report on the opening day of the next session of the Assembly, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General): Sir, I congratulate my Honourable friend Mr. Gadgil that it has been his singular good fortune to introduce in this House the first measure, the first Congress measure, of benefit to a large number of people, and if I accept his own words that one lakh of people will be de-housed and that fifty lakhs of people will be benefited and will live in better conditions of life, let me say "Amen" to his substantial proposition. This is the first measure which the Congress Ministry has introduced, where a Bill thinks in terms of the people of the country. This is the first measure where the public health and well-being of the people have been considered. I refer the House to clauses 12 and 44. In clause 12 the functions of the Corporation has been laid down as:

"It shall be the duty of the Corporation to promote by such measures as it thinks fit the agricultural, industrial economic and public health development of the area within its operation."

I need not go into the other points which have already been referred to by my Honourable friend the Minister for Works, Mines and Power and has my approval.

Sir, this is a matter of great congratulation that the Congress Ministry has thought in terms of the public health and the welfare of teeming millions than in terms of capitalistic ideas as we find in other measures,—similar measures,—that were brought into existence by the predecessor of the present Government. Sir, that alien Government introduced many such corporation measures, control over which passed out of the hands of the Legislature and which though indirectly controlled by the then Government vested all powers in practice in the hands of the Corporations. Sir, the Reserve Bank Act, the Statutory Railway Authority, and the Ports Trust—the Madras, Bombay and Calcutta Ports Trusts—they are all controlled by Acts of Legislature.

[At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Mr. Hussain Imam (one of the Panel of Chairmen).]

[Shri B. Das]

Similar Corporations were created, but unfortunately complete control passed away from the Legislature and even from the Government of India and the Commere Members of the time had little control over them. Nor even the Finance Members of the time had control over the Reserve Bank. I need not talk of the Railway Board which the House discussed threadbare a few days ago, and even today we are not satisfied with the administration of the Railway Board. Therefore, Sir, we are most anxious, and I agree with my Honourable friend Mr. Gadgil, that we should devise such a controlling measure over the establishment of Corporations that it should be the ideal system which all other similar measures of the Government should follow.

Sir, the House has already discussed the Electricity Bill which is also establishing similar Central Government Boards and Provincial Boards. The House has discussed the Industrial Finance Corporation, which is under the consideration of the Select Committee, where also we are establishing similar Corporations or Body of Directors who will control big finances; whether they will function for the well-being and welfare of the people, of that this House must be very careful. In handing over power to the Central Government through the Minister for Works, Mines and Power, we have to see that that Department has got adequate machinery and at the same time the necessary requisite experience and brains to control similar Corporations like the Damodar Valley Corporation. I believe soon there will be a Mahanadi Valley Corporation where the Central Government is financing 167 crores of which the other day in reply to a question my Honourable friend said he had sanctioned 67 crores for the Hirakud Project. But a certain amount of control—adequate and expert control—must be exercised by the Honourable Minister's Department; and that control must have experienced men who can overrule Directors of the Damodar Valley or Hirakud Projects, or even of other similar Projects by expert knowledge and expert administrative control.

Sir, at this stage there are two things about which I am not very happy. One lakh of people who are going to be de-housed will be rehabilitated. But what guarantee is there that each family will not be de-housed later on by those industrialists and capitalists who will come to those areas and set up their business? I would ask my Honourable friend to study closely the Punjab Canal Colonisation Acts under which land was given to agriculturists and a specific condition was made that non-agricultural classes cannot purchase the lands from agriculturists. Though West Punjab is not today part of India, it would be as well that our Government should borrow its experiences and practise them.

Then, Sir, I was a little alarmed when I heard my Honourable friend to say that large number of people from Calcutta and elsewhere are purchasing large acreage of land in the Damodar Valley, and that they were not Bengalis or Biharis either. The Honourable Minister's Department has been engaged on the Damodar Valley Scheme for the last two years. Why have they not notified that there should be no transfer of land, no appreciation of value of land in certain areas which are situated in the Damodar Valley and so on? Had it been done, this kind of rise in prices and inflation of land value would not have occurred. And then, Sir, I would not like all these exploiters, these big industrialists and capitalists, to come and deprive the children of the soil of Bengal and Bihar of their legitimate right to develop this multi-purpose scheme.

An Honourable Member: You have no poet's imagination.

Shri B. Das: I am an engineer, but engineers cannot be poets. This is an important aspect, to which I would like to draw the attention of my Honourable friend, and hope that he will see that there is no exploitation of the sons of the soil by the theory that the Damodar Valley belongs to Indians and not to Bengalis and Biharis.

Then, Sir, I do hope that the multi-purpose schemes which the Honourable Minister has started and others which he will introduce in future will all be successful, but we cannot compare our schemes with that of the Tennessee Valley Scheme of the United States. Our people have different characteristics, a different method of living. While the Americans have got large ideas in all spheres of living, we are somehow individualists and barring half a dozen or so of the members of this House, we are all of us from the rural areas and are of the agriculturist people. We do not want that the country side should be swept over by the capitalists with chimneys—of course, here is no chimneys, but electric fans. We do not want our workers in the workshops living in slum conditions. I do hope that the pious hopes of my Honourable friend will be justified and ten years hence, as my friend Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena would have it, the working classes in the Damodar Valley will be treated as the workmen of Henry Ford are treated in the U.S.A. under rural conditions of life.

But, Sir, one difficulty that my Honourable friend and we all will face in the progress of the multi-purpose schemes is that we are not a disciplined Nation. (*An Honourable Member:* "Question".) Our Government is not disciplined. We are all undisciplined. We are following theories and dreams. We are dreaming that we shall be progressing as the Tennessee Valley project does. But, Sir, America is a land of money, where money is worshipped. Of course there "work and money" go together. People work and earn money. But for tens of thousands of years we have been living under different ideologies. We cannot be a money-making machinery, although whenever my Honourable friend passes through Bombay City he can find people begging and at the same time people becoming very grey at thirty years by making money on the Stock Exchange or in other business and growing grey in mind and body in their hunt for money. Whatever forecasts the Honourable Minister's experts may make, he must consider this human factor of ourselves. We are Bengalis, or Biharis, or Indians, and we have a certain human way of living and we cannot suddenly grasp the high sounding ideas, the machine ideas, which the Tennessee Valley or the American people practice. That reminds me of a little story—a very good one—by Poet Rabindranath Tagore where the poet describes how machinery and the machine age is swallowing and destroying everything that is human in this earth. I don't just now recollect the full story, so I leave it to any friend from Bengal to narrate it.

About clause 12, Sir, I would like to suggest that it should be definitely laid down that the peasantry should not be uprooted and that the peasantry when it is rehabilitated must be permitted to retain its land permanently. There should be a permanent provision in Clause 14 also. A similar provision should be made in clause 44 also.

Now I come to the powers of the Corporation. The powers of the Corporation are defined in Clause 24. We are going to invest this Corporation with powers like a Provincial Government which is today more than amenable to public criticism. I would only hope that this Corporation will not exercise its powers as the Bombay Port Trust, for instance, where there could be no criticism from anybody, and not even the Chamber of Commerce, or any other bodies or even the Bombay Government, can exercise any control over it. That was the past; I do not think the present is any better. So in those draft rules giving powers to this Corporation, there should be more humanitarian clauses. I want to know whether the Corporation is going to be managed by Calcutta and Bombay millionaires, mostly non-Bengali and non-Bihari, who want to establish big industries there and who are acquiring or will acquire hundreds of thousands of acres of land to work agricultural farms in the American pattern, or is it the privilege of this Corporation to serve the people of those areas so that they are not wiped out and that the population there does not have to serve in factories as factory labour and live in conditions of slums? We Indians are individualists; we like to be small farm-holders

[Shri B. Das]

with a few acres of land rather than draw Rs. 10 a day in a factory at Jamshedpur managed by Tatas or any other capitalists. So, as the Honourable the Minister mentioned, the Corporation will be a sort of Provincial Government, and I hope they should exercise similar human control as the Provincial Government and I hope my Honourable friends of the Select Committee will see to that.

I have already said that clause 44 should introduce this humanitarian aspect, particularly economic and social welfare and public health; it should be specifically laid down.

In clause 58 I find that the Central Government may by notification in the Official Gazette make rules. . . As the question affects the three Governments, the Central Government, the Bihar Government and the Bengal Government, the clause should be amended, so that the Bengal and the Bihar Governments should simultaneously publish those rules to enlighten the public. I suggest that much.

I would suggest one more thing. The annual report of the Corporation must be laid on the floor of this House and also on the floor of the Bengal and Bihar Provincial Assemblies; otherwise the criticism of popular representatives of this House and of Bengal and the Bihar Legislatures will not be exercised and I find from my experience of 25 years, that if this is not done, we never get the chance to examine these reports. This House never got a chance to discuss the Reserve Bank annual reports and if we lay down in every measure like this and similar measures that the annual reports of such bodies and Corporations should be laid on the floor of this House, then there will be a debate on it in this House and the Corporation will not get more bureaucratic than the Tata concerns, Birla concerns or any other industrial concerns.

These are some of the observations I make, not with a view to criticise my Honourable friend Mr. Gadgil, whom I have congratulated, but with a view to help him to have full control of this House to continue over the Corporation which he is bringing forth now, under our Free India Government. **While I wish such corporations every success** so that it may prove beneficial to the nation, it has yet to be seen whether they will serve as an instrument of human service. Our unfortunate experience under the foreign rule has been that whenever we have created a body or corporation in the interests of the nation, that body has become Frankenstein and has worked against public liberty, public peace and public welfare. I do not mean, I do not anticipate, but I give that warning. The time is so short between the past and the present. It is very difficult for me or for many of the Honourable Members of this House to anticipate that everything will be well, because, though we are a democratic and free country, we are all autocratic by our tradition and nature and I do hope that no autocracy will enter into the working of the Corporation and that it will work in the interest of the teeming millions, and not very much in the interests of outside capitalists who always go in for large-scale development and for exploitation of everybody and everything.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U. P. General): I congratulate the Honourable the Minister on having presented the House with this epoch-making Bill. I should have wished that the Government came forward with a very comprehensive plan for the whole nation, which could transform our backward nation into one of the most powerful nations on earth. I however, think that this is a Bill in the right direction. If it had come as a part of the comprehensive plan, I think it would have been better and then you could have stressed each part of the plan according to its necessity. I do not know what amount of time will be taken to complete the project, but I do say that every step should be taken to hurry it and to do it as quickly as possible, because we are a nation who are very much backward at present in the world and we have

to make much lee-way to come into our own and therefore, I trust the Honourable Minister in charge, who I know is one of the most energetic persons, will, I hope, inject some of his energy into the execution of this project. This project reminds me of my own valley where I happen to live in Gorakhpur district where every year floods come in the river Rapti which rises in Nepal and flows through the eastern United Provinces and then falls into the Saraju. The river devastates thousands of acres of land every year and the people of Gorakhpur sometimes call it their big enemy. I know that river can be made to be as good a friend and as great a benefactor of that valley, as the Damodar river will become to its valley after this project is completed. I would draw the attention of the Honourable the Minister to take up that river project also. The valley of this river has the most fertile and most populous land in the world. In the Gorakhpur district probably we have got the most dense population, somewhere about 1,500 people to the mile. It was till recently probably the biggest district having 40 lakhs population and probably the most dense population in this country. I therefore hope that when the next valley project is to be taken, the claims of the Rapti Valley will also be taken into consideration, and therefore I had suggested that if a comprehensive plan for the whole nation were made and the needs of each valley were taken into consideration, the whole thing could be fitted in into one big plan and priorities fixed for its various items. I do hope that my suggestion will be borne in mind when the next valley is selected.

My Honourable friend the Minister was happy to remind me that this is a State enterprise. That means that every Bill relating to such valley schemes will now be a State enterprise. That leads me to hope that he has accepted the argument that we put forward during the debate on the Electricity Bill for complete nationalisation of all industries and now I believe that the whole scheme envisaged in the Electricity Bill will be under State control. The theory of mixed economy I should say is a most vicious theory and it should not be allowed to play havoc in the development of key industries.

I also want to draw attention to one other thing in this Bill that is, to section 49 where compulsory acquisition of land is mentioned. My experience about big projects under the British Government has been that when land is acquired for carrying them out, the poor peasants who are displaced from their ancient lands suffer most. They get very little compensation and are not properly cared for. I hope under the National Government when land is acquired, the claims of those people who are displaced will not be lost sight of. There should be some provision in the rules of such schemes and care should be taken to see that those people, whose original homes had to be taken away in order to provide happiness to the millions by executing such big projects, should share in the happiness resulting from the execution of such schemes so that when the projects are complete, they should have a claim to priority in sharing the resultant benefits. Sir, I do not wish to take any more time of the House; the Honourable Speaker has said we must see that all the business on the agenda is gone through today. I support the Motion.

Mr. R. K. Sidhwa (C. P. and Berar: General): Sir, I have very great pleasure in supporting this Bill. I am glad because when this project is completed it will bring prosperity not only to these two provinces but to the whole of India. That is a point which has to be borne in mind. Today in spite of the Grow More Food campaign we say that Government have not bestowed proper attention to this question. When 50 lakh square miles of land will be under cultivation by a perennial supply of water through this valley it will grow so much surplus food that these two provinces will supply the deficit provinces; and the great burden that is imposed on this country by import of foodgrains will be considerably lifted. That is a redeeming feature of this scheme and I congratulate the Government on attending to this so

[Mr. R. K. Sidhwa]

early. I speak, Sir, from a little experience of the Sukkur Barrage in Sind. Before the Barrage was constructed the land was desert. In 1924 when the Bombay Government passed the scheme it cost 26 crores of rupees. It is one of the finest engineering feats in the world, and today its construction, I am sure, would cost more than 50 crores of rupees. After the construction of this Barrage the whole area has been brought under cultivation by a perennial supply of water and there has been a wonderful change in the situation. When Sind separated from Bombay it was considered to be a deficit province and this legislature was good enough to grant a subvention of a crore of rupees to run the province. After the construction of the Sukkur Barrage the cultivated area became so prosperous that the Government of India's debt of something like 26 crores of rupees was liquidated long before the stipulated period. I am therefore hopeful that this proposed scheme also will bring even greater prosperity to the provinces of India.

Another redeeming feature of this Bill is the proposed establishment of a Corporation and the entrusting of the work to three experts. Again from my experience of the Sukkur Barrage I can say that that work was entrusted to an able and efficient engineer. But there was enormous leakage, and in the Bombay Legislative Assembly it was revealed that a very large amount out of this 24 crores had gone out by back-door methods. In the present case the three members shall not have much to do with it either directly or indirectly. I must say that 'indirectly' is rather a vague word, and those who are appointed must be above board, men of honesty and integrity. Apart from their ability and engineering knowledge they must have those qualifications. I know that three is a small number but for work of this nature only a small body is necessary. I know it is difficult to get persons of integrity. But such people are available and I hope no other consideration will prevail in appointing them.

With regard to the supply of electricity I am glad to find that the electrical energy will be generated and given only by this Corporation, and the Honourable Minister stated that it will bring in a revenue of a crore of rupees. I only wish that the rate should be such as to encourage both industrial and domestic consumption, so that the villages in the vicinity may have electric power. That should be the aim of this Government. They must not try to make any profit out of this electricity because it will bring greater industrial prosperity to this country. Clause 19(2) says:

"Where a license is deemed to have been revoked under sub-section (1) the Corporation shall purchase the undertaking of the licensee, and where a license is modified under that sub-section, the Corporation shall, at the option of the licensee, either purchase the undertaking or pay fair compensation to the licensee."

The other day we discussed the nationalisation of electricity. Unfortunately we were not successful in amending the Bill in the way we wanted. But there is a provision that small electric concerns, of whatever size, may be purchased by Government. By the purchase of this electric concern, the electric concerns there will be nationalised. That will lead to further expansion through which many more activities will be undertaken by the people.

Sir, I have not studied the Bill thoroughly but from the cursory glance I find that there is nothing on which the Honourable Minister can be criticised. The money that will be spent will be spent properly on this Corporation, which is a new feature of this Bill. The scheme will minimise corruption to a large extent, though it may not do away with it altogether.

Sir, as I said before, it will bring prosperity to the whole of India and I whole-heartedly support the Bill.

Shri Jaipal Singh (Bihar: General): Sir, my Honourable friend Shri Gadgil has been talking of dam, dam and more dams. I feel that he should be designated the damming Minister. I congratulate him and congratulate myself also that it should have fallen to the lot of my home area, Jharkhand, to provide the first model dam that is to be followed by other dams and river control enterprises that are under the consideration of the Government of India. I do not mean mere platitude when I thank our national Government for having put an end to talks and paper planning. For nearly five decades we had been reading and hearing about the Bhakra Dam but nothing happened. Within a few months of the attainment of our independence, we heard only the other day the Honourable Minister for Works, Mines and Power telling us that the Bhakra Dam would be completed in something like five years. That is a matter for congratulation as well as gratification on the part of our leaders as well as the country. My honourable

friend has indirectly abused Jharkhand for having resorted to flooding 4 P.M. Bengal all these years. He has, in a very indirect way, made reference to the misbehaviour of the River Damodar. He has accused us as though it was a deliberate intent of this holy river of the *Adibasis*. The River Damodar is a sacred river of the most ancient people of this country. The river Damodar is to the *Adibasis* what the Ganges is to some of you Hindus. This river is very well behaved. It has had no intention whatever of drowning the Bengalis but it is the people of Bengal who have been misbehaving themselves in regard to the Damodar and the gods of the *Adibasis* have inflicted punishment on them!

Four years ago, we have been told, the main line of East Indian Railway was completely washed away by the Damodar floods and the deviation of that main route cost something like Rs. 75 lakhs. Sir, all this flooding has not been anything motivated by our *Adibasi* gods. But it has been the work of mischievous and ruthless capitalists, like Dalmia and Birla who have been denuding our forests higher up. I, as an *Adibasi* if I were to cut down a bamboo, would be put into prison for doing it. But Dalmia comes along and he is denuding vast forest areas with the result that the rains cannot be held—water comes down. There is terrific soil erosion and torrents rush down to drown poor West Bengal. The fault is not of the river Damodar but of modern capitalists and mischievous and ruthless business men. Sir, they live in Bengal; they are offered sanctuary in Bengal and to all intents and purposes they are Bengal people.

I am not impressed so much by the 52 crores or more that all these various dams are going to cost. These figures may be very impressive. The Bhakra Dam may be 500 feet high. It may produce 300,000 K.W. of firm power. It may turn East Punjab into a prosperous home for evacuees who have been turned out of West Punjab. They may become the owner of land better than they had in West Punjab. All that is very well. But how is it going to effect the 300 odd *Adibasi* villages, which as Mr. Gadgil said, are going to be completely uprooted? He has indicated that we have to take up a very peculiar attitude in this matter. We are not to worry so much about the one lakh of people that are going to be uprooted, people who have been there for thousands and thousands of years. No, they do not count so much; the question for him is, the country as a whole must be taken into consideration—damn this one lakh of people! That is his attitude. If it comes to a choice whether the rest of the country is going to benefit by the annihilation of this one lakh of people who are to be uprooted, it is immaterial to him. That is the argument he has been trying to mention. I do not quite know whether he realises what he has incurred.

I wish my Honourable friend would come to Manbhum. I hope the Standing Committee for the Ministry of Mines, Works and Power will meet in Manbhum the next time. He will see for himself, on the very spot, where this project is going to be materialised that this morning's Act, whereby you

[Shri Jaipal Singh]

are going to give special powers to the Armed Forces, is going to be of no consequence, unless you are going to treat the whole question, as my Honourable friend, Mr. Das has put it, from the human angle. The very best—the first—priority must be given to the demands of the people who, *pro tempore*, are going to be uprooted and expropriated for this one project to materialise itself. Something like 300 villages will have to be submerged. The *Adibasi* is the child of the soil of that particular territory. It is he who has to be uprooted and not the big business man may be from Bombay, or Madras, or Calcutta.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): No business man from Madras!

Shri Jaipal Singh: If that is the case, then, perhaps, Manbhum will be the one area in which the Madrasi will not dominate. However, even my friend, Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, will be very welcome if he behaves himself there!

The question is this and you appreciate it very well yourself. Many months ago, when the question of the acquisition of these 300 villages and the land about that vicinity had to be taken into consideration by the Provincial Government, at the behest, I presume, of the Central Government, there was rebellion brewing among the Santhals. It was the time of the general elections. The Provincial Government had to climb down and say: We will stay this project. We will do nothing about it.

I just want to impress upon the House the political implications of things that we say in this House. Is my Honourable friend prepared to go and tell the Bihar Government and these 300 villages: You are of no consequence, go, get out: the country at large comes first, needs prime consideration? I do not, for one moment, want to take a selfish attitude, Mr. Chairman. *Adibasis* or no *Adibasis* they must align themselves with the all-India situation. But let not my advanced friends act unwisely because power is in their hands. That the *Adibasis* will not tolerate. I want to attack, if I may put it, this problem from the human angle. My Honourable friend, Mr. Gadgil, will have to give the assurance; so far as the question of resettlement is concerned, he must be unequivocal. There must be no misunderstanding about it. He must be unequivocal that the 300 villages and the one lakh of people that have to be uprooted at the present moment are not merely compensated. No *Adibasi* wants your money. Money compensation is useless to a poor man. What we want is a permanent compensation. We want to rehabilitate these people and resettle them in conditions that are natural to them. That is the point that my Honourable friend, Mr. Das, has been trying to make. I shall be the first one to go round those 300 villages of Santhals and tell them that this project is going to be of the greatest benefit to them. It is in no way going to annihilate them. But Government assurance must be definite. It is not merely a question of 52 lakhs of people being able to benefit from this Damodar Valley project. I want to know how the 52 lakhs are going to be made up. Is it going to improve the lot of the eight lakhs of my Jharkhand *Adibasis* who have been made slaves of in the tea gardens of Assam? Are they the people you will endeavour to repatriate so that they can get back to their original homes? I daresay my Honourable friend, Mr. Gadgil, will say, 'Certainly I will put them on the top priority list. What further grouse have you?' He can say that. But I want to have a little more detail about it. I am only giving one instance. There are any number of organisations for recruitment of coolies in Chota Nagpur. They are crimping away the poor people, sending them away to distant places like Assam to work in the Tea gardens as coolies? Is any particular endeavour going to be made to repatriate such people, so that they can be brought back to where they were till only the

other day for centuries and centuries. That is the human aspect about it. The *Adibasis* certainly will co-operate with the Central and the provincial Governments in anything that is going to benefit them equally. It is not a question of secondary consideration, as the Honourable Member was trying to make out. We will not have that. You are taking our villages; you are acquiring our land. We must come first in your consideration. We have the right to demand and get the best from you, being the original inhabitants of this country. It is for the same reason that I would insist that the Corporation that is to be appointed is the main authority for dealing with all problems of resettlement. Let that corporation be a corporation with power. There are some members who seem to think that this corporation will behave just as the Bombay Port Trust or some other trust has behaved. If we want to go ahead and do big things, we must not be battered by old ideas. Certainly we cannot get away from our cultural ties. It does not mean to say that the T.V.A. idea can be *in toto* transplanted here. As a matter of fact I wish it were possible for members of the Standing Committee to visit the Tennessey Valley and see what is there being done, so that they can be of greater value to my Honourable friend Mr. Gadgil. But nonetheless the Government should see that this Corporation of the Damodar Valley project that is being created by this Bill is worked by our people and for our people and, therefore, naturally the bias must be of a character that will be understood and that will have a meaning to the people of the area.

Sir, there is very much more that I want to say but at this stage I do not wish to say it. But I do congratulate my Honourable friend Mr. Gadgil for putting the Damodar Valley project first, so that the advice he has received from eminent engineers, and administrators like Mr. Savage and Mr. Voorduin of the Tennessey Valley Administration, may be of the greatest benefit and that the scheme itself may be the model for all the future projects.

In conclusion, may I suggest, let us not stop with this. As far as the Damodar Valley project is concerned, it is coming into reality by the concerted action of the Governments of Bihar and Bengal but I do hope, in other cases also, there will be this kind of concert. There are other projects also which would not cost the fantastic and astronomical figure of 52 or 75 crores. There are places like Gangasagar, not many miles from Ranchi, where the spending of a mere three lakhs will make a reservoir with something like five miles of water.

My Honourable friend talked of water supply. The summer capital of the present province of Bihar would be getting very good, clean water free by the expenditure of a small sum of 3 lakhs only. I do hope he will consider Gangasagar also. Jharkhand is an area which is full of possibilities for us—Dams, dams and more dams.

Begum Aizaz Rasul (U.P. Muslim): Sir, I congratulate the Honourable Minister for the very important piece of legislation that he has introduced in the House today. These congratulations are not formal and are really deserving because we all realise that this is one of those great schemes that will put this country of ours on a par and in line with those other great countries which are so prosperous in the world today. It is such schemes that have made those countries great. Schemes to exploit and utilise the natural resources of the country have to be undertaken in order to make a country great and prosperous and in these days when science has made such great strides in all fields of development such as agriculture, medicine etc. it is necessary that the development of the natural resources of a country should engage the earliest attention of our government.

Sir, it has been said that by this project only the two provinces of Bengal and Bihar will benefit but to my mind this is not a matter that can be confined to any one province alone, because it means the entire prosperity and well-being

[Begum Aizaz Rasul.]

of this great country as a whole. Therefore for this reason every one of us should be happy and should fully cooperate with this scheme so that it may go forward as quickly and successfully as possible.

The pressure on our land is so great that by the development of this large tract of land it will be lightened to a great extent and the benefits that will accrue to the country by the settlement and rehabilitation of a very large number of people is in itself a very great thing. Sir, every avenue should be explored and exploited in order to improve the agricultural condition of our country so that better results should be forthcoming as far as agricultural returns are concerned. From that point of view also this scheme is a tremendous step forward and as the Minister has very clearly explained the position, it will really be a very beneficial scheme for this country. When we read about the Tennessee Valley Scheme and saw, as the Honourable Minister himself saw, films which showed to the world the great results that were achieved by this scheme in America, we also wondered whether a time would come when this country of ours which is so rich in natural resources could also put forward such schemes for the improvement and development of those resources. It was once a dream and it is now being put into reality. I do not think any one of us here should minimise the great importance of this great scheme. It is something that we dreamt about which is now coming true. Therefore for this reason also I congratulate the Honourable Minister for having conceived this great scheme and for now putting it into reality.

The very important question of the housing arrangement and resettlement of the people who will have to be necessarily uprooted from that area has been brought forward before this House. I know in such schemes such questions necessarily arise. It is a very important factor; special care should be given to the arrangements that are to be made for the resettlement and rehabilitation of people who will lose their homes. I have experience only of much smaller schemes, in which land has been taken for building factories or for other purposes and the thousands of people who are uprooted from those areas have to face a great deal of trouble and hardship. But where a scheme is so large and where not a few thousand but one lakh of people are to be rendered homeless I hope that Government will give its careful consideration to the arrangements that will be made for rehabilitating these people.

Sir, I will not take much of the time of the House in expanding upon this subject as the Honourable Minister has very clearly laid the whole picture before us and if he felt like a poet in describing the good wonderful things that would accrue to the country from this scheme, I think all of us hearing his speech also felt poetic in visualizing all those wonders and hope that the day is not far off when this dream will be put into reality and wilderness turned into a garden. With these few words, Sir, I wish this scheme every success and trust that the hopes that have been brought forward by the Honourable Minister will fructify very soon.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh (C.P. and Berar: General): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not propose to make a long speech. I endorse all the congratulatory expressions which have been uttered on the floor of this House and join in the good wishes that have been given to the Honourable Minister who has proposed the scheme. Incidentally I also congratulate my friend Mr. Jaipal Singh for the very excellent speech which he has delivered. I have no doubt that the earnestness with which he spoke will receive the attention of the Honourable Minister and that the welfare of those people who are likely to be the sufferers on account of this beneficent scheme would be sympathetically and adequately dealt with when the scheme gets on its legs and is put into operation. My learned friend behind me—I am referring to Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena—said that he would have welcomed the Minister placing before the House a comprehensive plan with similar projects

for the whole of India. I really would have wished the same though I am prepared to concede that this is an excellent beginning. Everyone of us who do not belong to Bengal or Bihar would like to look round ourselves and see what particular benefit is likely to accrue to us as a result of the Honourable Minister's schemes. It has of course to be admitted that the project is such a huge one that the whole of India is bound to be benefited, and since we are in India we are also likely to be benefited. Nonetheless speaking of the part of India from where I come, I may tell the House that God has bestowed one of the most fertile pieces of land upon us. It is very productive but the ravages of the exploiters and businessmen and all sorts of outsiders who have come and taken away our wealth have left us as poor and helpless as ever. Ours should have been the richest part in the whole of India. Yet, curiously enough, we suffer from want of even drinking water. The capital of Berar, namely Amraoti, has been shouting for the last fifty years to have a water works for drinking water and yet under all the various Governments that we have had and with all the people who have been governing us we have not been able to get that. I hope, Sir, that while making schemes of irrigation and big projects the Honourable Minister will not forget our part of the country. Fortunately we are not altogether wanting in valleys and rivers. But unfortunately like this same sacred Damodar River they cause more damage and do less good to us. I hope, Sir, you have heard of the name of the Satpura mountains. There are valleys in them which I am sure could be tackled, which could be made to give us some drinking water and also enable hydro-electric and irrigation schemes to be planned. If that is done I can assure you Sir that these four small districts of Berar will probably contribute a very large amount of additional foodgrains which will relieve the strain on our finances a great deal. Similarly I hope that the projects recommended by Mr. Jaipal Singh and Professor Saksena will receive attention and that my Honourable friend will not content himself that now that he has put forward a big project of Rs. 52 crores he can rest and the remaining schemes may take their own turn. I hope he will show the same energy and alertness so far as the rest of India is concerned and confer the good for which we are waiting for such a long time. I once again join in the congratulatory remarks made by my friends and close my speech.

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Mr. Gadgil is fortunate as he himself confessed. While others are speaking of planning it has fallen to his lot to move in the same session two measures of far reaching importance. The other day we adopted his motion for Select Committee in respect of the Electricity Bill which is intended to reconstruct the entire production and distribution of electricity all over the country. Now he has brought before us a measure which, as he himself said, is likely to be a model of many similar measures which will bring about a network of these multi-purpose projects—all managed and administered by public corporations.

Sir, so many of my friends here have spoken generally about the Bill that I do not want to waste the time of the House in speaking about the benefits which the country is likely to derive from this corporation. I want to make some specific suggestions regarding the provisions of the Bill. But before I do so I must mention that I took great interest in the remarks of my friend Mr. Jaipal Singh. He made a powerful plea for a permanent resettlement of the villages which are likely to be submerged by the new dams to be constructed under this project. I endorse his plea. I wish to go further and suggest that in every stage of the progress of this corporation the youths of the Adibasis should be drafted and made skilled workers. They should not be left merely as agricultural workers in a different part. As many of them as possible, boys and girls, should become apprentices—engineering apprentices, medical apprentices and all other kinds of apprentices—so that by the time the project comes into operation the Adibasis will be able economically to stand shoulder to shoulder with the other sections of the community in the neighbouring areas.

[Shri K. Santhanam.]

Coming to the Bill as such, it is fashioned more or less on the model of the Tennessey Valley of which we have heard so much. But I find certain differences. In the Tennessey Valley I find this interesting clause:

"Each of the Members of the Board shall be a citizen of the United States and shall receive a salary at the rate of 10,000 dollars a year to be paid by the Corporation as Current Expenses."

I think it is necessary that in this Bill also we should provide that every Member of the Corporation shall be a citizen of India and his salary also should be fixed so that there might be no manipulations between the Government and the Members regarding the salaries and allowances. It should be a salary fixed by the Bill like that of a High Court Judge or a Federal Court Judge or of the Ministers, so that they will not have to come before the Central Government and plead for some more salary and some more allowances.

And then, Sir, I fear this composition of three, consisting practically of one nominee of the Central Government and one nominee each of the two provincial governments, to form the Corporation will lack the technical talent necessary. I think there should be one competent civil engineer and one electrical engineer as Members of the Corporation. All the three members to be nominated are likely to be administrators, public men or the much abused politicians. I do not think that any corporation will work well without them: but they should not be the sole members. I do suggest that the membership should be increased to 5 and it should compulsorily include one electrical engineer and one civil engineer.

And then, Sir, it is said that the Secretary of the Corporation shall be the chief executive officer and shall be appointed by the Central Government. I cannot understand what the other people are. I think that every member of the Corporation is an executive officer. What are they? They are not mere directors of the Corporation. They are full time workers. Then why is this Secretary the Chief executive officer? Is not the Chairman of the Board the chief executive officer? Are not the other members to be executive officers of the particular departments of which they are in charge? I think the whole idea of a Board with a Secretary and a Treasurer is not a proper conception. And then what is the meaning of Treasurer? I can understand a Financial Commissioner. I can understand a Chief Accountant. What is a Treasurer? It is not a charitable society where the treasurer is to receive cheques and deposit them in the bank. The Reserve Bank will manage the funds: and therefore I think the Secretary and the Treasurer may be amalgamated with the Board, of which there would be 3 administrators and 2 engineers and one of them may act as Secretary, one as Chairman and another person deal with accounts and finance. Those are my suggestions regarding the constitution of the Corporation.

Now, Sir, if you turn to clause 12 about the functions of the Corporation, it is said it shall be the duty of the Corporation to promote by such methods as it thinks fit the agricultural, industrial, economic and public health development of the area within its operation. I believe, Sir, that this is too wide. Not that I object to any of these activities, but every corporation should be confined to its own business. It should not become a sort of roving public benefits society. Its business is to give water, is to give power, and let the provincial government and the people benefit by them as much as possible. It should not say "I have built these hospitals, I have built these schools, and therefore I am in a state of deficit finance and the Central Government should come to my help, the Bengal Government should come to my help, and the Bihar Government should come to my help". And therefore the scope of sub-clause (1) of clause 12 should be strictly limited to the essential purposes for which the corporation is being formed.

My greatest difficulty is regarding Part IV. Sir, clauses 32, 33 and 34 deal with the allocation of expenditure chargeable to projects on main objects. If I go into a detailed analysis of these clauses, it will take up the time of the House too much, and so I shall confine myself to making a few general observations. These disputes about the allocation of capital and the distribution of profits and proceeds is always a very complicated business. I know that the Tungabhadra project in Madras has been delayed by 20 years because the two or three governments concerned would not come to an agreement regarding the share of the water, the share of the capital and of the proceeds. I think there should be a schedule attached to it which gives more or less detailed instructions as to how these allocations of the capital expenditure should be made and how the allocation of the proceeds should be made, and to what heads particular items of expenditure should be charged. For instance, Sir, in clause 44 the annual report is to contain the activities of the Corporation relating to canal works, water supply and electrical energy, food control, navigation, afforestation, soil erosion, use of lands, resettlement of displaced population, sanitation and public health measures, etc. Sir, for instance, is the resettlement of the 300 villages about which Mr. Jaipal Singh spoke, is it to be the responsibility of Bihar? Is it Central responsibility or the responsibility of Bengal? Why should these matters be left to the Corporation? How can it decide? It should be done in the Bill itself by a proper schedule. Just as the Electricity Bill contained elaborate schedules to define what the Corporation should do, this Corporation also should have definite detailed instructions so that time may not be wasted by all kinds of conflicts and confusion.

Well, Sir, I shall not take more time of the House, but I do suggest that the Select Committee should go into all these matters and should give the country a Bill which can be more or less without further consideration automatically adopted. When similar projects have to be framed, we should not waste the time of the House or the country by going into all these projects again in detail, and therefore it is all the more necessary that the first big Corporation we are forming for this purpose should be absolutely complete and should be financially solvent. I find in the Act of the Tennessey Valley detailed provisions regarding the scope of finance, how much they can raise by loan, at what rates and in what manner. Here we simply find that the Corporation, with the sanction of the Central Government, may raise any funds in any manner, and use it in any way. I think that is not a satisfactory way of dealing with the country's finances. I think that also should be dealt with either by more adequate provisions within the body of the Bill or by a separate schedule. I hope that the Select Committee will look into all these matters carefully and even if it takes some time, will not hesitate to call for expert evidence.

With these observations I wholeheartedly support the proposal before the House.

Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar (West Bengal: General): Mr. Chairman, Sir, speaker after speaker from provinces congratulated the Honourable Mr. Gadgil on bringing forward this Bill, and I rise here on my behalf and on behalf of the people of West Bengal to convey my felicitations to the Minister for introducing this Bill in this Assembly.

Sir, I do not want to enter into the defects of the Bill, if there be any, at this stage. But I have enough confidence in the Select Committee, and would be guided by the Honourable Minister, as I am confident that the Bill would come out from their hands with a positive assurance of benefit to all. Damodar is a sacred river, and all rivers are sacred in our eyes. But its sacredness has now vanished and it has become a terror to us because of its fury. Our active association with the Damodar dates back to 1913 when there was that devastating flood. All these years there have been so many devastating floods, but I think the most disastrous one was that in the year 1943. If by this project the people

[Shri N. V. Gadgil.]

assure him his suggestions will certainly be taken into consideration by the Select Committee.

My Honourable friend Mr. Das said that care should be taken that no exploiters and capitalists invade this Valley. I just want to point out to him that it is the intention that as far as possible industrialisation should be undertaken by cooperative societies and with that view, it has been laid down specifically in clause 22 as follows: "To aid in the establishment of co-operative societies and other organisations for the better use of facilities made available by the Corporation". It is not the intention in this Bill to provide for every detail about the working, the control and the rules of the Corporation. Only the main principles are embodied, and other matters are left for the Corporation to deal with by making suitable rules.

Having dealt with the various points raised by the speakers, Sir, I once more repeat my assurance that whatever suggestions have been made in this House in the course of this debate, and whatever may also come hereafter from members of this House or from members of the public, they will be duly considered by the Select Committee. As I said, it is the intention that this Bill, when it becomes an Act, should serve as a model for the administration of the many multi-purpose schemes which we have in our view. I once more thank the House for having co-operated with me in sending this Bill to the Select Committee.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the establishment and regulation of a Corporation for the development of the Damodar Valley in the Provinces of Bihar and West Bengal, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty, Shri Surendra Mohan Ghosh, Shri Arun Chandra Guha, Shri Prafulla Chandra Sen, Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, Prof. N. G. Ranga, Shri Satyanarayan Sinha, Shri Jaipal Singh, Shri Ram Narayan Singh, Shri N. C. Mehta, Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad, Shri Mithilal Chattopadhyaya, Shri B. A. Khimji, and the Mover, with instructions to report on the opening day of the next session of the Assembly, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: The House will now adjourn *sine die*.

The Assembly then adjourned sine die.

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[Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar]

of West Bengal could get rid of the havoc done by such floods, then the choicest blessings of Almighty God will be on the head of the Select Committee and the Honourable Mr. Gadgil. The people of Bengal would also ever remain grateful to the Government for this beneficent Project.

Shri M. S. Aney (Deccan and Madras State's Group): Not on the head of the Government?

Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar: Well, in my mind the Honourable Mr. Gadgil represents the head of the Government in this matter, and when I say that the blessings of the Almighty will be on his head, I say that the blessings of the Almighty will be on the head of my Government.

Sir, most of the speakers have dilated on the beneficial results that would flow from this Bill and I would not repeat them. Well, according to our calculations ten lakhs of acres of land in West Bengal will be benefited by this scheme as this entire area would be capable of cultivation. Sir, we are passing through a crisis of food shortage but this shortage is somewhere about six per cent. I hope that with these ten lakhs of acres coming under cultivation, Bengal would be able to do something in the matter of reducing this shortage, if not completely wiping it out.

Besides the benefit to Agriculture, the hydro-electric power that we would get will benefit the two big Provinces. We can electrify our houses, and our Railways. We can start all manner of industries, big and small. Besides, the proposed loco workshop at Asansol would be highly benefited by this Scheme.

There is one other matter to which I must refer. Sir, I am entirely in agreement with my Honourable friend Mr. Jaipal Singh that apart from the engineering and the economic points of view, the Scheme must be carried out from the human and also the humane point of view. The apprehensions he has voiced regarding the *Adibasis*, I fully realise, they must be constantly kept in view. Nothing should be done to harm even a single *Adibasi* in the execution of this project. But I have every hope that with the Honourable Mr. Gadgil at the head and with the Members of the Select Committee, they will be able to work out the scheme in such a way and make the Bill so flawless that not a single *Adibasi* could be injured;—rather that all the *Adibasis* also will be immensely benefited by this Project. If that is not done, Sir, I think not only the grace of the whole thing will be taken away but it would be a cruel scheme, if it is humanly impossible to work out the scheme without injuring a single *Adibasi*. The interests of the *Adibasis* should be permanently kept in view.

I once again congratulate the Honourable Minister for introducing this Bill and I hope that with the help of the Members of the Select Committee the Bill would be so shaped that it would be passed without any opposition at the beginning of the next session.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Mr. Chairman, it is a unique experience for me to receive congratulations from all sections of the House. That is a rather good fortune.

I do not propose to answer in detail some of the points raised by some of the Members who participated in the discussion, but I cannot restrain myself from speaking so far as the question of resettlement is concerned. My Honourable friend Mr. Jaipal Singh spoke with sincerity and with strength and I appreciated his speech more than I appreciated the speech of any other Member. In my own speech, if the House remembers, I stated that this aspect of resettlement is the most important aspect and it has got to be tackled with great skill and delicacy. I want to assure my friend Mr. Jaipal Singh that every person who will be uprooted from the soil will be resettled, not in the same surroundings or similar surroundings, but in better surroundings. He will exchange his hovel for a decent cottage, darkness for light and fanaticism for faith. I want to assure

my friend that the resettlement of the expropriated people will be the first charge on the attention, the energy and the finances of the Corporation. I think a clearer assurance than that is not necessary and I do not think my Honourable friend Mr. Jaipal Singh wants it either.

I was very happy to see that in this particular matter the capitalist Mr. Das and the socialist Mr. Saksena agreed. I was also happy to know that a modern lady and an *Adibasi* were also one in congratulating me. I want to say, Sir, with respect to the points raised by the Honourable Member Mr. Saksena that this is not an isolated, unco-ordinated, unthought of, unrelated attempt. Let me assure him that there is a definite plan so far as the exploitation of water power in this country is concerned. I may, for his benefit, inform him that we have a scheme of priority, we have surveyed, we have been planning, and whenever any particular suggestion comes before the Ministry every possible help is offered. In fact, Sir, if there had been no refugee problem and no financial limitation, I would have gone with greater speed not only with respect to this project but other projects also. With all that, I can assure him that so far as the preliminary matters are concerned, they have been ordered and will be ordered, and they will be completed sooner than expected.

My Honourable friend, Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh, although not jealous about what is being done with respect to people in Bihar and Bengal, naturally said that his own province was somewhat neglected in this respect. Let me tell him that only two months ago a Conference was held in Bombay, where it has been decided to follow up what is known as "Narbada and Tapi Valley Project" and it is expected that out of this some benefit is bound to accrue to that area to which reference has been made by him.

Then, a few points were raised by my Honourable friend Shri Santhanam. He took exception to the constitution of the Board. He was not satisfied with the provision that the Secretary shall be the chief executive authority. He wanted technician to be placed on the Board. I may inform him that when we accepted this model we carefully studied the suggestions he made, and we took the view that the technician should have as little as possible to do with the administration. If Shri Santhanam or his friends can convince us in the Select Committee that a different pattern of organisation for the purpose of execution of this great scheme is likely to be more efficient, I certainly promise that I shall consider it. There is no dogmatism about this matter.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I remind the Honourable Minister that in the Electricity Bill that he introduced only a few days ago, he has laid down that one of the members shall be an engineer, another a person well versed in commercial accounting and a third shall be an electrical engineer?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The answer to that, Sir, is that the Board under the Electricity Act is a Board which has to deal with technical matters. The Board here has to deal with administration. The actual construction of the dams and other matters will be over in the course of five or six years at the most. Thereafter, it is the field of administration which will survive, and I am sure my Honourable friend will agree with me that a man experienced in administration is any day better than a mere highly technically educated man.

Now, with respect to the financial clauses in this Bill, some criticism was offered by my Honourable friend Shri Santhanam. I have already referred to this aspect in my speech this morning, when I said that this arrangement is the result of an understanding between the three Governments, Bihar, Bengal and the Central Government. This was done with a view to avoid delay. I may inform my Honourable friend that if I had not in my own unorthodox way provided something on these lines, this Bill would not have been introduced for another year, and would have taken another two years to be on the Statute Book and only thereafter the work would be taken up. He also referred to some other matters with respect to the organisation that we are going to set up. I may

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(*by Shri Ram Sahai*).

Introduced. 1184.

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(*by Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava*).

Introduced. 1186.

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 (by Dr. P. S. Deshmukh).
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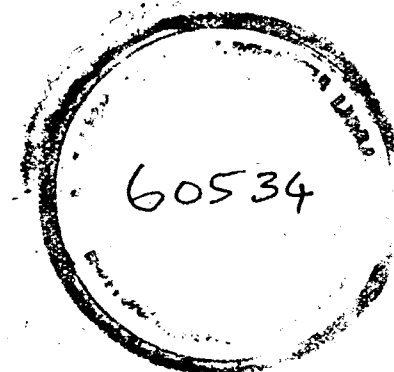
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