THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

Official Report

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Volume III, 1946

(28th February to 14th March, 1946)

FIRST SESSION

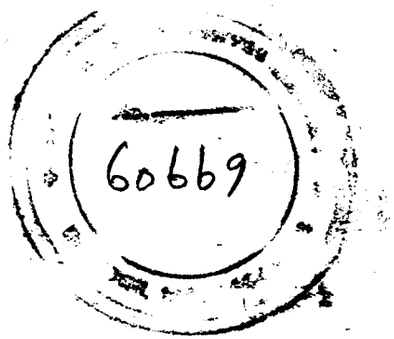
OF THE

SIXTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,

1946

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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Deputy President :

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MR. A. J. M. ATKINSON
MR. S. DAS

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SHRI SRI PRAKASA, M.L.A.
MR. T. CHAPMAN-MORTIMER, M.L.A.
SARDAR MANGAL SINGH, M.L.A.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 28th February, 1946

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(*a*) ORAL ANSWERS

ADVANCE COLLECTIONS OF COOLY CHARGES FROM HAJ PILGRIMS

585. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department please state if it is a fact that cooly charges at annas eight *per* head were collected in advance from the Haj pilgrims embarking from the port of Karachi by a cooly contractor at the Haj pilgrim Camp?

(b) Are Government aware that the Haj Inquiry Committee, 1929, recommended that such collections should not be made, because in spite of these advance payments, pilgrims invariably have to pay again to the coolies for removing their luggage from the wharf to the ship and thus advance collections, which comes to thousands of rupees every year, are a loss to the pilgrims?

(c) Are Government aware that the Bombay Port Haj Committee has also repeatedly requested Government to stop these advance collections?

(d) What are the reasons on account of which Government have so far not taken any step to avoid this double payment from the pilgrims resulting in loss of thousands of rupees to the pilgrims?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: (a) Yes.

(c) No such request was ever made by the Port Haj Committee, Bombay.

(b) and (d). The Hajj Inquiry Committee, 1929, did recommend that such collections should not be made but it is not a fact that in spite of these advance payments, pilgrims have invariably to make additional payments for removing their luggage from the wharf to the ship. What actually happens is that pilgrims make extra payments to coolies voluntarily and against the express advice of the authorities, in order to secure comfortable accommodation on board the ship. The recommendation of the Hajj Inquiry Committee was examined and on the advice of the Port Haj Committee, Karachi, and the Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to the Hejaz, it was decided not to take any action on it.

ADVANCE COLLECTION OF BOAT HIRE FROM HAJ PILGRIMS

536. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that boat hire of Rs. 3 *per* head, charged for conveyance of pilgrims from ship to shore and *vice versa* at Jeddah, is being collected from the Haj pilgrims in advance;

(b) whether it is a fact that these charges are not collected at the instance of the Saudi Government and that the arrangements for boats at Jedda are made by His Majesty's Minister at Jedda;

(c) whether his Department or the British Legation at Jedda, are aware that in spite of this payment of Rs. 3 pilgrims have been compelled to pay exorbitant amounts again to the boatmen at Jeddah; and

(d) what steps have so far been taken to avoid this loss of huge amount to the pilgrims; and, if no steps have been taken so far, what Government propose to do in the future?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: (a) Yes. But in 1945 the boat hire collected was Rs. 5-2-0 per pilgrim.

(b) No. They are collected at the instance of the Saudi Arabian Government.

(c) Cases have come to notice where pilgrims paid money to boatmen in order to obtain preferential treatment *such as alighting from the ship earlier than others.*

(d) Cases of extortion have been reported to the Saudi Arabian Government for necessary action against the offenders. The Indian Vice-Consul and his staff board every ship at Jedda before pilgrims disembark. They give clear instructions to pilgrims not to make any payment to the boat-men and to report to the Indian Vice-Consul cases of extortion. In spite of such advice payment is often made by pilgrims for securing preferential treatment.

LACK OF HAJ SAILINGS FACILITIES FROM BOMBAY DURING 1945-46

587. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** Will the Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department please state:

(a) the reasons which compelled the Government of India not to arrange any pilgrim sailings from the port of Bombay during the 1945-46 Haj season;

(b) whether the Government of India received representations from the Bombay Port Haj Committee and other public institutions in this connection;

(c) whether the Standing Haj Committee was consulted on this subject, and, if so, did they agree with the decision of the Government of India in not arranging any sailings from Bombay;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Government of Bombay objected to allow pilgrim sailings from Bombay on grounds of scarcity of food and accommodation for pilgrims;

(e) is it a fact that the Government of India were prepared to supply the necessary food to the Bombay Government;

(f) if it is a fact that there are two large *musafirkhanas* in Bombay, specially built for the Haj pilgrims and which can accommodate about 3,000 pilgrims at a time; and

(g) if it is a fact that the authorities have rented these *musafirkhanas* to Government servants and those who suffered in the Bombay explosions of April 1944?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: (a) The main reason was lack of accommodation for pilgrims at Bombay.

(b) Yes.

(c) The programme of sailings was fully discussed at a meeting of the Committee on the 4th August. The Committee was aware that Karachi would be the only port for sailing.

(d), (e), (f) and (g). Yes.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Government of India consider the question of having some sailings from Bombay, in view of the fact that great inconvenience is caused to passengers from South India?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: The question is being considered seriously.

AGENTS TO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IN OTHER COUNTRIES

588. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** Will the Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department be pleased to state:

(a) how many Agents to the Government of India have been appointed during the last ten years in the Dominions of the British Commonwealth and in other countries;

(b) how all these Agents were selected by Government;

(c) how many of these Agents have been selected from the Hindu community and how many from the Muslim community;

(d) how many Agents were selected by the Honourable Member himself during his period of office;

(e) whether these appointments were made after consultation with his colleagues in the Executive Council; and

(f) whether Government have received from time to time during the last five years any complaints from the Muslim bodies in India that the vast majority of those selected have been Hindus?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: (a) Twenty-one. Of these three were in foreign countries which are the concern of the External Affairs Department.

(b) The question is not quite clear. The person who was considered most suitable on each occasion was selected.

(c) 15 from the Hindu community and 3 from the Muslim community.

(d) Seven.

(e) I am unable to disclose information relating to the proceedings of the Executive Council.

(f) A copy of a press cutting complaining about the appointment of a non-Muslim representative of the Government of India in Burma was received from a few Muslim refugees from Burma.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: With reference to part (b), may I ask whether in view of the fact that proper Muslims were not appointed, did the Muslim Members of the Executive Council protest to the Honourable Member-in-charge when he did not make appointments of Muslims for these appointments?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I can give no other reply to that question.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: The Honourable Member said the question was not clear, but my question is perfectly clear. I ask how these appointments were made and whether the Honourable Member's colleagues in the Executive Council were consulted?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: The appointments were made by the Governor General in Council.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: I want to know when these appointments were made by the Governor General in Council, did the Muslim Members of the Executive Council protest to the Honourable Member-in-charge of this Department why he did not appoint Muslims to these posts. It is quite clear that the Honourable Member in charge of this Department, Dr. Khare appointed his personal friends and did not the Muslim Members of the Executive Council protest at any stage against these appointments?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I said that appointments were made by the Governor General in Council and I am not prepared to give out any further details about the procedure by which the administrative decisions of the Government are taken.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: These appointments are not governed by the Secrecy Act and the House is entitled to know . . . .

Mr. President: Order, order, the Honourable Member must put his question. He is arguing.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I know whether the Governor General in Council in fact means the Deputy Secretary or the Secretary?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What is the percentage of Muslims among the Indian population in Burma?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I have no definite information.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Government consider the desirability of abolishing these posts in order to obviate all such questions?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: And thus save the taxpayers' money.

SMUGGLING OF CERTAIN ARTICLES TO MID EASTERN COUNTRIES

589. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) What information, if any has the Honourable the Commerce Member got of the prevailing prices of cloth, sugar, gold and butter in the Middle East countries, particularly in Cairo, Basrah, Baghdad and Teheran?

(b) What steps are Government taking to safeguard India's limited supplies in these articles and to prevent unauthorised exports through systematic smuggling?

(c) Have any officers connected with export licensing or smuggling detection been dismissed or degraded for their complicity in any cases detected by Government?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Government understand that the prevailing prices of cloth, sugar, gold and butter in the Middle East countries are higher than those in India. They have no other information on the subject.

(b) (i) The current half-year's export quota of cloth represents a small proportion of the country's total production and in fixing it, domestic requirements have been fully taken into account. The export of sugar is prohibited, except for a small quota to Iran and the Persian Gulf Sheikhdoms. The export of butter is also prohibited, except for small quantities included in gift parcels There is a total prohibition on the export of gold.

(ii) For the purpose of preventing un-authorised exports the utmost vigilance is exercised by Customs and other officials at all likely points of exit, and offences, when discovered, are dealt with drastically.

(c) Yes, two officers of the Preventive Service employed at Karachi Customs House have been dismissed and one officer employed at the Land Customs office at Thal has been suspended.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member state why considerable quantities running into several hundreds and thousands of bales are still being exported as the *Times of India's* list of India exports every week would indicate?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: So far as I said, I have stated the correct position. But if my Honourable friend places before me any other facts, I will have them looked into, but my reply is what I have stated.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is the Honourable Member aware, and will he make inquiries if I inform him, that illicit export is taking place from Portuguese ports on the western coast and also from various Indian States ports, whose statistics are not included in the Government of India figures of the total export permitted in the case of cloth?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: We have been constantly inquiring into this question. As far as I am aware, these figures are included in the all-India figures; but I will certainly have this again looked into to see if there is a recrudescence of the trouble that we had some time back.

Mr. Manu Subedar: If prices are differential—and there is therefore presumably considerable profit—may I know why the Government of India first permit export, and if the export is at all permitted why the profit is not kept by Government for themselves instead of allowing it to go into private pockets?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: Because Government have not entered into the market yet.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: How long will these controls continue?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: So far as my Department is concerned, as long as they are necessary.

LICENCES FOR VEGETABLE GHEE PLANTS

590. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Food Secretary please state how many vegetable ghee plants existed in India before the war?

(b) How many new vegetable ghee plants were constructed during the war?

(c) How many new vegetable ghee plants were licensed and to which parties were licences given since the year 1940?

(d) How many vegetable ghee plants will there be in each Province in India according to the total number of licences already given?

(e) Have Government received any representation or complaint that these licences have been given arbitrarily and that people, who asked for these licences, have been denied and others have been given licences?

(f) On what basis have Government fixed the eligibility for these licences, and on what basis was preference given?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) Ten.

(b) Eleven.

(c) and (d) 31 licences have been issued. A statement giving the names of the parties and the distribution of vegetable ghee factories is placed on the table of the House.

(e) Yes. Such representations were inevitable in the selection of 20 firms from about 350 applicants.

(f) Prior to 1944 licences for import of vanaspati plants were given to the firms which applied for them. After that date a plan for immediate expansion of the industry and regional distribution of new units was formulated under which eligibility was determined primarily by the proposed location of new factories. Where the number of applicants exceeded the number of factories approved for a particular area, the selection of the firms was made in consultation with the Provincial and State Administrations, keeping in view the experience and the ability of the firms to erect the factories with the minimum of delay.

The eligibility in respect of eight licences was determined by the conditions laid down in the press Note issued by the Commerce Department on 23rd December 1944, providing for registration of capital goods the order for which had been accepted by the suppliers before that date.

List of new vanaspati factories licensed for import of plant and machinery or essential equipment

(1) M/s. Hyderabad Vegetable Oil Products, Hyderabad, Deccan.
(2) M/s. Davengere Vanaspati & Vegetable Oil Co., Ltd., Davengere (Mysore State).
(3) M/s. Delhi Cloth & General Mills, Delhi.
(4) M/s. Bengal Industries, Ltd., Calcutta.
(5) M/s. Kusum Products, Ltd., Calcutta.
(6) M/s. Hindustan Development Corp. Calcutta.
(7) M/s. Swaika Oil Mills, Calcutta.
(8) M/s. United Vegetable Manufacturers, Calcutta.
(9) M/s. Sudha Industries, Phulgon (C. P. & Berar).
(10) M/s. Bharat Vegetable Products, Berhampur.
(11) M/s. Bihar Industries, Ltd., Dinapore.
(12) M/s. Western India Vegetable Products, Amalner.
(13) M/s. Vegetols, Ltd., Chittoor.
(14) M/s. Suderson Oil Mills, Katpadi.
(15) M/s. Karnatak Vegetable Oils & Refineries, Hospet.
(16) M/s. East Asiatic Co., Ltd., Madras.
(17) M/s. Bharat Vanaspati, Ltd., Guntur.
(18) M/s. Madras Vanaspati, Ltd., Villupuram.
(19) M/s. Vizagapatam Vegetable Oil Products, Bobbili,
(20) Government Kerala Soap Institute, Calicut.
(21) Hon'ble Mr. M. N. Dalal, Palanpur.
(22) M/s. Abdul Hussain Noormohd., Bhavnagar.
(23) Hyderabad State Government, Hyderabad (Deccan).
(24) M/s. Oudh Sugar Mills, (Hargoan), Malkapur (Berar).
(25) M/s. Cotton Agents, (Bombay), Tadepalli (Madras).
(26) M/s. Seshasayee Brothers, (Trichinopolly), Madras.
(27) M/s. Snow White Food Products, Calcutta.
(28) M/s. Morvi Vegetable Products, Ltd., Morvi.
(29) M/s. Malwa Vanaspati & Chemicals, Indore.
(30) M/s. Ravindra Mulraj Kersondas, (Bombay), Nawanagar.
(31) M/s. Mohd. Alla Bux, (Lyallpur), Amritsar, (Punjab).

Distribution Provincewise

Province	Number of factories	Serial No. in above list
Bombay	1	12
Bengal	6	4 to 8 & 27
Madras	10	13 to 20 and 25 and 26
C. P. and Berar	2	9 and 24.
Orissa	1	10
Bihar	1	11
Punjab	1	31
Delhi	1	3
Total for British India	23	
Indian States	8	1, 2, 21 to 23, and 28 to 30

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it a fact that Government never issued a press note indicating the exact conditions under which these licenses would be issued and that they permitted all sorts of applications to accumulate and dealt with them piece-meal when they were all accumulated at the same time?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The reply to this question can only be given by the Commerce Department which issued the press note.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Were any steps taken to see that local enterprise of any particular province was given first priority before outsiders were encouraged to take up these undertakings?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Yes, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it a fact that certain provincial Governments have complained that their local enterprise was not given the first priority and outsiders were preferred?

Mr. B. R. Sen: We received some communications from the province to which the Honourable Member belongs and we accepted the recommendations of that provincial Government in full.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the food difficulty this year in the country will the Honourable Member consider whether the pressing of these oil seeds which are also edible as human food should not be peremptorily stopped instead of being turned into oil and cake?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The Honourable Member has addressed us a letter on that subject and we are examining the whole question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are any steps being taken to see that the provincial Governments get a major portion of the shares floated by the companies which are to undertake these concerns?

Mr. B. R. Sen: These firms have been selected on certain principles and I shall explain the principles in reply to the next question of Mr. Manu Subedar.

Sri V. Gangaraju: It was said that certain provinces have complained with regard to priority not being given to them. May I know from which provinces these complaints were received?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I shall require notice of that question.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is it a fact that the province of Bombay has not been allotted sufficient vegetable ghee plants? Is there any possibility of any more being given?

Mr. B. R. Sen: We have issued certain licenses under our immediate scheme. In that scheme we wanted factories to be put up for a capacity of about 150,000 tons; after these factories are put up there will be scope for further expansion if the country needs it.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have Government heard that the number of license now issued are in excess of India's requirements?

Mr. B. R. Sen: That is not our view.

LICENCES FOR VEGETABLE GHEE PLANTS

591. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) In how many cases has the Food Secretary taken an undertaking that the machinery for vegetable ghee plants will be ordered from the United Kingdom?

(b) How many of the new licencees for vegetable ghee plants have placed orders for their plants and been given import licences, and from which countries?

(c) Is it a fact that the Honourable Food Member visited several Indian States and negotiated for the grant of these licences for vegetable ghee factories to be set up in those States on application which he had received?

(d) On what principle has the allocation been made as between the British India and Indian States, and as between the South India and Western India, or as between Province and Province?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) No undertaking has been taken from any party that vegetable ghee plants will be ordered from the United Kingdom.

(b) Of the 28 parties selected for setting up factories 20 have been issued licenses for import of plant from U. K. and one for import from U. S. A. In addition to these, five licenses for U. K. and 3 for U. S. A. have been issued on the application of the parties themselves under the Commerce Department's 'automatic registration scheme' for import of capital goods.

(c) The answer is in the negative.

(d) In allocating plants under the 'immediate scheme' of expansion many factors have been taken into account, particularly the availability of groundnuts the accessibility of markets, and the prevailing deficiency of edible fats in different areas. The allocation between British India and Indian States was arrived at in consultation with the Political Department.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have Government considered the question of having some of these orders for the manufacture of vegetable ghee plant placed with firms who have actually produced complete plants for this purpose in this country?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Yes, Sir, we have done that.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Then may I know why the bulk of the licensees have been allowed to place these orders in the United Kingdom instead of locally which would stave off unemployment which my Honourable friend Dr. Ambedkar is trying bravely to meet?

Mr. B. R. Sen: We made every attempt to help the industries in the country to produce the necessary plants and equipments. At the time when we sanctioned the licenses the manufacturers in indigenous plants were supplied with the names of the parties selected in order to enable them to complete such orders as they were capable of executing. The manufacturers were also informed that we would give them such controlled materials as may be required for completion of the plants. So if some of the orders have been placed outside it is not due to any lack of encouragement on our part to the local industry.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member take special steps even now, when it is not too late, to have some of these orders placed in India and some of these orders which have been placed abroad, and which cannot be delivered for three or four months, to be cancelled?

Mr. B. R. Sen: We are most anxious that orders should be placed in India as far as possible, and if anything more can be done by us we shall do so.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: With regard to part (c) I had already asked a supplementary question and my Honourable friend said he would be giving an

answer to that on this question. Will he be pleased to state on what principles the allocation of shares in any of these concerns floated in these provinces is being made as between the provincial Government, the general public —specially the growers—and the capitalists?

Mr. B. R. Sen: It depends very largely on the initiative of the provincial Governments themselves, and in certain provinces I think the provincial Governments have stipulated that some of the shares should be held by provincial Governments. But this is a matter in which, as I say, the initiative should be with the provincial Governments themselves. We have selected firms whom we considered to be most fitted in the circumstances that we had in view, namely, that these factories should be put up with the least possible delay. We selected firms with experience, but as regards shares that is a matter purely for the provincial Governments.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether Government have reached final principles on which the allocation of new plants as between Indian States and British India is to be made? If not, on what principles was that determined in this case, particularly as my Honourable friend has refused to reply to part (c)?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The distribution of the capacity as between the States and British India was discussed in the Political Department who consulted the Chamber of Princes on the subject and also some of the bigger Native States. The allocation shows 50,000 tons for the States and 100,000 tons for British India; and I think that is a very fair allocation to both sides.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: But is it not a fact that Madras Government has stipulated that 60 per cent. of the shares issued should be reserved for the growers of oilseeds, and what is it that has prevented the Government of India to see that the same practice is pursued by other Provincial Governments?

Mr. B. R. Sen: In this case we are concerned with an immediate scheme and where the Provincial Government made such stipulations we accepted them. We wanted to go ahead with our scheme; we wanted to put up factories as quickly as possible; we did not want to waste time.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How does it happen that while the Government of India in their Planning Department stated that in all these post-war schemes, that are being taken up, the majority of shares will be taken up by the State —that is Provincial Governments or the Central Government—and they will have a major voice in the direction as well as the control of capital of these concerns, that the Government acting in the Food Department does not take that into consideration and does not bring this to the notice of the Provincial Governments?

Mr. B. R. Sen: It was not a post-war scheme; this scheme was started during the war and for immediate action.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Have the Government assured themselves of the food value of the vegetable ghee before embarking on the programme of encouraging its manufacture?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Yes, Sir.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Has it more food value than oil?

Mr. B. R. Sen: It has enough food value. As there is shortage of edible oils in the country, we thought that the only way to make up for this shortage was to go in for vegetable ghee.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Has Government considered a complaint which I have noticed from Gujarat that cotton seed which was normally the cattle food in that part of the country is now being got hold of by these vegetable ghee factories and that fodder prices having gone up the position of cattle food is being made more difficult?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I have not seen that complaint, but it is a fact that cotton seed is also one of the things that could be used for the manufacture of vegetable ghee.

Seth Govind Das: To prevent adulteration of pure ghee will the Government think it advisable to give some colour to this vegetable ghee?

Mr. B. R. Sen: This question has been investigated by experts and it has been found that it will not do to give it a colour.

Seth Govind Das: Will the Government take some steps in consultation with experts so that on account of this vegetable ghee there may not be any adulteration of pure ghee?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The whole matter has been investigated by our experts and we do not think it either desirable or practicable to add colour to the vegetable ghee.

An Honourable Member: Desirable?

Seth Govind Das: Is there no such method which the Government can follow to stop the adulteration of pure ghee? Surely the experts must know some method.

Mr. B. R. Sen: That is a matter of administration; to take steps to prevent adulteration as far as possible is a matter of administration.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it not a fact that their experts were persons who themselves were interested in this artificial ghee so that they wanted to keep the public ignorant about the kind of ghee whether it is real or artificial?

Mr. President: Next question.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I want a reply to my question.

Mr. President: Order, order. Next question. There was no reply to that question.

LIST OF TITLES AND HONOURS

592. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the last list of titles and honours was published; and

(b) the number of persons who received each of these titles and honours?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) 1st January 1946.

(b) A statement is laid on the table.

Statement

Royal Victorian Chain	1
G.C.B.	1
G.C.S.I.	2
K.C.S.I.	3
C.S.I	17
G.C.I.E.	7
K.C.I.E.	13
C.I.E.	8 1
G.C.V.O.	1
G.B.E.	1
K.B.E.	10
C.B.E.	91
O.B.E.	130
M.B.E.	38
British Empire Medal	29
Knighthood	12
Imperial Service Medal	6
Kaisar-i-Hind Gold Medal	45
Kaisar-i-Hind Silver Medal	4
Bar to Kaisar-i-Hind Silver Medal	

Kaisar-i-Hind Bronze Medal	100
Raja Bahadur (Personal)	2
Nawab (Personal)	1
Raja (Hereditary)	1
Raja (Personal)	1
Shams-ul-Ulama	2
Mahamahopadhyaya	1
Dewan Bahadur	16
Sardar Bahadur	8
Khan Bahadur	85
Rai Bahadur	97
Rao Bahadur	60
Vaidyaratna	1
Sardar Sahib	29
Khan Sahib	174
Rai Sahib	199
Rao Sahib	129
King's Police and Fire Service Medal	3
Indian Police Medal	58
Order of British India	367

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is it a fact that this last list was the biggest one that was ever produced by this Government since its establishment?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I should require notice of that question. It is larger than the previous one.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member kindly give us an idea as to the proportion of officials and non-officials that have been honoured in this list?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Honourable Member sounds disappointed, but, Sir, I require notice of that question.

Seth Govind Das: Is it not a fact that the popular Ministries wherever they exist are never consulted before these honours are conferred upon people?

Shri Sri Prakasa: Are the titles more popular than Ministries?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have no information.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is the Honourable Member aware of the general feeling in the country—of refusing to accept titles,—and in view of this will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of abolishing these titles altogether?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have not noticed the reluctance to which the Honourable Member refers.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Could the Honourable Member give us an idea of the purpose of awarding these titles and the reasons for which they are awarded? No notice is necessary to reply that question.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Sir, I require notice to give an adequate reply.

Seth Govind Das: Is it not a fact that certain persons on whom these titles are conferred feel some shyness in refusing them and they become more dishonourable than they become honourable in the society in this respect?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have not noticed that.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is it a fact that a District Magistrate in recommending Rai Bahadur-ship for a gentleman wrote to Government, "He is a very useful rogue, make him a Rai Bahadur"?

Mr. President: Order, order. Next question.

FOOD RATIONING

593. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) how long he expects the rationing of food to continue in various Provinces; and

(b) the nature of experiments made by his Department for the preservation of food stuffs while in storage, and the amount of food stuffs destroyed while in custody of his Department in various Provinces and the Centrally Administered Areas?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) It is difficult to specify the period during which food rationing will be continued. Control over distribution cannot be relaxed so long as the present food shortage lasts and conditions do not return to normal.

(b) Experimental work has been in progress since March 1945 which consists mainly of experiments in the application of (i) DDT and 666 in whitewash to the walls of godowns to disinfect infected buildings, and (ii) DDT and 666 in the form of dust and smoke to kill the insects infecting foodgrains.

No foodgrains in the custody of this Department in various provinces have been destroyed. In the Centrally administered areas no losses have been reported except that in August, 1944, 1,169 bags of wheat atta in Delhi got deteriorated on account of defective storage.

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I know what exactly the Honourable Member meant when he referred to 'this Department'? Are not the Food Departments of the Provincial Government part of this Department?

Mr. B. R. Sen: No, Sir.

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I know what exactly is the relationship between the Food Department of the Provincial Government and the Food Department of the Central Government?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The relationship is laid down in the Constitution Act.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: May I ask what is the policy of the Government with regard to rationing? Are they going to continue rationing for as long as possible, or will they do away with it as early as possible?

Mr. B. R. Sen: As long as it is necessary.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government considered the advisability of broadcasting whatever information they have—scientific or otherwise—to prevent the deterioration of foodgrains which are kept in storage?

Mr. B. R. Sen: That is one of the item we have in our programme.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has anything been done in that direction in order to make all those people who keep grain storage on their own responsibility know the latest steps devised and practised also by this Department in order to prevent deterioration?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Yes, Sir. That forms a very important part of our programme. We have had courses held in Delhi to train people from the Provinces; we have distributed literature on the subject; we have asked the Administration to undertake propaganda in this respect. We consider it a very important item in our programme, and we are taking all possible steps, and we propose to intensify our activities in this matter in the future.

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I take it that the experiments made, say, by the United Provinces Government in the matter of preservation of foodstuffs have nothing to do with any instructions issued by the Central Government on the subject?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Each province has its own discretion and judgment in the matter but we try to give them guidance, scientific and otherwise, as far as possible.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask the Honourable Member if there are any provinces where there is no rationing of food?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I think in every province there is rationing, though the extent of rationing varies.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if the rationing is to be abolished, and if so, will it be abolished simultaneously all over India or province by province in order?

Mr. B. R. Sen: That question does not arise at the present moment.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: It arises on question (a) "How long he expects the rationing of food to continue in various Provinces". Is it to be abolished simultaneously?

Mr. B. R. Sen: That will depend on the circumstances prevailing at the time.

INDIAN CENTRAL TOBACCO COMMITTEE HEADQUARTERS

594. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Agriculture Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) why Bombay has been fixed as the headquarters for the Indian Central Tobacco Committee ignoring the claims of Guntur, in which district the largest quantity of commercial tobacco is being grown;

(b) whether Government are aware that great difficulty is being experienced in finding a suitable house in Bombay even on the rent of nearly Rs. 1,000 per mensem;

(c) whether Government are aware that one of the members of the Committee had offered to place a building in Guntur at the disposal of the committee; and

(d) why Government persist in spending lakhs of rupees in Bombay on costly housing?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) The Indian Central Tobacco Committee after a full discussion of the matter decided that Bombay would be the most suitable headquarters for the Committee because it would be more central and more readily accessible, suitable accommodation would be available for members attending meetings and it is the seat of commercial activity. Guntur was not considered suitable as it is difficult of access and it is difficult to secure accommodation. It is only one of the many places in India where large quantities of tobacco are grown. The suggestion to have the headquarters at Guntur was made by one member, but subsequently agreed not to press for Guntur. It is not correct that the largest quantity of tobacco is grown in the Guntur district, the total acreage in India is of the order of one million acres and that in Guntur is under 125,000 acres while the Rangpur district in Bengal has over 175,000 acres.

(b) Difficulty is being experienced in getting office accommodation in Bombay at present. Until accommodation is selected it is not possible to say whether the rent would be Rs. 1,000 or more or less.

(c) No such offer was made. One member stated that the Andhra University was vacating Guntur and the buildings vacated by them could be had for the Committee; enquiries from the Madras Government, have however, shown that these buildings cannot be made available to the Committee. The same member also stated that decent hotels were being planned but meaning meetings.

(d) Neither Government nor the Committee have any intention of spending lakhs of rupees in trying to house the Committee in Bombay.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the next Committee is going to be held in Delhi because of want of accommodation in Bombay?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: No, Sir. The idea was to held the meeting in Bombay but because of the convenience of the elected Members of the Legislature the venue has been transferred to Delhi.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What is the object of having these meetings at a place where no tobacco is grown

Some Honourable Members: Smoke!

Mr. President: Next question.

PEDIGREE BULLS IN GOVERNMENT FARMS

595. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Agriculture Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are some pedigree bulls to spare in the Government Farms, if so, how many;

(b) whether they are to be sold by auction at Amritsar and Delhi, if so, why;

(c) whether Government have seen the representation sent by the Indian Rural Peoples Society suggesting that instead of auctioning them the bulls should be sent to Provinces and be placed at the disposal of Provincial Governments for local use; and

(d) whether Government propose to accept this suggestion?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) Yes. The number of such bulls of serviceable age available at present is 33.

(b) No.

(c) Yes.

(d) A scheme for the supply of the surplus bulls to the Provincial Departments of Agriculture is at present under consideration and it is hoped to reach a decision shortly.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know in the meanwhile what the bulls are doing?

Mr Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: In regard to part (b) of the question, will the Honourable Member consider the question of starting a stud farm for these bulls?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: The bulls are kept on a Government farm. So I do not see what the advantage would be by sending them to another Government farm!

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether in the meanwhile the services of these bulls are not offered freely for cattle-owners in the surrounding districts where the bulls are? That is the point that I wanted to make. I would like to know why their services should not be offered free to all the cattle-owners of the surrounding places.

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: The bulls are kept either in the Agricultural Institute in Delhi or in Karnal, and if any cattle owner wishes to send his cows to be served by these bulls, I think there will be no difficulty.

Mr. Manu Subedar: As the cattle owners do not attend the meetings of this House in the gallery or elsewhere,, will my friend immediately advertise and through District Officers and Subordinate District Officers give this information, namely, that Government bulls are available for work whenever called upon.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: Of these 39 stud bulls, how many were born in Lord Linlithgow's regime?

Mr. President: Order, order.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: The Honourable Member has not understood my point. How many of these 39 bulls for studding purposes were born during the regime of Lord Linlithgow?

Mr. President: Order, order. Next question.

EXPORT OF INDIAN CATTLE TO SOUTH AMERICA

596. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Agriculture Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that Government wish to encourage the export of Indian cattle to South America;

(b) if it is also a fact that sometime ago Government actually prohibited such exports; if so, when, and why;

(c) if Government are aware of the great apprehensions felt by peasants and other interested people about the effects of such an export of our valuable cattle; and

(d) whether Government propose to give an assurance that such exports will not be permitted again?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) No.

(b) Restrictions on the export of cattle were imposed in 1943 owing to the shortage of cattle in the country and are still in force.

(c) There are no grounds for such apprehension at present.

(d) The restrictions will lapse when the Defence of India Rules lapse. The question of the further action to be taken when this happens is under consideration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: When that question comes up for consideration, whether or not we allow exports of our cattle to other countries, will Government give necessary facilities to those who are interested in cattle development and cattle production in this country to express their views?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: I think, Sir, that if the restrictions have to be continued after the lapse of the Defence of India Rules, the matter is bound to come up before this House.

Seth Govind Das: Is it not a fact that the number of cattle in this country is becoming less and less every day?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: That is not the information of the Government. As I mentioned in reply to another question some time ago, in most provinces the census of catttle carried out in 1945 showed that there was no appreciable difference between the number of cattle existing in 1940 and the number in 1945.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Therefore, may I take it, apart from any legislative measure to be enacted hereafter, what is Government's view whether cattle should or should not be exported in future?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: The matter will be carefully examined when the time comes and the proposals of the Government will, if necessary, be put before the House.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I would like the Honourable Member to say, now that the Defence of India Rules are likely to expire, why the Government has not made up its mind or even considered the question till this late day?

I insist upon an answer being given. It is not in the public interest to withhold this. My Honourable friend says he will consider this hereafter I would like to know whether he has given attention to this or not?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: The matter is under the consideration of the Government at present.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will they come to a decision before the Defence of India Rules expire?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: Certainly!

Seth Govind Das: Is it not a fact that the cattle of the best breed are exported from this country?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: No, Sir. The majority of the exports which are taking place at present are to Ceylon for food purposes and it is only a very few animals which are exported for breeding purposes to other countries. They probably would be less than a score in the year.

Seth Govind Das: In view of the fact that cattle of good breed are not in sufficient number in this country, will the Government stop the export of the cattle which are exported for breeding purposes?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: We have stopped all exports of cattle for breeding purposes except a few which are occasionally allowed and even in these cases we do not allow the best animal to go and only allow the second best animals to be exported. But, as I just said, the number of such bulls which are exported is extremely small, only about 20 or less than that in a year.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: May I know which are the Provinces where the number of cattle has increased?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: I do not remember the figures but I placed a statement on the table of the House in reply to a question sometime ago.

Mr. Manu Subadar: Does my Honourable friend imply that the death rate amongst the cattle in Bengal has already been made up? Has he got any figure whatsoever on that subject?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: No, Sir. We have not received the figures for Bengal, Bihar, Assam and Orissa.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: We do not know when these D. I. Rules will cease to operate and when Government will begin to consider whether or not reimpose this ban on exports. Will the Government give an assurance that before this Session comes to an end, they will take occasion to consult the opinion of this House in regard to this particular matter?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: I shall be very pleased to do so.

LICENCES FOR IMPORT OF PROVISIONS AND TINNED FOODS.

†597. ***Mr. Vadiall Lallubhai:** (a) With reference to the reply given to starred question No. 20 on the 5th February 1946, regarding licences for importing provisions and tinned foods into the Province of Bombay from abroad, will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state the percentage in money value of the business placed with Indian and European firms in this connection, since 1st of January 1945?

(b) Will Government state similar figures for other Provinces and for India as a whole?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque:

	Indian	European
(a) The percentage for Bombay on the basis of licences for provisons and tinned foods issued during 1945 excluding the quantities licensed in favour of the Regional Food Controllers is	23	77
(b) Similar percentages are:		
For Madras	25	75
For Calcutta	14	86
For Karachi	55	45
For India (as a whole)	22	78

SUBSIDIES TO PRODUCERS TO AUGMENT FOODGRAINS PRODUCTION.

598. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Agriculture Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the Provinces in which the producers of foodgrains are being offered any subsidies to make it worth their while to grow more foodgrains;

(b) the nature of that subsidy and what percentage of increase it adds to the present price of paddy being actually paid to peasants; and

(c) what other special steps are being taken to increase foodgrains production?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) All Provinces.

(b) Subsidies are given for schemes relating to (i) Minor irrigation works especially wells and tanks (ii) Land reclamation and improvement (iii) Distribution of manure (iv) compost making (v) multiplication and distribution of seeds and (vi) Bonus to cultivators for diverting areas from cotton to food crops. A statement is laid on the table showing the principles on which grants are given for the first five items. For the sixth, a subsidy at the rate of Rs. 2 per acre has generally been given but in Madras it has recently been increased to Rs. 4 per acre and it is proposed to apply this rate to other Provinces. In Bombay a subsidy of Rs. 15 per acre is offered by the Provincial

†"Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

Government to cultivators of lands irrigated by wells on which hot weather *bajra* or *jowar* crops are grown, subject to the condition that one maund per acre of grains produced in the scarcity area and 2 maunds per acre in other areas are sold to Government at the controlled rate. The question of remitting water assessment in the case of lands brought under irrigated grain crops in this hot weather is under consideration.

Since the central grants are not related to the sale price of foodgrains, it is not possible to calculate the percentage of increase added to the peasants price of paddy by the subsidy.

(c) Loans are advanced where necessary for financing food production schemes. Arrangements have been made for the import of fertilisers and agricultural machinery. Assistance is given in securing the articles required for improving the means of production such as iron and steel for the manufacture of agricultural implements, coal for the manufacture of bricks for wells, cement for the construction of wells etc.

Statement showing the principles on which grants are given.

1. Multiplication and distribution of improved seeds:—Apart from the staff which might be employed for the production and distribution of improved seeds, some additional expenditure has to be incurred over the payment of premium in purchasing improved seeds from growers. The amount of this premium sometimes goes up to about 1/5th of the market price of the grain. If a Provincial Government decided not to charge this premium from the growers to whom the seed is later given for multiplication of commercial production, the Government of India would be prepared to share the irrecoverable expenditure involved up to 20 per cent. of the market rate on a 50 : 50 basis with the Provincial Government. In these cases where the Provincial Government has to incur losses on account of a fall in price between the price at the harvest at which the stock of seed is acquired and the price at the sowing time at which the stock of seed is distributed among cultivators for sowing, the actual losses will be shared by the Government of India on a 50 : 50 basis with the Provincial Government concerned. The Government of India will also be prepared to bear half the net expenditure incurred on the storage and transport of seeds and any incidental charges and overheads on their distribution.

2. *Manures.*—In the distribution of manures or in developing the use of green manuring, subsidy to cultivators is given in order (i) to induce the cultivator to use that particular form of manure and to become educated in its use, and (ii) to make the use of the manure economic to the cultivator. As regards (ii) the use of manures should be subsidised to the extent that it is considered necessary for making its use economic for the cultivator, and the Central Government will be prepared to share the net expenditure involved on a 50 : 50 basis with the Provincial Government. As regards (i) the Government of India consider it desirable that all types of manures—chemical fertilisers, oilcakes and compost from town refuse—distributed to cultivators—through agency of Government should be made available to cultivators at not less than half the cost, and the loss thus incurred should be shared equally between the Provincial Governments and Central Governments. This heavy subsidy to the cultivator should be allowed only in respect of manures required during the four years to demonstrate the value of proper manuring. If in subsequent years the particular type of manure is given out in the same locality, the subsidy should be progressively reduced at suitable rates and the reduced subsidy will be shared 50 : 50 between the Central and Provincial Governments.

Seeds for green manuring may even be supplied free to cultivators, the net provincial expenditure over such schemes will be shared on a 50 : 50 basis with the Provincial Government.

3. *Minor Irrigation Projects.*—These includes surface percolation wells fitted with water lifting appliances such as Persian wheels, small individual tanks and small bunds or dams in minor stream and *nalas*. They also include the repair or renovation of these works. For executing all such approved minor works (a) subsidy may be given to cultivators, not exceeding 50 per cent. of the cost, which will be shared equally between the Provincial and Central Governments. The Central Government share of the subsidy may be reduced in cases when the land revenue assessment is liable to be changed with the improvements.

4. *Land Development: Reclamation of culturable but uncultivated land.*—(a) Where jungle clearance, terracing, etc., has to be done, the cultivator may be assisted to the extent of half the cost which will be shared equally between the Provincial Government and the Government of India.

(b) Where such land has to be broken up in the first instance with the help of tractors and tractor-drawn implements for eradicating deep-rooted grass, etc., it will not be possible to recover the entire expenditure from the cultivators who will have to be *liberally* subsidized. In such cases the Central Government will give a subsidy to the extent of 50 per cent of the net Provincial expenditure.

(c) *Construction of contour ridges as an anti-soil-erosion measure and for the conservation of rainfall to permit dry farming.*—As in the case of (b) it will not be possible to recover the entire expenditure from the cultivators who will have to be *liberally* subsidised. In such cases the net provincial expenditure will for the next three years be shared in equal proportions by the Provincial Government and the Government of India.

5. *Emergency Irrigation Projects.*—These consist of large and small canals, construction of headworks, installation of tubewells, pumping of irrigation water from rivers, etc. All such emergency irrigation projects can only be carried out by Provincial Governments as State enterprises. These projects will at some stage bring additional revenue to the Provinces concerned both in the shape of increased land revenue and water rates.

The Government of India will not make any grant in respect of revenue-yielding projects, where the anticipated gross additional revenue exceeds 5 per cent. of the gross outlay on the project. In other cases, the Government of India will make a grant limited to 50 per cent. of the *net outlay* on the project [as defined in note (i) below], and this will be further subject to the maximum [mentioned in note (ii) below].

NOTE (*i*).—'Gross additional revenue' includes additional land revenue and water rate or other similar charge for the use of water realisable on lands benefited by the project and does not include any additions on account of indirect returns or any deductions for maintenance and collection charges. 'Net Outlay' represents the total cost of the project minus the following items:—

(a) *Recoveries.*—Any amount recovered as a contribution to the cost of the project or by way of sale proceeds of Government land, etc.

(b) *Capitalized value of gross additional revenue.*—Twenty times the gross additional revenue will be deemed, for the purposes of this letter, to be the capitalized value of gross additional revenue.

NOTE (ii).—If the grant assessed on the above basis exceeds the average value, at current prices, of the increased amount of average annual production, in terms of food grains, anticipated as a result of the project the grant will be limited to such average value.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that certain Provincial Governments have complained that the subsidy that was being given to encourage peasants to shift from cotton cultivation to foodgrains cultivation is not enough and that the Central Government should bear the cost of that subsidy?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: Yes, Sir. When the subsidy that used to be given was Rs. 2 per acre we received a representation from the Madras Government that this amount was inadequate and at their request we have therefore increased it to Rs. 4 per acre.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that even Rs. 4 it considered to be thoroughly inadequate by the cultivators in Madras?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: I have no information on that point. We have accepted the desire expressed by the Government of Madras.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government any information to satisfy themselves that the response to this subsidy has been either adequate or anything at all?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: We have no information.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why is it that the Government do not take the trouble to enquire whether any such steps as this subsidy is really bearing any fruit and if it is not, to what extent it should be increased?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: It is the business of the Madras Government and we are guided by their advice. But the fact remains that the cotton acreage has decreased during the past few years by no less than 9 million acres.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The Honourable Memer said that a subsidy of Rs. 15 per acre is proposed to be given during this summer to all those people who would like to irrigate their lands by well water. Will the Honourable Member consider the advisability of making it a general concession to be given all over India, not only during this summer but during the next four or five years until at least the food crisis is over?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: This subsidy has been given by the Bombay Government and the matter is being brought to the notice of the other Governments, so that they may also arrange to make similar arrangements.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is it that the Government does in bearing a portion of the cost of such subsidies?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: In such cases the Government of India are prepared to pay 50 per cent. of the cost involved.

Seth Govind Das: Does the Honourable Member realise that unless this subsidy is fixed for a few years, it would be difficult for peasants to make their wells to irrigate their fields?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: In respect of the construction of wells a subsidy is given at the rate of 50 per cent. of the cost of the well and therefore no question arises of continuing that subsidy for three or four years.

Seth Govind Das: Does the Honourable Member know that peasants are so poor that unless they are assured of the subsidy for a few years more, it will not be possible for them to spend even this 50 per cent. which they have to spend from their own pockets?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: That is a matter of opinion. In the opinion of various Provincial Governments this 50 per cent. is adequate for the purpose.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether Government have considered the question that in view of the acute food situation in this country, a subsidy may be devised for root crops, that is to say those crops which can be grown in anything between 30 and 60 days and which would be a very good substitute for food?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: Yes, Sir. The matter is under consideration. I did not refer to root crops, as the present question relates only to foodgrains. In respect of root crops, that is the cultivation of vegetables, under existing circumstances special concessions have been given.

Seth Govind Das: The Honourable Member said in reply to my question that it is a matter of opinion. May I ask him wether it is not a fact that the people of this country and especially the peasants are so poor that they cannot invest even that 50 per cent., if the subsidy which is given to them is not continued for a few years longer?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: In such cases the Provincial Governments are prepared to give loans and the Central Government are also prepared to give advances as loans in order to enable the wells to be constructed.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government consider whether in the case of root crops they could not guarantee to the farmer the purchase of his output at a given price? Even that would be more effective than any promised subsidy.

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: A suggestion to that effect is about to be made to the provinces together with an undertaking that the loss involved therein will be shared fifty-fifty between the Provincial Government and the Centre.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: What is meant by distribution? In practice I find that seeds and manure are sold to the cultivator and not distributed among them free.

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: They are sold at concession rates.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Is the Honourable Member aware that the people are so poor that they cannot afford to purchase seeds and manure and it is no help to them if they are not given free?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: Our information is that seeds and manure are being purchased in large quantities.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Because they have no other go!

Mr. President: Order, order: next question.

Superintending Engineers in Headquarters.

599. *Mr. Muhammad Rahmat-Ullah: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state if it is a fact that Rai Sahib C. P. Malik is given officiating chances for the post of Superintending Engineers in the Headquarters?

(b) Is it not a fact that there are a number of Muslim Executive Engineers senior to him but have not been given a single chance to officiate?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) No. Rai Sahib C. P Malik has been appointed temporarily to carry on only the current duties of the post of Superintending Engineer, Second Circle, Delhi, purely as a measure of administrative convenience.

(b) Yes. But they have not yet become due for promotion to the grade of Superintending Engineer.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: In view of the fact that out of 13 Superintending Engineers only one is a Muslim, why was not a Muslim appointed for this particular post?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: If the Honourable Member will refer to my reply, he will see that the appointment is not of an officiating character: he is merely asked to carry on the duties.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Without being called a Superintending Engineer and without any remuneration?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: This is a third method of avoiding the appointment of Muslims, in addition to the two I suggested yesterday, efficiency and seniority: you do not call a post by the name which is given to it: you simply ask a man to carry on the duties?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: My Honourable friend is free to draw any inference he likes.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: Does the Honourable Member know that there is a feeling abroad that in the matter of appointment of Muslims the Government always meets out step-motherly treatment to the Muslims?

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: In reply to part (a) the Honourable Member said "as a measure of administrative convenience". Is it the convenience of the Honourable Member to make it a convenience to avoid appointments of Muslims?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I think it is so simple an expression that everybody ought to understand it.

Mr President: Order, order: next question.

Muslim Gazetted Officers in Labour Department Secretariat

600. *Mr. Muhammad Rahmat-Ullah: Will the Honourable the Labour Member kindly state the proportion of Muslim Gazetted Officers in the Labour Department Secretariat?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: There are 49 Secretariat Gazetted Officers in the Labour Department, of whom 9 are Muslims.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Does it not mean that the proportion of Muslims is not maintained, according to the 25 per cent. ratio?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I do not know that that rule applies.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: 9 out of 49: is it fair to the Muslim community that they should have this low percentage?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I understand that is not a matter governed by the communal representation ratio.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it not a fact that the resolution of the Home Department of 1934 was communicated to his Department? If not, I would ask the Home Member to communicate it to his colleague in the Labour Department.

MUSLIM ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IN CENTRAL P.W.D.

601. *Mr. Muhammad Rahmat-Ullah: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Labour Member been drawn to the article published in the *Dawn* of the 26th January, 1946, regarding the appointment of a Muslim Administrative Officer in the Central P. W. D.?

(b) Are the facts stated therein regarding his Department correct?

(c) Is it not a fact that the three Assistants of the Administrative Officer as well as the Financial Adviser are all Hindus?

(d) Is it not a fact that the Honourable Member is contemplating to appoint a non-Muslim Administrative Officer? If so, why should the Mussalmans be excluded from this branch of the Central P. W. D.?

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

(b) No.

(c) Yes.

(d) The question of filling the post of Administrative Officer in the Central Public Works Department is still under consideration.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: How long will it be under consideration, because his attention has been drawn several times? Will he make the appointment after the Assembly session is over?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: He will be appointed in due course.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Why don't you call a spade a spade? Why do you not call this a Hindu Labour Department, or rather a Scheduled Caste Department?

(No answer was given.)

CUTS IN RATIONS

602. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that cuts in rations have already been introduced in the United Provinces, Madras, Bengal and Delhi Provinces;

(b) whether Government are aware that there were strong protests in this House during the food debate that reductions in the existing rations should be the last resort; and

(c) whether Government have convinced themselves that there is no other alternative except a reduction in rations to avoid the impending famine in India?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) The overall size of foodgrains ration has been reduced in Madras and Delhi. A similar reduction is also to be made shortly in other areas.

(b) Yes.

(c) Government are pressing for increased imports but at the same time feel that a reduction in consumption from now is absolutely essential, if the shortage is to be more evenly spread over the year.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if in northern India more wheat is consumed than rice and the rice ration could be lowered and more rice could be exported to the south where they eat only rice?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I cannot give a categorical reply to it. The best possible arrangement will be made.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is the Government aware that in the United Provinces the rice ration was increased whereas in the south it has been decreased and wheat has been given in substitution?

Mr. B. R. Sen: In the U. P. the wheat ration had to be cut because the stocks of wheat were inadequate, the overall ration had to be maintained by supplying rice and other products.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is the Government aware that in the south they have not been accustomed to wheat and wheat can be exported to the U. P.?

Mr. B. R. Sen: There is very little wheat going to the south at present.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the rice ration allowed to the rural people in southern India is much less than the ration allowed to the urban people?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I am not aware of that.

Mr. Leslie Gwilt: If I heard the Honourable Member correctly in reply to part (a) of the question, he said that a cut in ration had already been imposed in Madras and Delhi and that there will be a similar cut in other areas. Will he be good enough to tell the House what information he has in regard to those other areas? I think he means provinces.

Mr. B. R. Sen: Yes, I meant provinces. It is a matter of administrative convenience as to when the cut can be introduced. As a matter of fact since I drew up this reply, the cut has been introduced in the Punjab, in Sind and also in a few other areas; and the other areas will fall into line as soon as they find it possible to do so.

Seth Govind Das: Will the cut be imposed even in those provinces where there is no shortage of foodgrains?

Mr. B. R. Sen: It will be a cut all over India—in surplus as well as in deficit provinces.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will there be a difference in degree between the surplus and deficit areas in the matter of the proportion or ratio of the cut?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The present policy is to bring down the ration to 12 ounces basic and 4 ounces supplementary, and that will be introduced all over India, whether it is a surplus or a deficit area.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: My information is that the ration of rice allowed in rural areas is much less than the ration allowed in urban areas so far as the south is concerned. Will my Honourable Friend make inquiries and find out the truth of the matter?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I am prepared to make inquiries. But it is not what is supposed to be done. The ration is the same in rural or urban areas.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: May I ask whether the Honourable Member is aware that the ration allowed in Malabar is already less than in other parts of the Madras Presidency, and if so, will he consider the advisability of continuing the old rations of rice in Malabar?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Yes; I am sure the ration in Malabar is being maintained at the existing level.

Mr. R. C. Morris: Will the Honourable Member say whether the Indian States are to be allowed to adopt their own course of action?

Mr. B. R. Sen: We have asked for the cooperation of the States in this matter and we have every hope that the States will come into line with us.

Shri Sri Prakasa: While taking into consideration the administrative convenience, will the Honourable Member also take into consideration the gustatory convenience of the persons concerned?

Mr. B. R. Sen: We do. We try to send the foodgrains to which the people of particular areas are accustomed, as far as possible.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Then how is it that more wheat is being given in the south and more rice in the north?

Mr. B. R. Sen: As I have said, that is not a correct statement. Practically no wheat is going to the rice eating areas at present; there is a shortage of wheat as well as a shortage of rice.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is my Honourable friend aware of the fact that the people of different provinces eat different kinds of rice and that all the rice is not of the same quality as petrol?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I am afraid we shall have to forget some of these refinements of taste for the time being.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: May I ask whether any province refused to fall in line with the instructions of the Government of India?

Mr. B. R. Sen: No; not so far.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Does the Government of India anticipate any?

Mr. B. R. Sen: We hope that every province will fall in.

Mr. President: Order, order: the question hour is over.

(*b*) WRITTEN ANSWERS

IMPENDING FOOD CRISIS IN DELHI

603. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Food Secretary please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. Ramdhyani, Director of civil supplies, recently stated that the situation regarding supply of wheat in Delhi is threatening;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is only four weeks' ration stock of wheat in Delhi now;

(c) who is responsible for this state of affairs; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to avoid the impending food crisis in Delhi?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) This is due to failure of supplies from the Punjab.

(d) Imported wheat has now started arriving in Delhi in substantial quantities. In addition the wheat ration has been reduced to six chataks.

WHEAT AND RICE PURCHASED BY GOVERNMENT.

604. *Khan Bahadur Hafiz M. Ghazanfarulla: (a) Will the Food Secretary please state the total quantities of wheat and rice purchased during the period from 1st April, 1945, to the 31st December 1945?

(b) How much of these quantities was used for civil supplies; and how much for military use?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) and (b). Collection of figures of total quantities of wheat and rice purchased all over India by Provincial and State Governments will take time. The quantities procured in India for the Army amounted to 240,630 tons wheat (including wheat products), and 99,374 tons rice.

WHEAT AND RICE EXPORTED TO OTHER COUNTRIES

605. *Khan Bahadur Hafiz M. Ghazanfarulla: (a) Will the Food Secretary please state, what quantities of wheat and rice were exported to other countries from India during the period from 1st April, 1945, to the 31st December, 1945?

(b) Which are the places to which wheat and rice were exported from India during the period mentioned above?

(c) What are the quantities exported to these places?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) to (c). A statement giving the required information is laid on the table of the House.

Statement showing Exports of Wheat (including wheat flour) and Rice from India during the period from 1st April, 1945 to 31st December 1945.

Destination (1)	Quantity (In tons)	
	Weat Flour* (2)	Rice (3)
1. U. K.	...	23
2. Arabia	...	468
3. Gwadur	758	...
4. Bahrein Islands	22	5
5. Ceylon	11	42,302 (replaced by imports).
6. Others	11	223
Total	802	43,021

* There were no exports of wheat.

WHEAT AND RICE IMPORTED INTO INDIA

606. *Khan Bahadur Hafiz M. Ghazanfarulla: (a) Will the Food Secretary please state the quantities of wheat and rice imported into India from outside?

(b) How much of these quantities was allotted to the United Provinces?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) and (b). 10,30,126 tons wheat, wheat products and rice were imported into this country during the period the 1st January 1945 to the 21st February 1946. Out of these the U. P. Government were allotted 110,033 tons wheat and wheat products.

REDUCTION IN RATIONS IN U. P.

607. *Khan Bahadur Hafiz M. Ghazanfarulla: (a) Is the Food Secretary aware that a lot of agitation is going on in all the towns of the United Provinces owing to the reduction in the wheat ration?

(b) What arrangement are Government going to make to increase the ration of wheat?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) Yes.

(b) The present supply position does not permit an early increase in the wheat ration.

INDIAN DELEGATION TO ENGLAND *re* FOOD SHORTAGE

608. *Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if a Delegation in connection with food shortage has been sent to England and America;

(b) the names of the members of the Delegation and their qualifications for forming the Delegation;

(c) the places they are likely to visit, the work they are likely to do, and the cost to the Indian exchequer that is estimated on account of this Delegation; and

(d) what good Government expect from the Delegation's work in connection with the shortage of food in India?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) Yes.

(b) A statement showing the names and qualifications of the members of the delegation is placed on the table of the House.

(c) The delegation will visit the U. K., Canada and U. S. A. The object of their visit is to press India's case for increased imports. The delegates will be the guests of His Majesty's Government while in the United Kingdom. The estimated cost of the delegation to the Indian exchequer is Rs. 38,000.

(d) If the delegation is successful in its mission, larger quantities of foodgrains will become available to meet shortages in the country.

Statement showing names and qualifications of the members of the Food Delegation

Name	Qualification
1. Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, H. M., Industries and Supplies.	Will lead the delegation in the absence of H. M., Food, who owing to illness, could not proceed to U. K.
2. Sir Sonti Ramamurti, Adviser to the Governor of Madras.	Representative of the three areas, which have been affected most by crop failures.
3. Mr. A. D. Gorwala, Commissioners Civil Supplies, Bombay.	
4. Mr. N. Madhava Rau, Dewan, Mysore . .	
5. Sir Theodore Gregory	Economic Adviser to the Government of India and Chairman of the Foodgrains Policy Committee.
6. Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin *ex*-Premier of Bengal	Nominees of the Muslim League.
7. Mr. Habib Ibrahim Rahimootala President, Muslim Chamber of Commerce.	
8. Sir Manilal Nanavati	Member of Famine Enquiry Commission.
9. Sardar Sant Singh	*Ex*-M.L.A.
10. Sir Robert Huthings	Secretary, Department of Food.
Advisers to the Delegation	
1. Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao, (Economics and Statistics)	Planning Adviser to the Government of India, Department of Food.
2. Mr. D. R. Sethi (Agriculture)	Agriculture Adviser to the Government of India in the Department of Agriculture.
3. Dr. Aykroyd (Nutrition)	Late Director of Nutrition Research Laboratories, Coonoor.

REDUCTION IN RATIONS IN MADRAS

609. *Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if Government are aware of the reduction in the quantity of cereals in the rationed areas by an order of the Government of Madras;

(b) if Government are satisfied that the quantity now allowed will be sufficient for the rural population and manual labourer in the rationed areas; and

(c) if Government are prepared to make necessary arrangements to see that the cut referred to in part (a) is not applied to rural parts?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) Yes.

(b) The heavy manual worker will receive an extra quantity of 4 ozs. per day which is in line with the ration in other provinces.

(c) The cut is being uniformly applied to all rationed areas.

SUBSIDISING CULTIVATION OF FOODGRAINS

610. *Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if Government will consider the desirability of increasing the price of foodgrains now procured in the Madras Presidency urgently; if not, whether Government propose to consider the desirability of subsidising the cultivation of foodgrains; and

(b) if Government are aware that the increase in prices or offer of subsidy will induce the cultivation of short term paddy now?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) and (b). The Madras Government who were consulted in the matter do not consider it desirable to raise the prices of foodgrains. The question of grant of subsidy to induce the cultivation of short term paddy and other cereals is under consideration.

DRASTIC CUT IN WHEAT RATION

611. *Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop: (a) Is the Food Secretary aware of the general panic and acute distress caused all over the wheat-eating provinces because of the recent drastic cut in the wheat-ration? If so, what steps does he intend to take with a view to giving the necessary relief?

(b) Is he also aware of the fact that due to the recent cut in the wheat ration and the general declaration of the scarcity of the grain, hoarding is being resorted to very hurriedly and in various places, the prices of foodgrain have more than doubled during a week or so? If so, what action, if any, he has advised to the Control Department to check any impending crisis?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) Government are aware of the reaction to the cut in the wheat ration in the U. P. and are taking all possible steps to secure increased imports of wheat from abroad.

(b) Prices of foodgrains have tended to rise since the gravity of the food situation became known, but not to the extent mentioned by the Honourable Member. Hoarding too is being resorted to by some sections of the community.

For measures the Government of India propose to take to meet the food crisis, the Honourable Member is referred to the speech of the Honourable Member for Food in the course of the recent Food debate.

SHRUBBERY AND WEEDS GROWING IN WALLS OF LODI TOMBS

612. *Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: Will the Education Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been called to the presence of shrubbery and weeds growing in some of the walls of the Lodi Tombs; and

(b) whether in view of the serious damage that may be caused if these shrubs are not promptly removed, immediate orders are proposed to be issued for inspection and necessary action?

Dr. John Sargent: (a) and (b). The plant-growths on the walls of the Lodi tombs, New Delhi, were last cleared on the 24th January 1946. The more important monuments are cleaned every third month and the less important every fourth month. All the dangerous tree-growths are, as far as possible, killed chemically. Owing to the very rapid growth of fresh vegetation, the monuments are liable to look a little untidy towards the end of the periods mentioned. It is proposed to increase the number *bankatis* in order to keep

the monuments more tidy. No further action is called for in this connection at present.

ADVERTISEMENTS *re* APPLICATIONS FOR HIGHER STUDIES ABROAD

613. *Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: Will the Education Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the names of newspapers in which advertisements inviting applications from candidates wishing to go overseas for studies, were published, with the dates of the publication of each advertisement in each paper;

(b) whether he has come across any complaints of non-publication of such advertisements in the *Hindu* of Madras with regard to this matter; and

(c) whether he is prepared to consider the extension of time-limit to candidates who have not been allowed sufficient time on account of the insufficiency of notice; if not, why not?

Dr. John Sargent: (a) A statement giving the names of the newspapers in which the advertisement has been published, together with the dates of publication, is placed on the table of the House.

(b) Yes.

(c) All applications which could not be submitted in time for some reasonable cause have been accepted as and when they have been received. It was through an oversight that the advertisement was not sent to the *Hindu* for publication. A fresh advertisement has since been sent to that paper, and applications will be received upto March 15th, 1946.

Statement giving the names of the newspapers in which the advertisement inviting applications for Scholarships for advanced studied overseas was published and the dates on which it actually appeared in these newspapers.

Name of Newspaper	Date of publication
1. *Statesman*, Calcutta (also New Delhi edition)	29th December 1945 and 1st January 1946.
2. *Hindustan Times*, New Delhi	29th and 31st December 1945.
3. *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, Calcutta (also Allahabad edition).	Ditto.
4. *Mail*, Madras	Ditto.
5. *Tribune*, Lahore	Ditto.
6. *Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore	29th December 1945 and 1st January 1946.
7. *Times of India*, Bombay	29th and 31st December 1945.
8. *Leader*, Allahabad	Ditto.
9. *Dawn*, Delhi	Ditto.
10. *Pioneer*, Lucknow	Ditto.
11. *Bombay Chronical*, Bombay	Ditto.
12. *Hitavada*, Nagpur	29th and 30th December 1945
13. *Nagpur Times*	29th and 31st December 1945
14. *Indian Nation*, Patna	Ditto.
15. *Searchlight*, Patna	Ditto.
16. *Hindustan Standard*, Calcutta	Ditto.
17. *Sind Observer*, Karachi	Not known so far.
18. *Daily Gazette*, Karachi	Ditto.
19. *Hindu*, Madras	Ditto.

BROADCASTING OF PROCEEDINGS OF CENTRAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

614. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable the Leader of the House kindly state if he is aware that loud-speakers, have been installed outside the Legislative chamber at Lucknow in the United Provinces and that the proceedings of the Assembly are broadcast to the public outside?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of making a similar arrangement for the Indian Legislature at New Delhi?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No.

(b) No.

IMPORT OF SALT

615. *Mr. Sukhdev Udhowdas: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state if:

(i) as a result of the recommendations of the Salt Survey Committee West Coast factories have increased their output of salt from 220,000 tons to 470,000 tons per annum;

(ii) 80 per cent. of the salt requirements of Bengal and adjacent markets can now be supplied by the salt works on the West Coast of India;

(iii) the Government of India's most recent import allotments of salt for the six months January/June 1946 were: Aden 91,000 tons, other areas (Middle East) 21,000 tons, and Indian salt manufacturers only 68,000 tons; and

(iv) this programme has been temporarily suspended owing to the large accumulations of salt in Bengal due to excessive imports from foreign countries in 1944 and 1945?

(b) Do the Government of India propose to ensure the maximum use of Indian salt production for Bengal and adjacent Provinces by:

(i) restricting the issue of licences for the importation of salt from Aden; and

(ii) discontinuing altogether imports from other foreign sources?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) (i) and (ii). I am collecting details of the recent output of salt in the West Coast factories and will lay further particulars on the table.

(iii) This was the import programme in view when licensing instructions were first issued, but it has since been modified.

(iv) Yes. The position is that during the war it was necessary to build up stocks as a precaution against salt famine. The sudden cessation of the war has left considerable surplus stocks in hand, and has necessitated a temporary reduction of imports. It has accordingly been arranged that during the current six-monthly period Bengal will get five ships from the West Coast, four from Aden, and none from other sources.

(b) (i). The quota percentage for licences for import of salt from Aden has already been reduced.

(ii) I regret that Government in the present situation cannot undertake to discontinue imports of salt from other foreign sources altogether.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

TRADE UNIONS IN INDIA

54. Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Labour please state the number of trade unions in India and the total membership thereof since 1939 up to date year by year totally and as between different provinces?

(b) What are their total funds as between provinces and how much of the same comes by subscriptions and how much by donations since 1939 up to date year by year?

(c) How many of the total members as between provinces did not pay their subscriptions and still continue to be the members from 1939 up to date year by year?

(d) What has been the proportion of outsiders in the office bearers of trade unions ever since 1939 onwards year by year? Is it a fact that this proportion is recently on a decline?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) A statement showing the number of registered trade unions, the number of unions that submitted returns and the membership of the latter, during the years 1939-44, is placed on the Table. Statistics for 1944-45 are not yet available.

(b) A statement showing the income, expenditure, opening and closing balances of trade unions during 1939-44 is placed on the Table. Government has no information on the second part of the question.

(c) and (d). The information is not available.

Membership of registered trade unions by Provinces
(The figures relate to 31st March in each case)

Provinces	1939		1940		1941		1942		1943		1944	
	Number of registered trade unions	Number of trade unions making returns	Number of registered trade unions	Number of trade unions making returns	Number of registered trade unions	Number of trade unions making returns	Number of registered trade unions	Number of trade unions making returns	Number of registered trade unions	Number of trade unions making returns	Number of registered trade unions	Number of trade unions making returns
Ajmer Merwara	2	2	3	3	4	3	1	1	3	3	3	3
Assam	3	...	11	3	6	6	5	5	5	5	7	7
Bengal	191	130	188	134	211*	139	228	133	229	147	297	189
Bihar	18	10	27	11	34	20	38	16	41	11	49	20
Bombay	52	40	72	56	70	57	74	59	77	69	82	70
Central Provinces & Berar.	35	30	41	31	52	38	55	38	49	35	48	29
Delhi	23	22	27	26	29	28	29	21	30	23	32	24
Madras	87	66	110	83	126*	80	187	76	143	86	174	99
North Western Frontier Province.	6	4	7	5	6	5	6	4	6	3	3	3
Orissa	...	...	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3
Punjab	55	22	65	27	73	15	69	15	24	23	27	25
Sind	23	21	29*	22	28	28	35	33	28	28	32	32
United Provinces	35	23	43*	24	40	29	42	28	28	27	31	31
Baluchistan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	..	...	...
Central Trade Unions (whose objects are not confined to one Province).	32	24	42	23	46	33	25	23	27	26	30	28
Total	562	394	667	450	727	483	747	455	693	489	818	563

Provinces	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
	Membership at the end of the year	Membership at the end of the year	Membership at the end of the year	Membership at the end of the year	Membership at the end of the year	Membership at the end of the year
Ajmer Merwara	302	3,466	281	238	4,794	1,047
Assam	...	982	1,476	1,502	1,948	1,580
Bengal	95,938	1,22,368	1,03,662	1,76,595	2,16,35	2,89,658
Bihar	23,992	13,596	29,925	10,337	18,738	21,947
Bombay	50,997	1,05,799	1,21,886	1,20,153	1,30,688	1,49,359
Central Provinces & Berar.	13,377	11,560	17,261	23,984	29,430	14,883
Delhi	21,492	24,376	24,189	21,546	16,895	24,712
Madras	49,376	71,092	53,637	42,924	49,451	64,567
North Western Frontier Province.	307	654	619	317	418	423
Orissa	...	374	323	535	359	653
Punjab	24,878	11,051	6,742	7,191	12,493	13,569
Sind	9,589	7,829	11,051	11,500	8,934	10,677
United Provinces	11,759	15,811	14,807	17,493	20,976	32,944
Baluchistan	...	...	...	...	...	...
Central Trade Unions (whose objects are not confined to one Province).	97,152	1,22,150	1,27,973	1,40,205	1,68,540	1,54,804
Total	3,99,159	5,11,138	5,13,832	5,73,520	6,85,299	7,80,823

* Revised figures.

General Funds of Registered Trade Unions*

(The figures are in rupees and relate to

Provinces	1939-1940				1940-1941			
	Opening balance	Income	Expen-diture	Closing balance	Opening balance	Income	Expen-diture	Closing balance
Ajmer-Merwara	445	613	982	76	63	17	8	72
Assam	2	378	380	...	59	930	908	81
Bengal	40,928	2,22,003	2,02,869	60,062	78,666	2,82,987	2,37,332	1,24,321
Bihar	729	9,929	9,131	1,527	4,438	19,621	16,769	7,290
Bombay	1,34,564	2,14,877	1,71,073	1,78,368	1,82,392	2,55,958	2,28,346	2,10,004
C.P. & Berar	7,171	15,534	11,709	10,996	12,171	64,077	59,968	16,280
Delhi	12,079	28,794	26,154	14,719	14,780	5,399	5,982	14,197
Madras	37,235	64,865	53,827	48,873	42,576	56,372	39,426	59,522
N. W. F. P.	878	742	227	1,393	1,393	295	344	1,344
Orissa	...	336	245	91	91	253	206	138
Punjab	3,425	20,466	18,374	5,517	902	12,853	12,710	1,045
Sind	20,335	25,027	20,220	25,142	36,381	25,672	29,139	32,914
U.P.	2,145	10,887	9,172	3,860	3,321	12,817	10,320	5,818
Trade Unions whose objects are not confined to one Province.	3,55,767	5,07,346	4,73,800	3,89,313	3,87,542	4,75,676	5,50,124	3,13,094
TOTAL	6,16,303	11,21,797	9,98,163	7,39,937	7,64,775	12[illegible],9-7	11,91,582	6,86,120

* Figures are to the nearest r pee.

from which returns were received.

the period 1st April—31st March)

1941-1942				1942-1943				1943-1944			
Opening balance	Income	Expen-diture	Closing balance	Opening balance	Income	Expen-diture	Closing balance	Opening balance	Income	Expen-diture	Closing balance
72	33	5	100	119	2,550	999	1,670	1,670	1,339	2,077	932
76	692	680	88	91	610	533	168	173	834	789	218
3,51,474	11,34,100	8,17,797	6,67,777	4,03,261	9,68,696	8,06,002	5,65,956	8,51,166	14,27,186	11,68,038	11,10,312
4,687	5,333	5,185	4,835	4,971	3,732	3,779	4,924	6,591	10,244	10,161	6,674
2,06,952	2,87,169	2,17,692	2,76,429	2,76,464	2,61,981	2,33,329	3,05,116	2,96,135	4,52,003	2,97,564	4,50,574
15,697	84,590	74,652	25,635	28,669	75,085	65,810	37,943	29,700	55,418	44,553	40,560
14,406	3,554	7,835	10,125	11,848	13,781	5,239	20,390	20,490	12,424	7,833	25,091
25,977	36,010	27,511	34,476	34,613	54,415	43,897	45,131	55,057	82,452	54,392	83,117
793	180	225	748	481	237	171	907	907	288	246	949
167	525	537	155	155	150	163	143	144	259	335	68
973	14,885	12,549	3,309	1,478	20,483	16,446	5,515	2,176	27,481	21,645	8,012
33,193	27,284	26,626	33,851	28,638	21,855	20,079	30,414	30,170	29,689	26,485	33,324
7,338	11,937	11,099	8,176	7,162	9,580	8,071	8,671	7,649	15,209	12,578	10,280
1,31,685	1,61,154	1,31,643	1,61,196	1,59,159	1,63,829	1,39,306	1,83,682	1,90,136	2,03,902†	1,92,353	2,01,685
7,93,490	17,67,446	13,34,036	12,[illegible]6,900	9,57,109	15,96,984	13,43,8[illegible]4	12,10,630	4,92,164	23,18,681	18,39,049	19,71,796

† Figures relate to 27 unions only.

INDUSTRIAL WORKERS IN INDIA

55. Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Will the Honourable Member for Labour please state:

(a) What is the total number of industrial workers in India and their distribution in individual industries including collieries and plantations since 1939 up to date year by year?

(b) What are the monthly earnings of the factory workers in India in different industries since 1939 up to date, year by year, exclusive of dearness allowance and bonus?

(c) What are the figures of dearness allowance and bonus paid to industrial workers in India since 1939 up to date, year by year, according to (i) different industries and (ii) different industrial centres?

(d) Will he please illustrate the effect if any, of war time increase in earnings of industrial workers on the total membership of trade unions and their monetary funds either way?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) A statement is placed on the table. Statistics for 1945 are not yet available.

(b) A statement showing the figures of monthly average earnings of factory workers during 1939, 1940, 1941 and 1943 is placed on the table. These are inclusive of dearness allowances paid in cash, figures exclusive of these not being available. The figures are only approximate as they are compiled from statistics of total payments made and do not allow for factors like number of working days in the year, number of working hours etc.

Figures of 1942 are not furnished as it is not clear which of the figures available are inclusive of dearness allowances and which are not.

(c) Full information is not available and Government do not consider that the time needed for collecting and tabulating this will be commensurate with the result.

(d) Figures of average earnings of factory workers have been furnished in connection with part (a) of this Question. Statements* showing the membership and general funds of trade unions are placed on the table. Government are not in a position to say whether the increase in membership and in the income is attributable to increased wages or to other causes.

Average daily number of workers employed in British India during 1939-44 classified according to industries

——	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
A. FACTORIES						
Textiles	8,21,561	8,40,745	9,75,193	9,97,083	10,33,905	10,21,374
Food, Drink & Tobacco	2,49,731	2,64,179	2,83,111	2,86,507	2,95,886	2,98,248
Engineering	2,15,545	2,31,962	2,86,980	3,33,972	3,82,537	4,23,095
Ordnance Factories	30,709	49,999	76,488	1,13,077	1,31,076	1,58,327
Minerals and Metals	55,123	62,357	76,162	82,493	92,694	91,126
Dockyards	4,943	6,501	7,836	10,133	12,525	13,621
Mints	1,836	3,151	4,122	4,866	6,758	7,732
Gins and Presses	1,63,226	1,58,848	1,63,994	1,51,699	1,41,303	1,42,998

*See statements annexed to answer to question No. 54.

——	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
A. FACTORIES—*contd.*						
Paper & Printing	56,932	59,018	61,000	61,809	64,957	67,502
Skins and Hides	12,938	18,136	23,557	29,646	33,703	34,660
Chemicals and Dyes	57,934	59,241	73,389	74,133	84,485	90,629
Wood, Stone and Glass	53,084	60,287	78,812	83,598	92,180	1,00,409
Miscellaneous	27,575	30,004	45,733	53,272	64,303	70,530
Total	17,51,137	18,44,428	21,56,377	22,82,288	24,36,312	25,20,251
B- COLLIERIES	2,01,989	9,09,173	2,18,280	2,15,086	2,13,096	2,55,364
C. PLANTATIONS						
Tea*	9,25,237	9,18,354	9,35,141	9,26,272	9,37,897	9,03,649
Rubber†	32,947	31,247	42,555	46,887	52,512	49,736
	1939-40		1940-41	1941-42	1942-43	1943-44
Coffee‡	98,570		99,080	1,06,038	1,62,493	1,53,295

* Figures from 1941 are provisional and subject to revision.

† Figures for 1943 and 1944 are provisional and subject to revision.

‡ Figures from 1941-42 are provisional and subject to revision.

Average monthly earnings of wage earners in the Perennial Factories during the years 1939, 1940, 1941, 1943 and 1944.

Average monthly wages per worker in rupees.

——	1939	1940	1941	1943	1944
Textiles	24 5	25·2	26 2	47·6	52·7
Engineering	26·0	28·8	31·0	44·1	48 5
Minerals and Metals	38·6	41·0	39·7	41·8	47·8
Chemicals and Dyes	20 5	19·1	19·8	33·2	40·4
Paper and Printing	27·7	30·0	27·1	34·5	39·5
Wood, Stone and Glass	16·2	14·6	16·6	25·3	30·4
Skins and Hides	24·2	27 3	29·8	34·3	44·3
Ordnance	30·2	34·0	35·8	44·0	45·6
Mints	30 6	38·6	40·9	47·9	57·9
Miscellaneous	23·6	21·8	21·8	32·7	42·8

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Official Interference in Elections

Mr. B. B. Varma: (a) Is the Honourable the Finance Member aware that election for the United Provinces Legislative Assembly for the Indian Commercial Constituency is going on?

12 Noon.

(b) Has his attention been drawn to the telegram sent to the senior member of the Central Board of Revenue by the Merchant Chamber of the United Provinces, Cawnpore, complaining of interference by the officers of the Income Tax Department there? Has any action been taken? If not, will the Honourable Member be pleased to issue immediate instructions prohibiting such interference?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. Under instructions from the Central Board of Revenue, the Commissioner of Income-tax, United Provinces proceeded immediately to Cawnpore to enquire into the matter. The Secretary to the Chamber from whom the telegram purports to emanate was absent at Calcutta and the President of the Chamber stated that neither he nor the Committee had authorised the issue of the telegram. Nevertheless the Commissioner made full enquiries and I am satisfied that, on the basis of the report submitted by him, there has been no interference, direct or indirect, by the officers of the Income-tax Department in the election concerned. No instructions in this behalf are, therefore, necessary but I would assure the House that Government will not tolerate interference in elections by any public servant.

Mr. B. B. Varma: I have some evidence to show that there has been interference. I do not like to bring in any individual name. I can show you that evidence, if you will make inquiries.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: As I said, we had the matter immediately investigated on the spot.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: My Honourable friend Mr. Varma has got some evidence to the effect that interference was made by the officials of the Income Tax Department. Will the Honourable Member take that into consideration and make inquiries on the basis of that?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: It is alleged evidence. I am prepared to consider it if he will give it to me.

Fear of change in Army Policy

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state whether:

(a) Government have noticed a Press Correspondent's message in the *Hindustan Times* (front page) of 28th February, under the headlines "Reverse Gear In Army Policy Feared";

(b) if so, how far does it represent the true position in respect of (i) the memorandum which is reported to have been prepared by the India Office for the consideration of the British Cabinet, and (ii) the Defence Consultative Committee's functions and the suggested exclusion from the Defence Consultative Committee's consideration of higher policy regarding the future of the Indian Army, Air Force and Navy; and

(c) do Government realise that it is the kind of approach signified by such proposals or suggestions which counteracts the effect of serious and responsible pronouncements about the early transfer of power and breeds distrust and suspicion of solemn promises?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It does not represent the true position in any way. Government have no information regarding any memorandum on this subject prepared in the India Office but they are in close touch with that office and I am able to state that the views expressed by the Correspondent of the *Hindustan Times* are not those of the Secretary of State or his staff. The intentions of Government regarding the Defence Consultative Committee remain as announced.

(c) Yes, Sir, and they strongly deprecate publication in the Press without verification of mischievous and tendentious news of this nature.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member tell this House either now or at an early date when he can make up his mind what the Government's policy is with regard to the specific four points which were raised by this correspondent?

Mr. P. Mason: I have not got the four points with me.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I am not pressing you for an answer now. Will the Government in the course of the next week let us have their considered view with regard to the four specific points which this correspondent put forward.

Mr. P. Mason: If they have not been dealt with already. I think they have all been dealt with already and can say definitely there has been no change of policy.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: This is only a connected question. I am perfectly satisfied with the repudiation of this kind of tendentious news but may I know when the Defence Consultative Committee is going to meet?

Mr. P. Mason: As early as possible.. Next week, I hope.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I take it from the reply that no differentiation was made between province and province and community and community at the time of demobilization. Now, this particular correspondent's view, as he has been able to gather, is that Government will revive the distinction between martial and non-martial races and will knock down from the army those services which were not previously recruited and which were recruited during the war.

Mr. P. Mason: I am glad to deny any such suggestion. That is not the intention.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Government deal with the specific points which have been raised by this correspondent?

Mr. P. Mason: I have already replied to that I think these points have been dealt with repeatedly. I do not wish to take up the time of the House by saying the same thing over and over again too often.

PROVIDENT FUNDS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Presentation of the Report of the Select Committee

Mr. B. C. A. Cook (Government of India: Nominated Official): Sir, I present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Provident Funds Act, 1925.

ELECTION OF A MEMBER ON INDIAN CENTRAL TOBACCO COMMITTEE

Sir Pheroze Kharegat (Secretary, Agriculture Department): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, one person to represent the consumers on the Indian Central Tobacco Committee, in place of Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha, resigned."

Mr. President: Motion moved:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, one person to represent the consumers on the Indian Central Tobacco Committee, in place of Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha, resigned."

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: non-Muhammadan Rural): I should like to know whether the membership will be confined to smokers in the Assembly, as the person elected is to represent consumers. Will a non-smoker too have a chance?

Mr. President: The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, one person to represent the consumers on the Indian Central Tobacco Committee, in place of Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha, resigned."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: I have to inform Honourable Members that for the purpose of election of one person to represent the consumers on the Indian Central Tobacco Committee, in place of Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha resigned, the Notice Office will be open to receive nominations up to 12 noon on Friday, the 1st March, 1946, and that the election, if necessary, will be held on Monday, the 4th March. The election, which will be conducted in accordance with the Regulations for holding of elections by means of the single transferable vote, will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House, between the hours of 10-30 A.M. and 1 P.M.

TRADE MARKS (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque (Commerce Member): I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Trade Marks Act, 1940.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Trade Marks Act, 1940."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

INSURANCE (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. President: We will now proceed to the consideration of the Insurance Bill Clause 20 is the only clause to be considered now.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque (Commerce Member): I understand that there is no desire on the part of my Honourable friends on the other side to take away the provision in connection with the Married Women's Property Act as it has been drafted in the Select Committee. If that is so, then I can shorten the debate by just speaking a few words.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): The Honourable Member ought not to anticipate our decision. The House may ultimately decide one way or the other. It is a very important point and the discussion on this matter ought not to be shut up.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: Nobody says that the discussion should be shut up. So far as I remember, Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi was actually speaking on this clause when the debate was adjourned.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi (Calcutta and Suburbs: Muhammadan Urban): Mr. President, Sir, I was given to understand that the Honourable Members to my right and the Honourable the Commerce Member had come to a settlement on the various amendments that were going to be moved and therefore I have decided not to continue what little I had to say on the subject. But I am flabbergasted, to use a colloquilism. . . . .

Mr. President: The position is not clear to me. Is there any agreement that clause 20 should be deleted?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: No, Sir. The clause will exactly stand as it is reported by the Select Committee. That was the understanding. You will remember that there was no amendment to this clause. The discussion is going on on the clause itself. So, there will be no negative vote to the clause itself.

Mr. President: If there has been really an agreement on the point, there is no question of any discussion and thus taking up the time of the House.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose (Calcutta: Non-Muhammadan Urban): We have expressed our willingness to accept Clause 20 as it stands.

Mr. President: If that is so, I do not see any necessity of discussing the clause any further and I will put the clause to the House.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: There is only one point on which I must say something. Some of the Honourable Members wanted some assurance and I think it is but fair that I should give an assurance on the floor of the House that action will be taken by rules or by such other changes as may be deemed necessary to make the difference between the Married Women's Property Act and the Insurance Act known to every policy holder.

The second thing is that an assurance is wanted by my Honourable friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar and a few others that a few years later an actuary will be actually appointed as superintendent. Life is short for everybody and what will happen in 1951 may be discussed by my friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar at that stage.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: The Honourable Member need not appoint an actuary. I have sufficient experience now.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: Suffice it be for me if I can carry on the work of the day and what will happen in 1951 can be left to be decided then. So far as the present intentions of the Government are concerned, if there is any desire on the part of the Government to change, Government will have to come before the Legislature. They will not be able to do otherwise and will have as the law will stand to appoint an actuary after that period.

Mr. President: I could not follow the position as regards the Married Women's Property Act.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: If this clause stands as is in the Select Committee report, every policy-holder will have the option to nominate either under the provisions of the Married Women's Property Act or under the Insurance Act. If it is under the Insurance Act, he has got much more freedom. That position is not quite clear just now and the law will make it clear. Not only the law will make it clear but it may be brought to the notice of everybody at the time of insurance that he has got an option if he wants to nominate whether he will come under the Married Women's Property Act or under the Insurance Act.

Mr. Leslie Gwilt (Bombay: European): The point I wished to make is that it should be brought to the attention of the assured at the time when he states that he wishes to nominate his policy and I suggest that therein lies a time distinction. If it is brought to the attention of everybody when he insures his life, I do not think it will have the same effect as it will have if it is brought to the attention of an assured specially at the time that he wishes to nominate his policy. That is the point I wish to drive.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: That is exactly the intention.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Probably it would be best if my Honourable friend the Commerce Member could in a few words explain to the House the position as it is today and the position as it will be after we have accepted this clause. I am in perfect agreement with him that we accept this clause and I support my Honourable friend. But I do not want the impression to remain in the minds of anybody that any agreement has been come to behind the back of this House because of which further discussion is not taking place. My Honourable friend will not take more than two or three minutes to explain the exact position and I think we shall then be satisfied.

Mr. President: I must state the difficulty which I have been feeling so far as this piece of legislation is concerned. I am not yet clear as to how any assurance given even by responsible Ministers on the floor of the House will be of any avail so far as the interpretation of the law is concerned.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: There will be no ambiguity.

Mr. President: I do not know what the merits are. If the parties are clear on that point, I should not intervene at all. But I thought the question was about the interpretation of two different Acts and of liberty to be reserved to

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the assurant to have advantage either of this or of that. I really do not know how far it is competent under the law, but I would like to draw the attention of the House that any assurance on the floor of the House, if it is not legally covered, will be of no avail. In that case, the assurance will have to go a little further, namely, that the Government will examine the legal position and will introduce, if necessary, legislation to give effect to that assurance.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: Perhaps if I may explain, following the suggestion of my Honourable friend Mr. Sri Prakasa, the position will be quite clear. It is necessary for that purpose to bring before the House section 39 of the present Insurance Act. The present position is that by sub-clause (7) of section 39 the policy holder has a right to nominate. There is also a clause which says that the provisions of this section shall not apply to any policy of life insurance to which section 6 of the Married Women's Property Act applies. The position is that at the time when this Insurance Act was passed—and this will be quite clear from the notes on the clauses in the Statement of Objects and Reasons—, it was intended that the right of nomination by a policy holder should be free and unrestricted under the Insurance Act. In other words, if he nominates a person, no other law will intervene. Speaking generally, this question was considered in the Select Committee and in order to make it further clear they said that whereas the right under the Insurance Act by a policy holder to nominate will remain, if a man wants to exercise that right under the Married Women's Property Act, that right should not be touched. The question comes now as to the conflict between these two. He has a right to nominate under the Married Women's Property Act and he has a right to nominate under the Indian Insurance Act. The question is whether one overlaps the other. The intention of the Legislature at that time was perfectly clear. They wanted to keep these two absolutely separate. In other words, they wanted to preserve the right of any person to nominate under the Married Women's Property Act if he wished to, and if he did exercise that right, then any nomination becomes an irrevocable trust in favour of the wife or the children. Having done that, comes now the Insurance Act. A man nominates not under the Married Women's Property Act but he nominates under the Insurance Act. If he does so, it has been interpreted that even if he nominates actually under the Insurance Act, he comes within the provisions of the Married Women's Property Act if it is in favour of wife and child. Therefore, the very purpose, namely the unrestricted right of a man assured to nominate under the Insurance Act was frustrated by this interpretation, namely, even though he exercises his right under the Indian Insurance Act, he automatically draws in the restriction of the Married Women's Property Act. That point has now been made clear. The present provision intends really to carry out the effect of that Insurance Act, 1938, namely, that if a man makes it clear that he does it under the Insurance Act, it will be under the Insurance Act, and his privileges and liabilities will be under the Insurance Act. But at the time when the man nominates, if he says that he will not do under the Insurance Act, but under the Married Women's Property Act, then his right will continue to be governed by the Married Women's Property Act. Then, Mr. Gwilt's question comes in that it was intended that he should have the separate right. The previous interpretation made it ambiguous and now the law makes it clear that he will have every right either under the Married Women's property Act or under the Insurance Act. It has been suggested that he must know what are his rights at the time when he nominates. That question is merely a question of a little change in form, it has nothing to do with any future legislation. The present law will make this position absolutely clear, namely, if I want to nominate under the Insurance Act, then I will be governed by the Indian Insurance Act, and the Married Women's Property Act will not apply; if I want to nominate under the Married Women's Property Act, and if I do so specifically, then I will be governed by the Married Women's Property Act. In other words, without specifically mentioning it, I was till

now controlled by the Married Women's Property Act, and now I have got to make it quite clear whether I want 'A' or 'B'. If I want 'A', it will be 'A', if I want 'B', it will be 'B', but the present position is if I do it under 'A', I will be controlled by 'B'. That position will go away. I believe I have tried to explain clearly. This law is aimed and actually carries into effect the very intention which was behind the Indian Insurance Act, 1938.

Shri Sri Prakasa: I want to get one point clear. Am I to understand that if a policy holder chooses to nominate his wife or children under section 6 of the Married Women's Property Act, he cannot change over afterwards to section 39 of the Insurance Act?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: That is quite clear, because the Married Women's Property Act is an Act which we are not touching and if he exercises that right under the Married Women's Property Act, he can specifically make it clear that he is doing so. Then the position will be that he cannot change over to the Insurance Act. But if he does it under the Insurance Act, then he can change.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: Sir, may I be permitted to throw a little light on the matter? Reference has been made by the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill to the previous intention of the legislature. As regards that, there is room for difference of opinion. I do not propose to enter into any discussion about that. This House has heard the speech of my Honourable friend Mr. Neogy and certain other speeches that were made. I was asked to apply my mind to this clause; and I do consider it would be better from the point of view of the family, not merely from the point of view of the husband, that the husband should be given an option in the matter. Let the husband apply his mind at the start as to whether he wishes to invoke the aid of section 6 of the Married Women's Property Act or whether he wishes to nominate under the Insurance Act. In the first case, of course, the position will be that a trust will automatically be created and no change can be permitted. In the latter case, that is to say, if he wishes to nominate under the Insurance Act, he will be free to change his nomination, if he so desires. I think, Sir, on the whole, it would be better to give the husband the right of option. Looking at the matter from a broad point of view and also, if I may add, from the psychological point of view. I think the present clause is desirable both from the point of view of the husband and from the point of view of the family.

Mr. Leslie Gwilt: Sir, one question, I should like to ask. In view of the assurance given by the Honourable the Commerce Member, would he be good enough to inform the House whether he has considered the method whereby he is going to draw the attention of the assured to the choice that he has in the matter at the time when he states he wishes to nominate his policy. I take it, that it will be laid down in the Rules, but there should, I suggest, be some method, whereby the insurance company should specifically draw the attention of the assured.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: We have not considered the details. But I am quite prepared as soon as the details are examined, to place them before the Standing Committee for the Commerce Department.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: May I just add one word from the administrative point of view. When the Agent goes and induces somebody to get himself insured, he can bring this point to the notice of the man. The companies may print two different sets of policies, or there may be clauses stuck on to policies. If the man wants to take advantage of section 6 of the Married Woman's Property Act, that clause can be added. If he wants to take advantage of the Insurance Act, then the policy remains normal. That is a very small affair. The main point was one of principle.

Sri T. V. Satakopachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural:) Sir, in the language, I wish to submit.....

Mr. President: I do not think any further discussion is necessary on this matter. The matter has been agreed to and nothing further need be done. The

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only point of difficulty which I was feeling was about the possible conflict in the two pieces of legislation so that an assurance given by a Minister would not help the assured when the matter goes before a court of law on the question of interpretation. That is why I put it to him that the question may be examined further and if necessary, legislation may be brought in. As regards the merits, I am absolutely innocent and I do not propose to judge whether the present piece of legislation does represent the real position. Now, the only thing that remains to be done is to put clause 20 to the House.

The question is:

"That clause 20 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 20 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill as amended be passed."

Sir, I do not wish to take up any time of the House. But in doing so, I want to make it quite clear that my Honourable friend Mr. Ayyangar's amendment which had been adopted by the House, after Division, means exactly the opposite of what my Honourable friend intended. The Government would consider the question in consultation with Party Leaders as to what can be done at a later stage. Sir, I move.

Mr. President: Motion moved:

"That the Bill as amended be passed."

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I should like to say a few words at the third reading of the Bill. It is true that with respect to the exemption that the Co-operative Societies had under the old Act of 1938, they were allowed to issue policies without any upper limit or lower limit from one rupee to infinity. That provision was sought to be removed or restricted under the Bill. Therefore we wanted to retain the old exemption. But in doing so, two words 'not being' which were in the original Act were omitted. It is an error. It taken to the other House and a clerical mistake can be rectified and it can come back here. With regard to Married Women's property Act, the general opinion is that this clause ought to be there and the option ought to be given. My Honourable friend has been asked to give certain assurances and print them on the form or otherwise indicate with due provision in the rules that in the one case, it would be open to the husband to make the nomination either under the Married Women's Property Act or under section 39 of the Insurance Act. I submit the consequences also ought to be told to the assured, so that he may choose the one or the other. I would request my Honourable friend to bring it to his notice that in addition to other consequences, that is, creating a trust in favour of wife or children and not being entitled to reopen the trust if he wants to, in the other case, it is open to him to deal with it as he likes. I would also request him to make it clear that if he makes a nomination under the Married Women's Property Act he will place the fund out of the reach of creditors. In the other case even from the start it will be open to the creditors to touch it. Therefore the man must know both sides of the question. There are two difficulties; or, there is one advantage and there is one difficulty. If an assured makes a nomination under the Married Women's Property Act he can no longer deal with it. To that extent there is restriction on his own movement.

Mr. President: I am afraid this is again a discussion on the same question that was raised on clause 20.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commence): Sir, the Honourable Member is making a new suggestion as to what should be included in the policy and what choice is to be given to the assured.

Mr. President: It may be a new suggestion but I am not quite clear whether it is covered by the scope of the discussion on the third reading. There has been no amendment to clause 20 and I think the scope is to be restricted to the amendments made. If the Honourable Member has to make any suggestion he can make them to the Government at any other time and place, but not during the course of this discussion. That is my reaction to the trend of the Honourable Member's speech; because, otherwise, in the guise of further new suggestions with reference to how the policy should be put through we shall again start a discussion on clause 20.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I submit that this point may be raised on the third reading and that it is open to a Member to generally submit to the House what the effect of the Bill is, how we have amended it and what the consequences are. I may be in the minority still, but I expect that some day somebody will take up this question. I submit that all these are relevant on the third reading of a Bill, and in my experience of the House for ten years, this has always been allowed.

Mr. President: It is of course competent to the House to reject a Bill even at the third reading and therefore to comment on the Bill as a whole. But it is entirely different from going into details and repeating a discussion which has already taken place.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir is it not open to me to submit that this is such a vital point that once again I must appeal to the House to accept it? If they do accept it the whole Bill may be thrown out. I am pointing out the difference about this matter. The Honourable Member gave an assurance which you heard, though ultimately you said that this assurance did not form part of the Bill or the Act. The assurance related to what is to be done. I am only asking him to place both sides of the question to the assured; one, that if he makes an assurance under the Married Women's Property Act it is true he will be tied down and he cannot interfere with the policy. But I request him to place the other side also, that he will be protecting the property from the reach of creditors. That is all that I want.

Pandit Govind Malaviya (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, this Bill which we have had before the House for some time has now come to its final stage; and before we pass it I should like to make a few observations on it. Insurance in this country has developed and increased appreciably in the last few years, but a feature of it has been that the bulk of that increased insurance has gone, comparatively speaking to a few large companies, and the total *per capita* increase in insurance in the country is not very high. That is an important feature which should engage the attention of the department of Government which deals with insurance. In that relation, Sir, the clause of the Bill relating to the Superintendent of Insurance assumes a very great importance. Insurance has rightly been called the backbone of the economic life of a country, and if we have to develop that aspect of life in this country properly, the Superintendent of Insurance will have to see—that is one of his main functions—that insurance develops in this country not only on right lines but also quickly and to the proper extent. This Bill, Sir, as it is, goes rightly for making such rules as would enable the Superintendent of Insurance and the department of Government concerned to see that insurance companies run on proper lines. We all agree therefore with the provisions of the Bill to that extent. But I wish to submit that there is another aspect of it also, and that is the development of insurance in India, which unfortunately has not so far received the attention that it deserves. I therefore feel, Sir, and I wish to repeat it here today, that the choice of a Superintendent should not have been restricted as it has been. It should have been laid down, on the contrary, that he should be a person who had actual experience of insurance business, so that he would know the difficulties and the obstacles which stand in the way of progress of insurance in the country, and

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who can deal with it in a manner which will be in the best interests of the country as a whole. But I suppose the cumulative wisdom of the House must be right and I hope the results will falsify my fears and at the end of the next few years the Superintendent of Insurance will be able to claim very substantial progress in that direction also.

The other feature to which I wish to refer once more is the provisions which this Bill has regarding the insurance agents. I cannot help feeling that the Bill does not move in the right direction. The agents are the foundations upon whom insurance business rests. I know, it is true, that for some of the bigger companies in this country it does not matter very much whether the agents are satisfied or not. But if insurance has not developed in this country to the extent to which it should have, one of the main reasons is that we have not the right sort of agent, and, when there is the right sort of agent he does not get proper encouragement in his work. As I said once before, the insurance agent in this country is looked down upon. He is treated as something not very pleasant and not very welcome. But in actual fact, as I said, I at least am one of those who believe, that the agent renders one of the most important and useful social services to the people and to society. I cannot allow this Bill to be passed without once again recording my view that the clauses relating to the payment of commission to those agents, who might revive policies, only up to half of what the original agent would have got, are wrong, and that the general and sweeping ban placed against agents becoming directors of insurance companies is a step in the retrograde direction. I say so deliberately, because I know from practical experience of Directing Insurance Business that no other class of persons is better qualified to help in the carrying on of insurance business in India than the field workers in insurance who know the difficulties and how they are to be met, and who are therefore best qualified to advise how one can proceed in order that the business may flourish. Therefore, Sir, I wish again to submit to the House that it is a retrograde step that we are taking in introducing a general ban against all agents as such. I can understand an agent being not permitted to be a director of the company with which he himself may be concerned because, that may create administrative difficulties. But to say that no agent should be on the directorate of any company whatsoever is, I feel, not the correct thing to do.

Another thing which I should like to mention is that we have put down certain clauses—and they are healthy clauses which we welcome—about keeping the assets of companies with regard to the life fund and the general side separate and distinct from one another. That is a very welcome thing, but I would urge upon the Government the necessity of considering whether they should not carry this a little further, and ensure by rules or in any other manner by which it may be possible, that general companies should not be able to debit any portion of the actual cost of their management and procuration of business in Life Department, to the head of their general office, thereby putting other Life offices, which are not doing general business, at a disadvantage, by showing a lower expense ratio than they actually incur. That is a point which I should like to submit for the consideration of the Superintendent of Insurance, and I hope he will be able to find ways to meet that.

Another thing which I wanted to say was that the Superintendent of Insurance under this Bill and the original Bill has, with the best of purposes and intentions, been invested with almost unlimited powers. They might all be very helpful and good so long as those powers remain in the hands of an experienced Superintendent of Insurance like the one we have today, but in principle, Sir, I feel that it is wrong to invest the Superintendent of Insurance with all those Nadir Shahi powers which he will possess under this Bill. There is absolutely no clause, there is no provision for any appeal ordinarily speaking,—I am not talking of the right of appeal which everyone can always have before a Court of Law—, but otherwise there is no provision, there is no clause for any appeal against any decision or any order which the Superintendent of Insurance may enforce. I have no doubt that the Superintendent of Insurance

will take care individually as far as he can, only to pass orders which will be for the good of insurance generally, but no human being is infallible and it is a poor consolation that even though an order may actually put difficulties in the way of some companies and some people, the only recourse that they would have against it would be to go through the lengthy and doubtful process of proceeding through a law Court. I therefore submit, not in any spirit of opposition, but in a constructive spirit, I submit for the consideration of the Government that there should be clauses in the Bill which would enable an aggrieved party to go in appeal for further consideration of an order or decision of the Superintendent of Insurance.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Nominated Non-Official): Appeal to whom?

Pandit Govind Malaviya: That is for the Government to suggest; it may be some committee, with members of this house on it, or it may at least be the Government member concerned: I am not making suggestions. I am only talking about the general need of some provision for appeal, because the Honourable the President has said that we cannot make new suggestions.

Therefore, I submit,—and I say these things particularly in view of the fact that in the near future another more comprehensive Bill regarding insurance is being brought forward by the Government—I submit that the Government should take these points into consideration.

Sir, the final point which I should like to mention is that the Government should consider whether, after all, the very best thing for us to do in this country, constituted as we are, would not be to nationalize insurance as a whole. That point has been mentioned before, but, Sir, I want to put it from a point of view which will meet our practical requirements. The *per capita* Insurance in India, we know is very, very low. And, apart from other reasons, the main reason for it is that the economic level of the people in this country is equally low. I know that. Therefore, some way has to be found, by which, notwithstanding that low economic level of the people, we should be able to afford to them the benefits of insurance which are considered essential in any civilized state today. We have all read of the strides which other countries have been making in those directions. Look at the provisions that have been made in England for insurance. The multilateral 'cradle to grave' insurance scheme, that they have adopted. For what a small payment . . .

Mr. President: Does the Honourable Member propose to go into details of this question of nationalization of insurance? If that is so, it would not be within the scope of the present Bill.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: No, Sir. I will just finish. Therefore, I feel, without going into details of that question, that ways can be found to meet the special conditions prevailing in this country. If we have all insurance companies managed by the state and run for the benefit of the people, if we drop the system of having policies to which profits are to be added, which in other words, is more or less a commercial speculative item, if we have policies without profits and, under proper rules, without medical examination, if we have statutory laws enforcing that every person who earns should have a policy and every familyman must have a policy, if we ruthlessly cut down the expenses of Insurance Houses and the procuration cost that we have to pay today, I feel that we can provide insurance for everyone of the poor and the rich in this country at . . .

Mr. President: I am afraid the Honourable Member is going into too general questions. He will restrict himself only to the Bill as has come up before the House.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: All right, Sir. So, I submit, Sir, that these are points which the Government should take into account. This Bill, as I have said, is mainly on right lines, but I hope Government will take into consideration the points that we have raised and will be able to provide a law which will help to develop insurance in India to the fullest possible extent.

[Pandit Govind Malaviya]

With these general observations, Sir, I support the passing of the Bill which is now before us.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Mr. President. We have wandered a good deal away from a mere amending Bill of only a few sections . . .

Pandit Govind Malaviya: Talking from your position?

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: I consider the remark made by the Honourable Member who just spoke before me as rather low and undignified. We talk here not in the selfish way as he has tried to do perhaps and he judges others by his own standards, but . . .

Pandit Govind Malaviya: On a point of personal question, may I know what was my remark to which the Honourable Member is referring?

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Sir, I refuse to repeat it. He knows what he has said and he knows what I told him, and I hope he will understand what I have told him.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: I hope he will understand that himself.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Efforts have been made to make distinctions between big and small companies. That is again not a straight point of view to look at things. A company becomes great . . .

Pandit Govind Malaviya: On a point of order, Sir. I seek the protection of the Chair. If one Honourable Member of this House makes a personal remark and accuses another man of making remarks in a selfish manner and in a low manner, I ask you, Sir, to give a ruling whether the member is within his rights unless he is prepared to substantiate it?

Mr. President: I have been always appealing to the Members of this House not to interrupt nor even to pass remarks while other Members are speaking. If that course is followed more scrupulously such occasions will not arise. Unfortunately, an occasion has arisen. Unfortunately, I did not hear the words which one Honourable Member is alleged by another Honourable Member to have uttered.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: I want him to repeat it.

Mr. President: Order, order. A further thing is that the Honourable Member who spoke the words has spoken generally and I do not know whether the whole House knew who that Honourable Member was.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): He said the Honourable Member who has spoken before me.

Mr. President: But I did not hear the words at all.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Nominated Non-Official): Mr. President, nobody knows what they are quarrelling about!

(Interruptions.)

Mr. President: I must say one thing, that it would not be proper for one Honourable Member to say about another Honourable Member that he is either selfish or low. It would not be proper at all. It would be unparliamentary to say so and I trust Honourable Members will in future speak with restraint and not give expressions to such views. I think this expression of disapproval should be sufficient for the occasion and the Honourable Member may now proceed.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: I bow to your ruling.

Mr. President: As regards the other question, the scope of discussion, I have been trying to impress upon Honourable Members the real scope of discussion. The position of the Chair to control a debate in that direction becomes very difficult, difficult not in the sense that the Chair can not call upon a Member to sit down. Not that way. Unless a Member has spoken, it is difficult to say whether what he is going to speak is going to be relevant or outside the scope; and by the time he is known to be outside the scope, he has already spoken. That is the difficulty. So I earnestly solicit the co-operation of all Members just to realise the scope of the discussion and not to go beyond the scope. Simply because one Member has gone beyond the scope, the others should not do so; because he will be setting an example which he himself does not favour. So I appeal to all Members to limit themselves strictly to the scope of discussion. The Honourable Member can now carry on.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: I bow to your ruling and my only sorrow is that the earlier remark was not heard by the Chair.

Mr. President: That chapter is closed. The Honourable Member will now proceed with his speech.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: I will again rise to a point of order.

Mr. President: A decision has been given that the chapter is closed and that the Honourable Member will proceed with his speech.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: If he wants an apology I offer a thousand apologies. It has been asserted that it is the duty of the Superintendent of Insurance to extend the scope of Indian Insurance and develop it. My own feeling is that until we have entered into the sphere of nationalization that work should be done by insurance companies and that company will succeed which can do it technically and administratively in a better way. I was going to repudiate some of the points raised, but so far as the Honourable Member from the Ceded Districts and Chittoor is concerned, may I point out that the general principle of jurisprudence is *caveat emptor*: in our Indian language "kharidar hoshiar bash". If you want a policy you must understand what you want. You must have a mind of your own. The agent may explain things to you but in order to be fully satisfied, nobody from amongst my colleagues in this House has suggested, he should consult his vakil or solicitor and then neither the agent nor the company can deceive him. But as I explained earlier, the agent will tell him: Do you want to come under the Married Women's Property Act or under the Insurance Act. It is a permissive clause. He has to choose. The agent can only explain things to him. But finally it will be he who will choose and therefore to throw the responsibility of it either on the agents or on the company is not fair. The only point I would ask the Honourable the Commerce Member to consider now that the Bill has reached the final stage, is to begin the second attempt he is going to make in the field of insurance and to tell us that it will not go beyond the term of the present session, because that is more important than this Bill.

Shri Sri Prakasa: I should like with your permission to offer my congratulations to the Honourable the Commerce Member for successfully piloting this Bill. On this occasion I cannot but regret that the father of this piece of legislation, the late Sir Nripendra Sircar is neither in this House nor unfortunately in this world, otherwise it would have rejoiced his heart to know that we have not forgotten his great work nor him and that we are trying every day to improve on what he has done.

My Honourable friend, Mr. Chapman-Mortimer, the other day paid a fitting tribute to the late Sir Nripendra Sircar. Though as a rule an Englishman is not an emotional person, he actually broke down when he was referring to that great man. Sir, my own respect for the late Sir Nripendra Sircar was as great as that of Mr. Chapman-Mortimer's. Mr. Chapman-Mortimer said that Sir Nripendra Sircar had the unique quality of being able to win the sympathies of all parties in this House; and he referred to the Congress benches and he referred to the Muslim League benches. A characteristic of Nripendra Sircar was that not only he won the Congress benches and the Muslim League benches but he won the European benches as well; and it was with the active assistance of the all sections of the House that the Bill was placed on the Statute Book.

Coming, Sir, to this Bill which is before us today, I should like to say that I hope my Honourable friend the Commerce Member will take advantage of the grammatical mistake in Clause 5, referred to by him; and if possible reopen

[Shri Sri Prakasa]

the whole question. We have three sorts of institutions to deal with: the provident societies, the co-operative life insurance societies; and the insurance companies. It was the desire of the Select Committee to place the co-operative life insurance societies on the same level as the insurance companies. As a matter of fact, at the present moment, the cooperative life insurance societies enjoy the privilege of being able, when they like, to be a provident society and, when they like, to be an insurance company. They have the advantage of being able to compete with both, so to say. I think they should choose one or the other, and it would be best if the cooperative life insurance societies were placed on the same level as ordinary insurance companies, so that they could not do business of less than Rs. 1,000, while provident societies will do business up to Rs. 900.

Sir, we have also this morning disposed of Clause 20 of the Bill. I am very glad that an agreement was reached in that behalf, because now the policyholder will have the privilege of choosing between the Transfer of Property Act on the one hand and the Insurance Act on the other, and the confusion that has been arising so far regarding the exact implications of his nomination of his wife or children will no more take place. As the Commerce Member has explained, it is up to the policyholder to nominate in the very beginning his wife; and if he does this, he, so to say, cuts his hand off. He cannot change the nomination any further. But if he nominates under the Insurance Act, he will have the advantage of changing his opinions later on and assigning the policy to whomever he pleases, whether his wife or someone else.

Lastly, I should like to explain one further point which I fear has been troubling my Honourable friend, Pandit Govind Malaviya. He wanted—and he pressed his point very forcibly—that the agents of one company should be able to be directors of another company. I personally think that this is wrong in principle. It is something like saying that the wife of one man could be the mistress of another. That will create a great deal of confusion, and a situation which Pandit Malaviya himself will not like. However desirable a young lady may be, she will have, as society goes, to limit her affections to one person and one person only. If an agent wants to serve only one company let him serve it. Let him not suffer from divided loyalties by becoming also the director of another company.

1 P.M.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: May I be forgiven for suggesting to my Honourable friend Sri Prakasa that the analogy may be more like the wife of one person helping another person's wife in a maternity case?

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): From insurance to maternity this is not permitted.

Shri Sri Prakasa: I have no doubt that a little further thought will convince my friend that it is best for an agent to stick to one company. It is in the interest of the agent, it is in the interest of the company. If he really does not want to be an agent of any one particular company and he wants to be the director of another, then the option is before him. He should resign the agency of the one and become the director of the other.

I think, looking at the Bill as a whole that it is a very sound and good piece of legislation; and my Honourable friend the Commerce Member deserves the congratulations of the House and every single member thereof. The Honourable Member has assured us that he has in view a bigger Bill; and we are all looking forward to the shape and size of that Bill. I do hope that when that Bill comes before us it will find ready acceptance at the hands of the House, for so far as we have known, the present Commerce Member means well by the country and by society in general.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, I won't take much time of the House and I will finish before Lunch.

I share the same feelings as Honourable Members opposite as regards the great work of the late Sir Nripendra Nath Sircar. I was not present at that time in the House but when I read the monumental work that was done, I was amazed at his energy and ability.

I also wish in this connection to take the opportunity of paying my tribute to Mr. Sushil Sen, who breathed his last only last week. He also was of the greatest assistance and by his devotion to work and zeal he was able to put together all the points that were necessary for bringing this Bill before the House and I feel sure that every member of the House will join with me in expressing our deep sense of sorrow at his sudden and untimely death only last week.

I do not wish to traverse the points which, I thought, were bordering outside the scope of this legislation. Being eminently a practical man my friend Mr. Malaviya referred to several points but when I was hearing them one after another I was reminded of the definition of a point in Euclid's Geometry. A point is defined as that which has position but no magnitude. I thought he placed before me some points which had position but the magnitude is of such a character that I feel that during the short time that I have at my disposal it is almost impossible to tackle them, not that I am not in favour of some of them, not that I do not share some of his desires relating to state of things but I feel as a practical man, which he himself says he is, it is time that we should take stock of the existing position in the country and proceed cautiously.

Nationalisation has been mentioned over and over again. I have made it quite clear that I am in full sympathy but I feel that we should know the economic and political shape of the country before this question of nationalisation can be satisfactorily solved. I do not say anything more except this, that I am grateful to the Honourable Members of the House for the support which they have given to this Bill. I do hope it will be possible for me to introduce the other Bill as soon as I can.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the Bill as amended be passed."

The motion was adopted.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS—RAILWAYS

DEMAND NO. 1—RAILWAY BOARD

Mr. A. C. Turner (Government of India: Nominated Official): Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 5,15,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council, to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1946, in respect of 'Railway Board'."

Mr. President: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 5,15,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council, to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1946, in respect of 'Railway Board'."

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I oppose this grant being given on the ground that I find in the Supplementary Grants there is no supplementary grant for Demand No. 12. We found that last year only 6 lakhs were provided for and this year we find that 1,18,68,000 have been misappropriated under that head. My Honourable friend may say that it is appropriation but I say that this sum has been misappropriated. This House has been treated very badly by Government by not bringing and not explaining on what account has this expenditure been incurred. I think the Honourable Member has treated this House very badly and in the most unconstitutional manner.

The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim two or three years ago had given a ruling that if a sum is provided for in the Budget and a bigger sum exceeding that amount which has been spent is brought as Supplementary Demand, then the Railway Board must come with a full explanatory statement showing why this sum has been spent. We can understand a supplementary grant if a crore

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of rupees had been provided for in the original budget and a few lakhs had been spent in excess of that sum: but it is highly objectionable that a small sum is provided originally and on the backing of that small sum a very huge sum is spent by the Department and that Department says that it is not willing even to show to the House or to the Committee on what account this sum has been spent. I have never seen this in this House. It is for the first time . . . .

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War (Transport): **May I ask the Honourable Member when anybody said that, when anybody has refused to discuss it?**

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: The Honourable Member himself. I have got his statement in my hand. I asked if he is bringing this before the House as a supplementary grant, and the Honourable Member said 'No'. I asked "Why not?" He said "Because last year this has been provided for." Last year, Sir, there was only 6 lakhs. Then he says that it was the sum which was provided for because he said "We will go ahead." I have shown that "Go ahead" was given to him to negotiate with the provinces, and this House never authorised him to go ahead and spend as much money as he has done. In this House a sum of Rs 6 lakhs was put forward surreptitiously and smuggled in, which nobody knows why it was given: no explanatory note was put before the Standing Finance Committee for this Rs. 6 lakhs or what they were intended for; and this House expressed the opinion that this should not be allowed. Those 82 lakhs which we wrongly cut down was really meant for this 6 lakhs to be cut down; and when the Honourable Member came with a supplementary demand for 82 lakhs he did not ask for this, that the 6 lakhs which was under head 12 should be magnified into 118 lakhs of rupees. This is the way the House is treated: this is the manner in which . . . .

Mr. A. C. Turner: Sir, may I rise to a point of order? We are considering a supplementary estimate under Demand No. 1 and this objection relates to Demand No. 12 under which no Supplementary Demand is being presented.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: I am giving this as a reason why I am refusing to consider even that anything should be given to the Railway Board.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi: General): Since a point of order has been raised, I should just like to ask a question or two of the Honourable the Railway Member. My friend the Deputy Speaker is, I take it, talking of the first Demand. Here we have got about 11 demands for grants, and the total sum comes to somewhere near 4 crores, if I am not mistaken . . . .

An Honourable Member: 13 crores.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: We do not know whether this means excess or fresh works. No explanation is forthcoming. On the order paper here they put down only "Audit" or "Railway Board" or "Miscellaneous Expenditure" and so on. If it is excess I can understand it. But excess must always be within reasonable limits. If it is in respect of fresh undertakings the whole matter ought to go to the Standing Finance Committee and come here afterwards. I wonder whether the Honourable Member has given even an inkling of these supplementary demands in his budget speech. He has shown certain revenues; he has not shown how much money has already been eaten away. It is an extraordinary state of affairs. We must know exactly what is meant by these supplementary demands under these circumstances; and I should like to have a general explanation before we proceed any further.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: Let me charge them and then they will give a reply.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: As a point of order has been raised that we have not placed these facts before the House, I really must draw the attention of the Honourable Member to the fact that these papers have not only been placed in the Library of the House but I think they have been circulated to every member; and all the facts are laid before the House. What is happening is that an Honourable Member is taking up detailed items and complaining that they have not been discussed in the Standing Finance Committee or particularly mentioned in my budget speech. I cannot cover that whole ground; but we have debated this whole question at very considerable length. I shall give my answer to any further points that may be raised, but speaking in reply to my Honourable friend the Honourable Deputy Leader, I really must point out that nothing is concealed. All the facts are placed before the Honourable Members.

Mr. President: It is now time for the House to adjourn, but I myself was trying to follow what the objection is. I must admit that the position is not clear to me yet, not only as regards the point of order, but even the other position which the Honourable the Deputy President was trying to make. I was trying to see what point he was making when he stood up and opposed the grant. I am not concerned with his opposition on the merits. In the meanwhile comes this point of order on the question of information.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: May I intervene for one moment so that I may make my position clear? My point is this: when you bring up Demands for supplementary grants of this nature whether in respect of excesses or in respect of fresh undertakings which have to be paid for within the financial year, they must precede the demands for grants for the coming year, that is, the next budget. This looks like a topsy turvy arrangement. We ought to know how much had to be spent or has been spent during the financial year or has to be spent during the financial year before we begin to talk about the budget . . . .

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Nominated Non-Official): It is in that explanation.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: But it is just the other way about The supplementary grants are coming up before us after the budget grants have already been put to the House and voted upon. That is point No. 1. The second point is this: it is essential in respect of every demand for a supplementary grant for the member to make it perfectly clear to the House whether it is in respect of excess expenditure or in respect of fresh undertakings. I cannot make out anything from this paper.

Mr. President: Unfortunately I do not expect to be here at 2-30 p.m. sharp today.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose (Calcutta: Non-Muhammadan Urban): May I suggest that you postpone the whole of these supplementary Demands till tomorrow and this point may be raised in your presence and decided by you later on? It will only mean a few minutes more. Tomorrow we can do it.

Mr. President: Tomorrow we have the discussion on Bretton Woods.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): We can start Bretton Woods at 2-30 today.

Mr. President: I do not know whether the Finance Member is ready to start on Bretton Woods this afternoon.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): May I say that after we re-assemble this point can be argued and the Deputy President may occupy the Chair?

Mr. President: The point is I shall not be able to be back at 2-30.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded District and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): It will not take more than five minutes so far as the ruling on this point of order is concerned.

Mr. President: I am afraid it may not be possible for me to dispose of this point of order within five or even ten minutes.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: It involves constitutional matters and also financial improprieties; it is not a matter which can be disposed of within five minutes.

Mr. President: Apart from that, I first want to be clear on the facts myself before I can claim to follow the debate; and that is why I was trying to follow the Honourable Member.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: My proposal is that these supplementary grants may be postponed because they involve such a vital issue and this year they have been changed; therefore it will be in the interests of the House and the procedure for the future that they may be taken up tomorrow or on some other day, whatever may suit the 'Honourable Members.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I must take exception to the suggestion that there has been financial impropriety or that the procedure has been changed. Neither of those facts are correct. We have followed exactly the procedure of previous years and there is no hanky panky about it whatsoever. In reply to my Honourable friend the Deputy Leader, I may say that I sympathise with him. There is nothing which explains this matter on the order paper today showing the motions to be moved, but it is set out in the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee which is circulated to everybody, which has been before the Standing Finance Committee and which could have been discussed in detail there and could also have been discussed on the floor of the House in connection with the grant for next year. But this refers to excess expenditure occurring on last year's grant.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: If excess of one grant is brought, then where is the excess in respect of the other grants. Because you are not bringing in the others, therefore we are throwing out everything.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: We are not following any new procedure.

Mr. President: This cross talk leads us nowhere. At least I am not clear on this. Allegations on one side and denials on the other and *vice versa* do not place me in a position to know exactly what the situation is. I am not coming back at 2-30 and if the Deputy President wishes to raise the point in this House there is also the difficulty as to whether any Chairman could preside, when the Deputy President is present in the House. That technical difficulty would arise; but in that case, we might either put it off till tomorrow or we might meet at 3 p.m. today.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have ascertained that the Finance Member would be willing to start the Bretton Woods discussion after Lunch and in view of the lose of time now, I would suggest that we might meet at 2-45 instead of at 2-30, and start on Bretton Woods.

An Honourable Member: Let it be 3 p.m.

Mr. President: The Honourable the Finance Member will have to introduce the Budget at 5 and therefore it will be necessary for this House to give him some rest in between, so that the House may have to adjourn at 4 or 4-30.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: May I suggest that the House should meet at 3 p.m. this afternoon and continue discussion on these Demands for Supplementary Grants? If I understood you rightly, it will be possible for you to occupy the Chair at 3 p.m. The other suggestion, that the Bretton Woods matter be taken up this afternoon, does not strike me as feasible or even right, because we shall have only a little time this afternoon and we shall have to resume the matter tomorrow. That really cuts into the debate on such an important subject. As we have already started discussing the Demands for Supplementary Grants; we might continue it this afternoon.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: We may meet at 3.

Mr. President: I shall have to be back at 3 if the House so desires. We might meet at 3 in that case and carry on with the Supplementary Demands instead of Bretton Woods.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Three of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Three of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: The other side raised the point of order.

Mr. President: We will take up that point of order later on. I wish to state my own understanding about what was being raised in the House when we adjourned with a view to enable the Honourable Members to lead me properly. If they know as to what I have understood, I think it will be better, so that I may be able to place their views to enable me to appreciate what they are saying. But as the Honourable the Deputy President is not here just now, we will take up that point later on.

There are certain cut motions under this demand. We will clarify the point about those cut motions first and then take up this point. I understood the Honourable the Deputy President to oppose the demand, it is perfectly competent for him to do so. But before I come to that, on the point of order raised by the Honourable the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party—that was about the budget or the grants and the details not being supplied to the Members—, I am afraid there is some misunderstanding about it. I have with me two volumes. One is the proceedings of the meeting of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways wherein all these items, which are the subject-matter of supplementary demands are mentioned. I find that at the end of each item, there is also a decision of the Committee recorded. I may state by way of example. It is said: "The approval of the Committee is requested". Then, with regard to the first demand it is said "A supplementary demand for 5 lakhs odd is to be placed before the Assembly under this head for 1945-46." The same is the case with other demands. It is said: "the Committee approved a supplementary demand for Rs. so and so being placed before the Legislative Assembly and so on." This was circulated along with some other papers on the day the Honourable the War Transport Member delivered his Budget speech. There is also another leaflet which contains these supplementary demands for grants and which was circulated a few days back. I do not know exactly the date on which it was circulated to the Honourable Members; and the Honourable Members were requested to preserve that copy for their use in the Chamber. So, I was not able to appreciate the point of order that information was withheld by the Honourable Member or that it was not given by him. May I know if there is anything else to be said on this point?

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: So far as the question of the supplementary demands is concerned, I can say straightaway that it is contained in the two leaflets that have been circulated. The first thing that I was really saying was that before we took up the budget of the next year, we ought to have been able to dispose of the supplementary demands, whether they are in respect of excess or in respect of new undertakings. There may be a new undertaking and the Government may want to come to us for a supplementary grant. In this instance, although the Honourable the Railway Member says he is following the practice of previous years, I fear a reverse procedure has been adopted. The budget for the next year was taken first and after its conclusion the supplementary demands have come up, which relate to the past and not to the future.

As regards the second point, all I wanted to know was whether these particular demands here related to excess or new undertakings. Perhaps two words would suffice in respect of each one. Take, for instance, the first demand—the Railway Board. They could use the word "excess" or something else. Here are for instance, two or three demands which run into figures of the order of 2 crores and 70 lakhs and so on. I do not find any indication there whether these big items relate to new undertakings or excess. If it is excess, then plainly our approach will be one. If it is in respect of new undertakings, one would have to look at it from another point of view. Naturally, an excess of

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this nature would be preposterous. We had already granted a certain sum in respect of a certain department or in respect of certain activities of the department and then you suddenly spring upon us a surprise of 3 crores. That will be a different matter altogether. So, I simply wanted to know whether it would not have been right to have taken this up before the next year's budget was presented to us and whether it would not be right for them to indicate here whether these items relate to excess or to new undertakings. Of course some of my Honourable friends who are in charge of this subject may have something more to say. I am making these remarks only from a superficial point of view.

Mr. President: The point really comes to one of better convenience in the matter of arrangement of the business of the House rather than a point of order in which something irregular or something illegal has been done. It is urged, that for the sake of convenience, things should be arranged in such a manner that the supplementary demand should come before the Budget is presented for the next year, and that, in the agenda paper some further explanation should be given, much more than what is given at present. So far as the supplementary demands are concerned, we find they come in that little book which is supplied to Honourable Members. In the foot note, facts are mentioned as to why these are required and the explanation is found in the proceedings of the Railway Standing Finance Committee. So a reference to these two books will clarify the whole situation. I understand the Honourable Member's position is that in preparing the agenda, it will be better if some kind of indication is given. That is a matter for the arrangement of the agenda paper. It is not a matter of point of order. So the matter ends there.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: There are two brief observations which I wish to make. As regards the question whether the supplementary demands for the current year should come before the next year's budget, I think, I have been following the procedure which has been prevailing in this House. I am certainly under the impression that that has always been the practice. Whether the House wishes it to be done the other way and whether we can accommodate ourselves, I shall consider later on. That seems to me to be a matter of great importance but I will consider it. On the second point whether the agenda paper should be altered, I submit that the agenda paper is really a summary to cover the formal business of the House covering all the figures which are put forward in the supplementary demands and the proceedings of the Railway Standing Finance Committee. If we print up on the agenda paper all these details which my Honourable friend asks, it would become very voluminous but I will consider whether we can improve the foot notes in the way my Honourable friend desires.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Some indication as to where we can get the necessary information.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is given here in the Supplementary Demands for Grants. There is a reference in each case to the headings of the Standing Finance Committee.

Mr. President: The point is merely a matter more or less of convenience to be adjusted by mutual discussion. There may be number of other suggestions to improve the agenda paper. In the paper itself there is a reference to the two books, the budget and the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways. How it can be improved is a matter which can be settled outside.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Last year this supplementary demand for 82 lakhs was under Demand No. 6-G. As is clear from the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee, page 116, it was afterwards transferred to Demand No. 6-E. Now, Sir, in the present year's presentation of the Budget, it is under Demand No. 12. There it has been shown as revised figure of Rs. 1,18,68,000.

Mr. President: That would be a different point. I do not think we should mix up the two.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: The point I am urging is why these financial improprieties are committed.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: May I suggest that these little items which lead to misunderstanding can be cleared up. Last year two items were put forward under Demands for Grants for current years budget. The first was for 6,83,000 under Demand No. 12 and the other was for 82 lakhs under 6-G.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: I would ask my Honourable friend to refer to page 106 of the Demands for Grants for 1946-47. Under the head 'Investment in Road services', budget estimate 1945-46, nothing is shown. It is shown in the accounts for 1944-45 as 6,83,000. There was nothing in 1945-46.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Quite right, it appeared in the revised estimates for the previous year, 1944-45. The 82 lakhs were for services run by the railways—it had nothing to do with the investment in road services, that is road-rail companies,—to be operated by railways direct or on mileage schemes for the relief of traffic. That figure of 82 lakhs was eventually passed and we have spent only about 23 lakhs. Before we could spend the whole of the 82 lakhs, two things happened, first of all the end of the war came and we did not enter on the expenditure, and secondly the road-rail investment schemes developed and we thought it better not to spend that money on current schemes relating to war traffic but to concentrate particularly on long term road-rail company schemes. The sum of 82 lakhs would still appear under the old heading of 6-G. I think this 6,83,000 appeared under Demand No. 12 together with the increased demand under the budget figure for the next year.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: This appears on page 106 of these Demands for Grants, the budget of which we have just passed.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: On page 166 of the proceedings of the Railway Standing Finance Committee, this sum appears under Demand No. 12.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: Sir, my point is that as this Demands for Grants show that in the budget which this House passed, there was no provision made last year, *i.e.*, in 1945-46, and therefore no supplementary expenditure could be met under this head, and anything which has been incurred as an expenditure in the revised budget has certainly not been discussed by this House and this is the opportunity for the House to discuss it. Whatever the House has voted before is for next year and any money which has been spent during the current year and which was not provided for in the budget of last year should have come before this House for sanction or it must have been placed before the Standing Finance Committee for Railways. But nothing has been done. What I gather, from the Honourable Member's remarks is that because in the open line works, there was some provision made for it, and because other items had been scrutinised and passed by the House and by the Standing Finance Committee, after examination, therefore this sum has not been included as supplementary demand. But, I submit, Sir, that that money has been voted for a certain object. Now, Sir, the head 'Open Line Works' means railway open line works, and not open lines of road-rail transport, a new venture in which railways might enter later on or participate in new companies. That can never be. The attempts seems to be not to get the sanction of this House on this demand. If a new item of a quite different nature had to be met, that should have been fully explained to the Standing Finance Committee and later on to the House. If that was not done because the Standing Finance Committee was not in existence at that time, the best course would be to come with a supplementary demand. But I find no supplementary demand for Demand No. 12. I asked the Honourable Member whether he was coming up with a supplementary demand and he said, no, because it came within grant No. 12 last year. But it never came, and I have shown that last year's budget does not show that anything was to be spent on road-rail co-ordination. It may have been in 1944-45 but no vote was taken on it in 1945-46. Even if the House did vote 6 lakhs it is a small amount as compared to 225 crores. Now the Honourable Member comes and says he has incurred a huge expenditure of 118 lakhs. The House must take cognisance of

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this kind of thing. If on a provision of 6 lakhs he can spend 118 lakhs, next time he may have a grant of Rs. 2,000 and then he may come and say that he has spent 20 crores. This is treating the House very badly; probably they thought this side to be without brains and they would get a free hand to spend public money as they like. It may also be that there is some weakness, and it gives suspicion that the Honourable Member has not got anything to face this House; his hands are not clear because this money must have been spent in an unjustifiable manner, otherwise he would come boldly. What was the harm in placing this expenditure of 118 lakhs before the Standing Finance Committee? Probably the lorries or chassis had been purchased, but what was the price paid? Did they pay the market price or four times the price? One argument was that a single individual expenditure below 20 lakhs did not come to the Standing Finance Committee. According to this, expenditure on one engine which costs 2 or 3 lakhs will not come up before the Committee and they can therefore buy any number of engines and locomotives because each locomotive costs less than 20 lakhs and they will never come before this House. In this way they can place orders for even 50 crores outside this country and then say that the Assembly agreed to the principle and sanctioned it. The Honourable Member wants to take advantage of this by saying that the House allowed him to go ahead as if the House allowed him to spend any amount of money. But that was never the idea. It was intended that the expenditure must be incurred in the proper form, that is, after taking sanction for every penny from the Standing Finance Committee. And if the Financial Commissioner did not come before the Standing Finance Committee it shows that people there have some kind of weakness in their case, and I suspect that the money had been misappropriated and for that a thorough inquiry is required. And that thorough inquiry cannot be made unless we reject this demand. If my Honourable friend is powerful enough to treat the House like this I want to send him to a still more powerful authority, the Governor General, by rejecting this demand. If the demand is justified the Governor General will certify it, otherwise he will treat him properly, and send it back to us. If he has got constitutional power we have got it too, and if he tries to ignore the House we will also try to ignore him. I say we will not pass any supplementary grant until the supplementary grant on demand No. 12 also comes before us. My Honourable friend may say it is an excess only. I have shown that it is not an excess but a new expenditure; but even if it had been an excess we find all the excesses have come from the 1st to the 11th and only the 12th has been left out. That is because the Honourable Member knew that the House is strongly against road-rail co-ordination and felt that the expenditure was being incurred without authority. So it is being kept back and all the legal heads who can give wrong advice in the matter of finances have been consulted. The House will keep an eye on this and if the House is not treated properly we will have another opportunity on the Finance Bill which will be treated as it has been treated in past years, which the Honourable Member knows very well. It will be thrown out on this issue if demand No. 12 is not brought up now. The Honourable Member must place his cards on the table and treat the House properly. I oppose the demand and I hope the House will reject it.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Sir, I think it will help to clear matters—if my Honourable friend wishes to be clear—if I speak now; and I must seek the protection of the Chair in this matter because my Honourable friend has used disgraceful language. He has accused this department of misappropriation and the Honourable Member talks about financial irregularity, keeping back matters from the House, concealing facts, taking advantage of the situation and saying that there are weaknesses in our case,—all of which I strongly resent and strongly deny. My Honourable friend asked in some previous debate whether this matter would be coming before the House and I gave a straightforward reply that this item of 118 lakhs would not come up because it came under demand No. 12 for which no supplementary demand

was necessary. He did not seem at the time to appreciate the procedure that has been adopted in this House certainly for the last four years. And I very much welcome the opportunity of clearing the air and dealing with this matter of how the budget is presented to the Standing Finance Committee and the House. I welcome the opportunity of clearing up the position about this 118 lakhs but I do strongly resent the various things imputed to me and my department because they are unjust and incorrect.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: Sir, on a point of personal explanation, I made it clear that I had a suspicion because it has not been placed before us. I don't say that the Honourable Member's Department has misappropriated, but somebody has misappropriated and my Honourable friend's department is trying to conceal it.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: There is nothing to conceal and I have placed all the facts in front of the House. If the Honourable Member had asked for the facts at the Standing Finance Committee stage he would have got them; if he had asked in the course of debate on the subject, he would have got them, but as he did not ask on those two occasions and he has asked for them now, I welcome the opportunity. It may take a little time, but in order to avoid any misunderstanding in the future, I would like to explain the work of the Standing Finance Committee. The Standing Finance Committee was set up under the Resolution of 1943. As regards its functions, the Resolution reads:—

"The Railway Department shall place the estimate of railway expenditure before the Standing Finance Committee for Railways on some date prior to the date for the discussion of the demand for grants for railways and shall, as far as possible, instead of the expenditure programme revenue show the expenditure under a depreciation fund created as per the new rules for charge to capital and revenue."

Mr. President: May I intervene for a minute at this stage. I was just considering whether I should intervene in this debate or not, but I think I must do so just with a view to see if any kind of bitterness in the controversy can be avoided or reduced. It appears to me, if I have correctly understood the Honourable the Deputy President, that the gravamen of the charge does not consist of anything being done against any particular rule or regulation, but it is alleged that there has been an abuse of powers of re-appropriation from one head to another—and it is said that it may not be; then is only a suspicion. I think a mere legal discussion over powers under the rules will not perhaps clear the position. The power of appropriating money from one sub-head to another, ordinarily of course, nobody would question.

But that power has not been properly used—I should not say even abused;—and the Convention, that any one item at the time of reappropriation which exceeds Rs. 20 lakhs should be brought before the Standing Finance Committee, has been got round by splitting the items of expenditure into smaller items, so that each item is less than 20 lakhs of rupees and yet the total goes far above that. So it is not so much a question, to my mind of the procedure or the powers under rules and regulations but a question of a sort of feeling, that the whole thing is so arranged that while the Government may be absolutely within their powers in the matter of reappropriation and not coming before the Standing Finance Committee, because the item does not exceed 20 lakhs of rupees, they have done this for not coming before this House with a Supplementary Grant. That seems to be the point. I merely wanted to make it clear so that the Honourable Member may proceed on that assumption.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I appreciate that point, Sir, but I do not intend to produce any heat; I did not start this argument. I think actually we have done precisely the opposite. We put these figures together —and as you know, Sir, it is 118 lakhs—whereas we could have separated them into a few lakhs each and hidden them away under the different Railway Demands, but we have not done that. We put it openly and squarely in front of the House. But I may say that it would be advantageous if I could make a statement on this matter because I think it will help in the future.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Why not the Honourable Member consider . . . . .

Mr. President: Let him finish.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I would like to answer questions afterwards.

This was the paragraph of the Convention covering the Standing Finance Committee which I just read out. Then, as a matter of practice, successive Chairman agreed to various other things being placed before the Committee, including all proposals for the construction of new lines, all proposals to purchase railway lines, all projects of open line works the expenditure on which exceeds twenty lakhs, works rolling stock and machinery programme of railways, and all proposals for the creation of permanent gazetted posts on railways; and in addition the Chairman kept the Standing Finance Committee posted with important problems of finance. Each of these items, as I have mentioned, are below 20 lakhs of rupees, and could have been shown under separate railways. I will come to that question in a minute. In addition to that all details of open line works costing over one lakh are shown in the pink books which are circulated with the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee . . . .

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): What page?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: They are in the proceedings.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I have gone through the proceedings, and I don't find them there.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: May I show you afterwards?

All these facts were put before the Standing Finance Committee at the end of January before they were all printed up ready for the Members of the House, and they were then subsequently sent to every Member, so that nothing is in fact concealed. The figure of 118 lakhs is there and everybody can see it.

The complaint is that Demand No. 12 is not brought before the House. As everybody knows, the Grants are set before the House under 12 headings with various sub-heads 6-A, B, C, D and so on, and supplementary grants. And this Grant No. 12 was for the current year 1945-46 for 32 crores and on the revised figures it is Rs. 29,25,00,000, and this particular item of rail-road companies comes under this, so that no more money is required under that head.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: It is being transferred from some other head.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is not being transferred, Sir. It comes into it fresh for reasons I will give in a minute.

We have spent Rs. 2,75,00,000 less than we expected, and therefore we don't come to the House for a supplementary grant; we don't need it.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: In this Demand there are different heads and in this head there was no money.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I will come to that, Sir.

Mr. President: Let him proceed. He will come to that.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: That is the railway way!

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The position of these Grants is this. Any difference on the main grant is, by practice, available for reappropriation to another head within that grant provided the policy has been approved by the Legislature. That is the financial procedure which is adopted and always has been adopted. If on the other hand you go ahead with a policy which is not approved by the House then the House can quite rightly question that and so can the Public Accounts Committee

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: Is it open lines? Motor cars running on the roads—does that come under open line works?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: There are two heads of capital expenditure: one is new construction and the other is open lines and what is not new construction is inserted under open lines. I am glad to have this opportunity to state the facts because my Honourable friend thinks that there is some hanky-panky but we are following the ordinary procedure. This was the case in the previous year for the grant of 6·83 lakhs. I think that being the financial procedure, which is the practice of the Standing Finance Committee in the House and of Government, the question arises whether the policy is a new one or not and whether it has been approved or not. This policy of rail-road companies and road development is not a new one. We have been on the roads since 1938 in a small way, following, as I mentioned in another connection, the Wedgwood Committee's recommendations to get on the road. So there is nothing new in that sense. It was in abeyance during the war because we could not get the vehicles and it was not a desirable policy to spend at that moment. In 1944 as a result of the rail-road experts report we proceeded with the development of road transport and there was a good deal of discussion at the time and eventually in pursuance of that we interested ourselves in 1944 in the two C. P. companies. It was not a new policy and we put it before the House who voted it in the supplementary demand of 6·83 lakhs in last year's budget, also the 82 lakhs for current war time service, which, as I explained previously, were the only two amounts which appeared in that year's budget. At that stage my Honourable friend took exception to the expenditure of 82 lakhs for current road service under the misunderstanding between the two sides of the House that this 82 lakhs was in fact for post-war companies. That matter was cleared up and it was explained that the only amount at that stage for post-war service was the 6·83 lakhs and the 82 lakhs applied to war time services. Then, Sir, the 82 lakhs was thrown out and my position was that we wanted to develop services for war time and it was obvious that the House wanted a full discussion to settle a policy on the post-war road-rail schemes. In pursuance of that I had several meetings with the leaders and other Members and eventually I produced a draft of a speech which first of all explained how the 82 lakhs was going to be spent and then went on to set out our post-war policy. That was agreed to by the leaders and I put it before the House and the House passed it.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: Restored it.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The House restored the 82 lakhs. But my Honourable friend will admit the speech consisted of two parts. Part I explained what the 82 lakhs was and part II dealt with post-war policy. At the end of part II I said: "If the House accepts the supplementary grant, I will assume the House gives general agreement to the policy." I went on to say: "If the House is prepared to back up its policy, this Government can embark on it as trustees for the future . . . . A new era of transport and development of road-rail co-ordination will be inaugurated in the general interest of the country." On that we took it that the House approved of the policy. It could not be anything much clearer on that. The leaders of the Parties agreed. I made a formal speech which was agreed to by them in advance. I put it to the House and the House agreed to it.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: Up to 6 lakhs.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I would just like to clear one point. They approved the policy.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: Up to 6 lakhs.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, they approved the 6 lakhs. I would like to make one point clear. My Honourable friend said the other day that we had undertaken to put all the details before the Standing Finance

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Committee and he purported to quote from the same speech. What I said was that:

"The principle is fully accepted by Government (the principle of having no managing agents) but it is possible that certain Provincial Governments on certain railways may have already gone so far with negotiations on rail-road transport interests that they are to a large degree committed to managing agents. I undertake that any case remaining over will be specifically placed before the Standing Finance Committee of the Railways for their approval."

That I did and I did not undertake to put every single detail before them.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: If the Honourable Member reads his speech further up he will find he said: "I will keep the Committees of the House fully informed as to the progress".

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I said that I would keep the House informed. Let us pursue the history. After the House agreed to this policy I myself toured the provinces to try to bring them to this policy and subsequently we had further meetings in October of the Transport Advisory Council, discussed the whole policy and reached a measure of agreement with most of the provinces. In the course of that time we gradually evolved a policy and about October or thereabouts we started looking into the new budget to see what money we should have to spend in fulfilling the policy which had been agreed upon. Then, Sir, there was no Standing Finance Committee in October and so we could not put anything before them. We placed the facts before the Standing Finance Committee at the end of January, which was the first occasion on which we could do so.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: This point did not come up.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: But we placed all the facts.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: Not the one crore and eighteen lakhs expenditure.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir. That figure was placed before the Standing Finance Committee and they are in the papers that are printed.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: The Honourable Members are there.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I cannot argue on that fact. As you, Sir, said the charge is that we have not got a token grant and that we spent too much before coming to the House. Well, Sir, my Honourable friend and I think also you, would have liked each item to be put before the Standing Finance Committee. I have already explained that according to the previous practice it has not been the custom to place items under 20 lakhs before the Standing Finance Committee with a special memorandum and certainly regard each of those items as well below 20 lakhs. But we did place the total figure, which catches the eye, before the Standing Finance Committee.

I maintain, Sir, that there was nothing irregular and that the grant was in order.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I suggest an enquiry committee to see whether the Honourable Member is correct or the Members of the Standing Finance Committee are correct?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: If you would take the trouble to refer to the proceedings, you would be able to see . . . .

Mr. President: I might just point out that this item of 1,18,68,000 finds a place at page 166 of the proceedings of the meeting of the Standing Finance Committee. That comes under the supplementary grant. I believe the Honourable Member is referring to the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee. Am I right?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir.

Mr. President: In the proceedings, this item does find a place. It is very difficult for Honourable Members to read through the various statements of

figures It is possible these figures might have escaped their attention. The present point is as to whether these matters were placed before the Committee or not. Honourable Members would do well to make themselves sure on this.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: May I just finish my speech, Sir. What is really worrying my Honourable friends is that they have not had an opportunity of discussing this particular amount.

Mr. President: Their attention has not been particularly invited to it.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: The proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee only show that the budget came up before the Committee and they had to pass it because it was to be presented to this House. At that stage they had neither to say Yes nor No. It was only presented and that is what is shown at page 166. It is not shown that the Committee had the opportunity to discuss and whether the 118 crores was approved or not. That must come as a separate item.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar (Bombay Southern Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, the point appears to be that this original demand for 82 lakhs was presented duly at the time of the budget or at the time of the supplementary demands. There was a full discussion in this House last year. The point about spending for rail-road co-ordination was not raised so far as I can see from the debates of the House. Of course the Honourable Member is entirely correct when he said that in view of the agreement between the different parties of the House, he took it that it enabled him to go ahead but he seems to have understood that that going ahead included also the spending ahead which should come up at a later stage. That was not meant by the House. It was clearly understood that that 82 lakhs was required for a purpose which was entirely different from the development of rail-road co-ordination. All that the House could be understood to have authorised the Honourable Member is to go ahead but that going ahead, according to my Honourable friend's conception, is going much longer ahead than was intended by the House. I think the debates of the House last year do not exactly give the authority to go ahead so far as expenditure is concerned.

Mr. President: I think we are again relapsing back into the old discussion about the interpretation of the intentions. That is not the present point. The point that is sought to be made out is whether these facts were placed before the Standing Finance Committee or not. That is the simple point. Interpretation is an entirely different matter; and with reference to the first point the Honourable the Railway Member is pointing out that this particular figure does find a place in the statements placed before the Standing Finance Committee. That is how I understand the point. Am I correct?

Mr. A. C. Turner: That is correct, Sir. There was a great deal of discussion on the road-rail investments and in particular on the amount of 3,48 lakhs provided in the budget. The amount provided in the revised estimates was in juxtaposition to the budget provision and was referred to in the body of the memo on Demand No. 12. It was obviously in the mind of every member of the Standing Finance Committee.

Mr. President: I do not think that statements as to what is in the minds of other people can be put.

(The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall rose in his seat.)

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: How many speeches will the Honourable Member make? Others should also have a chance.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Could I tell the House, Sir, what I believe the position really was. I think at the back of my Honourable friends' minds is the idea that we are trying to get away with something contrary to the policy which the House has expressed. My Honourable friend nods his head. I think that is really what is at the back of his mind. The position is that when we came to make up our budget towards the end of last year we originally included in our estimate a total of 149 lakhs as being the money likely to be required in fulfilment of the policy of the Government and

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the House. That was made of a number of separate items. I will read out some of them.

O. T. Railway, Lucknow	11 lakhs
Kashmir	4 ,,
Kulu Valley	4 ,,
Madras T. V. S. scheme	9 ,,

and so on.

I need not read them all out. And eventually after going through the schemes we came to the conclusion that we should not require the whole of the 149 lakhs and on further investigation we put in the figure of 118 lakhs and that was the figure which we have been discussing. The House would also like to know how much of that we have actually spent. I am not yet in a position to say, because that has been spent by different railways and I am not sure how far they have spent.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: You may go on spending what you may not have spent now.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I wish the Honourable Member would not anticipate what I am going to say. That is precisely the point which is in the mind of my Honourable friend. He is suspicious that we are going to do something contrary to the desire of the House. There will be no new commitment. The Department has been asked to find out how far each railway was committed. I frankly do not know. When I do know I will be very pleased to tell the House and the Standing Finance Committee. I do not know how far they are committed, because action is taken by each individual railway. They have been communicated with, or will be immediately communicated with, to find out how far we are committed.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Surely you would have sanctioned some amount for each railway.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir. We have told the railways to go ahead. We have told them to get ahead with the purchase of lorries to have them ready for the purpose of running these bus services. As I mentioned previously, there are, I think, 500 vehicles in the process of being prepared for the road companies and 180 of those are in Bombay. That, Sir, is the position we are in rightly or wrongly. That is the action we are taking. We shall not incur any new commitments and we shall close down on the old commitments in so far as we can but we have a legal obligation, and as to the question how to handle this, as I said before, I will look into that and advise the House what the position is when I know.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: My friend might clearly understand the position without going into what happened in the Standing Finance Committee. Take the facts as they are.

The House and the country had disapproved the present scheme of rail-road co-ordination. When the Honourable Member came forward with the demand for the scheme before the House, the House rejected the demand altogether. But he adopted a novel method. He called the leaders of parties to his room and made them consent to his scheme, the scheme which has been rejected by the House. That is the background which we all resented.

When the scheme came before the House last year I wanted to make a speech. But the leaders had already accepted it and therefore I had to sit down and suppress my speech. But now when we went round the country for election—and I had to tour about half of the United Provinces—every one condemned the present scheme of co-ordination of rail and road. When it came before the House this year we rejected it. What is the use of bringing it in by the backdoor in a supplementary grant when the Honourable Member knows that the House and the whole country does not like it? What is the use of bringing out this conundrum of the Finance Committee and this and that—that it was done here and placed there? The fact

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that you have spent so much already has got no force: because if you have spent a lakh of rupees already and you propose to spend another 2 crores saying that after we have lost a few lakhs we will lose a few crores is wrong. What is the use of putting this into our mouth when we have said several times that we do not want it. I asked several times that we should have a discussion about this scheme of rail-road co-ordination—whether the present co-ordination is the correct one and whether it has the support of the country and the legislature. A scheme which has not got the support either of the country or of the legislature is absolutely wrong. And to put it into our mouths and ask us to swallow it is also absolutely wrong. My Honourable friend must realise that we are going to give permission to continue this co-ordination scheme devised as at present: it is not in the best interests of the country and it is certainly not in the best interests of road competition. I am in favour of having some form of co-ordination but not co-ordination of the type that my Honourable friend is forcing down our throats and saying we must swallow it. We cannot do it. The same thing will happen in the case of the air also. We have accepted there also a policy at present, but we cannot possibly accept it in future: we have committed ourselves to a large extent and when it comes before the legislature we will pass it. But I will say this. We are all in favour of co-ordination of rail, road and air. But it should be in a co-ordinated form: it should be a thought out scheme and the idea that only some capitalists have thought out a scheme in their own interests, leaving out the poor people altogether, will not work. You must take into confidence the travelling public who will use that form of transport and the smaller man whose interests we have at heart: some may not have, but the majority of the elected members here have the interests of the poor people at heart. Take into account their interests also and the interests of the country as a whole. This scheme should be thought out. This method of putting it into our mouth in an indirect way is not the correct policy. Therefore I do request the Honourable Member to drop his scheme of co-ordination altogether and not spend any more money on it and not to ask for a revision until we have had time to discuss the whole scheme hereafter and for the present let us drop the whole thing altogether.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Sir, this procedure by the Railway Department is, at any rate, irregular. I do not suggest at this stage that there was some intention in doing this, so as to mask the appropriation of Rs. 1,18,68,000 under one demand or the other to avoid a straight vote of the House on the rail-road co-ordination scheme. Last year when the demand for 82 lakhs was made, it was made under demand 6-G. Then in the budget it was transferred to demand 6-E; and in the budget estimates presented this year the excess amount spent, namely, Rs. 1,18,68,000, is shown in demand 12. Now, at page 106 you will find that the budget estimate for 1945-46 is *nil*. So, if there was nothing granted under the original estimate, and in the revised estimate if the amount is shown as Rs. 1,18,68,000 it is obviously a new service for which there must be an appropriate Demand. Then it must come before the House not by way of excess grant but by way of supplementary grant or additional grant. It has been argued by the Honourable the Railway Member that he can appropriate a sum from one head to another head. That is not so. The appropriation permitted is between sub-heads under one head. Here are three heads—Demand E, Demand G, and Demand 12. If his argument were to be taken to its logical end, then any amount can be transferred from one Demand to another—from 12 to 1, and from 1 to 12. Then, where is the propriety of dividing the railway expenditure into 12 or 13 or 14 demands? The division is made because there must be some control of the House: the House should have an opportunity to scrutinise and see for itself not only that the amount granted is well spent but spent according to the vote of the House. That is why these heads are classified. So, I submit that his interpretation that he has got the power to spend as he likes is wrong. Further in the proceedings before the Standing

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Finance Committee for Railways there has been no mention about this, in the sense that it was not pointed out to the members as to how this big amount was appropriated. My friend, Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena wrote a letter to Mr. Turner, the financial conscience of the Railway Board. It is:

"I have been waiting for your note on the reappropriation of Rs. 1,18,68,000 under head Investment in Road Services. I have looked into the proceedings of the Railway Finance Committee but I find it was never brought to its notice."

The reply is:

"This matter is being investigated and I shall be in a position to let you know the exact position in a few days."

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: What date was this?

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Today. You accept it as genuine? Mr. Turner himself does not know from what sub-head this was appropriated. . .

Mr. A. C. Turner: That was not the question which I thought was put to me in this note. The question put to me was as to the amount of the liabilities which we had incurred and I was not in a position to give Mr. Saksena the details of the liabilities which we had incurred for the reasons which the Honourable the Railway Member has given just now to the House. While I am on my feet may I explain one other point? The Honourable the President is little doubtful whether this item was brought to the notice of the Standing Finance Committee. I agree that no specific memorandum on this item was placed before the Standing Finance Committee; but not only did that figure appear in the annexure to the Demand for grant No. 12, but it was also referred to in the body of the memorandum on demand No. 12. At page 162 you will find a specific reference to it under Demand No. 12—in the para. about the revised estimates for 1945-46. There it is mentioned "A sum of 1,19 lakhs has been provided for investment in Road Services." Further I may add that it is quite beside the point as to how it came about that savings occurred under demand No. 12 which were available for re-appropriation. That money became available within the grant and it was within the competence of General Managers to re-appropriate that amount to any other purpose which had the support of this House. (*Honourable Members*: "No, no".)

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: Can the Honourable Member give money voted for engines, to building railway stations for that amount?

Mr. A. C. Turner: The programme of rolling stock is put separately before the Standing Finance Committee in July each year in advance of the presentation to the Standing Finance Committee of the budget as a whole. That is done because if we put the whole of the budget before the Standing Finance Committee at one stage the amount of work would be overwhelming. For determining whether a special memorandum should be put before the Standing Finance Committee we do not add together all items of the same kind on each railway and then present a memo. if the total exceeds 20 lakhs: Only individual items under Open Line Works which exceed 20 lakhs are mentioned in separate memo. Sir. The point is that all expenditure comes before the Standing Finance Committee, although special memoranda are prepared only for individual items the cost of which exceeds 20 lakhs.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: The point is that this is a big amount. Under one pretext or another it has not been brought before the House for a vote on it, because it represents a certain policy. According to him it was accepted. According to me, it was not accepted. I will not go into the details or interpret the vote. Enough for me to say that he knows very well that there was a great deal of opposition. Therefore I am driven to say that there was an attempt to avoid a vote of the House on this big amount of one crore, 18 lakhs and 68 thousands. If he had come with a supplementary grant, then this House would have certainly scrutinised it, because a supplementary grant must undergo the same process of scrutiny and criticism which the original budget undergoes. This House, under the present Act, has only limited power

and if what little power we have to scrutinise the expenditure is sought to be curtailed under the pretext of mere irregularity or misinterpretation of the rules, I submit that the House must show its resentment by throwing out the entire supplementary demand which the Honourable Member has asked for under the head 'Railway Board'.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Mr. President, I want to lay before the House a few points to enable it to judge whether there is anything hanky panky about this transaction or not. First of all I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that in the *ad hoc* committee's report it was pointed out in para. 6—During the discussions in the committee it transpired that certain commitments had already been made in the C.P. in connection with the managing agents. The majority of the Committee are of the opinion that this was in contravention of the aforesaid agreement and is irregular.

I am not disclosing the proceedings of the Committee but the Honourable the Railway Member in his note of dissent said that it was regular and it was hoped that when this thing was pointed out at least he would take the Railway Finance Committee into confidence but this was never brought to the notice of the Railway Finance Committee. On page 162 we find that although there is this provision the Railway Finance Committee has pointed out that future negotiations were settled only in the current year and a sum of Rs. one crore and 19 lakhs has been provided for investment in road services. It is only in the current year that this has been provided for. And then we come to the para. on page 163. An amount of 3·48 crores has been provided for investment in road services. My point is why were these two items put in there?

Then, Sir, I may point out that during the discussions of the demands my Honourable friend Mr. Gole raised that point and he said that last year only 82 lakhs had been provided and how was this amount spent. Then I took up this again with the Honourable the Railway Member and he said that because the agreement was there he could go on spending the money and he was not prepared to come either before the Standing Finance Committee or before this House. After that I gave notice to the Financial Commissioner that we were going to move for the total rejection of the supplementary grant and on that I was promised that I will have full information. This morning I sent a note saying that I have been expecting that explanatory note and I did not get it. On page 241 you will see that the committee wishes to reserve their opinion regarding the budget provision of 3 crores, 47 lakhs, 98 thousands for investment in road services until the *ad hoc* committee appointed by the Assembly had investigated the progress so far made. After the *ad hoc* committee had made a report, this matter was again taken up in the Finance Committee. The majority of the members pointed out that it was the duty of the Financial Commissioner or the Railway Member to have brought it to the notice of the Finance Committee and if they had done their part it might have been said that the members had neglected their duty in not scrutinising it properly. Neither in the Finance Committee nor in the *ad hoc* committee nor before this House has it been explained to us how this big sum of one crore 18 lakhs was spent.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have done it the first time I have been requested to do so.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: We have been at this for a long time. Under these circumstances we have no other alternative but to take the stand that my friend Sir Yamin Khan has taken. I am not revealing any confidential proceedings of the Committee and even there he pointed out that this was never brought to the notice of the Finance Committee. After all when there was a controversy about a particular item, I think it was the duty of the Government to have taken the members into confidence. If they had rejected it, they could have come before this House and asked for a vote of the House on this appropriation. I think the Honourable Member has not dealt with the House in the manner in which he is expected to deal.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Did the Honourable Member raise this point during the numerous meetings we have had? The answer is 'No'.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: I put this point to the Honourable Member—are you thinking of coming up with a supplementary demand before this House. The Honourable Member said—No. He says that in pursuance of the policy agreed to by the Leaders of Parties he was going ahead and going ahead involves investment to which we had committed ourselves. I said that the matter must come up before the Standing Finance Committee.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: On numerous occasions the matter was placed before the Standing Finance Committee since January last.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: No, Sir. I made several requests, not one that the matter should be brought up by the Financial Commissioner.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: It is unfortunate that what the War Transport Member has said is not quite correct. Nor is the statement of his lieutenant sitting behind him. Both myself and Sir Yamin Khan are members of the Standing Committee. There is a catch in the explanation which the Honourable the Financial Commissioner has given. He has taken a clue from an explanation which you tried to find out yourself. In any budget you know that the estimates for the coming year are placed before the House. In addition the revised estimates and the estimates for the current year are also placed as also the accounts for the previous year 1944-45. In that way for sanction of the future estimates, that is 1946-47, Demand No. 12 was placed before the Standing Finance Committee for Railways. At page 166 while placing before us the estimates for the next year, 1946-47, incidentally the previous year's revised estimate of 1,18 lakhs was also given here. You will see that wherever a definite statement is placed before the Standing Finance Committee and its approval is sought for, also with a view to place it before the Assembly, there has been no word wanted. You will kindly take Demand No. 1, page 2, where it is said: "The approval of the Committee is requested to a supplementary demand for Rs. 5,15,000." Wherever they want sanction for a supplementary demand being placed before the Assembly, the approval of the Standing Finance Committee is always sought for. But this was not said in Demand No. 12. Wherever they want to place a supplementary demand before the Assembly, the approval of the Standing Finance Committee is requested for a supplementary demand of so much amount which will be placed before the Assembly. But so far as this 1,18 lakhs is concerned, there is not a word said that a supplementary demand will be brought before the Assembly. What is brought before the House is the estimates for 1946-47 with a view to find out whether these estimates are true or proper. The previous accounts are given only for the purpose of comparison and not for the purpose of showing as to whether the previous expenditure had a sanction behind it or not. They did it on their own responsibility. Those things do not come before us. A huge book may be placed before us. In fact, the whole Library may be placed before us. Are we expected to know what the Library contains? It is their business to say that they want this and that they will bring a supplementary demand before the Assembly. Para. 2 on page 162 refers to the accounts of 1945-46, current year, and below it are the estimates for 1946-47. In para. 2 it is said that a sum of Rs. 1,18 lakhs is to be invested on road services. In the Explanatory Memorandum they have given as to what has taken place in the current year which is drawing to a close, so as to give us an indication as to what ought to be done in 1946-47. Even there it is not for the approval of the Standing Finance Committee or even for the approval of the House but it is only an explanation. Various other items may be mentioned. As a matter of fact, some works may run for a period of three or four years. An account is given as to what was done in the last year. But the point for consideration is what is to be done this year and it is only with respect to that that we will address ourselves. In the absence of a supplementary demand, I would respectfully submit all these explanations are only an after-thought. My Honourable friend says that it is true it was not thought of at the time of the Budget for 1945-46. At that time they could not think of road services. My Honourable friend did not even care to place it before the Standing Finance Committee or before the Assembly. I do not attribute motives to him because it is wrong to attribute motives, but these unfortunate facts lead us to this conclusion. I am not going to attribute motives to my Honourable friend. I will assume that it is a mistake, but it is a mistake which is committed regularly, every day and every time. I won't say it is a deliberate mistake, but it is a mistake. What amount was needed for this road-rail transport service? Even to this day my Honourable friend with a host of establishment behind him does not know what it is and what is the ultimate estimate or ultimate commitment to which this House will be committed? Now is he in a position to say what amount has been spent? He has yet to get information from the various administrations from Cape Comorin to the Himalayas. He, therefore, did not place the statement before the House. My friend Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan committed a mistake there. Having committed that mistake, he was under the impression that he could get hold of 82 lakhs not for this road-rail scheme but for running the buses in the Punjab. But the buses have been purchased and the money has been spent. He wanted to cut off the nose but he has cut off the ear. That is what has happened. My Honourable friend should remember that the Honourable the Finance Member will run up to the Governor General to restore the demand which he is trying to throw out. He wanted to make an image of Eswara but it actually turned out to be a monkey. Therefore, he wanted us to restore the amount, but it is an unusual procedure. We have never done it nor do the rules provide for it. We can give it only on one condition that he must come out with a scheme regularly. Are we not entitled to have the scheme, to have a say then and to have a say hereafter. Nothing was done. He placed a block scheme before us. It is true we admitted that the Leaders of Parties must put their signatures to that scheme. Under the Hindu law, if I sign a pro-note, my son is responsible for it, but sometimes the minors have the right to repudiate their father's obligations. Similarly, as a minor last year I kicked up a row. But ultimately we are bound by the discipline of our party and therefore we consented. What did that mean and what did the vote of the House mean? It is open to you to enter into this road-rail problem. Is it necessary for me to say that? It is necessary for me to co-ordinate the road not only with rail but also with sea and air. Therefore, I am not opposed to the scheme. Does that mean that you can mortgage all this property to somebody for thousands of crores of rupees without the vote of the Standing Finance Committee or the vote of the House? The scheme is there. I do approve of it. But I cannot allow you to spend the money recklessly. Is it not open to me to say that it is out of all proportion to what you require? Therefore, it is the Standing Finance Committee which alone can accept the principle of the scheme. Even after the principle is accepted with regard to the open line works, if the work costs more than 20 lakhs you bring that work before the Standing Finance Committee for approval. This scheme costs Rs. 1,18,00,000, which is six times as much and therefore six times the approval of the Standing Finance Committee is necessary. Therefore, it must have been placed before the Standing Finance Committee six times for their approval. Was it placed before them at least once? It was not done. And what is the explanation? Rightly it was thrown out and therefore there was an *ad hoc* Committee appointed by the House. We submitted ourselves to the conclusions of the *ad hoc* Committee. It was only day before yesterday that the *ad hoc* Committee drew up the demand for 3 crores odd.

Now, Sir, what remains is this 1,18,000. What I wanted to say by way of interruption when my Honourable friend was speaking was this. My Honourable friend thought it was interference unnecessarily and therefore he did not give way. What I wanted to say was there was no harm in bringing supplementary demands. They can be brought, even a mistake can be rectified

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fied. Last year you brought a supplementary demand for one crore 18 lakhs. Therefore you may ask what is the difference. What are you going to say which you and I have not already said. Is it not open to me to discuss the whole question again in the light of new developments? In the Central Provinces, you have mortgaged the entire revenues to two companies, one is Sir Sultan Chinoy . . . .

Mr. President: If the Honourable Member is likely to take long, we will adjourn now.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Yes, Sir, I shall take some considerable time, because the road is long.

Mr. President: When is this to be taken up again?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have not given my mind to the question of Supplementary Demands. We might get them through if the Bretton Woods debate is finished early tomorrow. We can continue this debate tomorrow. The difficulty now is we have only half an hour's time now before we take up the General Budget. The other days will be occupied with the General Budget and the Finance Bill.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Take your own time, but do not bring it up tomorrow.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Not tomorrow.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Towards the end of the session.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: You can bring the other supplementary demands in the meanwhile.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: By that time everything will have been forgotten.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: We will consider about this.

Mr. President: The result is we do not decide upon any date when this should be taken up.

We will adjourn for half an hour and meet again at Five of the Clock.

The Assembly then adjourned till Five of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled at Five of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

THE BUDGET FOR 1946-47.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member): Sir, Although I have not undertaken any intensive research to establish the fact, I imagine that I am the first Finance Mebmer to deliver his first Budget Speech in the knowledge that it will almost certainly be his last.

2. In the interval since my distinguished predecessor presented his sixth and final Budget, the international and domestic scene has been transformed. The monstrous ambitions of the Fascist dictatorships have been utterly destroyed and the peace-loving and democratic nations can look forward to the building of a new world in the confidence that for many years to come their plans will not be frustrated and set at naught by the threat of external aggression.

But though our external foes have been overthrown, the world, and particularly India, is still confronted by a whole array of dangerous and enduring enemies—poverty, squalor, ill-health, illiteracy, under-nourishment and under-employment; and of these the most formidable is poverty. If we can expel this adversary from our midst, we shall find no great difficulty in dealing with the allies who revolve round his axis.

3. Let us not deceive ourselves, however, into thinking that we can triumph over the forces thus drawn up against us without a supreme and combined endeavour. Victory will not be achieved without sustained effort, without sweat and tears, without money or without leadership. Almost the greatest of these is leadership, and at this point I shall refer to the only political issue which I propose to raise in the course of my speech. No army has encompassed the defeat of its enemies on the battlefield without faith and confidence in its

leaders. With all the earnestness at my command I add one more plea to the leaders on the benches opposite to co-operate with those on this side and with H.M.G. in finding an early solution to the political problem. I am conscious of the difficulties and am not insensible of the width of the gulf which has to be bridged, but it is my firm conviction that with toleration, restraint and good-will a solution can be found. What is certain is that for every day the solution is deferred, for so long will be postponed the attainment of India's destiny which is hers by right.

What I have said so far is merely to indicate in broadest outline what I conceive to be the aims of India's national long-term policy. Fiscal policy is merely one of the means to achieve national policy and in the proposals which I am about to submit to the House I have kept these long-term aims in mind. But necessarily and inevitably my proposals have been coloured and qualified by the conditions which have been created by the war and by its merciful termination earlier than any of us had dared to hope.

4. Let us pass these conditions under a brief review. While India has been spared the material destruction that has befallen many other countries, she has suffered in full measure, and in some directions in greater measure than others, the economic consequences of war. Her industrial equipment has been worked to the very edge of a breakdown and there is a large backlog of maintenance and replacement to be made good; more than that, the development of her economy and even her reconstruction are being delayed through her inability to obtain the necessary capital equipment owing to destruction and unsatisfied demands in the supplying countries. Civilian building has been almost entirely neglected for over five years, and this presses heavily on a country where the large annual increase in population and where growing industrial development require a continually expanding building programme. In India, as elsewhere, there have occurred large shortages of consumer goods, caused on the one hand by the failure of supplies from overseas and on the other by the diversion of a large part of her productive capacity to war purposes. Outstanding examples are textiles and foodgrains, though there are many other examples. I do not propose to dilate on the foodgrains situation, since that is only too well known to the House. Finally, as elsewhere, the purchasing power in the hands of the public has enormously increased and here, too, the consuming public is anxious to make effective use of its spending capacity. In other words, there are still pockets of inflationary forces which require to be closely watched and controlled.

5. In one important respect, however, the situation in India resulting from the cessation of hostilities differs from that in other important belligerent countries such as the United Kingdom and the United States of America. In largely agricultural countries such as India and the Middle Eastern States, war expenditure, though in absolute amounts much less than in the industrialised states of the West, has had a proportionately greater effect in stimulating the growth of the national income. It follows that, with the fall in war expenditure which is now inevitable, a greater proportionate effort will have to be made if the national income is not to fall too far below its war-level. In other words, deflationary tendencies will, in the absence of countervailing measures, begin to manifest themselves before very long. When I mention that the drop in defence expenditure on account of His Majesty's Government and the Government of India combined will be of the order of Rs. 600 crores next year as compared with the Budget this year, the House will realise how strong these tendencies will be. It must, therefore, be the object of the Government, in the coming year, with the help of the public and of the business community, to avoid the Scylla of increasing inflation and the Charybdis of too precipitate a deflation.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1945-46

Revenue

6. It is against this background that I now proceed to review the financial position for the current and the following years.

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Total revenue receipts are now expected to reach Rs. 860·66 crores, a decrease of Rs. 1·68 crores on the budget estimates.

Customs receipts are likely to improve by Rs. 9¼ crores as a result of larger imports. Under Central Excises, however, we expect a short-fall of approximately Rs. 2 crores from the Rs. 48·59 crores provided in the Budget.

Under Taxes on Income, we estimated a collection of Rs. 190·5 crores, Rs. 90 crores under excess profits tax and Rs. 100·5 crores under other taxes on income. We now place the revenue at Rs. 189 crores, the short-fall of Rs. 1½ crores occurring under ordinary income-tax. The divisible pool of income-tax is likely to amount to Rs. 55·94 crores and the share of the Provinces together with the carry over of Rs. 5·28 crores from the previous year, to Rs. 28·75 crores.

The revenue of the Posts and Telegraphs Department is now estimated at Rs. 32·84 crores, Rs. 96 lakhs more than the budget figure. Expenditure is placed at Rs. 22·17 crores, an increase of Rs. 2·14 crores, due mainly to post-budget decisions regarding war and dearness allowances. The anticipated surplus of Rs. 10·67 crores will accrue to general revenues.

The contribution from Railways to General Revenues has been taken at Rs. 32 crores as envisaged in the Budget Estimates.

Expenditure

7. *Defence Services.*—It has been customary during the war years for the Finance Member to give in this section of his speech a general review of the progress of the war and the activities of the Indian Defence Services both in India and abroad. Partly in order to reduce the length of my speech and partly because I feel that such a review would come more appropriately from the War Department I shall, on this occasion, confine myself to only such broad matters of policy as directly affect India's defence expenditure, leaving it to my Hon'ble friend, the War Secretary in the course of the budget debates, to give the House fuller and more detailed information on the administrative measures and other activities with which his Department is primarily concerned. I am circulating with the Budget papers an Explanatory Memorandum prepared by the War Secretary setting out in more detail the main administrative measures in the field of defence and giving details of the amounts provided in the defence Budget Estimates.

8. The outstanding events of the year were, of course, the unconditional surrender of Germany on the 7th May, followed, about four months later, by a similar surrender on the part of Japan. Though the latter event came about six months earlier than was generally expected, plans for the demobilisation of personnel of the Indian armed forces had been under active preparation for a considerable time before V-J Day and it was found possible to put these into operation at the beginning of October last. The number of personnel to be demobilised in India is well over a million and a half and no effort is being spared to speed up the rate of releases. It is a formidable task, which is complicated by transport difficulties and the uncertainties that must necessarily exist for some time regarding the ultimate size and composition of India's defence forces, but we expect it to be largely completed by the end of the coming financial year.

9. The actual discharge of personnel from the Indian armed forces represents, however, only one aspect of the process of demobilisation—using that term in its wider sense of the unwinding of war activities and the diversion of India's economic resources, both human and physical, from winning the war to the tasks of rehabilitation and development. Thus the defence authorities, besides dealing with the problem of the orderly release and repatriation of over one million and a half men from the fighting services, which includes the making of arrangements for the welfare of soldiers awaiting discharge and their education and preparation for civilian life, are directly concerned with the cancellation or reduction of their demands for stores of all kinds, the closing

or slowing down of munitions manufacture, the stoppage of building activity and the declaration of surplus stocks and the disposal of fixed assets no longer required for defence purposes. The complementary schemes and measures to ensure that the personnel and industrial resources thus set free are utilised as fully and speedily as possible for the recuperation and expansion of India's civil economy, are primarily the concern of the civil authorities both at the Centre and in the Provinces, though naturally, in view of the strong interest that the defence authorities have in the resettlement of defence personnel, they are constantly brought into consultation regarding these matters.

10. In view of the fact that by the middle of the year the war had ended, it may come as a surprise and disappointment to some that the revised estimate for the current year does not indicate a more substantial fall in the expenditure chargeable to India's defence estimates, as compared with the budget for that year. The budget estimate was Rs. 394·23 crores and the revised estimate is Rs. 376·42 crores. The explanation for this is to be found very largely in the heavy costs of war gratuities, special leave and other terminal benefits granted to personnel on discharge in addition to their pay and allowances and other maintenance expenses while awaiting discharge in India.

11. With effect from V-J Day (2nd September 1945) the supply of goods and services from the United States of America to the United Kingdom and other countries under Lend-Lease arrangements came to an end and from the same date those nations, including India, ceased to provide services and supplies for the U. S. Forces on Reciprocal Aid terms. It was agreed, however, as a matter of administrative convenience, that supplies and services through mutual aid channels should continue for a short time to be rendered on both sides, but on a cash repayment basis. A number of claims and counterclaims are arising between India and the United States of America on this account.

12. Another matter outstanding between India and the United States of America is the settlement of Lend-Lease and Reciprocal Aid, and the transfer to the Government of India *en bloc* of stocks and installations accumulated by the United States of America authorities in India during the war and now surplus to their requirements.

It is clearly necessary to arrive at an early understanding with the United States of America on these matters and the Government of India therefore welcomed a suggestion from the U. S. A. Government of their discussion at Washington. Two senior officers will accordingly be deputed to America for this purpose.

Civil Estimates

13. The revised civil estimates for the current year stand at Rs. 129·19 crores, an increase of Rs. 5¼ crores over the Budget figure. Civil expenditure connected with the war shows a fall of Rs. 7 crores, but this is more than offset by the provision under "Grants-in-aid" of a further subvention of Rs. 8 crores to Bengal. This further assistance is calculated to bring the total Central grant to Bengal to a figure representing roughly half the cost to the Province of the disastrous 1943 famine, and does no more than enable the Government of Bengal to break even on their revenue account to the end of 1945-46, when most other Provinces have been in a position to tuck something away for purposes of their post-war development. It is accompanied by a withdrawal of the Central Government's offer to meet half the losses involved in the rapid turnover of food stocks which was found to be necessary to prevent wholesale deterioration, and represents the last measure of special assistance which Bengal will require from the Centre as a result of the major calamity which was peculiar to that Province alone. For the rest, the increase in the Revised Estimates is due mainly to the strengthening of the Central revenue organisation and to expansion in a number of Departments, mostly those which are popularly called "nation building". I do not propose to refer here to individual variations since they are explained in the Explanatory Memorandum which accompanies the printed Budget Statement, and developmental

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expenditure will be dealt with separately later on in this speech. There are, however, one or two matters of general interest which I should like to mention in view of their bearing on Central expenditure.

14. The House will appreciate that the sudden termination of active hostilities did not end the difficulties and abnormalities of the country's economy which the war brought into being. In discharge of its responsibility for the economic health of the country, the Government has of necessity had to maintain the system of controls, both economic and financial, which was developed during the war, but although some of the controls have come to stay, since you cannot have a planned economy without some controls, the remainder are being, and will continue to be, withdrawn as soon as they have ceased to serve the purpose for which they were designed. Indeed, some 150 control measures have already been so withdrawn.

15. The work of the Supply Department, now that war-time procurement operations have ceased to be of primary importance, is being directed towards restoring the civil economy of the country. The department has been amalgamated with that of the Industries and Civil Supplies and the new department will deal mainly with the development of industries in accordance with the approved plans. During the first seven months of the current year the value of orders placed by the Supply Department was Rs. 107 crores compared with Rs. 162 during 1943-44. Latterly one of the main tasks of the department, however, has been to terminate war contracts already entered into and arrange for the disposal of surplus stores. By December 1945, existing contracts to the value of approximately Rs. 20 crores had been cancelled, while in other cases contractors were permitted to utilise the materials acquired by them for Government contracts for the production of goods required by the public. As a result of this policy, the amount of compensation paid has been very small and amounted to only Rs. 8 lakhs to the end of January, representing the final settlement of claims for contracts totalling over Rs. 13 crores. Some Rs. 8½ crores have also been received by the direct sale of surpluses. I have already referred to the negotiations which are taking place with the American authorities in connection with the disposal of U. S. A. surpluses in this country.

The future policy in regard to Ordnance factories has been laid down, and, as a purely short-term measure, the available spare capacity is being utilised for the production of civilian goods in short supply.

A Co-ordination Committee of Council has been appointed to ensure that the many complicated problems connected with the transition of India's economy from a war footing to a peace footing are effectively integrated and speedily dealt with. The Defence Department was wound up last month.

16. To summarise the whole budgetary position in 1945-46, the figures are these:

Original Budget.—Expenditure Rs. 517·63 crores, Revenue Rs. 362·84 crores, giving a revenue deficit of Rs. 155·29 crores.

Revised Budget.—Expenditure Rs. 505·61 crores, Revenue Rs. 360·66 crores, yielding a revenue deficit of Rs. 144·95 crores. The revenue deficit position has, therefore, improved to the extent of Rs. 10·34 crores.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1946-47

Revenue

17. I turn now to the financial year 1946-47. Before taking into account fresh taxation proposals and an adjustment to which I shall refer later, our total revenue estimates amount to Rs. 307 crores compared with Rs. 362·84 for the current year.

Customs receipts have been placed at the conservative figure of Rs. 65 crores net, which is the same as in the revised estimates for the current year; but with

an improvement in the shipping position and with the increasing availability of supplies from exporting countries receipts may well exceed this figure. Under Central Excise Duties, the estimates provide for Rs. 47·20 crores.

Now that war activities have ceased, we are allowing for a total revenue of Rs. 158 crores only under Corporation and Income-taxes. This includes an expected yield of Rs. 75 crores from excess profits tax. The divisible pool of income-tax has been taken at Rs. 46·79 crores and the share available to Provinces at Rs. 19·64 crores.

The revenue of the Posts and Telegraphs Department is expected to be Rs. 32·25 crores and expenditure Rs. 22·25 crores, inclusive of an extra contribution of Rs. 50 lakhs to the Renewals Reserve Fund. The surplus is estimated to be Rs. 10 crores.

In modification of the policy pursued during the war years, of taking the entire surplus of the Posts and Telegraphs Department to general revenues, it is proposed, for the coming year, that the contribution should be three-quarters of the surplus instead of the whole. The share which accrues to the Posts and Telegraphs Department will strengthen the resources available for expenditure on post-war schemes.

As regards the contribution from Railways, we are providing for Rs. 7·36 crores. This represents a drop in receipts by Central Revenues of nearly Rs. 25 crores. The House is already aware of the basis of this estimate from the Railway Budget recently presented.

Expenditure

18. *Defence Estimates.*—As already mentioned, general demobilisation will be in progress throughout the year 1946-47 and for this reason the defence estimates for that year are inflated by the abnormal expenditure arising out of that process. Provision has been made for the maintenance of an Indian contingent consisting of one Indian brigade, one R.I.A.F. squadron and two R.I.N. sloops, with ancillary and administrative units and formations, to be stationed in Japan during the year as part of the forces of occupation furnished by the United Nations. Apart from the great part played by her armed forces in the subjugation of the Japanese, India's representation amongst the forces of occupation is an appropriate and inevitable recognition of her international importance.

Some reduction in the estimate has resulted from the decisions to withdraw Japanese campaign pay, the further accrual of war service increments, and other war-time concessions, with effect from various dates in 1946-47.

19. It has been decided, after consultation with His Majesty's Government, that the Financial Settlement will remain in force until the 1st of April, 1947. In spite of much discussion on the subject both in this House and elsewhere some confusion of thought and misunderstanding still persist about the nature and intent of this Settlement. Three separate, though interconnected issues, are involved.

First, there is the principle in accordance with which expenditure on the armed forces of India is borne by the revenues of India and of the U. K. respectively. The principle is simple and is not new. It has been in force for many years. It is this: expenditure incurred for the purposes of India's own defence falls on India: the remainder falls on His Majesty's Government.

Secondly, there is the so-called Financial Settlement. This is merely a set of accounting rules for allocating to the respective exchequers the total war expenditure in accordance with the principle to which I have just referred. Experience gained in the last war showed that the normal peace-time methods of determining the shares to be borne by India and the U. K. in accordance with this principle are quite impracticable under war conditions and the Settlement was, therefore, devised as a rough and ready means of arriving at India's share of defence expenditure, which, while broadly conforming to the accepted principles of incidence, would not impose an intolerable strain on the administrative and accounting machines. Shortly after the conclusion of hostilities with Japan, His Majesty's Government asked us to consider a suggestion that

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the Financial Settlement might be terminated on the 31st March, 1946. It was pointed out to them, however, that the great virtue of the Settlement lies in its saving of manpower and that, in view of the heavy calls that general demobilisation and other transitional activities would make on India's administrative and accounting staffs, the reversion during next year to the normal accounting methods of allocating expenditure would be impracticable. It was therefore urged by us that the retention of the Settlement until the end of that year (by which time these disturbing factors would have largely disappeared) was essential, and His Majesty's Government has accepted this view. I want to emphasise that it was Whitehall and not Delhi that wanted to drop the Financial Settlement at the end of the current financial year.

Thirdly, there is the method of financing the expenditure for which His Majesty's Government is responsible. This is not affected in the slightest degree by the terms of the Financial Settlement itself; it follows that the continuation of the Settlement for another year in no way prejudices the question of an alteration in the financing procedure hitherto followed, which, as the House knows, has resulted in heavy accumulation of sterling balances. The question of alternative methods of financing His Majesty's Government's expenditure is engaging the closest attention of Government, although, as will be seen in a second, the amount involved next year is insignificant in comparison with the total of our sterling assets to date.

20. The estimate of defence expenditure recoverable from His Majesty's Government for the year 1946-47 is only Rs. 42 crores, against Rs. 489 crores in the Budget for the year 1945-46. The very marked decrease in next year's claim reflects partly the success of the Hydari Mission's efforts to secure a reduction of the demands for war purposes on India's productive capacity, partly the decision to discontinue, except in respect of certain agreed categories of stores with effect from 1st April, 1946, the use of India as a source of supply of the S. E. A. Command's requirements, partly the fact that, to a large extent, the requirements of both the India and S. E. A. Commands during 1946-47 will be met from stocks in India paid for by His Majesty's Government in previous years; and finally the large reduction in the numbers of Indian troops employed overseas. The recoverable expenditure for 1946-47 will thus represent for the most part the pay and allowances of Indian forces employed on occupational duties overseas (elsewhere than in Japan) and connected transportation charges incurred in India.

21. While the war lasted, the budget estimates of the defence services ceased for the most part to serve as instruments for restricting and generally controlling expenditure. This was inevitable in view of the impossibility of foreseeing the course of the war and, therefore, the measures that would have to be taken to meet the threats to India's security as they arose from time to time. Clearly, if a measure could be shown to be essential for the prosecution of the war, its introduction could not be opposed merely on the ground of the absence of budget provision. Now that the war has ended this state of affairs can no longer be allowed to continue and it has been decided to reintroduce, as far as possible, the normal procedure for budgetary control over defence expenditure during 1946-47. Owing to the existence of numerous abnormal factors it will not be possible to introduce the normal peacetime accounting and budgetary procedure in its entirety, but I contemplate that such control will be substantially secured.

22. The budget estimates of defence expenditure for 1946-47 amount to Rs. 243·77 crores and Rs. 1·57 crores for the Revenue and Capital heads respectively, as compared with Rs. 376·42 crores and Rs. 14·93 crores in the revised estimates 1945-46. His Majesty's Government's expenditure is now Rs. 3·47 crores in the revised estimates for 1945-46 and, as already stated, Rs. 42 crores in 1946-47.

23. *Civil estimates.*—I shall not, at this stage, detain the House with details of the civil estimates. Suffice it to say that expenditure debitable to Revenue amounts to Rs. 111·94 crores.

The position for the coming year is thus as follows. The expenditure detailed in the civil estimates comes to Rs. 111·94 crores and provision for the defence service has been placed at Rs. 243·77 crores, the combined total being Rs. 355·71. The total revenue at the existing level of taxation is estimated at Rs. 307 crores. We are thus left, before making adjustments resulting from taxation proposals, with a prospective revenue deficit of Rs. 48·71 crores, as compared with Rs. 155·29 crores in the original and Rs. 144·95 crores in the revised budgets for 1945-46.

WAYS AND MEANS

24. In the context of war finance our ways and means operations have assumed a position of special importance and my predecessor took occasion to explain the changed significance which they have come to occupy in the broader field of Government's financial and economic policy as a whole.

During the period of hostilities, due to the situation created by our own war expenditure and that of the Allied Governments, a major pre-occupation was the problem of trying to absorb by taxation and borrowing, the purchasing power in the hands of the public so as to bridge, or to reduce to a manageable size, the inflationary gap. Today the problem in its broadest aspects has, as I have indicated earlier in my speech, two facets, first, of securing stability in the immediate future by keeping in check an inflationary potential that undoubtedly still exists, and secondly, of preventing any material decline in business and economic activity as a result of the cessation of war-time expenditure.

In so far as the immediate problem still remains that of an excess of purchasing power competing for a limited volume of consumer goods, a main objective of our policy in the financial sphere must be to ensure that, through the issue of various loans and through other forms of borrowing, as well as by measures of taxation, surplus funds in the hands of private citizens are diverted to the public fisc to the extent that they are not devoted to new productive enterprises. Investment in Government loans and the consequent withdrawal of redundant purchasing power from the public has the two-fold advantage of mitigating the pressure of such surplus funds on the prices of consumable goods, and, at the same time, of building up reserves in the hands of Government for development purposes.

25. With this purpose in view, we have continued our efforts to popularise investment in Government loans. While the support accorded by the various sections of the public to the borrowing programme of Government has been satisfactory, a great deal remains to be done to bring home to the population in the rural areas the desirability of investing in Government loans, in furtherance of the common good. With the object of turning the savings movement from a wartime measure to combat inflation, to a peacetime organisation which can serve a great social end, the Small Savings Scheme has been reorientated with the primary purpose of encouraging consistent savings among the less well-to-do section of the community. Particular emphasis has been directed towards ensuring that no pressure is brought to bear, but that the people should be persuaded, by reasoned explanation of the advantages, to save regularly whenever possible and however small the amount. The propaganda which has recently been launched with the co-operation of gentlemen eminent in the public life of the country has been directed towards these ends and I should like to take the opportunity of acknowledging the support which they have given in laying the foundations of a scheme which, I believe sincerely, is not only in the interests of the individual saver but also to the advantage of the community as a whole. I greatly hope that the day is not far off when the people will cease to keep the bulk of their savings in the form of hoarded currency, or bullion or superfluous ornaments, and will put their savings to work to create new wealth. It has always seemed stupid to me that man should expend so much effort in digging out treasure from mineral deposits only to bury the bulk of it in safe deposits.

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26. During the last financial year Rs. 40½ crores were invested in Small Savings and, during the first nine months of 1945-46, Rs. 43½ crores have been accumulated. The total amount invested by the public in the various public loans offered during the period February, 1945 to January, 1946 aggregated Rs. 346 crores, compared with Rs. 286 crores during the corresponding period last year.

The progressive total of public loans issued since the beginning of the war up to the end of January 1946 reached the figure of Rs. 1,178 crores. Impressive as this total is, the House will agree that there is no room for complacency when we regard the development expenditure in prospect. It is true that it has been possible to float the loans required for the prosecution of the war cheaply, but it is necessary at the same time that funds required for India's development should be obtained at equally and even more favourable rates. If large developmental expenditure is to be undertaken, whether from the public fisc or from the private sector, one of the pre-requisites will be the ability to borrow what is needed at cheap rates of interest. On the other hand, the capacity of the country to lend to the State will depend, to an appreciable extent at any rate in the years immediately ahead, on the volume of expenditure by the Government of the day, coupled with other recognised important factors such as Government's taxation policy, the retention of selected controls and the public's liquidity preference. Borrowing and spending must, therefore, go hand in hand.

27. As a result of the gradual funding of our floating debt, there is a reduction in the outstandings of Treasury Bills. Thus, against a figure of Rs. 104·81 crores at the end of December, 1944, the corresponding figure at the end of December, 1945 was Rs. 66·01 crores. It is true that our comfortable ways and means position does not compel the continuance of this form of borrowing, but this class of investment plays an important role in the money market. In the coming years it may be necessary, and even possible, for Government to exercise greater discrimination in the finding of development expenditure and to meet some of it by short term borrowing. I am satisfied that we can without risk carry a floating debt substantially in excess of the present figure.

Excluding the contributions for quotas under the Bretton Woods Agreements, in regard to which special arrangements will be made with the Reserve Bank of India at the appropriate time, the total borrowings which I hope to raise during the coming year amount to approximately Rs. 300 crores. This compares with Rs. 346 crores raised during the last twelve months.

28. As regards sterling, during the first nine months of the current financial year, £228 million were added to the Reserve Bank's holding and it is estimated, allowing for the receipts during the last three months of the year, that the total holding on the 31st March 1946 will be of the order of £1,330 million.

As I have already indicated, additions to this total on account of His Majesty's Government's defence expenditure will be quite small next year even if no change is made in the method of financing this expenditure. Indeed, it is possible that in the course of 1946-47 the United Kingdom may succeed in increasing her exports to India to such an extent as to avoid any further additions to our sterling credits and, perhaps, even to reduce them. And this, of course, is quite apart from the amount of sterling which will be convertible into free exchange as a result of the negotiations which will take place in the course of the year between His Majesty's Government and ourselves. I have made it clear on previous occasions that the arrangements to be made for the transfer of these balances are a matter for bilateral settlement between India and the United Kingdom and I take this opportunity of reiterating what I have said before, namely, that should negotiations take place while the present Government is in office I would hope to associate representatives of the leading political parties in the country and other non-officials with the delegation appointed to undertake the discussion with His Majesty's Government. I would also

repeat what I have told the House previously, that India will be entirely free to take any line that she may see fit to pursue at these negotiations and any idea that she is committed in advance to a scaling down of the balances or to a continuance of arrangements under which such balances will continue to accrue is entirely without foundation. When these negotiations will take place, however, it is not yet possible to say, but it is highly unlikely that they will be held until the United States Congress has ratified the U.S.A.-U.K. Loan Agreement.

In my opinion, no grounds exist for the fears which have been expressed that India's ability to obtain, in the immediate future, capital equipment from abroad will be prejudiced by the fact that a large portion of her foreign exchange reserves are in the form of sterling. Indeed, I would go so far as to say that, for a number of years to come, the main consideration will not be the availability of exchange but the physical capacity of the two main exporting countries to meet the demands of a war shattered world. At the same time, the absorptive capacity of India herself and the rate at which the necessary technical personnel can be made available, may well be limiting factors of considerable importance.

29. Another question which is closely connected in the public mind with sterling balances is that of the so-called Empire Dollar Pool. There is a widespread belief that the arrangement which goes by this name has been grossly unfair to India, that this country has contributed enormous net amounts of hard currency to the Pool and that it would be to our advantage to withdraw from it without further delay.

There is, I am afraid, a great deal of misconception about the whole subject. Nobody is to blame for this misconception. It is mainly due to the fact that, for security reasons, it was not possible, while the war was on, to disclose the volume and details of the transactions which took place through the Dollar Pool.

I should like to examine the question very briefly under four heads: First, what is the nature of the Empire Dollar Pool? Secondly, how has its operation affected India? Thirdly, would it be to our advantage to withdraw from the Dollar Pool immediately? Fourthly and lastly, to what extent has India contributed to the Pool assets in excess of assets drawn by her from the Pool?

To take these points in turn. First, what exactly is the Dollar Pool? The Dollar Pool is, in effect, the modification, imposed by war conditions, of the sterling area arrangement which has existed for a century. Under this sterling area arrangement, Empire countries, and other countries as well, found it convenient and economical to settle their transactions on international account through sterling, through London. Before the war, sterling was freely convertible into any other currency. When war broke out, the ability of the Commonwealth to earn foreign exchange was severely reduced owing to the fact that productive capacity previously devoted to exports had to be diverted to armaments, munitions and other warlike stores. At the same time imports necessary for the prosecution of the war remained high. The different countries in the Commonwealth were, however, affected in this respect in varying degrees and an arrangement was therefore entered into among them whereby earnings of dollars and other hard currencies would be pooled and the essential requirements of the several countries, in terms of these currencies, would be met from the Pool.

Secondly, how did the pooling arrangement affect India? The answer is that India had free access to the pool to finance her essential current imports from hard currency countries, which included the U. S. A., Canada, Switzerland, Sweden and Portugal. Moreover, a sum of 20 million dollars was specially earmarked to pay for capital equipment required by India from non-sterling countries for her post-war development.

Thirdly, would it be in India's interest to withdraw from the Pool forthwith? In my view, it would be premature and unprofitable to do so, since the balance

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of trade with the U. S. A. has been unfavourable to India for many months. In other words, India is receiving from the Pool more dollars than she is currently earning, and she is far from having exhausted the sum of 20 million dollars to which I have just referred. Moreover, under Article 7 of the Anglo-American Loan Agreement, the U. K. are committed to making arrangements which will involve the dissolution of the Dollar Pool within one year of the effective date of that Agreement.

Lastly, what is the excess of India's contribution to the Pool over her drawings from it? The wildest and most fantastic guesses have been made and the lowest non-official guess has put the figure at several hundred crores. I have been at considerable pains to establish what the true position is. Owing to the number and complexity of the transactions, it is very difficult to arrive at completely accurate figures, but with the help of the Reserve Bank I can give figures which are approximately correct. Here they are: Between September 1939 and March 1945 India earned hard currency assets to the amount of Rs. 364·33 crores. Excluding the 20 million dollar special fund which I have already mentioned, India has utilized hard currency assets to the amount of Rs. 265·02 crores. To this latter figure should be added the net import of gold from the United Kingdom during the same period, since gold is equivalent to hard currency. Computed at the world (not the Indian) price, the value of this gold is Rs. 50·08 crores. The balance in India's favour is, therefore, Rs. 49·23 crores as at March of last year.

It is contended that India should claim this amount from what remains of the Dollar Pool. Having regard to the essential character of the Dollar Pool, it seems to me difficult to establish a claim on this basis. The most that could be claimed would be a *pro rata* share of the existing Pool assets. But even if the full amount could be established, it is much less than I hope and expect that we shall obtain by way of free exchange from the pending negotiations between India and the United Kingdom on the subject of sterling balances.

POST-WAR PLANNING

30. I shall now turn to the important subject of development planning, in which great strides have been made during the past twelve months, both at the Centre and in the Provinces. My predecessor last year referred to the steps which had been taken at the Centre for dealing with post-war planning and development, and mentioned a number of important preparatory measures which had been put in hand, such as the establishment of a Central Electrical Power Board, an Irrigation and Waterways Board, the Re-settlement and Re-employment Directorate and the training of students overseas. Preparatory work of various kinds has expanded and intensified throughout the year, particularly in connection with the "Grow more food" campaign, essential training both in India and overseas, preparations for the re-settlement and re-employment of ex-soldiers and discharged war workers, and various research activities. In addition, all-India policies in respect of a number of subjects such as education, agriculture, food, health, labour, transport and civil aviation have been announced. The Central Government Departments have not confined their activities to advancing their own plans but have also been able to assist the Provinces in the preparation of theirs. Some, indeed most, of the subjects which I have just mentioned are, of course, primarily the responsibility of the Provincial Governments, but we hope that the general policies suggested, for example, in the Report on Education and in the Report of the Committee on Public Health will afford valuable guidance to Provincial Governments. All Provincial Governments have formulated their 5-year plans, and they are now under review by the Centre so as to ensure that they are properly co-ordinated *inter-se*, are generally in broad accord with all-India policies and objectives, and are individually and collectively feasible. I anticipate that, after due examination and discussion with Provincial Governments, the Provincial 5-year plans will be finalised in the course of the next few months. They involve

expenditure of the order of Rs. 900 crores, part of which, however, will extend well into the second five year period. In addition to this, the plans of the Centre in respect of railways, roads, civil aviation, tele-communications, Central institutions, etc., will also add up to a considerable figure. Our approach to the problem of planning has been of the severely practical kind, for which the main justification is that we now have within a minimum of time a very large programme of practical and desirable schemes in an advanced stage of preparation.

31. I have already mentioned the very heavy drop in war expenditure and the deflationary tendencies which this drop will set in motion with a consequent threat of widespread unemployment and depression. The House will doubtless wish to know what is being done to meet the situation. Industrial development cannot be relied upon to fill the immediate gap, if only because of the difficulties and delays in securing large-scale imports of capital goods. No Government, whether Central or Provincial, can afford to contemplate with complacency the onset of deflation or allow purely financial considerations to stand in the way of maintaining the economic health of the country. Public expenditure of a useful kind is the obvious remedy, and in May last Provincial Governments were asked to select from their 5-year plans schemes which would create employment and could be started at short notice; they were promised a substantial contribution towards the cost of such measures. When the war with Japan came to an unexpectedly early end, the position was further reviewed and our offer of financial assistance extended. Provincial Governments have been urged to embark forthwith on all schemes which provide a high proportion of employment relative to the cost, or are productive or of economic importance calculated to increase the national income. Such schemes will include roads, buildings, minor irrigation works, anti-erosion measures, agricultural and forestry development, and public health measures such as anti-malaria, water supply and drainages schemes. As an incentive to urgent action we have undertaken to provide Provincial Governments with all the funds that they may require for approved schemes of this nature up to the end of March, 1947. In the case of self-financing schemes, this assistance will take the form of loans, while for others we are prepared to make advance grants to cover the full costs, which will not be recoverable but will be adjusted against whatever scheme of Central grant is eventually decided upon. Lists of schemes proposed to be taken up during this interim period have been received from most of the Provincial Governments, and approval is being freely and quickly accorded. A lump sum provision of Rs. 35 crores has been made in the budget estimates for such advance payments, and of Rs. 15 crores for loans to Provinces for productive development works.

32. For Central Government development schemes, excluding some Rs. 22 crores on Railway items, a total provision of about Rs. 27 crores has been made in the Budget. This covers development expenditure in the Centrally Administered Areas, expenditure on the post-war plans of the Posts and Telegraphs and the Civil Aviation Departments, special loans to Port Trusts to assist them in carrying out works which will create employment, and a lump-sum provision for various schemes of the Central Departments which are not sufficiently advanced for inclusion under the ordinary departmental budgets. One of these latter items, to which I would like to invite attention, is the Labour Department's subsidised housing scheme. Building is one of the most useful and desirable forms of investment, in regard to which there is, as I have already said, a tremendous leeway to be made good. The scheme, which is intended to benefit not only employees of Governments and Local Authorities but also industrial workers, provides for a subsidy up to 12½ per cent. by the Centre to local bodies and industrial employers, provided the Provincial Government concerned is also prepared to make a grant equivalent to 12½ per cent. of the cost to enable suitable houses to be constructed for the poorer classes of workers who are not in a position to pay a full economic rent. The scheme will apply mainly to urban employees, but we have not overlooked the

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importance of improving rural housing conditions also, and we are considering the possibility of setting up model housing schemes in selected villages in Delhi Province or other Centrally Administered Areas. In order to assist and stimulate private building activity special steps are being taken to increase allocations of coal for the burning of bricks and releases of timber, cement and steel, to relax controls over these materials and to expand production capacity. I think it is true to say, in regard to all the various schemes to which I have referred, whether Central, Provincial or private, that any delay which may arise is far more likely to be due to lack of qualified personnel than to lack of funds.

33. In the matter of the general financing of governmental plans there is little that can usefully be added to what has been stated in the last two Budget speeches. The scope for development is greatest in the Provincial sphere, but planned development on a national scale must be a joint and co-ordinated effort by both the Central and Provincial Governments, with a large measure of pooling of resources notwithstanding constitutional limitations. The Centre and the Provinces alike will need to develop their taxation resources to the full. If this is done, and effort during the early years is concentrated on economic measures designed to increase material prosperity and national income so as to build up revenue on which expansion of the social services must depend, there is good reason to believe that funds will be available to the extent that they can be usefully spent. It seems likely that Provincial Governments between them will have, by the end of the current year, balances of the order of Rs. 70 crores, and will acquire during the next 6 years revenue surpluses totalling some Rs. 100 crores. They have based their plans on the broad assumption that, apart from borrowings either from the Centre or from the market, they will receive Central grants during the quinquennium amounting to approximately Rs. 250 crores which will be distributed roughly on a population basis. I do not myself regard population as an altogether appropriate basis of distribution and would prefer a scheme more on the lines of the Australian grants system, under which grants to States are made on the recommendation of an independent and impartial body such as the Australian Federal Grants Commission. As I understand it, the Australian system aims at achieving a reasonably equal standard of social and cognate services in all the States of the Commonwealth. In making their recommendations, the Commission takes into account such factors as the natural resources of each State, its stage of industrial development, its taxable capacity, the extent to which this taxable capacity is exploited, and so on. The Commonwealth Government have very kindly agreed to receive one of my senior officers to study on the spot the working of the Australian system and the possibility of its adaptation to Indian conditions. Pending his report I am not in a position to make any more definite statement on the subject.

34. It is not on the activities of the Government alone, however, that the rapid development of India will depend, but also, and to a very large extent, on the efforts of private enterprise, particularly in the industrial field. I do not propose to go into the details of the various measures which the Planning and Development Department, in co-operation with the other Departments of Government and the industries concerned, have in hand for the rapid progress of industrialisation of this country. Reference to those measures will take place during the course of the budget debates. For my part I need only mention some of the more important measures which I have taken in hand. One of them is the establishment of an Industrial Finance Corporation in order to ensure the availability of medium and long-term credit to industrial enterprise in India where the more normal methods of industrial finance are inadequate. Detailed proposals for the establishment of such a Corporation have reached an advanced stage of preparation. Legislation will be required, and I shall endeavour to introduce the necessary measures in the course of this session.

35. Another matter which is under the consideration of my Department is that of the planning of investment, both public and private, with a view to securing the fullest and most advantageous utilisation of the economic resources of the country in the interests of planned capital development. Investigation is required to determine whether a National Investment Board should be set up for this purpose, and, if so, how it should be constituted and on what lines it should work. Meanwhile, the existing control over capital issues must necessarily be continued. Some measure of relaxation has been rendered possible by the steady reduction of pressure on goods and services in short supply which the end of the war has brought about; but that control is necessary to prevent excessive flow of capital into less important or less desirable directions which would lead to unregulated and lopsided development will, I think, hardly be disputed. Whatever final decision is taken will require the backing of new legislation, until which time the course must be kept clear by retaining the existing Defence of India Rule in operation.

36. If control over investment is to be made effective, the Government of India's statistical and economic organisation will have to be so strengthened as to enable us to prepare, and to present with the Annual Budget, a National Investment budget. We are not at present in a position to introduce this desirable reform, but I have this year taken the first step by presenting a Central Capital budget along with the Central Revenue budget. It is but a modest step towards the ultimate objective, but it seems to me to be an innovation in the right direction. Even if it serves no other purpose, it will at least permit of a proper presentation of our transactions of a capital nature and focus attention on the productive and dead-weight indebtedness of Government, and on the expenditure of loan monies on productive and unproductive schemes. The changes made are explained at length in the Explanatory Memorandum, and I trust that the departure made from past practice will meet with the approval of the House.

37. Before I explain the taxation proposals for next year, there is one further matter to which I would like to refer. A widespread desire has been expressed for the appointment of a Committee to examine and report on the present tax structure and taxation incidence, with special reference to their effect on trade, industry, employment, standard of living, savings and capital formation. The Government appreciate that more than 20 years have elapsed since the last general enquiry into taxation in India was held, and that the situation has in many ways changed materially since then, particularly during the six years of war. Not least of the changes has been the re-orientation of economic thought in the interval. With the cessation of hostilities and an era of intensive development begun, which will require constructive planning of taxation with a view to ensuring the most effective use of the taxable resources of the country, the present may reasonably be regarded as ripe for a fresh comprehensive taxation review. I propose, therefore, to set up a Taxation Enquiry Committee in the near future. Since one important object of the proposed enquiry would be to secure, as between the various classes of taxpayers, an equitable distribution of the burdens of taxation, it would seem to be essential that, as in the case of the Taxation Enquiry Committee of 1924, the scope of the enquiry should extend to the whole field of taxation—Central, Provincial and local. While it would not be appropriate for the Committee to concern itself with the question of the distribution of taxable resources between the Centre and Provinces, it should cover the harmonisation of Central and Provincial taxation where experience has shown conflict or overlap to exist in their respective spheres, as defined in the Constitution Act. The present lack of uniformity in the incidence of taxation as between Provinces, illustrated by the varying rates of sales tax, octroi, property tax, motor taxation, etc., could be dealt with by the Committee. The main purpose of the enquiry would, however, be to ascertain what adjustments or modifications of the taxation system of the country as a whole would be required and could, from the practical administrative point of view, be introduced in order to produce a properly balanced and scientific tax structure, fair in its incidence and adequate to the needs of a forward development policy.

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without deterrent effect on initiative and private enterprise, and with due regard to the administrative requirements for the prevention of tax evasion. The Provinces are in favour of an enquiry of this nature. My provisional view is that the Committee should be predominantly non-official in character and that it should be an expert rather than a representative body, although care should be taken to obtain the views of all the interests affected,—industry, commerce, agriculture, labour, the consumer, the ordinary taxpayer and lastly, the Administration, both Central and Provincial. Above all, it should not be unwieldy. There appears to me to be in India a tendency to set up not only too many committees but also committees which are quite unmanageable from the point of view of size. I shall greatly welcome the views of Honourable Members as to the scope and composition of the Committee.

I now pass to my taxation proposals for next year.

NEW PROPOSALS

38. I said early on that fiscal policy was not an end in itself. It must subserve the ends of national policy. Its purpose should be not merely to raise a given revenue but to raise it in such a way as to obtain the maximum social and economic advantage and to distribute the burden as justly and as fairly as possible between the various classes of taxpayers. This is, of course, an ideal which it is difficult to achieve in this imperfect world, where psychological and political factors operate to modify and qualify economic theory and doctrine, but the pattern and design of my proposals attempt to conform as near as possible to this ideal.

39. The lines of this pattern are made plain in the opening paragraphs of my speech. Let me recall briefly the gist of those paragraphs. I pointed out, first that a great deal of money would be required to combat the evils of poverty, ill-health, squalor, illiteracy and unemployment: and secondly, that during the next year or two Government must do all it can to offset the fall in economic activity which will otherwise result from the heavy drop in military expenditure.

The largest single source of revenue in the years immediately ahead will have to continue to be the profits of industry. I am conscious of the depressing effect on industrial enterprise of a high level of taxation on profits, and that it is the expansion of industry which holds out the earliest promise of increasing the national income and raising the standard of living in the country, although India will not achieve the maximum of economic health and wealth until agriculture as well as industry have multiplied their productivity many times.

The fiscal problem, so far as industry is concerned, is how to lay it under a heavy contribution and, at the same time, to encourage it to expand. This is the problem which I have attempted to solve, but its successful solution will require the whole-hearted co-operation of Industry itself. If it be the aim of India's industrial leaders, as I am sure it is, not so much to make millions for themselves as to raise the standard of life of India's toiling and poverty-stricken millions, then the problem can be solved.

40. Here is my own contribution to its solution. First, I propose to discontinue the Excess Profits Tax on earnings arising after the 31st March, 1946. The only justification for E.P.T. as a tax is the emergency which called it into being. By all the canons of taxation doctrine, it is a thoroughly bad tax. It is rough and ready in its operation; it is unfair in its incidence and, beyond a certain point, it is a direct inducement to inefficiency. Except that I, as tax gatherer-in-chief, cannot refrain from casting a longing, lingering look behind at its high yield, none of us will, I think, mourn the passing of the Excess Profits Tax.

It will, of course, be realised that the discontinuance of the tax will not, of itself, affect the revenue of the coming year nor give any immediate relief to the class of tax-payer to whom it applies, since the tax will still be payable in respect of all excess profits earned up to the 31st March, 1946. The scheme of compulsory deposits will also remain in force to the end of the E.P.T. period.

As regards the refunds of E.P.T. deposits, they will be sanctioned in advance of the date for which the law provides, on condition that they are not distributed as dividends to shareholders but are required for the provision or replacement of buildings, plant or machinery.

When I remind the House that E.P.T. will yield Rs. 90 crores in the current year and is estimated to produce Rs. 75 crores in the coming year, Honourable Members will be able to measure the loss to revenue and the benefit to industry which the abandonment of E.P.T. implies.

One last word about E.P.T. Concern has been expressed about losses and expenditure which may arise in the period of transition from war-time to peace-time conditions and which may involve hardship if they are not allowed against the profits of the final E.P.T. chargeable accounting period. This question is under consideration and, when it is known what is the actual extent and nature of these hardships, then will be the time to consider appropriate legislation.

41. The next relief to industry which I propose is to revive the proposals which were dropped last year to grant special initial depreciation allowances of 10 per cent. on new buildings and of 20 per cent. on new plant and machinery and to allow for income-tax purposes expenditure on scientific research. In addition, I propose to widen the scope of what is called the obsolescence allowance, so as to make it include the loss of the asset by destruction or demolition and also to extend it to buildings. These proposals will cost Rs. 2 crores.

In order to complete the picture of the easements which I propose for industry, I shall now move to the field of indirect taxation. I shall return later to other direct taxation proposals which will affect industry.

42. I am anxious at the earliest possible moment to meet the demand so often made in the past for the relief from Customs duty of raw materials imported for industry; and also, to the extent that this may be practicable without injury to Indian manufacturers of similar goods, to reduce the rates on such imported plant and machinery as are now dutiable. The former proposal is estimated to cost approximately Rs. 70 lakhs. As regards the latter, it is difficult to estimate the cost of relief till a careful review of the position is made. So no allowance has been made in the revenue estimates on this account at this stage. It is proposed to give effect to the decisions separately by a notification under the Sea Customs Act.

43. I now revert to the direct taxation field but, before dealing with it as it specially affects industry, I should like to mention a proposal which will affect not only all classes of taxpayers but also Central and Provincial Revenues, namely, the amalgamation of the surcharges on income-tax and super-tax with the basic rates. This amalgamation is estimated to benefit the Provinces to the extent of Rs. 12½ crores at the expense of the Centre.

44. Coming back to industry, the total of the present rates of income-tax and super-tax on a company is 7¾ annas. I propose to reduce this total of 7¾ annas by 1¾ annas to 6 annas, by a reduction of 2 annas in the super-tax and an addition of ¼ anna to the income-tax. This is estimated to cost Rs. 7 crores. For the past two years the Finance Act has contained a provision giving a rebate of super-tax to companies at the rate of one anna on all sums not distributed as dividends. This, in effect, imposed an extra tax at the rate of one anna on all sums distributed as dividends. I think that circumstances now warrant the introduction of a new method for discouraging the distribution of dividends. In my view, a reasonable distribution is something which the shareholder has a right to expect and which should not attract a penal rate of tax. I am, therefore, proposing that, excluding dividends payable at a fixed rate, sums equal to 5 per cent. on the capital of the company, including reserves, and equal to 30 per cent. of the total income, may be distributed without attracting more than the 1 anna rate of super-tax. Dividends above that datum line will become liable to additional super-tax at steepening rates. I hope that this provision will keep the distribution of dividends within reasonable bounds and encourage the ploughing back of profits into the business. This is estimated to yield about Rs. 1¼ crores.

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45. Before turning to the non-company direct taxpayer, it will be appropriate to mention at this stage another and somewhat novel proposal which affects both classes. I have referred more than once to the possible emergence of deflationary tendencies consequent upon the very heavy fall in military expenditure, and I reminded the House that, owing to the difficulty experienced by our industries in obtaining adequate quantities of capital equipment from abroad, they would not be able to do a great deal next year to replace the economic activity engendered by the vast military expenditure of recent years. There is, however, one direction in which the private sector of the national economy can do much to help. I mean, of course, building, which has been almost at a standstill, except for war purposes, for the past five or six years. The great advantage of a large building programme is that the ratio of labour costs to total costs is high and so, therefore, is the employment factor. Apart from the offer of subsidies for working-class dwellings which I have already mentioned, Government are doing all they can to assist by increasing the free availability (but by this expression I do not, of course, mean free of cost) of bricks, timber, cement and steel. But so important do I regard private building as an anti-deflationary activity that I have felt justified in going further and in making a contribution in the fiscal field. I am, therefore, proposing some income-tax relief where new buildings are begun and completed within the next two years. For residential buildings, I propose a two years' income-tax exemption and for buildings used for the purposes of the business, profession or vocation I propose that the initial depreciation allowance should be 15 per cent. instead of 10 per cent. These proposals are contained in a Bill to amend the Income-tax Act which is being put before the House. As next year's estimates are not likely to be affected, no provision has been made on this account.

46. And now I turn to greet the ordinary direct tax-payer, and I hope that, on reading tomorrow morning what I have to say, he will think the greeting cordial, or at any rate, as cordial as any greeting between an Income-tax Officer and an assessee can reasonably be expected to be. In my judgment, the steep rise in direct taxation inseparable from the war has borne more heavily on the man of moderate means and particularly on the man with a moderate fixed income than on almost any other class of tax-payer. I think the time has come to give him some relief. I propose to do this in two ways. First, by reducing the rate of tax in the lower ranges and secondly by increasing the earned income allowance. As to the first, I propose to reduce the rate on the second income slab of Rs. 3,500 from 15 pies to 12 pies, and the rate on the third slab of Rs. 5,000 from 2 annas 1 pie to 2 annas. These two changes will cost about Rs. 1½ crores. As to the second, I propose to raise the earned income allowance from one-tenth of the earned income, subject to a maximum of Rs. 2,000 (in terms of income), to one-fifth, subject to a maximum (in terms of income), of Rs. 4,000. This relief will cost about Rs. 3½ crores.

47. I propose to take a further and, as I think, a logical step in carrying over the differentiation of treatment between earned and unearned income into the super-tax range. At the same time, I propose to increase the number of slabs in incomes subject to super-tax, the result being a more gradual steepening of the rates, although the rates will be more severe on the largest incomes than at present. The differentiation in favour of earned income is one anna in the rupee between Rs. 25,000 and up to Rs. 2 lakhs and half an anna between Rs. 2 lakhs and Rs. 5 lakhs. On the balance above Rs. 5 lakhs there is no differentiation. This proposal is estimated to yield about Rs. 75 lakhs. On merits, and as a partial offset to the loss of revenue involved in the three changes which I have just described, I propose to increase the rate of income-tax on the balance of income above Rs. 15,000 from 4 annas 9 pies to 5 annas. This will yield about Rs. 3¼ crores.

48. With two other and relatively minor changes I shall be done with my proposals relating to direct taxation. The first is a reduction of the rate on life insurance companies from 5 annas 3 pies to 5 annas. The second relates to

the discontinuance of the provision for funding a portion of the tax in the case of incomes up to Rs. 6,000. The reductions in the rates on the lower slabs and the increased earned income allowance now proposed take away the justification for this provision. Salaried assessees, however, have to be given the benefit of the provision in the coming year, since they came under the scheme one year later than other assessees. These two proposals are estimated to cost Rs. 25 lakhs.

49. I have now dealt with relief to industry and to the man of moderate means, and some of my Honourable Friends opposite will be wondering whether I propose to do anything for the poor man. In the field of direct taxation, I can obviously do nothing since he does not pay direct taxes. At least he does not pay them directly. The extent to which an increase or a decrease in direct taxation is passed on to him through the price of the articles he has to buy is one of the things which I hope that the proposed Taxation Enquiry Committee will examine and ascertain.

Nor is it easy to do very much for the poor man in the field of indirect taxation. The main advantage which he will derive from my proposals will be through the schemes, economic and social, which will be financed by the yield of the taxes contributed by the wealthier sections of the community.

But there are two other things which I am doing for the poor man, one negative and the other positive. As to the first, I do not think that any of my proposals will add to the cost of his essential purchases—indeed the contrary should be the case—and secondly, I propose to reduce the duty on kerosene, which plays so important a part in the economy of the poorer class households, from 4 annas 6 pies to 3 annas 9 pies an imperial gallon. This will cost about Rs. 65 lakhs, of which Customs will bear Rs. 60 lakhs.

50. And this brings me to my other indirect taxation proposals. I propose to continue (subject to some modifications) the general surcharge for one more year. In the customs tariff a small change is proposed in respect of "Wines". The rate of surcharge on "Wines", which is now one-fifth, will be raised to one-half, thereby bringing it on a par with "Spirits". I expect an increase of revenue by about Rs. 5 lakhs on this account. The duty on cinematograph films, both exposed and not exposed, is at present assessed on *ad valorem* rates. It will be an improvement to convert this into a specific duty charged on footage, and this change, besides yielding an increased revenue of Rs. 45 lakhs, will make for administrative convenience.

51. In the interests both of the revenue and of the indigenous grower, I consider it desirable to raise substantially the duty on imported betelnuts. I propose to fix the duty (without any surcharge) at the standard rate of 5½ annas a pound, with a preference of 6 pies a pound for British colonies. British colonies even now enjoy a preferential rate of 45 per cent. *ad valorem* against the standard duty of 54 per cent. *ad valorem*. The yield is estimated at Rs. 155 lakhs. I have considered very carefully whether, concurrently with an increase in the customs duty on imported betelnut, I should not reduce the excise on indigenous nuts in view of the fact that the wholesale trade, instead of passing the whole tax on to the consumer, has tended to reduce the price paid to the grower, thereby diminishing the benefit which the latter has derived from the high prices resulting from the cessation of foreign imports during the war. Any such reduction would, however, I am convinced, be absorbed by the wholesale trade and would bring little, if any, benefit to the grower. I am satisfied, moreover, that the increase now proposed in the customs duty on betelnuts renders reduction of the excise less necessary, since wholesale prices ought thereby to remain hereafter at a level which will permit the payment of a reasonable price to the grower. I have, however, been very impressed by the grower's difficultios, which I believe to be rooted in the weakness of his bargaining position *vis a vis* the wholesaler and I think that the grower's interests will be best served by organising the marketing of his products in such a way as to strengthen his position *vis a vis* the wholesale dealer; by improving cultivation methods and,

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if possible, finding further uses for the nuts; and I propose accordingly to make an annual grant of Rs. 3 lakhs for the purpose of financing measures designed to improve the production and marketing of this crop.

52. I propose a change in the levy of duty on cotton. At present the customs duty on raw cotton is 1 anna a pound and a further duty of the same amount is levied under the Cotton Fund Ordinance of 1942. The Fund has a sufficient balance to its credit to carry out the purpose for which it was created and it is no longer necessary to aid the Fund by proceeds of the special duty. At the same time, general revenues cannot afford to give up the amount yielded by the duty and I propose to amalgamate the two charges into a consolidated duty of 2 annas a pound (without any surcharge) which will be leviable wholly under the Indian Tariff Act, the Ordinance being repealed.

53. I shall bring my indirect taxation proposals to a close with two important changes. The first relates to motor spirit and the second to bullion. It admits of no doubt that, if India is to advance economically and socially, a great improvement in her road communications will be necessary. Village must be joined with village, town with town and producing centres with markets. Although the supply of motor spirit is at present severely restricted, it is not too much to hope that before the next financial year is out both vehicles and petrol will be available in much greater abundance. I propose to encourage the use of road transport by reducing the rate of duty on motor spirit from 15 annas to 12 annas an imperial gallon. This will cost Rs. 165 lakhs of which the share of Customs will be Rs. 120 lakhs.

54. My last proposal under Customs is in respect of bullion. As the House is aware, the Indian prices of gold and silver bear no sort of parity with world prices. The paucity of imports has, in a large measure, contributed to the present high and artificial prices. With the end of the war, and with the general restoration of normal trade in sight, we may expect the resumption of bullion imports, but we must be prepared to have ready a suitable machinery which will render it unattractive on the part of anyone to indulge in speculation and to hope to reap profits at present levels. I propose, therefore, to provide for the imposition of a specific duty on gold bullion and coin at the rate of Rs. 25 a tola of 180 grains fine. This rate will be varied from time to time by a notification under the Sea Customs Act, in order to attain in an orderly manner a reasonable measure of approximation to world prices. The House will appreciate the difficulties that lie in the way of framing any estimate of the likely imports during next year and the revenue that may result. I am, however, allowing for a revenue of Rs. 1 crore on this account, but the figure is no more than a shot in the dark.

55. As regards silver, the existing duty is 3 annas an ounce, with a surcharge of 7 1/5 pies. As it is proposed to have a specific duty (without surcharge) on gold, it is appropriate that the rate on silver should be brought reasonably in line, with gold. I accordingly propose to alter the existing rate to 8 annas an ounce, without any surcharge. At this stage I am making no revenue provision on account of this change in the tariff, but this must not be taken as meaning that I am satisfied that there will be no increase in supplies available to the market next year.

All these changes, except that in regard to raw cotton, are being put into immediate effect.

56. I shall now summarise the financial effect of the above proposals. In the field of direct taxation, my income-tax proposals will cost Central Revenues Rs. 21·50 crores, while the changes under customs and excise are expected to yield a net Rs. 5 lakhs. The estimated gap between revenue and expenditure will thus be increased from Rs. 48·71 crores to Rs. 70·16 crores. To bridge a part of this gap, I propose to transfer to revenue Rs. 26·10 crores, being the estimated balances in the two War Risk Insurance Funds, which sums are transferable to revenue in pursuance of the provisions of the relevant Acts. On the basis of these proposals, next year's deficit comes to Rs. 44·06 crores.

I have come to the end of my story. I have aimed at keeping the revenue at the level necessary to sustain and advance India's economy and I have tried to do this by distributing the burdens and the reliefs evenly and fairly over the various classes of taxpayers. Is it too much to hope that the last budget presented by a British Finance Member will be judged on its merits and will not be rejected on purely political grounds? I humbly believe that my proposals will do something to help my Indian successor, who will shortly be taking over from me and to whom I wish the best of good fortune, to lead India farther along the road to prosperity, happiness and greatness. However that may be, I can assure him of one thing, namely, that he can search the world in vain for a more able, a more loyal or a more devoted body of public servants than those who serve in India's Finance Department and who are predominantly Indian. Brief though my association with them has been, it will always be a source of pride to me that it was my privilege to be their leader, even if for so short a time.

THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning on the 1st day of April, 1946.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning on the 1st day of April, 1946."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

INDIAN INCOME-TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

Mr. President: The House will now adjourn until 11 O'clock tomorrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 1st March, 1946.

[Sir Archibald Rowlands]

no further action in relation to this Fund and Bank. The interim report of the Committee recommends to the House that it should so amend it, in order to enable Government to appoint a Governor and Executive Directors to the International Fund and Bank but beyond that it should do nothing pending further consideration by the Committee which should remain in being.

I think it is premature to decide at this stage whether India should continue indefinitely to remain a member of the Fund and the Bank. But it was our unanimous decision in Committee that they should at least take the next step, which was to authorise Government to appoint a Governor to attend the meeting which had been summoned on March, 8, in America.

The first three paragraphs of the report raise issues which are undoubtedly of crucial importance to this country but those issues are, at the moment, not in question. The narrow question is whether India should tomorrow decide to withdraw from the Fund and Bank. And on that point the Committee was unanimous that Indian should at least take the next step: and that before taking any further steps, the matter should be considered by the Committee which should remain in being and make recommendations to the House.

I notice, Sir, that certain amendments have been moved to my motion.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Tabled, not moved.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I am sorry, "tabled". I am a novice in these matters:

I hope they will not be pressed so that we may limit the discussion this morning because I believe that all the things that are sought to be obtained by the amendments are safeguarded by the recommendation of the Committee that no further action, beyond the limited one that they now recommend to the House, should be taken pending further consideration by the Committee.

I may say, Sir, that I have been very impressed by the procedure adopted of referring technical issues to a Committee before they are discussed on the floor of the House. Many of the issues raised are highly technical, and require, I think, prior consideration by a Committee such as has been appointed. Speaking for myself, I think that in spite of a certain amount of "argy—bargy" the Committee has been of extreme value, to me anyhow, as the representative of Government.

I have no hesitation in moving that the House adopt the Report of the Committee.

Mr. President: Motion moved:

"That this Assembly do agree with the interim report of the Committee on the Bretton Woods Conference Agreements, appointed in pursuance of the motion adopted by the Assembly on the 29th January 1946."

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): Sir, I must, in the first instance, remove the complacency with which we are likely to be drawn in by the oft repeated suggestion from the official side that in a very short time, in the matter of weeks, Indians are taking over power. I think we should function as an Opposition and function well during the period that we are in opposition and personally I have not the slightest belief and I do not mind mentioning it on the floor of the House that I have taken a hundred rupee bet that next year this time, if most of us are not in jail, we shall be still opposing this very Government and criticising this very Finance Member

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Will the Honourable Member repeat his bet, I will take it.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I will take another bet of Rs. 100 with you.

I say this in all seriousness, because the issues which we have got to face, as I shall presently show, are of the gravest importance not only to the present generation of our country but to several generations to come.

The Honourable the Finance Member has congratulated himself on the unanimity which he has been able to achieve on the immediate step, that is to say the determent of the withdrawal of India from the Bretton Woods. I do not wish to detract from those congratulations and I must say that he did use a certain amount of tact and courtesy in bringing about this result. But I must make it clear on the floor of the House the differences such as they were and such as they exist and I want to show to the House the background in which we were bound to make this decision.

Sir, in the first instance, I had some of my colleagues questioning the very relevancy of the issue of the sterling balances as far as the question of Bretton Woods is concerned and let me make it clear how and why it is not only relevant but it is the only consideration which dominates the final decision on this issue.

Sir, the Finance Member gave us the figures yesterday in his Budget Speech. The final figure of the sterling balances as on the 31st March, will be 133 million pounds. Expressed in crores it would be the equivalent of about 1,800 crores of rupees. I want the House to note that the sterling outstandings when the war in Europe ended were 1,442 crores: when it stopped with Japan it was 1,489 crores and since then they have grown to 1,800 crores, in other words as much as 300 crores of rupees have been added to what England owes us in respect to the sterling balances after the stoppage of hostilities. This is an astounding position. Whatever may have happened during the war, it seems to me that it was the duty of this Government, (any Government which claims to safeguard the interests of India)—the Honourable the Finance Member said the other day that the decisions were taken independently in the interests of India —I say emphatically that it was the duty of this Government to prevent further accumulation of sterling balances after the hostilities stopped. They did not do so. Even now, Sir, commodities are being taken from this country on the basis that they are being paid for in sterling, the very sterling whose return is problematical, at all events with regard to some part of it and therefore with regard to the last dose or last portion of it. We are being paid in sterling today for goods which His Majesty's Government require from this country and I say that that is no payment at all, because that sterling is not likely, that last dose of sterling which we are still adding is not likely to come to us.

Before India signed on the dotted line and incurred the responsibility for no less than 266 crores as contribution, as ultimate liability in regard to the Bretton Woods, I want this country to consider what is the fate, what is the condition, with regard to the outstanding which have been inflicted on this country. This is all an involuntary loan taken from this country. What is the fate of this outstanding before we incur a new investment or a new liability?

Sir, it may be said that the immediate risk is very small but we all know that when a new company is promoted, when a new bank is established, it is generally suggested that there is no risk, every thing is rosy and the prospects are very good. But we have known them, in spite of all that, to fail. This Bretton Woods institution is in a new direction altogether. It is in the direction of reconstruction of the world, by assisting countries which have been weakened by world conditions and we are called upon to join it. And as soon as we join it, the final liability, should the concern fail at any time, is 266 crores of rupees. It was this which I considered the most relevant and dominating factor of the situation when we were discussing this in the Committee and I still maintain that until we are absolutely clear as to the position of the sterling balances, we ought not to take any further risk in this country with regard to the extensive and tremendous contribution of the order of 266 crores of rupees.

Sir, the Chancellor of the Exchequer recently declared that 7 million pounds per week was being added to the sterling outstandings on India during the whole of 1945, and that 2 million was being added during 1946, per week.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Not today.

Copies of the Debates of the Legislative Assembly and of the Council of State are obtainable on sale from the Manager of Publications, Civil Lines, Delhi

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 1st March, 1946

SECRETARIAT LIBRARY MADRAS GOVT.

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

MEMBER SWORN:

Mr. Braj Kumar Nehru, M.B.E., I.C.S., M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official).

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL OF STATE

Secretary of the Assembly: Sir, the following message has been received from the Council of State:

"I am directed to inform you that the Council of State at its meeting held on the 28th February, 1946, agreed without any amendment to the following Bills which were passed by the Legislative Assembly at its meetings held on the 8th, 13th and 14th February, 1946, namely :—

1. A Bill further to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923;
2. A Bill further to amend the Indian Mines Act, 1923;
3. A Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898;
4. A Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (Second Amendment); and
5. A Bill to amend the Professions Tax Limitation Act, 1941."

BRETTON WOODS CONFERENCE AGREEMENTS.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do agree with the interim report of the Committee on the Bretton Woods Conference Agreements, appointed in pursuance of the motion adopted by the Assembly on the 29th January 1946."

The issue before the House this morning is a limited and a narrow one and I hope the House will not be asked to sit very long to dispose of it. The point to be decided is whether the House will agree to the rescinding of the second amendment moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Ayyangar, to my motion on the 29th January. It will be convenient, I think, if I read out the amendments that were moved. As you will remember, Sir, the House censured the Government for committing India to adhere to the International Fund and the International Bank without the approval of the Assembly and it went on to move an amendment to the following effect:

"That in order to determine what steps should now be taken a Committee of this House consisting of nine members be elected to go into this question and report at an early date to this House and pending consideration by this Assembly of such Report no further action be taken by this Government in respect of the said Fund or Bank."

Now the recommendation of the Committee, which is unanimous, apart from the addendum which is not really germane to the point I am putting to the House this morning, is to the following effect:

"We recommend to the Assembly that Government may be authorised to appoint a Governor and an alternate and executive Directors and alternates, when this is necessary, but no further financial commitments should be undertaken by Government with regard to the Fund or the Bank before the matter has been further considered by the Committee. The Committee should be summoned again to have a report from the Governor on his return from the first meetings of the Boards of Governors of the Fund and the Bank; we expect that he may be able to bring additional information bearing on the probable scope and manner of operations of these international institutions in relation to the requirements of this country, which may assist the committee in arriving at a considered recommendation to the Assembly on the question of continuance or discontinuance of membership."

The immediate issue is this: Will the Assembly agree so to modify the second amendment of Mr. Ayyangar, to the effect that Government should take

Mr. Manu Subedar: Two million per week is being added. In the light of this I do not know where we shall stand as time goes on and in spite of the assurances of the Honourable the Finance Member that next year it would be only 40 crores more, even then I feel that I should not risk this country's money in further accumulation of the sterling balances. If His Majesty's Government have to pay for goods, commodities and services, they should pay by several of the other means which are there and I shall try to show some of them in the course of my remarks.

His Majesty's Government have not treated this country at all fairly in the matter of the sterling balances. I have got here a quotation from Sir John Anderson's speech. He says "Different cases would have to be dealt with independently in the light of their different circumstances." He went on to say,

"If the Governments concerned were prepared to recognise the special features of these accumulations, to recognise that they are not ordinary commercial debts to be dealt with in the ordinary ways applicable to such debts and if they were prepared therefore to recognise our problem and if we are prepared to recognise our problems, there seems to be no reason why a satisfactory arrangement could not be made."

In other words an attempt was made to show that they were not commercial debts and that therefore the obligations normally attaching to commercial debts do not attach to these particular outstandings. To my mind these are not commercial debts. These are very much higher than commercial debts, because goods were taken from this country at controlled prices, commodities were taken which were required for the use of the people of this country and they were paid for at monopoly and controlled prices, very low prices, and they were taken without our consent, they were taken by the use of political power which vests in England and with those whom England plants on the Treasury Benches in this country. They were taken in a manner about which we are bound to feel that it was done in spite of us, against our real interests and without our consent. This involuntary accumulation, involuntary saving, which was forced on this country, is not quite a loan given by us to them. It is not a debt incurred by them to us as all common parlance as between debtor and creditor goes. It was taken in open daylight by the use of political domination and I say that in the dealings between one country and another these accumulations stand highly sanctified they stand much higher: they are sacred obligations of the United Kingdom; Thinking in the light of all this, I am sorry to say that the United Kingdom authorities, their press, their representatives in this country and their statesmen generally, have altogether failed to discharge their normal obligations towards another country placed in the plight in which we are placed. His Majesty's Government's attitude in this matter is such that I can only illustrate it by the Indian proberb which says "Mukhme Ram, bagal me chhuri." In financial matters their outlook towards us has been so heinous and so discreditable that I find it very difficult to restrain myself in using the language which ought to be used. I find it extremely difficult to explain their outlook and their motive; and in contrast stands out the lack of effort on the part of those who have authority in India and who are supposed to safeguard India's true interests in this matter.

His Majesty's Government did various things and omitted to do various other things in regard to these sterling balances. All these were noted in the report of the committee, the interim report which we are considering. First, they went behind our back and negotiated the Anglo-American Loan agreement. Now, I am willing to recognise that the British authorities were quite competent and were within their rights to go to America and negotiate the loan. I will tell you the contrast with regard to this loan and India's outstandings. Lord Halifax and Lord Kaynes went there. They said "we have not come hat in hand to beg", but in effect they stayed there for a period of four months; and at the end of it, after prolonged negotiations a preliminary agreement was reached. That agreement has not been ratified yet by the American Congress. It is all right that they want there in their own interests to negotiate a loan which they required. But in doing this they have introduced two clauses

there which are highly detrimental to the real interests of this country; they have done this without any reference to us and I am inclined to believe that they have done this deliberately; they have asked the Americans deliberately to introduce these two clauses in order to strengthen their hands *vis a vis* India so that when the occasion comes they can plead "we would have liked to do this to oblige you and to discharge our proper obligations towards you, but we are sorry we are committed by the Anglo-American loan agreement. We are committed by clause 10(c) and by clause 6/3. . . . . .

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson (Bengal: European): What about 10(1)(c)?

Mr. Manu Subedar: If my friend feels that I am unfair to the United States he can defend them; and if he feels I am unfair to the British, he can defend them; but the thing stares us in the face. I cannot take the time of the House reading these two clauses; otherwise I would show word by word the evil deliberately directed towards India's interests by His Majesty's Government and the statesmen who negotiated this. I will give a brief outline of this clause 6/3. That clause determines the conditions under which America can ask for a waiver of interest on the loan now negotiated. . .

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: U. K., not America.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I mean U. K. The U. K. cannot however go to America and ask for such a waiver in any particular year unless it makes a declaration that she has defaulted both in the matter of interest and capital to India on the sterling outstandings which India has accumulated during the war. I cannot think of anything more heinous than this clause nor can I think of anything more objectionable than clause 10(c) by which it is suggested that the claims of India should be scaled down. I will read to this House a quotation from no less a man than Mr. Churchill who expresses after all John Bull's mind more freely and rightly and less craftily than other John Bulls representing it. Mr. Churchill raised the question in the discussion in Parliament on 13th December 1945, and said:

"Many Honourable members have said the American terms are severe; they are even harsh upon a debtor who has reduced himself to his unfortunate plight by his faithful unstinted exertions in the common cause."

See, Sir, the pity which they are trying to extort in the world for the United Kingdom, when they have no pity, no common humanity towards this country in their financial dealings with us. He goes on to say:

"But these considerations apply to other creditors as well as the United States. We are told we owe £1,200 millions to India and £400 millions to the Government of Egypt. No proposal has come from either of those countries similar to the great measure of lend-lease."

Sir, a British official message which I read the other day and about the authenticity of which the Honourable Finance Member promised to ascertain, also said that the Indian sterling outstandings should be treated on the same basis as lend-lease. Do Members of this House realise what an objectionable thing even they very suggestion of this is? The lend-lease claim of America of 12·775 million dollars was fixed at 650 million dollars, including the price of certain equipments which they had got, which the United States had got in the United Kingdom: in other words it was fixed at less than 2 per cent. Is this a proper suggestion to make to this country, I ask? Mr. Churchill made it, and, Sir, the most extraordinary thing is that the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Dalton, did not get up in his seat and say that this is not the view of His Majesty's Government, whatever the members of the opposition may say. This is an omission which I say will always redound to the disgrace of Britain in her relations with India. How can His Majesty's Government sit tight and not take the opportunity of contradicting suggestions of this kind not only made in the press but on the floor of the House of Commons? Mr. Dalton whom I had the pleasure of knowing as a student and partaking of the hospitality of his home, is a nice man; but every nice Britisher, when he is very nice, still stands out firmly in his representative capacity for the interests

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of his country, and I want every Indian to learn the same thing. We have imitated many bad qualities of the Englishman: let us acquire one good quality from them, that is to say, their country first and last, right or wrong, under all circumstances they stand by their country. . .

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Hear, hear.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Right or wrong to stand by is wrong.

Mr. Manu Subedar: My learned friend will learn international law in due course. I feel that this comparison between the American loan and the Indian outstanding ought to be kept in mind by Members of this House and by the Indian public. The Indian outstanding is Rs. 1,800 crores, that is to say, 1,330 million pounds. The American outstanding is less than a thousand million pounds. America is a smaller creditor than India and yet in the treatment given to American opinion, to American statesmen, to the American Congress and to the American Press there is a great difference. I cannot but help noticing this difference and I feel that every Indian of every section ought to be alive and alert. Sir, to America this loan of a thousand million, sterling, which has been negotiated but not yet confirmed by the American Congress is only nine days cost of the war. To us 1,800 crores of rupees is 18 years net income of the Central Government before the war. It is no small thing and this is not an issue on which we could sit tight with stray references in the Budget speeches of British Finance Members. This is not an issue which we can permit to slide through. This is not an issue which we can afford, not only in the interests of the present Indian population but several generations of Indians hereafter, to slide or to let the obligations be evaded or to let the debts become stale or otherwise disputed. Therefore we ask for an immediate negotiation. We ask for a request to His Majesty's Government to send representatives here in this country for an immediate negotiation on this, because as soon as we are clear we can proceed and time is pressing as my friend will readily acknowledge. Within 90 days after the fund has begun operations, we have to make certain declarations which are of the greatest importance and if we don't decide within those 90 days many issues which ought to be decided would be left undecided. Apart from this, the Anglo-American Agreement and the obnoxious clauses thereof have been carried out behind our back and His Majesty's Government is still increasing this sum outstanding. There have been repeated and unanimous demands on this subject all over the country—from every section, even from that economic press which my friend brought up the other day in support of entry to Bretton Woods, even that same economic press has with one voice suggested that no further increase or accumulation of sterling should be permitted, even if it is as small as the Honourable the Finance Member said. In spite of this, His Majesty's Government is not proceeding to do this. His Majesty's Government has not indicated any particular time when they will do it. Not only have they refused now. They have not indicated when they would be in a position or when they would be ready. The proposals with regard to the debt should not come, as Mr. Churchill very wrongly says from the creditor. They should come from the debtor and I am waiting for those proposals from this debtor. This is not an ordinary commercial loan. I have described it as very much higher, very much more sanctified. It is a much more sacred obligation. This debtor, when he was in a position of trustee with political power in his hands took this money from this country, without the consent of the people of this country.

Sir, His Majesty's Government have not acted on any of the other reasonable lines on which a debtor should have acted. They have not for example tried to mobilise the resources of His Majesty's Government in this country as Government or of British nationals residing in this country or of British nationals residing in the United Kingdom owning large resources in this country from which they continue to derive large income. They have not taken any reasonable step in this matter and this omission also become particularly suspicious when we find that every section of the British Press has indulged in

provocative and highly mischievous propaganda against the real interests of India and they have suggested that India has overcharged for the goods given, a suggestion which has been refuted by a Parliamentary committee. They have suggested that England is unable to pay—a suggestion which I have tried in my humble way to denounce by putting forward a counter proposal that British assets in this country ought to be mobilised for the repayment of these debts.

Then, Sir, with regard to the press campaign, I could read many extracts. I am not doing it because most of these extracts have been printed even by our Nationalist press and not always without denouncing the implications, the mischievous implications of this propaganda. As if that is not enough, British officials made a declaration the other day. I raised it in a short notice question. It was so damaging and it bore the stamp of palpable dishonesty on the part of any country in her dealings with another country.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: We are trying to establish who that British official was. It has already been denied in London, that as alleged in the Press, the India Office has prepared a memorandum altering the composition of the Indian Army. That has been shown to be completely without foundation and I am waiting to see what happens about the other Press reports. I do not think you can build an argument on that.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I was going to give way, requesting the Honourable Member to tell us whether the telegraphic inquiry which he has made has established the authenticity of British officials declaring that Indian sterling debts should be treated on the same basis as the lease-lend.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: It is the A.P.A.

Mr. Manu Subedar: The report was by an American agency. I will say this, that the American pressmen are always more enterprising and they scoop out news which the Britisher may try to hide and if that is so I am obliged to the American Press, the Associated Press of America, for having thrown light on the real and secret intentions of British officials towards India which they have been able to tell us and which until this moment has not been denied from London. (*An Honourable Member*: "They have).''

Now, with regard to Mr. Dalton as Chancellor of the Exchequer he had another opportunity in the House of Commons to say something with regard to India's position. He said that the average weekly increase for the last 19 weeks of 1945, was 7 million and that for the first 7 weeks of 1946, was 2 million. Most of these increases represent payments to India for expenditure regarding Indian forces outside. Such expenditure—I want the House to note this language which is not explicit and which is full of deep meaning,—"is no more inflation than any other Government expenditure. It certainly does not impoverish the people of India nor add to the danger of famine.''

Sir, he missed his opportunity to make this position clear once for all and to acknowledge that the views of the press, the views of the opposition and the views of Mr. Churchill were not the views of His Majesty's Government and that immediate attempts should be made to put proposals to India of what England wants to do with these sterling outstandings. He did not do any of these things and he has trotted out the obsolete fallacy that the sterling outstandings and the manner in which they were built up did not add to the inflation of this country and of the evil arising out of inflation, the tremendous sufferings of the whole section of the population who have got limited incomes and the sufferings of those who were right at the bottom who have been actually physically killed on account of the rise of prices. Sir, he missed his opportunity and I am very sorry that he did so because the issue of India's sterling balances involves England's good name for justice, fair deal and honesty. And I use the word 'honesty' designedly.

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Now, Sir with regard to the dollars and with regard to the mobilisation which I have suggested and which I could not get Members of the Committee to accept as part of this report. With regard to the mobilisation of British assets in this country, may I take one more minute of the time of the House to indicate the justice of this suggestion? If the United Kingdom is really desirous of meeting us on fair ground, is there any reason why the assets belonging to His Majesty's Government in this country should not be transferred to the Government of India. I understand some such transfer is being negotiated, but we are always worried and apprehensive as to the value and the price at which such transfer will take place. For example, I am told that certain assets will be transferred to us at 50 per cent. of the book value incurred. I do not say that all of them would be bad at 50 per cent., but I have not the slightest doubt that some of these war creations had inflated value when they were created and are incapable of being put to any useful purpose after the war and would be just like the white elephants thrown on this country on the basis of 50 per cent. It is for those who have the control of India's finance to see that India's finances are safeguarded. We were told that we are paying 2 crores each for the cruisers. I am glad that India's navy is being expanded. But I fear these cruisers are of the same class as those which America wants to use in making the experiment with the atom bomb on water and to blow up.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: No, Sir, India need not buy them if she does not want them.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Why don't you leave the decision to the Government which will come in within a few weeks?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I am quite content to do that.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I say that it is not a new thing in the history of India when obsolete implements of war have been transferred at full value to this country?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: The only reason why this preliminary negotiation has taken place was because there is a large number of competitors and there is a limited supply of equipment; the price is very much less than the full cost, but it is quite open to the next Government to call the deal of.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I am glad to receive the assurance that India's interests in this matter are not so terribly let down.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: They never are.

Mr. Manu Subedar: But I feel that if England, as an honest debtor, was anxious that she should take such steps as were within her power, she ought not to have hesitated hitherto and she ought not to hesitate after the Honourable the Finance Member sends down the report of this debate to immediately take steps of mobilising British assets. It will be recalled in this House that dollars and dollar securities belonging to us were mobilised while the cash-and-carry business was going on and America would not give anything to England unless she produced dollars. I had to sell off my dollar securities which I had in my possession at that time. I have been asking myself why is it not reasonable that the assets of absentee Britishers who are sitting in London—and the majority of assets in this country do belong to absentee Britishers, that is to say, those who have become big and senior and who have just retired and who hold considerable shares in this country—should not be mobilised by the British Government. They should not be given sterling and the rupees so realised may not be returned to circulation and the inflation which the sterling balances have caused should be put down. I am surprised that even the mention by me of this mobilisation thing was resented in British quarters. We have come to this position that we cannot even point out a reasonable step to the British Government and those who represent them in this country.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Who are they?

Mr. Manu Subedar: I will tell you in private.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): The billionaires who have taken away the money of the poor people.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Now, Sir, it was resented when I made the suggestion and I am making that suggestion again as the only fair and proper thing for the United Kingdom to do that instead of talking of scaling down, do the honest thing. Put down what you have got in the first instance and then come and tell us what your genuine difficulties are. It is not merely the assets of the Britishers in this country, but, I think, as a matter of settlement there should be no objection not only to the transfer of further ships, mercantile marine and other things, but there should be no objection even to Indians possessing properties in the City of London. I do not see why the Savoy Hotel and the great Cinema on the Kingsway could not belong to an Indian Corporation if England wants to do the right thing. They are constantly putting forward their inability to pay. But if they have the will and the desire to pay, here is my suggestion. Now that we have made this suggestion, I trust the Honourable the Finance Member will pursue it and will induce His Majesty's Government to do the right thing by this country.

Sir, I want to make one very small statement with regard to the discussion of the dollar position. The dollar position arises in respect of 10(a) of the Anglo-American-Loan agreement. Now, the Honourable the Finance Member made a statement yesterday with regard to the dollars and pointed out that the amount of dollars which would stand to the credit of this country, if the whole matter were investigated, would be extremely small. The investigations which he mentioned were the investigations of the Reserve Bank. May I express my severe disappointment with regard to the statistical basis on which these statistics are collected? The Reserve Bank claims to be the adviser of the Government, but they are led by the Government. I have had occasion to know on previous occasions how the Reserve Bank's findings were not altogether correct because we lack in this country that fundamental statistical basis. Have we not seen the fumbling of the Honourable Secretary for the Agricultural Department with regard to cattle, the Honourable Secretary for the Food Department with regard to food production or food export? Have we not seen the entire statistical basis as unsatisfactory? I explained to myself the inadequacy of the dollars accruing to India, as pointed out by the Honourable the Finance Member on account of this statistical inadequacy. But if that was not so, then I say, Sir, there has been financial jugglery in this matter. I had occasions to discuss this matter with outstanding American businessmen, American bankers and I am reading from high class journals which America produces and they estimate that between 900 millions and 1,000 millions worth of dollars accruing to India have been taken away by the United Kingdom for their own use, to the detriment and denial of this country's use. I have great belief in these statistics.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Complete nonsense.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I put a question to the Honourable the Defence Secretary the other day asking him the number of American troops in this country. It was given to me as 140,000 at its maximum. I know the G. I.'s, that is the common American soldiers and what they were doing in the bazaars of this country. I am not referring to some of the other things which they were doing. But I will refer to the extensive purchases made by all classes of Americans in this country and I have been calculating that even if we give them an expenditure of two to three dollars a day on all extravagances and if we give them a thousand days in this country, the figure would be a very huge figure and the figures given by the Honourable the Finance Member yesterday seem to be astounding, unless as I suspect the currency for the use of the American

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soldiers was given to the American Government by the Government of the United Kingdom against dollars which they took over.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: No, Sir.

Mr. Manu Subedar: If that was done, then I say it was a trick, a bad deal for this country and these dollars really and truly belong to us. The expenditure of that money caused inflation in this country and I am unable to ask for a share of these dollars when we want to make essential purchases in the United States. Sir, with regard to India's position in the matter of dollars, I cannot go to a better authority than Lord Keynes, and may I incidentally say that Lord Keynes was my tutor in London. He is fighting hard for the interests of this country, and I trust he will recognise when the time comes that I am fighting for the interests of my country. Sir, Lord Keynes, in the discussion in the House of Lords, described India's position dealing with sterling area. Lord Keynes then said:

"It would be very satisfactory if we could maintain the voluntary war time system into 1947, but what hope is there of the countries concerned continuing such an arrangement much longer than that. Indeed a danger is that those countries having dollar and gold surplus, such as India and South Africa would prefer to make their own arrangements which would leave us with the dollar pool which is a deficit pool."

In other words, with regard to dollars, our position, as described by Lord Keynes, in December 1945, was that India was considered a surplus country in the matter of dollars, and yet the Honourable the Finance Member appealed against the withdrawal from the dollar pool because he said it was operating to India's disadvantage.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Yes, it is, Sir.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In describing in his budget, the question of dollars, he referred to the 'agreement' which was reached in the beginning of the war. May I know who were the parties to this agreement by which the dollars accruing to India were got hold of for the pool and sent to the pool. Is it not Dr. Jeykyll and Mr. Hyde? Is it not an Englishman in this country and an Englishman in the other country? Is this called an agreement? Are you going to hold us to something which you fix for yourself amongst yourself and to your advantage? This is a position which is extremely unsatisfactory.

Now, Sir, I would like to say something with regard to the merits of this question, India's place in the Bretton Woods.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Come to the point.

Mr. Manu Subedar: It will be very much to the point and I am sure my Honourable friend will be delighted. I must express my severe disappointment at the way in which the Government treated my request for information. I asked for materials on the basis of which this Government had come to this very important decision. I had expected that all the relevant issues which affect India's going into Bretton Woods, that is, all relevant economic issues would have been very carefully gone into and there would have been full and extensive reports available on the subject. I was told that a certain amount of material was available and would be sent to me, but I found it very inadequate. It is a matter of opinion, and I do voice my humble opinion that the decision on this very large issue was not taken by our Government with that degree of careful examination of the relative connected problems which it deserves. Then, Sir, I thought that such material may be included either in the correspondence with His Majesty's Government or in the correspondence with the Reserve Bank, both of whom have been acknowledged to be parties whose opinions carry great weight with the Government of India. I made a request that "in view of the importance of the subject and the responsibility thrown on the elected Members of the Assembly by the House, you will appreciate how important it is for us to see the whole position as the Government sees it, and how important it is for us

to secure the same view of this problem as Government had, because the Government was inviting us to endorse the decision which they reached and I think we are entitled to see the material on the basis of which this decision was reached". Sir, when this material could not be made available to us, I made a further appeal . . . . .

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: May I ask the Honourable Member what material he asked for and which he did not receive?

Mr. Manu Subedar: I asked for correspondence with His Majesty's Government and with the Reserve Bank of India.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: That was the second stage that material on which the Government had arrived at a decision and for which he asked, and did not receive?

Mr. Manu Subedar: If the Honourable Member will bear with me for a few minutes, he will see my point. With regard to this correspondence, "in view of the importance which we attach to this question because of its bearing on the life of the people of this country for the next few generations, would you not secure the necessary sanction of His Majesty's Government, as well as of the Reserve Bank to make this correspondence available to us in order to enable us to see the same problem in the same light in which the Government see it and to come to the same conclusion which the Government had formed, if after examination we were satisfied". I am sorry to say that the Honourable the Finance Member did not feel himself in a position to make this correspondence available to us on the ground that it was confidential.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: There was no correspondence on Bretton Woods, no sort of pressure was brought by His Majesty's Government to bear on the Government of India to adhere to Bretton Woods. It was left entirely to the free choice of the Government of India. There was no correspondence; and if there was any correspondence between two Governments, in so far as it could be made public, I would have done so.

Mr. Manu Subedar: My reply is I wanted the correspondence with regard to Bretton Woods, before the conference met before July 1944, and on sterling balances right from the date the sterling balances arose. I regard both these two as connected and inextricably mixed up. And, as I said, the Finance Member did not feel that this correspondence, being confidential, could be made available to members of the Assembly Committee.

Then, Sir, what I felt was that Government had not gone very deeply into the issues connected with it, such for example as the gold par of exchange. Rightly or wrongly, whether other countries in the world regard it as a defect or as a merit, millions of people in this country are interested in gold and silver, and I did feel that this was an issue, at all events, in which Government should have very carefully prepared the ground. Sir, I asked for, but I have not yet received, from the Secretary of that Committee, the position of law in America, the law in the United Kingdom and the position of the present law in India by which the par of exchange, not as expressed in any currency but in gold, could be found. As I have not received that information I have ventured to make my own calculations and I find that the position as it stands today is this. If we join this Fund and particularly the Bank, 80 per cent. of the extra liability would be payable in gold or in American dollars, but from India practically in gold; and in case we have to pay 80 per cent. of the liability in connection with the bank in gold—and that would be to the extent of about 100 crores of rupees—we would have to pay that gold, as matters stand today, at Rs. 42. Gold which India purchase at Rs. 73, Rs. 78 and Rs. 84 would have to be transferred from this country back again at Rs. 42. This, Sir, seems to be a somewhat unsatisfactory position.

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Then with regard to trade balances nothing had been worked out. This country, threatened with a famine and with an enormous amount of purchases both for consumer goods and capital goods going on, is likely to have an adverse

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trade balance for the next few years. I would have liked to see and I would still like Government to give us these figures. Indeed they have promised it; and in fairness to them I must say that they said they had now initiated several of these inquiries and in due course all this material will be collected and laid before this Committee.

Then with regard to wages and prices, the issue of prices is the most important; and to my mind, whether we join Bretton Woods or not, there is no issue which is so important as the issue of price-levels in this country. Sir, I will give the House a very sketchy picture of the price-levels in different countries. In 1939 the U. S. A. had a 101 basis, and the price-level there today is 138, so that the rise in only 37 per cent. in the U. K. it was 106 and now it is 174.—a rise of 68 over the 100; in India it was 109 and now it is 282 a rise of 173 per cent. Sir, when a country has got a price-level so very high the normal course would be that others will export to this country and this country will be unable to export to others. A country which is in this plight cannot lightly enter Bretton Woods as, I am afraid our Government decided to enter. And in case they decided to enter Bretton Woods they should have simultaneously taken steps to bring down the level of prices in this country. They should have taken those very deflationary steps which the Finance Member told this House were an object of danger to this country. I say the danger is greater under the inflation which you have kept up and which you have caused. It is a certain amount of deflation which we now need. It was necessary before you joined Bretton Woods and it would be necessary to consider this matter in detail; and I will not take the time of the House on this any further.

Now, Sir, on the issue of prices depends the issue of wages. We have not only a strike fever throughout the world but we have in our own country a very very delicate position when postal employees and the railway employees have threatened to go on a general strike. We have in every other industrial concern the same sort of situation, and it is not a situation which we can contemplate lightly I ask whether in this Government there are no people capable of taking the whole view of the situation as I am briefly indicating should be taken.

The worst of the position, however, is with regard to the continued operation of section 41 of the Reserve Bank Act. My Honourable friend there has moved an amendment calling for an assurance from the Finance Member that in the course of this session he will bring the necessary legislation to break the link between the rupee and the sterling on one side, that is to say, to prevent rupees being paid out against the tender of sterling as they have been done in the past. Sir, my Honourable friend rolled off a few assurances in the course of his budget speech yesterday and was cheered by various parts of the House. I who have noticed assurances given by British Finance Members in this House over and over again and their non-performance and non-fulfilment was a little more cautious. I want to read here an assurance which was given by no less a person than the Honourable Sir George Schuster in 1939, who said:

"My Honourable friend Mr. Neogy quoted from what I myself said at Simla on this matter where I pointed out in the simplest possible terms that we want to create a position where the Government, as the chief user of money in the country, would not itself be the authority which has the control of the creation of money. When it wants to get money it ought to go to an independent authority and make out its case, just as any private individual has to do. It ought to maintain a sound position and not be able to reinforce its position by turning on the printing press in case of need. That, Sir, put very simply is the essence of the position, and what we have felt is that unless you set up a bank on a shareholder basis you cannot be assured of creating and maintaining that position."

After I have read this quotation and in the light of what has been going on in the last five years the House will recognise that this undertaking which ought to be solemn and sacred—an undertaking given on the floor of this House by a British Finance Member—has been wantonly broken. It has been broken in spite of our protests; its breach is still continuing in the operatioon of section 41, and we are still crying in the wilderness.

Sir, this is the position which aggravates the background in which we are called upon to make a decision with regard to these international organisations. Sir, I am not satisfied with regard to India's participation in anything international as we are today. So long as our status at home is defective I do not see what possible status we can carry abroad. We had the case of the U. N. O. in which, as I pointed out last time, little Holland and Peru from South America got a seat in the executive but not India which was the fourth or fifth country in the contribution list. When it is a question of contribution we are always very high up in the number; when it is a question of getting a reward and the like and corresponding status in the executive bodies of these things we are nowhere. Sir, the latest example of this is what my Honourable friend told us yesterday—and that was the first time we in this House and the whole country heard about it—about India going to send a contingent in Japan; and he said that this will signify India's improved international status.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: It was announced in the papers several times.

Mr. Manu Subedar: He claimed that it will improve India's international status. Now, Sir, I know that it will put a hole in our pocket. He has not mentioned, unfortunately, in great detail, though it may be contained in the detail books which I have not yet perused, he has not mentioned how much the damage will be. But the position is that we always pay. We are dragged in the chariot-wheel of Britain and we are made to contribute heavily, but we do not get our wherewithal and we do not get good and fair treatment nor do we get proper representation. The position which I am taking today is still exactly the position which Sir Jeremy Raisman and his non-official advisers took in July 1944, namely that so long as India's sterling balances are not satisfactorily settled, satisfactory to this country, India should have nothing to do with these International organizations.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Will you excuse my interrupting? That is not the position at all. India attempted to get the balances settled through the Fund, but that was not accepted.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Sir, I have already taken much time and I would not like to take more time of the House, but I will read from Sir Jeremy Raisman:

"India should participate in the scheme, provided. . . . . ."

I want the House to note all the provisos

". . . . .provided her special requirements were taken into account, and that certain important aspects of her economy were safeguarded, such as her right to pursue domestic policies of expansion, her quota and voting right. . . . ."

And now I want the House to mark the words

". . . . . and a satisfactory solution of the sterling balances."

Sir, this is the same position which I am taking and now that my Honourable friend has interrupted me, may I ask him what he has been doing since July 1944, since the time of the last conference in order to press for the satisfactory solution of the sterling balances?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: As I was not a member of the Government of India in July 1944, I cannot say.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): There was Sir Jeremy Raisman. What was he doing?

Mr. Manu Subedar: I want to know what Government of India what the chain and the link of the British Finance Members have been doing with regard to this very problem on their own profession and in the terms which I have read to this House in their own words? What have they been doing? I am sorry to say that active steps have not been taken, active steps of the kind which any Indian section in this House, even the most moderate Indian who is sitting in this House, would have pressed with all vigilance and assiduity.

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Then, Sir, indeed I am glad to say that we are assured that the Government of India have now instituted a proper enquiry, and India's case for sterling balances is being prepared. Are we still preparing India's case for sterling balances?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Bringing it up-to-date.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Thank you, Sir. Why has not India's case for sterling balances been proclaimed from the housetop, from every newspaper, sent down to every country in the world?

What is India's case for sterling? As I mentioned these are sacred obligations, you took them by force, you took them without our consent, you took them when we needed them most, and you are evading, you are not giving the proper answer. Your behaviour as debtor to the creditor is not reasonable, because the creditor, for the time being, is politically under you.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Are you addressing the Government of India or the United Kingdom?

Mr. Manu Subedar: This is what I would say to them. Sir, I feel that England's hands are not clean in her financial deal with regard to sterling balances.

Mr. Ahmad E. H. Jaffer (Bombay Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural): They never were.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I feel, Sir, that they have not given a good account of themselves, and they are still doing, to use a mild word, hanky-panky.

Sir, the debtor is ruling the creditor. India has been for such a long time a debtor country that it is not easy—my Honourable friend must realize that—it is not easy for us to feel very happy in the position of a creditor which is somewhat unfamiliar and somewhat unusual. We are bound to be extremely sensitive and apprehensive with regard to this issue, and we are bound to point out that timely and proper action must be taken both in London and in New Delhi for this purpose.

Sir, what is the debtor doing, the debtor who is ruling the creditor for the time being? What is he doing? He is canalizing orders towards himself; he is using India's economy for the advancement of British interests: Motor cars made in England are being offered to us at a very highly inflated value, but this same country is buying hides, tea, groundnuts, rubber, jute and various other things at controlled prices, in some cases even at monopoly prices. Sir, the debtor and the creditor position is one which I should like to see ended very soon. I should like to see England make an honest attempt to hand over what she can, and I would like all the things which can be reasonably and properly given without breaking down England's economy to be handed over to this country against the debt which they have forced on us.

I do not know what is the final policy still of this Government as well as of the United Kingdom Government. I regret very much my inability to make a distinction between the Government of India and His Majesty's Government. I have honestly tried and I am sorry to say I have failed and I do not know what their policy still is. Take the newly imposed bullion duty. Is this also a part of the general policy of the United Kingdom.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: So far from consulting them, I have never even told them about it.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Sir, I honestly regret that much as I try to think that this Government functions independently without any reference to London, I am unable to bring myself to that belief. I am very sorry for it, but this is the position. . . . .

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi: General): Why do you regret it. Constitutionally you are right.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I am sorry because I have to say something in very flat contradiction to the Honourable the Finance Member. Something is going on, and it is part of the whole general game, that this country which is momentarily created as a creditor country will, I am afraid, before very long, be again hurled into a position when it is debtor, when we will have heavy balances of trade in our favour, and we shall want gold and the arrival of that gold is being intercepted by the Honourable the Finance Member.

It was in this background that we had to judge the position with regard to the entry of India into the Bretton Woods Conference and owing to the tact and courtesy used by the Honourable the Finance Member he was able to get a unanimous report from the Committee on the preliminary issue which he has this morning dealt with, namely that send the Governor to the first meeting. Now, Sir, this Governor is a very big word. What we are sending is a representative to the first shareholders' meeting and India is called upon to sign on the dotted line for the ultimate liability of 266 crores of rupees. We have agreed to let him go. We have requested him to come back and give us a report of what is done there and also of the allied factors and we trust that if, in the meanwhile, *all* material which this Government is preparing is placed before us, His Majesty's Government initiate the sterling discussions as we have requested, we trust we shall certainly endeavour to come to the same point of view which this Government has taken. But I hope Government will realize the true position of the Opposition in this matter. We are speaking, we are straining on an issue which we think is of the most vital importance to the future of this country and to the several generations which are to come, and any remarks which we make ought to be interpreted in that light. When I said Sir that England's hands were not clean, that honest intentions and honest dealings between one country and another were not to be found with regard to the handling of the sterling issue so far, I was sorry to have made that statement, but I felt that I must do so in the interests of my country.

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson: In rising to support the motion which is before the House in the name of the Honourable the Finance Member, I should like to join with Mr. Manu Subedar in practically the only part of a very long speech in which I find myself in agreement with him, in saying how much the Committee of the House owes to the wisdom and the tact and the good humour and the numerous charms and talents of the Finance Member, whose imminent departure continues to cause grief to all parts of the House.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: He is blushing!

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson: I think it is fairly common knowledge that during the past five weeks during which the Committee was deliberating, and over the long period of the large number of meetings which it held, considerable differences developed and a close examination of the interim report does show, and the speeches which have been made today support the fact, that actually agreement has been attained only over a somewhat small and restricted field. That agreement as between Government, the small Group which I represent here, and the two larger Parties, authorises the Government of India to send their representative to the initial meeting of quota holders in the Fund and Shareholders in the Bank. I think that whatever our views may be about the two Bretton Woods final acts, our Committee has shown wisdom in at least agreeing to take the next inevitable step in implementing India's membership of the Fund and the Bank. Had we failed Sir, to send a representative to Washington for this coming week's meeting, I think India's action would have been regarded as tantamount to withdrawal from the Fund.

Now, Sir, the question of adherence to the two Bretton Woods acts is the real point at issue, but I think the Committee, and certainly the House on the two occasions that we had this matter before us, and probably the press and the public, have strayed a good long way from what is after all a very simple and straight proposition, which is whether India should continue to adhere to the

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Fund, and whether this House endorses and reinforces the Government's action in having adhered or signified adherence to the Fund before the Legislature assembled. A good many extraneous issues of very considerable interest to my Honourable friends, particularly on the opposite side of the House, and indeed to all sections of the House, have been imported into the discussion from time to time. I will return later on in my remarks to some of those issues; but, in the meantime, I would like to enquire, if I may, or to suggest, what, apart from the general objective of the international monetary fund, which is to promote a revival of international trade on a multilateral basis, what apart from that should be the test of Indian self-interest in approaching the most important of the two Bretton Woods Agreements. I mentioned the word "self-interest" because I do not think any of us deludes ourselves . . . . .

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Whose self?

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson: . . . that any participant in the Fund or Bank, or for that matter we ourselves are going into those two institutions for motives that are purely altruistic. Self-interest guides nations as my Honourable friend, Mr. Subedar, knows, as much as it guides individuals. And proceeding on the assumption that the chief sponsor of the Fund, the United States, also had a measure of self-interests (namely to let the risks inherent in international trade be as widely spread as possible) when she put forward the proposals for the International Monetary Fund, what should be the test of India's self-interest in this matter? The test which I suggest we in this country should apply to the proposal, purely from the Indian point of view and in India's self-interest, is whether in fact the International Monetary Fund provides greater, or less, accessibility to sources of foreign exchange, particularly those hard currencies such as dollars which India especially wants. Secondly and conversely, I would say the other test of self-interest is whether it gives to other countries particularly those outside the serling bloc, the access to those rupees that they may require from India for the commodities and goods that India is willing and anxious to sell to them? If we apply these two tests to the proposals for the international monetary fund, I suggest that those proposals stand up to them and there can be no doubt that, if as a concession to Mr. Manu Subedar we can afford it, we ought to be in the Fund. But too often we are prone to forget that trade between the nations is a two-way, in fact a many-way affair, and that India wants to buy as well as to sell. So, Sir, judged by the two tests of self-interest, which I have defined, I have no doubt whatsoever in my mind that our adherence to the Fund, to which we are making our way so timidly and cautiously, is the correct action for the House to take and for the Government of India to take, and I hope that the resolution now under consideration will gain the acceptance of Honourable Members, at least on the ground of self-interest.

Before proceeding to the consideration of other matters and disposing of the objective aspects of the case before us, I would like to refer to the last paragraph of Mr. Reddiar's amendment to the resolution regarding the question of Indian Executive Directors which it raises, because it also projects an important point of principle on which I expressed a view last time the matter was before the House on behalf of myself and my colleagues in this Group. Mr. Reddiar's amendment says: "That the Governor, his alternate, the Executive Directors and their alternates, in the Bank and the Fund shall be Indians approved by the Committee." Well, Sir, we entirely endorse the fact that the officers named, the officials named, should be Indians. But I myself in my own mind, much as I enjoyed some of the meetings of this Committee of the House, am very doubtful whether it should be entrusted at any stage, either now or hereafter, with the appointment of the Indian representatives on the Bank. If I may say so, with great respect to my colleagues, it has neither the necessary technical poise nor, I imagine, the constitutional authority. However, I would like to

quote, if I may, what was said on this particular point by myself, when the matter was before the House on the 28th January last, when I was speaking on behalf of the European Group. What I then said was this:

"In this matter Indian interests should predominate. And I would like to add and to underline, if I may say so, that we also hold that when India goes into the Fund, she must wield not merely formal power but the reality of power, and that this power must and should be wielded by Indians and for Indians."

I think that was pretty clear, and we adhere now and will continue to adhere to that view. The membership of the Fund, as I said before, constitutes an important opportunity and occasion for India to assert monetary sovereignty and we believe that there can be no question, there can be no doubt that Indian interests should come first last and all the time and that they should be guarded, expanded and put forward by Indian gentlemen, who are particularly fitted for this kind of work. That, Sir, I venture to suggest is a very different thing to investing a Committee of this House, or perhaps even the House itself, with authority over appointments which will take representatives of this country into the very heart of one of the most complicated and technical matters that India can have before it.

I would like to turn back for a moment to the interim report of the Committee and to draw the attention of the House to the third paragraph of that report, which is also mentioned in Mr. Reddiar's amendment. The third paragraph of that report reads as follows:

"We are also informed by the Honourable the Finance Member that sections 40 and 41 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, under which the Bank is legally compelled to give rupees for sterling and to accumulate sterling against the issue of rupees will be amended as part of the action that will be taken to implement adherence to the International Monetary Fund Agreement."

As I understand it, Sir, the amendment of Sections 40 and 41 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, which the Honourable the Finance Member forecasts in the interim report is rendered necessary to rectify primarily a legal anomaly, that is to say the incompatibility of Sections 40 and 41 of the Reserve Bank Act with, amongst other sections, Article 6, Section 1 of the Articles of Agreement of the International Monetary Fund. I take it that this action is rendered necessary, because if such an amendment of the Reserve Bank Act was not carried out, India would be in the anomalous position of retaining a domestic statute which would, in fact, be in direct conflict with an international undertaking, which was solemnly given in both cases. I see the Honourable the Finance Member shakes his head in concurrence, but I would like to say this . . . . .

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In opposition.

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson: No, in concurrence on this occasion.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): He can shake his head only from his seat.

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson: If my interpretation is correct, and from what I have read and heard it should be, there are a great many other people of other parties who are prepared to read a good deal more into the amendment of those two sections of the Reserve Bank Act (which in fact specify the sterling-rupee ratio) than I have done this morning. The question has raised doubts and controversies or perhaps I may more cautiously say, may raise doubts and controversy and expectations and may give rise to misunderstandings on the part of the public, and I would therefore ask the Honourable the Finance Member to make the position a little clearer when he comes to reply to the debate at the end of the day's proceedings. I feel that he owes it to himself and to the House and to the public outside to throw as much light as possible on these two very important clauses of the Reserve Bank of India Act.

I have said all I proposed to say at this stage at least about the Bretton Woods Agreement and that part of the interim report which refers to the agreement.

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I turn now to one or two, or at least one important of the other subjects which have been mentioned in the general tenor of our discussions. It is almost impossible to discuss anything in India today, in the financial or the economic fields, without feeling the heavy clouds of this issue of the sterling balances pressing heavily upon us. I know that several times in the course of these meetings my Honourable friend Mr. Subedar has asked me to try and put myself into the place of an Indian in this matter, and I think at least he will give me credit for having been frank enough to say that I could not see the issue of sterling balances entirely from the Indian point of view; but as one who has worked in India for a long time—practically for the whole of his working life—I am just as anxious as anybody else, in any other section or any other part of this House, to see that India gets a fair and proper deal in the settlement of her outstanding balances. I realise, representing as I do a constituency which is composed almost entirely of British traders and merchants, that what is done in the matter of settling these sterling balances may well, if it went the wrong way, sully Indo-British trade relations and sour the atmosphere in which we have got to live and to work and trade in this country for a generation or more to come. Britain's record in her dealings with India (and here I submit and I frankly admit that I cannot put myself into the shoes of an Indian—I speak as a Briton) in the economic and financial sphere has, I think, at least been inspired by a desire to do the right thing. (*Honourable Members*: Oh, Oh!). I have already said that I cannot see it from your point of view, but I am trying to come as near to the latter as I can; and having said that let me add this. I said that the sterling balances, like the poor, appear to be always with us. I have never yet heard this vexed question discussed in the dispassionate and objective manner in which it really deserves to be treated. Mr. Manu Subedar, my Honourable friend the member for the Indian Merchants Chamber, representing the Indian counterpart of the Clive Street magnates whom I represent amongst other people in this country, drew a most harrowing picture of the sufferings of the poor, of an India gagged and bound and being robbed, all because of what? All because of war expenditure and sterling balances which form such an important part therein. We do not need to go further back than yesterday. In discussing war expenditure the Finance Member was obliged to say this:

"In largely agricultural countries such as India and the Middle Eastern States, war expenditure, though in absolute amounts much less than in the industrialised states of the West, has had a proportionately greater effect in stimulating the growth of the national income."

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Where? In India?

Mr. President: Order, order. It is time for us to adjourn for Lunch, today being Friday. I think this is a convenient point for the Honourable Member to stop. He may resume his speech after Lunch.

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

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Quarter Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson: When the House rose for Lunch, I had just finished quoting a remark of the Honourable the Finance Member in yesterday's Budget speech which was designed to show that at least in one respect sterling balances which are so frequently cast for the role of the villain of the piece were not entirely without their advantages. I quite agree with the Honourable the Finance Member that in fact sterling balances, as part of the corpus of war finance have contributed rapidly and substantially to the growth of national income in several countries in the East and particularly in India. The reason why I referred to what Sir Archibald Rowlands said yesterday was because it is clear, on any basis of reasoning, that in this matter of sterling balances you cannot have it bothways. If, in fact, as an integral part of the mechanism of

war finance, sterling balances have led to an upgrading of national income, it is at least something for which all sections of the House can reasonably be thankful, and it is therefore a little difficult to follow the reasoning by which it is now sought to make out that overnight this transaction is something disreputable, something shady, something rather unclean and unsavoury. But whatever may be thought about the past, so far as the future is concerned I suggest that we have all got a definite and specific interest in the manageability of sterling balances. In seeking for the best or the easiest way to turn them still further to India's positive advantage, both Britons and Indians alike have an interest in seeing that this process is carefully thought out and that is one of the reasons, above all others, why I suggest to Honourable Members that when the House is giving its verdict on this subject it should do so with a full sense of realism and a full sense of responsibility. I repeat what I said this morning that my colleagues in this Group, and the community which we represent in this House, have a special interest in the negotiation and the settlement of the sterling balances which the Honourable the Finance Member forecasted in his Budget speech yesterday. We are interested mainly in trade, and if our trade is to be profitable to ourselves and of use to India, it has got to rest upon a reasonable, a fair and a just settlement of this question in which, as I say, our interest is no less than those of Honourable Members who sit on the other side of the House.

The Honourable Member for the Indian Merchants Chamber, Bombay referred in the course of his speech this morning, as he has done in the Committee of the House and he has done on previous occasions in this House, to the character of the debt. He wants as I see it Britain to come forward as a *bona fide* debtor. Speaking as a Briton, I am acutely conscious of our financial position in the world today. I am also equally conscious and equally proud of the way that has been brought about. It is not of our seeking. Britain has made sacrifices by comparison with which none others that I know of can be easily measured. Mr. Subedar asked that the debt should be treated as something more than a commercial debt. He deprecated the suggestion which has come from high quarters in England that the debt could not be treated as a commercial debt. Well, in this matter, as in others, I can assure him that like himself I am a Keynesian. I believe that what Lord Keynes said as Leader of the U. K. Delegation at Bretton Woods represents the most authoritative expression of opinion on the subject, namely, that what was honourably given will be honourably repaid. In the course of the promised negotiations for the settlement of the debt, I have no doubt that a number of methods of repayment, some of which are implicit in the International Monetary Fund of Bretton Woods plans and some of which are quite outside these plans, will be explored as part of what the Honourable the Finance Member has emphasized must necessarily be a bilateral settlement. I am quite sure also that whichever method, by whatever means, we try to arrange the transfer and the repayment of this debt, the great bulk of the sterling balances, whether you look upon it as commercial or not, will have to be repaid by what, in fact, are ordinary commercial processes. Mr. Subedar asks that the debt shall be treated as something higher, something on a higher moral plane than a purely commercial transaction; but I have no doubt in my own mind that it is by the plain, well understood and straightforward methods of commerce that we will in the end have to repay to India a very large proportion of the debt. I would ask Honourable Members, therefore, to bear in mind that there is in fact no alternative to a commercial method for repayment of some large part of the debts. My Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar's putting forward his case, as his friends on that side see it, suggested that we were not really in earnest about the question of British assets and their realisation. He talked somewhat disparagingly of obsolete British cruisers. In the flight of his imagination and eloquence he also talked about the possibility of Indians taking over the Savoy Hotel in England and things of that sort. I can as a matter of fact suggest to him a good number of obsolete

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hotels in England which might well be taken over, but I will not do so. This is really a serious matter to discuss the repayment of debts. He then went on in a theme, and on a note, which is familiar to most of us in this House, to demand what he called the mobilisation, whatever that may be, of British commercial assets. Now, Sir, a great deal can be said (I have already detained the House long enough) about the mobilisation, to use Mr. Manu Subedar's phrase of all British commercial assets. A great deal can be said, a great deal, undoubtedly, will have to be said about this subject in the coming months. What I propose to say on this occasion is very brief, and it is this. It is only by a continuance of the British trading connection in India—if you accept my contention that a great part of the debt must be paid by commercial means—it is only by a continuance of the British trading connection in India, in and with India, I would put it, that the sterling debt position is capable of that kind of quick transformation, that kind of transformation, favourable to Indian claims and rights which my Honourable friends on the other side of the House wish to see accomplished. I would ask that that fact should be clearly understood. My Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar, this morning, used the phrase that India is a sensitive creditor. I think those were his two words. Let me say to India, as a sensitive creditor, and also let me say on behalf of British business, with a full sense of responsibility of what I am saying, quite simply, quite firmly and I hope quite politely that no case has been made out for the transfer of British commercial assets, which we regard as an integral part of the industrial and economic fabric of this country. I say quite deliberately that we do not propose to be expropriated in the guise of mobilisation or any other process here.

Mr. Manu Subedar: On a point of personal explanation. Expropriation by the Indian Government authorities was never suggested by me. It was furthest from my mind. All that I said was that His Majesty's Government who are debtors to this country ought to mobilise the assets of their nationals. Sir, these gentlemen have never accepted the nationality of India and therefore they cannot form part of the fabric of India. We do not want to touch a single hair of theirs. They are quite safe here. It is to His Majesty's Government that I made the suggestion that they should mobilise the British commercial assets in this country.

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson: I am grateful to my Honourable friend for his assurance, firstly that I and my colleagues are safe and also secondly for his assurance that he has no intention of expropriating us. He has satisfied me on that point.

Now, Sir, in the very few minutes before I close, I should like to refer to what has been said about one aspect of the Anglo-American Loan. Is is quite a long way, really speaking the subject of this loan from Bretton Woods. But I feel obliged to mention it.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Why, the British Parliament discussed both together?

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson: Because it has been introduced into our discussion today and on previous occasions when we had this subject before us. I do not and cannot accept Mr. Manu Subedar's contention that the Anglo-American Loan is part of some involved and sinister plot between the two countries to rob India. That is virtually what his argument boils down to. Many of us have considerable qualms about the loan. In connection with the proposed loan, I am reminded of the story of the American gentleman who presented his servant with a bottle of whisky. The following morning he asked his servant as to how he enjoyed the whisky. The servant said, 'It is all right'. "Well," said the master, "what do you mean by saying it is all right". The servant said "If it had been better, you would not have given it to me, but if it had been worse. I could not have drunk it". That is how some of us feel about the terms of this loan. My Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar referred at

some length to clause 10(c) of the proposed agreement. I quite agree that that clause may and, in fact, does excite some suspicion amongst Indians. But in dealing with it, he completely omitted, so far as I remember, any reference to clause 10(a) under which, if I may say so, as a matter of practical business and practical politics, India stands to obtain quickly at least a substantial proportion, repayment of a substantial proportion of her sterling debt. My Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar, in the long and close examination of the subject, also omitted to mention the underlying assumption the underlying purpose of that loan, if and when it is granted, which is to assist in the convertibility of the sterling, a proposition which we all want in this House and which he more than others professes to want.

So, Sir, I end, as I began; let us judge Bretton Woods, let us judge particularly the international monetary fund agreement by its intrumentality for convertibility. I believe if the House, this afternoon, endorses the action, endorses the interim report of the committee which it has set up, it will have gone a long way, not only to establish India's own financial independence among the nations but to secure the immediate objective of convertibility of its foreign balances.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Sir, my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar has spoken on behalf of the millionaires of India, and my Honourable friend Mr. Tyson spoke on behalf of the European Group and now I am going to speak on behalf of the poor people of this country, by whose privations and starvations this sterling balance has been created. Not only the sterling balance, but also as I will talk later on, the rupee balances have been created in this country. The thing is I agree with my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar so far as his conclusions are concerned, but I do not share with him in his nervousness, nor do I share with him in his arguments. I feel in the same way about these sterling balances as he feels, but I do not shout like the man who says: "The thief has stolen away all my property" and things of that kind. It is our money and we should calmly think how to get it back, simply nervous shouting will not help us. My Honourable friend made some fuss about it in the Committee, and whenever we had a discussion he switched off to the speeches made by two or three people on this matter. But I will quote the speech of the Finance Member who says:

"Any idea that she is committed in advance to a scaling down of the balances or to a continuance of arrangements under which such balances will continue to accrue is entirely without foundation."

He has repudiated the assertions of those other people,—Sir John Anderson and others. My Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar may say that the Finance Member cannot speak on behalf of the British Government; but those other people also do not speak on behalf of the British Government, and the British Government has said nothing officially about it as yet. Therefore we need not take these arguments into account.

As regards the main issue—I will say that India is a poor country and these sterling balances have accrued out of the privations and starvation of the people, and we cannot afford to lose this money. We must get it back and we must see how to get it back. The Finance Member has suggested that a committee will go out from this country representing different shades of opinion—not only the billionaires but also the poor people—and they will devise the method of getting these balances back. Of course we cannot have them in Bank of England notes because they are useless here. There is only one method by which one country can repay the debts of another, and that is by means of commodities including gold and silver. When I said the other day that some locomotives should be purchased in England to raise traffic here, I was told that our industries will suffer. If I want to purchase cloth abroad the textile mills will cry out because it will lower the prices. If I want to purchase something else like iron and steel I will be told that Tata's will suffer. So with regard to the method of repayment there are enormous differences of opinion and you have to think

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seriously about it. I agree with my Honourable friend in his conclusion that India is a poor country and we cannot afford to lose these sterling balances. And we can get them back by means of goods. My Honourable friend was a pupil of Lord Keynes, I was the contemporary of Lord Keynes at Cambridge, and we are both entitled to quote him. I learnt something from him, my friend learned the reverse. The thing is that we must have a favourable balance of trade, and the Finance Member shares that view. He says in his budget speech:

"Indeed it is possible that in the course of 1946-47 the United Kingdom may succeed in increasing the exports to India to such an extent as to avoid any further additions to our sterling credits and perhaps even to reduce them."

So that our deputation will have to think it out. My Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar will perhaps say that we should purchase capital goods so that the billionaire may become multi-billionaires. But we who represent the poorer sections of the people have our own views as to the priority of goods to be secured. I circulated a note about it in the Committee. I said that the first priority should be given to machinery and other articles required for the improvement of agriculture; secondly, to transport which is so necessary for industry; the third priority should be given to nationalised industries so that the profits may go to the taxpayers and the people of the country; after that in order of priority will come the machines and tools which are required for the improvement of cottage industries; then will come those articles which will tend to lower the price-level in this country, because its reduction is now so absolutely essential. During the last six years I have been pressing this in season and out of season I have always urged that the purchasing power of the rupee should be increased and the price-index should be lowered. Whenever I raised this point in the Committee my friend Mr. Manu Subedar switched me off to the sterling balances. Today he for the first time spoke about lowering the prices although his own constituents are responsible chiefly for raising the prices. The correct thing is to lower the prices of all economic products to the index of 150, and of the other manufactured articles and labour and wages to 125; and afterwards we should stabilise these prices. I have one complaint against the Finance Member and that is that it is a budget for the billionaires and the poor people do not come in. The E. P. T. is off; I wish he had raised the income-tax level from 2,000 to Rs. 2,500 and kept the E. P. T. The poor people would have been benefited thereby. In any case Mr. Manu Subedar can have no grouse against this budget.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Just wait until I speak on the budget.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: As regards the price-level, the levy of a special duty on gold and silver will stand in the way of lowering the price-level. We the poor people have been pressing that the price-level should be lowered and the purchasing power of the rupee raised.

The other thing, with which I entirely agree, is that we must start some kind of negotiations in order to settle our sterling balances. We do not like to get them written off by purchasing obsolete articles. We ought to set up a special committee which should advise us with regard to the kind of articles which should be purchased in order to liquidate these sterling balances. We should keep an eye on that, but at the same time we should give priority in the manner in which I have already suggested. I hope that the committee will clearly undertake to do this and will find out methods by which this can be done.

As regards the quotations given by my Honourable friend, Mr. Manu Subedar, I can only say that he quoted the sentence which suited him and omitted what did not. He quoted section (c) of section 10, but he did not quote section (a) which has been pointed out by Mr. Tyson. He did not mention section 7 altogether If you want to quote, then you should place before the House argument both for and against. Section 7 says:

"We are having this sterling dollar pool exchange. . . . .they will be freely available for current transactions in any currency area without discrimination, with the result that any discrimination arising from the so called sterling area dollar pool will be entirely removed and that each member of the sterling area will have its current sterling and dollar receipts at the free disposition for current transactions anywhere."

I entirely agree with Mr. Siddiqi when he says that since India is also involved in these transactions, it is in fairness that India should also be given a chance to express its opinion in this matter: Of course it is primarily the concern of the United States and the United Kingdom so long as India is not brought into this Agreement, but now that India forms part of this Agreement, I think it is fair that the representative of India should also be there when these representations are made.

The other thing as far as our committee is concerned is that we did not have much information. If you see our report carefully, you will find that we are not requesting you to commit yourself to anything. We say, India should send her representative to negotiate about sterling balances. Let us then wait and see what is the result. Sir Chintaman Deshmukh has gone to represent India in this particular matter, and I have asked him particularly to discuss one point there, and that point, which is very important from Indian point of view, is this: America has fixed the purchasing power of gold, which is about Rs. 43 a tola, but it ought to fix also the selling price of gold. If both selling and purchasing prices are fixed, then the gambling and speculation, which is now going on, will decrease very much and will probably disappear. There are a number of other points which we have asked him to discuss there, and therefore we would like to have some kind of report from our representative before we can make up our mind. There were some other doubts too. As India has now become one of the four countries, we will also have our office there which will keep the gold reserve and will also deal with current transactions. We will now be included in the first directorate. In this particular Report, which is now before us, we do not ask you to commit yourself to anything, but before deciding anything finally we would like to wait and see what our representative has to say. He will submit a report about our sterling balances, and about the working of these banks. After we have discussed his report, we will be in a position to decide whether we should or should not join. It will be open to the House to decide that. But we should study the matter still further and we should examine it very carefully before deciding it finally.

There is one more point: If you send your representative there he cannot take part in the Organization without becoming a Member. Therefore really speaking he becomes a Member, but I may tell you that you can withdraw by a simple resolution. If after examining the report of the committee we decide to withdraw we can do so without any further financial liability except that we will have to pay the travelling expenses of our representative.

Another thing which I would like to press, and which for the first time has been pressed by my Honourable friend, is that attempts should be made to lower the price index. I have got here the price index of various articles, and I find that the greatest culprits are the textile manufacturers. They are the people who raised the price a great deal. Wheat and rice also take the lead.

Finally, Sir, I am glad that during the discussion my Honourable friend, Mr. Manu Subedar, has drawn attention to one point—which I will mention presently—for the first time. We are going to pursue this in future. By our people's privation and sufferings not only the sterling balances have been accumulated in London, but rupee balances have also been accumulated by what I call the Indian Ali Babas. We have not taken account of these balances so far, but we will have to do that. Time has come when we should see how much money they have accumulated on account of the sufferings and privation of the poor people of this country. Therefore we are not only going to take back very penny of our sterling balances, but we are going to take back every pie from these multi-millionaires who have accumulated wealth during the war. This is the thing which we should also do. After all we are poor people. I speak on behalf of the poor people of India. If anyone has become rich on

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account of my sufferings, I should be paid back. In this particular case, not only I should ask the people of the United Kingdom to pay us the sterling balances, but we are also to have back in some shape or the other all the rupees which these millionaires have accumulated by joining together in some form of unknown friendship. So, if we should not allow the sterling balances to grow we should not allow the rupee balances to grow in India. My friend has been very partial to these people by letting them off the excess profits tax. By letting off our defaulters in the rupee, we will not allow you to become a defaulter in sterling! After all when we have suffered, we want the thing back. The poor people want a better standard of living. They want everything, nothing less, and we want all those people who have accumulated wealth on account of our privations to give back something to us so that we may enjoy life comparable to the life of the poor people in other countries. With these words, I support the report which I have signed.

Mr. President: With a view to have the representative views of each party, I have allowed every representative speaker of each party to place his views fully in the beginning without thinking of any time limit. Personally, even now I have no desire to put a time limit, but I find there is a big number of persons who would like to speak. May I know what time the Honourable the Finance Member would require for reply?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Anything between five minutes and quarter of an hour.

Mr. President: Then I would reserve the last fifteen minutes for the Honourable the Finance Member to reply, and in between, without mentioning a time limit, I would request speakers to observe a time limit.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Nominated Non-Official): What time limit? The minutes?

Mr. President: It would not be enough. But that depends on the speaker; and not being an expert economist myself I cannot judge what points they have. But I would put it at about 15 to 20 minutes. That would be a very reasonable limit.

Sri T. V. Satakopachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I have tabled an amendment. I should be allowed an opportunity to explain the amendment.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member Mr. Satakopachari may speak.

Sri T. V. Satakopachari: The Honourable the Finance Member was right when he said that myself and my Honourable friend, Mr. Reddiar may not press the amendment, but we have tabled an amendment and in fairness to my Honourable friend, Mr. Reddiar, and the others in the House, I wish to say a few words as to why the necessity arose in tabling this amendment and what I wish to express or what I would request the Honourable the Finance Member to bear in mind when he replies to the debate in this House.

3 P.M.

If we accept the agreement, Sir, it is because we feel that we should not throw the baby if there is one in the tub along with the bath water. There may be some good things and especially because in the *ad hoc* committee very many of my friends have sat and deliberated and have come to an agreement, we do not want to disturb that. But at the same time, Sir, I feel that more of an assurance is required in certain respects and that is why, Sir, myself and my friend tabled this amendment.

The Honourable Mr. Tyson is perfectly right when he said that the sterling balances cloud the issue, rather hang like a cloud before this question and rightly too, because we feel like a poor creditor trying to come and demand money from a very rich debtor. I am just reminded of a story—and stop me if you have heard this one! John was pacing up and down and would not come to bed. Mrs. John said: Look here, what is the meaning of your pacing up and down like this. John said: Well dear, I owe Mr. Smith a lot of money. I do not know how I am to pay him the money. She said: Go to bed. It is the other man who should be pacing up and down thinking how you are going to pay him. Sir, I feel like that. We do not know how the debtor is going to pay.

Then, Sir, the Honourable Finance Member assured us that the Sterling balances will not be scaled down and Mr. Tyson joined him and said it will be honoured to the last pie. Mr. Subedar has already pointed out to the House that there were many promises made in respect of many matters both outside and inside this House and unfortunately they have not been kept. There is a place, Sir, that is said to be paved with good intentions. I am afraid that this House is carpeted with good resolutions and panelled with fine promises. Mr. Tyson and my leader, Mr. Subedar, sang praises in favour of the Finance Member and brought blushes to his cheeks. I would fain join in it. I have also basked in the sunshine of his smile, but I was always feeling like the fly which is asked by the spider to walk into its parlour. I may be pardoned for saying it. But at the same time, I would feel much assured—I do not know about the Honourable Members of this House—if the promises are repeated again and again because I find that in a recent speech, or rather in a message sent by President Truman to the Congress commending the Anglo-American loan he said, referring to the thorny problem of Britain's sterling liabilities:

"That the British Government 'has undertaken to adjust and settle these obligations out of resources other than the American credit and outlined its intentions with respect to their settlement. Our concern is twofold. In the first place we want other countries, which are in a positon to do so, to grant assistance to the United Kingdom within their means. Those which hold large sterling balances can do so by scaling them down'."

Sir, it is not only from persons of great influence and importance, great economists and politicians in the country that rules us that we hear of adjustments, scaling down and other things and inability of the greatest financier of the world to pay but also from the richest country in the world we hear such a statement, from a person of responsibility as the President of the United States himself. Would it be too much to expect that we are alarmed at the prospect of the scaling down. I agree with Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad that no amount of shouting is going to help us but at the same time, I think that insisting persistently in our point of view is bound to be heard and if at all we are of any use in this House . . . .

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Without being nervous.

Sri T. V. Satakopachari: Yes, in a calm and collected manner, though not shouting at the top of our voice as some of us back benchers have to do in order to be heard in this House, let us go on stressing again and again the point of view of our country and our people. The question of the scaling down of the sterling balances is there. Of course that warps a bit our criticism of the Bretton Woods Agreement. We cannot inherently be completely dissociated in our mind from these large questions. Though I won't put it as a bargain counter, on which we should have a deal, conclude the question and then think of entering into this international Monetary Fund or the Bank—I would not go so far as that—, I would certainly say, with due respect, that we have got to get some sort of assurance not from the Honourable the Finance Member, who has already given that assurance, but from responsible quarters in the United Kingdom that such a thing will not be done. That is why I have referred to it. That is why in the amendment I have proposed in clause 2 I have said:

"That India should not only welcome but positively ask for an early and authoritative reassurance by His Majesty's Government regarding the repayment of sterling credits and in any event not later than the 30th June, 1946."

Because these things have a tendency to be postponed time after time and so we want an assurance from the Honourable the Finance Member on behalf of

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the Government that they will bring this question before the persons responsible for the policy of the United Kingdom and get them give an assurance to us that no scaling will be done and that every pie of the sterling balances will be returned.

I am aware that in this we are in a peculiar position. The creditor is not able to choose the medium in which he will be paid. The debtor has got the right to do it. It is a rather peculiar situation. But situated as we are, we are in that unhappy position but at the same time I feel that the debtor has got many advantages with him. The debtor can easily transfer some of the assets that he holds in this country to our hands. He can make over the sterling assets to us, even as it is subject to the vagaries of the exchange ratio which has been fixed at 18*d*. This, Sir, I feel is a thing which the debtor ought to do for the creditor early. These things should be borne in mind when further steps are taken in regard to the Bretton Woods Agreement.

I am sure on this side of the House at least my friends will agree with Mr. Manu Subedar when he said that the sterling balances are in the nature of a trust. He put it on a higher basis, on a moral basis. I entirely agree. I cannot put it on a commercial basis, because for me commercial honesty is something less than ordinary individual honesty, just as political diplomacy is something less than ordinary human conduct. I would put it on the basis of a trust, especially because India is a subject country and the debtor is the dominant ruler of the country. So I would put it on the moral obligation of a trustee. I would say that it is higher than an ordinary debtor's obligation.

In regard to the position that we may be occupying in the International Fund and the Bank I find that the purposes of the International Fund as stated are rather very big. To promote international monetary co-operation, expansion and balancing of international trade, maintain high levels of employment . . . development of productive resources, promotion of exchange stability, avoidance of competitive exchange alterations, etc., etc. But I find in regard to the voting system that I am like a small shareholder in a fund started by very big people holding a large amount of shares. I have no voice in the shaping of the policy. My vote counts for nothing. I find that the U. S. and the U. K. have a major voice in the shaping of policies in all things. At every step every question is to be decided by the Fund and it means a majority in the Fund. On page 15 of the Final Act it is stated: "A member may change the par value of its currency without the concurrence of the Fund if the change does not affect the international transactions of members of the Fund." That it does so or does not, the decision lies in the hands of the Fund. Then again, "The Fund shall concur in a proposed change". Obviously if the Fund is satisfied.

On page 16 it says "Whenever the par value of a member's currency is reduced or the foreign exchange value of a member's currency has, in the opinion of the Fund, depreciated . . . . " I want to point out that the Fund seems to have an absolutely dominant and deciding voice in all these matters. We would be nowhere. We would be like the dwarf in the company of the giant in the fable. We will have to suffer all the consequences and difficulties that the combination may subject us to.

Article IV, Sec. 1, reads:

"The par value of the currency of each member shall be expressed in terms of gold as a common denominator or in terms of the United States dollar of the weight and fineness in effect on July 1, 1944."

Linked as we are to the sterling I have grave doubts whether the ratio will be advantageous to us. We do not have the option as other countries have of determining the par value or the real exchange value. We have an artificial ratio. In regard to foreign trades and relationships with other members, we are circumscribed by over so many conditions. The Fund has got to decide all these things. At page 23 the relation with non-member countries is given in article 11—"not to engage in, nor permit any of its fiscal agencies etc. etc. to engage in any transactions . . . . . not to co-operate with a non-member etc. etc. . . . . ., to co-operate with the Fund . . . . . etc. etc. . . . . to prevent transactions with non-members etc. etc. . . . . ". There also the Fund comes in; and then in article 9 about status immunities and privileges—very few of them will be useful for us, situated as we are in this country. I do not want to take the House through several other items because we have no time and we have already threshed out this proposition. But I would suggest that, as these matters are very complicated, a standing committee or *ad hoc* committee chosen from among the members of this House might be appointed and these things put before them also. Two heads are always better than one, however intelligent that person may be; and so I would suggest with all respect and humility that these matters may be placed before an *ad hoc* committee, if the Honourable Finance Member agrees to the suggestion. I will comment on the other amendments that I have given notice of and leave it at that.

In amendment para. No. 3 I have said that the Honourable Finance Member should give an assurance that within the closing of the present session of the Assembly the Government will get sections 40 and 41, as also the provision for unlimited backing of Indian currency by sterling, of the Reserve Bank of India Act of 1934 modified. I only wanted to see that this is done early.

In No. 4 I say that further commitments should not be undertaken before they are considered by the committee and sanctioned by the Assembly. Of course I am aware that there is a clause saying that if these negotiations are delayed unduly it may be necessary for India to withdraw before the negotiations take place. But, as in the matter of the railway demands for instance, where they had the order to go ahead, they went headlong—it should not be like that. That is why we have put in paras. 4 and 5. We also want that further commitments should not be confined only to financial matters but must be extended to decisions and intimations of the par value of the rupee, and payment of subscription to the fund or bank. I would also like this to be placed before the Assembly after being placed before the committee, because the report does not mention that it will be placed before the Assembly also.

Lastly in para. 6 I suggest that the Governor, his alternate, the Executive Directors and their alternates in the bank and the fund shall be Indians approved by the committee. I mean by approved, such as the committee would think all right. There need not be formal approval or recognition by the committee, but such persons as we approve may be taken. I find that the Honourable Mr. Tyson agreed in principle by saying that Indians should be filling these posts. It is only we who can know where the shoe pinches, and therefore it is but right and proper that Indians should be there to represent our views in the matter.

In other respects I agree and I believe that the Honourable Finance Member will take these suggestions into his consideration when he replies at the end of the debate.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi (Calcutta and Suburbs: Muhammadan Urban): Mr. President, after listening to the peroration of the Honourable the Finance Minister last night, I was hoping that we would have some better explanation of the attitude taken up by the Government of India regarding the International Bank and Fund, as related to the Sterling Balances. He wished well to his successor. I would like to ask him whether he is going to leave a legacy to his successor which will ruin him, not for three generations as an Honourable Member said today, but for 200 years, as an official somewhere in London or Washington or I do not know where stated to the correspondent of the Associated Press of America.

Before I come to the main topic, I should like to assure the Honourable Member who spoke on behalf of the European Group that when we went to

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help England and America in the war, we did not count the sacrifices we were going to make. Similarly, we are prepared to accommodate Great Britain in the repayment of the debt, provided that Great Britain plays the game by us. We do not want to be Shylocks, but we do not want to be fooled either. I remember, years ago a book was published from Bombay in which leading economists had given chapter and verse of the manner in which India had been looted and deceived by the worthy gentlemen in London, and I remember in the introduction to it very leading lawyers had said that if this case were presented by a set of English lawyers to a set of English judges, the case would be decided in favour of India. Once bitten is twice shy. We have been bitten a hundred times and our repeated shyness may lead to a total stoppage of our heart altogether.

I should like to know why India was dragged into the Anglo-American arrangement. I should like to know why in order to arrange their own affairs they dragged us in, and promised America things without consulting us. I do not know what our leaders of opinion have told the Government of India on those specific points; but it is fair in business that the party whom you are involving into this affair be at least consulted. The Honourable the Finance Member delights in coming to decisions at the last moment, and presenting us with *faits accompli*. We signed this Bretton Woods Agreement at the last moment, and now India will go to pieces if his representatives does not go and sit round the table in Washington on a seat which India has got owing to the charity of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. We resent this kind of treatment. Yes. I admit that the political status of India does handicap us in our arrangements with many people in the world. I do not know what honour our original membership, as we are told, and what benefits, is going to bring to us. We know at last that England has to pay us £1,330 millions; but even after the great and magnificent speech the Honourable the Finance Member made yesterday he has not told us the amount of our share in the Dollar Pool. We have had some remarks made by the Honourable representative of the European Group about the benefits of convertibility but I feel that if for the coming ten years India concentrated on itself and the huge market its 400 million people give to us, we shall have done very well. Sir, the Committee has reported in an interim way. I am prepared to allow our representatives to go but I am very anxious that the Honourable the Finance Member and the Government of India should understand clearly and without equivocation that our understanding of this report is entirely different from his understanding of it. We are sending this representative or whatever official designation is given to him, just to watch on our behalf and come back and tell us how they are conspiring together to do us out of our legitimate money. The Honourable Member for the European Group spoke about the commercial aspect of the matter but questioned its moral aspect. Let me tell him, Sir, that in commercial affairs the two parties settle a transaction—together and accommodate each other. Here it was a positive loot. The Government of India made purchases at prices which they fixed. The Honourable and learned Doctor who spoke before me from this side was talking of billionaires and millionaires and multi-billionaires as he called them. He forgot the main aspect of the matter.

Shri Sri Prakasa: He always does.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: It is not a question of millionaires and billionaires. This arrangement was not between millionaires but between Governments and here our political status again comes into the picture. The Government of India that came to terms with the Government in London did not consult us. How much billionaires have run away with we shall see to later on, but today I am standing here to ask the Honourable the Finance Member to tell us how he proposes to go about this business. We have heard enough. The representative will go to Washington. He will also bring us reports but in the meantime it is impossible for us, who think in terms of our own poverty, how he is going to have this matter settled. America can give a thousand or two thousand, million sterling to England and the whole world. I stand at the other end because I am the poorest country. The liaison between Wall Street and Lombard Street should not undo us. They are very clever people. They will try to handicap us at every turn because Sterling Balances are not going to ruin India alone. Egypt, Palestine and other parts of the Middle East have also been roped in, and whatever people might think, I am of the opinion that behind this London-Washington combination there is terrible political mischief. By keeping us down financially these men feel that they will be able to continue their domination over us till eternity. Whether England will repay us in 50 years or 500 years is not the point. They have bled us white in this war in spite of the billionaires of the learned Doctor. The result is famine, disease and pestilence in the country. The worst of it is, that in spite of the termination of hostilities, the loot is going on and Sterling Balances are increasing from day to day. We have also talked a good deal of rehabilitation and reconstruction: 1,800 crores of rupees are being held back or scaled down and I am asked to rebuild India. In rebuilding India, the Finance Member is asking us to throw good money after bad: 250 to 260 crores of rupees to be thrown away on a possible Bank and Fund which may come to naught, if France, England and Russia decide to start another war. They did the same thing after the last war and even we in our humble way lost a good deal. Others also lost, I do not deny that. Every nation repudiated its debts. Are we going to enter the Bank and the Fund with our eyes open. I personally am of the opinion—let our representatives go and see what they propose to do about the future settlement of this world problem. Otherwise we shall be happy without their co-operation and without their assistance. We are going to spend, and I tried to calculate it as carefully as I could, almost a thousand to two thousand crores to buy heavy goods, to pay for the thousand and one things which we wish to import into this country. With that we shall give 250 crores to this International Bank and Fund without knowing how and when we are going to get our money. If England came to me and said: If you let this 1,330 million pounds go we shall go out of the country, I would purchase my freedom to set my house in order as I would like to do it even at the risk of losing that great amount. Whether it will be done or not, I do not know. I do not wish to question the intentions of anybody but where I am interested in is—I want the money now. If you pay it to me in 50 years, how shall I rebuild my country? Shall I suffer more famines, more plagues, and more diseases till then? If the world has taken a turn for the better, India has got to get some benefit out of that. Here I wait in the ante-chambers of the great, and a Lord Keynes or a Hugh Dalton or the Secretary of the Treasury in Washington decide—let us bleed India a bit further, let us bleed Egypt a bit further. This is neither fair nor honest. We supported you in your time of difficulty. Help us to rebuild our country with our own money. Our people need every pie that we can possibly lay hands upon. These dilly-dallyings, and sending of representatives will not help.

The Honourable the Finance Member has not been able in 24 hours to find out who the British officials were. Being a journalist myself, I am satisfied that a newspaper correspondent would not utter such a terrible lie as the Honourable the Finance Member would ask me to believe. There may be minor expressions to which he may take objection but I should request him to find out who this wretched correspondent was and who were the great people he saw or whether this is a fiction of the correspondent's own mind. What I was trying to impress upon you was that if he cannot get a reply from London on this small question, I very seriously doubt whether he will be able to induce London to tell him something about more important questions. He has committed us to the Bretton Woods Agreement. He has committed us to this Board on which our men will go and sit and then when things come to a finality, this House India and the Government of India will open their eyes and find

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that they have been committed to throw away this good money after bad without the slightest hope of regaining our debts.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai (Ahmedabad Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): Sir, if the Assembly is not today deciding to withdraw from Bretton Woods, it is due to two reasons: firstly that we should not precipitate matters or embarrass the U. K. Government at a time when they are negotiating a loan with U. S. A. The other reason is that as yet there has been no official pronouncements saying that these sterling debts will not be paid. Rather, I would refer to the famous pronouncement of Lord Keynes in which he says, "when the end is reached, and we can see our way into daylight, we shall take up without any delay to settle honourably what was honourably and generously given". I hope this promise will be fulfilled. No doubt there would be various points of view in every country and some would say that the sterling balances may be scaled down, some would say that they must be paid, but this is an authoritative statement and so long as there is no other authoritative statement, we should not disbelieve it. The sterling balances have accumulated. We know how they have accumulated. India has paid heavily for it. Millions of lives have been lost, India has suffered economically and all kinds of privations. The other part of the sterling balances, includes the dollar pool to which we have contributed very handsomely. We were told that the dollar pool surplus in our account would be about 49 crores. I am surprised at these figures. I do n t know whether this figure also takes into consideration the following:—the expenditure of U. S. A. Government in India, up to March 1945 and according to some authoritative calculations these expenses had gone up to about $490 million. Further the expenditure of U. S. A. armed forces in India had mounted to $300 million, probably more. But our figures would come to about $950 or even a thousand million dollars. I should like to know whether these figures also were taken from the Reserve Bank. The Reserve Bank figures would only give an account of export and import trade . . . .

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I can answer that at once. They all were taken into account.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: I am really surprised because the expenses in India of the U. S. A army personnel were very heavy as my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar said this morning. In a way the other point in the accumulation of sterling balances is the amount that India had to bear after the V. J. day and that was about 300 crores. As soon as the V. J. day was declared, America formally stopped all Lend Lease. Did the Government of India tell the British Government, that the time has now arrived when India could not bear any more sterling balances? If U. S. A. had told the whole world, if a country like U. S. A. whose standard of living is very high as compared to India which has been bled white in these days when inflation has run riot, if U. S. A. can stop Lease Lend, why did not the Government of India do the same and tell England that she cannot bear any further accumulation of sterling balances. The inflation in this country is responsible for increasing the cost of living to about 260 per cent. whereas the cost of living in England has gone up only to 124 per cent. When accumulations began to be made in the sterling balances after the V. J. day, this Government ought to have told the British Government that we will not tolerate any more addition to the sterling balances. Now, Sir, I would refer to how U. K. behaved towards U. S. A. in the early part of the war. When England wanted equipment from America, America would not give it to her unless U. K. paid for it in cash and so the Cash and Carry legislation came into being. The next thing that came into being was disinvestments of U. K. investements and when these investments of U. K. in U. S. A. came to an end, then came the famous agreement of leasing several strategic islands to U. S. A. and after that the Lend Lease arrangement came in. A time arrived when U. K.'s foreign holdings had gone down to 3

million pounds. Opportunity was again taken to increase these gold and dollar holdings and they came up to 453 million. So, England has collected quite a good amount of the gold and dollar investments that they had lost. If the Government of India was a truly responsible government, if the Government of India had the interest of India at heart, then the Government would have done the same thing before lending any money to England. My Honourable friend Mr. Tyson said that no case had been made out for the transfer of British interests. I am surprised at this. If no case had been made out in this country, then how was it made out in U. S. A.? Why did U. K. pay cash and even leased out her strategic islands? Now a Britisher comes here and says that no case had been made out, and we are not going to part with our investments in this country. The British investments, according to various estimates would amount to 500 million sterling roughly and that is the pre-war figure. Under the present inflated price, it would be certainly higher. We can certainly demand all this because the standard of living in this country is extremely poor as compared with that of England. The average *per capita* income in England is, I understand, about Rs. 980, while in this country it is Rs. 65, or rather used to be before the war, and there is not much of an increase now. So the difference is fifteen times. Far from the sterling balances being scaled down the poor people cannot even wait. India is a poor country and requires a great deal of industrialisation. In this connection I will refer to what Mr. Attlee said in the House of Commons on the 27th February: He said that:

"Britain's target for the total value of export in 1946 was 750 million pounds. The total value of exports in 1944 was 258 million pounds while in 1938 it was 470 million pounds. The exports for January were 57 million pounds."

So that by the end of this year Britain's exports would be nearly double the figure of 1938 and nearly three times the figure of 1944. At a later stage Mr. Attlee said that there is no going to be enough labour available to the industries in England. He asked industry to beware and give good wages, failing which there would be a labour shortage. That shows how much the British Government is planning ahead. Within a few months their exports will go up by 50 per cent. and in another few months they will go up by 100 per cent. England is thinking of improving her own standard of living although she has a creditor who was bled white in supplying these amounts to her and is not thinking of India which helped her so much in the past years. The proper thing for England to say would have been that as she is improving her production she would also give capital equipment to India and help her industries. If she had said that we would have no cause for suspicion; but there are factors which make us suspect that these sterling balances may not be paid in full or if paid at all may be paid too late. England may let India down but she cannot afford to do it. In these days of atom bomb every one feels that the third world war is coming, and then not only England but also the U. S. A. and other European countries will require India's goodwill.

In the Bretton Woads Agreement there are clauses for a loan from the Fund. You can get a loan of 200 per cent. that is about 30 crores of rupees per year. In the Bank also there is a clause for getting short currencies. We can also negotiate private loans. But we have been told that capital equipment is not going to be available. The Finance Member said yesterday:

"Indeed I would go so far as to say that for a number of years to come the main consideration will not be the availability of exchange but the physical capacity of the two main exporting countries to meet the demands of a war-shattered world."

We see that England is going up by leaps and bounds in her export and industrial policy and if capital equipment is not made available to us there is no use in our staying in the Bank or in the Monetary Fund. If that comes about India will have to ask not only the U. K. and the U. S. A. but also the smaller countries of Europe like Belgium and Czechoslovakia what they are likely to give us for our industrial requirements. Unless we plan ahead we will be in difficulties. This Government has not planned anything. What England has done and is planning further to do we see in Mr. Attlee's speech.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: In England it is industry that does the planning.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Yes, you ought to do it. Mr. Manu Subedar suggested that. We ought to have properties here and there also. That would be a right and honest policy for England to follow. She is increasing her exports rapidly and if we are not satisfied that within five years this is what we are going to get, then India perhaps may have to go on an isolated economy. We will have to plan our small scale industries and whatever large scale industries we may have will have to be from our own resources here and by the help that the other countries may give. But we will have to decide now. What I am afraid of is that England is planning to give us a lot of consumer goods. The time has gone when any country would be satisfied with consumer goods dumped upon her. India will have to decide what consumer goods she will produce through her small scale industries. To fritter away our sterling balances on consumer goods would be suicidal.

[At this stage Mr. President vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. P. J. Griffiths (one of the Panel of Chairmen)]

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: What kind of goods would you like to import?

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Capital goods and agricultural machinery. Lastly I will come to the point of exchange ratio. There are several points which clearly show that there has been a great deal of inflation in this country. The cost of living has increased in various other countries, but the rise in India has been the highest. I will give comparative figures with regard to some of the countries: In the United Kingdom, the cost of living has gone up from 100 to 124. In the United States, the cost of living has gone up from 100 to 147. In Australia, the cost of living has gone up from 100 to 112. In India, the cost of living has gone up from 100 to 260.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Who is responsible for that? Your textile millowners.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: All of us together. It is the sterling balances. It is this inflation which has created this rise. If you study the havoc which inflation caused in the last war, you will realize that the main mischief is done by inflation. Sir, if the cost of living does not either go up in other countries, or it does not go down in our country, we will have very shortly to ask for devaluation of the rupee. If the cost of living in all countries is the same, then you keep the rupee at this price, but if the cost of living has to stay at such an inflated position, there would be no way out for India but to ask for the devaluation of the rupee.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Or raising the purchasing power of the rupee.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Do it anyway.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: No, it is the reverse.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Sir, I would again say that under these circumstances we ought to be certain as to what are the intentions of the United Kingdom Government and how rapidly they are going to pay us our sterling debt. If England goes in for producing more capital equipment, this country would certainly have it on reasonable terms, but if England wants to dump consumer goods in this country, we will say 'Thank you for your consumer goods, keep them yourself.''

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: May I be allowed with due respect to congratulate the Chairman and Members of this *ad hoc* committee for the most realistic report they have presented to this House. And may I also say that we have to congratulate ourselves. I must admit, Mr. Chairman, that I was a little anxious as to what the report would be, but that anxiety has been completely allayed by—I will repeat the words—the most realistic attitude of every member of the committee.

The main issue in this Report is whether this country should continue permanently to be a Member of the Bretton Woods institutions, or should immediately dissociate itself from these institutions, and immediately resign, or, the third alternative is, should we postpone decision for a little longer. It was quite evident to anybody who had taken the slightest interest in this most important question, that if ever postponement was necessary on any issue, it was on this.

4 P.M.

The very able non-official members—Indians—who went to Bretton Woods have placed before us their views. They as well as Sir Jeremy Raisman have told us clearly that Bretton Woods is tied up with the question of our sterling balances in England. They tried their very best to see whether the machinery of these institutions could be used to settle this very important question. We find that they were not successful. Therefore, to contend that the two issues of India being a member of the Bretton Woods institutions and the sterling debt are two completely separate issues, is not a contention which I can accept. A few months ago I would certainly have been very strongly in favour of putting up a fight to come to some decision with regard to sterling balances. Today, England is not in a position to discuss this question. . . .

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab: Sikh): Not even discuss.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Yes, not even discuss this question. England is in a very delicate position herself *vis-a-vis* America.

Mr. Manu Subedar: When will she deliver?

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: They are considering the question of an important loan, and until that loan is sanctioned by the Legislatures of America, England is not a position to discuss this question. Let us admit, for the sake of argument, England's complete *bona fides* with regard to the money that she owes to India. If she today opens her lips to inform us that she is prepared to pay on certain conditions provided she gets this loan, she would definitely prejudice her case. She has many enemies in America and any statement made by the British Government would, I feel sure, adversely affect her interests in America. At such a time, therefore, to press for a discussion on this question would not be wise, and, therefore, do I say that the Committee have faced realities in asking for a postponement of the consideration of this vital issue. Sir, there is a saying in my language which when translated means . . . . .

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Say it in your language first.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: *Chhatkama Hath avi jay to kar vale kadhi Levo.* It means: if you get your hand into a trap, you have got to take it out with skill and tact. If you rush matters and pull it out, you will only hurt your skin and flesh; if you take it out with tact and discretion, you will get it out successfully.

Mr. P. K. Salve (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Do you suggest that the sterling debt was a trap?

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: I think my Honourable friend did not understand the story which I have told, and he does not understand what I am trying to impress upon the House. When a business man gets into a difficult position, and there are many business men in this honourable House . . .

Shri Sri Prakasa: Who get other people into a difficult position?

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: . . . many who do not profess to be business men but have business instincts—know when they are in a difficult position that good faith, patience and above all tolerance play a great part in ultimate success. You may be a very powerful creditor but if your debtor is in difficulties you have got to feed that debtor to keep that debtor on his feet so that that debtor may ultimately pay you the monies he owes you. If you force the pace you are sometimes more likely to lose your money and get into trouble than to

[Sir Cowasjee Jehangir]

succeed. I am all for forcing the pace when my monies are in jeopardy and when I know that by forcing the pace I will succeed. But I am against that policy when I conscientiously believe it will not end in success.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Let us get out of Bretton Woods!

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Now there is no one in this Honourable House who will contend that we should let a farthing of our loan go. There is no one in this House who will contend that we can afford to let it go. Yet it is most regrettable that there are men of influence, men of knowledge, who, in England, have tried to argue that the monies they owe us are not a proper commercial debt. We all know how the sterling balances were built up. If we had not allowed those sterling balances to be built up as they were, we should not have been able to assist in the war as we did. After we have allowed those sterling balances to go up with our eyes open, knowing very well that we are doing it in order to assist in the war, I do not really think it is wise of those in England and in this country to try and argue that this loan is anything else but a commercial loan to be repaid, as has been explained and as has been said, as an honest debt, honestly incurred and honestly to be repaid. I therefore, Mr. Chairman, do not desire at this stage to go into a number of issues that have been raised on this report which might well have been discussed and I am afraid will be discussed again during the days of discussion that are before us on the general budget and the Finance Bill. I will conclude, by saying, forgive me for repeating it, but I think it is very important, that we have to congratulate ourselves on having as Chairman of this Committee the Finance Member and on having as its members men of the calibre we did have who were able to realize our position and to guide us in the way they have.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I am extremely obliged to the Honourable Member who spoke just before me for the compliments . . . .

Shri Sri Prakasa: He spoke before us all!

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: . . . . he has paid to the members of this Committee and the Chair. So far as the present issue is concerned and the stage at which these negotiations are and the report that is laid before the House, the matter is simple. The resolution that was passed in this House consisted of three parts. The first part was condemnation of the Government of India in having joined the international fund and the international bank over the head of the Assembly without consulting it. That was passed. It is no longer a live issue and we condemn the Government. The second portion of that resolution is that a Committee should be appointed of representatives of this House to advise the Assembly as to whether it should continue to be a member of the Fund and the Bank. The third portion was pending consideration of this matter by both the Committee and the Assembly, no further commitment should be made by the Government of India in regard to the Fund or the Bank. The commitments are, as I may immediately tell you of two kinds. One is in the manner of sending representatives to the Fund and the Bank by sending a Governor and an alternate and Executive Directors and alternates for the administration of the fund and bank. The second is a financial commitment of a more serious nature: settling the part value of the rupee which has been all along linked to the sterling. Also the more important one is subscription to the Fund and the Bank. We are committed if we become members and continue to function in it to pay to the fund and the bank to the tune of Rs. 266 crores and there may be further obligations also. But it is with respect to that we have been asked to advise. We are not yet in a position to come to any conclusion with regard to either of these. There are points in favour of continuing and equally good points for getting out of this fund and bank. One outstanding consideration which we placed before ourselves before we got into discussion as to whether it is desirable or not to continue as members of the fund or bank

was, how far we are going to get back the sterling balances, which stand to our credit to the tune of 1,300 million pounds, equal to Rs. 1,800 crores. Honourable Members might ask me as to how this is a matter which is relevant to the issue.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Can you imagine this amount of money!

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: As my honourable friend, Mr. Prakasa, asks me, certainly if I cannot go up to Rs. 1,000 it is impossible to come up to Rs. 1,800 crores.

An Honourable Member: It will fill up the House!

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I can give him an idea as to the scope of this amount. Before the war our favourable trade balance was on an average of the tune of Rs. 50 crores. We started with Rs. 50 crores 75 years ago. The favourable trade balance rose to the peak in 1929, to Rs. 150 crores. Thereafter from 1929, owing to slump all over the world, it came down in 1933-34 to Rs. 3 crores. From that time it went up to Rs. 50 crores in 1939. The war conditions have upset the balance of various countries but so far as we are concerned, the war has been in our favour. At the rate of Rs. 50 crores a year, I will ask you to calculate whether it will not take generations to accumulate Rs. 1,800 crores. At the rate of Rs. 50 crores a year, if we go on exporting our articles, in two years we get Rs. 100 crores. In other words it will take something like 36 years to accumulate the sum of Rs. 1,800 crores. That is the amount at stake. You may ask us how this amount accumulated. It accumulated during the period of the war from 1939-45, in about five years, partly by our favourable trade balance but mostly by our supply of provisions and articles required by the allied armies in this country, in the Middle and Far East and elsewhere. For supplying the allied armies provisions and whatever else they wanted we had to pay for all that, we received in sterling. This amounted to nearly 350 crores this year. It amounts to 250 odd units next year. That is what we will have to spend over the U.K. army in 1946-47. There was a financial arrangement that was entered into by this country with the United Kingdom. The arrangement was set out in the Honourable the Finance Member's budget speech yesterday. It consists of three parts. The first one is that India must bear the cost of its own army and the operations of this army within its own territory. So far as the United Kingdom army is concerned and for Indian army outside India, India must advance and recover the money advanced for their operations in the East. The amount that constitutes the major portion of the sterling balances is the amount that we advanced for the U. K. army and which we have to recover from the United Kingdom.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Russia paid in sterling too.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: It is not exclusively. The credits that we have accumulated on account of our trade with foreign countries, along with advances for the army, has accumulated to 1,800 crores. We do want that that amount should be repaid.

Let us take the other side of our sinews. During the war our country has gone into a debt to the tune of 1,178 crores purely for purposes of the war alone. Before that there were debts which had accumulated to the tune of 800 crores. Now in all, if I am not incorrect, 2,000 crores are the debt which this Government owes. That is, on the credit side 1,800 crores are due to us and an equally large sum is due by our Government.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: India's external debt has been practically wiped out.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Then who do we owe it to?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: You are referring to our internal debt.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: That is the debt due by the Government of India.

When that is so, should we not be thinking of our rehabilitation programme after war. I am much obliged to my Honourable friend for the first paragraph in his budget speech yesterday, wherein he said that in the war outside we have succeeded and there is a war inside, the war of plague, famine and pestilence against which all our sinews and all our energies have to be directed. I am much thankful to my Honourable friend for the opening remarks in his speech but I was sadly disappointed with respect to the concluding part of his speech. No provision has been made for this war. It has been ignored. He has expatiated too much upon it but he has left it to the members of the Assembly and to the public at large to find out ways and means. Is it not necessary for us to rehabilitate ourselves?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Sir, is this not becoming a discussion on the Budget?

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Member's remarks should be directed to the Bretton Woods Agreement.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I referred to it only to show how in this country the getting back our sterling balances is connected with our rehabilitation and is necessary. England is making every attempt to rehabilitate herself first by entering into the Fund, and then by getting a loan from the United States of America. I would not quarrel with the United Kingdom if both at Bretton Woods and in the U. S. A. loan agreement they had not referred to India at all. On the other hand this matter came specifically before Bretton Woods Conference. Our delegates raised this point that it should be one of the objects of the monetary fund that the old war debts should be paid off—the debtor countries should be allowed to take a portion and pay for the war debts. That was opposed by the United Kingdom delegation; though, to save its own face they tried to give something like a sop and told us that the debts would be honourably discharged. So far as the United States Loan agreement is concerned, which is now on the anvil before the Congress it is improper on the part of the U. K. Government to enter into clauses 10 and 6. Clause 10 consists of three parts. My Honourable friends read one portion and not the others. It is something like the seven blind men of Hindustan touching separate portions of the elephant's body and coming to the conclusion that they alone were right and that that was the nature of the elephant's body. This clause consists of three parts—the U. K. undertakes before a recent creditor—we have been old creditors: 1,800 crores are due to us. The U. S. A. is the prospective creditor—I am much obliged to my Honourable friend for the correction. The United States has not yet lent—it is going to lend only about £1,000 millions, and for that it has entered into an agreement that it would scale down debts. That is clause 10(3). Some portion of it it will pay to its creditors in free currency; and with respect to the balance it will have it funded and pay in instalments over a period of years. All three clauses are there. My Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar is not wrong—he is certainly right. Why should the U. S. A. which comes in later be given any preference? We have been waiting patiently expecting that England would make arrangements both in the fund and otherwise. So far as the present loan is concerned, not a pie of this loan would be allowed to be paid in discharge of the debt due to us. How then is England going to pay our dues? Is that not a pertinent question to ask? We have been waiting all along. We have been expecting to rehabilitate ourselves. What is the object of this fund? The fund is more a liability today than an asset for us. My Honourable friend has to find immediately Rs. 266 crores: or in any case 132 crores now for subscription to the fund. Where from does he expect to raise it? I shall not be irrelevant if I refer to his speeches where he says that so far as the payment of subscription to Bretton Woods and to the international fund is concerned, he will devise ways and means. Already he has borrowed enormously. We know well that in his financial statement made yesterday he has not provided for this. He has not raised sufficient taxation for paying this from the general revenues. It would be wrong to do so. Therefore it must be capital expenditure and he must borrow in the open market. My friend shakes his head. Evidently he has got something up his sleeve—I am waiting to hear from him. Is it not legitimate, if he agrees with me, that I should ask for the 1,800 crores due to me from the United Kingdom? I have to pay money by way of subscription to Bretton Woods and the international fund and I say "Come along; pay me some money and I shall pay it to the international fund." I do not ask even for a guarantee . . . .

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: We have the sterling but I shall borrow the rupees necessary from the Reserve Bank.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I will have to give it in rupees now. I will have to pay the subscription in terms of gold; the balance is in terms of rupees. You have to raise it in open market. My Honourable friend certainly cannot agree in every point that I have made. Therefore he says that we should leap with both arms into the fund. I have become a creditor country from being a debtor country but it is a question of "Water water everywhere, but not a drop to drink." What is the good of this? I can please myself by thinking that the United Kingdom from being a creditor country has now become a debtor country to me and that I am in a superior position and that I am free financially and economically and I can please myself with paper currency. That is how the matter stands; but so far as repayment is concerned, he does not say a word. We do want an assurance to give to us. So far as he is concerned, my honourable friend has very pleasant manners and he conducted himself extremely well in the committee; we were disarmed on account of his smile; but what he did is not much, though his intentions may be good. My Honourable friend, Mr. Manu Subedar, to whom we owe much of the instructions that we had and the light he threw upon the various topics. We are enormously obliged to him and we must admit that he has contributed enormously to this and I am sure with his able guidance we will be able to rise from step to step and ultimately we will be able to recover this amount and also make some useful contribution to the advice that is to be given to the Assembly whether it is proper that we should continue or not. He is an economist of repute and he is still continuing his knowledge up to date; we are only laymen and therefore if any encomiums are paid, they are firstly due to him, and by being in his company we also shine like moons. My honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar first raised the question as soon as he came. Being a merchant prince he knows where the shoe pinches: he put the question whether the question of repayment of sterling balances would be tackled there or not; and he wanted the Finance Member to ascertain from the United Kingdom government whether they are prepared to give an assurance to that effect. They need not start negotiations immediately. But the correspondence that has taken place between His Majesty's Government and the Government is a closed picture, a secret; and it is only with regard to these papers that my Honourable friend wanted to know what that correspondence was . . . . .

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Wait a couple of months; you will see them all.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: We have been waiting for 150 years and a couple of months is not going to damage our country very much further. Even if you do not pay and dishonour the debt, every year our crops grow—though owing to sun spots there may be a famine in this country now—but you are not going to take away the Ganges and other rivers; and our annual crops cannot be taken away. All the debts may not be paid—I am not accusing my Honourable friend, but that is the position. I am only asking as between the United Kingdom and ourselves, allow an independent tribunal to be appointed to find out who has become more shattered on account of this war. There is more credit on my side, but the whole nation has gone to the wall. All our

[Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]

assets have been overworked; men have been overworked and men are starving today. Is that the position in England today? If you have a fund you do not allow it to be drawn upon by me. If you take a loan, you do not repay me. Is that proper? I do want an assurance. If my honourable friend, Mr. Manu Subedar asks for it, does he ask for the capitalists whom he represents? I am extremely obliged to him for the manner he has conducted himself. He has never shown himself to be a protagonist of the capitalists but has identified himself with the mass of the people here. I was sometimes surprised to find how he was rather inclined to lean to the other side in favour of the people of the country, himself being a capitalist. Therefore, no such charge can be levelled against him. My Honourable friend, Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad—unfortunately he is not in his seat now—makes a mistake and sometimes he makes some confused statements. I am not making any remark against him—he is fully qualified, he is an eminent doctor of mathematics—not of medicine. There is no quarrel between us; but he is unfortunately raising certain other issues: if we get back the money it is a matter for us as to whether the agriculturist should be supported in preference to the capitalist or the industrialist. After all the industrialists want only 350 crores; and after deducting it from the 1,800 crores, he can spread the rest, 1,500 crores, over all the small men, the cottage industries, the agriculturists and every other person here. Therefore there is no quarrel amongst us. I do not raise any distinction. But we must persist and see to it that when the ministers come here they must have it dinned into their ears that we are more concerned, that we have exhausted our sinews, that the whole country is now absolutely worn out and that we want this money for rehabilitation purposes. England has not suffered so much, though on paper it may appear so. They have grown in weight. And not only the persons in England; but those English gentlemen who were in India during the war have escaped the troubles of the war. But I am talking of the heroes in England who fought the war: they have grown in weight and health during this period of the war. Therefore, Sir, unless that assurance is given we want to get out. We have submitted an interim report. We do want this Committee to continue. Mr. Truman, President of the United States has appointed a council to advise him from time to time as regards the progress of the Fund and a similar request is made here.

That is all that I have to say at this stage. I need not go into further matters as to how these sterling balances should be liquidated.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose (Calcutta: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I congratulate the members of the Committee on the Bretton Woods Agreements, on the unanimity which they reached in submitting their interim report to this House. Those among them who represent the major parties in this House have demonstrated that party alignments cannot and will not be allowed to stand in the way of an agreement, where the interests of India are at stake; and I hope, Sir, that when the time comes for us to take our final decision, they and the parties they represent will demonstrate once more the inherent and essential unity and indivisibility of India in her opposition to the reactionary forces in the United Kingdom and elsewhere. Sir, I do believe in unanimity but I do not make a fetish of it. And speaking for myself, and for the party which I have the honour to represent in this House, I shall say that where the interests of India demand, we shall not hesitate to be and to find ourselves in the minority. For we know, and history teaches us, that all great movements in the world have begun and, if I mistake not, will always begin in the minority of one.

Sir, in considering the terms of the interim report before this House, we cannot afford to forget the circumstances under which the sterling balances which are due to India accumulated in the hands of the United Kingdom. Goods and commodities belonging to India, which are now represented by these sterling balances, were taken from India during the war, which was in no sense India's

war and were, in fact, taken without her consent. They were taken at a time when the civilian population of India was greatly in need of them and had, in consequence, to undergo very great privations. In those circumstances, to treat those debts lightly would, to my mind, permanently destroy the basis of fair dealings and good relationship between one country and another and would also, I think, imperil the negotiations which are going to be initiated by the British Cabinet Mission. As far as we know the British Cabinet Mission is coming out in a few weeks to this country. I would like to give a warning in this connection to propagandists in and outside India. I would tell them that to institute comparisons between loans from the U. S. A. to the United Kingdom and the sterling debts due to India would be nothing short of a cruel joke. We all know today that the United States of America is the richest country in the world and India the poorest. To the United States of America, the Anglo-American loan represents, if I mistake not, only about 9 days' cost of the war. To India, the sterling balances due to her represent 17 year's net income of the Central Government. So, the importance of repayment of the sterling balances due to India cannot possibly be exaggerated.

I should also like to remind the House in this connection that a mischievous and insidious propaganda has been going on for some time past in order to deprive India of this money and the excuse put forward is that India has had and will have many political concessions and that India has benefited during the war. What benefit India has derived from the war we Indians know; and I should have thought that it was time that propagandists in India and outside realised that it was no use carrying on their nefarious propaganda any more. It will not do for the Honourable the Finance Member to say that the report cabled out by the Associated Press of America, a few days ago was mere sensation-mongering. That report very clearly states the attitude of certain British officials, unnamed though they may be. I should have thought that, if the report was mere sensation-mongering, His Majesty's Government would have been the first to protest against the report and declare in clear and unmistakable terms that every word of that report was untrue. That has not been done up till now.

Sir, on behalf of my party, I accord my support to the interim report for the time being because, for one reason, the Cabinet Mission is coming out to India within a few weeks. Some of us, at any rate, expect that the Cabinet Mission will be prepared to deal with this vexed question here in India and in our presence. I hope they will not tell us that they are not prepared to discuss it. If they do so, we shall know what to do.

I would like to say in this connection just a few words on the supplementary note which has been signed by members representing my party. I do accord my wholehearted support and the support of my party to every word they have said in their supplementary note. I wish to stress the words they have used in their note, the words being:

> "Apart from India's membership of Bretton Woods Institutions, the question of amending the Reserve Bank Act, 1934, has assumed very great importance as there is a continuous addition to our sterling balances."

I know that the Honourable the Finance Member has expressed a desire to amend at some future date certain sections of the Reserve Bank of India Act, but I do wish to impress upon him the importance of making those amendments with the least possible delay.

Sir, I am at the present moment racing against time and I do not want the Honourable the Finance Member to nourish the grievance that I have not left him time to give an adequate reply to the numerous points which have been raised in the course of the speech made this morning by my Honourable and learned friend Mr. Manu Subedar. I shall conclude with just a few observations.

Mr. Chairman: The arrangement is that the Finance Member will reply at 4-45 p.m.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: I am well aware of that arrangement.

It is time for us to remind His Majesty's Government,—it is also time for His Majesty's Government to remind themselves—that India's economy cannot any longer be tied to the chariot wheels of Britain's economy. I hope that, whether in the matter of repayment of the sterling balances or in the matter of the other issues that arise out of the interim report, they will always bear in mind this, that India is determined to come into her own, politically and economically. I look upon this interim report as one more opportunity given to His Majesty's Government to do justice to India. The interim report gives His Majesty's Government a *locus poenitentiae*. It is for His Majesty's Government to avail themselves of that opportunity. If they avail themselves of that opportunity, well and good. If they do not we shall go our own way.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Sir, I do not think I shall need a quarter of an hour as I shall have many opportunities in the course of the next three weeks of dealing with the points that have been raised today. My friend Mr. Manu Subedar obviously enjoyed himself and I do not grudge him his enjoyment for an hour and a quarter. He wandered over the whole scene, political, economic and financial—from Peshawar to Cape Comorin and from China to Peru. I think there was very little that he did not touch, on, except that I was half expecting him to refer to the question of bulls, about whose fate he was inquiring so tenderly yesterday. I give him an answer today and tell him that they were locked in mortal combat with the bears in the bullion market in Bombay; and today I expect they are as busy as ever.

I do not for a moment underate the importance to India of the issues that have been raised and I yield to no one in this House in my support, so long as I am here, of the Indian case relating to the sterling balances and cognate subjects, but this is outside the narrow and limited point on which the House is asked today to pronounce today. The view is merely this—should the House accept the recommendation which involves the rescission of the second amendment moved to my original motion of January 28th; the one moved by my friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar which prevented the Government taking any further step in the matter of the Bretton Woods agreements. What this report recommends is that Government should be allowed to take one small further step, that is, to appoint a Governor to attend the first meeting of the Boards of Governors to be held in the first week of March in Florida—with instructions that that the Governor on his return, should give a full report to the committee who will thereupon render a further report to the House. The Committee remains in being in order to keep in touch with the situation and will, as and when necessary, report to the House again. That is really the only issue before the House today, but all kinds of other issues have been raised and a much wider field has been covered in the course of the debate. I am not proposing to reply in detail to Mr. Manu Subedar, because, as I say, I shall hear this speech as parts of it in several other speeches many times in the course of the next few weeks. I am very grateful to him, since he has been good enough to give me notice in advance of his arguments and although I could have dealt with most of them, to-day. Anyway, Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad and Mr. Tyson dealt with a great number of the points raised by Mr. Manu Subedar and I do not propose to go over the same ground again. I propose only to deal with one question asked by Mr. Tyson, and the questions raised by Mr. Chari, Mr. Tyson asked me why it was that I thought it necessary to amend sections 40 and 41 of the Reserve Bank Act, 1934, if we adhered to Bretton Woods. The reason is this. Under the Bretton Woods scheme, every Member has first to express the par value of his own currency in terms of gold or dollars. It has the right to apply to the Fund, to vary that par value and, in case of variation of over 10 per cent., it has to persuade the Fund that it is necessary. Now, Sir, at the moment the par value of the rupee is expressed in terms of sterling,

roughly, 1sh. 6d. to the rupee. If, in the future, the U. K. would like to vary its par of exchange as originally notified to the Fund, by more than 10 per cent., it will have to get the approval of the Fund. It might not suit India, at that time, to vary its own par value by more than ten per cent. or even vary it at all. So long as India is tied to sterling, it really could not carry out its obligations to the Fund, or it might be driven to take action which at the time might not be regarded as in the interest of India. I hope that this is clear to my Honourable friend Mr. Tyson.

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson: Yes.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Then, Mr. Chari and Mr. Reddiar originally tabled an amendment, but it was not moved; Mr. Chari referred to the substance of those amendments in the course of his remarks.

The first amendment was:

"That India shall be entitled to withdraw from the Fund and the Bank even in case she is unwilling to shoulder any financial commitments in the absence of a satisfactory solution of the sterling credits."

The answer to this is that India is free to withdraw at any time by merely sending a letter saying that she wants to withdraw.

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar (South Arcot *cum* Chingleput: Non-Muhammadan Rural): The report contains the word 'unable', it does not say 'unwilling'.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: The answer is the same, in either case.

The second amendment is:

"That India should not only welcome but positively ask for an early and authoritative reassurance by His Majesty's Government regarding the repayment of sterling credits and in any event not later than 30th June 1946."

There is no harm in asking again. I shall ask and I propose to acquaint His Majesty's Government with the proceedings of this debate. I am not quite sure what is in the Honourable Members minds, if an assurance has not been given by the 30th June 1946. Anyway, I anticipate we shall have negotiations before then.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable Member communicate that we do want a reassurance.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Of course, I shall.

The next amendment relates to the modification of sections 40 and 41 of the Reserve Bank Act. It has also mixed up with another issue namely the backing of the note issue in the Issue Department of the Reserve Bank. Well, Sir, as I said, if India remains in Bretton Woods, it will have to amend the Act. If it does not remain in, it can still amend it, but it is a highly complicated problem. What is in fact should we do next? At the moment we do know what the anchor is to which the external value of the rupee is linked. If we amend the bit, we have got to decide what monetary reserves we shall have, what form they will take and so on. Anyhow it is not a question, which could be settled on the floor of the House this afternoon. I am quite prepared to discuss it with the Committee at a later stage when I have examined further with the Reserve Bank the implications involved in merely cancelling these two provisions. We obviously should have to put something in their place.

The next amendment is:

"Further commitments should not be taken before they are considered by the committee and sanctioned by the Assembly".

Well, Sir, that is covered by the report of the Committee.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: That is not clear, there is a lacuna and that is why this amendment has been tabled.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: If it is referred to the Committee who are bound to report to the House. The next amendment is:

"Further commitments should not be confined only to financial matters but must be extended to:

(a) decisions and intimations of the par value of the rupee."

By that I take it the Honourable Member means no proposal to alter the par value of the rupee.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Yes.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: This would be a suitable matter for discussion in committee. It will not arise for some time. I do not know that we yet have enough information to pronounce on the subject. We are collecting it.

The next amendment is:

"payment of subscription to the fund or Bank."

That is already covered.

The last amendment is:

"That the Governor, his alternate, the Executive Directors and their alternates, in the Bank and the Fund shall be Indians approved by the Committee."

Well, Sir, I do not think that there is any doubt, but that they will be Indians. But I hesitate to submit a recommendation by Government to a Committee. It is an executive act, to make appointments of this sort, and I think it would be inappropriate and contrary to all constitutional practice to set the approval of a particular nomination by a committee of the House.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: The committee cannot nominate.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That is where the difficulty comes in. We want you to come to the House before you can possibly get any agreement on this matter at the next stage. Instead of that, you have put in only the committee and nothing more.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: The committee is bound to report to the House under this Motion.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Before any action is taken?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Certainly.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Not the appointment of the personnel.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I come back to the point I started from when I asked this House this morning that it does agree with the interim report of the Committee on the Bretton Woods Conference agreements, to the effect that the Government shall proceed to appoint a Governor to the Bank and the Fund, who will be the same man and an anternate, that the Committee should remain in being and that the Government should do nothing beyond the appointment of these Governors and Executive Directors until the Committee has considered the matter further and reported to the House. I have no hesitation again in recommending to the House that the Report of the Committee be adopted.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That this Assembly do agree with the interim report of the Committee on the Bretton Woods Conference Agreements, appointed in pursuance of the motion adopted by the Assembly on the 29th January 1946."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 4th March 1946.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Monday, the 4th March, 1946

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

MEMBER SWORN:

Mr. Nivarty Sundaresan, O.B.E., M.L.A., (Government of India: Nominated Official).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS †

WRITTEN ANSWERS

CAPACITY OF CEMENT FACTORIES

616. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state the existing capacity of the cement producing companies belonging to the A.C.C. and the Dalmia Group, and the capacity of independent cement companies?

(b) Is it a fact that Government have decided to permit an increase of three million tons over the existing capacity and that they have apportioned out 1·75 million tons to the A.C.C. and Dalmia?

(c) How do they propose to distribute the rest of the tonnage?

(d) In order to enable building operations to start on a large scale and to open up a field of employment to those who will be thrown out of work, what steps have Government taken in order to get cement prices reduced?

(e) Is it a fact that the cement prices are fixed by monopolistic concerns on the basis of maximum profit and minimum turnover?

(f) Who has examined the position from the public point of view and what was the last report made by this gentleman?

(g) Do Government propose to place a copy of the report on the table of the House?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) A. C. C.—18,62,000 tons per annum.

Dalmias—5,60,000 per annum.

Others—3,60,000 per annum.

(b) Yes.

(c) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(d) The price of cement for sales to the public is fixed by negotiation with the Cement Industry. The price was fixed first in March 1944 at Rs. 70 per ton f. o. r. destination. It was revised in December 1944 to Rs. 68/12 and has been reduced once more from November 1945 to Rs. 63/12.

(e) No. Prices are fixed by negotiation on the basis of such information as is available regarding cost of production.

(f) Government have frequently examined the position from the public point of view, and the last review resulted in the reduction of price from November 1945, already referred to. Investigations are made by Government Cost Accountants.

(g) There are no formal reports. Investigations by Government Cost Accountants are made on the understanding that the material collected by them will be kept confidential.

†The question hour for the day having been dispensed with, the answers were laid on the table of the House.—*Ed. of D.*

Statement giving details of the Allocation of Cement Quotas

	New Unit	Expansion
Assam		
Assam Bengal Cement Co. Ltd., Calcutta	..	75,000 tons
Bengal—		
Two factories (to be selected by the Provincial Government).	1,00,000 tons 20,000 ,,	
Bombay—		
In the absence of information reg. the availability of raw materials, no scheme has yet been sanctioned.		
C. P.—		
One factory (to be selected by the Provincial Government).	1,00,000 tons	
Madras—		
1. India Cement Ltd., Madras	1,00,000 tons	
2. Andhra Cement Co. Ltd., Bezwada	..	30,000 tons
Punjab—		
Punjab Minerals Co. Ltd., Calcutta	1,00,000 tons	
U. P.		
National Cement, Mines & Industries Ltd. Ranchi.	1,00,000 tons	
Bihar—		
(At Sindri—to be run by Government)	2,00,000 tons	
Bhopal State—		
One factory (to be selected by the State)	1,00,000 tons	
Gangpur State—		
One factory (to be selected by the State)	1,00,000 tons	
Sirmur State—		
One factory (to be selected by the State)	1,00,000 tons	
Tehri-Garhwal State—		
One factory subject to a technical examination of the suitability of a cement factory in that State.	1,00,000 tons	
Mysor State—		
Mysore Iron & Steel Works, Bhadrawat,	..	30,000 tons
Navanagar State—		
Messrs Digvijaya Co. Ltd. Jamnagar	1,00,000 tons	

CONTROL OVER INVESTMENTS OF CEMENT COMPANIES

617. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state how many applications representing how much capital were rejected by the Finance Department (Capital Issue Control) since the control was instituted?

(b) Were reasons given for such refusal? If so, what were they?

(c) In how many cases was the consent given to registration of new companies accompanied by a condition that a substantial part of the capital would be invested in Government securities?

(d) What is the total of such investments in Government securities brought about through the condition imposed by the Capital Control Section of the Finance Department since it was instituted?

(e) What are the grounds on which Government propose to continue the imposition of this control?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: (a) In the period between the establishment of the control and the 31st December 1945, 965 applications were refused, relating to a total amount of just under 105 crores of rupees.

These figures do not include partial refusals in cases where consent was given the total amount involved in such partial refusals up to the same date was 37½ crores of rupees.

(b) Reasons were given when asked for by the applicants. They were to the effect that, in various ways, the applications failed to pass the test that it was in the public interest to encourage the devotion of the proposed capital to the objects set forth in them.

(c) In 257 cases, up to the 31st December 1945.

(d) The total of amounts so invested which had been reported up to the 18th January 1946, was 9 crores and 42 lakhs of rupees.

(e) The object of the continuance of the control of capital issues is to ensure that money seeking investment is directed into enterprises in such a way as will produce the maximum economic and social benefit to the country.

ACTION ON RESOLUTION *RE* REMOVAL OF COMMERCIAL SAFEGUARDS

618. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state the action taken on the resolution passed by the Assembly on the 4th April, 1945, relating to the removal of commercial safeguards in favour of Britain?

(b) What communications were made to His Majesty's Government and what were the replies received?

(c) In what form was approach made and in what form was a statement made on behalf of India to organised British commercial bodies by (i) Sir Ardeshir Dalal, and (ii) Sir Jeremy Raisman, who was appointed special officer to help the Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal?

(d) When the Labour Government came into power, was an approach made to His Majesty's Government again? If so, what was the reply?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) A full text of the debates in the Legislative Assembly was forwarded to the Secretary of State. Further, the then Member for Planning and Development proceeded personally to London to discuss the issues involved with H. M. G. and British Industrial interests.

(b) In view of the personal visit which the then Planning Member paid to the U. K., no correspondence on the subject has passed between the Government of India and H. M. G.

(c) The approach was personal; for purposes of discussion a brief was presented to British commercial bodies.

(d) Yes, by Sir Ardeshir Dalal in London. He was informally given to understand that, in view of the discussions which were shortly to come off covering the entire Constitutional relations between India and England, it would be difficult to consider the restricted issues which Sir Ardeshir had brought to London.

PROPOSED DELETION OF SECTIONS 111 TO 121 OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT

619. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Planning and development please state the reply of organized British commerce and the reasons given by them for not accepting the proposal for the deletion of sections 111 to 121 of the Government of India Act, 1935?

(b) Were any non-officials taken with the Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal for this purpose when he went abroad last year?

(c) Was advantage taken of the presence of the Industrial Delegation in the United Kingdom, including Messrs. Tata and Birla for this purpose?

(d) If the answer to (c) is in the negative, why were they not associated when approach was made to organized British commerce?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) No formal or written reply has been received from the representatives of British Industry; but at the meeting held with the Committees of the Federation of British Industry and the Association of Chambers of Commerce, the Members took the line that the proposals communicated to them by Sir Ardeshir Dalal would not only not attract, but would deter British industrialists from assisting in the industrialisation of India and that therefore the proposals were contrary to the interests of India.

(b) The answer is in the negative.

(c) and (d). The answer is in the negative. Sir Ardeshir was fully aware of the views of Indian industrialists and there was therefore no need for him to discuss the matter in London with the Industrial Delegation.

REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION ACT

620. *Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state whether His Excellency the Viceroy in the address, which he gave to the Associated Chambers of Commerce in December last, said:

"I do not think that there is any likelihood of the complete removal of the safeguarding clauses of the Act until there is a general revision of the Constitution Act and a commercial treaty between Great Britain and India"?

Is this the position of Government on this subject?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, I draw the Honourable Member's attention to the reply to clause (d) of his question No. 618.

ACTION BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA *RE* DELETION OF SECTIONS 111 TO 121 OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT

621. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Did the Honourable Member for Planning and Development on the 23rd of January, 1946, in dealing with the adjournment motion on the subject of Government's failure to report progress of steps taken for the deletion of sections 111 to 121 of the Government of India Act, 1935, say, "I think it is due to the House that some information should be given"?

(b) What is the 'action' and 'further action' which has been taken by the Government of India as the Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal informed this House on that day?

(c) Have they conveyed to His Majesty's Government the very strong feeling on this subject in this country?

(d) Have they emphasised the need of early action on this subject and the desirability of not delaying a settlement of this subject on the ground that planning and development in India "cannot proceed unhindered" (the Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal's words) so long as these sections remain?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) Yes.

(b) I have just given the facts in answer to Question No. 618.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes.

REPRESENTATION FROM BRITISH SHIPPING INTERESTS AGAINST DELETION OF SECTIONS 111 TO 121 OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT

622. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state if it is a fact that pressure has been brought on the Government of India by British shipping interests and by organized commerce in (i) India and (ii) Britain, not to urge the deletion or even modification of sections 111 to 121 of the Government of India Act, 1935, as demanded by all Indian Parties throughout the country?

(b) Has any representation from bodies concerned with British commerce in India or in U. K. been received by the Government of India on this subject? If so, what are they?

(c) Do Government propose to place a copy of such representation on the table of the House?

(d) What was the reply, if any, sent by Government to these representations?

(e) What is going to be Government's next step in implementing the resolution of the Assembly on this subject?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) Not on the Government of India.

(b) No.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) This matter awaits the issue of the Constitutional discussions which, as the Honourable Member is aware, are now imminent.

SCHEMES FOR EMPLOYMENT OF MUNITION WORKERS

623. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development be pleased to place in the Library of the House for the information of members their publications regarding projects, if any, for the promotion of industrial schemes; roads and railways that are to be built and slums to be cleaned, and such vast irrigation schemes, combined with Hydro-electric projects which Government have promised to put on hand at once in order to provide work for hundreds of thousands of munition workers who would otherwise be unemployed now that the Japanese war is over?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: I invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the information given in the Finance Member's Budget speech, and will have any publications on the matters referred to by the Honourable Member which are not already there placed in the Library of the House.

ARTICLES IN MAHRATTA WEEKLY *RE* 'BLOOD BATHS' IN INDIA.

624. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state whether his attention has been drawn to the allegations contained in the article by one Mr. C. L. R. Sastri in the Mahratta Weekly paper published by the Tilak Press in Poona of December 21st, 1945, and in particular to the paragraph contained in the said article where it is clearly alleged that the people of India, since 1919, have experienced "blood baths" compared with which the horrors of Belsen and Dachau, "*pale into complete insignificance*"?

(b) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state if there is any truth, in these allegations?

(c) Does the Honourable Member propose to appoint a small Committee of six members drawn from all parties of this Assembly to enquire into these allegations?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) to (c). As the allusions are merely to Jalianwala Bagh, following on the victory of 1918, and to unspecified episodes following on the victory of 1945, there would be no point in either denying them or enquiring into them.

PROFITS TO GOVERNMENT UNDER DEMONITIZATION ORDINANCE

625. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) the total sum of money for which the High Denomination Notes, as defined by the 'Demonetization Ordinance', had been issued by Government;

(b) the amount which has been claimed from the Reserve Bank by Members of the public in exchange for the notes;

(c) the amount which Government expect to be able to confiscate as a result of the notes not having been tendered for exchange; and

(d) what, if any, other profits the Government have made by the issue of this Ordinance?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) Rs. 143·97 crores.

(b) Rs. 120·08 crores upto 9th February, 1946.

(c) The question has not yet arisen, and when it does arise, appropriate action will be taken.

(d) The Ordinance was not designed to make any profit, as such. The main objects underlying the Ordinance have been explained in my answer to Starred Question No. 417, by Mr. Manu Subedar, on the 21st February, 1946.

EXAMINATION OF BANK VAULTS UNDER DEMONITIZATION ORDINANCE

626. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that certain officers were deputed on behalf of the Reserve Bank of India to examine the Vaults of various banks to make sure that the returns made by them under 'Demonetization Ordinance' were correct;

(b) if in the course of such examinations any discrepancies were found in any banks; and

(c) if any exceptions were made in favour of any banks in the matter of such examinations, if so, why?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a), (b) and (c). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the answer given by me to the short notice question, by Mr. Manu Subedar, on the 7th February, 1946.

SALE OF HIGHER DENOMINATION NOTES

627. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) if instances have come to his knowledge of the High Denomination Notes, as defined by the Demonetization Ordinance, having been bought and sold for less than their value after the issue of the Ordinance;

(b) the amount that Government think has been made in the blackmarket by such transactions; and

(c) if Government are satisfied with the actual results that have ensued from this Ordinance?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) No, Sir.

(b) Government have no information.

(c) It is too early to attempt to assess the results of the operation of the Ordinance.

CENSORSHIP OF PRIVATE LETTERS

628. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) the various types of censorship that private letters in course of transit can be subjected to, and the laws under which this is done;

(b) if some letters are secretly opened and re-closed, and if others are opened without any secrecy and sealed with the words "Opened by examiner before delivery";

(c) if it is a fact that letters secretly opened are very clumsily re-gummed, resulting in their having to be torn out of their envelopes by the receivers thereof; and

(d) if Government will consider the desirability of having only one system of censorship and to open letters without any attempt at secrecy and close them by a separate piece of paper?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a), (b) and (d). Censorship of private correspondence has been abolished. Powers of secret interception under Section 26, Post Office Act of 1898, are however still exercised.

(c) I am aware that such complaints have been made.

PURPOSE OF CENSORSHIP ON PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE

629. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) the purpose for which censorship on private correspondence passing through the post is being maintained;

(b) the number of letters that are being thus censored on an average per year;

(c) the powers of the Central and Provincial Governments in this behalf; and

(d) the list of names of those whose letters are so censored by the Central and various Provincial Governments?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) and (c). The powers and purpose of interception are defined in the section of the Post Office Act that I have just quoted.

(b) and (d). As regards the Provincial Governments I have no information. But in any case the purpose of interception would be defeated if I gave the information.

INSTRUCTIONS *RE* RECOGNITION AND EXTENSION OF CIVIL LIBERTIES OF PEOPLE

630. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) if any new instructions or advice have been issued to provincial Governments after the release of the members of the Congress Working Committee in regard to the recognition and extension of civil liberties of the people, especially in regard to processions, National and All India Days avowedly organised in a peaceful manner in furtherance of peaceful policies and programmes of the people concerned; and

(b) whether there is any difference in the official attitude (Central and Provincial Governments) towards the civil liberties of the people between the period before June of 1945 and thereafter?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) In the process of consultation between the Central Government and Provincial Governments from time to time in the last few months views have been exchanged on various matters affecting, or likely to affect, public order. Instances are—electioneering activities and the celebration of the so-called Independence Day.

(b) The policy of both the Central Government and Provincial Governments, whether before June 1945 or after that date, is, as I told the Honourable Member on February 7th, to permit the full enjoyment of civil liberties consistently with their responsibility for the preservation of public order.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION AMONG CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF SECRETARIAT OFFICER

631. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) the total strength of Secretariat officers dealing with service and establishment cases; and

(b) how many of them are (i) Muslims, and (ii) Non-Muslims?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) There are 244 Secretariat officers who deal in some degree with service and establishment questions.

(b) (i) 40; (ii) 204.

MUSLIMS IN CENTRAL SERVICES

632. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please place on the table a statement on the working of the Govt. Resolution of 1934, fixing 25 per cent. of Muslims in the Central Services?

(b) What is the proportion of Muslims in all the Central Services?

(c) Do Govt. propose to appoint a Muslim I.C.S. Officer to review the working of this resolution?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) A statement is placed on the table of the House.

(b) Muslims are represented to the extent of 20·67 per cent. in all the Central Services taken together.

(c) I will consider the suggestion.

Statement

Since the issue of the Resolution in July 1934 the proportion of Muslims and "Other Minority Communities" in the Indian Civil Service and the Central Services has increased as follows:

Name of Service	Percentage increases from 1st January 1935 to 1st January 1945		Proportion on 1st January 1945 of—	
	Muslims	Other Minorities	Muslims	Other Minorities
			(Percentage)	(Percentage)
I. Indian Civil Service .	5·03	1·95	20·23	10·5
II. Central Services—				
(Class I) . . .	3·22	—2·75	16·05	13·8
(Class II) . .	3 75	—14·73	18·32	13·86
Subordinate Services . .	1·42	·23	21·66	7·46
Superior Railway Services .	2·0	·14	15·21	27·14
Subordinate Railway Services.	3·20	2·54	20·04	11.47
All Services together .	2·55	—1·66	20·67	9·86

(The figures for Railway Services are as on 31st March 1944.)

The increase in the representation of the minority communities would probably have been more marked but for the war. During the war a large number of new posts requiring special and technical qualifications were created suddenly and it was not always possible to find suitable minority candidates at short notice; and the attractions of military service reduced the numbers available for civil posts. The extent of the problem is indicated by the war-time recruitment to the Subordinate Services where the number of temporary posts increased from 4,519 on 1st January 1939 to 46,720 on 1st January 1945.

2. All permanent recruitment to Central Services was, however, stopped from June 1942, 70 per cent of permanent vacancies being reserved for 'war service' candidates and the remaining 30 per cent. for temporary employees under Government. Government have issued instructions that in filling the 70 per cent. reservation for 'war service' candidates and the 30 per cent. reservation for temporary men the rules regarding communal representation should be strictly followed. Government have further directed that, where retrenchment is necessary, the temporary staff should be so discharged that the composition of the persons retained is, as far as possible, in accordance with the communal ratios prescribed for recruitment.

EXPERTS FOR DEVELOPING INDIAN INDUSTRIES

633. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development be pleased to state:

(a) if Government have invited experts now in the employ of various industrial concerns of Government and private enterprise to study certain special problems concerning the possibilities of developing Indian industries that they are capable of planning and making plans for setting up and executing the industrial plants and concerns needed; if so, how many such experts have been approached and for what industries;

(b) the nature of remuneration and encouragement offered to them to give their best in preparing the requisite plans; and

(c) if no approach has been made to experts whether Govt. now propose to consider the advisibility of approaching our available experts to place their constructive ideas and proposals before Government for the advancement of our national planning without their having to abandon their present jobs?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) and (b). As the Honourable Member is aware, a number of Panels have been appointed to make recommendations to Government regarding the development of industries, both existing and new, to enable them to prepare a detailed plan of industrial development for the whole of India. The Panels are composed of persons prominently associated with the industry concerned, and one or two experts, and those who by their general knowledge of Trade and Industry are likely to be useful as members. They work in an honorary capacity, getting only travelling allowances for their journeys on panel work.

(c) The Government of India consider that the procedure now being followed is suitable and does not call for any change.

SELECTION OF EXPERTS FOR PLANNING

634. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development be pleased to state:

(a) how many experts are today employed by his Department as whole-timers, and how many of them are Indians;

(b) how many of them are qualified for specific expertness and knowledge of the subject entrusted to them;

(c) who is the authority to see that only those who are really competent and useful experts are chosen for their particular lines of planning;

(d) whether any steps are being taken to make these experts gain the specific expertness needed for the line of planning entrusted to them by making any special study of modern developments; and

(e) whether any steps are being taken to get the requisite number of scientists and technicians trained in time to execute the plans now being formulated by Government; if so, what they are and where they are to be trained?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) Nine; all are Indians. Two experts from the U. S. A. were also employed for some time, but these have now left after completion of their task.

(b) All of them.

(c) The Member in charge of the Department.

(d) All of them are expected to study modern developments in the subjects entrusted to them and no special arrangements for this purpose are considered necessary.

(e) Yes. I draw the attention of the Honourable Member to the brochure giving details of the Education Department and Labour Department training schemes of which a copy is available in the Library of the House.

REPORTS *RE* POST-WAR PLANNING

635. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development be pleased to state:

(a) from how many and from what Provinces the post-war planning reports have been received;

(b) the total sums of money their planning estimates amount to in different main lines of development, say agriculture, industries, commerce, rural reconstruction and urban development;

(c) how they compare with each other;

(d) whether Government of India is shaping its plans in relation to these Provincial plans;

(e) in regard to what lines of planning the Central Government's plans are ready, and how much they are expected to cost; and

(f) whether they are sanctioning the floatation of joint stock companies, the purchase and import of industrial machinery etc. in the light of (a), (d) and (e); if so, the industries in which such development is now going on?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a). Draft Five-year Plans have been received from all Provinces. Some have been finalised by the Provincial Governments and some have yet to be.

(b) and (c). I lay a statement on the table indicating provisional figures.

(d) That is the intention.

(e) I lay a statement on the table indicating provisional figures.

(f) In sanctioning capital issues and registering applications for the import of capital goods, these factors are taken into account. The Honourable Member will be interested in the Press notes issued recently on the development of the Cotton Textile and Cement Industries of which copies are available in the Library of the House.

Statements

Total proposed expenditure of all Provinces on each Major Head

In crores of rupees.

—	Agriculture	Industries	Public works	Medical & Public Health	Education	Miscellaneous	Total
Madras	8	2	70	14	31	11	136
Bombay	15	*	25	4	4	12	60
Bengal	26	5	80	14	13	31	169
U. P.	11	3	60	18	13	9	114
Punjab	6	5	67	12	10	16	116
Bihar	9	3	52	10	9	37	120
C.P. & Berar	2	*	10	4	12	2	30
Assam	2	4	57	3	4	12	82
N.W.F.P.	1	*	6	5	3	3	18
Orissa	1	1	15	2	5	9	33
Sind	9	..	28	4	1	4	46
Total	90	23	470	90	105	146	924

* Less than 1 crore.

Statements

Central Post-war Plans

Estimated total cost up to March, 1952,

Department	(Crores)
Agriculture	15
Education	20
Health	19
Information and Arts—	
Broadcasting	17
Films	3
Labour—	
Subsidy for Housing, Social Security Schemes, etc.	18
Vocational Training etc.	30
Planning and Development (Grants to Council of Scientific and Industrial Research)	4
Posts and Air—	
Posts and Telegraphs	36
Civil Aviation	30
Meteorology	1
War (Resettlement on Land)	2
War Transport (National Highwhys)	20
Centrally Administered Areas	10
Total	225
Railways	about 250 crores

CASUALTIES CAUSED BY MILITARY VEHICLES

636. *Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of (i) deaths and (ii) other casualties in (a) the City of Madras and (b) other parts of South India caused by military vehicles from January 1940, to January 31, 1946;

(b) whether any compensation has been paid in any case; if so, the number of persons who have received compensation and the total amount spent by the Government on this account; and

(c) whether any action has been taken by the military authorities against the drivers of the vehicles who caused these accidents; if so, in how many cases, and the nature of action taken?

Mr. P. Mason: (a), (b) and (c). I am afraid that these statistics are not available and that to collect them would involve a very great expenditure of time and labour.

I may, however, inform the Honourable Member that a Claims Commission was set up by Government on the 1st January, 1945, to consider and deal with all claims made against the Armed Forces in respect of traffic accidents involving military vehicles on duty and civilian third parties, and that in all cases since the 1st January 1945, where claims have been made and it has been found that the blame for the accident was that of the military driver, fair and equitable compensation has been or will be paid as a matter of grace. Before the 1st January 1945, the settlement of such claims was the responsibility of the local service authorities.

Disciplinary action is taken in all cases where a driver of a military vehicle has been found to be at fault.

POLICY OF FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION *RE* ADVERTISING IN NEWSPAPERS

637. *Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of the Federal Public Service Commission in advertising, in newspapers, inviting applications for posts;

(b) the actual number of days allowed in each case after the insertion of advertisements in newspapers and the last date notified for sending the applications;

(c) whether candidates living in places distant from Delhi and Simla like remote villages in South India are given any consideration in the matter of application; if not, why not;

(d) whether the Secretary of the Federal Public Service Commission has received any complaints regarding the insufficiency of time given; and

(e) whether the Honourable Member proposes to instruct the Commission to give at least one month's time to candidate from places which are more than two day's Railway journey from Delhi, for sending their applications, and see that application forms are despatched to candidates immediately the Secretary receives requests for them?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) The policy of the Federal Public Service Commission in advertising in newspapers asking for applications for posts is to give the widest possible publicity in the various provinces to the vacant posts so that recruitment can be made from the largest possible pool of suitable candidates.

(b) One month from the date of the appearance of an advertisement in the *Gazette of India* is allowed for the receipt of applications. The advertisement appears in the newspapers either on the same date or very shortly afterwards.

(c) Late applications are usually considered if practicable and if the delay is not due to the candidate's own fault.

(d) Occasionally.

(e) The Commission are well aware of the necessity of allowing ample time for the receipt of replies from distant places.

CONFISCATION OF SHRI GANDHI SEWA ASHRAM, MEHRAULI

638. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) whether Shri Gandhi Sewa Ashram at Mahrauli was confiscated during the 1942 Civil Disobedience Movement;

(b) whether any list of the property was prepared at the time of confiscation;

(c) with whom that list was kept; and

(d) whether that Ashram has now been returned; if so, to whom; whether all the items of the property were properly checked at the time of handing over?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) The Gurkukul Ram Tal which I understand was also known as Shri Gandhi Ashram was notified as a building used for the purposes of an unlawful association.

(b) Yes.

(c) In the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Delhi.

(d) The building was restored to the villagers of Kathwaria Serai. Some of the articles which were recovered from the Ashram were confiscated under section 17-B of the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act and the remaining articles were returned to Master Tula Ram, Manager of the Ashram, on 11th December, 1942.

DETENTION OF I. N, A. PERSONNEL UNDER THE MILITARY SAFETY (POWERS OF DETENTION) ORDINANCE

639. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) how many persons are now being detained under the Military Safety (Powers of Detention) Ordinance, 1944, and how many of them were members of the I.N.A.; and

(b) whether the following persons are still being detained in the Montgomery Central Jail: (i) Sardar Sher Singh, (ii) Sardar Kartar Singh, (iii) Sardar Amar Singh, and (iv) Sardar Dalip Singh?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Orders have been issued for the release of all those who were detained under the Military Safety (Powers of Detention) Ordinance, with the exception of one person, who was not a member of the I. N. A.

(b) No, Sir, Nos. 1 and 3 were released on the 15th January, No. 2 on the 29th January and No. 4 on the 20th December last.

ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION *RE* HANDCUFFING OF DEMONSTRATORS ON ABDUL RASHID DAY IN DELHI

640. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) whether Government have taken any action on the adjournment motion carried by the Assembly on the 13th February 1946 about hand-cuffing the prisoners who were arrested in Delhi in connection with the Abdul Rashid Day demonstrations;

(b) whether Government propose to issue instructions that in future normally political prisoners will not be handcuffed;

(c) whether any allowance is being paid to their dependents;

(d) whether it is contemplated to release them at an early date; and

(e) whether they are permitted to interview their relatives, if so, how many times they have availed of this privilege, and when the interview was last held?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a), (b) and (c). No.

(d) None of them is now in custody.

(e) During the short time they were in custody they were allowed frequent interviews with relatives and legal advisers as permitted by the rules.

SECRET DEAL FOR IMPORT OF RADIO SETS

641. *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether during the course of the war the Government of India made a secret deal with a British firm for the import of Radio Sets?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, what is the number of sets so ordered?

(c) Did any such set or sets arrive in India? If so, what is their number?

(d) How did Government use the sets during the war?

(e) Now that the war is over, have Government cancelled the contract wholly or in part?

(f) If the answer to (e) is in the negative, how do Government intend to use or dispose of the sets as and when they arrive and which have already arrived?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable the Member for Industries and Supplies. It has accordingly been transferred to the final list of questions for the 11th March 1946, when it will be answered by the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies.

W. A. C. IS. APPEAL AGAINST 'UNBELIEVABLE SCANDALS' PUBLISHED IN *Hindustan Times*

642. *Mr. Ramayan Prasad: (a) Has the attention of the War Secretary been drawn to the W.A.C.Is pathetic appeal against "unbelievable scandals" published in the *Hindustan Times* of the 17th February 1946?

(b) Are Govt. aware that a letter signed by 100 W.A.C.I. members has been sent to the Parliament and the members of the Central Legislative Assembly making serious charges that they have been pitilessly and criminally neglected and in the service itself they were ill cared for, fitted for nothing except drinking, dancing, necking and fraternizing with the officers and B.O.Rs. and appealing them to investigate?

(c) Are Govt. aware that there have been cases without number of rape, forced motherhood, abortions, venereal diseases and suicide?

(d) Are Govt. aware that Indian Officers were not permitted to improve the lot of their subordinates and that they are now 'gagged' by the Defence of India Rules from telling the story except before a proper accredited investigation?

(e) If the answers to (a), (b), (c) and (d) are in the affirmative, do Government propose to take any steps to investigate the matter and to clerk the evil?

Mr. P. Mason: Sir, I have two starred questions Nos. 642 and 653, on the subject of the W. A. C. (I), for to-day. With your permission I propose to deal with these questions together.

No. 642.—(a) Yes, Sir, and I am glad to have the opportunity of contradicting this slur on a fine Corps. The article refers to a letter purporting to have been signed by 100 members of the Corps. I shall be prepared to believe in its authenticity when I have seen the original letter and have checked the signatures.

(b) It is alleged that the supervision was inadequate. All hostels were supervised by officers who were responsible for the well-being of the auxiliaries. There were rules for the admission of visitors. The girls were under orders to be in their barracks by 10 P.M. and lights out by 10-30 P.M., but two late passes were permitted a week to enable them to go to Cinemas or dances if they wished. The statement that W. A. C. (I)s were forced to attend any form of entertainment or compelled to attend dances, etc., for the amusement of male officers or British Other Ranks can only be described as a malicious and incorrect statement. Where parents expressed a special wish, auxiliaries were permitted to leave the hostels only with persons approved by their parents.

The standard of food and accommodation is high and the rates of pay are at least as good as most of the girls are likely to earn in civil life. I should add that there has been some criticism on the grounds that the pay was too high. The great majority were anxious to stay on in the Corps and were disappointed at the decision that it should be disbanded.

The statement that the women of the W. A. C. (I) are to be let loose on the unemployment market and that Government will do nothing about them, is wholly incorrect. Resettlement plans and post-war plans apply to this Corps as much as to the rest of the Army and special schemes for this Corps have been framed.

There have also been allegations of racial discriminations. It is true that the majority of the officers are Europeans, with, Anglo-Indians for the second largest number. The reasons for this are, I think, obvious. It is only comparatively recently that Indian women have begun to earn their living independently of parents, and it is still an exception rather than a rule for an Indian girl to except to do this. Among Europeans and Anglo-Indians on the other hand, it is an exception for a girl *not* to expect to earn her own living. Those who have in the past earned their own living are obviously more likely to become officers than those who have not. This preponderance of two communities among the officers was one of the principal reasons for deciding on the disbandment of the Corps, so that when it is formed again, as I hope it will be, it will be possible for all communities to have an equal start.

(c) The article stated that there had been cases out of number of rape, forced motherhood, abortion, venereal disease and suicide. The facts are that the total strength of the Corps was 9,567 on the 1st January 1946. Since it was formed in 1942, two alleged cases of rape have been reported to the W. A. C. (I) Headquarters. In both cases a Court Martial on the person charged found him not guilty. I am unable to distinguish between forced motherhood and rape. Since December 1944, 65 cases have been reported in which W. A. C. (I) personnel were about to have illegitimate children, a percentage of about 0·7 per cent. It is however, possible that there may have been a few other cases in which the person concerned obtained discharge on other

grounds and did not reveal her condition. With regard to venereal disease, 25 cases have been treated in military hospitals since the Corps was formed in 1942. The strength of the General Service Section of the Corps is 3,400 and these women could not attend hospitals except on leave. There may have been cases which have not come to light among the 6,000 Local Service women who live at home and can go to private hospitals. There have been two cases of reported suicide in the history of the Corps. In neither case has the result been fatal.

It has also been stated that personnel of the Corps were accommodated in the same hostel as British Other Ranks. Owing to shortage of accommodation, this did happen in one case only throughout India. The women were on one floor, the men on another. Special arrangements were made for supervision in this case, but the arrangement was never considered satisfactory, and was abandoned as soon as possible. The arrangement lasted one year.

(d) I think the statements that have appeared in the Press are sufficient to show that no one has been gagged.

(e) In view of the facts just explained, and of the decision to disband the Corps, Government consider that it would be a waste of public time and money to hold a public enquiry.

No. 852.—(a), (c) and (d), have already been answered.

(b) Complaints have been received from time to time, and have been investigated as they occur.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN POSTS OF EXAMINERS IN ORDNANCE INSPECTION DEPOTS

643. *Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: (a) Will the war Secretary please state the number of posts of Examiners of different grades held by the members of various communities in the Ordnance Inspection Depots under the Master General of the Ordnance?

(b) Is it a fact that the number of members of the minority communities in these grades is far below the percentages prescribed under the Home Department's Resolution of 1932? If so, why was the communal order not maintained at the time of recruitment?

(c) Do Government propose to give an assurance that in the forthcoming retrenchment no member of the minority communities, particularly Muslims, will be thrown out of employment until proper communal representation is secured?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) and (b). Owing to abnormal expansions due to the war and the difficulty of obtaining recruits specially from minority communities, it was not possible to maintain the usual communal proportions in respect of Examiners employed in Ordnance Inspection Depots who are recruited locally on a "casual" and "as required" basis. No record of their strength by communities is therefore available.

(c) Yes, Sir, as I have already done on several occasions.

GRANT OF MONOPOLY FOR EXPORT OF SALT FROM SAMBHAR AND ELSEWHERE

644. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state in what essential respects the method of production and distribution of salt in India was altered and brought under control during the war time?

(b) Is it a fact that special agents in different areas during the war time were appointed by Government who were granted sole monopolies over salt distribution in their respective areas? If so, what margin of profits was allowed to such agents?

(c) Are Government contemplating to grant monopoly of salt export from Sambhar and other salt producing centres in various Provinces in India to any

particular individual or incorporated company? If so, to whom, and what terms?

(d) What are the advantages of that scheme?

(e) In the future scheme of salt distribution, will there be no place for free private trade whereby traders could, as before, directly import from the salt producing centres? If not, why not?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: The question should have been addressed to the Food Secretary. It has accordingly been transferred to the Final List of questions for the 6th March 1946, when it will be answered by the Food Secretary.

PROFITS EARNED BY UNITED KINGDOM AND SOUTH AFRICAN UNION BY EXPORT OF GOLD TO INDIA

645. *Mr. P. B. Gole: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member been drawn to the statement made by the Finance Minister of the South African Union Government regarding the profits earned by the Union Government by export of gold to India?

(b) If so, what share of that profit was earned by the United Kingdom?

(c) Have the Government of India any share in the profits?

(d) What Commission has been earned by the Reserve Bank for selling the said gold?

(e) Why was any share of the profit given to His Majesty's Government?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e). I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the replies I gave to Mr. Ayyangar's starred Question No. 314, on the 18th February 1946, and to Mr. Gadgil's starred Question No. 325, on the same date.

IMPORT OF GOLD INTO INDIA BY PRIVATE COMPANIES

646. *Mr. P. B. Gole: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether any other Government or private company was allowed to import gold into India, if so, on what terms; and

(b) whether any Indian firm doing business in gold prior to 1939 was allowed to import gold after the war; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) Yes Sir, the Bank of Ethiopia was allowed to import gold for the payment of purchases in India.

(b) With the above exception and petty imports from the Persian Gulf, no Sir. Imports involving payments of foreign currency were refused for exchange reasons.

STERLING AREA COUNTRIES

647. *Mr. P. B. Gole: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) the countries included in what is called the Sterling Area;

(b) the amount due to the countries by the United Kingdom;

(c) the total amount available for immediate distribution amongst the countries in the Sterling Area, either in gold or dollars; and

(d) if it is a fact that less than 10 per cent. of the sterling balances would be paid in gold or dollars immediately and that the payment of remaining balances would be postponed indefinitely?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) (i) His Majesty's Dominions excluding Canada and Newfoundland; the British protectorates and protected States;

(ii) Any territory in respect of which a mandate has been accepted by His Majesty and is being exercised by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom or in any Dominion;

(iii) Egypt and the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan;

(iv) Iceland and the Faroe Islands;

(v) Iraq; and

(vi) Hongkong.

(b) On the 30th June 1945, which is the last date for which information is available, the sterling balances held by the countries of the sterling area amounted to £2,723 millions.

(c) Government have no information.

(d) Not so far as I am aware, Sir.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE OF THE JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION OF DELHI PROVINCE

648. *Srijut Dhirendra Kanta Lahiri Choudhury: Will the Honourable the Home Member please lay a statement of income and expenditure of the judicial administration of the Delhi Province for the years 1943-44-45 and 1946 to date on the table of the House showing *inter alia*:

(i) the pay of officers in each class, grade, or scale;

(ii) the pay of the establishment in each class, grade or scale;

(iii) the sale of judicial stamps;

(iv) the sale of judicial papers;

(v) the sale of court fee stamps;

(vi) amount of Diet Money of Witnesses;

(vii) costs for adjournments;

(viii) costs of the suits and cases including appeals, etc.; and

(ix) the expenditure on Copying Department?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: A statement is laid on the table showing the details asked for in items (i) to (vi) and (ix).

It is not possible to furnish the figures required in items (vii) and (viii) for which no separate record or register is maintained.

Statement showing the income and expenditure of the Judicial Administration of the Delhi Province for the years 1943-46 (up-to-date.)

	Scale of grade	INCOME 1943-44	INCOME 1944-45	INCOME 1945-46 (up-to-date)	EXPENDITURE 1943-44	EXPENDITURE 1944-45	EXPENDITURE 1945-46 (up-to-date)
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
27—Administration of Justice—							
Pay of Officers—							
Non-Voted—							
District & Sessions Judge	1000—3000	...	...	...	20,269	21,992	21,200
Voted—							
Subordinate Judges including Judge Small Cause Court	300—30—600/30—600—40—720/40—800—50—850	...	...	...	65,688	57,958	54,526
Establishment	150—5—225, 100—5—175, 100—5—150, 75—5—125, 45—2—95, 35—1½—75, 35—1—55	...	...	...	71,731	69,834	69,463
Sale of non-Judicial Stamps	...	10,42,260	9,05,179	6,69,550	...	...	...
Sale of Judicial Stamps (Court fees Stamps)	...	10,35,449	11,05,454	10,04,222	...	...	...
Sale of Judicial paper (Plain paper)	...	6,292	5,610	6,140	...	...	...
Amount of Road & Diet Money of Witnesses	...	...	...	...	30,935 /2/-	41,348/12/-	36,339/1/6
Income & expenditure of the Copying Agency—							
(i) Deputy Comm.'s Office-Establishment	...	34,880	39,722	34,270	19,094	22,171	21,340
(ii) Dist & Sessions Judge—Establishment	...	4,967	7,274	5,043	3,330	3,935	3,940
(iii) Judge Small Cause Court—Establishment	...	3,968	2,640	2,885	1,431	1,474	1,613

COST PER HEAD OF TRAINING, EQUIPPING AND MAINTAINING OF INDIAN AND BRITISH SOLDIERS

649. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state the average cost, during the war years, of raising, training, equipping and maintaining Indian soldiers per head in India, according to the various categories of soldiers in the fighting services?

(b) What has been the average cost, during the war years, of raising, training, equipping or maintaining British forces per head in India, according to the various categories of British persons in the fighting services?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: To calculate properly weighted average costs of raising, training, equipping, and maintaining Indian soldiers of various arms over the whole war period would involve a considerable amount of research the labour. Moreover the result would be of little significance owing to the wide variations from year to year in the rates of pay and allowances, price levels, scales of equipment, periods of training, and training establishments.

The following are the costs for the year 1944-45. The figures exclude the value of imported stores which were supplied free by His Majesty's Government for expansion forces.

(a) (1) The cost of raising, training and equipping an Indian soldier for each of the principal arms of the fighting services is:

	Rs.
Indian Armoured Crops	2,325
Indian Infantry	1,485
Indian Artillery	1,307
Indian Engineers S. & M.	1,963
Indian Signals	1,459

The annual maintenance cost is:

	Rs.
Indian Armoured Corps	1,305
Indian Infantry	1,039
Indian Artillery	1,043
Indian Engineers S. & M.	1,324
Indian Signals	1,150

(b) No expenditure is incurred by India in raising, training and equipping British soldiers. The annual maintenance cost of a British soldier in 1944-45 for each of the principal arms of the fighting services is:

	Rs.
Royal Armoured Crops	2,824
British Infantry	2,518
Royal Artillery	2,648
Royal Engineers	2,810
Royal Signals	2,771

LIABILITY OF INDIA FOR INITIAL COST OF RAISING, TRAINING AND EQUIPPING OF FORCES UNDER THE 'FINANCIAL SETTLEMENT'.

650. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please refer to the principle embodied in the Financial Settlement that "any forces now being raised that India may agree to send for services overseas cease to be an Indian liability on leaving India, and whole initial cost of raising, training and equipping such forces as well as subsequent recurring charges are borne by His Majesty's Government", and state the amount borne by His Majesty's Government under this clause for the war years?

(b) What has been the amount of expenditure, if any, incurred by India in maintaining, raising, training or equipping British forces and forces of other nationalities stationed in India, during the war year?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) It is not possible to ascertain from the accounts, without an undue amount of labour, the expenditure borne by His Majesty's Government on the raising, training and equipping of forces sent from India to overseas theatres.

(b) This part of the question would seem to assume that British forces and forces of other nationalities serving in India are raised, trained and equipped at the expense of India. Such an assumption is incorrect as these forces are actually trained and equipped before they arrive in this country and their recurring costs alone are borne by India.

Here again, it is not possible to separate readily the total cost to India of maintaining these forces from year to year.

PAYMENT TO INDIA UNDER THE FINANCIAL SETTLEMENT ON ACCOUNT OF WAR EXPENDITURE.

651. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state the total amount paid by His Majesty's Government to India under the Financial Settlement, on account of war expenditure, from 1939-40 to 1945-46?

(b) How much of the above represents payment for services and supplies in India, and how much capital assets constructed in India?

(c) What is the total value of surplus stores belonging to His Majesty's Government in India? Are negotiations being carried on in regard to the disposal of these surplus stores? If so, what stage have these negotiations reached, and when can a full statement clarifying the position be expected?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) The total amount paid and payable by His Majesty's Government to India under the Financial Settlement from 1939-40 to 1945-46 is estimated at Rs. 1,733 crores (figures for 1945-46 are based on the latest estimates).

(b) Payment for services and supplies in India (including pay and Indian troops overseas to the extent to which it is actually disbursed in India) amounts to Rs. 1,568 crores and the cost of Capital assets constructed in India to Rs. 165 crores.

(c) Stores belonging to His Majesty's Government in India which become surplus are, in accordance with an agreement reached with the United Kingdoms authorities, disposed of by the Government of India and the rupee proceeds are credited to His Majesty's Government. The total value of stores which will ultimately be declared surplus is not known and no negotiations in respect of such stores have been undertaken.

TAX ON BUSINESS INCOME IN TRIBAL AREAS

652. *Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that Tehsil Nokhundi and Tehsil Kulu (Baluchistan) are in tribal areas;

(b) Whether it is also a fact that under section 1 of the Income Tax Act, 1922, no tax is leviable on business income in tribal areas; and

(c) If the answers to (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, why is the Income Tax Act enforced in the Baluchistan Tribal areas?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: (a) Yes; they are both Sub Tehsils in Tribal Areas.

(b) As the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, has been applied to these areas, business income in these areas is liable to tax under the applied Act.

(c) The primary object in applying the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, as also several other enactments of British India, to these areas was to secure uniformity of legislation between British India and the Tribal Areas.

ENQUIRY INTO THE COMPLAINTS BY W. A. C. I. s.

†**653. *Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the War Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if he has seen the message, published in the *Free Press Journal* of the 18th February, of revelations published first in the *Blitz of Bombay* of the 16th February *i.e.*, the open letter to Indian M.L.As. and British M.Ps. by 100 W.A.C.Is.;

(b) if the Government authorities concerned had received any complaints from the members of the W.A.C.Is. during the last few years, if so, how often and from how many, and what action was taken thereon;

(c) whether Government have any material in their possession to refute the complaints made by the 100 W.A.C.Is. in their open letter; and what they are; and

(d) in view of the serious nature of the complaints made, including the dishonouring of India's women, resulting in the breaking up of homes and suicides whether Government propose to appoint a public or Purdah Enquiry Committee with the representatives of the All-India Women's Association forming a majority, to enquire into these complaints and to suggest ways and means by which the Defence Forces relations with our women, inside or outside the Forces may be regulated with due regard to the honour and health of our women?

†For answer to this question, *see* answer to question No. 642.

ALLOWANCES FOR CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SERVANTS

654. *Hajee Chowdhury Mohammad Ismail Khan: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether the rates of dearness/war allowance for the (i) low-paid Central Government servants, and (ii) Imperial Services are being increased? If so, by how much? If not, why not?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: Certain proposals relating to this matter are under consideration.

REORGANISATION OF FINANCE DEPARTMENT

655. *Mr. Nagendranath Mukhopadhyay: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Finance Department is being re-organized; if so, when the re-organization is likely to be completed;

(b) whether any new cadre of junior officers on the lines of Whitehall is being introduced; if so, what that new cadre is, and how the recruitment to that cadre is to be made; and

(c) whether it is intended that the departmental staff will, as is the practice, be promoted to at least 50 per cent. of the vacancies in that cadre; if not, why not?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: (a) The re-organisation of the Finance Department has already begun. It is not possible to say when it will be completed.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. The details of the cadre have not yet been worked out. Recruitment will be made by competitive examination. It is however, intended that as a temporary measure a certain number of posts in the cadre will be filled by selection from suitable persons already employed in the Finance Department. There is no intention of reserving any percentage of vacancies to be filled by promotion. The new service will be a Central Service, Class I, and the existing practice in the matter of promotion from posts of clerk to posts of Assistant will not, therefore, apply.

REPATRIATION OF CIVILIAN MEMBERS OF I. N. A. FROM SIAM

656. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) if his attention has been drawn to the report sent by Mr. T. G. Narayanan, the *Hindu* correspondent, published in the *Hindu* of the 17th February under the caption "Civilian Members of the I. N. A. from Siam. Government of India opposes repatriation";

(b) whether it is true, as he says, that the Government of India "when informed to be ready to receive the I. N. A. contigent (700) sent away from Siam on board the Jaladurga" flatly declined to accept such troops of the I. N. A., as they did not formerly belong to the Indian Army;

(c) whether this Siam contigent refused for seven days to get down at Singapore as they were anxious to go back to India;

(d) whether before they had actually boarded the steamer at Bangkok, they were given to understand that they would be taken to India but that the Government of India threatened to prevent their landing in India, if need be, by force;

(e) whether it is a fact that none of the South East Asian countries where they had formerly been and from which they were recruited into the I.N.A. is willing to take them back; and

(f) if the Government of India propose to let them come to India and find sanctuary in India, the homeland of either these I. N. A. troops or their forefathers?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) I have seen the article.

(b) No. The Government of India merely requested that these persons should not be sent on until full particulars about them had been furnished.

(c) At first they refused to disembark but were later persuaded to do so.

(d) Their destination was, and still is, India. The allegation that the Government of India threatened to prevent their landing by force is incorrect.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Yes, as soon as their particulars have been received.

RESTRICTIONS ON PUNJABIS AGAINST BUYING CARTRIDGES FROM DELHI FIRMS

657. *Hajee Chowdhury Mohammad Ismail Khan: (a) Is the Honourable the Home Member aware that the Punjab licence-holders in form XVI are debarred from buying cartridges from Delhi firms unless a special permit is brought from their District Magistrates? If so, what are the reasons for this restriction on the Punjabis only out of the whole British Indian subjects?

(b) Do Government propose to remove restrictions on the Punjabis and allow them to purchase on production of their licences up to the quantities allowed therein? If not, what are the reasons for this treatment to the Punjabis?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) Yes. The restriction referred to was imposed at the request of the Punjab Government.

(b) The restriction in Delhi will be removed when the Punjab Government remove the same restriction imposed by them in the Punjab.

DISCONTENT AMONG INDIAN SOLDIERS DUE TO WITHHOLDING OF DISABILITY AND FAMILY PENSIONS

658. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the War Secretary please refer to his reply on the 7th March, 1945, to starred question No. 731, declaring that "the subject of Military pension is not a matter of legislation; it falls entirely within the scope of the Royal Prerogative. Such pensions are in the nature of gifts and bounties from the Crown and may, therefore, be granted or withheld at pleasure" and state if it is a fact that to the persons enrolled for 1914-18 and 1939-45 wars with liabilities to render "active service" in any part of the world, the enrolling officers had not read out and explained or caused to be read out and explained the conditions that pensions on account of deaths and loss of limb may be withheld at pleasure or that "pay" and "retired pay" will depend on the pleasure of the Executive Government?

(b) Is he aware that there is a great discontentment amongst Indian soldiers and their families in that their disability and family pensions have been withheld to the prejudice of Section 137(3) of the Indian Army Act, Section 51, 43(h) and 43(h)(v) of the Indian Army Act and Section 300(2) of the Government of India Act, 1935?

(c) Does he propose to give relief to the persons referred to in (b)?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Enrolling officers are required to read and explain to any person desirous of being enrolled, or caused to be read or explained to him in his presence, the conditions of the service for which he is to be enrolled and to put to him the questions set forth in the prescribed form of enrolment. Enrolling officers can hardly be expected to be aware of the legal basis for determining the grant or withholding of pay and pensions.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) If the Honourable Member will quote specific cases, I will have them looked into.

FORFEITURE OF PENSION, PAY AND RANK BY A NON-JUDICIAL BODY

659. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Has the attention of the War Secretary been drawn to the fact that forefeiture of pension, pay and rank is the function of Court Martial in pursuance of Sections 43(g) and 43(h)(i) of the Indian Army Act, but that this function has, in the case of Indian Forces, been carried out by a non-judicial body, which has taken no notice of the limitations imposed on the extent of power by the Indian Army Act?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will he please make a statement with reference to letter No. Des/16334/2/94, dated the 26th September, 1945, of the 19th Hyderabad Regimental Centre, Agra, for allowing functions of Court Martial to be done by a non-judicial body as referred to in (a)?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Yes, Sir, my attention has repeatedly been drawn by the Honourable Member himself to the point he wishes to make, but I cannot agree with his view of the law. Penal deductions amounting to forfeiture of pay and allowances can under Section 50 of the Indian Army Act be made by certain specified authorities other than Courts Martial.

(b) I have not yet seen the letter in question and have taken steps to obtain a copy.

COURT MARTIAL OF PERSONNEL ABSENT FROM DUTY IN 1942-45, IN MALAYA, SINGAPORE AND BURMA

660. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the War Secretary please state if a court of enquiry, in pursuance of Section 72 of the Army Act, has been held on the Indian personnel, who had been absent from their duties in 1942-45 in Malaya, Singapore and Burma on account of their being taken prisoners of war?

(b) If the reply to (a) be in the affirmative, were the personnel referred to in (a) shown on the roll of His Majesty's Indian Forces as prisoners of war or as deserters?

(c) Is he aware that the personnel referred to in (a) are being court martialled and reference to their being prisoners of war or deserters is not being made?

(d) On what date had the captivity of the personnel as prisoners of war referred to in (a) terminated with reference to para 156 of Chapter XIV of "the Laws and Usages of War on Land"?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) No Sir. Section 72 of the Army Act deals with persons subject to the Army Act who are absent without leave and not with those who are absent as prisoners of war.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No Indian prisoners of war subject to the Army Act have been court martialled since their recovery.

(d) Captivity as a prisoner of war ends when the prisoner is recovered from the enemy or when he escapes.

STRIKE BY RATINGS OF H. M. I. S. TALWAR IN BOMBAY

661. *Seth Govind Das: Will the War Secretary kindly state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all ratings of the H. M. I. S. Talwar, Bombay, have gone on strike on the 19th February;

(b) reasons given by the strikers; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to prevent the repetition of such strikes?

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Mr. P. Mason: I would refer the Honourable Member to the discussions on this subject which took place in the House on the 22nd and 23rd of last month.

STRIKE BY R. I. A. F. UNITS IN DELHI

662. *Seth Govind Das: Will the War Secretary kindly state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the R.I.A.F. Units stationed in Delhi have struck work;

(b) whether Government are aware that niggardly treatment has been accorded to them in service;

(c) whether Government are aware that in spite of repeated promises, nothing has been done by way of increase in salaries, and improvement in the quality of food; and

(d) whether Government are aware that the British Air Force personnel are treated better than the Indian in regard to salaries, allowances, etc.?

Mr. P. Mason: I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply on the 22nd of last month to a short notice question.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

MANIFESTO *RE* FURTHER ISSUE OF NOTES AGAINST STERLING

56. Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the Honourable the Finance Member seen the manifesto of twenty-four eminent economists of India and the recommendation that the further issue of notes against sterling and the accumulation of sterling assets should be stopped?

(b) Has he received a representation from the Federation of the Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry to the same effect?

(c) Have Government represented to His Majesty's Government the desirability of stopping the use of this method of financing the purchases for U.K. and Allied armies?

(d) Did Government consider at any time the desirability of suspending the operation of section 40 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, under which the Reserve Bank is bound to give rupees against a tender of sterling?

(e) Did the Reserve Bank make a suggestion to this effect at any time?

(f) Do Government propose to introduce the necessary legislation for this purpose during the current sessions?

(g) If the reply is in the negative, will Government state their policy on this subject and the reasons why they have thought it proper to disregard the advice tendered from so many quarters?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c), (d), (f) and (g). The whole question is under the consideration of Government

(e) As I have said on a previous occasion, I regret I am not able to disclose what correspondence has taken place between the Reserve Bank and the Government of India.

EMPLOYMENT IN INDIA OF EVACUEE GOVERNMENT SERVANTS

57. Raizada Hans Raj: (a) With reference to the answer to my starred question No. 94 regarding the employment in India of evacuee Government servants, given on the 7th February 1946, will the Honourable the Home Member please collect and lay on the table the information as to the total number of Burma Government servants employed under the Central Government in various offices and organizations?

(b) Will he also please state the names of the nine persons employed in the General Headquarters and Medical Directorate specifying the appointments held by them and the dates on which they are likely to be repatriated?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) The information required is not available, nor is it possible to collect it now.

(b) The particulars required are laid on the table of the House. The probable dates of repatriation of these nine persons are not known at present.

Name	Appointment held by		General Headquarters Medical Directorate	
1. Mr. H. N. Chatterjee .	Temporary Upper Division Clerk		Chief Administrative Officer's Office	General Headquarters
2. Mr. V. David Baliali .	Temporary Lower Division Clerk		Quarter Master General D. R.	
3. Havildar M. A. Nair .	Temporary Stenographer	Enrolled Indian Engineer	Quarter Master General/Tn. Dte.	
4. Havildar T. K. Nedungadi . . .	Do		,, ,,	
5. Havildar K. L. S. Iyer	Do		,, ,,	
6. Mr. M. S. Vauthi .	Temporary Punch Operator .		Med./D. M. S.—2	Medical Directorate
7. Mr. T. M. Valaynathan	Do		,, ,,	
8. Mr. C Subramaniam .	Do		,, ,,	
9. Mr. M. S. Muthuswamy	Do		,, ,,	

POWERS OF HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS UNDER THE CIVIL SERVICES (CONTROL AND APPEAL) RULES

58. Srijut Dhirendra Kanta Lahiri Choudhury: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether there have been cases wherein the conditions of service of a Government official appointed permanently for duty at a specific station in a certain scale of pay, with concessions of free quarter and free electricity, water and furniture have been changed without his consent to the detriment of the individuals or services? If so, in which cases?

(b) Is there any provision in the rules empowering the Heads of Departments or appointing authorities to counteract the provisions of Rule 22, Part II, Civil Services (Control and Appeal) Rules? If so, which specific rule or rules provide such powers?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: (a) The information is not readily available, nor can it be conveniently collected.

(b) No. Sir. The concessions referred to in part (a) of the question are however, in the nature of compensatory allowances to which an officer has no title when he ceases to hold the post to which they are attached. Rule 22 of the Civil Services (C. C. and A.) Rules, which is designed to protect Service rights has no application to such cases.

RECRUITMENT IN CERTAIN DEPARTMENTS FROM PROVINCES OUTSIDE DELHI

59. Srijut Dhirendra Kanta Lahiri Choudhury: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please lay on the table a statement showing the appointments in each category of the scales of pay (Gazetted and Non-Gazetted) given to persons imported from Provinces outside Delhi and from the Government of India, respectively, in the Departments of Food and Rationing, Price Control, Law and Order, Enforcement, Education, Medical, Judicial, Executive and Area Rationing in Delhi from 1942 to 1945?

(b) Will Government explain why in each case the appointment was given to an outsider in preference to a local talent?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) The collection of this information would be a very heavy task, and the value of it when made would not compensate the labour involved.

(b) The Delhi Administration has no gazetted officer cadres of its own and has to borrow such officers, and even some non-gazetted officers, from other provinces or the Government of India.

ENQUIRY INTO THE SCANDALS OF W.A. C. Is. AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

60. Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the War Secretary seen a representation by 100 WAC(Is) in the issue of the "*Blitz*" of Bombay, dated February 16, 1946?

(b) Is the fact represented in the following quotation correct:

"All the thousands of Indian women whose names are now mud are to be let loose in the unemployment market, Government having disowned all responsibility of peacetime reconversion of the corps.

This—after making a public scandal of the honour and fair name of India's womanhood!"?

(c) If not, what are the correct facts on this subject?

(d) How many British and Dominion women in any service of any kind in connection with the War Department, India, or the South East Asia Command, are being maintained in India at India's expense, and why are they being so maintained?

(e) Do Government propose to order an enquiry into the scandals of the WAC(I) and the racial discrimination? If not, why not?

(f) Do Government propose to issue a press note, traversing the various allegations made in this representation? If not, why not?

Mr. P. Mason: (a), (b), (c) and (e). These parts are covered by my reply to Starred questions No. 642 and 653 given to-day.

(d) There are 1,737 British members of the W.A.C.(I) in India Command and ALFSEA. There are 143 members of the A.T.S. in India and about 258 in ALFSEA. As I have already explained, none of the expenditure on the Forces in ALFSEA is charged against Indian revenues and the incidence of the expenditure in India on the members of these women's services, whatever their nationality, is the same as the expenditure on the units in which they are serving.

(f) The answer to questions Nos. 642 and 653 is intended to take the place of a Press Note.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

REDUCTION IN CLOTH RATION AND CONTINUED EXPORT OF CLOTH

Mr. President: I have just received notice of an adjournment motion sent by Sri Ananthasayanam Ayyangar and Sri Venkatasubba Reddiar, who want to discuss a matter of definite and urgent public importance, namely, further cutting down in cloth ration and the continued export of cloth to foreign countries. I should like to know how the matter is urgent.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, in yesterday's *Dawn* we find that the cloth ration has been reduced from 12 yards to 9 yards, and the heading is, "Less Cloth while Export Continues". I should like to have a statement from the Honourable Member whether the ration has been reduced and whether export continues.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari (Member for Information and Arts, and Planning and Development Departments): Sir, in the absence of my Honourable colleague the Industries and Supplies Member I would like to explain this matter. So far as I know, the cut only applies to Delhi. The cloth ration has not been reduced generally in India, and the reason why this ration has been reduced in Delhi was that the local administration had allotted more than 12 yards in the past; and now in order to level up things they have had

temporarily to reduce the cloth ration. It is a purely administrative measure taken by the Delhi Administration and there is no reduction in any other part of India.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): Sir, that statement in '*Dawn*' says that "Congress keeps mum while cloth is being exported". I may point out that it was I who brought to the attention of Government that under the weekly export list thousands of cloth bales were listed as going out of India to the middle east and other countries.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: That is in accordance with the policy explained some time back. In 1944-45 India's export quota was six hundred million yards a year. As a result of negotiations with His Majesty's Government by the Mission I took to London this quota was reduced to four hundred million yards for 1945-46; and these exports which my Honourable friend opposite refers to are in fulfilment of that quota. There is nothing new about it; the reason why this small quota is still being maintained has been already explained.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): This thing certainly is new that for the first time we learn that Government go on changing their quotas from month to month and from quarter to quarter, and expect consumers to go on accumulating their cloth supplies in order to be able to make up whenever these cloth rations are not down.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: Sir, with due respect that is an incorrect statement. Government do not change the quota from month to month.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What have you done here?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: I have already explained that this action is, as far as I am aware, limited to the Delhi Administration. I am no longer in charge of the subject but I believe it has been done by the Delhi Administration in order to make up for the cloth additional to the quota which they issued in the previous month.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That is exactly the trouble. In one month you give more. . . .

Mr. President: Order, order; this cross-talk will not do.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Sir, in view of the general shortage of cloth in India I had urged by means of several questions that further export should be stopped, and now I find that the new has arisen—I want Government to deny it if it is not true—of giving cloth in return for some foodgrains for this country. If there is such need, is it not time when Government should stop exports to countries from which we are not importing any food?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: My Honourable friend knows the reasons why this export of cloth is continuing. But for the information of the House I might mention that the export of cloth during the war years and just now is done by arrangement with His Majesty's Government. The reason is that the countries to which the cloth is exported are in very great need of cloth, specially the countries in the middle east. Therefore if we in India were now to say that we are not going to export any further cloth we would ourselves be in difficulty in maintaining our production because all the mill stores which we get, the spares which we get, mostly come from the United Kingdom. And if we refuse to act in co-operation with other united nations, they will take action against us. The whole basis of the discussion, was what was the least that we could give to the United Nations in the way of cloth, in return for which we would get the wherewithal to maintain our production. That was the reason.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What about the sixty million yards which we rear are being sent to Siam? And if we have to send these sixty million yards,—I do not dispute the necessity,—is it not necessary to cut down the quota going to other countries?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: This hardly arises out of the adjournment motion.

Mr. President: I should like to know what Mr. Ayyangar has to say on the point of urgency.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: The Honourable Member said that this policy of exporting was laid down as early as 1944. He has misunderstood my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga's objection. The objection is that though the policy of export was laid down in 1944 the policy of rationing and cutting down is going on from time to time. The policy may have been laid down at a time when there was no need to cut down so much. But we have cut it down enormously now, and therefore as and when cutting down takes place the urgency arises.

Mr. President: I understood the Honourable Member of Government to say that there is no permanent cutting down of the rations, but a temporary cut merely to adjust the previous excess.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: That is correct, and it is only for Delhi.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The same consumers may not be affected either by the earlier one or by the later one. There were certain people who had taken on earlier orders; thinking that the same thing will continue, the other people did not purchase their cotton cloth. Now, when they come to purchase it, they find that this new orders has come into operation. In addition to that, our later information is that they have changed their export quota from 400 to 500 millions. About three weeks ago my Honourable friend, Mr Vadilal Lallubhai wanted to give notice of an adjournment motion, but in deference to the general wish that we should not crowd the House with too many adjournment motions, he abstained from doing so. But now we would like to have information whether they have not increased the quota from 400 millions to 500 millions.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer (Bombay Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural): I know from my own personal knowledge that there are hundreds of bales lying in Indian State Ports. Why they should not be exported and British India quota cut down?

Mr. President: That is a discussion on merits. I am at present concerned with the admissibility of the adjournment motion.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: This will give an opportunity for discussion.

Mr. President: Order, order. For that there is a remedy by way of Short Notice question.

Prof. Ranga has, by what he pleaded, given up his case of urgency. I do not think the matter is of such importance and urgency as to justify my consent to this motion.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: It is important but may not be urgent.

DISPENSING OF QUESTION HOUR

Mr. President: Now we proceed further with the business of the House. Do I understand that there is a general agreement on not having the question hour?

Mr. Leslie Gwilt (Bombay: European): That is correct Sir, but I would with respect submit that arrangements of this nature would be the more satisfactorily made if Party Whips or Party Leaders could meet you before the General Budget or before the Finance Bill. I am not objecting, Sir, to the programme, but on Friday evening I was asked to agree to a programme of the time of speeches and I was told that it was a general wish of the House that questions *should* be asked. On the strength of that I informed my Party accordingly. I am this morning asked to agree to the question hour being

abolished and for a difference in the programme. Members of my party, unfortunately, are not here, and whilst we agree to the time that has been allocated to us, I would respectfully submit that it will be better in future if these programmes be discussed with you before agreed either with Party Leaders themselves or between Party Whips.

Mr. President: I do not know what help I could give in the settlement of questions of this type which depend more or less upon mutual convenience. I agree, however, that the Party Whips should do it earlier. But that is a different question, and I believe the Honourable Member only expressed his wish for future guidance. I believe there has been a long-standing convention in this House not to have the question hour during the general discussion on the budget or supplementary grants, or cut motions. But that does not mean that the Parties are bound to what has been done in the past. It is a matter of their convenience and agreement. So I take it that for today and tomorrow members do not wish to have the question hour.

Mr. Leslie Gwilt: I am not objecting to the elimination of the question hour but what I am asking, Sir, is that all party Leaders or Whips should be given an opportunity of discussing this matter with you to a finality, and once a programme is decided upon that we follow it and not change it from day to day.

Mr. President: There is one difficulty: I should not like to make this matter the subject of the President's Orders or rulings. It is a question of individual Member's right of putting questions which he may have tabled; and while I am prepared to help for a general agreement by negotiations, I do not think I could pass any orders on the subject, or should pass orders even if I could. That is my view of the matter. However, I am at the disposal of the Honourable Members and I am prepared to help in any way they want. So on this occasion, I take it for granted that for today and tomorrow there will be no question hour.

Some Honourable Members: Yes, yes.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (Bombay Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural): Would today's questions be answered day-after-tomorrow?

Mr. President: They will go in today's proceedings.

Mr. President: I have to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon on Friday, the 1st March, 1946, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the purpose of election of one person to represent the consumers on the Indian Central Tobacco Committtee, in place of Mr. Satya Narain Sinha, resigned, only one nomination was received. As there is only one candidate for the vacancy, I declare Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder to be duly elected to the Committee.

THE GENERAL BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION

First Stage

Mr. President: Before we proceed with the general discussion of the Budget, I should like to invite attention of the Honourable Members to Rule 46 of the Legislative Rules so that the scope of discussion may be clear to the Honourable Members. This is what the Rule says:

"The Assembly shall be at liberty to discuss the Budget as a whole or any question of principle involved therein, but no motion shall be moved at this stage. . . . . etc., etc."

Any reference to individual grievance etc. will come at a later stage, and Honourable Members will get the opportunity when the Finance Bill comes in. For specific items of the Budget they will get an opportunity when the cut motions are there. So the present scope of discussion is clear, and that is general discussion on the Budget as a whole as also any question of principle involved in the Budget.

[Mr. President]

I believe, in the statement which I am now going to make there is a general agreement of the Parties. If there is any mistake, I may be enlightened on the point. In all, during the two days, including question hours, the House gets 9½ hours of which I am setting aside, or propose to set aside, an hour and a half for the Government Members to reply as also to say whatever they may have to say. I believe the War Secretary is also going to make a statement explaining the policy of the War finance, and sometime is likely to be taken up by any miscellaneous discussion. So roughly the House will get 8 hours. The time limits which I propose are about—I am saying 'about' so that I may exceed by a few minutes if I think it is necessary to do so—about 30 minutes for the principal speaker of each Party, and about 15 minutes to each individual speaker, and in case any more time is taken up by any Member of a Party that will be a cut on that Party's time, as time for each party is proposed to be rationed. I propose to allot the time of 8 hours as follows:—

Four hours for the Congress Party;

Two Hours for the Muslim League Party;

One Hour for the European Group; and

One Hour for unattached Members.

Of course these are not very hard and fast limits; a few minutes here or there will be a question of adjustment, but the time limit will be controlled. I believe the House is agreeable to these proposals.

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab: Sikh): Sir, I would like to make a submission. The time allotted to the unattached Members is, I feel, short. The number of the unattached Members is about 20 and they represent various important interests, and therefore everyone of them, or at any rate most of them, would like to speak. The time allotted to the European Group comprising of about 9 members is equal to them. I suggest that the time allotted to the unattached Members may be increased.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan (North-West Frontier Province: General): The nominated Members are attached to the Government; they are not unattached.

Mr. President: There are elected unattached members. It is not a question of merely nominated members. I do not know whether it would be proper to say of the nominated members that they are necessarily attached to Government at all times and on all questions. However, I appreciate the point raised by Sardar Mangal Singh, but I think it is a point more for adjustment by members. There is some advantage in grouping and if I were to adjust time on the number of speakers perhaps it would be a premium for not being attached to any party. Well, it is a matter for Honourable Members to consider, and I believe the three principal groups in the House will keep in mind what Sardar Mangal Singh has said and it is for the Parties to adjust. A due share of time should be given, looking to the number of members of the various Parties.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Will this schedule be adhered to?

Mr. President: I hope with the co-operation of the House it will be adhered to.

Sardar Mangal Singh: It is not acceptable to us.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Leader of the House): Do I understand that the first four hours will be allotted to the Congress Party?

Mr. President: Not necessarily. I shall keep a record with me as far as practicable and see that only the time allotted as now will be utilised by that Party. However, I am making allowances for adjustments.

Sardar Mangal Singh: If a Nominated Member of the Government speaks, will it go to the Government quota or the unattached?

Mr. President: The Government quota.

Sardar Mangal Singh: What about the time allotted to the unattached Nominated Member?

Mr. President: I cannot decide. I do not know which Members are attached or unattached!

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Come here and attach yourself again to us.

Mr. President: I understood that the Honourable the War Secretary was going to put before the House the Finance Member's proposals with reference to war expenditure.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): Considering that the Finance Member has omitted his usual remarks on this subject which he gives in his Budget Speech and that he has put the burden on the War Secretary, may I not suggest that a statement by the War Secretary at this stage would be more useful?

Mr. President: That was why I put that question.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member): I would consult the convenience of the House about that. There have been two explanatory memoranda on the matter but if it suits the convenience of the House for him to make a statement . . . .

Mr. P. Mason (Government of India: Nominated Official): I do not think it would now.

Mr. President: I might just explain the position. If he speaks now he won't have the right of reply. That will be the difficulty. That was why it was suggested he should have a written memorandum supplied separately to Members. I believe that has been done. So it is better . . . .

Prof. N. G. Ranga: (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): That memorandum is not very helpful.

Mr. President: That is a different matter. It is a matter of views and understanding.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): I think my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, has been very fortunate to present this budget just after the war and the budget is not like the budgets we have had in the past. There is a great deal of change in the budget which we are dealing with and discussing today. I also congratulate the Honourable Member for having shown that he has got a broad vision for the improvement and progress of the country as evidenced in his budget speech.

Sir, there are some observations on the budget which I have to make for eliciting the opinion of the Government later on. But I want to impress upon the Government that these things to my mind do not appear in the budget which ought to have been properly explained and which are really needed for the improvement of the country in future. Sir, I would like to know why this explanation is not given when Rs. 10 crores are being saved as a surplus in the Postal Department and no grievance has been met of the small postal employees. The postal employees who have been getting very little salary have to make two ends meet, they ought to have been given a great relief when through their earning and through their work the Post and Telegraph Department is going to make such a revenue out of which Rs. 10 crores are supposed to be surplus. The Railways and Posts and Telegraphs should be treated mostly on the commercial basis, and if the post office is not totally a commercial concern, at least those who were not properly paid should have been given some kind of relief. But I find that nothing has been said about it and there is no response by Government to the demands which these people have been making. I would like to know for elucidation and for the purpose of these postal employees whether they will get their demand later on.

I find that in the Department of the Crown Representative there is no explanation forthcoming. In 1944-45 we had a budget of Rs. 1,52,14,000. In

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1945-46 there was a budget proposal of Rs. 1,75,87,000. This was objected to last year on the ground that there was no necessity shown why there should be an increase of Rs. 25,00,000. But we find that in the actuals for 1945-46, as expected, there will be a budget for Rs. 1,99,07,000. That is nearly Rs. 2 crores. There is a big jump of about Rs. 50,00,000 in the expenditure on the Department of the Crown Representative. I do not know why the Indian taxpayer should be paying this huge sum for the purpose of increases in a Department over which it has no control whatsoever and with which he is not concerned. The Department of the Crown Representative is beyond the touch or beyond the criticism of the House. It is increasing. . . .

An Honourable Member: It is untouchable!

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: . . every year. There should be some kind of explanation in the budget, and if it is an omission, I hope the Honourable the Finance Member will take note of this and tell the House why this increase has been made and what are the reasons why the taxpayer should be asked to pay Rs. 50,00,000 more than it did last year. This year, too, the Honourable Member has proposed that there should be a grant of Rs. 2 crores—Rs. 1,98,00,000. which is nearly Rs. 2 crores. This means that from 1944-45 to 1946-47 there is again a big jump and I do not know why this increase has been made. There ought to have been some kind of reduction after the war is over. Instead of that there is an increase of expenditure. I remember that there used to be a lot of negotiations with the States but when the States do not allow British Indians to have anything to do with their States, why should the Indian taxpayer be made to go on paying heavily every year. The British Indian taxpayer is really badly treated in this matter and I do not know who are the people employed and why they should not be employed out of British Indians.

Sir I find that there is not much of a decrease in the budget as far as the Information Department, goes. On account of war exigencies the Information Department had expanded. It is true that last year the Information Department was very necessary for the purpose of giving full information on behalf of the Government to the public. I find that this Information Deptt. is still being heavily loaded with a lot of personnel even after the war is over and there seems to be no decrease at all in this Department. Last year we know some kind of pamphlets were issued to the Members and were being distributed free to the public also, which were neither relevant not wanted, but that continues even this year. There was necessity for propaganda during the war. Now that the war has ended and the necessity for propaganda has ceased, there is a lot of scope for making retrenchment in this Department. The Information Department, must come back to the pre-war level. We should not go on expanding this Department, beyond the capacity of the public exchequer. The country may be able to pay this year but probably will not be able to pay in future. Therefore we have to lay down some kind of principle regarding retrenchment in this Department.

I find in the Budget that there is provision and there are many people who are superannuated people that are still in employment. There is no justification for this. When the Railway Budget was discussed what I understood was that the Honourable the War Transport Member said that it was the accepted policy that nobody will be kept in employment who is a superannuated person. But in the civil secretariat and in other departments there are many superannuated persons who are re-employed after they had retired. It is time that our younger people who are going to be thrown out of employment should be employed rather than those people who have had their time and had done their service and are entitled to their pension. They should be made to retire immediately and no extension should be given to them after the 31st March. This kind of provision for the re-employment of superannuated personnel should not find a place in the Budget at all.

Sir, in the Agricultural Department much research work is being carried on but I find that the Government pay very low salaries to their scientists as compared with other departments. India being chiefly an agricultural country we must give all encouragement possible to the people who make researches in agriculture. A man with general qualifications who has passed some general examinations gets a better salary than people who are scientists. It means that we do not attract the proper class of people. It should be our policy to attract better class of people and encourage our scientists to acquire better knowledge and turn out better work. Therefore I would like to impress upon the Honourable the Finance Member that we should pay better salaries to the scientists who are engaged in agricultural research and more money should be provided for the betterment of agriculture.

Sir, in the Geological Survey, I find that there is not much improvement this year, although we stressed last year that geological survey should be taken seriously in hand by Government. We have a lot of minerals in this country lying unused and unexplored. There is a lot of scope here and if we employ expert scientists who can make researches and discover the mineral wealth that lies hidden in the land, India can become independent of outside imports in many matters. We will not then require to import many things, which we import now, provided we work our mines properly. I think Government should give proper attention to the development of geological survey and exploit the mineral wealth of the country in a proper manner, for it is on our mineral wealth the entire future industrial development of the country depends. The provision which has been made in this behalf in the budget is very scanty and should have been more.

Now I come to a really very essential service, the Civil Veterinary Department. This service is not run properly and we find that superannuated people are given extensions, because some people could not get a passage home. This policy should be put an end to at once. India is not a charitable place to find employment for people who cannot go home for want of passages, thus depriving younger men of the opportunity to get employed. This must be most discouraging to younger people. Though there have been many scandals in this Department, they have not been inquired into. The Government have been ignoring the complaints and the Civil Veterinary Department has been going on in a hopeless manner.

Another item on which I stressed last year is the Ecclesiastical Department. I do not know what is going to be the policy of the Government in future but I think it is time that this department should be put an end to. Why does it exist? I do not know who wants this Ecclesiastical Department. If anybody wants to have clergies, maulvies or Brahmins, let them pay. It is not for the Government to pay out of the public exchequer the salaries and emoluments of any kind of clergy, whether they be of one denomination or another. The Ecclesiastical Department should be abolished at once. I find further that not only does the Ecclesiastical Department exist, but it is untouchable too. It is non-votable. I do not know why the general taxpayer should be asked to contribute any money under this head and be taxed for this purpose at all. I think it is time this is abolished and I hope in the next year's budget this will not find a place.

My Honourable friend has not explained about the surplus goods lying here under lend-lease terms, whether they have been taken by the government as a whole or not, what their value is, at what price they are assessed today, and whether Government will be able to dispose of those articles in the market at the price at which they are being sold to the Government. These things require very careful attention. We know that many goods were brought into this country by the Americans for war purposes, which are still their property: they were entitled to take them back if they were not paid out of the Indian exchequer. If they have been bought by the Indian Government, then of course that is a different question—they become India's property. But if they

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belong to the United States and not to India and India did not pay anything for them, then a fair price should be paid, but only for goods which are saleable in the market. Otherwise why should India be made to purchase goods which are of no value to India or of higher value than they can be disposed of in open market? This ought to have been properly explained by the Honourable Finance Member. We want to know the real position. I understand that some goods have been disposed of by the U.S.A. to private firms here at ridiculous prices; and if those goods had been allotted to India as India's property, then their sale to private firms was not justified, and Government should have kept a proper eye on them.

I am glad that the Honourable Member is reducing the duty on kerosene, but the reduction is not very helpful—it is so small. It may not help the poor man as the Honourable Member contemplates. There is still scope for the middleman to make a lot of profit. Now that Burma has been retaken from the Japanese, there is a lot of scope for trade in kerosene oil in the next year and I think a greater reduction was possible in order to induce the poorer man to begin using this oil instead of the oil which he has been using. The other oils which he has been burning can be better used for the purpose of human consumption. Indians cannot get proper milk, they cannot get ghee; they cannot get anything: so these vegetable oils are really needed for their nourishment. But they have been forced to burn a quantity out of this for lighting purposes because kerosene oil was not available. Therefore I think the anxiety of the Government should be to bring in as much kerosene oil as possible and bring the price down as low as possible, to save the oil which is now being used in villages for illumination, which could be used to much better purpose.

Then again I do not see why this betel-nut has been chosen by my Honourable friend for the purpose of enhancement of duty. The price of betel nut has gone up very high.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer (Bombay Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural): The Honourable Member has not tasted it yet!

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: I would be very pleased if the Honourable Member tastes it, but I myself have never done it so far . . . .

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: My Honourable friend is quite inaccurate.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: I have never tasted it myself; but it is a necessity to a great extent among the poorer classes. Of course it may be somewhat of a luxury with the richer classes but I find that many poor people use it. It is habit or custom which forces us to use it. Betel nut which used to sell at about 12 annas a seer before the war has gone up to Rs. 3-8 .. .

Mr. Mohammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammadan): Five rupees!

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: I stand corrected. It has gone up very high indeed. Now if there is a tendency to import some betel nut from outside, it should not be stopped by putting on it such a high duty that it will affect imports and keep up the high prices which we want to be brought down. I find there is a great deal of criticism on this point and I hope that the Honourable Member will see his way to accept a cut on this, if any cut is moved . . .

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: You have to settle this problem with the Congress Party.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: Probably they may. I cannot foretell what will be the decisions of the different parties; but I would advise my Honourable friend that if it does, he will give way on this point.

Again I find an invidious distinction this year to which great exception was taken last year, and that is that incomes between 1,500 and 2,000 are going to be charged though not in the case of earned income. Unearned incomes are being taxed. I brought to the notice of Government last year that there are

cases of hardship. I know many such cases: there are many families of widows whose living depends upon the small property they have got. Take for instance Delhi city. If the property is bringing in, an income of Rs. 150 a month, its rent could not be raised on account of rent control, but prices have gone up four times the pre-war rates. If a widow and two or three children have to live on Rs. 150 now, it really means she requires Rs. 600, as Rs. 600 now is equal to Rs. 150 pre-war. There is therefore no justification why these poor people who have no other means of livelihood should be taxed; while a person who can earn himself—may be he is a bachelor—Rs. 150 is not taxed. The big family finds no place in this budget. I think for the poorer classes there should have been some relief, when they have to depend entirely on unearned income and when there is no earner in that family. A government which is responsive to the views of the public and is aware of the calamities that have overtaken this country would have chosen first to give relief to these poorer people. I cannot find any justification for taxing people with an income below Rs. 2,000 at all. For one thing it will not be an easy matter to gather such taxes. If a man has an income of Rs. 10,000 I do not mind his being charged between Rs. 1,500 and Rs. 2,000. But if the income is between 1,500 and 2,000 or even 3,000 or 4,000 rupees, it is a hardship to such persons to be taxed: it is the greatest hardship which the Government can inflict on anybody. They have taken no notice of what had been brought up last year. Only if there had been no rent control these people would have adjusted themselves. A labourer can adjust himself. If he was getting 7 annas a day before he is now getting Rs. 1/4. A carpenter who used to get Rs. 1/4 a day now gets Rs. 3. A property owner cannot get a single penny more out of his rent, although he has to pay double or treble the amount for the maintenance of those properties and at the same time he has to pay the tax which was not in existence before. There was want of vision or sympathy on the part of the people who had introduced the Budget last year and this ought to have been put right this year. I hope the Honourable Member will do away with all the income tax between the incomes of 1,500 and 2,000. It does not matter what the nature of that income is.

Then, Sir, the surcharge on income tax has been mixed up with the basic tax. If this is only for one year, it may not be dangerous but if it involves a principle for the future, I think it is a dangerous principle. There should have been no mixing up of the two things. One is no account of emergency. Another is a permanent thing. If you want to mix up a thing which is permanent with a thing which came on account of emergency, it means you lay down a principle for the future that this process will continue. Probably there will be another surcharge coming up over this combined thing in future. This is a very dangerous principle. I at least cannot support this principle as it stands and I think there is scope for its revision.

As regards the Grow More Food campaign, I do not know why Government have not taken notice of very valuable land lying vacant in Assam. There is only the question of what is the line on which they could go and could not go. I do not know who is responsible for this policy of not using this valuable land. When we need food badly and cannot import it from outside countries, we find that Government is not allowing cultivation on every tract of land which could produce food in this country and lot of misery could have been saved if these tracts could be utilised. This is not the right policy to adopt and I want the Government to at once take up the cultivation of these lands which could produce food.

As regards defence expenditure, I would like my Honourable friend the War Secretary to give further explanation. What are the reasons for this scanty decrease in expenditure which is proposed in this budget. Only 18 crores are saved for the future and the budget is still so high. If the Honourable Member proposes to retrench a very large number of soldiers in accordance with the declared policy of Government, then what is the necessity of keeping the budget at this high figure of 244 crores. This means that there is no serious

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attempt on the part of the Government to reduce war expenditure in the next year. I thought that during the current year it may not have been possible to reduce expenditure, because the War stopped suddenly during the year and no Government could foresee that the war would come to such a sudden end as it did. But there should have been a substantial reduction for the next year. This is all non-votable. We have no right to vote this or criticise the details. I brought this point last year and I bring it up again this year. There is lot of waste of money which would have been tolerated in the war years but there is no justification for tolerating these items of expenditure now that the war is over. These things are noticed by the public every day. We know how the army is wasting money. There is the Defence Consultative Committee. I want to know whether the Honourable Member will place the budget before them for scrutiny. The Standing Finance Committee can do nothing. The House can do nothing. Does the Honourable Member propose to take the advice of the Consultative committee as to what items of expenditure can be retrenched and where curtailments can be made. Is he ready to do this or not? If he is ready to curtail, then he will find help from these people. It is not my intention to suggest that you should stop any expenditure which is necessary. The war must be fought and won at any cost whatsoever. I am however against waste of money. If you can do a thing with one rupee, you should not spend three rupees on it. Now the war has ended. I do not want to be unjust to the personnel who went outside India to lay down their lives. I do not want you to tell them that they are no longer required and that they must go home at once. No, the policy is all right. I do not disagree there but where I disagree is that when you can do a thing for a small amount you do the same thing at the expenditure of a larger amount and money is being wasted in this way in many matters where it is not necessary. I do not see any justification why the officers or soldiers should go out in Government lorries for lunch and squander petrol. Why should there be so much petrol coupons sold in the black market. Where do all these things come from? All this petrol charge is debited to the Defence Department, although it is never used by the Defence Department. There are many contracts which are given out at very high rates. There are many buildings which are being built. Many articles are purchased which are useless for the war. The Supply Department, we used to hear, was doing it not on behalf of the Government of India alone but on behalf of other Governments also. We thought that this money will be paid by some other Department. So the taxpayer of this country was not going to be hit badly. Now, we know that the position is changing. The threat is coming that sterling may be liquidated. Some responsible people in England have started saying that India charged exorbitant prices. India did not charge exorbitant price. It was done by their own officers and they allowed certain goods which should not have been allowed. There were people who were found guilty of corrupt practices. There were officers who were found to have taken bribe and they were prosecuted. They were let off on flimsy grounds. They were allowed to go home while the other prosecutions were going on in this country in connection with the same case. That is a ridiculous thing to do. To a man who is trained in the legal profession, every thing must be done justly. To me these things appear abominable. I do not think anybody or any country can survive after it becomes corrupt like this, unless it puts down its foot at once on anything which is wrong. Therefore, I think that this expenditure which is still there must be curtailed for the future and there should be a proper scrutiny of the expenditure connected with the defence. If my Honourable friend and the Government are anxious to hand over everything to India, is it not the time that Indians may be allowed to have a peep into this matter because they will have to decide whether this taxation will be proper or not? Therefore, I hope the Honourable the Finance Member in consultation with the Defence Committee or the Consultative Committee or some *ad hoc* Committee will take action at once and put things right.

12 Noon

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: May I interrupt the Honourable Member? Government have already agreed that defence expenditure will be discussed in the Standing Finance Committee.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: What I am suggesting is not merely the consultation about the new expenditure but that he should place before the Standing Finance Committee the whole expenditure including the details so that they may go into it and find out where savings can be effected. There are many people who know how the money is being squandered and they can suggest how the expenditure can be curtailed. If we can save even 4 crores of rupees out of 244 crores, his taxation proposals will be reduced to that extent.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: The deficit will be less.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: Then, there is another thing which I would like to bring to his notice. I forgot to refer to it when I spoke about the Posts and Telegraphs Department. I find that letters are not properly delivered because they are short of staff. I learnt only a few days back that there has been a dumping of about 2 lakhs of letters only in the Lahore Division. This means that the R.M.S. could not handle two lakhs of letters properly, which have been shunted from one place to another. That is why we are receiving our letters late by two or three days.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee (Nominated Non-official): They have made a new Dead Letter Office.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: I hope not. So, the saving of this 10 crores of rupees is a bad economy which is to be handed over for general purposes, especially when the Department is not working properly. If the Honourable Member will look into the figures of all the Divisions, he will come to know that crores of letters have been dumped in these Divisions. This he should try to relieve. Though the work is decreasing now, it may increase next year. There is no necessity of retrenchment yet because there is a hopeful sign of an increase in the revenue. Therefore, there should be no decrease in the expenditure.

Another thing which I would bring to the notice of my Honourable friend the Finance Member is the huge amount of loan which he has collected. It may be said that this will certainly be paid in instalments, but where is he going to find the money for interest from? The capital may be paid after some time but the interest will have to be paid every year out of the revenue. My Honourable friend has collected 1,600 crores of rupees in the shape of loan and even if he pays interest at the rate of 3 per cent, how much it will come to? Even if the loan is paid after 50 years, he will have to pay the interest every year for that period. This is a clumsy aspect of the whole thing. I think the time was very valuable and there were many other loans which were available. He could have wiped off the 4 per cent. and 5 per cent. loans at that time. There is still scope for getting money which is even now very cheap because there were people who had accumulated in their pocket 1,000 and 10,000 rupee notes and they would have invested their money at a cheap rate of interest because they had no use for that money and had been keeping it in their homes. Probably in most cases this money was not honestly earned. I hope the Honourable Member will take serious action wherever he finds a flaw to keep up the moral of the country and to keep up the good traditions and prestige of the country. I trust he will allow no relaxation and I am sure he will have good support in this House if he deals properly with all these recalcitrant people.

Then, Sir, there is one more point to which I would like to refer. I believe an adjournment motion was also going to be moved about it. I find that there is a scarcity of cloth in Delhi and the petty dealers have no scope for their work. I think that the policy which has been laid down by the Government is wrong. The mill-owners should not be allowed to open petty shops. A mill-owner, who is the manufacturer of cloth, is not allowed anywhere in the world to keep a petty dealer's shop but here in Delhi I find that this policy has been going on and the Honourable Member has not taken any notice of it. The

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Honourable Member should take notice of it immediately. In England it can never be heard of that a Mill keeps a petty dealer's shop. It won't be allowed to sell a single cut piece cloth. He is the manufacturer. Here the manufacturers are allowed to open their shops, which means depriving the common petty dealers of their bread and butter. I hear that a man, by the quota which is given to him can earn only up to Rs. 20 a month, including the rent of his shop. That is his quota. Now, the Government's policy is going to kill these petty people who are engaged in the trade. I think it is completely wrong. The Government should take notice of this evil and should remedy the same as it encourages black market.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: The millowners have the monopoly of everything, they are the manufacturers, they are the sellers, they are the suppliers of Government. They are everything.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: I have brought all these defects to the notice of the Government. I cannot deal with them at great length in the general discussion. It can be dealt with in greater detail when the Finance Bill comes. I cannot support this policy any longer. I suppose people may be escaping their tax by putting up small business houses and making huge amounts in retail shops through black market which profits are not included in the profits of the mills. If the Honourable the Finance Member goes in to tax these people on the profits of the whole concern, then this system will stop. Sir, I have finished and with these general observations, I resume my seat.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi: General): Sir, I find myself in some difficulty, on account of the fact that the general discussion, some how or other depresses the House to such an extent that you generally find the Benches empty and you address those who have left their ghosts behind and have gone, wandering elsewhere.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): The Government Benches are empty.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: But my purpose here today is not to address merely Honourable Members of this House, but a larger public outside and therefore, whatever remarks I may have to offer are not intended merely for this House.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: (Assam: European): Don't forget us altogether.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: We heard the other day the budget speech of the last British Finance Minister, at least so he professed that he was . . . . . .

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: No doubt about it.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I have not the slightest doubt about it. I can assure my Honourable friend on that point. He presented his first post war Budget. Before I come to the broad outlines and the principles with which I may have to deal, in connection with the Budget I should like to say a word or two about the Honourable the Finance Member's assurance to this House and to the outside world, I suppose, that the word 'Britisher' as far as the Treasury Benches are concerned may be considered as an obsolete one within a very short time. But, Sir, I can assure you of one thing that India cannot and shall not be content with the thought that these Benches will not have British Members of Government but will have Indian Members instead. What India demands today is the disappearance of the word 'British' in connection with the Government of India. The phrase 'British India' should cease to exist, India should be just 'India'. India can no longer put up with the humiliation of being called 'British India'. It is outrageous, it is revolting, it is repugnant to the self respect of a great country and a great people. Today after the conclusion of this last war, particularly when it has given rise to a new spirit and a new sense of dignity and self respect to the people of the world all over, it is outrageous in this new context to hear of any country—leave alone, India, —as a country subject to another. No one will tolerate it. When the Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands presented his Budget, in the first few short, pithy,

and pregnant sentences of his speech, I felt that he was describing an external and an internal picture of the country which was either based on an insufficient appreciation of the actual facts or perhaps based on their deliberate omission or oversight. In the second paragraph of his Budget speech, the Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands said:

"Though our external foes have been overthrown, the world, and particularly, India is confronted by a whole array of dangerous and enduring enemies."

I do not know why he calls them enduring enemies, enduring in the past or enduring for the future.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Enduring in the present.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I agree that poverty, squalor and ill-health, illiteracy under nourishment and under employment are our enemies. Of all these the most formidable is poverty. I wish to say something about it in a few moments. I first take the first picture. "But though out external foes have been overthrown" he says and I pause. Whose external foes? Our external foes? India's external foes? I say, imperialsm is the greatest of our foes in this country and it has got to be laid to rest once and for all. Therefore, whatever may have been the external picture, as far as India is concerned, the Honourable Sir Archibald Rowland's mind seems to have worked on an insufficient appreciation of the actual facts.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: In loose language.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Let us be more precise now. Then, Sir, I come to the other enemies which the Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands has recounted.

Mr. Manu Subedar: One hundred and fifty years of British rule.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I regret to say that he has only recounted the number of enemies which imperialsm has created in India, which means that even these enemies can be disposed of only if India is free from subjection. This is our first, target, our immediate objective, and once we have disposed of it, I think we can go further in our march, towards what he has described as the 'triumph over these foes'. It is not in a spirit of bitterness or of acrimony that I say this but these are facts which we cannot afford to ignore. All the enemies we find here have come down to us as a legacy of 150 years of British rule in India.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: They also exist in China and places like that.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Yes poverty undoubtedly. But then there is squalor, ill-health, illiteracy. Let us take illiteracy in India today. Russia liquidated her illiteracy in 15 years, and 150 years have not sufficed in India to liquidate that big foe. Then with regard to under-nourishment and unemployment, here is a country where we find even today one-third of the entire cultivable land lying fallow. It is amazing that in spite of all the efforts that were made during the regime of an agricultural expert who came out as Viceroy, I mean—Lord Linlithgow—this little gap in our national economy has not been bridged. He stayed here for 7½ years—and he had studied the conditions before that,—but during this period not even this item of our national economy was tackled, although it is so vital in every respect, because after all food is the first necessity of human beings and it is the primary duty of every Government to see that the people of the country get food to start with and all other necessaries of life after that. This was not done. To whose account are we to put this down? Not surely to the account of the poor idle creatures of India who live in squalor and ill-health and under-nourishment. They cannot help all this unless Government plan out their life in such a way that they may find useful productive employment and find all that they need for their progress. But all these things have to be planned out by Government. The people are what they are as a result of the policy which the Government follow. In so far as we on this side of the House are concerned, I cannot do better than read out a portion of our election manifesto where we also voice the same thing; only

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we say something more and it is in the light of what we have said that we judge the actions and policies of Government and in the light of which we must judge the content of this budget. We have said:

"The most vital and urgent of India's problems is how to remove the curse of poverty and raise the standard of the masses. It is by their well-being and advancement that it (*i.e.*, our party) has judged every proposal and every change, and it has declared that anything that comes in the way of the good of the masses of our country must be removed. Industry and agriculture, the social services and public utilities must be encouraged, modernised and rapidly extended in order to add to the wealth of the country and give it the capacity for self-growth without dependence on others. But all this must be done with the primary object of benefiting the masses of our people and raising their economic, cultural and spiritual level, removing unemployment and adding to the dignity of the individual."

This is our criterion and it is by this standard that we judge everything. Now I should like to cast a glance at this budget from this point of view and try to see what projects have been undertaken by Government to produce these results. But before I do that I should like to revert, once again to the external picture. I regret to say that the picture which the Honourable the Finance Member has presented of the external world, appears to be too complacent; it is almost delusive, and is likely to mislead people. When he says the external foes have been laid to rest or have been utterly destroyed he seems to forget that today the world seems to be in a state of very serious ferment. There are dangers all round, and in so far as India is concerned, the dangers are much nearer home than we could ever imagine before. We hear of disturbances going on in South China today; you see the newspapers and you find that a big civil war has already started on the north-eastern borders of India. Beyond the north-west we find certain operations going on—I should not like to mention them because every one knows what they are—which cannot possibly induce in us living in India a sense of complacency or even a feeling that we are safe. But let me make it perfectly clear to every one that India in her present state of mind is a very serious danger to the world. India in subjection, struggling against foreign domination and presenting a picture of discontented people is a temptation to others. It is our immediate purpose therefore, that we should place India on a firm footing of complete independance, so that the world should know that this country at any rate, great as she is, will throw her weight into the scale of peace. She will be the policeman of the East, and she will be the arsenal of the East if it is necessary. But all that can come about only if India herself stands on her own feet.

We know that a Delegation of British Ministers is coming out to India to negotiate most probably, let us hope, the final solution of the Anglo-Indian relationship. But let me make it perfectly clear once again that we can meet them only as free people and as equals. These negotiations should be on the basis that India today is at least a *de facto* free country, and the representatives of India are *de facto* free people negotiating with another country with whom they would like to come to terms as regards the relationship which may subsist from this moment onwards. I am not talking of constitutional limitations; constitutional limitations notwithstanding, this is the position on which we can negotiate—and on no other basis.

This morning I happened to come across a very illuminating statement made by Lord Halifax in America. It is about the constitutional position which India occupies today, and it says what intentions the British Government have towards India. It is a very conciliatory kind of statement, but I do not like in it the reference to trusteeship. This is why I was saying that negotiations can proceed only on the basis of representatives of two free countries meeting. He talks of trusteeship. India has finished with trusteeship; there is no question of nonage; nonage was over long long ago. India stands on her own feet, dignified, self-respecting, looking towards and great future, and India today faces the whole world not as a subject race—although an army of occupation still occupies our country,—but as a free people who are today only wanting that the Army of occupation should disappear and we should stand in our own right

and negotiate with the rest of the world relationships which pertain to free peoples all over the world. That is the kind of picture that I have in my mind as far as our external relations are concerned.

I recognize that Sir Archibald Rowlands, is a very able Finance Member, has handled the legacy of the past with great ability and with great skill, and he has presented us with a Budget which, I suppose, in the language of orthodox experts of finance would be called a 'safe budget'. It shows trends of a newer approach—slightly different from those with which we have been familiar. But these trends are, I believe, dictated by two considerations: Number one, India is still a subject country. I am very glad that Sir Archibald Rowlands by his gesture repudiates that suggestion. I shall willingly accept that repudiation, but this is how it appears to me. The country to which India today happens to be subject, fortunately has a socialistic Government—I would not call it a Socialist Government yet— . . . . . .

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): A labouring Government!

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: . . . . and I take it that Sir Archibald Rowlands would naturally like to reflect the tendencies of that Government here too, so that when the Ministers come out they may be able to say at any rate in regard to labour, industrialization, etc., etc., that a new trend has come into being and it can be developed. To that extent I welcome it. But that is not enough. We have got to proceed in these directions a very long way further than indicated by Sir Archibald Rowland's Budget. The whole life of the country has to be reconditioned, it has got to be reconstructed and the programme of reconstruction requires a colossal amount of courage, courage which may be backed by popular support. I recognize that the present Government is incapable today of attracting any kind of support of a popular nature, and therefore I see the difficulties of the present Government . . . .

Mr. Manu Subedar: They have got to a dies.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: . . . . and I recognize also the fact that perhaps the Finance Member thinks that if he is sure that he is going to be followed by others who are likely to have popular support, he should like to leave to them a legacy on which they can build a superstructure. If that is his view, I have no fault to find with it. But if by any chance he wants or the Government whom he represents want that they should tie the hands of those who are likely to follow them, then to that extent not only do I take objection to the limitations that have been indicated, but I should like to break all the barriers. I would like to have them down.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member has about five minutes.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I am sorry that I have exhausted my time in generalities. But after all I am dealing with principles and outlines and I think these outlines are good enough for my purpose so far as the general discussion is concerned. After all specific items and questions can be taken up later. Well, I think I had better proceed to a rapid reference to a few important points which require to be touched upon. Before I come to the Budget, I welcome the assurance of Sir Archibald Rowlands in so far as the question of sterling balances are concerned, but I wish to say one word about it. When the question of repayment comes up, let it be quite clear that I am not going to follow my friend, Mr. Manu Subedar who would like to own the Savoy Hotel or some other such building in England.

Mr. Manu Subedar: They own the railways in India!

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (Pointing to the European Group): I am not looking towards their property either. I am looking towards the immediate needs of my country, in the present circumstances of the world. My immediate needs are a good navy and a good air force. I want ships. I want aircraft. Let then give us all that they possibly can so that I may start off from tomorrow and stand entirely on my own legs, independent of them and of every one.

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It is there that they can repay the debt and put us on our feet. Sir, it is not in terms of pounds, shillings and pence that I am thinking. I am thinking in terms of the needs of the situation in the world and of India's needs, as a stabilising factor in the scheme of world's peace. It is in those terms that I am thinking.

Next, Sir, I welcome the suggestion of Sir Archibald Rowlands about the tax structure enquiry committee. It is a move in the right direction. But it is not enough. The finances of our country have got to be overhauled completely. It is not merely a question of tax that we have to think of. We have got to think of the entire picture of national economy and the success of this enquiry committee will depend on the personnel and the terms of reference and its powers which must be considered carefully. We should like to have really, a council of economists who should go into the entire question not only today but continuously so that we may be able to deal with our problems from time to time in the light of all the statistics and data that may be available by then. Today we are in an exceedingly poor way. Statistics of unemployment in this country are not available. We do not know how many unemployed people are going about. Something has to be done, and some measure has to be adopted to obtain the necessary statistics.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: They are afraid of preparing statistics.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I come to the next question. I was talking about the poor of the country, the masses. I see that the Finance Member has made but a very slight concession.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: You have not understood the budget.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Perhaps I have not understood the budget. It is quite likely. I should like it to be explained later on. I am sure when the Finance Member gets up he will be able to explain to us in how many directions relief has been offered to the masses. The immediate needs of the masses which can be satisfied and which should be satisfied lie in certain directions, *viz.*, Salt, ...

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Hear, hear.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali . . . . oil. How much relief have you given in kerosene? One pie per bottle! Is that relief I ask you?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: It is labourism!

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: We have to look at this problem from another angle. If you remove completely the salt tax, if you remove some of the other smaller taxes which bear heavily on the poor—I do not think the entire amount would go beyond Rs. 22 to Rs. 25 crores at the outside—that amount of money can be found from somewhere. It ought to be found from somewhere. It is a small amount.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Small per head!

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Even the E. P. T was not enough. If you ask me I should like to get a little more out of these gentlemen wherever they may be because they have amassed wealth. Let that money come out of them and let relief be given to the poor.

An Honourable Member: They have made their wealth from the poor of the country.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I want to industrialise my country as quickly and as speedily as possible. But at the same time I do not want bloated bank balances lying somewhere while these poor people who can get some little relief do not get it.

I have left to the very last—I am omitting many other points on which I could touch but within the limited time I have I must economise my points too—defence expenditure. Now in regard to defence expenditure and expenditure on External Affairs Department, before saying anything about the

expenditure as such, I should like to invite the attention of the War Secretary and the External Affairs Secretary (who is not there) to two facts. The memorandum which has been circulated to us this time—and I believe it is an improvement on the memoranda that have been presented to the House during the last five years of the war—is a very slender one. It is not sufficiently explanatory. If you go back to the years 1935, 1936 and 1937 you will find a much better volume, much more explanatory, which gives you facts and figures, which enlightens you about the whole subject. But here you leave everyone wondering about many things. For instance, I am still wondering about the proportion of the British and Indian troops in India. If you could only just tell me, and if I can get the actual figures, I could tell you where you could economise. For instance, every one knows that the expenditure on British forces comes to something like four times the expenditure on an equal number of Indian forces.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: That is wrong.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I will proceed on a purely hypothetical basis. Supposing there happened to be 2 lakhs of Indian troops and 50,000 British troops. If you withdrew the 50,000 British troops altogether you would save half of your expenditure straightaway and that half can be spread over other services. For instance, we want to develop our air force, we want to develop our navy. These are immediate needs. We certainly want to have a thoroughly mechanised army. We want to have tanks and all the other equipment for a modern army to be able to defend our country without anybody else's help. All the money which is being spent on the British forces can be saved and utilised in buliding up a first class Indian defence force. I need not go into further details. This is the main point which I want to stress.

As regards the question of demobilisation, I know it is said that there are difficulties in the way of very speedy demobilisation but I should still point out that the speedier the demobilisation the greater the saving and that saving ought to go elsewhere. I do not know what may be the difficulties in the way of speedy demobilisation but that is a question which should be examined carefully.

Regarding the External Affairs Department I should just like to point out two things. (1) I want a similar explanatory memorandum for the External Affairs Department expenditure. We know nothing about this Department. At least we have got this memorandum about the defence services, but what about the External Affairs Department?

Mr. Manu Subedar: It is a purdah baby.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: We must have an explanatory memorandum in respect of the External Affairs Department too. I find that the expenditure shown in respect of the External Affairs Department does not indicate any change of policy. The policy that has been pursued in respect of external affairs in the past has been criticised by us times out of number, particularly the treatment of the socalled Tribal Areas. It is an extraordinary position. You find in the North West Frontier—and in the North East also, though up to a point—but in the North West Frontier you find three different regions—the settled districts, the tribal belt and the independent area. The money expended on the tribal belt and the independent area is a sheer waste, as it is paid today. On the other hand, if the Honourable the Finance Member could lend the North West Frontier Province say 15 crores of rupees straightaway to improve their economic condition, we could then easily save one crore of subvention that we have to give every year and most probably this Province would become a prosperous province in itself. There are at least 300 miles of land lying absolutely in a desert condition—300 miles long and nearly ten to 15 and sometimes 20 miles in depth. All that land needs to be irrigated and the river Indus is close by. It is only a question of lifting the water and irrigating this land. If they did that, I can assure them that it would mean prosperity to the Province, prosperity to the tribal area and also greater amenities to all those who live in the independent area. All the predatory tribes

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would learn better ways, if only they have to live next to a prosperous North West Frontier Province.

These are but bare outlines which I am indicating. I hope I shall have time to go into some of the details later on, if I choose some of those subjects for some of our cut motions. I should not like to detain the House any further. You, Sir, had reminded us right in the beginning that we have to deal only with outlines and principles and I hope I have adhered to that, and have not gone into details.

As regards deflation and inflation, I confess I do not understand much about these things. I do not like to pretend to know and say things which are beyond my province but I certainly would like to say one thing. The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands in the beginning of his speech has given an indication of what we may expect in future in respect of the expenditure incurred on the defence services or rather on the army. There is going to be a drop of about 600 crores of rupees. In so far as that is concerned, let me invite the attention of the Finance Member to what Lord Wavell himself suggested sometime ago. It is a very good observation which might guide us in the right path. He said, "It has always seemed to me a curious fact that money is forthcoming in any quantity for a war but that no nation has ever yet produced the money on the same scale to fight the evils of peace"—the same evils which the Finance Member has recounted in his speech—"poverty, lack of education, unemployment and illhealth". That is a cue which might be taken up by any Finance Minister. It naturally means that the technique which you have learnt of raising money during wartime ought to be applied to peace time also.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I have done that in my budget.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: You do nothing of the sort.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: We should consider this country in a state of war, not in a state of peace, because we have got to war against all these evils which are preying upon the people. In order to be able to vanquish them we should follow the methods pursued during wartime of raising money and deal with all the evils that devastate our unhappy land.

Mr. President: I may remind the Honourable Member of the time limit, which is not more than 15 minutes in any case. I hope the Honourable Member was present in the morning when this was decided.

I may also remind members of parties speaking that whatever time is taken up by any of the speakers will be debited to their party's account.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: Mr. President, in the good old days—some people described them as the good bad days—it used to be the custom that whenever speakers spoke on the Finance Bill or on the Finance Member's speech, they began, at any rate by force of convention, by showering bouquets on the Finance Member. Budgets may have deteriorated or improved; but in the last few years there have been very few bouquets showered on the Finance Member. On the contrary speakers have felt that the more vehement they were in their denunciations the better they were serving the interests of the country and their cause. It is no use my trying to shower bouquets from this back bench on my friend the Finance Member because it would mean very little to him; but all the same I would like to say this; that although I may be a very humble back bencher, I have listened to a large number of speeches of former Finance Memebrs and read them and the explanatory memoranda they had prepared; and even though this meed of praise may come from a very very humble quarter, I would like to say that this year we have had a refreshing speech and a refreshing budget; and in my humble opinion, the strong sun of India has not had time to turn the present Finance Member into a sundried bureaucrat so that he has approached the finances of this country in a very healthy and if I may say so, in a very cool-headed spirit; and as my Honourable friend has just mentioned it denotes something which is really a new approach to the finances of

1 P.M.

this country and he has made an honest effort to put our finances, whatever might have been the heritage of the past, on a more sound basis. I feel sorry that he should be here for so little a time—he has been with us for only a year and he threatens to go away.

I remember the words on the portico of the Royal Exchange in London which are:

"The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof."

They are surprising words to be put on the British Royal Exchange and have often been paraphrased as the earth if the Englishman's and the fulness thereof. So unfortunately we cannot confine the present Honourable Member to stay on in India and serve under the new order of things. But I hope that it may yet be possible that we may have the benefit of his great ability and his great reputation in the field of finance, so that he may help India, in a different capacity it may be to help the finances of a nation that is now coming into being by his advice.

Having said this, there are one or two points in this budget to which I would like to draw your attention and the attention of the Honourable Member. I shall deal with only one point, because I think it is no use reiterating a number of points, and my point is the question of increase of expenditure in the civil budget.

In his budget speech, the Finance Member said that the civil estimates of this year are going to be 5¾ crores more than the budget figures of last year. That is a point to which I wish to draw particular attention. My Honourable friend opposite speaking generally on these points has referred to the great need of decreasing expenditure on the side of the army. He has also said that relief is necessary for the poor. Now, in the first place, I shall refer to the income side very briefly. I do recognise that the Finance Member has given us a certain amount of relief. Petrol is going to be cheaper by 3 annas a gallon, and kerosene oil only by nine pies and income-tax for people like me is going to be cheaper. But I cannot agree with him that this complete withdrawal of the E P. T. at this time is really justifiable. In his own country—and after all he knows the finances and financial condition of his own country very much better than I do—the E. P. T. has only been reduced by 50 per cent. And although I may be blamed for trying to rob other people of their money I feel that in my own country if half of the E. P. T. had come down on a sliding scale and the Finance Member had followed the principle followed in England, it would have been much better. He should have taken off only 50 per cent. now and the other half later on. That is the only point regarding revenue that I wish to mention.

I would now draw attention to the ever increasing expansion of Government Departments. Later on in the same budget my Honourable friend has said that for the rest, the increase in the revised estimates is due mainly to the strengthening of central revenue organisations and to expansion in a number of departments, mostly those which are popularly called nation-building. I am fully aware that a certain amount of expenditure has been provided for the expenditure of these departments which are called nation-building and also for subventions to provinces. But I fear, as I fear nothing else, the creation of these new departments in the Government of India. The moment a new star is born in the firmament of the Delhi Secretariat there is great increase of expenditure, which may be called the illumination which surrounds the star and this goes on increasing and increasing in its brilliance. The creation of a new department, however beneficial it may be, is like the birth of an octopus. The octopus spreads its legs and its tentacles and spreads and spreads and catches what it can get. What happens? Immediately a new secretary is to be appointed. Take for instance this Department of Education, Health and Lands. Now we gather from the speech of the Honourable Member that this department has been tri-furcated—I do not know what that means exactly: but in practice it means that it has become three departments instead of one, and therefore all the paraphernalia of secretaries, additional

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secretaries and joint secretaries and endless advisers have been appointed. I agree it may ultimately be to the good of the country. But the amount of money which is taken away, by what I may call the multiplication of bureaucracy. On this question I would invite the attention of my Honourable friend to an article written by Jules Romain in the September number of the American Readers Digest almost under that very caption. It is not written about India; it is written about France. But he describes admirably how the moment you create a new Government Department what a mighty and ever-going organisation in itself the new department becomes; and that is what I fear. I remember in the old old days—I have lived in Delhi myself all my life so that I can speak with knowledge—I remember in the old days before the first war when Delhi was made the Capital of India, just one secretariat was built towards Kingsway. That Secretariat still stands and in size it may probably be one-sixth of the present secretariat. We were then told that that secretariat would be demolished as soon as the permanent secretariat was built. I think the old secretariat was built in 1910 or 1911. But, Sir, not only does that secretariat still remain but it has now become a series of secretariats: buildings have risen like mushrooms and these buildings have been crowded into all sorts of places—tents and tin sheds and all kinds of housing devices have been added to accommodate more secretaries and their army of assistants advisers, deputy advisers administrative and liaison officers and private secretaries, each demanding scores of clerks. If the ever expanding secretariat is not cut down the result would be disastrous. This beautiful city of New Delhi is now absolutely crowded with these mushroom and most ugly buildings. Even the beautiful squares inside the Secretariat buildings have been built up. What is the point in all this? We have got an army of officers, an army of very well paid officers who, as I have said before, are removed from the everyday life of their countrymen by the comfortable jobs they have been given and by the large salaries they receive. Their main work is to go on adding more waste paper to waste paper. Sir, is there any one who will deny that there is more waste paper in the city of Delhi than in any other capital in the world? Well, Sir, what do these new departments do? They write to each other. One officer writes to the other and so on and so forth, and the cycle goes on. Sir, I would very strongly advise my Honourable friend to take note of this ever increasing expansion. Take another department with which I am familiar. Resettlement, it is called. If you look at the figures for this Resettlement Department you will see that up to now the resettlement has been mostly of officers in this Department who have been settled in comfortable jobs. People who were appointed on Rs. 1,500 have been suddenly raised to jobs carrying salaries of Rs. 3,000 or 3,500. That has happened in all these new departments. Why is this kind of thing happening before these departments have actually got on to or done work of any national importance. I do not want to be personal but I could give the Honourable the Finance Member a number of cases in which a man has been brought in on Rs. 600 or 800 into a department. For some reason or other, he has been promoted to Rs. 1,500 in one year and I could give instances where officers draw treble the salaries they used to draw in these so-called national building departments. Even the Public Service Commission has not been consulted. Many of these new jobs have been given to superannuated men, I understand some people may have to be found comfortable jobs but why at these high prices. My fear is that these departments go on increasing and the salaries which are being paid are at a rate which a poor country like this cannot afford and should not be burdened with. If this process continues then there will be very little money left for what is described on nation building.

My friend, of course, is a financier. I have no pretentions of being a financier. He has pointed out the real dangers of letting out a large army of clerks on to the field of unemployment. I agree with him. I agree that the release of these men should be regulated and gradual, and these poorly paid men should not be turned on to the streets all atonce. What I object to is this endless addition of officers in these new Secretariats, and that is the point to which I want to direct attention. I said I would quote certain passages but before I do so I would say this. When the Honourable the Finance Member has shown a laudable desire to put our finances on a sound basis he should not permit the burdening of the finances of this country with new offices on scales of salaries which might have been justifiable in the old days but which are no longer justified under present conditions. The danger is that on the eve of the transfer of authority a number of these officers have been given long contracts. Some have been given five-year contracts on salaries ranging from 1,200 to 3,500 or even 4,000. Some have been given three years' contracts and some shorter in order to avoid appearance before the Public Service Commission. This is impoverishing the country and laying on us certain obligations which we have to fulfil. I am not one of those who will say that the sanctity of contracts should be broken. I do stand for the spoken and the written word. If people have been given guarantees, those guarantees should be kept. It is therefore all the more dangerous that these so-called nation building departments or other departments should expand at this great speed and that contracts should be given to newly appointed officers at such high rates which the country will be unable to bear. The closing words of the article to which I referred to earlier admirably describe the danger of this multiplication of Bureaucracy:

"A certain excess of Bureaucracy in time of war is probably inevitable, and, to the extent that actual results correspond to it, it is justified. The particular thing to avoid is the perpetuation, after the return of peace, of practices justified only by a state of war. It is, Bureaucracy's crafty habit—unless it is jolted—never to relinquish liberties it has once taken.

The years to come, with all the terrible problems they will present, will not be endurable for man unless he takes extreme measures to prevent the degeneration of administration into bureaucracy."

I say that the degeneration of administration into bureaucracy is typified in excelsis in India and I hope my friend will take steps to avoid its further growth.

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

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

Sri V. Gangaraju (East Godavari and West Godavari *cum* Kistna: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, as the Honourable the Finance Member said, this is not a poor man's budget. He himself said:

"My Honourable friends opposite will be wondering whether I propose to do anything for the poor man in the field of direct taxation I can obviously do nothing since he does not pay direct taxes."

The Honourable Member himself has said that he has not done anything for the poor man, anything which could have benefited him. So, it is not a poor man's budget. Also, from the agriculturist point of view there is nothing in it which goes to improve his lot. The talk of rural upliftment and the raising of the standard of living is meaningless without doing anything for the rural areas. In that way they can never raise the standard of living or solve the problem of unemployment.

For a long time the salt tax has been condemned and it has been asked many times from this side of the House to abolish this tax. But even up to this time this tax has not been abolished. Moreover, we are importing salt from other countries, which is fetching us a revenue of more than a crore and a half. It is very obnoxious to say that we are importing salt from other countries especially when we have got thousands of miles of sea shore where we have got all the facilities to produce salt. Still, we are not ashamed of saying that we are importing salt from which we are getting nearly 1½ crores of import duties. That means we are spending more of our money on the salt of other countries, whereas we can prepare it ourselves and the benefits can be enjoyed by the rural areas. By abolishing the salt tax, you can solve to some extent the unemployment problem in this country by foregoing this 7 or 9 crores of revenue by salt. By that way you

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can tackle this unemployment problem in the rural areas and you can raise the standard of living of the poor in the rural areas. Also, salt is essential for the health of the cattle. From that viewpoint also, if you want to improve the cattle wealth of India, you have to abolish this tax very soon and thereby help also the cattle improvement.

Then with regard to the excise duty on agricultural commodities. You have got this excise tax on tobacco and areca nuts. The clever merchant always tries to throw this burden upon the grower and he exempts himself from the tax and he never faces it. In that condition, the poor agriculturist is not as well organised as the merchant or the middleman. So, he is himself bearing this excise tax. So, I appeal to the Government to abolish this excise tax when the commodity is in a raw condition. You can put this excise upon the finished products. By that way you can distribute the burden of the tax on all classes who use the finished goods. But if you tax it when it is in raw condition, the only person who pays it is the agriculturist and not the middleman or the other people. So, it is most essential for the Government to see that this tax should be abolished when these commodities are in a raw condition.

Then, the Honourable the Finance Member has raised the tax on gold also with the result that the innocent people will be encouraged to sell their gold at a higher rate in the market now and he has not given them any advice or provided for any alternative method to invest that money. So, this tax also by merely taxing and raising the price of gold will not do. Immediately, the Government has to give their advice to the poor people to invest their money in safer methods than by keeping it in these metals.

Sir, in this budget nothing is said about the improvement of the rural industries. The peasant population in the rural areas are without work for a long time in the year. So, in those areas if you want to raise their standard of living you have to introduce some cottage industries and you have to start them now. It is already late because on account of this war the expenses of the rural people have been raised. So, to meet all these expenses and to keep their standard of living on this higher level, they must have some rural industries to supplement their agricultural income. He said:

"India is still confronted by a whole array of dangerous and enduring enemies—poverty, squalor, ill-health, illiteracy, undernourishment and under-employment."

If you want to solve all these problems, you must look at the rural areas and start your methods of giving relief from that side. The Famine Committee report said that the population used to get previously 1½ lbs. per head and now you have reduced it to ¾ lb. per head. That means that you have cut it down by half. As you cut down the rations, the nourishment also goes down. So, generally people lose their health. The Government, therefore, have to take immediate steps to accelerate the production of food crops immediately. Now, some Provincial Governments have offered some remuneration in the shape of a subsidy of Rs. 15 per acre. But that is nothing. The food crops are not so remunerative as commercial crops and therefore the loss resulting from a substitution of commercial crops with food crops will severely strain the economic position of the cultivator so the operation of the suggested crop control needs to be replanned so as to secure a proper distribution of the incidence of sacrifices among all the provinces. When you want them to produce food crops immediately, they have to forego their profits from commercial crops and when they are fetching 400 to 500 rupees per acre as their income, they are not going to cultivate for this paltry sum of Rs. 15 in this hot weather in the months of April and May. You have to give them better prices and still higher subsidies to make up their loss.

In the case of posts and telegraphs, you have made it a business concern and every year, the Government is making more and more money from this department and you utilise the same for general purposes. Instead of making it a commercial concern, you have to make it a public utility service and give more facilities at cheaper rates to the public. So, the postal rates should

somehow or other be reduced and more facilities should be given to the poor people who use the posts and telegraphs services.

Sir, to reduce the burden on the Indian economy, the Honourable the Finance Member himself said: "he can search the world in vain for a more able, a more loyal or a more devoted body of public servants than those who serve in India's Finance Department and who are predominantly Indian". Of all the Departments of the Government of India, the Finance Department is the most difficult to administer. In such a Department, if the Government have been able to find such able men, why can't they find similar able men and put them in the place of high-salaried imported foreign officials. These high-salaried foreigners can be sent back to their country and thus save us from this heavy burden. This is a very easy means of reducing the heavy expenses which India has to bear.

Finally I would appeal once more that all steps should be taken to raise the standard of living of the poor people and see that they lead a better life in rural areas.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Sir, I do not know where to begin. I feel, Sir, that this budget is only making the rich the richer. I find that the budget proposals have been received here and outside this House with a note of welcome. Why? The Press is in the hands of capitalists. They are the people who manage the entire propaganda of this country and naturally when relief is given to them it is being appreciated. I do not suppose Sir, any other budget could have been produced if Birlas, Dalmias or Tatas were in charge of the finances of this country;

Mr. President: Order, order. I might suggest that it would be better if the Honourable Member does not mention names, particularly names of people who are absent from this House.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I was talking of capitalists generally.

Mr. President: He need not mention names.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I feel, Sir, that relief has been given on the Excess Profits Tax. True, these capitalists have thrived on the miseries of the world war. Who are the people who thrived most? If there is any section who has become prosperous, it is the industrialist and the industrialist alone. Was this excess profit justified at all? The very word indicates that the industrialists were making profit much above normal share on their investments in this country. They have thriven at the cost of 400 million people. They have thriven at the expense of making thousands and millions of people naked, famished and starved. For driving the poor people to this miserable condition, the capitalists are helped by the Finance Member in the shape of relief from Excess Profits tax. That is the present which the Finance Member gives in his first post war budget, namely wiping out 95 crores of tax from the capitalists. Instead of giving any relief, direct or indirect to the general tax payer and the poor man, the Finance Member gives relief to the industrialists. And he does it not in one way only. Probably 95 crores is only the incidence of taxation on Excess Profits. The Finance Member also gives facilities in the matter of import of machinery, import of raw materials. In the name of development, I do not know how much consumers will have to suffer. What is the real position of the consumers in India. Now I come to the proposed duty on betel nuts, which is the poor man's luxury, if at all it can be so termed. The betel nut is taxed to the extent that import into this country may not be possible or may be restricted very much and the growers of betel nut may thrive well. Again at the consumers cost Government is making a few people thrive and get rich. Is it realised that the cost of betel nuts has risen from twelve annas per seer in the pre-war period to something like Rs. 5 per seer today. At a time when competition from foreign import is not great, at a time when it was possible for growers to have thought of bringing their price to world parity prices, the Finance Member has come to the rescue, rescue of whom, a handful of growers, at the cost of 400 million people in this country, mostly poor

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consumers who cannot enjoy liquor or anything of that kind, but who can revel in the luxury of only betel nuts. This Government refuses to them. That is the typical position of the budget which has been placed before us.

Another direction in which tax is levied is the gold and Government proposes to put a tax of Rs. 25 per tola of gold. I hope the House will realise that it was distress gold of this country which was taken away from us, nearly to the tune of 300 crores at a mere cost of Rs. 35 per tola on the average. Now, when India's position to take back some of this gold is bright, Government imposes this tax of Rs. 25. That is the jugglery of the finance. Honourable the Finance Member wants to convince us that he has done something so good and so nice. A plea has been advanced that the people will learn to invest in industrial undertakings. But you cannot change the habits of a people and a country with a magic wand in a country, where gold has been one of the chief items of luxury or investment in the shape of ornaments. The plea does not hold good; it is only a piece of financial jugglery. You took away distress gold from us and now if we want it back we will have to pay another 300 crores, to bring same to this country in the shape of duty, an indirect taxation.

Sir, I now come to the vexed question of the financial settlement. The Honourable the Finance Member said that England is more anxious to get away from this than we are. That may be but we object to it because it was done behind our back and without consulting the legislature. In the budget session of 1943 I said that it is impossible for this country to bear this hard burden, although Government of India insisted on its assertion that that it was a good bargain. The Government of India as the agents of Whitehall may think so but we have never felt that it was to our advantage. This financial settlement, Sir, is directly or indirectly connected with the question of the piling up of the sterling balances. The issue of these balances has been fully debated here in connection with Bretton Woods; I will only say that we cannot agree to any scaling down of these assets. Our feelings about these sterling assets are very strong and uncompromising as well. They must not be whittled down; they represent our hunger, starvation, nakedness and all the miseries which have accrued to this country on account of these sterling balances. We were made to deliver our goods and it cost us all that. Sir Jeremy Raisman in his Budget Speech of 1942-43 said that we have got only eight annas worth of gold and silver reserve against every hundred-rupee note issued; still you insist that we should have confidence in this inflated currency. The notes had been reduced to a *hukumnama* of the British Empire supported by bayonets. If this had happened in any other country there would have been a revolution and Government must have changed and we did not do that; we only said it was not the correct thing to do for Government of India and our suspicion then was that even after the war some plea would be found out to delay the payment and continue unstablized condition of currency. Our apprehensions were not unfounded. I said all this in my speech in 1943 and the position has not changed very much now. Of course it was said that England cannot repudiate this loan. They say so even now; but do you realise that we have starved, gone naked and this pile of sterling has now grown up to this size of nearly Rs. 1,800 crores. We cannot now allow ourselves to be mere spectators of this juggler's trick before our eyes. Let England act honourably and discharge the debt which was advanced at such tremendous cost to the creditor. We went through misery and even famine over this and three million lives of India was lost; and now this debt of honour is being delayed and payment deferred. Different formulas are being put forward as to how this payment can be made. But if England is honest about paying these debts it will not take two minutes to do so. Englishmen have ample assets in this country which can be mobilised and liquidated. If these assets be not sufficient let the factories and shops and industrial enterprises in England be obtained by the Government of India and let those industries be owned by this country. Why cannot that be done? If England is honest about it she can do it today or tomorrow. Mr. Lloyd George

said in 1914: "Like a fraudulent bankrupt perjuring his way through difficulties" in reference to German's dealings but now it seems that it applies to England herself. Englishmen say that they hold this country for the benefit of the people of this country. I will not speak about poverty reference of which is made by Finance Member in his speech and which has been so ably dealt with by my Honourable friend Mr. Asaf Ali who, referred to it as a legacy of 150 years of British rule. But I will only say that if you are honest...

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Sir, may I know whom the Honourable Member is addressing? Is he addressing the Chair or is he addressing me as a representative of the United Kingdom or a representative of the Government of India?

Mr. President: I had just a mind to tell Honourable Members of this House that they should always address the Chair and therefore speak about Government in the third person. But I found the habit of addressing Government to such an extent in this House that I thought I would wait a few days before insisting on Government being addressed in the third person.

I will further remind the Honourable Member that he has only two minutes more to finish his speech.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I can have a few minutes more from my party's share.

Mr. President: Yes, if the party has no objection.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I have told the party.

Mr. President: It will be debited to the party's account.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I was trying to convey our views through the Government of India who at the moment are agents of Whitehall. They may deny it but the facts are there. Even a truthful man can be proved to be a liar, but facts prove my statement that they are the agents of Whitehall. If Englishmen are patriotic and earnest let them prove their sincerity by making a gesture of the kind I have indicated. Mr. President, I want to convey this to Whitehall and to His Majesty's Government through the Government of India and through you, Sir, that we shall be satisfied if we find that the Government of India takes up the course which this House desires and if it adopts the attitude which we feel is the right one. We know of course that we cannot impose our will on this Government and we have no powers to do what we like. We are like powerless creditors who can do nothing else but supplicate while the debtors know that they are doing something which they should not have done. If they are honest about it they can pay the sterling balances immediately by mobilizing the entire British assets in this country and further by selling factories in England against these sterling balances to Government of India. This important suggestion ought to be placed before His Majesty's Government through the Government of India's agent who represents here.

3 P.M.

Now, I come back to the Budget once again. The question is what has been done for the poor? I have shown, Sir, that their burdens have rather increased.....

Mr. President: They have.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Yes, Sir. They have rather increased the burden by way of increase in the import duties of betel nuts and further they have not given any relief in the matter of other taxes which were called wartime measures or, shall I say, wartime babies, like the tax on tobacco, for instance. As some other friends have suggested, the Finance Member would have been well-advised in only reducing a part of the E.P.T. and giving relief to the general public on lines that we want Government to give relief in this country. He has suggested relief of three pies on kerosene oil and three annas on petrol. It is like giving relief on a certain commodity which is not available. It is like your promising to pay to a certain individual, say, Rs. 20 on a certain happening

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of event which you know will not happen The Government of India knows that under the present conditions they are probably not going to have a good flow of kerosene oil or petrol in this country and knowing that full well, they have given a meagre relief. The Honourable the Finance Member is probably feeling proud of it and was thinking that he will be applauded for it. But I feel that he ought to be ashamed for the manner in which he has drafted this Budget, a rich man's budget designed to make rich the richer, and poor the poorer. That in nutshell is the criticism that I have to level on this Budget.

With regard to Posts and Telegraphs, they have got a profit of nearly Rs. ten crores. I do not wish to indulge on the question of dearness allowance to employees and such other things, as that has been debated in this session few days ago in this House. I would only say that the general tax payer and the poorer section expected some relief on this account as well. It is not a commercial concern; it is a public utility service, and no Government in the world has any right to make profit out of Posts and Telegraphs Department. If they make profit out of this department, then I only wonder from which department they would not like to earn money at the cost of the general public. Sir, I suggest that the Honourable Member should give some relief to the general public in respect of this department by reducing rates of Postcard and letter stamps.

Then, Sir, not a word has been said regarding the management of different departments. My Honourable friend, Sir Mohammad Yamin, has given details of one department after another and I do not wish to repeat that. I will just take one department—Industries and Supplies—and say a few words with regard to it. This Department is probably run on the same lines as the Budget itself—it makes rich the richer, and poor the poorer. What actually happens is this: Small quotas are given to the provinces out of the total production of Industries in this country. The consumers of this country are not to take full advantage of production in India and majority of it is exported. Why? Because that will bring more money to the exporters of cotton goods and other goods which we require most for our own nationals.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: On a point of order. Is it not necessary that the Members incharge of Departments with respect to which my Honourable friend is speaking ought to be present in the House? Are we speaking in the air? This is what we have been noting since this morning. We are addressing the Government as a whole and Members in charge of departments should be present. It is an insult to the House.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: That used to be the practice; they used to be in their seats.

Mr. President: Order, order. Personally I should have wished that when criticisms are being levelled against Departments of Government, some person in charge of the department should be in the House just to hear what the criticism is. I would not necessarily insist that he should be the particular Councillor in charge, but there should be at least some person who is responsible for the department. That is my view of the matter, but I am making one thing clear that absence of a Member does not necessarily mean an intention to insult the House.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Lack of interest.

Mr. President: May be, but I would like to make one further remark, that I wish the speeches are more to the point.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I was speaking on the Industries and Supplies Department. I feel, Sir, that the quota given to the provinces is fixed arbitrarily on the one hand, and on the other the Honourable Member in charge ought to be ashamed of the fact that cotton goods and other goods are allowed to be exported when in this country sons of the soil are going about naked and are not able to get even one-quarter of their requirements. Then, I would like

to point out another factor in regard to distribution: What happens is this: Mills who have manufactured those goods monopolize all the different functions in the trade. They are the manufacturers, they become the stockists, they are the contractors to the Government of India, they are the exporters through some agency of their own, and they are also the retail sellers at their selling depots. This is most curious. I do not wish to dilate on this point any further, but I do wish to say that particularly the Director of Industries and Supplies in Delhi has behaved in a manner most prejudicial to muslim interest. I will discuss this matter fully when I come to the cut motions and prove to the house how he is manoeuvering to wipe out Muslim merchant from Cotton Cloth trade in Delhi. With these few words, Sir, I finish my speech.

Mr. President: I am just informed that as regards the presence of representative members of Government in this House at the time when a speech is being made with reference to a particular department, there has been a practice in this House of previously informing the Government Whip, as to which department a particular Member wishes to refer to in the course of his speech. That is what I have been informed, and, I believe, reliably informed.

Some Honourable Members: No, Sir, no Sir.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: That is not correct, Sir. The point is this. During cut motions with reference to a particular Department, we give intimation which departments are to be under discussion.

Mr. President: I am referring to several discussion.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: There is no such practice. I have been here all these years.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy (Law Member): I do not know whether there is any fixed practice. I think in the past some Members have been in the habit of intimating beforehand that they wished to criticize, particular departments.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha (Darbhanga *cum* Saran: Non-Muhammadan): This has never been the practice.

Mr. President: Order, order. Whatever may have been the practice, I would wish the representative Members of Government to be present here. Some responsible person should be here.

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. President: That is only one side of the picture. At the same time, I do wish that the speeches in respect of general discussion on the budget do also make points definitely and not vaguely and generally. If the speeches are going to be very vague and general, I myself do not see the utility of the Members sitting here. But that does not mean that speeches of that general type are being delivered. All I wish to point out is that the responsibility is not one-sided. It is two-sided and while I insist upon the representatives of Government being here, I would earnestly request Members to see that their speeches are definite and not too general and vague.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar (Bombay Southern Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): May I make one suggestion. So far as the recorded debates go, just when a speaker rises to speak he happens to mention the Departments he is going to touch on and then the debates show that those Members are present.

Mr. President: That is actually confirming what other members say was not the practice. Whatever it may be, let us not go into that. (*An Honourable Member*: "He is a new Member.") He is a new Member but he refers to previous records. Whatever it may be, let us not go into that practice. We are entitled to have a new healthy practice established. Whatever the old practice, if we want a change, we are entitled to have it.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: What is the difficulty for the Members not to be here?

Mr. President: Order, order. Honourable Members may not feel but I feel some difficulty about it. I think the proposition had better not be discussed any further. I have already expressed myself by saying in short that the responsibility is on both sides of the House.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: I am dealing with the Foregin Affairs Department chiefly. But the Whip is missing! (*Honourable Members*: "He has come".) I am really going to try and make my maiden speech. A few days ago I did say a few words when I tried to make you see the urgency of the cloth situation in my province. Then I was under the innocent impression that if six million people were urgently in need of cloth, it was really urgent enough for this House to discuss. I am a wiser man now. I know now that this august House may spend days and days in serious matter of substituting "whereas" for "threat" in clause (b) sub-clause (e) of sub-section *(g)* but in a serious matter of clothing six million semi-naked Pathans is just not good enough. I said a few words that day but I knew all the time that you were waiting to hear a little about it before you ruled it out of order so I tried to say too many things and as always happens to all shy people I managed to say nothing. Hence my claim, Sir, that I am going to make my maiden speech. As I have the honour to be the youngest Member of this House, I hope the House will give me the greatest amount of indulgence.

I have the honour of representing the smallest, the poorest, the most peculiar and the most backward province of India. We have the smallest number of schools and the greatest number of murders. The only industry that we can boast of is the rifle industry. But if you are caught with this product of our sole national enterprise, you will be sent to jail for three years. It is the only province in India where lakhs of people have to travel on donkeys and camels for ten to fifteen miles every day to get drinking water, and lakhs more have to drink from stagnant ditches with their camels and cattle. In this twentieth century under one hundred years of the great and beneficial rule of the white man, we have not been able to get drinking water.

It is the only province in India that has no University. We are taught English in Urdu and Urdu in Pushto. That is a clever arrangement for popularising education. We have the distinction of having no technical school or college, although we Pathans made the first great highway of India, the Grand Trunk Road from Kabul to Calcutta which was built by Sher Shah. But today we have the smallest mileage of road per 100 square miles of area. The last though not the least, we have the smallest number of representatives in this House.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: You are the tallest!

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: What can one man do. He can just cover one subject efficiently. All the other provinces count their representatives in dozens.

I hear a good deal of talk about the forthcoming arrangements whereby England is going to give us our independence on a golden tray with love and kisses. I have a suggestion to make. I hope that in the future Assembly of India the least number of Members from each province should be five or six, say one for Food, one for Industries, and one each for all the various highly technical departments. I do not mean exceptional men like some of my Honourable friends in this House who are experts in everything. But I am talking of ordinary human beings like myself. We cannot even cope with one subject. But the state of affairs being as unsatisfactory as it is, I would like to turn my attention to the most important of the serious problems that faces our province today.

Just try and imagine our Province. We have long stretch of area that is called the Settled Area. It is not usually very settled. It has a few towns and a moderate sort of business. After that you have the Political Agencies where the brown man is taught to worship the white god. His word is law, his pleasure heaven and his displeasure hell. Here the white man can play god in peace and comfort. Technically and legally these agency Pathans are

supposed to be semi-free but literally they are the most terrible slaves in India. The baby Czars who rule these absolute monarchies are completely independent of the Provincial Government and usually out of sympathy with them, although the problems that the political agencies present are chiefly provincial.

The Secretary of State in London and his agents here know how to deal with my cousins the Afridis. A tamed one who is sitting opposite, my friend Sharbat Khan, knows much better than we who live with them and are one with them.

Between the agencies and the Afghan territory there is that romantic belt called the Tribal Territory, a land of wild men and wild stories, a land which is in the habit of throwing up vicious Faqirs, but usually at the right time and the right place. You find these gentlemen coming to the tribesmen and asking them in the name of Allah and for the sake of heaven to attack the British. At the end of the show the British always somehow or other manage to get a strategic pass or mountain and most of the poor Pathans get Heaven: they are killed. The tribal territory people are very nice except that they come and burn our villages, they murder us, they kidnap us, they burn our bazaars and carry away our brethren ever since the Englishman has become the masters of the Frontier and not before.

The problem before us is and always has been now to protect the land and lives of the ordinary law-abiding people of His Majesty's Government from these wild tribesmen. To a normal ordinary man with a little commonsense there would be three solutions:

(1) Disarm the tribesmen as you have disarmed us (amalgamation).

(2) Arm the people of the Settled Area and let them protect themselves as you have failed to protect them.

I assure you that there are as good Pathans and as brave Pathans on this side of the border line as there are on the other side. We have got possession of the most fertile area from our cousin tribesmen, because at one time we were the most powerful. As we have now been disarmed we have to depend on the might of the British Empire and we pay for it. If they would return to us our arms, then we will not make any further noise about it: we will deal ourselves with the Waziris and the Mohmands.

The third solution is conversion, to persuade these marauders that we are the same people as they, that we are of the same flesh and blood and colour as they and that they have no reason to murder us and kidnap us. But does the Government choose any of these methods? They choose their own way, a combination of bribery and force. I would call it murder and corruption but its parliamentary name is "Subsidies and the Forward policy". I do not want to say anything about this notorious forward policy, because a great deal has been said about it on the floor of this House and besides it is all quiet on the North Western Front, and I hope it will remain so. But I would like to say something about subsidies. Let us look at a few figures now. They are very vague and I shall not call them accurate figures. I have tried to put in some questions but I am sure I will get no answer, because people who have tried to get these figures have always failed and I am sure that I will fail too. Anyhow the subsidies amount to 1,63,000 and the total subsidies all over India amount to 6¾ lakhs. Entertainment, 4,20,000, which I suppose represents tea and biscuits. Schools *nil*, hospitals nothing, public works, zero. The total that is taken from the Indian exchequer is three crores 61 lakhs. I am not now talking about the Maliks, who are well fed and well kept by the Political Department and they are not the people who commit the dacoities. I am talking of the common man, the Afridis and the Mohmands, the ordinary man who counts. They get Rs. 2 per head among the Afridi tribes per year, not per day and the Mohmands get Re. 1 per head per year, with which to look after himself and his wife and children and be at peace with himself and the world. If you were strong and virile and your children were hungry and naked, living in a hard and mean land that refused to feed you or clothe you and your neighbour had an abundance of

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every thing and nothing to protect himself with, would you not feel tempted to stretch your hand and help your dear ones to a little. At least I know I would, unless I were taught to do otherwise and behave differently either by force or education.

But do Government really wish to stop these things? There are many circumstances that force one to draw very strange conclusions. These dacoities are committed either for Heaven or for money. They are either fanatical or economical. If they were fanatical, they ought to have stuck to the Englishman, whom they hate, because they say they are *kafirs*. In his dealings with the tribesmen the Englishman has always started with the "sermon on the mount" and ended up with the high explosive bomb. He has machine-gunned them, burnt their crops with phospherous bombs, mowed down their cattle and confiscated thousands of acres of their good land. Naturally the hatred of the Pathans should be directed towards the Englishman. Yet the tribesmen do not carry away Englishmen. There was that famous Miss Ellis case a few years ago, but after that there were many Hindus and Muslims but no Englishman. If these dacoities are the result of sheer bleak want, even then their natural victim should be the Englishman, who may be worth nothing on this side of the border but is surely worth his weight in gold on that side of it. Every tribesman knows that if he can get five thousand rupees for an Indian he can get as many lakhs for a whiteman and yet they keep off them. Why? They won't go near one. The only conclusion one can arrive at is that these dacoities are controlled. I do not mean that my friend of the Foreign and Political Department sends in a requisition for a raid but there is bound to be an indirect control: otherwise why should they scrupulously avoid one man and attack another. You may say that the Englishman is harder to get at. But is it not the duty of the Government to make me also as hard to get at either by a raider or a thief? The real reason is that the Government have made it plain to the tribesman that they will not tolerate any monkey tricks with their own kith and kin. Ajab Khan who carried away Miss Ellis was hounded out of tribal territory. He was pursued even into Afghanistan and was last heard of in Turkistan. His village was burnt. Why should not the Government take just as strong a stand on behalf of its poor native subjects? The fact is that the whiteman's burden is all white, it has not got even a speck of brown or black on it.

Is there a solution for all this. I have given three solutions and we will take them one by one. Can we disarm the tribesmen? Yes, we can but I do not want them to be bombed and atomised because they are my own flesh and blood. A conquest of the tribal territory is out of the question now. The English conquered all these thousands of miles of mountains and rivers, why should they not take a little more territory, instead of leaving it there as a sort of boiling pot. Arming the pepole in the settled areas and make them capable of looking after themselves is another solution. But that is not likely to be accepted, because we cannot be trusted by our foreign masters. So, I will turn to the third and last solution, the longest, the most difficult but the only one tried by us and proved effective. The first time the people of our Province tried to solve this tribal problem was in 1930. The then Governor of our Province admitted that the Government's attempts for almost a century to solve the tribal problem were a complete failure. So the leader of our people Badshah Khan suggested an alternative scheme of schools and dispensaries to serve the tribesmen and thus establish a point of contact between them and us. The Governor agreed and came to Delhi to see the Viceroy. On his return the first thing that he did was to arrest Badshah Khan and put him into prison for an unspecified length of time and exiled him to Hazaribagh (Bihar). That was how our first attempt ended. In 1942 when the British Empire was at its weakest and tottering, we found that these tribesmen were organising themselves into gangs and, collecting arms. The price of a cartridge which used to be three pies or less than one anna each was selling at Rs. 2/-. An ordinary rifle that we used to get for Rs. 10 from the tribal territory went up to Rs. 400 and 500,

because they were all arming and collecting rifles and looking forward with longing and hungry eyes at the fertile plains of India. We approached the Government but the Government could not do anything. The Government were worried about themselves and so did not worry about us. Our protectors were thinking of their aeroplane journey to some safer spot. We approached the Government and asked them to allow us to send peace missions. It was a desperate measure but we wanted to protect our people. The Governor agreed in a weak moment to send our people to the villages of the Waziris. They spent three years there. They were ordinary poor Pathans and half educated. They knew only one thing. They had to talk with these people and try to make them peaceful. In the beginning the Government did not say anything. In the meantime the world situation changed. These people risked their lives. They were abused in the name of religion, they were called the hired servants of the Hindus and *kafirs* and some of the old hands used against Amanullah were re-employed again. But in spite of all that they achieved a measure of success. We found that in our contact with those people they would listen to us. We feel that we can make them listen to us.

Now, the point and purpose of my giving you this history of these missions —I cannot give you the history because it is so long, but that is the gist of it— is not to get applause for my party, the Khudai Khidmatgars, but to impress upon the Government that a unique experiment has been carried out and that has proved beyond any doubt that the job can be done. If the Government would trust us and let us approach these people freely, to get to know them and convert them, I am certain that, with the co-operation of the Government, we will accomplish in a year what they have failed to accomplish in a century. But the question is, is the Government willing to co-operate with us? Is it willing to accept our help? Does it really desire a solution of this tribal problem? I would like any one from that side to give me a straight and clear answer to that question. Thank you.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Sir, I congratulate my Honourable friend Mr. Abdul Ghani Khan from the Frontier on his very interesting maiden speech. Like my Honourable friend, Col. Chatterjee I do not shed any tears if our friend the Honourable the Finance Member quits India as soon as possible. That does not mean any personal reflection on him. Unfortunately he represents in this House a system of bureaucracy which has for the last several hundred years squeezed this country and reduced this country to a state which can be no longer tolerated. I confess this budget is a very clever budget. The Honourable the Finance Member has brought a new approach to the framing of this budget. But while he was framing his budget, his one eye was on Delhi and the other was on the cabinet mission . . .

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I had never even heard of it at the time I framed the budget.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Although he poses only to be a Finance Member, he was all the time acting as a politician. He was making the way of the cabinet mission smooth in his own way, and from that point of view this budget, if I may say so, is an appeasement budget. But he has appeased only a section of the population of the country. He has appeased only my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar or men of his way of thinking.

Mr. Manu Subedar: He has not appeased me, as you will find out.

Sardar Mangal Singh: He has tried to appease big business in this country by doing away with the E.P.T. immediately. Of course I am glad he has done it, but my point is that he has not done anything for the poor. While he started well in his opening part of his speech—he talked of poverty, squalor, illhealth, illiteracy, under-nourishment and under-employment—I waited in vain to hear or find out from his speech throughout, any effective plan to remove these things from this country. He was very liberal to big business; he lifted the E.P.T. he granted concessions in the matter of importing raw materials; he gave them liberal remissions in the matter of income-tax. I do

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not grudge them all that. My only complaint is that he has not thought of the millions and millions of this country who are suffering from all these ills which he mentioned in the opening part of his speech. What has he done? In his speech he said "Well, now I have done something for the taxpayers, something for the industrialists; let me turn to the poor man who does not pay any income-tax." And what does he say? Instead of 4as. 6p. he says 3as. 9p. on kerosene oil. That is the only relief which he gives to the poor man and what is it? Do you know how much kerosene oil the poor people get in the villages? He has not thought of that probably. I do not think the relief would come to more than two or three pice for a household.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: May I interrupt? This point has been raised several times. It may save a lot of debate if I call attention to a sentence of mine:

"The main advantage which he, the poor man, will derive from particular proposals will be through the schemes, economic and social, which will be financed by the yield of the taxes contributed by the wealthier sections of the community."

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That is a figment of your imagination. Nothing more.

Sardar Mangal Singh: If my Honourable friend had waited, I was coming to that also. This is the only item of relief he has given to the millions and millions of poor men who live in the villages and who are on the brink of starvation.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: And he continues to collect more and more.

Mr. President: Order, order.

Sardar Mangal Singh: I do not think that his budget will fit in properly with the new scheme of things. Personally, I think that after three months we will have again to meet here and frame another budget because this budget creates a situation in the country which will be most difficult for the new Government. He talks of a reduction of expenditure in the following year. What does that mean? It means unemployment. It means less consumer goods. It means so many difficulties for the country that the new Government will not be able to face them. My Honourable friend the Finance Member probably does not want to take any discredit for any measures which could only help the country but which might displease certain vocal sections of our countrymen. I maintain whether it is this Government or any other Government, if you do not realise money by a capital levy the Government of this country cannot raise the purchasing power of the masses of the country. If the Government of this country sits back and thinks only of limited companies and big business and the E.P.T. and the industrialists and the raw material coming in from outside, the government will not be touching even the fringe of the question. The real difficulty can only be solved by having a capital levy in this country. For all these schemes we have to raise money and the money has to come from somewhere: it can only come from the rich people. My Honourable friend the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party gave expression to similar feelings, but I can realise his difficulty: he was sitting with my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: He has no difficulties. We are one with you. Come and join us.

Sardar Mangal Singh: He gave expression to those feelings in a suppressed manner: he did not give out frankly that these people are going to hand over the country to Birlas and Tatas. This object only means this: that these millions of our countrymen, the masses, are being handed over to the joint exploitation of the white bureaucracy and my Honourable friends the mill-business and the British big business. This budget is only the offer of a partnership. In plain English this budget is an offer to Indian big business, saying "We cannot hold this country ourselves any longer; we ourselves cannot exploit the masses of this country alone; come along, Mr. Manu Subedar; come along, join with me and let us exploit together." It does not mean anything else, and I am sure the people of this country are not going to allow such a *golmal* between the British businessman and the Indian businessman. I most strongly protest against this. I see his difficulty. He himself admits what the real remedy is. He says: Victory will not be achieved without sustained effort, without sweat and tears, without money or without leadership. Now, Sir, this Government lacks the leadership which is necessary to take the country forward. This Government does not know its own mind. They are simply marching time. Therefore, I think this budget will have to be reconditioned, overhauled by the new Government which will come into power in due course. Dynamic leadership is required to tackle the problem. My Honourable friend, this Finance Member lacks that leadership and cannot do it.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: That is my whole point. I am hoping that an Indian leader will come along.

Sardar Mangal Singh: That is why you are offering partnership to these people. You cannot solve the problem yourself. The best thing would be to straightaway say 'Sorry, we cannot do it. We go away. Come and take our place'. That is the straightforward, honest way of solving the problem.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member may miss his other points. He has only three minutes more.

Sardar Mangal Singh: I may take some weightage!

Mr. President: The Honourable Member has no bank balance of time on which he can draw.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I will give him five minutes of my own time.

Sardar Mangal Singh: I am glad that the Honourable the Finance Member has announced the formation of a tax inquiry committee. I wish to warn him about framing the terms of reference. I wish him to include the revision of the land revenue system in this inquiry.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Yes, Sir. Certainly.

Sardar Mangal Singh: I do not want that the inquiry should be like the inquiry which the Government held in 1924 and 1925. That committee refused to consider the land revenue question—the question that the land revenue should be abolished as a system of land revenue. I claim, Sir, that land revenue is very unjust. By this system, you tax the poorest man even if he earns Rs. 60 a year. I say that there is no moral foundation for this tax. I therefore submit that in the terms of inquiry the revision of the land revenue system should be definitely and categorically included and in our programme we will advocate that this land revenue should go as a system. In 1935 this House carried a Resolution that land revenue should be abolished and in its place tax should be put on the land on an income-tax basis. I think that is quite fair. I am prepared to pay taxes on my income from whichever source it is derived.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: On the contrary, we might want nationalisation of land straightaway.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Including land, factories, mills? Ask your friends. I am prepared but first let us nationalise this part of the House. My Honourable friend interrupted me and said that he has got some schemes but he could not even reduce the price of the post card. During the last several years, this House has been passing Resolution after Resolution that the price of the post card should be reduced from three pice to two pice, the post card which is largely used by the villager, the poor man, who does not pay any income-tax. Then he forgot salt altogether. Then he has not done anything for the rural uplift. I know what is passing in his mind. Then my last point is sterling balance. I entirely endorse the remarks made by Honourable friend Mr. Asaf Ali when he said that the amounts lying with His Majesty's Government in the form of sterling balances should be immediately repaid, at least in

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part by handing over some good ships in good condition—not rotten ships or broken ships or leaking ships but ships in proper running order or some air machines, so that as soon as we take charge of this part of the House we stand before the world as a first class political power, with our navy and air force complete in every way.

An Honourable Member: Army?

Sardar Mangal Singh: The army is already there. It is the navy and the air force we want and if we could create them out of these sterling balances, I think it would be a blessing in disguise. Otherwise this sterling balance is a blood bank of my country. The Government without our perinission and without our knowledge and asking has taken away the goods, worth crores and crores of rupees, while our people were starving and dying like flies. This huge sterling balance which has now risen to about 1,800 crores is really a blood bank, the blood of my country sucked by the Government. I am very much perturbed by this news that the British Government would talk about sterling balances after the American loan has been sanctioned. What is the significance of this. Supposing the American Government does not agree to give any loan to His Majesty's Government, what will happen to our money. Suppose there is World War No. III tomorrow and something happens to England, what becomes of my money. Therefore I say that whatever is to be taken is to be taken immediately. When a creditor goes to a debtor, he takes hold of all the things the debtor has, buffaloes, cows, grain—anything which he can get hold of. In that attitude, I am anxious that I should get hold of anything which can be immediately taken over. I am not going to purchase a hotel in England.

Mr. Manu Subedar: They have had your railways for a hundred years.

Sardar Mangal Singh: I would like to have as many things as I possibly can. I would like to have immediately the assets possessed by the British nationals in this country. That is a very regular and accepted form of payment. It has been resorted to in other countries. As an Indian, I would not like to have mortgage in other countries but that position should also be considered—whether we can get hold of a country or part of a country—a few districts in England until this loan is repaid.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member has exceeded his time limit. I will give him half a minute to complete.

Sardar Mangal Singh: On the next occasion, when I have time, I shall make more concrete proposals. For the time being I give the Finance Member these hints to think over. This heavy loan should be liquidated, if England is honest and they mean business with us.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: Sir, before I make my observations on this budget, I must say that I am in entire agreement with my Honourable friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar. We, the elected Members of this House are supposed to be here to represent the interests of our constituents. And now we are supposed to say something about the budget proposals that have been placed before the House by the Honourable the Finance Member. Incidentally, also, we are supposed to comment upon the adequacy or inadequacy of the steps taken in the interests of the popular weal by the various Departments. You were good enough, Sir, to throw a hint to the Government benches that somebody connected with each of the Department should be present in the House. That suggestion, in the fitness of things as they conceive it, has not been accepted. Hence, it appears as if we, who are making observations on this very important subject, namely, the financial proposals for the next year, appear to be speaking, firstly, for our own benefit; secondly, for the benefit of those who are not listening to us here, namely, the public; and, thirdly, for the benefit of the President. Apart from that, what we say appears to have very little effect upon the Government Benches.

With that brief preface, I now turn to the budget. Certain opinions expressed in the press fully demonstrate how sometimes the budget seems to be for our benefit and a few of the budget proposals are likely to mislead us. With regard to his budget proposals, I should say that the Honourable the Finance Member has followed the method which appears to be very popular at the present moment in all the Departments of the Government of India, namely, to veneer with the little good that they might be doing a large amount of propaganda. The Honourable the Finance Member has placed before us a budget which envisages a reduction in taxation. Now, he has so nicely coloured it and so nicely presented it as to make it look as if the whole population has been benefited by it. What are the broad facts? Above all, this year's budget provides for an expenditure of 391 crores of rupees which compares certainly favourably with the expenditure of last year, which was about 543 crores of rupees. The reason is quite obvious. The war they were on has now ended and it was inevitable that they should not have kept the expenditure at the same level as that of last year. Then, again, in the place of the deficit of 144 crores that was there last year, we have a deficit of 44 crores this year, which was also inevitable, because they could not go on spending on nothing. Simply to be guided by the fact that this year's budget presents a less deficit than last year's and that the expenditure is less than that of last year leads us nowhere. Then, again, there is a proposal of reduction in taxation to the tune of about 21½ crores, which I shall presently have the privilege of showing hardly touches the masses.

Now, Sir, I am not tempted to believe that the budget in any way makes any significant departure from any one of the previous budgets that have been presented to the House on behalf of a regime which is here not in our interests but in the interests of Imperialist domination of India. While on that point, I should like to say that I entirely agree that the Honourable the Finance Member has very pithily described the condition in which we are at present. There is one sentence in the Budget speech which my Honourable friend the Deputy Leader of my Party had occasion to refer to, in which the Honourable the Finance Member correctly describes the condition of India in the shortest possible words. He says:

> "India is suffering from poverty, squalor, ill-health, illiteracy, under-nourishment and under-employment."

Now, I will view his budget from this standpoint and from the criterion which he has himself so very kindly mentioned. When I look at these proposals from the point of view as to how far these proposals tend towards removal of poverty, squalor, ill-health, illiteracy, under-nourishment and under-employment, I find that the least is done to remove these things by the present Government. And all that has been done by way of reduction in taxation is to help those people and those interests which they found very precious during the war and which they may find equally precious again in another war when it may come on. They are of no use for the masses. I am very sorry to say that except to recruit them in hard times and to send them to the war fronts, there are no proposals in the budget which can be said to be of any use to them. When I look at these proposals and when I consider the small mercies that are shown to the masses, I find there are two things which help the masses. One is kerosene. There was a point made by one Honourable Member, that the reduction in taxation is not sufficient, but our Honourable the Finance Member does not know that this reduction in taxation is not going to help the poor at all because if you were to visit any rural areas, you will find that, as a matter of fact, it is not the question of the price of the kerosene oil. The question is of getting it. They do not get kerosene oil at all and this reduction in its taxation is not going to help them.

Then, there is another mercy which is shown to the betel-nut growers. It was said during the last war that Russia, while helping herself, also helped the

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Allies. The same remarks can very well be applied to the betel-nut taxation. He knew that the betel-nut would be coming from Singapore and Malaya and therefore he would derive more income from it. In truth, therefore, he has only helped himself and incidentally he has helped the betel-nut grower as well. I very much appreciate his frank recognition of facts when he says that the taxation during the last two years, instead of being passed on to the consumers, has fallen on the growers. Having realised that, I am not prepared to believe for a moment, that a very capable Minister like the Honourable the Finance Member, who has produced this budget, could not have found some means to see that the injustice that had been done to the grower could not be corrected now. He had all the statistics at his command and surely he could have given some relief to the poor grower, by way of subsidies or the like. When one comes to the end of his budget one feels not very much depressed because we are oppressed, suppressed, depressed and mystified by this Government and we are all now used to this sort of thing.

When I scanned this budget, the only thing I could notice was this. They have now come out of a war which has meant a great hardship to them and they are expecting another war, if not immediately, within ten years and so they have thought of devising the Government machinery and maintaining its activities in such a manner as to be helpful to them permanently. They are merely helping themselves should any crisis come to them again.

As I am limited by time, I shall only refer to one or two brief aspects of the budget. Much has been said about planning and development. Wisdom has dawned after 150 years that they have thought of some schemes for planning and development. I was myself waiting with curiosity as to whether the planning and development would go on according to the plan of the Bombay economists or according to a plan like the one prepared by Principal Agarwala. What do we find in the Planning and Development Department? The Indian Government have just come out of a war. In view of their bitter experience in regard to I. N. A., they would very much like to placate the Indian soldiers. And the first step they have taken is to rehabilitate the discharged personnel. What do we find in a budget of 8 crores odd? I should like to say that that head is a very huge camouflage in a budget which covers about 8 crores. One crore and 81 lakhs has been assigned for development and planning proper. Then there is a very humerous thing if it was not so tragic.

[At this stage Mr. President vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan)]

They say the amount is for schemes contemplated for the following purposes and then follows a list of subjects, agriculture, forests etc. They have been drawing up schemes. A list of books has been circulated to us which I should say, I have not had the good luck or bad luck of going through. After I go through them, perhaps it would be too late for me to realise that it is all a waste of time for having read them. I saw a list of some books which happen to be circulated to M.L.A.'s, free and they deal with reports on post-war road development, post-war planning and so on. All that they have been able to do is to merely draw up plans and achieve nothing. No positive achievement is to their credit. There are only some schemes which are under consideration and some schemes are not under consideration. There are certain training centres, there are schemes for rehabilitation of discharged personnel and several other activities connected with rehabilitation of ex-soldiers. That is one point. I would submit if the Government were really to do some real planning, then there will not be a single man or woman in this country who would not support that scheme. If the planning was real and *bona fide*, if it would only help the development of future generations, we shall not grudge even new taxation. we shall not lag behind to contribute our blood for the cause, so that they can form a blood bank for our posterity to draw upon. Provided there

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is nothing in the shape of propaganda for Government's cause we shall not be found wanting to support any good cause.

Now, Sir, let me turn for a moment to the Department of Information and Broadcasting. This Department has bloated beyond measure, as if all the woes and misery of India is due to lack of information and all that is wanted is more and more information, more and more broadcasting and more and more propaganda. That is a very clever device formulated by Government. If I were on those Benches, I should perhaps congratulate those who have been responsible for publicity of all kinds, publicity in Planning, publicity in Information, publicity in War Department, publicity everywhere, including publicity in Publicity. Coming to their plans, we know they will take a long time to come to any conclusion. In this Information and Broadcasting Department, what do we find? Just at this moment, I would refer to the new nomenclature adopted by that Department. Sometimes one wonders at the conception which the Government of India have with regard to this Information and Broadcasting. The Government is bound to provide information to the public, Government is bound to give broadcasts, Government is bound to conceive of new purposes, especially with a famine threatening us, and with the fear of lakhs of people dying. I have probed into the publications of this Department and I have not yet been able to probe into the significance of the change in the nomenclature of the Department from "Information and Broadcasting" into "Information and Arts". I do not know whether they intend to display all the fine arts. I rather suspect that the word 'arts' includes such items as amusements for troops which were a special feature during the war period and which now form part of the civil administration in this country. This means that expenditure on such items will hereafter be shown under civil departments instead of under the Defence Budget.

Now, Sir, when we are dealing with this year's budget, we cannot compare it with last year's budget, we can compare it only with the budget of 1939-40. The civil expenditure in 1939-40 was 10 crores, but today we see it has risen to 35 crores, about eight crores more than last year's. I have not the time to deal with it in detail. At this stage of discussion of the budget, one can only refer to it in general. Is it at all necessary to have such a large multiplication of officers in each and every one of the Departments. I will take up one Department, the Archaeological Department. I see there is one Additional Director General. Is there any extension in the activities of this Department? Unhappily there was a Director General who did not know any of the Indian languages, obviously as if to stop our mouths, a popular Indian Director is brought in as Additional Director General. This is out of a sense of kindness to expert to save him from criticism from the Indian public. Whatever may be the reason, we find this Department also is expanding. Where there were Superintendents, I find in this year's budget, that eleven more are added and they call them Assistant Superintendents for each circle. God alone knows what they are going to do. I will not touch on that subject further, except to simply observe that in many departments, we find increase in the number and in the cadre of officials concerned. Judged from that point of view, I would respectfully submit that this budget is certainly not a poor man's budget, but it is a rich man's budget.

When we come to scan these various items that have been incorporated in this budget that has been presented to us, one thing that strikes us most is this. The Honourable the Finance Member and the Government which he represents also look upon this year also as a war year. This defence expenditure of 243 crores is to be compared to pre-war year's defence budget, which on an average was 47 crores. The only explanation that I can think of for this is that the Government are visualising the contingency of another war, they are thinking of the possibility of still retaining the huge army which they are contemplating of disbanding to the tune of 17 lakhs of persons. But they are not able to

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disband these people on account of the apprehensions, rightly or wrongly held that there may arise another crisis in the very near future which may compel them to retain a large number of this personnel. Therfore, it is, I think that the Government are finding it so hard to reduce the defence expenditure which they would have done long ago, had they been inspired with a *bona fide* desire to help the people of India to reach the goal of prosperity and happiness.

In conclusion, I do wish to say that this budget is neither a better nor a worse one, except for the one fact that the Honourable the Finance Member has been frank, but mere frankness does not lead us towards our goal of prosperity. I would only finish by saying that this budget should be looked upon neither more kindly nor unkindly than all the other previous budgets which were remarkable demonstrations of the 150 years of British rule in India along the most unsympathetic and imperialistic lines, working for British interests and not the interest of the people of India, with these remarks, I close.

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda (United Provinces: Landholders): Sir, ...

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member can speak only for ten minutes.

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: I do not belong to any party, and so you may have no occasion to credit my time to that of any party.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: We would like to own you.

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: Sir, this budget is slightly better one than the one I have seen in the past. But it does not travel sufficiently in favour of the poor and so I am constrained to oppose it. I dare say the Honourable Member who blamed this budget could have done much more but for the fact that he is surrounded by highly paid and glorified I. C. S. officials and so he feels that he is more or less helpless. Sir, I find that in this budget, the military expenditure remains just as high as before. The war is over, but in spite of that we find that the military are lording it everywhere swallowing a large portion of our revenues. The purpose for which they are kept here is obvious. Calcutta and Bombay are soaked in blood. Is it for that purpose that the military is staying here? Is it for that purpose that we are paying for their upkeep? Then, again, civil expenditure is just as high as ever. It is said that this Government will merge into a National Government and that they will hand over the baby to Indians. A National Government is intended primarily to care for the welfare of the country and of the people. If you are going to bequeathe to them an emasculated budget and the resultant dirty work, if is unfair and there is no scope for a free hand. Ninety per cent. of the population in India are poor and possibly about ten per cent. are well to do. Here, this budget has brought about many banquets and dinners among the rich. Even the Stock Exchange has gone up, and people have made money on it.

Coming to the taxes imposed in this budget, betel-nuts have been taxed. Is betel-nut a luxury? Can the poor people be denied even this small luxury, if you call it one. I do not think you can call this nut a luxury. For instance the Englishman now goes in for chewing gum. I do not think it can be called a luxury.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: No, Sir.

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: The Americans use the candy? I do not think you can call it a luxury. Why do you tax the poor people in this country? The poor man can boast of very little luxury in this country. If he cannot even buy a betel-nut whenever he feels tired and wants a little respite, what is the use of having such a Government at all? For instance, in postcards there might have been some reduction and so some kind of relief to

the poor. There is to be a taxation inquiry committee and I hope even at this late stage Government will have a non-official body consisting of elected members of this House and, if you like of the Upper House as well.

Sir, the country cannot possibly bear the salaries of the glorified I. C. S. and other services. We have been saying this in and out of season but without any result. Nevertheless it is our duty to register our protest and say that India when she is free will not have such highly paid services.

With regard to the food crisis Mahatma Gandhi plainly said that all this black-marketing and hoarding can be properly dealt with only by a Government that enjoys the confidence of the people. The present Government cannot do anything really useful. If they cannot is it not high time for them to ask us to take up the cudgels before even the Secretary of State comes here? There is no need to wait for the Secretary of State at all. The black-marketing and hoarding will go on despite all that we hear from that side of the House and the food crisis will I am afraid remain as it is.

With your permission, Sir, I will read just half a dozen lines from an editorial in the famous *'Amrita Bazar Patrika'* which says that a distinguished member of the Parliamentary delegation which recently toured India:

"expressed the view that the British Government in India had so long been run mainly in the interests of the rich and on the sufferings and privations of the poor."

Here is an unbiassed Englishman who comes out and finds all this glory and luxury confined to the well-to-do. I hope this will be an eye-opener to our Honourable friends on the other side.

We understand that there is going to be an Indian army of occupation in Japan. I should like to know why? We do not believe in making enemies of people and we are not inimical to Japan; we had nothing to do with the war. Why should our forces be sent there and why should we be burdened with all that expenditure? This is what our great *'National Herald'* says:

"We strongly object to the Indian army of occupation in Japan not only because it throws an additional burden on our finances but also because politically and morally it is undesirable and unjustifiable."

I strongly object to Indian forces being sent outside our country and there is no reason why we should do this.

Then, Sir, I should like this new committee to inquire also into the zamindari system. I have the honour to represent this unfortunate class. I do not say all zamindars are good people, just as all Congress or League people are not. There are good zamindars and bad zamindars; and to say that the entire landlord system should be abolished overnight would, in my opinion, militate against the well-being of the country. If with the League and the scheduled castes and such other sectional interests of the country you are going to have zamindars in the same category, then good-bye to a united India. I am all for good legislation, legislation by which zamindars will be made to look after their properties and take more interest in their tenants and in the well-being of the poor, but to abolish them with one stroke of the pen would be suicidal. This system of zamindars has existed from time immemorial; it is not a creation of the British Government. And I should like to take this opportunity of saying a few words about it. It is said that during the budget debate one can talk on anything under the sun.

Mr. Deputy President: No, that is not so.

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: I beg of you to give me a minute over this point. It has been said that these zamindaris are a British creation.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member has just one minute more.

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: The zamindari system is not a British creation. In our *puranas* and other religious books we read of many kinds of rajahs and jagirdars, and so on; and it will not be for the good of the

[Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda]

country to abolish this system as is often threatened. I can assure you, Sir, that we zamindars are going to march with the times; we shall join the rest in the 'Quit India' cry. When this country gets freedom we can settle our household differences and put our house in order. But before we get that freedom if we are to have more divisions in this country and if we are going to jump at each other's throats, I do not think that will be conducive to the well-being of our mother Land.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, the budget speech of the Honourable the Finance Member has given me my life's puzzle because it has dealt with many things but has not touched the real problem with which we are faced today more than ever before, namely, the major problem of food, cloth and health. As far as we understand, the budget is supposed to give a reflection of the Government's appreciation and assessment of the major problems of the day and how Government approach them. The Honourable Member delivered a closely printed and well-written speech of 27 pages which he read very well with occasional sips from the glass; but in his eminent humour and wisdom he has not been able to give more than a sentence and a half to this question of foodgrains and textiles, and he has not touched the question of health at all. Today at least the problem of India's food has assumed international importance; but how is it that the Finance Member could not devote a little time or pace to this question? On page 2 of his speech he has summarily disposed of the matter. He says:

"Outstanding examples are textiles and foodgrains. . . . .I do not propose to deal with the foodgrains situation since that is only too well-known to the House."

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I am not the Food Member nor the Member for Industries and Civil Supplies. There will be plenty of chance during the demands for grants.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: My grievance is that since we are in the midst of an unprecedented food crisis we expect Government to outline their policy. Even if the Finance Member has no time to devote to this subject we can at least be pardoned if we claim that we should be given some outline of Government's policy, the more so because different speeches of responsible members made from time to time are adding to the intriguing character of the situation. For instance, some weeks back the Food Member said that the shortage was to the tune of three million tons; but only the day before yesterday at a press conference over the week-end he stated that the shortage was six million tons. Let us know where we stand and where we are going. This sort of conflicting and varying statements only adds to the panic. At the same Conference it was said that no reports have yet been received of deaths due to starvation. It is not enough to say that. He could not say that any such suggestion was out of the question, nor could he say that all these things are being tackled in a way which will prevent such mortality. Sir we want an assurance from the Government that they will not allow a single man to die of starvation.

The Honourable the Food Secretary dealt with this matter a few weeks ago. He outlined the policy as a policy the basic plan of which was merely transport from one province to another, procurement and rationing. So far as that basic plan is concerned, namely transport from one province to another, I submit it only distributes starvation or the impact of starvation over the whole country. It does not touch the problem itself. So far as procurement and rationing is concerned, I am sure you will agree that these are only immediate questions, but they do not deal with the long range question of food supply so that people may not die of starvation. Procurement itself has dangers as we have seen in the past. The other day some Members from this side put a question regarding the wastage and destruction of food storage. The Honourable the Food Secretary avoided the issue by only saying that this was the concern of the Provincial

Governments. Food is the concern of the Central Government, food supply is the concern of the Central Government, and the Provincial Governments only act as their agents. It will not do to say that it is the concern of the Provincial Governments. As a matter of fact, we know—and I am speaking from my own experience in my province—that several thousand of tons of foodgrains were destroyed on account of imperfect storage arrangements. Are these things going to be repeated? Even today if we could scratch information from Midnapore and Khulna you will know that there even today food is stored in places which are giving offensive smell and you cannot go anywhere near those stores. If our food is so stored, I submit that the food position which is already bad enough will become worse.

Coming to the question of procurement from another point of view, if monopoly procurement is adopted by Government, the very first thing that the Government ought to see is that they should give fair price to the agriculturist. The Government only will purchase, nobody else will; there is no competition in the market; there is no free market. That cuts at the very root of the agriculturist's capacity to stand upon himself. There must be a fair and equitable price determined, and there must be a guarantee that this price is actually received by the agriculturist. From our experience we know that in the past even paper prices were not allowed to be availed of by the agriculturist on account of certain manipulations which were made by official and non-official agencies standing in between the Government and the agriculturists.

Coming to the question of ration, is it enough that ration should be adopted? It is said that it will solve the problem. But is it fair that there should be a further cut on the ration of people? Our agriculturist and labouring classes are already suffering from the effects of malnutrition. There must be some classification. People of the upper classes who can afford to have substitutes, who for example can take food in the form of fruits, eggs, meat, butter, and all that, are not hit so much if they have to undergo some cut because they can forego the ordinary standard cereals to some extent although not without much difficulty, but there is no question of the same standard of cut being made applicable to our lower classes and lower middle classes. They are already emasculated on account of malnutrition, and they cannot afford to get their rations cut any further.

What is more important is the question of long range policy of food products. What is going to be done by the Government in the matter of seeing that we get such quantity of output that we can have enough and to spare? There is the question of bringing under cultivation uncultured lands. There are large tracts of lands which are now lying fallow. The Grow More Food campaign has not done anything. Mere scratching the surface of earth as a matter of propaganda will not solve the problem. We have to bring under cultivation large tracts of fallow lands which are either left for want of water or crops upon which are destroyed by floods. Is it not a tragedy that at the same time and near about the same place some part of the land refuses to grow on account of want of water whereas other parts of land with golden crops on their bosom are washed out. You have to deal with this problem more seriously than before. Petty doles to Provincial Governments for small irrigation works here and there are good patronage, but this is not the real treatment of the problem. The Government must have an all round planning of irrigation policy. It may be on the basis of five or ten years planning, and that must be the starting point and against that planning and against that programme the entire country must be made to travel. If these rivers and irrigations problems are tackled successfully, they will not only give us more food than we require, it will also serve what is known as multilateral purpose. It will give us hydro-electric power, it will give us better health, better sanitation, better river service as a means of communication and transport, and it will also give more employment.

There was a talk of river commission sometime ago. These commissions are in the paper; these commission are not doing anything. In our Congress

[Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal]

Manifesto we have made it clear that we must have river commission so that we can undertake the task of rehabilitating land in order to provide irrigation, and ensure an even and continuous supply of water. That is the thing which we want to hear from Government in all humility. I hope the Honourable the Finance Member will not give his usual reply that popular Government is knocking at the door and everything will be all right. This recent jugglery of phrase is a bit intriguing. My idea is that when they say that the popular Government is coming they are thinking in alternate terms. They are giving E. P. T. relief because in the event of popular Government being introduced they will line up with those persons who are commercial magnates and big financiers so that their trade and commercial interests may be safeguarded. Therefore they are giving relief to blackmarketeers so that they may give them their blessings. But so far as the poor people are concerned, they are not given anything. There is another way of calculation: They feel that if these negotiations which are coming up fail, there may be another movement. Therefore they think that the people must be kept stuck up in the mud of starvation so that they cannot get into a popular rising. I submit, Sir, that this is wrong. I hope the Government knows the I. N. A. spirit and the recent spirit that has grown out of it. The toleration of people has reached its last degree, and, Sir, when the hungry millions know that they have been tricked into it, their agitation will not only consume the last vestige of British power here, but it will make the worm in Great Britain turn in his grave. There is no use talking of this. I will only refer to one paragraph of the Honourable the Finance Member's speech where he has stated that we must solve these problems as problems of war. He said that they have conquerred the war outside, but the war inside is there. These things have to be tackled as wartime measures.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member has spoken for fourteen minutes.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: The Honourable Member must make the Government go ahead in the spirit of war-time activity. They must bring more food to our people. They must arrange for more cotton cultivation so that we can have more cloth to protect ourselves against the weather. They must go into the question of the recommendations of the Bhore Committee which have been published today. Our mothers and children have been driven to the walls. We cannot talk of industry and commerce when they are dying. We do not mind deficits if our people still live. If they die then nobody can live. It is clear mockery to indulge in phrases which lead us neither to prosperity nor near to a solution of our problems.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma (Cities of the United Provinces: Non-Muhammadan Urban): When I took it upon myself to speak on the budget, I found myself in the position in which the father of the ex-Premier of England, Mr. Churchill, found himself. He said after scrutinising the budget papers: "What are those damn dots"? I cannot claim any knowledge of finance or economics, yet I feel I should say something which, though it has been repeated in the House by many speakers, yet may bear repetition once again. Sir, an esteemed friend of mine during a budget debate on a previous occasion said about the then Finance Member that he was suffering from the inflation of his "Ego" and the deflation of his intelligence. After having very carefully read the Honourable the Finance Member's speech, I can honestly say that such diatribes cannot be hurled at him. His budget oration breathes of sincerity; and what little I have heard of him, and seen of him, has convinced me that he is out and out a gentleman, a sincere, honest gentleman, who wants to tackle those huge, complicated, knotty and difficult problems which this global war that has ended has left as an accursed legacy. According to his best lights, he has tried to make the best of a bad job. He has, though immersed in figures—a

dry business indeed—not lost that broad human sympathy which is seen in the opening sentences of his budget speech. All the same, Sir, as I said, it is a bad job that he had to tackle and perhaps he could not do it better, situated as he was. Under a free India, if we have him as our economic expert, perhaps he may be able to do much more than what he has been able to do in his present circumstances. Though he has tried to set at rest that financial equilibrium which has been violently shaken by the last Armageddon, yet I find that he has not succeeded and while paying my tribute to his sincerity of purpose I think I shall be failing in my duty if I do not indulge in a little plain speaking.

As a result of this war we find ourselves in a deplorable condition. This land of ours, which has been described by our poets as *sujalam suphalam malyajsheetlam*, a land flowing with milk and honey, has been suffered immeasurable devastation. Our manhood has been stunted. Our finances have been shattered and we find ourselves in a quandary. In the words of the Finance Member, our industries, our machines have been worked almost to a breaking point. Now, Sir, this being the case, we have to take into consideration how is it that our country which had nothing to do with this war was yet dragged into it. It is not the time for me just now to say anything about those compelling circumstances which were responsible for getting our country dragged into this war. And yet, we cannot feel thinking that all this could have been avoided, if from the time of the end of the last war the British foreign policy had been worked on right lines. I think it was that policy which was responsible for bringing about this conflagration. From 1918 to 1939, we find the British foreign policy in a state of flux. The one desire at that moment, during those years, was somehow to do Russia in the eye, with the result that Germany was egged on to pursue that will-o-the-wisp of *Drang Nach Osten*. The supine policy of appeasement and of the consequential effects thereof ultimately set the world ablaze. Now, Sir, that was not of our seeking but that certainly came upon us all the same. The Congress' stand in this respect was very clear. We hated Fascism, we hated Nazism and we hated Jingoism of every sort. We were prepared to shoulder the responsibility of fighting for the common cause knowing as we did that our present masters were not capable of doing the job properly, and yet our offer of co-operation was thrown to the winds.

Sir Stafford Cripps came and so many talks followed and we found ourselves in the wildness at long last. Though the responsibility for this war was not ours, yet we had to suffer all the same and the amount of suffering which our nation has undergone will be clear from those staggering astronomical figures which can be gleaned from the memorandum that has been supplied to us by the Honourable the Finance Member.

During the 7 pre-war years 1933-34 to 1939-40 if we add up the net revenue, we find that it amounts to 558·79 crores. I have purposely taken the year 1939-40 also in this group, because it gives me a group of 7 years and 1939-40 was a semi-war year. And if we look at the figures of the 7 war years, 1940-41 to 1946-47 we find that our revenue has increased to 1612·32 crores, which is nearly three times as much as the pre-war revenue. It means that our people were bled white, that our nation had to pay through her nose, that many of our nation-building activities had to be curtailed and that many of our people had to die of starvation. This is ultimately what it has meant. Look at the defence expenditure. The net defence expenditure during those 7 pre-war years 1933-34 to 1939-40 amounts to 322·26 crores; but during the 7 war years 1940-41 to 1946-47 it amounts to 1766·28 crores, which is 5 times more than the pre-war figure. This is not the end of the story. Our sterling holdings with the Reserve Bank of India have amounted to 1,677 crores and that reckless prodigality with which the Finance Department indulged in production of notes has resulted in sending into circulation notes worth 1200·19 crores up to the end of December 1945.

[Pandit Balkrishna Sharma]

When I take only the defence expenditure I find that there are many things as the Deputy Leader of my party has pointed out, which are not given. But there is one item which can give me and the House an idea of the nature of this defence expenditure. It is said that we shall have 10 R. I. A. F. squadrons in our country and 9 R. A. F. squadrons for our defence purposes. The cost of these 9 R. A. F. squadrons comes to Rs. 3,50,11,000, whereas the cost of the 10 R. I. A. F. squadrons comes to Rs. 1,34,13,000. This alone shows what a costly affair it is to have the foreign element in our army.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member has spoken for 14 minutes.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: Sir, my friend on my right will be good enough to forego 3 or 4 minutes of his own and therefore I hope you will kindly permit me to have a few more minutes.

Out of a total of Rs. 4,84,24,000, if we abolish altogether the luxury of having these 9 R. A. F. squadrons we can have 35 R. I. A. F. squadrons.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: You are wrong.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: Our leader pointed out that a third world war is now in the offing. So far as India is concerned, we are not very anxious to fight with anybody and no one is anxious to fight with us. Russia is not our enemy. China is not our enemy.

An Honourable Member: Britain is not our enemy.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: For thousands of years we had our frontiers unprotected on the North East side and we never feared an invasion from China. Russia with all her ideological fervour is certainly not an imperialist power as some friends try to make out. Of course for her own self-preservation she has to do something but that is not by way of imperialism. Therefore I say a third world war is in the offing and if the British Government think that they can drag us into that war also, all I can say is that they will not find us willing partners. Of course we want our borders to be protected but we want the Indianisation of our army also. The Honourable the War Secretary in his memorandum has said at one place that the Wilcox Committee was set up towards the end of 1944 to report on the size and composition of the army and the air force required in India after the demobilisation and he also said that till today that report has not been made. Perhaps it is in the War Department . . . . . .

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member is not allowed to read books here.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: Perhaps, Sir, he (Sir Archibald Rowlands) might be consulting some books.

The Wilcox Committee has not reported even till today as to what the composition of our army is to be and what is to be its strength. That is the position in which we find ourselves. I will not touch upon many aspects of the budget because I think my Honourable friend will not permit me to take up any more of his time. I have many observations to make, but I can only say today that the budget as it has been presented, though it has been prepared with a sincerity of purpose, yet has failed to achieve the objective which the Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands had before him.

Sri Jagannathdas (Balasore *cum* Sambalpur: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I do not like to go into the details of the budget as it has been covered by my friends before me. Neither am I going to criticise the Finance Member because I know that he cannot do what he wants. The momentum of the pendulum cannot be changed at once; and so I at once refer to the speech made by my friend Col.

Chatterjee there. He said that Delhi is full of waste paper—more so than any other city in the world. I think these waste papers must be made by the budget estimates of which our friend Sir Archibald Rowlands is an adept. I have heard our friend Sir Edward Benthall while introducing his railway budget that this was his last budget. So also our friend Sir Archibald Rowlands says that this is his first and last budget. Why should this be his last budget? Why should they be so much defeatist in their mentality? Why should they not frame many more budgets, but they must quit India as they are now our masters, but nobody denies them a place here as our servants, to suffer the squalor and disease and illiteracy; that is all . . . . .

Prof. N. G. Ranga: They do not want to do that.

Sri Jagannathdas: Why should they not do it? They were strong enough to fight this war without money because they had that sincerity. I ask them to be sincere now and to be one of us like ourselves and fight this squalor and this disease and this illiteracy. The background of exploitation must be given up. We want them to quit India in that sense. They have given us literature, they have given us history and everything for which we praise them; but we hate them when they become our masters and exploit us. So in the budget that impression must be interpreted—they cannot give it up. Mahatma Gandhi says that when the National Government comes they can tackle this problem successfully—the food problem. The food problem is a serious problem, though the Finance Member has mentioned little about it in his budget speech. The food problem is such that it is not very easy on the part of this Government, with their supply and control departments so elaborately organised, to tackle it. The control by these officers must go because by these control they fill their own pockets, because they are the direct employees of these exploiters and so they exploit as much as they can these poor people. We are very eager to supply food to whom? To those who produce the food, to those who produce these comforts. It is a paradox, it is a tragic paradox that those who produce the food do not get it. We are talking about the supply of food. They are nobody; they cannot ever get anything. We control, we sell, we hoard, we do everything to deprive them of their proper share. In this Food Department, statistics were laid on the table by Sir Jogendra Singh in 1943 and those statistics give us food for thought, though not for our stomachs. This statement which was placed in the Council of State on the 12th August gives an account of the average production of food-grains as well as the imports and exports thereof in the case of each major province in India, their respective position, as regards food supply every year. This will show how effective is our system, how we do not care for anything besides figures. We do not go into the real meaning of things. In the case of Assam the *per capita* production per year stands at 4·89 maunds as against a *per capita* consumption of 4·6 maunds. In Bengal it is 4·14 maunds and 4·15 maunds respectively. The corresponding figures in Bihar are 4·26 maunds of production and 4·42 maunds of consumption. In Bombay the figures are 4·87 as against a consumption of 5·28. The C. P. produces 7·39 maunds per head per year the consumption being 6·33 maunds. In Madras the figures for production are 4·46 maunds and 4·92 maunds for consumption respectively. In N.-W. F. P. the production is 5·47 maunds against a consumption 5·51 maunds. In the case of my own poor province, Orissa, the production per head is 5·45 maunds where as her consumption per head stands at the very low figure of 3·61 maunds. In the Punjab the corresponding figures are 5·95 maunds and 4·85 maunds respectively. Sind has a *per capita* production of 7·94 maunds and a consumption figure of 5·71 maunds. In the United Provinces the figures are, production 5·06 maunds and consumption 5 maunds.

The figures of consumption worked out per adult male unit per day stand as follows (in ounces): Assam 22·1 ounces, Bengal 20 ounces, Bihar 21·2.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member has got two minutes more.

Sri Jagannathdas: I shall finish. My friend took a few minutes more; I shall take only a few minutes. Bombay 25·3 ounces, C. P. 30·4 ounces, Madras 24 ounces, N.-W.F.P. 26·5 ounces, Orissa, 17·3 ounces, Punjab 23·3 ounces, Sind 27·5 ounces, and U. P. 24 ounces. From these statistics it appears that judged by standards of consumption, as compared with production, Assam, Bengal, Bihar, Bombay and Madras are deficit areas. The deficit in N.-W. F. P. being almost negligible. Of the remaining five provinces Orissa produced the largest surplus per head of population by imposing a very miserable standard of consumption upon her own population. The C. P. come next in point of surplus and it is remarkable that the standard of consumption in the case of C. P. is also the highest of all the provinces in India. The above figures indicate the varying degrees of urgency of the examination of the food problem in each province, from the point of view of attainment of self-sufficiency and improvement in the standard of consumption. From these figures it appears that we care very little for our food problem. We have got our departments, we have got our agricultural institutes, and research institutes and everything. But what do they produce except figures? As you, Sir, said this morning that more pay will attract those who bring better brains in to the service for better work. But what can better brains do when they are faced with a stone wall? The stone wall must be broken first. I ask Sir Archibald Rowlands to be one of us to break the wall of exploitation first and then be with us in framing as many budgets as may be necessary for future Independant India.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 5th March, 1946.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 5th March, 1946

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS †

WRITTEN ANSWERS

PRODUCTION OF INDUSTRIAL ALCOHOL

663. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state the total amount of molasses arising out of sugar manufactured in India, and how much of it is used for the production of industrial alcohol?

(b) To what other purposes, if any, it is put at present, and how much is exported?

(c) How many factories for the production of industrial alcohol exist in India, and what was their total annual production?

(d) Is it a fact that the relative consumption of industrial spirit in motor cars is higher than petrol, and the cost of production is higher than the c.i.f. price of petrol?

(e) Do Government propose to explain why the production of industrial alcohol is discouraged in India by the levy of the same duty as on petrol?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) Approximately 400,000 tons and 150,000 tons respectively.

(b) Molasses are also used as fuel in boilers, in tobacco—curing, manuring, in the manufacture of Crude Sugar, and as a cattle feed ingredient. Khandari molasses are used for Gur manufacture and for food. No export is allowed.

(c) There are 35 factories producing upwards of 8 million gallons per annum. Of these, 13 factories are capable of producing between them some 4 million gallons of anhydrous or 'power' alcohol, from rectified spirit. The other factories produce rectified spirit of varying strength.

(d) Both anhydrous alcohol or rectified spirit, if used alone as a motor spirit, are less efficient than petrol. Anhydrous alcohol can be mixed with petrol, and when mixed in certain proportions the mixture is said to be as efficient as or more efficient than petrol. In other proportions the mixture is less efficient, and the degree of efficiency varies with the amount of petrol added. The cost of manufacturing industrial alcohol is at present higher than the c. i. f. price of petrol.

(e) Government have no desire to discourage the production of industrial alcohol. In view of what has been stated in reply to parts (c) and (d) it will be clear that differential taxation based on such variable factors would not be feasible. Where industrial alcohol is used for other purposes than as motor spirit it is not subjected to central excise.

DISPOSAL OF GOVERNMENT OWNED INDUSTRIAL PLANTS

664. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state how many of the factories constructed wholly by Government funds, whose list was given in a statement in reply to starred question No 743, dated the 7th March, 1945, have stopped production, and how many men have been thrown out of work?

(b) How much of this plant has been disposed of already, and what is Government's policy with regard to the disposal of this plant?

†The question hour for the day having been dispensed with, the answers were laid on the table of the House.—*Ed. of D.*

(c) Has any arrangement been reached? If so, what is it with regard to extensions of factories brought about with financial assistance from Government?

(d) What is the arrangement with such firms with regard to the disposal of the plant or the return of Government moneys?

(e) Have these firms the option to acquire the plant? If so, on what terms and conditions?

(f) With how many has a final settlement been reached?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) and *first part* of (b). A statement is laid on the table.

Second part of (b) and (c). Where the terms of agreements require that the holding contractors should be given the first option to purchase, the plants are sold to them. In other cases the policy is to dispose of the plants in accordance with the principles stated in the reply given on the 22nd February 1946, to part (f) of starred question No. 486.

(d), (e) and (f). Arrangements for the disposal of extensions of factories financed by Government vary according to the terms of the agreements with the individual firms. Detailed information about each factory concerned is not readily available, and the time and labour involved in collecting it would be incommensurate with the apparent value of the result.

Statement

Factories erected wholly at Government cost that have stopped production	Number of men thrown out of employment	Plant already disposed of
No. 5 Civil Maintenance Unit, Barrackpore	1,772	None.
No. 6, Civil Maintenance Unit, Poona	2,000 appx.	None.
No. 12, Civil Maintenance Unit, Santa Cruz, Bombay.	604	None.
No. 10, Civil Maintenance Unit, Ramrajtollah, Bengal.	110	None.
No. 16, Civil Maintenance Unit, Sion, Bombay	95	None.
Parachute Factory, Sailkot	3,415	None.
Clothing Factory, Sialkot	558	None.
Government stabilised Bleaching Powder Factory Rishra, Calcutta.	Figures not available.	None.
Dusol Plant	Ditto	Whole.
Hydrogen Plant, Rishra	Ditto	None.
Branch Harness and Saddlery Factory, Madras	179	None.
Government Silk Filature Kollegal, Madras	Figures not available.	Whole.
The Kankanhalli Filature, Mysore.	Ditto	Whole.
Government Sawmill, Khandwa (C. P.)	Ditto	None.
Government Sawmill, Seoni (C. P.)	Ditto	None.
Government Sawmill, Ghorpuri	Ditto	None.
Government Sawmill, Jhelum	Ditto	None.
Government Sawmill, Chheharata	Ditto	None.
Medical Store Depot, Factory Chheharata, Amritsar	753	None.
S. S. Hilda floating workshops, Bombay	400	None.

CONSTITUTION OF AIR TRANSPORT LICENSING BOARD

665. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state on what basis the constitution of the proposed Air Transport Licensing Board is fixed?

(b) Will the members be selected by the Government of India alone, or will Provincial Governments be invited to select the members?

(c) If the reply is in the negative, what is the reason for not associating Provincial Governments very closely with this important work?

(d) By what method is it expected to correlate air transport with other modes of transport, in which Provincial Governments have supreme authority?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) The Honourable Member is referred to rule 135 of the rules published in the *Gazette of India* of the 26th January, 1946, under the Posts and Air Department's Notification No. 11-H(A) 1/46, dated the 23rd January 1946, for the licensing of all transport services. The rules have been laid on the table of the House.

(b) The Chairman and Members of the Air Transport Licensing Board will be appointed by the Central Government.

(c) The appointment will be made by the Central Government, as "Aviation" is a Central Government responsibility.

(d) By "other modes of transport", the Honourable Member is apparently referring to road transport. It is not expected that there will be any conflict of interest between air transport and road transport. The Provincial Governments will, however, be consulted as and when necessary.

FERENCE TO ALIEN INTERESTS AND COMPANIES IN ALLOCATING AIR ROUTES

666. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state to which companies different air routes have been allotted in the scheme already promulgated and sponsored by the Government of India?

(b) How many companies applied and how many of those, who have received allotment, are British or British sponsored Indian companies, and how many are Indian firms and Indian sponsored Indian companies?

(c) Who made the allotment, and why has undue preference been given to alien interests and alien companies in India?

(d) Did the Honourable Member make the following remarks at a conference convened by him in April 1944: "Our memorandum makes it clear that as regards India's internal air services, they should be the sole concern of India and that the policy of Government is to develop civil aviation in India with Indian capital under Indian management, and to afford training and opportunities for employment to Indians, in the matter of international services, India will claim full reciprocal rights, and in the case of the participation of India in any through services, such participation shall be not only financial but technical as well as operational. I trust that this policy will meet with your full approval"?

(e) How do Government reconcile the abovementioned profession and concern for Indian interests with the manner in which licences are being given already to non-Indian concerns?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) No allotment of air routes has so far been made to any company. Purely temporary arrangements have been made with Tata Air Lines and Indian National Airways for the operation of commercial air services in continuation of war time arrangements till the new plans of the Government of India are put into effect.

(b) No applications were called for the operation of air services. The second part of the question does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes.

(e) Does not arise.

EFFECT OF RUPEES REALISED BY AGENTS OF U. S. A. GOVERNMENT THROUGH DISPOSAL OF GOODS IN TRADING OPERATIONS

667. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state whether there has been any negotiation with regard to

the finance in rupees realised by the agents of the U.S.A. Government from disposal of their material in India, and how and when it is to be used either for the purchase of commodities or to be converted in dollars?

(b) What precautions has the Finance Department taken to see that the finance arising out of the sale of American goods in India belonging to the U.S.A. Government (Disposals Section) does not interfere with the normal trading operations of the civil population?

(c) Have there been any direct negotiations between the Government of India and the U.S.A. Government on this subject?

(d) Has any agreement been reached?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) to (d). Negotiations took place with representatives of the U. S. Government and resulted in an agreement regarding the disposal of surplus goods in India belonging to the U. S. A. Government. This agreement provided that the rupee proceeds of sales of such surpluses made by the U. S. authorities in India could be used only for meeting U. S. Government or military expenditure and for no other purpose. Any balance left was to be the subject of further negotiations between the two Governments. Subsequent negotiations have resulted in an agreement which provides for the taking over by the Government of India on agreed terms which will be finally settled by subsequent negotiations in Washington of all U. S. Government surplus property in India that had not already been sold or offered for sale under the previous agreement.

EUROPEANS IN CERTAIN OFFICES MADE PERMANENT

668. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) the offices in the Supply Department that were created after the beginning of the war, and how many of them are now made permanent;

(b) the number of the officers who had been recruited temporarily but who are being entertained permanently;

(c) how many of these newly confirmed officers are Europeans and how many Indians; and

(d) whether Government propose to keep in abeyance their decision or enforcement of their decision as to the permanency or otherwise of the new offices created since the war until after Government consults the Finance Department, and the Standing Committees for Finance and Industries and Supplies?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) The following offices were created:

(1) The Directorates General of Supply, Munitions Production, Shipbuilding and Repairs, Aircraft, and Disposals;

(2) The offices of the Iron and Steel Control, Electrical Commissioner, Coal Commissioner;

(3) The offices of Chief Controllers of Purchase, Supply, and Munitions;

(4) Offices of the Controllers of Supplies, Calcutta, Bombay, Karachi, Cawnpore, Madras, and Lahore;

(5) Offices of the Port Shipping Officers, Calcutta, Bombay, Karachi, Madras and Assistant Port Shipping Officer, Cochin;

(6) Chief Registration Officer; and

(7) India Supply Mission U. S. A.

Of these various offices, the Chief Controllers of Purchase have been merged in the Directorates General of Supply and Munitions, which will shortly merge along with the Directorates General of Ship-building and Repairs and Aircraft in the Directorate General, Industries and Supplies. The offices of Controllers of Supplies have been wound up. None of the wartime offices referred to has been made permanent.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) It has been decided in consultation with Finance Department that the Department of Industries and Supplies will be placed on a permanent basis, but

no decision has so far been reached as to how many posts under it in various grades will be made permanent. This question will be decided in consultation with Finance Department and the Standing Finance Committee. The Standing Committee attached to the Department of Industries and Supplies is not concerned.

SUPPLY OF IRON AND STEEL FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES

669. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) the quantities per month of iron and steel and plating materials placed at the disposal of Provincial Governments and other civil authorities for distribution among agriculturists for agricultural purposes during the six months previous to the cessation of hostilities with Japan and ever since thereafter; and

(b) what special steps are now being taken to increase the supply of iron and steel for agricultural purposes?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) A statement giving the approximate tonnages of iron and steel allocated per month for agricultural purposes during the period from February, 1945, to March 1946, is laid on the table.

(b) The Honourable Member will see from the statement referred to in answer to part (a) of the question that the monthly allotment of iron and steel for agricultural purposes has now risen to three times what it was a year ago. Every endeavour is being made to ensure that this quantity is placed within the reach of the agriculturists at controlled prices through registered stockists all over the country. The limits of unlicensed sales have been increased considerably.

Statement

Months	Allotment (in tons)
February, 1945	7058
March, 1945	7058
April, 1945	6719
May, 1945	6719
June, 1945	6719
July, 1945	8700
August, 1945	8700
September, 1945	8700
October, 1945	9115
November, 1945	9115
December, 1945	9115
January, 1946	21243
February, 1946	21243
March, 1946	21243

MONEY SPENT ANNUALLY ON TRIBAL TERRITORIES AND POLITICAL AGENCIES OF NORTH-WEST FRONTIER

670. *Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: (a) Will the Foreign Secretary please state how much money is spent annually on tribal territories and the political agencies of the North-West Frontier (excluding Baluchistan)?

(b) How is it distributed among the following heads of expenditure.
(i) Public work, (ii) Schools, (iii) Hospitals, and (iv) Entertainment?

(c) How much does an average tribesman get per year as subsidy?

Mr. H. Weightman: (a) and (b). I place a statement on the Table showing the actual total expenditure in the Tribal Areas of the North-West Frontier for the years 1943-44, 1944-45, and the revised estimate for 1945-46, and figures of expenditure under the heads mentioned by the Honourable Member.

(c) Government are not clear what the Honourable Member has in mind but the answer to this part of the question as he has put it is that no subsidy is paid to any tribesman as an individual.

Statement showing total annual expenditure on the Tribal Areas of the North West Frontier and expenditure under certain specified heads

	Actuals of 1943-44	Actuals of 1944-45	Revised estimate for 1945-46
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
(a)	2,23,20,179	2,26,43,434	2,51,64,200
(b) (i) Public Works .	30,11,025	38,61,879	32,59,300
(ii) Schools . .	1,40,946	1,54,320	1,68,000
(iii) Hospitals . .	4,76,970	5,11,284	5,10,200
(iv) Entertainment .	4,04,269	4,20,257	4,12,900

POLITICAL AGENT AS MAGISTRATE

671. *Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: (a) Will the Foreign Secretary please state what law or statute the Political Agent applies when he functions as Magistrate?

(b) To what court does an appeal lie against the decisions of the Political Agent in ordinary judicial matters?

Mr. H. Weightman: (a) Assuming the question to refer to the Tribal Areas beyond the Western and Northern boundaries of the N. W. F. P., the answer is: The Code of Criminal Procedure, The Frontier Crimes Regulation, The Frontier Murderous Outrages Regulation: as applied by External Affairs Department Notification No. 8-W of 3rd September 1939.

(b) The Judicial Commissioner, N. W. F. P., from sentences of death, transportation, or imprisonment for a term exceeding one year passed by a Political Agent in exercise of jurisdiction under the Criminal Procedure Code. There is no appeal against any sentence passed under the Frontier Crimes Regulation or the Frontier Murderous Outrages Regulation, but the Agent to the Governor-General, N. W. F., or an officer appointed by him, exercises the revisionary powers of a Commissioner under the former Regulation.

TRANSFORMATION OF STATUS FROM POLITICAL AGENCY TO SETTLED DISTRICT

672. *Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: (a) If the people of a Political Agency want to form part of settled districts will the Foreign Secretary please state what course is open to them to accomplish this?

(b) If there is no such course open to them, will the Honourable Member please state if any objections exist to the provision of such a course?

Mr. H. Weightman: (a) It is presumed that by the expression "people of a Political Agency" the Honourable Member means the inhabitants of Tribal Territory beyond the northern and western limits of the British Indian districts of the North-West Frontier Province. The inhabitants of any part of such territory can always make their wishes known to Government through the Political Officer who conducts relations with them and who will transmit their wishes for the consideration of Government. Since however one necessary consequence of incorporating any such area in a Settled District would be that the tribesmen concerned would become liable to pay the taxes applicable in the North West Frontier Province the question would seem to be hypothetical.

(b) Does not arise.

NEWSPRINT QUOTA TO PUBLISHERS

673. *Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state:

(a) the figures of the new publishers and new periodicals started after the 12th June 1944; and

(b) the quotas of newsprint each such individual new publisher has been allotted, and the basis for allotting these quotas?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) The number of new periodicals permitted to be brought out on paper other than newsprint since the promulgation of the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944, on 12th June 1944, is 66. No new publisher have been permitted to start a publishing business after that date.

(b) As no new publishers have been allowed to come into the field the question of allotment of quotas to them does not arise.

INDIA'S MEMBERSHIP TO LEAGUE OF NATIONS

674. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Foreign Secretary please state:

(a) whether India is still a member of the League of Nations; if so, whether she pays any subscription, and what it is; and

(b) whether Government propose to take necessary steps to withdraw from League of Nations?

Mr. H. Weightman: (a) Yes. India's contribution to the League of Nations for 1946 amounts to approximately Rs. 14,20,000.

(b) No. It is expected that the League of Nations will be dissolved in the near future and that certain of its functions, activities and assets will be transferred to the United Nations; it would not be in India's interest to withdraw from it at this stage.

INDIA'S MEMBERSHIP TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

675. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Foreign Secretary please state what the International organisations are of which India is a member, giving a complete list of names together with the amounts of subscription payable by India?

Mr. H. Weightman: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable the Finance Member. It has accordingly been transferred to the list of questions for the 8th March, 1946, when it will be answered by the Honourable the Finance Member.

TRADE RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA

676. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Foreign Secretary please state:

(a) whether Government contemplate to open negotiations with the U.S.S.R. with a view to establishing trade relations with Russia;

(b) how the trade is now governed between the U.S.S.R. and India; whether it is open to any commercial concern to establish commercial contacts and do business there; and

(c) whether there is any Russian concern carrying on business now in India, and *vice versa*; if so, their names and the nature of the business done by them?

Mr. H. Weightman: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable the Commerce Member. It has accordingly been transferred to the list of questions for the 12th March 1946, when it will be answered by the Honourable the Commerce Member.

PLANTS FOR NEWLY ESTABLISHED TEXTILE FACTORIES

677. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state:

(a) how many new textile factories have been sanctioned by Government, and whether more of such factories will be sanctioned;

(b) by what time it would be possible for them to get their plants;

(c) whether the plants will be brought from the United Kingdom or the United States of America; what steps Government are taking to facilitate their import; and

(d) whether India has got any machineries from Japan as her share of reparations after the Japanese factories were dismantled by the Allies?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) The Committee set up by Government to draw up a plan for India's textile expansion has recommended an

increase of 2·75 million spindles over existing spindleage. This recommendation involves the establishment of some 130 new factories. No final decision has yet been taken by Government on this recommendation.

(b) It is difficult to give any precise answer to this as our ability to get textile manufacturing machinery from overseas is dependent partly on the speed of industrial reconversion in the U. K. and U. S. A. and partly on the relative priority of Indian orders in manufacturers' books. The latest information is that we cannot hope for any quick imports of the quantity of textile machinery that India needs.

(c) Mostly from the United Kingdom, partly from the United States of America. Government will facilitate import by issuing import licences and, in the case of plant coming from the U. S. A., by affording dollar facilities. The Government of India have urged upon His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and on manufacturers in England the urgent necessity of supplying India with her requirements of textile machinery, and an important function of both the India Supply Commission in London and the India Supply Mission in Washington is to give all possible assistance to Indian industrialists in securing quick deliveries against their orders.

(d) Not yet. The whole question of Japanese reparations is under examination by the Governments concerned. India's need for textile machinery will be kept prominently in mind in the discussions on reparations.

WHEREABOUTS OF MR. SURESH CHANDRA

678. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Is the Foreign Secretary aware that Mr. Suresh Chandra went for studies to France in 1937?

(b) Is he also aware that the above gentleman went to Berlin in 1940-41 and then joined the Indian Legion?

(c) Is he also aware that Mr. Suresh Chandra joined Free Indian Movement in his capacity as a civilian and not as a member of the British Indian Forces?

(d) Will he kindly state the present whereabouts of Mr. Suresh Chandra and whether he is going to be brought to India? If so, when?

Mr. H. Weightman: (a) The Government of India are aware that Mr. Suresh Chandra was in Europe during the war.

(b) and (c). They understand that he was working at the Free India Centre, Berlin, as a civilian.

(d) He has not yet been located and the question of his repatriation cannot be considered until he has been found.

FERRY STAFF OF MOKAMA GHAT ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY

679. *Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Is the Honourable the Railway Member aware that the Ferry staff of the Mokama Ghat on the Oudh and Tirhut Railway are paid only Re. -/5/- to Re. -/8/- as daily wages or Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 per month though they are in the service for over a decade?

(b) Is it a fact that they have to work from fourteen to twenty-four hours per day in some cases, though the maximum hours of work provided in the Regulations is only 84 hours a week, in the case of intermittent work and 60 hours a week in the case of continued work?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The unskilled and semi-skilled Ferry Staff on the O. T. Railway, all of whom are on monthly rates of pay, were formerly in receipt of pay in scales ranging from Rs. 8 to Rs. 18 p.m. and Rs. 12 to Rs. 20 p.m. respectively. With effect from 1st April, 1945, however these scales have been revised and range from Rs. 10 to Rs. 19 p.m. in the case of unskilled Ferry staff, and between Rs. 15 and Rs. 24 p.m. in the case of semi-skilled Ferry staff. The foregoing figures represent basic pay. In addition, the staff concerned are in receipt of dearness allowance in cash and relief in the shape of cheap foodgrains to the extent of Rs. 25 p.m.

(b) Government are informed that the Ferry staff concerned are not required to work beyond the limits fixed under the Hours of Employment Regulations.

TIMBER PURCHASED BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

680. *Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state:

(a) the total quantity of Indian timber purchased by the Government of India for the years 1939-40, 1940-41, 1941-42, 1942-43, 1943-44, 1944-45, 1945-46;

(b) the total price paid by Government for the timber so purchased for the above years; and

(c) the total quantity of timber purchased by the Government of India for other agencies such as, His Majesty's Government or other Governments, for the above years?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) The total quantity of Indian timber purchased by the Government of India before January, 1941 was insignificant. The purchases during the five calendar years 1941-45 were 564,000 tons, 560,000 tons, 1,316,000 tons, 1,112,000 tons and 950,000 tons respectively.

(b) The total value of timber purchased during these five calendar years was approximately 41·6 crores of rupees.

(c) All timber purchases mentioned in reply to part (a) of the question were initially made by debit to an H. M. G. head of account and recoveries were made in respect of timber issued for purposes other than defence. The details of issues are approximately as shown below:—

	Tons
1. Defence	3,881,000
2. Railways (this excludes purchases made directly by Railways).	190,000
3. Central P. W. D.	61,000
4. Other miscellaneous indentors including Provincial Government Departments, Post and Telegraphs, Bengal boat Building and private parties.	320,000
5. U. S. Forces	50,000
Total	4,502,000

FORWARD TRANSACTIONS IN COTTON AND *KAPPAS*

681. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state whether, after the prohibition of forward transactions in cotton and *kappas* in 1943 (*vide* Commerce Department Notification No. P. & S. C. 56/43, dated the 19th May 1943), Government permitted resumption of such transactions in certain places? If so, in what places?

(b) Was such permission to resume forward transactions in cotton, cotton seeds and other commodities given in pursuance of a general policy which deemed such restrictions no longer necessary?

(c) Has permission been refused to resume such transactions in the town of Beawar (Ajmer-Merwara)? If so, why?

(d) In what places in British India are forward delivery transactions in commodities other than cotton at present being carried on, and in what commodities?

(e) Are Government aware that the transactions of this nature in cotton and other various commodities are being carried on in various States in India? If so, are Government aware that by prohibition of this trade in British India the entire trade by the residents of British India is transacted now in the Indian States, and, as such the public is being put to great inconvenience, and that Government also suffer loss of income-tax and other revenue?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) Yes, Sir. Forward trading in cotton and *kappas* is permitted only in the ring of the East Indian Cotton Association, Bombay, and the Karachi Cotton Association.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir, because Beawar is not a highly important cotton centre like Bombay or Karachi.

(d) Restrictions in forward dealings in bullion, which were applicable throughout British India, have been withdrawn with effect from the 25th February, 1946. Forward trading in respect of oil seeds, vegetable oils and oilcakes, spices, wheat and grain is still prohibited throughout British India, and no relaxations have been made. Forward trading in rice is prohibited in some provinces.

(e) No, Sir. Similar restrictions have been imposed in all important States also.

NATIONALISATION OF COAL INDUSTRY

682. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state if Government are ware that there exists a serious conflict between the capitalists as producers of coal and consumers, and that the two conflicting points of view have always been presented to Government by the divergent interests of the coal producers and consumers at the time of fixing selling price of coal?

(b) Is it a fact that this conflict has become all the more accentuated during the war and that it has been seriously affecting the coal industry and the production of coal?

(c) Is it a fact that on account of this serious conflict a Coal Consumers' Association has recently been formed in Calcutta? Has any representation been made by this Association to Government? If so, with what results?

(d) What steps, if any, are in contemplation of Government to minimise the chances of conflict in the smooth working in the interest of the coal industry?

(e) Are Government aware that nationalisation of coal industry is suggested as the only solution of this ever-increasing conflict between the producers and consumers? If so, what steps, if any, Government propose to take towards the attainment of this object?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) and (b). No, Sir, I am not aware of serious conflict between the producers and consumers of coal. The present control prices were fixed by Government after taking full account of the views of both producers and consumers. It is not a fact that the prices fixed by Government have adversely affected production of coal.

(c) A Coal Consumers Association was formed in Calcutta, and a representation was received from this Association in July last. The immediate object of the representation was to request Government to give a seat on the proposed Coal Enquiry Committee to the Association. The Association was informed that particular interests have not been given representation on the Committee, which is intended to record evidence of all interested parties. Representatives of both consumers and producers interests will be invited by the Committee to advise on the various problems to be investigated by it.

(d) As the Honourable Member is aware Government have set up an Indian Coal-fields Committee to enquire into the problems of the Coal industry, including an examination of the economics of the coal industry. What measures are necessary will be considered on receipt of the report of the Committee.

(e) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to my reply to starred question No. 455, answered on the 22nd February 1946.

CLOTH SUPPLY IN BIHAR

683. *Choudhury Md. Abid Hussain: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state the procedure for selecting cloth for different Provinces from the Bombay, Ahmadabad and other mills?

(b) Is there any representative from Bihar in the selection committee?

(c) Are Government aware that coarse and unpopular varieties of cloth are frequently sent to the Province of Bihar?

(d) Is it a fact that sometimes prices printed on coarse cloth are higher than those printed on fine cloth?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) Cloth is selected at the producing centres by Provincial buyers, who are nominated by the Provincial Governments, in accordance with the requirements of the provinces they represent. These buyers have the option of rejecting any varieties they do not require, and where rejection is considered justifiable replacement by suitable varieties is arranged by the Textile Commissioner.

(b) There is no selection committee.

(c) Complaints regarding supply of coarse and unpopular varieties to Bihar have occasionally been received. But the Bihar provincial buyers are entirely responsible if they buy unsatisfactory varieties for their province.

(d) Yes, Sir, sometimes. This is due to the construction of the cloth concerned, largely in so far as it concerns the weight of yarn per yard of cloth.

CLOTH CONTROL AND BLACK-MARKETING

684. *Choudhury Md. Abid Hussain: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state what will be the probable duration of the Cloth Control in India?

(b) Are Government aware of the fact that there is a great demand of the public to abolish the cloth control?

(c) Are Government aware that people of rural areas, are the great sufferers, who usually buy their cloth from middlemen who have sprung up due to this Control Order?

(d) Is it not a fact that a large quantity of villagers' share of cloth find its way in the black market?

(e) What policy have the Government of India adopted to check this kind of black marketing and profiteering, and is there any success in that line?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) As long as the general cloth shortage makes it necessary.

(b) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to part (c) of my answer to Starred Question No. 456, asked by Shri Mohan Lal Saksena, on 22nd February 1946.

(c) This is not Government's view. Only licensed dealers are allowed to trade, and licences are normally issued only to established dealers. The control, far from encouraging new comers in the trade, has in fact ousted them.

(d) No, Sir. The periodical reports from Provinces and States indicate that the great bulk of cloth sent from producing areas to consuming areas finds its way to the people.

(e) Government have fixed ceiling prices, which are stamped on the cloth. It is for the consuming public to refrain from paying more than what is shown, and by and large I am satisfied that they do refrain from doing so.

MOLESTATION OF WOMEN BY RAILWAY POLICE AT VICTORIA TERMINUS, BOMBAY

685. *Srijut Dhirendra Kanta Lahiri Choudhury: (a) Is the Honourable the Railway Member aware of the recent incident relating to the molestation of the women travelling public by the staff of the Watch and Ward and of the Government Railway Police at the Victoria Terminus Railway Station on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway? If not, will he please make enquiries and state if it is a fact that he has received a letter of complaint of such an incident which took place on the 22nd October, 1945? If not, what is the fact?

(b) If the reply to (a) be in the affirmative, will he please further state the action taken by him on the said letter? If no action has been taken, why?

(c) Is it a fact that the Station Staff refused to record any such complaint? If not, what is the fact?

(d) What arrangements are made by Government to protect the women travellers from molestation by Government servants either Railway or Police? If no arrangements are made, why?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) A letter regarding such an incident was received in January 1946.

(b) The letter was forwarded to the General Manager, G. I. P. Railway, for disposal.

(c) I understand that the Railway staff were not approached at the time regarding this complaint. However full investigation is now in progress.

(d) I would refer the Honourable Member to Sections 120 and 131 of the Indian Railways' Act and Rule 13, Chapter II, Part II of the General Rules for Indian Railways copies of which are in the Library of the House.

PRODUCTION AND EXPORT OF CLOTH

686. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) the total length in yards of cotton cloth manufactured by mills in India including all varieties, fine, popular and coarse, during the years ending the 31st December, 1943, and the year ending the 31st December, 1944, and the year ending the 31st December, 1945;

(b) the total length in yards of cotton cloth manufactured by mills in India exported to foreign countries—(i) through Government agency, (ii) through private exporters of cotton clothes, and (iii) through the Military Deparment for use in foreign countries—theatres of war during the twelve months of the years 1943, 1944 and 1945; and

(c) the percentage of the Indian manufactured cotton cloth exported to foreign countries as they compare with the total production in the years 1943, 1944 and 1945?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) The output of cotton cloth by mills in India was, in millions of yards:

In 1943, 4,715 million yards.
In 1944, 4,815 million yards.
In 1945, 4,654 million yards.

(b) The quantity of such cloth exported in these years was:

(i) through Government agency—none.

(ii) through private exporters—

In 1943, 566 million yards.
In 1944, 484 million yards.
In 1945, 464 million yards.

These figures include handloom cloth as well as mill made cloth. Separate figures are not easily available, but exports of handloom cloth were small.

(iii) The following quantities were supplied against military demands—

In 1943, 601 million yards.
In 1944, 802 million yards.
In 1945, 575 million yards.

Figures are not available to show how much of this was used by Defence Services in India and outside India separately.

MUSLIMS IN INDUSTRIES AND SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT

687. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of officers retained or proposed to be retained in (i) the Development Branch, (ii) the Procurement Branch, and (iii) the Disposals Branch of his Department;

(b) the number of Muslims in each of the above Branches; and

(c) whether the prescribed Muslim quota is kept up in each of the above Branches; if not, whether Government propose to consider the question of making up the deficiency by appointing suitable discharged temporary Muslim officers or taking in fresh candidates from outside?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) and (b). A statement showing the number of posts sanctioned, number of posts filled and number of Muslims selected, as on 1st March, 1946, is placed on the table.

(c) Not in *each* of the above Branches. But as the overall prescribed Muslim quota has been maintained the second part of the question does not arise.

Statement

	No. of posts sanctioned	No. of posts filled	No. of Muslims
Development Branch	37	30	5
Procurement Branch	50	46	13
Disposals Branch	98	73	21
Total	185	149	39

MUSLIMS IN OFFICE OF ELECTRICAL COMMISSIONER WITH GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, CALCUTTA

688. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of officers in the office of the Electrical Commissioner with the Government of India at Calcutta;

(b) the number of Muslim officers therein;

(c) if it is a fact that all the posts in his office were filled without due publicity and advertisement; if so why;

(d) if it is a fact that some qualified Muslim Engineers with adequate experience, applied for suitable posts of officers in the said office but their services were not accepted; and

(e) whether Government propose to consider the appointment of a sufficient number of Muslim officers in that office to keep up the communal quota?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) 20.

(b) There is none at present.

(c) Yes; all the posts were filled during the war, when the urgency was such that all of the posts could not be advertised nor given wide publicity.

(d) No, Sir; nor would their existing employers agree to release Muslim Engineers with adequate experience located by the Electrical Commissioner.

(e) Yes, Sir; Government would welcome applications from suitably qualified and experienced Muslim candidates.

DISMANTLING OF HABIGANJ-SHAISTAGANJ BRANCH LINE OF BENGAL ASSAM RAILWAY

689. *Mr. Ali Asghar Khan: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state why the Habiganj-Shaistaganj Branch Line of the Bengal Assam Railway was dismantled?

(b) Was it solely for war purpose?

(c) Is the dismantled material lying in some place unused?

(d) Are Government aware that dismantling of the line is causing inconvenience to the public?

(e) Do Government propose to reinstall the line at a very early date? If so, when?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The Shaistaganj-Habiganj branch line of the B. A. Railway was dismantled to provide permanent way materials required for the prosecution of the war.

(b) Yes.

(c) Immediately on release the track materials were allotted for urgent line of communications works on the B. A. Railway.

(d) Government are aware that some inconvenience is always caused to the public when a railway line is dismantled.

(e) This branch line has been selected for pri[illegible] of investigation for restoration.

MANUFACTURE AND USE OF SPIRIT FROM MOLASSES

690. *Mr. B. P. Jhunjhunwala: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state if it is a fact that before the war the Government did not allow the manufacture of spirit from molasses nor the use of the same by mixing it with petrol?

(b) What was the reason for not allowing the manufacture and use? What was the policy underlying the said refusal?

(c) What is the present policy of Government in regard to this? Is there any restriction at present about the manufacture and use? If so, why?

(d) Is it a fact that by rationing Government have been able to save only 25 per cent. of the total consumption of petrol in the country? Are Government aware that if sugar factories had been allowed to manufacture spirit from molasses to be used by mixing it with petrol, this 25 per cent saving could have been made without having to introduce the rationing of petrol?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) During the War and up to the present Government have encouraged the production of motor spirit from molasses. Licences are granted by Provincial or State Governments under their rules. So far as Government is aware, there is no restriction on use of alcohol as motor spirit. The Planning and Development Department have constituted a panel for the development of the power alcohol industry. Its report is expected shortly. The future policy of the Government will be formulated on receipt of the report.

(d) No, Sir. The saving achieved in the civil consumption of petrol averaged 43·8 per cent. between August 1941 and October 1945.

As already explained in reply to part (a) of the question, the manufacture of spirit from molasses was not prohibited, but the output was not sufficient to obviate the need for petrol rationing.

DIFFERENT SCALES OF PAY FOR SAME CLASS OF EMPLOYEES ON DIFFERENT RAILWAYS

691. *Seth Sukhdev: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Train Controllers of the North Western Railway sent a memorial in August last year, protesting against the inadequate revision of their scales of pay introduced with effect from the 1st January, 1945, and drawing their attention to the discrimination in fixing scales of similar workers on the Indian Railways, specially on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway who were given much better scales from the same date;

(b) the main points of the representation, and whether it has been accepted in full or in part; if no decision has yet been arrived at, when it is likely to be given; and

(c) if the representation has been rejected, the precise points of Government's reply in refusing to eliminate discrimination in the scales of pay of the same class of staff on the Indian Railways which were revised only lately?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Government have seen the representation in question and though there is a difference in the scales of pay for controllers on the N. W. and G. I. P. Railways, this was not due to discrimination against the staff of the former.

(b) In regard to the first portion of this part, in the representation the Train Controllers have stated that in view of the importance of the area traversed by the North Western Railway, the volume of work handled by the controllers and the need for unification of scales of pay on all railways, their scales should be brought on to the level of the scales obtaining on the G. I. P. Railway. As regards the remaining portions, the question is being examined in consultation with the North Western Railway.

(c) Does not arise in view of the reply to the preceding parts.

CONTROL STAFF ON RAILWAYS

692. *Seth Sukhdev: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Controllers on the North Western Railway receive better and prolonged training before they are finally selected as Controllers as compared with the conditions on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway; if so, why the Controllers on the North Western Railway have been given lower wages;

(b) if the reply to the first portion of part (a) above be in the negative, whether the Honourable Member proposes to lay on the table of the House a statement showing syllabus of control training courses on the North Western and Great Indian Peninsula Railways; and

(c) whether the Honourable Member also proposes to give a brief idea of the duties and responsibilities of the Control Staff on the two Railways, North Western and Great Indian Peninsula, the volume of work handled by each Controller in his duty hours, the reasons for discrimination in the 1945 revised scales and whether Government propose to raise the scales of the North Western Railway Control Staff to be on par with those of their colleagues on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). Government have no information regarding the exact difference in the duration and quality of training imparted to the Controllers on the North Western and the G. I. P. Railways but they do not consider that there can be material difference in this respect, particularly as the whole question of improving the control organisation has been recently under examination. As regards the latter portion of the question, it has already been stated in reply to part (b) of the preceding question that the matter is still under examination.

(c) I regret I cannot indicate the volume of work handled by each Controller during his duty hours. As regards the duties and responsibilities of the Control staff on the N. W. and G. I. P. Railways, the Honourable Member is referred to the information laid on the table of the House on the 21st January 1946, in reply to part (a), of Lala Sham Lal's Starred Question No. 1032, asked on 15th March, 1945.

The reason for fixing a higher scale of pay for Controllers on the G. I. P. Railway has been stated in my reply to part (d), of Lala Sham Lal's question No. 1031, asked on 15th March, 1945. The reply to the last portion does not arise in view of the reply to part (b) of the preceding question.

RELIEVING OF NOMINEES OF ALL-INDIA RAILWAYMEN'S FEDERATION FOR "EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE TRAINING COURSE".

693. *Seth Sukhdev: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Labour Department of the Government of India asked the All-India Railwaymen's Federation to send twelve nominees

of the Federation for training at the "Employment Exchange Training Course" commencing its session on or about the 10th December, 1945, at Delhi;

(b) whether it is a fact that a representation was made to the Railway Board to relieve twelve nominees of the Federation; if it is also a fact that the Board refused to have anything to do with this course of training; if so, why; if not, what the facts are;

(c) whether Government propose to relieve the nominees of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation for any such future course; if not, why not; and

(d) if the reply to the first portion of (c) above be in the affirmative, whether the employees so nominated will be eligible for (i) study leave under Rule 2125 (Fundamental Rule 84) of the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume II, (ii) Free Passes, and (iii) employment in the Railway Employment or Labour Exchanges; if not, what other facilities and prospects are proposed for such trainees; if none, why?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) At the request of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation, Government signified their consent to admit not more than twelve nominees for the training in question.

(b) The reply to the first two portions of the question is in the negative; the third portion does not arise. As regards the concluding portion, it was with the concurrence of the Railway Department that the Department of Labour admitted the Federation's nominees to the course.

(c) Government have not received a request from the All-India Railwaymen's Federation regarding admission of its nominees for training in future courses but have no objection to relieving such nominees as are railway servants when the time comes. I would however point out that in accordance with the terms offered, the trainees nominated by the Federation as well as those nominated by the All-India Trade Union Congress are exempted only from the payment of tuition fees and have to incur all other expenditure including that on boarding and lodging.

(d) As regards the first two items, it is for the nominees of the Federation to make arrangements for joining the training course by utilising any leave and passes due to them. They are not eligible for study leave.

With regard to railway employment mentioned in item (iii), the Honourable Member is apparently referring to the resettlement organisation on railways. These posts are filled by persons who are eligible by seniority and experience of personnel work and there is no bar to a railway employee nominated by the Federation being considered for the post if he possesses these qualifications.

The vacancies on the managerial staff in Labour Exchanges are filled through the Federal Public Service Commission and there is no bar to the nominees of the Railwaymen's Federation trained in the course being considered for these posts if they possess the necessary qualifications.

INCREASED SUPPLY OF PETROL FOR CIVIL CONSUMPTION

694. *Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: Will the Honourable Member for War Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in view of the improved conditions, the basic coupons for petrol will be doubled in the month of March for motorists; and

(b) if this is not possible, the probable month in which the increase can be made in regard to petrol for civil consumption?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). I am not aware that conditions have as yet improved and I regret that I cannot make any definite statement regarding the future.

ISHURDI-PABNA-SADHUGANJ RAILWAY PROJECT

695. *Maulvi Abdul Hamid Shah: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) whether there was a project at any time for the construction of Ishurdi, Pabna-Sadhuganj Railway; if so, when and why it has not been taken up till now;

(b) whether he is aware that for want of a railway line and discontinuance of regular steamer service, there has been a great set back to the trade of this locality; and

(c) whether in the list that has been drawn up for post-war reconstruction, there is any idea of including this project?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The Ishurdi-Pabna-Sadhuganj Railway project was considered for inclusion in the post-war plan in consultation with the Provincial Government, but it was decided not to include it.

(b) It is understood that there has been no discontinuance of steamer services except the temporary suspension, owing to shoaling of the river, of the Sirajganj Feeder service. Government are, of course, aware of the disadvantages to the trade of a locality which is not directly served by a railway line.

(c) No, Sir.

LIGHTING ARRANGEMENTS ON BENGAL ASSAM RAILWAY (METRE GAUGE)

696. *Maulvi Abdul Hamid Shah: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether lighting arrangements in the passenger coaches of all classes have been made in the Metre Gauge Lines of the Bengal and Assam Railway? If not, when is it going to be made?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Generally the more important trains have lights in the compartments. The B. A. Railway has experienced great difficulty in providing adequate lighting arrangements in all the trains, but active steps have been taken to improve the supply of train lighting lamps. The position should now improve.

INTER CLASS BOGY FROM SANTAHAR TO LALMANIRHAT ON BENGAL ASSAM RAILWAY (METRE GAUGE)

697. *Maulvi Abdul Hamid Shah: Is the Honourable the Railway Member aware that generally one small Inter class bogy is provided in the Metre gauge line from Santahar to Lalmanirhat of the Bengal and Assam Railway and that the said bogy is generally occupied by the Railway employees who travel sometimes with or without pass for their own private business to the inconvenience of the *bona fide* passengers? What steps are intended to be taken to remove this inconvenience of the people?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am informed that on the two passenger trains running between Santahar and Lalmanirhat there is one inter-class compartment for gentlemen and one for ladies. The Railway Administration have not received any complaints that these compartments are generally occupied by railway employees travelling with or without a pass. They have however ordered a special check by the ticket checking staff to ensure that no unauthorised persons occupy these compartments to the inconvenience of the fare paying public.

RE-INTRODUCTION OF WEEK-END AND OTHER RETURN TICKETS

698. *Maulvi Abdul Hamid Shah: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether Return Tickets and Week-End-Return Tickets will be introduced again? If so, when?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The question of introducing Return Tickets and weekend return Tickets by such of the Railways as allowed this concession before the War, will be considered by them when traffic and operating conditions return to normal.

In view of the present congested state of passenger travel, it is not considered that the time is ripe for the general restoration of pre-war concessions, which would tend to aggravate the congestion.

URDU SCHOOL TEACHERS GIVEN POST OFFICE WORK IN BERAR RURAL AREAS

699. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state the number of posts in the cadre of the Postmaster-General, and how many of these posts have been filled by Muslims?

(b) Is it a fact that there are District Council Urdu Primary Schools in rural areas in Berar, and that no Post Office has been given to any of these Urdu School teachers and that there is no move to appoint Urdu School teachers as Branch Postmaster?

(c) Are Government aware that in Berar, Marathi School teachers, generally, do not know Urdu, that Urdu School teachers know Urdu well, that letters having been addressed in Urdu are delayed in delivery, that this was brought to the notice of the Postmaster-General, Central Circle, and that no action has so far been taken to improve the situation?

(d) If the replies to (b) and (c) above are in the affirmative, do Government propose to see that Post Offices in rural areas in Berar are given to the Urdu School teachers also?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) Twelve including one temporary post. There is no Muslim Postmaster-General at present.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative and to the letter in the negative.

(c) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. It is a fact that there have been some complaints of the detention to letters with addresses written in Urdu, but instructions have been issued for transcription of the addresses in Sub-Post Offices and for posting Urdu-knowing Postmen in Branch Offices as far as possible. The arrangement has reduced delays. As vacancies occur, teachers of Urdu Primary Schools will receive a larger share of posts as Branch Postmasters.

(d) Does not arise in view of the replies to parts (b) and (c) of the question.

DEATH OF SHAIKH RAMZAN, MAIL GUARD, R. M. S., J-DIVISION

700. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if it is a fact that in 1943 one Shaikh Ramzan, Mail Guard of the Railway Mail Service J-Division, was compelled to work in the running train in the Railway Mail Service Section while he was ill and that he died in the mail van?

(b) Has any compensation or pension been granted to his dependents?

(c) Has any of his sons been provided in the Posts and Telegraphs Department?

(d) Is it a fact that the supervising officer did not travel in the mail van?

(e) Is it a fact that according to rules, the Railway Mail Service Supervising officer while travelling must travel in the mail van?

(f) If the replies to (a) to (e) above are in the affirmative, what action has been taken against the Railway Mail Service officer?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) The facts are not as stated. Mohd. Ramzani (not Shaikh Ramzan), Mail Guard, travelled in the mail van in the ordinary course of his duties. It is reported that he got sun stroke on the way and he died in the van while returning to his headquarters.

(b) Yes.

(c) Action is being taken to provide employment in the Department for the eldest surviving son of the deceased, according to his qualifications.

(d) Yes.

(e) According to the Rules of the Department the Supervising Officer travelling on duty is required to travel in the mail van if it is a sorting section and not if it is a transit section.

(f) Departmental proceedings have been instituted against the official at fault.

OFFICIATING DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENTS IN CERTAIN POSTAL CIRCLES

701. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if it is a fact that there is no Muslim Inspector of Post Offices or Railway Mail Service officiating as Divisional Superintendent in the Bihar and Orissa and Madras Circles?

(b) Is it a fact that one Inspector of Post Offices of the Bombay Circle was deputed to officiate as a Divisional Superintendent in the Central Circle some three years ago? If replies to (a) and (b) above are in the affirmative, why was not a Muslim Inspector of Post Offices from the United Provinces Circle deputed to the Bihar and Orissa Circle and from the Central Circle to the Madras Circle?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) The position is not exactly as stated by the Honourable Member. Two Muslim Inspectors are officiating in the grade of Superintendents of Post Offices and R. M. S. in the Bihar and Orissa Circle at present.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. The latter part does not arise, I may add that postings are not made on communal grounds and the posting of the Inspector from the Bombay Circle in 1941 was not made on communal grounds.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIAN ARMY POSTAL SERVICE MEN IN CIVIL POST OFFICES

702. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if it is a fact that many of the Lieutenant, Captains and some Majors of the Indian Army Postal Service are purely from clerical cadre of the Posts and Telegraphs Department and that they have no experience of the work and administration of the Civil Post Offices?

(b) Is it a fact that there is a move to absorb the aforesaid officers though they had a very bad record in the civil and that they have been amply paid for the risk taken by them in the shape of huge salaries?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) It is a fact that some officials from the clerical cadre of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department deputed to the Army Postal Service have been promoted to Commissioned ranks, but all of them have experience of the work and administration of civil post offices.

(b) These officers already hold permanent posts in the Posts and Telegraphs Department and will revert to them on discharge. Many of them had very good records in their civil employment and information is not immediately available whether any of them had unsatisfactory records.

NECESSITY OF IMPROVEMENT IN LOT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS EMPLOYEES

703. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if Government are aware that efficiency in the Posts and Telegraphs Department has deteriorated?

(b) Are Government aware that remuneration paid to the men in the Posts and Telegraphs Department is not in proportion to the risk and labour involved in the service?

(c) Is it a fact that the time test prescribed is out of date and requires revision?

(d) Is it a fact that the Government made huge profits in the Posts and Telegraphs Department during the last four years and that no action was taken to ameliorate the lot of the Posts and Telegraphs employees?

(e) If the replies to (a) to (d) above are in the affirmative, do Government propose to appoint a Committee consisting of three non-official members of this Assembly and three retired Postmasters General to examine the whole situation and to suggest ways and means to improve the lot of the Post and Telegraphs employees?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) Yes, to some extent owing to the conditions created by the war.

(b) I cannot agree with the statement made by the Honourable Member but the Honourable Member is, no doubt, aware that Government have decided to appoint a Commission predominantly non-official in character to examine the whole question of scales of pay in all Departments of the Central Government.

(c) No.

(d) The working of the P. & T. Department as a commercial Department resulted in a surplus during the last four years. It is not a fact that the Department took no action to ameliorate the lot of its employees. Grant of Dearness and War allowance and provision of cheap food grains through Departmental shops in some areas are instances of the action taken by the Department in this direction.

(e) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to part (b) of his question.

DIRECTOR OF TELEGRAPHS

704. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if it is a fact that there are as many as seven out of seventeen Bengali Officers on the Postal side and 80 per cent. Madrasi Officers on the Telegraph Engineering side in the Central Circle and that the latter have monopolised particular stations?

(b) Is it a fact that the appointment of the Director, Telegraphs, was created for the duration of the war and that it is still continuing although the war is over?

(c) Is it a fact that no proper check is exercised on the construction and maintenance work of the engineering side and that false muster rolls are generally maintained?

(d) If the replies to (a) to (c) above are in the affirmative, do Government propose to take steps to shift these officers elsewhere to have the appointment of the Director, Telegraphs, abolished and to have the construction and maintenance work checked frequently by Investigating Officers of the Department?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) The facts as stated by the Honourable Member are quite incorrect. At present, there are 6 Bengali Officers out of 20 in the Postal Branch and 9 Madrasi Officers out of 25 in the Engineering Branch.

(b) No. The post of Director of Telegraphs was created in the first instance for a period of one year and then extended from time to time. It has now been sanctioned on a permanent basis as it has become absolutely necessary on account of the existing telecommunications developments and the proposed future expansion in the network of telegraph and telephone lines in the Central Circle.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise but I may add that postings are not made on the basis of province of origin of the Officers.

HEAVY WORK ON INSPECTORS OF POST OFFICES

705. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if it is a fact that the work of the Inspector of Post Offices has increased and that no clerical help is given to them?

(b) Is it a fact that investigations in connection with wireless work are done by Inspector of Post Offices and that they are required to conduct the cases also in the court, in spite of the fact that there are Wireless Inspectors sanctioned in each Circle?

(c) Is it a fact that Wireless Inspectors get a fixed pay and that a major portion of their work is done by the Inspector of Post Offices?

(d) If the replies to (a) to (c) above are in the affirmative, do Government propose to appoint Inspectors of Post Offices in place of the existing Wireless Inspectors and relieve the Sub-Divisional Inspectors of Post Offices from the Wireless work?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) Yes, to some extent. No clerical help is given to them.

(b) Yes, but only to a limited extent and in exceptional cases.

(c) The reply to both parts of the question is in the negative.

(d) No.

APPOINTMENT OF INSPECTORS, R. M. S., AS DIVISIONAL SUPERINTENDENTS, POST OFFICES

706. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if it is a fact that an Inspector of Post Offices is not appointed as a Divisional Superintendent, Railway Mail Service?

(b) Is it a fact that the Inspectors, Railway Mail Service are appointed as Divisional Superintendents of Post Offices?

(c) Are Government aware that Inspectors, Railway Mail Service, do not know postal work and generally they prove inefficient as Divisional Superintends of Post Offices?

(d) If the replies to (a) to (c) above are in the affirmative, why is this differential treatment being given in the case of Inspectors of Post Offices?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) Yes, as far as possible.

(b) Yes.

(c) The facts are not as stated and Inspectors of the Railway Mail Service have not proved inefficient as Superintendent of Post Offices.

(d) Does not arise.

FURTHER PROMOTION OF HEAD RECORDS CLERKS IN R. M. S.

707. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon; (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if it is a fact that the highest scope for promotion in the Railway Mail Service is up to the post of Head Record Clerk?

(b) Is it a fact that on the Postal side the highest scope is up to Gazetted Postmasters?

(c) Is it a fact that the Officers-in-Charge of the Bombay Railway Mail Service and Madras Railway Mail Service are from Superintendents cadre?

(d) If replies to (a) to (c) above are in the affirmative why should not the Officers-in-Charge Bombay Railway Mail Service and Madras Railway Mail Service be appointed from Head Record Clerk's cadre so as to give scope to the Railway Mail Service Officials for promotion to Gazetted rank?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) Yes.

(d) Does not arise.

MUSLIMS IN RAILWAY BOARD

708. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state the number of vacancies, including the newly created posts, that occurred in the Railway Board from 1939 to date, how many of them were filled by direct recruitment and how many by getting men transferred from the various Railways, and the number of Muslims among them separately?

(b) How many men were got transferred from the various Railways by mentioning their names in the letters, and how many of them were Muslims?

(c) While putting the demand to the various Railways was any mention about the composition of the members of the various communities made? If so, to what extent was the Railway Board successful in getting men of different communities? If not, why not? What action does the Honourable Member now propose to take to make up that deficiency?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The information in the form required by the Honourable Member is not readily available and the time and labour involved in collecting it is not commensurate with the value of the results. I lay on the table of the House, however, a statement showing the communal composition of ministerial staff in the Board's office as on January, 1, 1939, and the 28th February, 1946. Communal representation is required to be observed on the total number of direct recruits and has been fully maintained. The percentage of Muslims in the office in all categories has risen from 16 per cent. in 1939 to 24·2 per cent. in 1946.

Statement showing the communal composition of ministerial (Permanent and Temporary) staff of the Board's office as it stood on 1-1-39 and 28-2-46.

Names of service	Europeans		Hindus other than Scheduled castes		Scheduled Castes		Muslims		O. M. Cs.		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
On 1-1-39											
(i) Superintendents	1	14.3	4	57.1	..	..	..	..	2	28.6	7
(ii) Assistants	..	..	24	70.6	1	2.9	4	11·8	5	14.7	34
(iii) Clerks (II & III Divns)	..	..	57	70.4	..	..	15	18.5	9	11.1	81
(iv) Stenographers	..	..	8	53.3	..	..	3	20.0	4	26.7	15
Total	1	0.7	93	67.9	1	0·7	22	16.0	20	14.6	137
28-2-46											
(i) Superintendents	..	..	12	66.7	1	5.5	2	11.1	3	16.7	18
(ii) Assistants	..	..	142	68.9	1	0.5	47	22.8	16	7.7	206
(iii) Clerks (II & III Divns. B grade)	..	..	146	60.3	11	4.5	64	26.4	21	8.7	242
(iv) Stenographers	..	..	35	60.3	1	1.7	14	24.1	8	13.8	58
Total	..	..	335	63.9	14	2.7	127	24.2	48	9.2	524

MUSLIM SUB-HEADS IN RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE

709. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state how many sub-heads, permanent and officiating, were working in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office in March, 1945, and the number of Muslims among them?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: 31 permanent and 112 officiating subheads were working in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office in March, 1945. Of these, 4 permanent and 15 officiating subheads were Muslims.

ACTION ON COMPLAINTS AGAINST CERTAIN CATERING CONTRACTORS

710. *Mr. G. B. Dani: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) the number and nature of complaints made by the travelling public against the Hindu Refreshment Room Contractors at Delhi, and the Refreshment Rooms catering for the Hindu Travelling Public on the East Indian, Great Indian Peninsula and Bengal Nagpur Railways during the preceding two years;

(b) the actions taken on those complaints recorded in the Complaint Books and received either by post or by hand, and in case no action has been taken against any or all complaints, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether those complaints were laid before the Local Advisory Committees; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The information required is not readily available and the time and labour involved in collecting it would be incommensurate with the value of the results.

(b) Government has no information regarding the action taken on each individual complaint during the past two years at the refreshment rooms on the railways mentioned in part (a), but action is taken by Administrations on complaints which are well founded.

(c) I do not think this is a general practice but it is of course open to any member of the Local Advisory Committee to refer to the complaint book at any refreshment room at which he is being served.

QUESTION OF CATERING BY EUROPEAN AND BY STATE ON RAILWAYS

711. *Mr. G. B. Dani: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please refer to the recommendation of the Central Advisory Council for Railways at page 11 of the Summary of Proceedings of the 14th April 1945, *viz.* "that the question of European catering and catering by the State should be brought up at a subsequent meeting", and state:

(a) the progress made towards its achievement;

(b) if it is a fact that the administrations are against such a proposal; if not, what views they have expressed; and

(c) the reasons for catering not being taken up by the State and for the renewal of contracts of the Bengal Nagpur, East Indian, Great Indian Peninsula and North Western Railways?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) There has been no meeting of the Central Advisory Council for Railways since its last meeting held on the 14th April 1945. The question of European and State Catering has, therefore, not been discussed so far by that Council.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply given to (a).

(c) The existing instructions to General Managers are that departmental catering should be inaugurated if they consider that this can be done without incurring any financial loss and they have been asked to submit recommendations to the Railway Board. In view, however, of the opinions expressed by this House during this Session the subject will be discussed with the Central Advisory Council in the near future.

ACTION ON REPORTS AGAINST VENDORS ON RAILWAYS

712. *Mr. G. B. Dani: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) the number and nature of complaints made by the travelling public against the licencees for vending foodstuffs; tea, milk and other eatables at

Delhi and on the Bengal Nagpur, East Indian and Great Indian Peninsula Railways;

(b) the action taken on those reports, and if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if any of the said licences have been sub-let by the licencees?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). The information required is not readily available and the time and labour involved in collecting it would be incommensurate with the value of the results.

(c) Not to the knowledge of Government.

TAKING OVER OF VENDING ON RAILWAYS BY STATE

713. *Mr. G. B. Dani: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state, whether Government propose to take over all the contracts for catering and vending on all the Railways from the 1st April, 1946, and work them departmentally? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: As stated in reply ta part (c) of Question 711, asked by the same Honourable Member, the question of departmental catering by all Government of India Railways will be discussed with the Central Advisory Council. The creation of catering organisations, if decided on, will take some time to complete and it would in any case be quite impossible for general departmental catering to start by 1st of April 1946.

MAINTENANCE UNITS IN INDIA

714. *Khan Bahadur Hafiz M. Ghazanfarulla: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies kindly state:

(a) how many Maintenance Units there are in India;

(b) how many of them are being retained by the War Department for their use;

(c) how many of these are going to be disbanded;

(d) how many of these are to be let out on hire, and for what period;

(e) the places which are to be let out;

(f) if it is a fact that the Maintenance Unit at Poona was advertised to be let out for only one year;

(g) whether this Maintenance Unit has been let out; if so, under what terms;

(h) whether the various Maintenance Units at Cawnpore will be retained; and

(i) how many of them will be disbanded, and when?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) The Honourable Member presumably refers to the Civil Maintenance units which were set up during the War for repair and maintenance of aircraft. There were 16 such units, of which 6 have been closed down and 6 others are in the process of being closed down.

(b) and (c). The remaining four CMUs are being retained until alternative capacity for work done in them becomes available. These CMUs are located at Kanchrapara, Cawnpore, Dum Dum and Lucknow.

(d), (e), (f) and (g). Only one of these CMUs, namely that located at Poona, has so far been advertised for hire for a period of one year. It has not actually been let out yet.

(h) and (i). There is only one Civil Maintenance Unit at Cawnpore, which will be disbanded as soon as alternative capacity is available.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

MANUFACTURE AND CONSUMPTION OF PAPER

61. Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state:

(a) the quantity of printing paper, both imported and manufactured in India during the last and the current financial years;

(b) what quantity of printing paper is consumed by Government, and what is the nature of such consumption; and

(c) what quantity of printing paper is allotted to newspapers?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) I place on the table of the House a statement showing the quantity of printing paper both imported and manufactured in India during the last financial year, *viz.*, 1944-45 and the first nine months, (April to December) of the present financial year. The import figures include also newsprint. Newsprint is not produced in India.

(b) The estimated consumption of printing paper by Government during the current financial year is about 42,000 tons. Printing paper is used for the printing of forms, publications, circulars and departmental records, publicity material etc. It is also often used for writing purposes.

(c) At present 2,565 tons of newsprint per month are allotted to newspapers printed on newsprint. With regard to paper other than newsprint a system of quantitative allotment of this kind of paper to each newspaper, as in the case of newsprint, is not in force. The quantity of paper consumed by each newspaper printed on paper other than newsprint depends on the number of pages which it is entitled to print under the provisions of the Paper Control (Economy) Order, and its circulation.

Statement showing the quantity of Printing paper Both Imported and Manufactured in India during the last and the present financial years

Description of paper	April 1944 to March 1945 (12 months)		April 1945 to December 1945 (First 9 months April to December 1945)	
	Imports	Production	Imports	Production
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
Printing Paper including Newsprint	23,700	51,262*	27,919	36,373*

*Excluding news print as it is not manufactured in India.

EXPORTS TO AND IMPORTS FROM EAST COUNTRIES AND EAST AND SOUTH AFRICA

62. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state:

(a) what articles are now being exported to the middle and near East countries and East and South Africa this year with particular reference to Iran; and

(b) whether any articles are being imported from the above countries?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: The question will be answered by the Honourable the Commerce Member on the appropriate day.

THEFTS FROM LUGGAGE VANS OF PASSENGER TRAINS

63. Sri V. Gangaraju: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) the number of thefts from the luggage vans of passenger trains on the State Managed Railways during 1945;

(b) in how many cases compensation has been paid or not paid;

(c) whether sufficient enquiry has been made and with what results; and

(d) what steps have been taken to effectively check such thefts of public property?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). The information asked for is not readily available and the time and labour involved in collecting it would be incommensurate with the value of the results.

(c) Yes. Investigations are made into such cases by Claims Inspectors and the staff of the Watch and Ward, and preventive action to avoid recurrence is taken wherever possible.

(d) Preventive action has been taken to reduce the incidence of theft, including the provision of extra supervising staff, the strengthening of the Watch and Ward organisations of Railways, the appointment of extra chowkidars, and insistence on effective locking of Luggage and Brake Vans.

EXTENSION OF MYSORE-CHAMARAJNAGAR RAILWAY LINE

64. Mr. R. C. Morris: (a) Is the Honourable the Railway Member aware that the extension of the Mysore-Chamarajanagar Railway line to Coimbatore or Mettupalayam is considered of great importance for both goods and passenger traffic, and that this line would serve a fertile area in the Coimbatore District at present suffering from bad road communications?

(b) To what extent are the Mysore Government prepared to meet the cost of constructing this important link?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The traffic survey of the Chamarajnagar-Coimbatore line conducted in 1940 which takes account of the probable goods and passenger traffic, road communications, etc., has been examined in the Railway Board's Office, and although no final conclusions have been drawn, the project appears to be unremunerative.

(b) The Mysore Government have not so far indicated the extent to which they are prepared to meet the cost of constructing this link.

JURISDICTION OF CENTRAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR *RE* RAILWAYS GRANT OF CATERING CONTRACTS AND VENDING LICENCES

65. Sri S. T. Adityan: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) whether the grant of contracts for catering and of licences for vending on Railways to contractors is a subject within the purview of the Central Advisory Council for Railways and also of the Local Advisory Committees for Railways; and

(b) whether the said committees have power to cancel the grant of a contract or licence made by a Railway Administration?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No. The Central Advisory Council for Railways and the Local Advisory Committees for Railways are advisory bodies.

(b) No.

RENT-FREE QUARTERS TO INFERIOR RAILWAY SERVANTS

66. Seth Sukhdev: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway staff in inferior and labour services are entitled to rent-free quarters, if available, provided their pay is below Rs. 30 per month;

(b) whether Government are aware that at several big stations on the North Western Railway a sufficient number of Railway quarters are not available for the class of staff referred to in part (a) above, with the consequence that discrimination prevails inasmuch as some of the employees get rent-free Railway quarters, while others have to pay rent for private accommodation;

(c) what steps Government propose to take to eliminate discrimination between individuals in the matter of rent-free quarters referred to in part (b) above; whether Government's policy includes construction of more inferior quarters immediately;

(d) if the reply to (c) above be in the affirmative, what provisions have been made for such a construction during the financial year 1946-47; and

(e) if the reply to (c) above be in the negative, whether Government have decided upon a long-term policy of inferior staff quarters construction programme; if so, whether the Honourable Member proposes to make a short statement on the subject?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The Honourable Member is referred to my reply to Starred Question No. 1405, asked by Lala Sham Lall, on 28th March, 1945, particularly to part (a).

(b) Yes, at certain big stations quarters available for inferior staff are insufficient. In view, however, of the definite principles adopted for determining priority of claims when dealing with applications for quarters, as given in the question and answer referred to in my reply to part (a) of this question, it cannot be said that discrimination prevails.

(c) The reply to the first part does not arise in view of the reply to Part (b). The construction of more quarters for inferior staff forms one of the postwar schemes on railways.

(d) and (e). None, but the Railway Administration is contemplating the construction of 3,746 units inferior quarters during the quinquennium 1947-48 to 1951-52.

CONTROL CIRCUITS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

67. Seth Sukhdev: (a) With reference to the reply to part (a) of Lala Sham Lal's starred question No. 1293 asked on the 23rd March, 1945, to the effect that the North Western Railway Administration were splitting the Karachi-Pad Idan Control Circuit into two with Kotri as a point of division, will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether the decision has since been carried out? If not, what are the reasons therefor?

(b) What steps are being taken, in general, to reduce the control circuit lengths to about 100 miles? If none, why?

(c) Is it a fact that a provision for about Rs. 2½ lakhs has been made in the 1946-47 budget under "Open line Programme" to have a control office with staff quarters at Bahawalnager? If so, why was not splitting of Karachi-Pad Idan control circuit given preference?

(d) What other Sections on the North Western Railway are to have control circuit in the near future?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply to the first portion is in the negative. As regards the latter portion, the work will be carried out as soon as the new control office building is completed.

(b) No steps are being taken in general, as the length of the circuit is not the controlling factor for effective control, but the number of stations and the density of traffic.

(c) The reply to the first portion is in the affirmative. As regards the latter portion; Government are informed that the additional control circuit Bhatinda-Samasata, with the control office at Bahawalnagar, is being provided as part of the All-India Railways' Tele-communication Scheme. The question of priority does not arise as both the schemes are running concurrently.

(d) None, but the programmed work consists of improvements in existing circuits.

LACK OF FACILITIES IN GOODS TRAIN GUARD'S VANS

68. Seth Sukhdev: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that general discontent prevails amongst the Goods Train Guards on the North Western Railway in regard to the design of their brake vans, which lack facilities in regard to:

(i) privacy in latrines, (ii) water taps, (iii) electric lights, (iv) sufficient sitting accommodation, and (v) safe footboards?

(b) What steps do Government propose to take to put a new design of goods brake vans in service with amenities referred to in part (a) above? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Government understand that Goods Train Guards have a sense of grievance in regard to this matter.

(b) The provision of a separate latrine compartment is not considered necessary, as the guard is the sole occupant of the brake van. Facilities for filling overhead tanks being absent water taps cannot be arranged, but Goods Brake Vans are provided with a stand for an earthenware vessel for water.

Electric Lighting cannot be maintained in working order in Goods Brake Vans but in the present standard design of Brake Vans, oil burning side lamps are arranged to illuminate the inside of the van. In addition, a bracket is fixed for the guard's hand signal lamp so as to provide additional local illumination.

The present standard design of Goods Brake Van is provided with two stools and two seats and an improvement in the arrangement of foot boards has recently been effected.

THE GENERAL BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION—*contd.*

FIRST STAGE—*contd.*

Mr. P. J. Griffiths (Assam: European): Mr. President, finance is to most of us a dull and somewhat dreary subject and we are not accustomed to look in the speech of the Finance Member for emotional colour or warmth. This year, however, right at the commencement of the Honourable Finance Member's speech he struck an emotional note in complete harmony with all our thoughts and all our aspirations, for he began by expressing the hope and the belief that this would be the last budget introduced by a British Finance Member and that before the next budget came out, this country in the sphere both of finance and other matters would have passed entirely into Indian hands. That is a hope which we in this Group share to the full. We share it not because we necessarily believe that an Indian Finance Minister will be more faithful to the interests of India than British Finance Members have been in the past, for indeed we believe that British Finance Members have been faithful to the uttermost in the discharge of their duties to India But we share this hope because we believe that self-government for India today is not only right, but overdue.

Passing on from the expression of that hope, the Finance Member painted for us a picture of our main enemies within the gate, the enemies of ignorance, squalor, disease and poverty, and rightly set up the chance of vanquishing those enemies as one of the tests by which we must judge the success or otherwise of any budgetary proposals. There, too, we are in entire agreement with him. It seems to us that there are two twin tests that have to be applied to any budget. First, does it directly or indirectly help to remove poverty and to raise the standard of living; secondly, is it so framed as to contribute generally to an increase in national wealth and prosperity? These two twin objects are not identical. Economy can be so planned that the standard of life of the poor is not raised even though the national wealth is increased and, conversely, an economy can be so planned that the standard of life of the poor is raised only at the expense of other classes and not, as it should be raised, by a general increase in national wealth and prosperity. To apply either of these tests alone is partial and unsatisfactory. The two tests have to be applied together and we propose to examine this budget with those two tests as our background.

These two tests lead on to four questions which have to be answered. First, we have to consider what is the present financial position of India. Secondly, we have to examine whether this object is one which will encourage that expansion of industry and agriculture on which most of our hopes depend. Thirdly, we need to consider whether this budget will succeed in exercising

some degree of control and regulation over the process of deflation and, finally, we have to consider its effect on the general economy of the country and the extent to which it succeeds in spreading the burden.

Let me begin by examining India's general financial position. I think I can say without fear of contradiction that one of the respects in which India has cause to congratulate herself is that she emerges from this war with a financial position far stronger than she had ever before. With the external debt entirely extinguished, with her unproductive internal debt only 600 crores odd and with external assets greatly in excess of that unproductive debt, she occupies a position which must be the envy of most of the belligerants in the great war. Her international credit stands high, higher than ever before. And, apart from that, the stage is set for her to take her place as the greatest industrial power in the East. The measures which will have to be taken against Japan, and which are being taken even now, will necessarily put Japan back in the race and they will give a chance to India of attaining the foremost place and establish herself as one great industrial power in the East. When I speak of India's strong position, I am not ignoring the misery and the suffering which this war has brought to India in its train. I am not ignoring the hundreds and thousands of deaths,—for those deaths which no money and no wealth can compensate. I am merely dealing with the fact that in the financial sphere India has established for herself an extremely strong position. One effect of that position is that her capacity for borrowing is great and it may well be indeed that her capacity for borrowing is greater than her capacity for expansion of taxation. That is a point to which I shall refer later because it may have much bearing on the whole question of budget proposals.

I come now to the revised estimates for the current year and here I have three comments to make, one of which is complimentary and the other two of which are slightly, only slightly, uncomplimentary. I think we should, in the first place, compliment the Finance Department on the extremely accurate budgeting which they achieved in the year still current. If you examine the different budget heads of estimates, you will find the difference between them and the original estimates remarkably small. I question whether there has ever been such an accurate budgeting in the past. On the other hand, it does give rise to one strange thought in our minds. The budget was framed with the expectation that the war would last throughout the year, but the war did not last throughout the year—it terminated about the middle of it and one would have thought, therefore, that the budget estimates would be wholly falsified. That has not happened because we have not yet effected the switch-over from war economy to peace economy. I am not making that a ground of complaint. I realise perfectly that a switch-over of that kind cannot be made in the course of a few weeks and that some time lag is inevitable. What I want to urge on the Honourable the Finance Member is that the time taken must not be more than is absolutely necessary.

And that brings me to my second comment, which is one of disappointment at the fact that the defence expenditure has not come down more during the current year than has actually been the case. The Finance Member himself in his speech remarked that to some this might occasion surprise and disappointment. I think I can say fairly that we in this Group are amongst those to whom surprise and disappointment have been occasioned. We do realise that the benefits to be paid to the services on discharge or release form a considerable item in the revised estimates. At the same time, we do think that the Finance Member should give his utmost possible attention to getting the switch-over made as soon as possible and to effecting at as early a date as possible, a considerable reduction in the defence expenditure. This, of course, is very much linked with the question of demobilisation. That question is described in the Explanatory Memorandum of defence as being a gigantic task. Well, Sir, in one sense it is a gigantic task, but it is no more a gigantic task for India than it is for the other countries in the world which are undertaking it at a rather more rapid rate. I am not quite clear that the Honourable the Finance Member or

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his Department had in mind when they spoke of this as being a gigantic task. Were his Department thinking primarily in terms of the mechanics of demobilisation or whether they were thinking more in terms of the absorbtive capacity of the country or, the progress of schemes for resettlement and rehabilitation. As far as the mechanics of demobilisation are concerned, the figures which have been given to us show that about 2,000 men are demobilised every day. Well, Sir, that is certainly a fairly large task, but it is not a task which ought to be beyond the capacity of Government. If that were the only limiting factor, then in my view demobilisation ought to proceed faster. But of course, it is not. We, in this Group, certainly do not press that demobilisation should proceed quite regardless of schemes for resettlement and rehabilitation. What I would ask the Honourable the Finance Member, or perhaps it ought to be the War Secretary, is—is it resettlement that is the bottle neck? Is he satisfied that the machinery for resettlement is adequate? For our part we doubt it. I should like to know, for example if there are enough training centres, and generally speaking if enough energy is flung into this business of resettlement? Has anything been done, for example, on a big scale to resettle men on the land either individually or collectively? On all these matters, we would like to have a statement to satisfy us that the work of resettlement, which is perhaps the prime duty for any Government at the moment, that that work is receiving adequate attention and adequate drive?

That leads me naturally to the question of the other form of demobilisation, namely demobilization of property. We, in this Group, will perhaps have more to say about this at a later stage in this discussion. But we are not yet satisfied with the progress of release of requisitioned properties. We are told that delay, is, largely due to lack of trained valuers. We know that lack of trained valuers has been the chief difficulty all through the war and this lack of valuers has been a very serious hampering factor in the whole business of requisitioning. But we feel that more trainer valuers ought to be recruited now so that the business may be hurried through. We hope too that in those cases where the requisitioned property has deteriorated, Government will show greater promptitude in future than in the past in disposing of the claims for compensation which will arise.

Another somewhat similar matter with regard to which more expedition seems to be required is that concerning the disposal of surplus stores. We want Government to hurry up. We know there are difficulties. We know they have to conclude negotiations with other countries, but we want them to the utmost of their ability, to hurry up. It is right and proper that in the disposal of these stores, the Government Departments here and the provincial governments should have the first peck, and that after this has been done, generally speaking organised bodies and Associations, particularly those which are responsible for the welfare of labour, should have the second bid. Many of these bodies—for example the body that I represent myself, the Indian Tea Association—are anxious to buy medical stores and equipment on a large scale for the purpose of labour welfare. Up to now, we can make no progress, we cannot get lists, we cannot be told what the prices are, we do not know where the material will be available, we do not know when the material will be available, still less do we know where we shall have to take delivery. We do want the Government to try and expedite this business as fast as they can. We attach even more importance however to their seeing that those kinds of materials which are required for nation building activities do get into the right hands and that they are not allowed to get into the hands of contractors who will resell them at great profit.

One other suggestion, in this connection, is that it might be even wise if possible to recondition most of this equipments,—and here I speak not so much of medical equipment as of motor vehicles—before selling them. As long as these things are sold in very different conditions, some good, some bad and some indifferent, the door is wide open for corruption. It is bound to mean that stuff which is really good will be knocked down for a low price on the plea of bad condition. I have not examined this question in detail, and I am only making a suggestion which may be worthy of consideration and which might limit corruption as far as possible. The suggestion is that stores should be reconditioned before being made available for disposal.

Now, Sir, turning to the civil estimates, I notice that apart from the grant to Bengal, there is an increase in expenditure of 4¾ crores over the original estimates. We have tried to examine that in more detail, and on the whole we are satisfied that it is reasonable. It is concerned mainly with such matters as the strengthening up of the administrative and preventive staffs for Central Excises, (a measure which we fully approve) and also with measures for in the development of nation building activities. We are inclined to regard this increase as being reasonable.

There are two points in the remarks made by the Honourable the Finance Member with regard to current estimates which I should like to comment upon. The first is the remark on the subject of controls and their relaxation. We in this Group have an instinctive dislike of controls. We believe that the United Kingdom's growth of prosperity and greatness was largely due to lack of interference on the part of the Government. We believe that that system, that lack of unnecessary interference does provide for most countries—and will provide for India—the conditions under which prosperity can be most rapidly attained. At the same time we do recognise perfectly well that you cannot have that freedom from control in time of war; in time of emergency controls become essential. But the danger is that controls which are introduced in times of war, for emergency purposes, are continued long after the emergency has passed. Speaking as an ex-bureaucrat myself, I say, in no sense of disrespect to my former colleagues, that the plain fact is this, that officials do enjoy exercising control. Once the power of regulation, once the power of control gets into their hands, there is a natural reluctance to part with it. I do ask the Honourable the Finance Member to see to it that these controls are not kept on longer than they are required. I think the time has come when a rigorous and searching examination as to which of these controls are still needed should be undertaken. Many of them may still be needed,—that I recognise quite frankly—but the time has come for an examination. There is another point to which I should like to refer with regard to controls. That is, that controls which were introduced for one purpose must not be used for entirely different purposes. We do not want to see controls which were introduced for guaranteeing supplies to the community during the war, we do not want these controls used to advance particular economic theories. If Government for their own reasons or for the implementing of their own theories want to have controls then they must come before this House with proper legislation, and let us consider it in this House. But do not let controls which were meant as war controls, be used for entirely different purposes. We shall have more to say about this at a later stage when we shall probably raise the question of import controls. Quite apart from these economic controls, there are other administrative controls which seem to us to be entirely out of date. Take for example, trunk calls on telephones. Why should there be military priority now for trunk calls on telephones? I have had occasion to put an urgent business calls from Calcutta, but I had had to wait for two days because the line was engaged by the military. Does this House now accept the position that military work is more important than rehabilitating business and commerce? I put it to the Honourable the Finance Member and to his Colleagues that the time has come when there should be no automatic military priorities. Naturally there must be priorities for emergency use, but there must not be any more automatic military priorities. As regards passages on civil planes, I agree something has been done in the direction of making a

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larger proportion available for civilian use—but, again I ask why should the military have any priority in aeroplanes today?)When war was on it was reasonable to assume that military business was more urgent than civilian busisess. That assumption is now untrue. The most urgent job in this country today is to rehabilitate our financial, commercial and general economic life and I claim therefore that those purposes demand a higher priority than any of the normal peace-time purposes of the armed forces of the Crown.

The next point for comment in the Finance Member's speech is that relating to the question of the use of ordnance factories. We are told that these ordnance factories are going to be used for production of civilian goods in short supply. If that is merely a short term policy, in view of the great scarcity of consumer goods we can of course have no objection to it. But if it were meant as a long term policy, we should take the strongest objection to it because in our view, it is neither sound for the country nor for any section of the country, that Governmest should enter into trade or become producer and thus enter into competition with commercial traders. I should like to have an assurance from the Honourable the Finance Member at the proper stage, that this is purely a short term policy. He might also find it worth while—or perhaps his Colleague, the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies might do so—in connection with suggestion—that stores and equipments should be reconditioned before sale, to consider having this done in the ordnance factories. Here again this is a problem which is too technical to justify dogmatism.

Turning now to the estimates for 1946-47, I think it is fair to say that if there is any kind of trade revival of the sort that we expect, receipts have probably been under-budgeted and I imagine that the Honourable the Finance Member himself is fully aware of this, and has wisely and conservatively taken care to under estimate. I think it is probably also true that expenditure has been under-estimated. I have very little doubt that during the course of the coming year we shall have to face considerable increases in payment on account of wages in, for example, the Posts and Telegraph Department. In various items of that kind time will show the estimates to have been under-budgeted.

There is one point with regard to the estimates about which I am not quite clear and on which I would like to ask for information. Reference is made at one point to the maintenance of a contingent in Japan. I am not quite certain whether that is covered by the general financial settlement or whether that constitutes additional expenditure. I am not expressing any views on this point, but I would like that point to be clarified.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): We don't want to pay for them.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: That is a question os which I do not wish to say anything on this occasion; I would like to have another opportunity to deal with it.

This leads us to the general question of financial settlement, and here quite frankly—I am not disguising my feelings—I approach that settlement with mixed feelings. In so far as my interests are in, and bound up with, this country, I rejoice at a settlement so favourable to India, but in so far as I am a Briton, I cannot help feeling that India has succeeded—very largely due to the first class work done by the previous Finance Member—in driving a hard bargain with Britain. We in this Group consider that the financial settlement is one which is very favourable to India. I do sot say it was unduly favourable to India when it was first made, but it became favourable when Japan entered into the war. At this stage, the war to India really assumed different proportions and it became in a most real and practical sense India's war. We therefore regard that settlement as being very favourable to India and as our interests are bound up with the interests of India we are glad to know that it is being continued for another year.

Another point made by the Honourable the Finance Member with regard to the estimates was a reference to his intention of restoring budgetary control in the normal sense as soon as possible. He has our full support over that. We shall not be happy until budgetary control in its entirety is restored as it used to be before the war.

I would like to raise another point at this stage which I think is of some importance, and that is the question as to whether in all his plans for the future the Honourable the Finance Member is perhaps not depending insufficiently on borrowing. We have before us very large schemes of planning and development, schemes which are vital to the welfare of this country. It seems fairly clear to us that those schemes will have to be financed very largely by borrowing. We believe that the borrowing capacity of this country is great whereas we are inclined to think that its taxable capacity has now somewhere about reached its limit. I do hope, therefore, that in his reply he will let us know his views on this matter and will tell us how far he agrees with the principle that in future borrowing should play a larger part in the Finance Member's plans.

This of course leads us on to the question of the small savings movement. We in this Group regard that movement as of extreme importance from every point of view; quite apart from its value in contributing to public finance, it has a far deeper and more important social value for those who are persuaded to invest in it. We know that this movement has sometimes been attacked on the ground that it leads to pressure, that the local Sub-Inspector of Police goes on and says to so and so "you must put so much into the Small Savings Movement". We know this happens in some places at some times . . . .

Babu Ram Narayan Singh (Chota Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Everywhere.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: But not everywhere. I know Provinces where it does happen and Provinces where it does not happen. But in spite of that we still think that on balance this Small Savings Movement is of great importance to the future of this country, and we trust that it will be retained not only for war purposes but as a permanent part of the economic life of the country. It may well be that if the Movement is to be retained in some more permanent form, some kind of simplification will be required in the procedure which has to be followed in taking or cashing the certificates concerned. At present the procedure is rather cumbrous. It is not easy to say how you can avoid some of the cumbrous conditions without risk of misidentification, but I do suggest that an examination might be made as to whether the procedure can be simplified without undue risk or not.

This talk of loans naturally leads one to sterling balances. I do not propose to discuss this in detail because we have just discussed them, and I have not the least doubt that we shall discuss them time and time again in this House before we finish with them. I agree with the Finance Member that the settlement of that debt must be a bilateral matter between Britain and India. We do not need outside intervention in settling these sterling balances between Britain and ourselves. I agree to with my Honourable friend, Mr. Tyson, that in reality that debt will have to be met by goods and services, and that the reasonable, satisfactory and expeditious payment of that debt depends, above all, on the maintenance of British trade in and with this country. The maintenance of that trade is the best guarantee for the speedy repayment of sterling balances.

I am glad that the Honourable the Finance Member dealt with the questios of dollar pool, and I hope he succeeded in dispelling that misconception which seems to exist in the minds of so many that a vast accumulation of dollars was due to India. I trust that the Finance Member has been able to dispel that misconception even from the mind of my Honourable friend, Mr. Manu Subedar. The other day my Honourable friend, Mr. Manu Subedar, seemed

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to cast some doubt on the figures given by the Honourable the Finance Member. Quite frankly if I have to choose between the figures given by my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar and the figures given by the Honourable the Finance Member, I should prefer those given by the Finance Member, because I have not noticed in the utterences of Mr. Manu Subedar's in the past, any exaggerated tendency towards accuracy.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): You trust the Finance Member.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: I don't trust anybody very much.

Surely the real point is, that, rightly or wrongly, whether you like or whether you don't like it, India was in the war, and that all resources of all kinds had to be mobilized for winning that war. The mobilization of dollars was no more wrong, nor more fantastic, nor more outrageous than the mobilization of everything else. Every resource we possessed, had to be mobilized and was mobilized for the one purpose of winning the war, a war defeat in which would have meant the end all our aspirations.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: You mobilized yourself.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: My community was mobilized more than any other.

I pass on then to another point—planning and development. We are still not very clear—may be it is our fault—as to what the real functions of the Planning and Development Department are. Is it just a policy-making department, or is it also a co-ordinating department. If it is a co-ordinating department, what is the mechanism through which this co-ordination takes place. I say this in no offensive spirit, but when one looks at the Government of India and even one looks at its activities in this House, you would not suspect that there was any co-ordination at all. But in the sphere of Planning and Development Department co-ordination is very necessary and we should like to know how co-ordination is effected and if, in fact, other departments are playing ball with the Planning Department. We will have more to say about this at a later stage in the Budget discussion. But this is the kind of thing I have in mind. Supposing I go to the Planning Department and discuss with them the desirability of setting up a factory of a particular kind, and they encourage me to do so. In connection with setting up that factory I then need an import licence of some kind, and for that I have to go to the Commerce Department. I may or may not get that import licence. The question is, what mechanism there is to ensure that if the Planning and Development Department or the Industries Department, or whatever the department may be, sponsors the setting up of a certain kind of manufacture or commerce, the necessary departmental support will be forthcoming for that proposal from the other departments? We want to be certain that in these development matters, the thirteen or fourteen different departments of government are not pulling in thirteen or fourteen different directions. I see that the Honourable the Finance Member is relying on the various development schemes and particularly on the provincial five-year plans to fill the gap in industrial development. I agree with him as to the importance of using them to fill that gap, but I hope he is not relying on them too implicitly, because many of us have considerable doubts as to how far the provinces will go ahead with these five-year plans. There are efficient provinces—at least I hope so —and there are inefficient provinces—of that I am certain. There are provinces which have poor resources, and there are provinces which do not want to use their resources. I only hope that in a year's time from now, the Finance Member's successor will not have to come to this House and say "I am very sorry the provincial schemes did not get going and that they did not play their part in bridging the gap in industrial development." It will be of interest if we could be given an idea as to how far plans have at present reached. We know a list of schemes has been submitted. I do not think we are told anywhere in the papers what is the value of the schemes and how far sanction has been accorded to them. If we can have more details . . . . .

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member): Rs. 52 crores.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: Thank you very much. We should also like to be told in detail at some stage how these various plans stand.

I pass to the proposed subsidized housing scheme of the Finance Member. That scheme has our entire approval. At the same time we know it has been said by some experts that the experience of the United Kingdom was that the higher the subsidy the higher the cost of the house. However, we do in general terms approve of this subsidizing scheme, though we would like to emphasize the fact that far more important than any subsidy is the availability of the materials required for building. It is no use having a subsidy if you cannot get the cement or the steel. We would like to be assured that cement would be released fast enough for all these building schemes. We would like to have a guarantee that steel would be made available to *bona fide* builders. In general terms, what we want is relaxation of controls as soon as possible, but as long as those controls have to be maintained, we want to be certain that the *bona fide* builder will get his steel and his cement.

The next point of importance in the Finance Member's speech related to the Indian Finance Corporation. I am not going to talk about that for one very good reason. I have made it a rule of my life not to talk about things when I know nothing about them. So far we know nothing about the details behind this proposal. We shall therefore reserve our views until we know more about them.

I pass on to the question of the National Investment Board. Here, too, we cannot express a final view until we know in far more detail what the Board is intended to do. I might as well say that our first instinctive reaction to the Board is one of suspicion. That suspicion arises not so much when I read the relative sentence is paragraph 35 of the Finance Member's speech which speaks, I think, of securing the fullest and most advantageous utilization of the economic resources of the country—put like that it sounds all right—but my suspicion is more aroused when I come to the first sentence in the next paragraph. It says "It control over investment is to be made more effective". . . . such and such things will have to be done. Does India really want control over investment to be made more effective? Does not that suggest the dead hand of Government lying over everything? Does not that mean cramping initiative, interference with development and all the delays which we have grown to associate with Government control and interference of any kind. I believe that most of us in this House want—and I know my views will be shared by most of the Congress Benches—we want to get as near as we can to a free capital market.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): What?

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: As soon as possible to a free capital market. I was not thinking of Prof. Ranga when I said that!

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Do not talk of most of us!

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: I leave my friend to argue which way the minority lies.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Speak for yourself.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: Linked with this is the question of control of capital issues. This was started as a war measure. We want to make certain that it is not going to be used for entirely different purposes. We are not altogether satisfied that use of the Defence of India Rules in this connection is proper. We know it is legal. We are not quite certain that it is altogether proper. There is one questions I would like to put to the Finance Member, and I put this question not dogmatically, but in a spirit of enquiry, for, I said previously I am the one Member of this House who does not profess to know much about economics. If capital is coming forward so freely that some kind of control is required, do we really need an investment board? Are not the

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two things to some extent contradictory? In any case I would like a declaration of policy in regard to this control of capital issues. What is the purpose for which it is meant? Is it meant for the protection of shareholders? Is it still meant as a control of inflation? Is it meant as part of introducing a planned economy?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That is it.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: If it is so, then I suggest to the Honourable the Finance Member that it is best not done under the Defence of India Rules. It is best done under legislation properly discussed in this House.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Certainly.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: I do not wish to discuss a planned economy though I shall say much about it at the proper stage. It is not altogether wise to take a control which was introduced for war purposes and to proceed to use that not only for a planned economy but for the particular kind of planned economy which the Government today happen to have in mind. It may well be that this national investment board is really required for schemes which do not appeal to the public. Our experience is that money for industrial projects is coming forward very rapidly today. May it not be that this Board is required because certain unsound schemes, of the kind which will not appeal to the public are likely to be bolstered up. I do not mean that a scheme which will not appeal to the public is necessarily unsound. But there is a very real danger here—of a board of this kind being used to bolster up unsound schemes and as it were paving the way for the most distorted form of nationalisation. We in this Group do not think very much of nationalisation.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Of course not.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: Least of all would we like it to be introduced under a guise or in a distorted form. We want to be certain that the national investment board will not be used for this kind of purpose.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: You do not want to be ex-appropriated!

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: We do not propose to be.

The next point in the Honourable Member's speech was the Taxation Enquiry Committee. We approve of the setting up of that Committee and it appears to us that it may have four main lines of investigation. The first will be the general question of the codification and simplification of the very intricate mass of taxation law today. Secondly, there is the semi-political question of the distribution of revenues between the Centre and the Provinces.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: No, Sir.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: That will be excluded from its scope?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Yes.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: I imagined that this matter of the distribution between the Centre and Provinces would be part of the constitutional settlement and I am glad to find that I was right.

Thirdly, there will be the examination of what the taxable capability of the country is. At present we have no accurate idea. Fourthly there will be an examination as to who is over-taxed and who is under-taxed and it may be that the changed position of the better class of agriculturist will require consideration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Very good!

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: I am not speaking of the man with two or three acres but of the better class agriculturist whose place in the national economy has undergone a radical change as a result of the increased prices of foodgrains. All these matters will fall within the purview of the Taxation Enquiry Committee. As to what the composition of this Committee should be, we will give you our views at a later date. All we can say at the moment is that it must include people who represent the assessees' as well as the assessors' point of view.

Before I proceed to the taxation proposals, we were a little disappointed that the Finance Member did not disclose his view of the probable and desirable course of prices—the general price structure—during the coming year. We would like to have from Government their views as to how far they hope to be able to stabilise prices, at what kind of level they will be able to hold prices, and generally the whole price structure.

I turn to the tax proposals. Here I must say generally, that we recognise that substantial relief has been given by the Honourable Finance Member to industry. We regard that action as having been based on wisdom,—wisdom qualified in one respect, of which I will speak in a minute—but generally speaking to have been based on wisdom. We accept the reduction of the income-tax rate on companies and the abolition of the excess profits tax as satisfactory. At the same time, we must not take an exaggerated view of the effect of the abolition of the Excess Profits Tax. Let us not forget that excess profits was hitherto chargeable against expenditure for income-tax purposes, and that now you will pay your income-tax on a very much larger figure. In spite of that the abolition is satisfactory from two points of view. Firstly, it means a levelling up of those companies which had a poor standard year. Secondly it means putting an end to that artificial and wasteful expenditure which an excess profits tax invariably encourages. We agree with the Finance Member that it is a thoroughly bad form of tax and we are very glad to see it go.

One other point relates to advance refunds. We hope that the machinery will be such that those refunds will be made quickly, as they will be of little benefit if it takes 12 months to get them. We do trust that the Finance Member will give attention to this matter.

As to the amalgamation of the surcharge with the general tax, it would be possible, if we so wished, to attack this on general grounds, on the grounds that the Finance Member has taken something which was really intended to be temporary and made it permanent. We doubt the wisdom of this course, but we do not propose to object to it for we have to look at the whole taxation structure and we recognise that in view of the general relief that is given we should not be justified in objecting to that amalgamation, even though we do not like it. Generally speaking the taxation proposals as a whole are wisely based on a desire to see an expansion of the country's economy. There is however one proposal of a somewhat different nature, an ingenious but I think, of dubious nature and that is the proposal for the differential tax on dividends above 5 per cent. We do not propose to give you our final view at the moment, because the question is still being examined. But our first reaction is one of very considerable doubt as to the wisdom of this differentiation. Here I would like to put before the Finance Member two or three points for him to consider —points in regard to which we should like to receive a reply. The first is this— one of the objects of this proposal is to force people to plough profits back into their business. Is that really a wise thing to do? There are many kinds of business today which could not usefully plough back profits into them. Take the case of a tea garden, which already has plenty of capital. How are you going to plough back profits into the business? By extending the area? It is not allowed to do that. (*Interruption* by the Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands). My friend knows very well that the prices are in the main fixed by his own Government and the Ministry of Food. How then are we going to plough profits back into business of that kind. It is not a good thing to force this in all kinds of business and least of all is it a good thing to do so at the time like the present, when there are restrictions of all kinds, when business probably cannot use its plough or back profits for any substituted schemes of expansion (Interruption). I hope to deal with this sometime later in these debates.

I come to the other possible reasons for this proposal. Is this provision being enacted not because of its effect on the business itself but on the general economy of the country. If that is so, if it is a question of reducing prices, is it not a measure which would be more appropriate to a time of inflation rather

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than to a period of deflation? I would ask the Honourable the Finance Member to consider this and give his reaction when he replies.

If we are to have a limitation of this kind, *viz.*, is 5 per cent., at all a reasonable figure to follow? I know the Finance Member would not say that a shareholder ought not to get more than a 5 per cent. dividend. He is far too sound an economist to say that. And even if it were possible to regard that 5 per cent. as a reasonable figure, what about the shareholder who has already paid for shares at a price far above par? I would also like to ask the Honourable the Finance Member how he proposes to deal with the case of a company which finances itself very largely by borrowing. Take a seasonal concern, for example, the capital of which may be low and which lives very largely in the busy season, on borrowings. I would like an assurance from the Honourable the Finance Member that borrowing will be allowed for in fixing this differential rate.

I think the most important general argument is this. We in this House still accept the fact that the profit motive is the right motive for industry and the right motive for the development of the national economy (*Interruption* by Prof. N. G. Ranga) Prof. Ranga does not accept it but many of his colleagues do. We accept that motive as being the most dynamic force for securing development and expansion of industry. Is it really sound to discourage the most reasonable expression of the profit motive? We will give you our very considered views at a later stage, but our present reaction is that we seriously doubt the wisdom of this proposal.

We welcome the reliefs that have been proposed on import duties, on raw materials and plants for industry. Here I would ask a question to seek information—perhaps I ought to know the answer but do not: Where does agriculture fit into that picture? I believe I am right in saying that ordinary agricultural implements are already exempt from import duty but there are certain agricultural accessories, sprayers, for example, on which I think, we still have to pay duty. Perhaps the Honourable the Finance Member will examine the question as to whether agriculture is in fact covered as far as is necessary in these proposed reliefs.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: It will be.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: Thank you.

We welcome of course the reduction on kerosene and petrol but of course even more important than price is the question of supplies. We hope that Government will not feel that having reduced taxation, they need not bother about the problem of supply.

The last point on which I wish to comment is one, which I merely want to mention in passing. The proposals of the Finance Member with regard to bullion seem to us in this Group to be sound and wise. We believe that they are so framed that they will in fact succeed in bringing about those desires that he has in mind, firstly prevention of speculation and secondly, prevention of a rapid, uncontrolled fall in prices.

Those are all the points that I have to make on the Honourable the Finance Member's Budget. But before I sit down there is one matter of a more general nature on which I must touch very briefly and that is the reference made by my friend Mr. Asaf Ali yesterday to the effect of the British connection on poverty in this country. He said in effect that it was Britain's fault that India today was poor. I am not going today, much as I should like to, to embark on a detailed controversy about that just now for one particular reason. The reason is that within a short space of a few days, three Cabinet Ministers from Britain will be trying to make, what we hope, will be a final attempt to bring about self-government in this country. That attempt can only succeed in an atmosphere of goodwill. I for my part want to say no single word which will disturb that goodwill and I will therefore not enter into a wrangle as to the past or controvert my Honourable friend's contention that Britain is responsible for the poverty of this country. I will content myself with saying—and this I must say lest my silence should seem to give consent to a demonstrably false proposition—this much I must say that I, for my part, am not ashamed of the part played by Britain in this country in the last 150 years. Having said that let us leave it at that. Let us face up to the fact that the constitutional issue is about to be settled. When that issue is behind us, when India is self-governing, it will be possible then to take a more objective view of the past, to see in better historical perspective the effect of the British connection on India and the effect of the Indian connection on Britain. Those matters can be more suitably and fitly discussed in the calmer atmosphere which will prevail when this country has become fully self-governing. In the meantime, let us forget the past and attend to the only thing that matters. The only thing that matters is the laying of such foundations now, that this country can enter upon an era of peace, of prosperity and of greatness and it is because we believe that in the main the Finance Member's Budget lays the foundations on which that super-structure can be built, that we accord it our general support.

Mr. S. Guruswami (Nominated: Non-Official): Sir, the budget that has been presented by the Honourable Finance Member has been variously criticised and its salient aspects covering the poor man have already been dealt with by the speakers who have preceded me. I propose to touch on some important points from the labour point of view.

Mr. President: I would now invite the attention of all Honourable Members who will be speaking that the limitations about the time will be very strict.

Mr. S. Guruswami: In the first place, in regard to the revenue position, the budget figures disclose that 32 crores of rupees have been drawn from the railway revenue, and about Rs. 10 crores from the postal revenues, although these two departments are public utility services. Not only this: there is an undisclosed subsidy given by these departments to the War Department, by giving concessions to the military traffic. I put it at Rs. 35 crores. In 1931, before the Railway Retrenchment Committee evidence was given that as a result of charging concession rates, to the military traffic, the railways lost nearly Rs. 1 crore. In the year that is coming, nearly 35 crores of profit under military traffic will drop. It means in other words Rs. 70 crores, which would have been otherwise available will not be available to the railways; and all this surplus has been contributed to the general revenues; and with these surpluses the Finance Member is in a happy position to make announcements refunding the Excess Profits Tax, reducing direct taxation and helping big business. As regards the abolition of the Excess Profits Tax, although it is not a tax which is suitable in peace time, I must say that it was responsible for inducing the employers to give concessions to the workers, and the result of the measure which the Finance Member proposes will be to increase labour disputes. In regard to direct taxation, I can do no better than quote what the British Trades Union Congress stated in a memorandum recently submitted to the British Government. They said that there should be no relief under direct taxation as long as there exists indirect taxation on essential commodities. The poor man is paying taxes through salt, sugar, matches and various everyday necessities.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Kerosene and tobacco.

Mr. S. Guruswami: And betel nut. But no relief is contemplated for him. But that is not the only point I wish to say. He has said that the growth of national income has received a stimulus by war expenditure. The figures which he has published in the explanatory memorandum will refuse the claim; the poor worker and the peasant have not received any relief at all. If at all, the standard of living today is 50 per cent. less than what it was before the declaration of war against the fascist powers. He has shown that the cost of living in certain places has risen by 355 points. In regard to the agricultural peasant, it is no better. But what he has given by way of dearness allowance is nothing compared to the increase in the cost of living. In England in 1948 alone £190

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millions was spent as subsidy to reduce the price level of the essential commodities. The Honourable Finance Member does not make any announcement making a similar proposal to reduce price levels of essential commodities here.

Then he has attempted to show that the coming year will be a very bad period. He has said already that 1½ million men employed in the Defence Services will be demobilised before the end of 1946-47. He has already indicated that there will be a drop in public expenditure under Defence Services to the extent of Rs. 600 crores in the coming year. He has also indicated that the industrial development will not be sufficient to bridge the gap between the employment situation obtaining during the war and immediately after. What does he propose to do? He has talked about the internal enemies—the enemy of poverty for one thing; but he has done nothing to meet that enemy. He seems to think that with the cessation of the war, on the 1st April 1946 the war against the internal enemy will also cease, and therefore there will be no fight against the enemy of poverty and unemployment and squalor and ill-health.

Then he has referred to the national investment board which would encourage private enterprise. I am a believer in unadulterated socialism; but I do recognise realities that private enterprise exists today; and I want to ask what efforts he will make to see that the workers get a national minimum wage. Unless that step is taken, all your measures to have a national investment board will be of no use to the poor man, the common man at all. I see that this idea of the national investment board is copied from Sir William Beveridge's Report on Full Employment in a free society. It sounds well but it does not take into consideration what that publication presupposes, namely, the necessity of maintaining full employment.

The present Finance Member is going to embarrass his successor by showing some reduction of taxation under direct taxation, and without realising the fact that if this Government is to discharge its duty by the poor people, social services must be developed, and that requires more taxes and more taxes from those who have the means to pay. That is a factor which we cannot ignore. Whether it is a question of rates and fares, whether it is a question of imposition of taxation, this House should realise that the first charge on the public revenues should be the maintenance of full employment and an equitable minimum standard of living for the workers and peasants of this country. That should be the first criterion by which the success of the budget has to be judged, and not whether some relief is given to this vested or that vested interest. Judged from that point of view, this budget woefully fails to do its duty.

There is a reference to the post-war planning and to house building subsidies. We must take care to see that it is not a subsidy to the private contractor. He must take care to see that the 900 crores which the Provinces will have to spend on post-war planning will go to increase employment.

In this connection I would like to draw the attention of this House to a resolution adopted by the International Labour Conference in Philadelphia about post-war planning. They suggest that the first objective of post-war planning should be the maintenance of full employment. Does this budget disclose any such idea at all? He leaves it to his successor to do the thing. The present Finance Member is timid in dealing with bigger questions; he wants at least to please certain influential business sections by giving them certain remissions, which cannot last long.

I welcome the idea of the appointment of a Taxation Inquiry Committee. But he says here again that it should consist of experts. I do not know what he means by experts. But let me say that the conception of a state should be that it should not be merely a policeman—and a bad policeman at that which they are now today. They should be the protector of the poor and the working classes; they should discharge the responsibility of maintaining social security for the poor people of this country. If they do not do that duty, they cease to

deserve any co-operation from the poor. We have fought this war not to be told that some national government will do this or that. We want any government, whoever they may be, that wields power to recognise here and now that they are as serious in fighting unemployment and poverty as they were serious in fighting the fascist dictatorships. The declaration of war against these enemies must take place immediately, if not already done. That could only be done if ways and means are found to assess the taxable capacity of this country, to find out who can pay taxes most, so that the poor may get their share of the income of this country, which is their due. Unless these principles are enunciated, what is the use of simply appointing a committee which will be only wasting public stationery and presenting a report.

No declaration of sound principles of finance are forthcoming in this budget. It is the usual dreary stuff—so much by way of receipts, so much by way of expenditure. It does not show anything. It has no human element. A budget must be a human budget. In one of the paras. of that budget speech there is a reference to the necessity of presenting a national investment budget. I welcome that idea but that idea means that you should have a budget, a man-power budget, which will first take into consideration that all man-power available in this country will get full employment at the prescribed national minimum standards. That you do not do. What you try to do is to find out where you shall get encomiums from?

12 Noon.

I shall deal with another point. He has done damage to the railway revenue by reducing the petrol tax. That is a position about which I should like to express here, because this is not going to reduce the railway rates and fares due to the motor traffic. In this black market today petrol is sold at Rs. 8 a gallon. That will be sold in spite of the reduction that he has made on the present rates but what it will do is that the road competition with the rail traffic will increase. It will make inroads on the railway revenues, which means that there will not be any surplus for contribution to the general revenues. These are hard facts. These budgets are unreal. They are not framed with reference to the poor man. They are framed in the ordinary orthodox way.

They can only invite derision from the poor people. Discontent has been accumulating all these years that there is no hope of unemployment relief, no fixation of minimum national standards of living, no hope that there will be any social security schemes worth the name. All that it proposes is that the future Minister who may try to become popular will become less popular, because he has to tax more and all the credit for reduction will go to the present Finance Member. That is the implication of the present proposal. As such I have nothing to say except, this, that workers who have not been given even the standard of living that they enjoyed before the war cannot look with complacency at the figures revealed in this budget. They cannot look with complacency at the proposals so far made by the Government for the relief of their suffering. As such, I cannot congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member on this budget. I do admit he has shown great intelligence. What is required is not intelligence but the human element that is totally wanting in this budget. With these words, I resume my seat.

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar (Madras: Indian Commerce): Within the few minutes that are at my disposal, it is impossible to more than mention the several items to which reference ought to be made and properly discussed. It is impossible to discuss anything within that time. I admit along with the member for the European Group that the test of any budget is how far it contributes to the betterment of the economic position of the people generally. Looking at the present budget with that test in view, I fear that it does not touch more than a fringe of the population. It has been said by the same European member that India has emerged stronger after the war. I suppose he means on account of the war itself. I join issue with him on that matter. It may be that merchants and some industrialists might have earned profits,

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probably large profits or excess profits, as the name of the Excess Profits Tax shows but the ordinary position of the man in the village and the worker in the town has not improved at all. If in a few places there have been higher wages, the expenditure of those people who received those wages has also increased. It is a question whether the expenditure has been more than the income or the income more than the expenditure. It may be that in a very few places the income may be a little more but in almost every part of the country and in most of the rural parts, the expenditure has been much larger than the excess income they might have received by way of higher prices. That being the case, I do not think it can be claimed that the real economic position of the poor man, whether he is a ryot or labourer, has really improved. It may be that the mill owners, the landowners and the middle class traders may have improved their position by the high prices not only of the crops they raised but also of the lands they sold. The price of land has increased very largely on account of the industrialists and the merchants who have had these large increases in their income wanting to invest their money in lands and houses. On account of this, the prices of land have gone up three or four or five times the old prices. Those who had assets to sell made profits but the ordinary man got no benefit at all. As a matter of fact, even the middle class people find it very difficult to get accommodation, food supply and the ordinary amenities of life. The only other question is, how else help has been rendered in this budget to those people who have not bettered their position economically by anything that might have occurred in the past. There again, the budget is a great disappointment. The Honourable the Finance Member has not referred except perfunctorily to the greatest question that is agitating the country at the present moment, namely, the food situation. Here there are some controlling factors. The greatest controlling factor is water supply. In regard to this, most of the provinces have been negligent in the past under the leadership of the Government of India, which had in the past pursued a policy which has been objected to by most of us, namely, the policy of taking up productive schemes alone. Whether in the Railways, in the Imperial Budget or in the matter of irrigation in the Provincial Budgets, they adopt the same policy, namely, the policy of taking up only those schemes which give a return of 5 per cent, on the capital outlay. I may say that in calculating this 5 per cent, they do not care for the indirect benefits that such schemes always confer on the people. An irrigation is not merely a productive scheme for a capitalist to take up. It is a protective scheme so far as the food supply is concerned. It has a civilising influence and it betters the economic position of the ryots both in the area affected and at other places. Not only that, it improves the spending capacity of the people. In every case it helps. Not only that, there is a question of the development of the country also. Not only the actual income you get and the indirect benefits you get but also the possibility of developing the country and bettering the position of the people and getting more income is also not considered in framing these schemes. We have been objecting to it in the past in our province and we have been trying to make the Government take a more sensible view of things, but, strange to say, we succeeded in one case but in the other cases they won't give up that policy. That, Sir with reference to the schemes which require capital outlay. But there are other schemes for which help is necessary. For instance, the digging of wells. The digging of a well is always a risky proposition. It is a proposition in which the ryot who incurs a large expenditure to dig a well is disappointed and if there is no water at the end, he loses his all. In many cases where the ryot has not got wet lands, he loses probably all his property by the venture he takes up. In such cases the only way in which the Government can come to his help is not by saying that they will give a loan, because he is not in a position to take a loan, but to guarantee the risk. That is a most important point to remember. Several Committees have recommended with reference to dry areas in our province, that the Government should take the risk or should guarantee the risk

that people take in digging wells. Of course, where water is found and the land is improved, the ryot will be in a position to take a loan and pay it in a number of years. That has been the policy that has been enunciated by Committee after Committee in my province for the improvement of the ceded districts and other areas similarly situated. But nothing has been done so far.

The other point has also been touched already, namely, what the ryot requires is not money so much as manure, cattle and cattle feed and things like that. It is because he has not been able to get manure and cattle feed that he has not been able to improve his agriculture and get more crops. There is no use talking about grow more-food campaigns if you are not going to help him with these things. It is things like cattle feed and manure that he requires and if you provide him with them you will be able to subsidise the schemes of grow-more-food. Well, Sir, these are some of the points which I wanted to mention, but one can go on cataloguing any number of them to show that the Government has not made any provision for the real economic improvement of the rural areas and of the poor people.

Coming to the portion of the people for whose benefit it may be said that the present budget has been framed and about which objection has been taken in the press and elsewhere, namely; the industrialists, I am sorry that there is some misapprehension in the minds of my brethren in the industrial field with reference to what has been done. Of course, the Finance Member has got the credit or the discredit, whatever it may be, by using a phrase, namely, that he has abolished the E.P.T., but what has he really done? He has window-dressed the whole thing. What he has done is that he has abolished the E.P.T. and has put the tax in the form of super-tax. Sir, I took one of the balance-sheets which I received from my part of the country a few days back to calculate and ascertain what would be the revenue under the present scheme of E.P.T. and what would be the revenue under the proposals made by the Honourable the Finance Member in his budget for income-tax and super-tax. The result is most surprising and probably the Members of this House will be almost amazed to hear how exactly things are. Under the new schemes of income-tax and super-tax, a company, whose balance-sheet I took, will have to pay Rs 8,000 more tax than what they are going to pay actually this year under the E.P.T. scheme. The figures are here with me and I have handed them over to the Finance Member and asked him to verify them. There is no catch in that. But no doubt there will be some difference with reference to the formulas adopted. For instance, according to the present formula, of the E.P.T., they make an exemption in the case of the standard profits. The companies come under that formula, and according to their standard income will get benefit. But under the new scheme what happens is this. A different formula is introduced, namely, above 5 per cent. all the excess income is now taxed on a graduated scale with the result that those who get larger incomes will have to pay as much as 7 annas in the rupee and those who have got smaller incomes will pay less. So, it is only a question of a difference in the formula and also working it in a different way. It does not mean that the Finance Member is going to give up all the revenue which he was raising in the form of the E.P.T. by the new scheme.

Then, Sir, it has been said that he has given relief. What relief has he given? Immediately, there is no relief. In the next year, 1946-47, not only the E.P.T. continues but the factories would have deteriorated very much. They want to be rehabilitated and expansion is necessary. So, next year, at any rate, the industrialists will not be enabled to rehabilitate their factories or to expand them. One thing he has said. He has said that the Government is prepared to pay the cost of buildings and machinery that may be purchased by the industrialists out of the compulsory deposit. What is the use of asking people to deposit still further and then saying that some of the old deposits will be returned if they are going to put up new buildings or order new

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machinery? Not only that, I can go into the whole thing and show that there has been a lot of show in the matter and the actual advantage that has accrued to the industrialists is not so much as it is thought. No doubt, they have gained something. For instance, the relief that is going to be given with reference to the customs duties on raw materials and machinery and the contribution that is going to be given for building quarters for the labourers. Things like that will no doubt help, otherwise there is no substantial help.

Well, Sir, my time is up. As I said at the beginning, time is so short that it is not possible for me even to mention the points that require earnest consideration.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer (Bombay Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, let me congratulate you personally, Sir, that as a result of your request yesterday,—I would not say your ruling,—the Treasury Benches were practically full this morning. It shows their renewed interest in the discussions that take place in this House, and I hope they will continue to take the same interest in future, at any rate, till the present Executive Council lasts. Sir, let me congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member, who I am afraid is not present in the House now.

Mr. President: I might remove a misimpression, and state that the Finance Member's representative is present here and following the whole discussion.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: I am not complaining. I am only making mention that I congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member—in his absence—on his first budget and I sincerely share with him the hope which he expressed in his speech that this will be his last budget.

I should first like to deal with the shortcomings in this budget and then later on come to the good points. Nowhere in his speech has the word 'retrenchment' occurred, whether in the matter of civil expenditure or defence expenditure. Probably the Honourable the Finance Member thought that it would be very unpopular for him to do the job of retrenchment and I suppose he has left the legacy behind for the Indian Finance Member to deal with. I shall first of all deal with the civil expenditure and then the military. During the pre-war, the civil expenditure was 38 crores, while this year it is 111 crores. New Departments have been created, experts have been imported and a large army of officials still continue to occupy the Government departments. I should like to point out whether there is any need for all these highly paid officials to continue now that the war is over. After the last War, the Inchcape Committee was appointed which cut down the expenditure considerably. Cannot something be done this time on similar lines? I would suggest the appointment of a retrenchment committee to go through the expenditure and cut it down considerably. In dealing with the question of retrenchment, I should like to warn Honourable Members, the heads of Government Departments, and I should like to bring to their notice that the question of representation of Muslims in their Departments is below 25 per cent. quota contrary to the Home Department Circular of 1934. In most of the Departments, the representation of Muslims is below the quota. I suggest that if retrenchment is applied to the Departments, the Government should consider this fact and retain the Muslims in order to maintain the quota of 25 per cent. I am glad the Honourable the Labour Member is present in the House this morning and I hope he will consider the fact that his Department is the worst in the matter of representation of Muslims. I shall have to deal with it later on in the course of Cut Motions and in the Finance Bill.

Now, I come to Defence expenditure. In 1939-40, the defence expenditure was 50·26 crores, while now in 1946-47, it has come to 244·51 crores. This is a considerable rise from the pre-war budget and I fail to understand why this sum still remains at such a high level when there is every scope of bringing it down considerably. The trouble is that demobilisation is not as fast and as

speedy as it should be, and I entirely agree in this respect with the observations made by Mr. Griffiths this morning. I strongly object to the expenditure on the contingent being sent to Japan. I do not see any reason why we should send our troops there, unless it is to show to the Japanese what a mighty power India has become as a result of this war.

Next, I deal with the sterling balances. I am not a financial expert myself, but as a layman, I should like to say that India is thinking and feeling as one man, and we won't allow you to repudiate or scale down one pound. The Britishers were in the position of trustees when they took away our goods, and it has been demonstrated that U.K. is now in a position to repay the debt. You must mobilise the British assets and help the problem of reducing the outstanding note issue. With regard to the question of sterling balances, it is not only a question in which the name and honour of England is involved, but it is one in which the welfare of the poor people in India depends. The poor are interested in the general price level coming down and this could be done if you will reverse the process by which you have sent up the prices in India. It is not enough that you stop printing further notes. You have to give British assets to India and get back the rupee and cancel the notes.

Next, Sir, I wish to deal with war risk insurance. This sum of Rs. 26 crores, we all know how this money has been extracted from trade and industry. This has been swallowed up by the general revenues. With regard to E.P.T., this has been discontinued before the liability to give back some of it for losses incurred arose. In any case this was a war measure and it had to die its natural death. I am glad it has disappeared from the scene and the benefit is not certainly one sided.

I now come to the question of permanent six annas burden on company earnings. I am sure it is too high. While welcoming the reduction made, I must point out that this is 37 per cent. tax on earnings of every company. I suggest that Government ought to make the tax lower on companies whose earnings are less than Rs. 20,000.

Now, I come to the Posts and Telegraphs Department, I am glad that my Honourable friend Sir Gurunath Bewoor is present. I wish the Finance Member had brought down the price of post card from three pice to two pice in order to give relief to the poor, which they so badly need. I should also like to see the cost of envelopes reduced by half an anna or a quarter anna. This has not been done, and I do not know why the Postal Department should be left out specially when they have made crores of profits as a result of war. Secondly I see no reason why the surcharge on telegrams and telephones should continue to this day. As far as I can understand this was a war measure. We have paid sufficiently, not only that, we have paid surcharges also. In every case, I can speak from my own experience that we always have got to send express telegrams or make express telephone calls because when you ask the Telephone exchange they say it would take six hours before you can put through an ordinary call. This they do in order to extract more money from the public. I suggest that the surcharge on telegrams and telephones should be discontinued, as Mr. Griffiths pointed out this morning, if you really want to encourage trade and industry in this country. I also suggest that the public should have priority over military calls as was brought out in the debate this morning.

I find, Sir, that nothing has been provided for education in this budget, specially the Universities Controlled by Govt. of India specially those of Aligarh, Delhi and Benares. I hope something will be done in the matter of education.

Next, I come to planning. In planning post-war schemes there are two objections, firstly very little attention is paid to the requirements of consumers and poor people. Secondly all machinery that has been purchased and all new industries that have been started are located in non-Pakistan areas and very few Muslims get permits to get the machinery, and most of these are given

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to non-Muslims. I hope this question will be seriously considered and looked into by the Planning Department.

Now, I come to the question of civil aviation. I hope the Honourable Secretary for Posts and Air will not overlook the discussion we had in the Standing Committee for Posts and Air a few days ago. It is the general feeling of this House that aviation should be Indianised and subsidies should be given to cent. per cent. Indian companies. Lastly, I would say that Muslim companies should have a quota of the share in the proposed licenses to be granted by the Licensing Board for new routes. As regards the Licensing Board I suggest that it should comprise mainly of Indians, except of course, I have no objection to the Director of Civil Aviation who happens to be an Englishman, to be on the Board. I feel that this point has been brought out very clearly by myself and by my colleagues in the Standing Committee the other day and I hope our feelings would be respected and this Board would be Indianised.

I now deal with the petrol duty. The reduction in petrol duty is no doubt a welcome departure from previous taxation proposals, but the Honourable the Finance Member has not given us any idea as to when we are to expect sufficient quantity and when the petrol ration will disappear. Conditions have improved after the war and I suggest that petrol rationing should disappear immediately. Secondly what is the use of having petrol when we have no cars, or buses. I wish the Honourable the Finance Member had said something with regard to the import of cars into India, and not only that but also about encouraging the manufacture of Indian cars in India. I suggest that when the prices are fixed by Government, they will be fixed in such a way that they will come within easy reach of middle class people. At present it is very difficult for the middle class people to buy even secondhand cars unless they are prepared to pay thousands of rupees; the prices are too high. I hope this point will be taken into consideration.

Then, Sir, I must give full credit to the Honourable the Finance Member for exempting incomes of new buildings for two years, but the rent act, which is a war production, should be modified to cover larger costs of repairs to old buildings. On residential buildings, a small increase of rent should be allowed while on business premises much bigger increase should be allowed.

This Budget, as has been said by all sections of the House, is not a poor man's budget. Except reducing the kerosene duty no relief has been given to the poor. That too is very scanty. I suggest it would have been much better if the Finance Member had abolished altogether the duty on matches, salt and sugar. If he had done so, the poor people of this country, who have undergone so much of hardship and privations during the six years of war, would have been compensated to some extent. They are the people who have been hard hit as a result of this war and who have gone without food and clothing. This was the time to help them. Instead of celebrating Victory, it would have been better to win victory in the hearts of the people by showing it to them that by the cessation of hostilities their sufferings have also come to an end.

Now I come to the question of tobacco duty. The Honourable the Finance Member has not reduced, or altogether abolished the Excise duty on tobacco which is proving to be the greatest source of hardship, oppression and corruption. From the cultivators as much as Rs. 100 is realized on tobacco according to the sweet-will of the Inspectors concerned, who are really the *Ma Bap* of the tobacco growers. The result is that small cultivators who are saddled with this tax are compelled to sell away their cattle and ornaments in order to pay this tax which is nothing but an oppression. I hope this will be looked into.

Now I come to the hand-printing and hand-dyeing industry in Ajmer-Merwara in particular and other places in the country in general. This is an old industry occupying a very important place in the province. About 8,000 souls depend entirely on this trade, but Government have withheld from them the supply of grey cloth for processing purposes. This industry requires only

coarse khadi which is produced by four local textile mills, and the hand-dyed and hand-printed cloth is chiefly consumed by the rural population of Rajputana States. All the grey cloth and khadi cloth is exported from Ajmer-Merwara province without allowing it to be dyed and printed, with the result that the people who were in the trade have been reduced to labourers and are hard hit. I therefore suggest that the above cloth should not be exported and they should be allotted at least 400 bales monthly. This is not only true of Ajmer and Merwara, but I can assure you, Sir, that in my province too—Surat and Ahmedabad—the same conditions are prevailing.

Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member might ask what are the remedies suggested for new sources of income. My humble submission is that all the race courses in India should be taken over by Government and the profits from those should be utilized for the good of the country. Licence should be given to all bucket shops either at races or cotton figures and realise tons of money.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Abolish race courses.

Mr. President: Let the Honourable Member proceed without interruptions.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Issue prize bonds with little interest like French prize bonds. French Government redeemed their whole debt from war of 1875-76, even World War I and Napolean's War, as a result of income from this item.

Lastly, I hope my Honourable friend, Sir Gurunath Bewoor, would consider the question of selling through the Post Offices, one rupee lottery tickets with a fortnightly drawings, like Goa lotteries. I am sure this will bring tons of money into your exchequer.

Sir, I have done.

Sri M. K. Jinachandran (Madras: Landholders): Sir, I will take this opportunity to make my maiden speech. I challenge the claim of my Honourable friend, Khan Abdul Ghani Khan, that he is the youngest member of the House, and I hope he will agree with me that he is not the youngest member.

Sir, much has already been said touching many of the important items of the Indian Budget, and the Budget has already come under criticism at the hands of experts in this House. But to a planter in India, especially an Indian planter, there are a few grievances with which I propose to deal presently so as to draw the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member.

Some of the provinces and States in India have large tracts of rubber plantations. In South India, there are 1,52,000 acres under rubber cultivation of which about 1,11,000 acres, *i.e.*, approximately 72 per cent. are either Indian owned or Indian managed. On the other hand, out of a total of 4,45,000 acres in Ceylon a disproportionately large area of 3,15,000 acres is under European ownership. Recently the Government of India reduced the price of rubber from one hundred rupees to seventy-seven rupees per hundred lbs. I must say that the reduction has been ill-timed and mischievous. We cannot understand why the price of rubber in India should thus be reduced when the price of Ceylon rubber remains untouched. Evidently, the European planter goes unscathed by this act of the Government of India. India produces about 18,000 tons of rubber. We can manufacture rubber to supply the entire needs of this country, and our market is quite large. In these circumstances, it is no doubt a grievous error to have cut the price of Indian rubber during these hard times. By this cut the national damage to India is more than Rs. 87 lakhs from February to September 1946.

Another matter which I propose to raise now is that of Indian coffee. I am glad that the India Coffee Board is doing its best to protect the interests of coffee producers in India. But the duty levied by the Government is not on a basis which would protect the poor grower as against the rich planter. The small cultivator of coffee in Malabar grows a variety known as *Robusta*. It is, I admit, inferior in quality to *Arabica*, but look at the price of each variety. *Robusta* is sold at a price lower than that of *Arabica*, but duty is the same on both the varieties. This certainly hits the *Robusta* planter. I would, therefore,

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suggest to the Honourable the Finance Member to fix duty not on a weight basis but on the basis of the price of each variety. That would be of some benefit to the small grower. Similarly the present price of coffee is very low compared to the cost of production which is four to five times the cost of production in 1939. In fixing the price of coffee I feel that consideration should be given to the cost of production and transport charges, etc., and the Government of India, I hope, will take greater interest to protect the Indian cultivator from his rich and powerful rivals in the field.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): Mr. President, In the course of the observations that fell from the Leader of the European Group, he said that they were not quite sure whether the resettlement and rehabilitation plans of the Government of India were proceeding apace in order to meet with the volume of demobilization that was going on. Sir, it is for this purpose that I rise now in order to give the House the requisite information on this subject. Sir, the subject of resettlement is divided into two parts: settlement on land and settlement in industry. The question of the settlement on land is a matter which has been left for the Provincial Governments to carry on. The reason for leaving settlement on land to the Provinces is, I think, quite obvious to the House. The land, by constitutional law, is the subject matter of the Provincial Government. Obviously no matter what argument there may be in support of the position that the whole subject matter of resettlement should be under one Central Government, that argument could not dislodge the opposite argument which is founded on the fact that the land is a Provincial subject. It is, therefore, by mutual agreement that that question has been left to the Provincial Government. The only subject that the Government of India deals with is resettlement in Industry. It is on this subject that I propose to give some account to the House.

The subject of resettlement has been placed under the charge of the Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment. The department or branch is divided into seven different categories; (1) Employment Exchange, (2) Technical Training, (3) Vocational Training, (4) Rehabilitation of the Disabled Soldier, (5) Canvassing employment for ex-servicemen and the disabled, (6) Follow-up service, (7) Statistics of Discharges and Releases.

The functions relating to canvassing of employment for ex-servicemen and the disabled soldier as well as the next function of what is called 'follow-up' service and that of statistics of discharges and releases, are obviously so necessary and so self-explanatory that I do not think it is necessary for me to spend any time to explain why these services have been instituted and what their purpose is. I will therefore leave these subjects for Honourable Members to study from this book which has been issued by the Government of India in the Labour Department. A copy of it is in the Library and if any Honourable Member desires to have a copy for his personal use, I shall be very happy to circulate them.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What is the title?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It is "The Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment".

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Please circulate it.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Copies of it were given to the Labour Advisory Committee the last time when it met. The only question on which detailed explanation is necessary is in regard to the Employment Exchanges, Technical Training, Vocational Training and Rehabilitation. I will take each item seriatim.

With regard to technical training, the position is this. The Government of India have certain technical centres for technical training. In those centres they have reserved at present 14,000 seats for demobilized personnel. The training, the maximum period of it, will be for one year and the number of trades that will be taught in those technical training centres will be about 48, the

detailed list of which is given on page 55 as Appendix VII of this booklet. Then, Sir, with regard to vocational training: it deals with training in agriculture, in dairy farming, in cottage industries, in clerical and commercial occupations. The scheme is at present prepared and is sent round to the Provincial Governments for their approval. The proposal is that in these vocational training centres 20,000 seats will be reserved for training in occupations relating to agriculture and 50,000 in other occupations.

Coming to the question of Rehabilitation. This matter is shared between the War Department and the Labour Department, and the reason for such sharing will be obvious. The rehabilitation of a soldier, who has received injuries in the course of the war obviously falls into two stages. The first stage is the medical stage where questions of healing the wound and post-hospital rehabilitation are of primary importance. Obviously, the soldier being in the service of the War Department, this matter has been left to the War Department to deal with. After he has come out of the first stage of rehabilitation, which is the medical stage, he is handed over to the Labour Department and the Labour Department then deals with him For the purpose of dealing with the rehabilitation of a soldier, the Labour Department has two sorts of centres opened in this country. One is called the Basic Centre. The accommodation provided is for 5,000 such persons. The second sort is the special training centre. There the accommodation provided is for 3,000 persons. The purpose of the Basic Centre is to test the aptitude of the man. What are his aptitudes? What is it that he is likely to be most useful in? After his aptitudes are tested, he is then taken to the special training centre where he is taught some occupation which is most suitable having regard to the particular sort of injury that he has received. The Labour Department plans to open altogether six centres for dealing with soldiers requiring rehabilitation. They have opened one at Jaladi near Bangalore and they propose to open another very soon in Aundh near Poona.

I will now come to the question of Employment Exchanges, which of course is the most important part of the resettlement plan. With regard to the Employment Exchanges, the Labour Department has come to the conclusion that it would be enough to start with 71 such Employment Exchanges. They have today on the ground set up 38 such Exchanges and before long, they hope to complete the maximum number they have decided upon.

Now, Sir, I know that there is a certain amount of criticism both from members of the House as well as from the public outside that the question of setting up of Employment Exchanges is not progressing as rapidly as it should and I should like to meet that criticism by submitting to the House certain facts which would show why the Labour Department cannot rush the starting of these Employment Exchanges. The one thing which is necessary to remember is that unless and until an employment exchange is managed by a man who has had training, it is bound to fail. Let it be remembered that Employment Exchanges are a very specialised sort of work—the most specialised type of work. An Employment Exchange would completely fail if it were placed in the hands of a man who is not trained for the job. Therefore, before starting any Employment Exchange, it is necessary to give a certain amount of training to a man who is to be in charge of the Employment Exchange. That is, therefore, one difficulty why it has not been possible to rush in the matter of starting our Employment Exchanges.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: Where is the training done?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am just coming to that. We have therefore established a training centre in Delhi. It is a sort of a school in the charge of Mr. Jones, whose services have been lent to us by the Labour Department in England. He runs this training centre. In that centre training is given in all aspects of the employment exchanges for a period of six weeks before a man is sent out to take charge of an Employment Exchange.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How many are you training at a time?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am sorry I cannot give you the exact figure. These books will give the information. I believe 35 at a time.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How long do you take to recruit them?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The difficulty arises from the fact that all these posts have to be filled on the recommendation of the Federal Public Service Commission and the minimum time that the Federal Public Service Commission takes is somewhere about three months. I do not know whether—and I am not prepared to say that the time taken by the Federal Public Service Commission is unduly long. (Interruption by Prof. Ranga) I am merely stating the reason why it has not been possible to start them soon. The first difficulty is that it takes a pretty long time to have a man recruited through the Federal Public Service Commission. Secondly, after he has been recruited we have to give him training. All this therefore takes time and I do not regard the time taken as wasted.

Another point which people, who criticise the Labour Department for not having set down all the Exchanges, raise is this. The Labour Department have not got all the Exchanges on the ground. This does not mean that there is no organisation on the ground which is able to deal with the subject. As might be known, there is already a Recruiting and Employment Bureau in the War Department which has been doing this work and the policy of the Government is that in course of time this organisation should cease to deal with this work and the whole work should go over to the Labour Department. The Labour Department, while it goes on increasing its Exchanges also goes on taking over the work that is at present dealt with by this recruiting organisation in the War Department. Consequently, the fact today is that there are really two different organisations working in full co-operation, one in the Labour Department and another in the War Department and in course of time we hope that all the work that is now carried on by the recruiting organisation will come to the exchanges and we shall then be able to set up a full-fledged and competent organisation to deal with this question of resettlement.

Sir, I hope the House will be satisfied that the Labour Department is doing its best in the circumstances in which it has been placed. I would just like to say one word. I think it will be appreciated that this question of resettlement came to us as a matter of great surprise in view of the fact that the war closed before we expected. However, I am quite certain that whatever is possible to be done within the short space of time that is available to us is being done and I have no doubt that the soldier who is demobilised will find this organisation of great use to him in meeting the difficulties which he is confronted with in civil employment.

Mr. B. P. Jhunjhunwala (Bhagalpur, Purnea and the Santhal Parganas: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to make a few observations on the Budget. The Honourable the Finance Member has said in his Budget Speech that:

"fiscal policy is merely one of the means to achieve national policy and in my proposals I have kept this in my mind."

He further says:

"India will not achieve the minimum of economic health and wealth until agriculture as well as industry have multiplied their productivity many times."

Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member deserves credit for this. The Honourable Member has also said that "India is still confronted by a whole array of dangerous and enduring enemies—poverty, squalor, ill-health, illiteracy, under-nourishment and under-employment and of these the most formidable is poverty." Sir, peasantry, cattle and land are the most valuable assets of this country and these are of first essentials. But these continuing in the process of deterioration. The Honourable the Leader of the European Group has said that India's borrowing power has increased because of the sterling balances in England and the sterling assets there. The House should remember that these are made up of the blood of the peasantry and of the starving

and struggling labour classes and their welfare should have the first change on these. But, Sir, if this budget is conspicuous for anything, it is for want of—provision for the welfare of the peasantry, labour, cattle, and the agricultural development of this country. I do not want to dilate upon the amounts for expenditure which he has allotted to other departments. Much has been said about it. The Honourable Member, Col. Chatterjee, said the other day that much is being wasted and spent on account of the multiplication of different departments and what comes out of it is waste paper and nothing else. We get so many statistics, so many graphs and charts; but there is no practical work behind these. Take the case of the Food Department. Much was made of the Grow More Food campaign. It was said that several millions of acres have been brought under cultivation and we were given so many statistics about it so many books were pubilshed about it; but what we learned about the result was that that nothing had come out of these, in form of produce in view of the large acreage of land that was supposed to be under cultivation, and the reason given was that it was because of the vagaries of nature that this had happened, as if this is a new discovery, the Grow More Food campaign debt has made in this country and that the vagaries of nature have effected only this year? If it was not a new discovery, why was no step taken to meet the bad results of these vagaries before?

1 P.M.

The Honourable the Finance Member has said that he has kept certain long range aims in view in framing his budget. I would request the Honourable Member to point out one single item worth that name, which could give substantial help either for agriculture or for industry, which would in the long run be to the real benefit of the country and of the people. What is required in agriculture is that there should be sufficient arrangements for irrigation. Unless there is irrigation, these vagaries of nature will always occur from year to year and there will always be uncertainty about it; and unless we have sufficient irrigation in this country there is no chance of getting sufficient food. Nothing has been done substantially in this budget in this direction . . . .

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Yes, Sir.

Mr. B. P. Jhunjhunwala: He has talked about postwar planning. But by postwar planning he only means roads, buildings, minor irrigation works, anti-erosion measures, water supply and drainage schemes, etc. I do not underrate the importance of these things but what I say is this, that this irrigation and whatever is required for improving agriculture should have found first place in the budget. . . .

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Hear, hear.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: There is nothing of the kind in the budget.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Isn't there? You heard my reply this afternoon.

Mr. B. P. Jhunjhunwala: There is no large scale irrigation which can be of any substantial help to agriculture. It appears from the budget statement that whatever little was being done towards helping agriculture has been taken away. For the pulses storage scheme the amount allotted is 6,700; this is a ludicrous sum. Schemes of economic planning is 8,100. Cotton fund which was 135 lakhs in 1944 has been dropped this year; Sugar excise fund which was 12 lakhs dropped this year—Rs. 140 lakhs in 1944 revised in 1945—24 lakhs. The grant under 'groundnut cultivator's relief' and for research which was 1 lakh in 1944 has been omitted. There is no real effective scheme under agriculture. If this is the policy which will be followed by the government towards agricultural improvement, we do not know where it will lead us to. So far as industry is concerned, though relief has been given by way of taking away the Excess Profits Tax, it will be of no effect in developing industries unless something substantial is done by which industry can develop. The main thing required is the importation of capital goods, so that we can produce in this country as much of consumer's

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goods as possible. Instead of importing capital goods and producing consumers goods in this country, I find that quite the opposite is being done. I shall give one instance. Fertilisers worth 450 lakhs is going to be purchased from foreign countries this year. This will cost us at the rate of Rs. 245 per ton which the cultivator will have to pay for this fertiliser. If we had seriously attempted and imported machinery as recommended by Technical mission 1944 worth 420 lakhs we could have by now produced annually in this country 350,000 tons of fertilisers and that would have been at half the cost that is Rs. 120 a ton. Instead of giving any subsidy to the cultivator we are making him pay more. We are giving him fertilisers at a rate of Rs. 245 per ton, while if we had produced them in our country, we could have supplied him at the rate of Rs. 120 a ton. The whole amount for this year will come to Rs. 220 lakhs which will be a burden on the cultivators. If we had imported that machinery and if we had a fertiliser factory, which was quite possible and which is even now possible, we could have saved all this money. Even now serious attempt should be made towards this end. We could even have prevented Rs. 450 lakhs from being sent out from this country to countries abroad. If the present policy is going to be followed, then India has no chance of improving either in agriculture or in industry. So although the Finance Member has said that "I have kept this long term aim in mind" and he has also admitted that unless there is development of the products of industry and agriculture many times, there is no chance for the salvation of this country. But, Sir, the policy which has been followed and the action taken is quite different from what he has said. Another one of the most important things that have got to be done now is to effect deflation. There are various ways of effecting deflation but the healthiest method is the starting of big industries and drawing the money from the public in shares and in other ways towards industry. That will be a productive thing and will have effect to a great extent in bringing about deflation. Public loans, especially for meeting expenses, are of no use. They will only increase the public indebtedness and will produce no good result. In the end I again want to say that unless effective measures are taken in order to have more agricultural projects and more industrial projects, there is no salvation for this country and as such we should take up these things in all seriousness. As the Finance Member said, we are still confronted by an array of enduring and dangerous enemies, poverty etc., so as a war measure, we should invest sufficiently large amount in these things and end this poverty, squalor, ill-health, illiteracy, under-nourishment and under-employment, which are multiplying from day to day.

Mr. President: I am afraid there are only two minutes left. Would the Honourable Member (Mr. Ali Asghar Khan, who stood up) begin now or at 2-30?

Mr. Ali Asghar Khan: At 2-30.

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

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

Mr. Ali Asghar Khan (Assam: Muhammadan): Sir, going through the budget estimates for 1946-47 and the Finance Member's speech, I find that this country has been put to a great strain as a result of the war. During the three pre-war years, our tax revenue was 70 crores yearly on the average and during the seven years of war it has gone up to 199 crores. This shows that during this period of seven years a taxation of about 550 crores has been in excess of the previous sum. It comes to 854 crores in seven years in excess. During the pre-war period, the defence expenditure was 46 crores yearly, but during the war it went up to an average of 225 crores. Not only that, in every Department there was an increase due to the war which can

also be taken as defence expenditure. Out of this, if we study it properly, very little has been spent for the welfare of the country and it can be said that this is a high burden on the poverty-stricken people of this country. I admit that nothing could be done for the country so far due to the war. The people of this country contributed a big sum to the revenue and over and above that they had to undergo great hardship for a war which was not theirs. Even when the war is over, the Finance Member has come forward with a budget which it can be said is not very encouraging for the country. This is called a peace time budget and there is not much to give to the poor. On the other hand, the major portion has again been absorbed by the defence expenditure.

The Finance Member's bold declaration to abolish the E.P.T. will not be a relief to the poor and it will only encourage the industry in the country. On the other hand, he has proposed the amalgamation of the surcharge and the income-tax, which will keep the rate pretty high on lower incomes in normal times. I must say that he has very cleverly shown reduction in one way and by another way he has not only made good his losses but has got something in excess. Had this fact gone to the improvement of the poor and the country as a whole, I would not have had anything to say. But it is being absorbed by the Defence Department.

Up till now I have not dealt with the problem of the poor and I would like to say in this connection that this budget gives them no relief. The little sympathy that the Finance Member has shown by the reduction of duty on kerosene oil has been counter-balanced by the increase of duty on betel-nuts and tobacco. These two items are not a luxury to them. They cannot do without them just as the Honourable Member cannot do without cigarettes or his usual drink in the evening. He would have been a real Finance Member if he had reduced the taxes on salt, tobacco and betel-nut and made up the loss in the revenue by a reduction in the defence expenditure. Our people were very happy and were living in plenty before this Government came to exploit us.

To give relief to the poor and to keep money for the betterment of the people and the country, more attention should be given to post-war planning.

Now, Sir, the Finance Member has not said anything in his speech as to how the Central Government could have helped financially in order to mitigate the famine which is now threatening India nor has he suggested any plan. Crores of rupees have been raised and spent on the war. Surely, something could have been spent on this subject also. The Central Government should have given a loan to the Provincial Governments or awarded them free subsidies to be given to the cultivators to encourage them to produce more by putting waste land under cultivation. India, if she wants it, can produce much more foodgrains to meet her full needs. But I find that no proper steps are being taken either by the Provincial Governments or the Central Government or even by the Leaders of this country except that we see a few articles in the newspapers here and there suggesting that people should grow more food and do certain other things. There are lots of uncultivated lands in every province. If these lands are brought under cultivation by irrigation and other means or by settlement, the food problem in this country can be solved. In my Province of which I know there is a large portion of land still lying uncultivated. This land is neither cultivated by the Assamese, who are no good in cultivation, nor will they allow the outside immigrants to cultivate those lands. They have introduced the line system, and I am sure most of the Honourable Members of this House know what it is. A great injustice has been done to those who went to that country in lakhs after selling all their belongings in their original homes. The Government of Assam even went to the length of burning their houses in Assam, which is a great surprise in these democratic days. The other day, there was an article by an ex-Minister of Assam, drawing the attention of the Government to this line system and asking the Government to settle these people on those uncultivated lands. A few days ago there was an editorial in the *"Dawn"*

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which drew attention to the fact that the present Congress Government were taking steps against these immigrants. I should like to point out that the former Ministry could have settled these lands on those immigrants because there was no opposition then. Even now the present Government can be more national minded, as they claim to be by abolishing this line system. The trouble is there, whichever Government rules, it goes on in the same old way, as we so often accuse the present British Government here. They all become ungodly. If they become a little godly, all the troubles in the world will vanish and there will be no wars. Communal disputes will disappear and every difficulty will be solved very easily. Of course, Mr. Gandhi said that everything can be solved through non-violence. He can preach non-violence in a country like India which is already a slave country. Where there are powerful races as in Russia, England or America, I do not think this non-violence can work properly unless all the people become godly and follow the teachings of God.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member is now going into a domain which is not within the scope of the present discussion.

Mr. Ali Asghar Khan: I am just pointing out that whichever Government comes to power, whether a National Government or a Congress Government or a Muslim League Government or the present Government, when they come to power, they all forget their godly duties, and they do not work with sincerity of purpose. That is what I wanted to show. The Congress Government has come to power in Assam, and if they like they can withdraw this line system.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member's time is over.

Mr. Ali Asghar Khan: I mentioned in my speech in the Council of State also, but then neither the *"Dawn"* nor the last Ministry took any notice of my remarks then. Now, an ex-Minister as well as the *"Dawn"* have taken notice of the same. I draw the attention of the Central Government, the Provincial Government, Mr. Jinnah and Mr. Gandhi and all other leaders to see that this line system is abolished for the sake of growing more food and for the sake of settling more people on these lands so that they can earn some sort of living. I hope the Government would appoint an impartial committee to go into this line system in Assam, with officials and non-officials from outside the province. I hope the Government would thereby come to the help of the poor people in Assam and I hope the Government would cut down the war expenditure to an extent which will help the poor people in the country.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque (Commerce Member): Sir, I do not wish to take much of the time of the House, but I shall briefly reply to the point which was made by my Honourable friend Mr. Griffiths as regards the import policy, particularly that aspect which referred to the question of co-ordination between the different Departments. I hope my Honourable friend will realise that he was speaking in 1946 and this war policy actually had to begin from about the beginning of January 1945 and at that time nobody knew as to when the Japanese war would come to an end. I do admit that at an early stage there were certain difficulties in the working of the Import policy, but I can assure my Honourable friend that just at present for the last few months, there has been the closest co-ordination between the different departments. I might incidentally mention in this connection that the Commerce Department in the issue of import licences of different goods has to follow a policy in the best interests of the country. I might say at once that in so far as the replacement of machinery is concerned, there has been no difficulty whatsoever in issuing licenses for sterling areas, but in non-sterling areas or areas which have difficult currencies, replacement up to a lakh of rupees has been practically freely granted, but when it is beyond one lakh, the question of dollar or other currency had to be taken into consideration before licenses were granted.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I enquire why it is insisted that the importer must prove that the particular type of machinery is not available in sterling area? How do you expect the importer to prove it?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I do not think he will have to prove it. It certainly stands to reason that when so much of sterling, about which my Honourable friend is worried, has accumulated, we should take some steps to liquidate that sterling balance and if we can think of a machinery that is available in that country, certainly there is no reason why you should not import it from the sterling country rather than import it from a country where we have not got exchange facilities.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Even at a higher price?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: As regards capital goods, where new expansion schemes are brought into being, we issue import licences after consulting the different departments concerned. My Honourable friends are aware that any scheme for which application was made for import licences before 23rd December 1944, licences were automatically issued provided we are satisfied that in each case the applicant has a firm order with an exporter definitely prepared to supply. After that, the question of planning in the different departments came in and if we, in the Commerce Department would have issued free licences to anybody who applied without taking note of the different plans which were being formulated in the different departments, it would have completely upset all the schemes of planning. Therefore it took some time for us to issue licences in order to know as to whether the planning has been finished and this is particularly applicable to textile plants, to vegetable ghee plants, to cement plants and some other plants. But, as I have said before, even in such cases where there were applications before 23rd December 1944 licences were issued automatically without any regard as to the planning done in subsequent months. I might say at this stage that with reference to vegetable ghee plants there were eighty to ninety cases—much more than India can possibly bear. My Honourable friend the other day was telling us that groundnuts should be used as direct food and not used for vegetable ghee. Surely if we had allowed all these 80 to 90 cases without any consideration, it would have affected that position, and therefore we had to issue licences according to plan after consulting the departments concerned and after considering the different applications. We have never worried ourselves—at least during the year 1945—as to what the shipping position is likely to be.

Then comes the question of consumer's goods. So far as consumer's goods from sterling areas are concerned, it depends on their availability and the internal position in those countries. Subject to these factors they are freely issued. As regards the United States of America, we have not been as miserly as my Honourable friend thinks, and my Honourable friend will realize that for the first time last year the balance of trade has been against India as between the U.S.A. and India. In terms of money value only in so far as the commercial imports are concerned, whereas in 1939-40 our total imports from America was valued at about 15 crores of rupees, the total value of imports from America in 1945 has gone up to over 50 crores of rupees. It does not show that there should be any complaint on the ground that licences have not been issued. We are trying our best and as I say the question of the balance of trade between one country and another, particularly when the currency of that country is different from our currency, has to be carefully watched before a free licence policy can be introduced.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have the quantities been considered with special reference to higher prices that are being charged for the same commodities that were produced before the war?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I was not dealing with the question of price at all; I was dealing with the volume of trade. Sir, the balance of trade means both import and export. When I am saying that the balance of trade is against India for the first time, I am taking note of the

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export side of India also, and I think it should be realized that for the last few days I have been hearing speeches in this House advocating that India's exports should be restricted as much as possible. We cannot beat on both sides;—on one side we must issue more licences for import from other countries, and at the same time, on the other side, cut out exports altogether. We have to take note of all these factors. Our policy has not only been co-ordination with all other departments, but to consider the position of India as regards the balance of trade, the question of currency, availability of goods and also in so far as Indian production is concerned, we have to look to the position of India *vis-a-vis* the production in Indian factories. There are certain things which people are anxious to get into India as much as possible. We in the Commerce Department have to watch as to whether that is likely to affect particularly those industries which have been sponsored in wartime in response to the requirements of war, and therefore though an individual applicant may be left with a grievance of his own, I can assure my Honourable friends on the other side that we have been trying our best to keep custody in a manner which is just and reasonable. As I said the other day, we have done our best in this matter.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai (Ahmedabad Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): How have you not been able to exhaust the sum of 20 million dollars?

Mr. President: Order, order. Mr. Mukhopadhyay.

Mr. Nagendranath Mukhopadhyay (Calcutta Suberbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir I rise to state my views on this Budget which has been presented by the Honourable the Finance Member before this House. He has made certain observations which demand a straight reply: First of all, he says that this is his last Budget. Perhaps he means to say that the caravan has reached the destination and the necessity of the driver is gone, that India is getting freedom this year and no longer will he be required to present another Budget in this House. But I am sorry I cannot share his optimism. I know that some of my countrymen share his views, that they are going to get freedom this year, that the Cabinet Ministers are coming to India to transfer real power to the Indians, but from the experience which I have gained from long association with the British Government, I know that they do not do what they say. From the time of Lord Macaulay we are hearing this and we are dreaming of the glorious days when the power will be transferred to Indians. In World War No. 1 when India contributed men, money and material and helped the war wholeheartedly, they were told that this war was for the establishment of self-government of smaller nations. But what did we find immediately after the war? We had, as a reward, the greatest massacre in Jalianwallabag. The whole nation was shocked; Mahatma Gandhi was shocked; but out of evil cometh good: Mahatma Gandhi, who was a strong supporter of the Government, started non-violent non-co-operation movement.

Mr. President: I am afraid if the Honourable Member goes into ancient history, he will have no time left to speak on the Budget.

Mr. Nagendranath Mukhopadhyay: Sir, I am referring to the Finance Member's remarks that this is his last Budget. I may be permitted to say that in this world War II everybody talked of freedom from exploitation, freedom from domination, freedom from want, and so on. All these things were heard for so many years and now we are getting in return firing on all sides—firing on students of schools and colleges—and holding trials of the Indian National Army who fought for the liberty of India. If that be the mentality, how can we share the optimism of my Honourable friend that the British Ministers are coming to transfer real power to Indians. They cannot afford to do it. They cannot sign their death warrant.

Assuming that the British Ministers, as Maharaj Harish Chandar, are coming to transfer real power to India, as a gift, because of the solemn promises which they have made, what is the legacy they are going to leave behind.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands has given the picture of India very very beautifully—"poverty, squalor, ill-health, illiteracy, under-nourishment and under-employment." I admire him for his divine frankness; he has drawn the picture of India in one line. Why this poverty? When we come to the country we see that it is devastated, it is ruined, there is no arrangement for irrigation, no arrangement for medicine, no arrangement for education, and the whole country is becoming day by day more and more impoverished. Why? It is due to the British Government, it is due to the systematic exploitation of the country, and especially due to the big cities like Delhi and other big cities where money is profusely spent and villages are ruined. Then you find squalor. What is it due to? I may be permitted to say that an empire which was built by treachery and is propped up by bribery, cannot but have squalor and dirt all round. As regards literacy, I may be permitted to say that after 190 years of British rule, only 10 per cent. of Indians are literate. Why? They did not want to educate us; they wanted to make some clerks for carrying on this administration,

3 P.M. trade and a show of justice in the law courts, and selling agents of foreign medicines, and such other jobs. They wanted to do these things, and they have done so. They cannot go any further. As regards under-nourishment, you see the want of food has become rampant throughout India.

Mr. President: Order, order. Will the Honourable Member resume his seat?

I do not want to interfere with the ideas of the Honourable Member at all. I will only remind him that the scope of the discussion is the budget and not a *post mortem* of the previous history. I do not want to go into the merits. If the Honourable Member wants to make any introductory remarks he may. His point is that the Finance Member is leaving a bad legacy. He may now proceed because he has only a few minutes more.

Mr. Nagendranath Mukhopadhyay: He wants our co-operation. But what do you see? Trials and firing on all sides. How can you have co-operation. Then I come to the remarks: "merciful termination of the war". I say that a dangerous continuation of the war is going on. The warring nations are taking breath and sharpening their knives for another war which will be a war of atomic bombs and cosmic rays. I think there should be an international law forbidding the use of atom bombs, the deadly effect of which we have seen in an Asiatic land like Japan, where by the dropping of an atom bomb one whole city was destroyed. Until India, Egypt, Arabia and China—these are the oldest nations—are free from foreign exploitation and domination, there can be no peace in the world from the moral side.

Then he has made an observation that she has suffered in full measure and in greatest measure in India for reasons of economy. I know in Bengal alone 30 lakhs of people died of starvation and on account of famine in one year. But in the last war, only ten lakhs of people in six years have been killed in the whole of British Empire. So you can easily see where we stand. To cut short my speech, I would simply ask for one thing. For defence Rs. 243 crores have been set apart. As the Honourable Member says the war has ended, so there is no necessity of any further defence now. Russia has been a great friend. America is a bosom friend and Japan and Germany have been totally crushed. What is the necessity of allotting so much for defence? If half of that amount is taken away and utilised for spreading education along lines suggested by Mahatma Gandhi, *viz.*, basic education, I think Indian people will be literate and at the same time will, within a short period, begin to earn something. If the villages are improved by supplying the cultivators with implements of cultivation and manure and other things, if irrigation arrangements are made, if the rivers that are dried up are resuscitated and for the spread of education schools are established and medical help given, these devastated villages will again flourish and will be a growing power in India. To supplement their income, why not introduce the *charka* in every home? Then the want of cloth will be avoided. All these things can be done if an amicable settlement is made between the two nations. Simply by

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saying Grow More Food and stop hoarding, nothing will be done. The first thing is to stop exports and to stop waste. Both these things are going on. Medical arrangements should be made. A co-ordinated scheme throughout India should be started to supplement the budgeted amounts in Provinces for education and health and if a bold start is made for the improvement of India all round, I think within a few years you will see that the villagers are prosperous, the cultivators are fed, they are being educated, they are being supplied with medicine and given all the amenities of life which are humanly possible.

With these remarks I close. I hope my friend will consider the suggestions. It is said that we are living in an electric atmosphere. In an unguarded moment the switch may be pressed and the whole human race may be consumed. It is better to be fore warned.

Mr. P. Mason (Government of India: Nominated Official): Sir, you began this debate by warning us against the dangers of going into too much detail and it was interesting to note that later on in the debate you found it necessary to warn us also against speaking in rather too general and vague terms. I am conscious of the difficulty of avoiding these two rocks. I will begin, Sir, by steering rather nearer to the rock of detail and later rather nearer to the rock of generality. Going back over the speeches which have been made, in my mind, one of the main points which has been raised, I think it was raised first by the Deputy President, was the question of waste. Now, Sir, he put that point, I think, extremely well. In war time a certain amount of waste is almost inevitable among the armed forces, because they want things very quickly and they have got to get them immediately and it is impossible to carry out the detailed checks which we carry out in peace. And I think very understandingly the Deputy President referred to the psychological difficulty of getting away from that atmosphere when hostilities come to an end. Well, Sir, we are trying to overcome that psychological difficulty as well as we can. We sent out repeated letters and circulars to Commands and Commands have passed on those instructions to units and the instructions are very strict. But my friends on the other side will say: "Instructions are all very well. You may set your heart on a policy but it is quite another thing to follow that policy up with determination, to explore it in all its ramifications with thrust and drive, and to bring it to fruition." Well, I cannot go over the whole field, but I might give you one or two examples of the measures we have taken to deal with this matter. Corruption is one form of waste. We have introduced a special police staff which has, in the last three years since they were set up, investigated 886 cases. They have disposed of 660 cases finally and in 70 per cent. of those cases they have obtained convictions. The amount involved in the cases they have investigated is 2 crores and the cost of that organisation is 9 lakhs a year. So that is quite a paying proposition even on those results and of course we must reckon in a fairly considerable preventive value as well.

Another thing is petrol. I am always hearing a great deal about petrol being available in the black market. I have never had any myself but I have heard that it is obtainable. (Interruption by Prof. N. G. Ranga) My Honourable friend has more information than I have.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: He does not need it.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): We can get it for you if you want.

Mr. P. Mason: We have in connection with that arranged that every vehicle has with it four returns. The driver has to keep a vehicle account book, a daily running account, a log book and a return of his motor spirit. I do not say that prevents leakage of petrol but it does make it a great deal more difficult. Further, we have reviewed it so to speak from the other end, the end from which petrol comes out and we have asked commands to go through every unit and consider which units they can put back on to a peace time basis and which

they can put back on a kind of modified system, by which it is more difficult than in war to obtain petrol but not so easy as in peace, and which must remain for a short time on a war basis.

Works are also constantly referred to. I did give the House the other day information on that point. I will not go over it all again but I would just refer to one point. Out of 573 major projects which were in process of being started at the termination of hostilities with Japan 322 were stopped immediately, and work was continued only on those which it was uneconomical to leave unfinished.

Another point made by the Deputy President was regarding discussion of the budget in further detail. As the Honourable the Finance Member said it has been accepted that the defence part of the budget estimate shall go before the Standing Finance Committee.

There is one other point which was made I think by the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party, a point of very great importance, which has been constantly before the house and on which I think a few figures would be of value. Mr. Asaf Ali said that the cost of a British soldier was about four times that of an Indian soldier and therefore if you had 2,00,000 Indian soldiers and 50,000 British soldiers, it would be possible (he put it as a purely theoretical case) to send those 50,000 British soldiers out of the country and then be able to have 2,00,000 more Indian soldiers. That is not quite correct. It is correct that an individual British soldier costs more than an individual Indian soldier. The figure is not actually four times as suggested, it is rather less than 2½ times. But that is true of individuals. But armies are not organised by individuals. They are organised by units and the most important part of a unit—one of the most important parts—and certainly the most costly part is the equipment and the equipment is the same both for the Indian soldier and for the British soldier.

Somebody else also raised the same point in relation to the Air Force and suggested that if we sent away the R.A.F. squadrons and replaced them by R.I.A.F. squadrons we could have many more. That also is not quite correct. In the first place, of course, you could not by a stroke of the pen send away the R.A.F. squadrons or the British units because they are much more closely integrated than my friends may possibly realise. For example, every R.A.F. squadron has a certain number of Indian R.I.A.F. men in it and in the same way, although some of the R.I.A.F. squadrons are completely Indianised behind them is the maintenance organisation of the R.A.F. and they cannot be replaced in a moment. The training of the supervisory technical personnel for the maintenance of aircraft is a very long process indeed, and they could not be replaced by Indians by the stroke of a pen. But it is being done. If, however, taking it for the sake of argument that you could replace a British R.A.F. squadron by a fully Indianised R.I.A.F. squadron, leaving the maintenance problem out for the moment, the results would not be quite as is imagined. The cost of a medium bomber squadron R.A.F. is 90 lakhs and that of a R.I.A.F. is 78 lakhs. Unless my arithmetic is wrong it is a proportion of 15 to 13, so that if you could by some miraculous process replace the 13 R.A.F. squadrons you would get 15 R.I.A.F. instead. Though it is not as much as is commonly supposed, it is of course something. I have taken the bomber squadron for an illustration, as it has the most expensive form of equipment with which the R.I.A.F. are equipped for the moment. If you take fighters the proportion would be 5 to 4, 40 lakhs for an R.A.F. fighter squadron as against 32 lakhs for an R.I.A.F. fighter squadron.

I also asked for figures for a regiment of tanks. An R.A.C. British Tank regiment costs very roughly 50 lakhs. An Indian armoured corps regiment roughly costs 35 lakhs. That is a proportion of 10 to 7. I have carried this process a stage further and we have calculated what would be the saving if you could, I repeat, by some miraculous process have Indian units for British units throughout.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why should it be a miraculous process?

Mr. P. Mason: I have tried to explain that, Sir. The total defence budget is 245 crores. If you can carry out that process the saving would be rather less than 20 crores. That is of course quite a lot but it is nothing like so much as my friends imagined.

Another point which has been discussed very largely is demobilisation. The figures are 3,00,000 Indian other ranks demobilised or returned to their places by the end of January of this year. In addition, there are 5,000 officers and 30,000 British other ranks. There will be another 1,86,000 Indian other ranks during February and March, which makes a total of 4,86,000 for the first seven or eight months since the end of hostilities. I do not think that there is anything very remarkable in this, but the process is one I hope of gradual acceleration. Getting it started took a little time, because as has been several times pointed out the end of hostilities took us rather by surprise. It came rather sooner than expected. Comparisons have been made with other countries, by which presumably is meant Great Britain and America, where the process has certainly been a great deal faster. But they have had two advantages. They expected the end of the war in Europe earlier than it came, whereas we in India expected the end of the war with Japan later than it came about; and they were able on account of their situation to start a certain amount of demobilisation after V. E. Day, so that they had a flying start for V. J. Day.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Was it not a fact that you said you would demobilise 9 lakhs of men by May?

Mr. P. Mason: I am not giving way.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: You published it in a press communique that 9 lakhs were expected to be demobilised.

Mr. P. Mason: I do not know whether it was 9 lakhs: I think we said 7; we were certainly hoping it would be something very much better than it has been (Interruptions).

Mr. President: Order, order.

Mr. P. Mason: As I say, I think that process will be accelerated. My friend the Leader of the European Group asked whether the bottle neck was resettlement or whether it was the mechanics of discharging men. It is not exactly either, but it is rather more the latter. It is definitely not resettlement. We did consider the possibility of slowing up demobilisation until resettlement plans were ready in every particular. But we came to the conclusion—and I am sure it was right—that to keep a man on in the army doing nothing merely because you had not got things ready for him when he went out of it was wrong. That is the answer to that.

With regard to the mechanics of it, one difficulty was getting the whole big machinery which built up the army into reverse. That has now been done. But the second thing was that troops did not come back from overseas as we expected. That process has now begun and the flow is increasing rapidly. As the Commander-in-Chief announced the other day in the Council of State, they have begun to come back from South East Asia and that will continue during the next four months.

Now, Sir, I have mentioned some of the points which my friends have raised. I am going to make a present to them of two points which they have not raised so far—points which struck me and which we have looked into further. It struck me that training and recruitment were both things on which we might have been able to cut down a good deal faster in the coming year; and I have been making inquiries about that. The training will never come down to anything like the pre-war figure; because in the first place equipment is so much more expensive and so much more complicated. It takes very much more time for the soldier to learn its use. Secondly the training has become so much more complicated and the technique of warfare has become so much more specialised that far more schools have to be maintained. So that, we

shall never get back to anything like pre-war level. But I do think that it may be possible to cut down a little below the figure which has been given in the budget, and that is being examined now, as to whether we can. I should also explain that this is rather a good example, I think, of a process which applies over the whole field of defence expenditure. Something which was set up in order to build is being used to 'unbuild', if I may use the term. The infantry training centre consisted during the war of so many training companies, each company training for an active battalion. What we have done is that all of these training companies except one, which is going on training for all the active battalions, all but one have been disbanded. But the N.C.O.'s and trained men have been used to make demobilisation companies and the remaining companies of that training centre are being used as a kind of demobilisation machine through which the men go when they come back; and that will come to an end when demobilisation is complete.

In the same way recruiting has not come down to quite so much as I expected; one reason is that recruiting now caters not only for the army but also for the air force and for the navy, which it did not do before the war. The other reason is that at the moment a large part of the recruiting organisation is being used for resettlement, because although our friends in the Labour Department have made great progress with their arrangements, they are not quite ready; and as I say, we take the position that we will not wait for it and we would pass the men out and our recruiting officers are therefore being used as labour exchanges.

One further point raised by the European Group was this: priorities on trunk calls on telephones. I must say I do agree with him there and we have recently in conjunction with the Posts and Telegraphs Department had a very thorough examination of the whole procedure. I entirely agree with him that there can be no question of automatic priority for military traffic; and in fact they never had that. What there has been is that military officers down to a certain level were entitled to use priority when they thought it was necessary and they did get into the habit—I frankly admit that—during the war of thinking that necessity had arisen pretty often. We have told them all that they have to be very much more careful and they must reduce very considerably the numbers who are entitled to use priority, and that has only been done recently and I do not think it has had time yet to bear fruit. I hope in two months' time it will bear fruit; and if the Honourable Member will write to me then and say that he is still experiencing the same difficulty, we will think what more we can do. I am not quite so well up in the question of air passages, but I agree with him there also, that priorities should be revised and I will have that also examined.

Japan was mentioned by my friend Mr. Jaffer. Here I think it is usually a good plan when we are criticised,—and that is roughly speaking every time we make a decision—there to think what would have been said if we had decided the other way. What would have been said had we said that no Indian troops were to go to Japan.....

Prof. N. G. Ranga: We would have hailed it.

Mr. P. Mason: I am quite sure that some of my Honourable Friends—not possibly the one who just interrupted....

Prof. N. G. Ranga: No one on the elected benches.

Mr. P. Mason: I am quite sure that some of them....

Prof. N. G. Ranga: No; not one.

Mr. President: Order, order. The Honourable Member must not go on interrupting like this: The War Secretary is putting his view of the case before the House.

Prof. N. G. Ranga. He has no right to speak for us.

Mr. President: Order, order: constant interruptions and interjections do not help in the debate at all.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: He cannot go on making wrong statements.

Mr. President: He can make his statement as he likes, right or wrong. When the Honourable Member gets his turn he can reply.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: We are here to contest it at every stage.

Mr. President: Not at every stage.

Mr. P. Mason: As I was saying, I think that some of my friends—I do not say who, but I think some of them would have said "The Indian soldier is good enough to fight but he is not good enough to come forward and take his place with the victorious troops after the war is over!" In fact I have seen one question addressed in the other House which suggests that we ought also to have provided an occupational force for Germany. We took the middle course and provided one for one country and not for the other; and no doubt we shall be criticised on both grounds.

If I may come rather nearer to the other rock, the rock of generalisation, this mechanism which was built up during the six years of war was built up with immense effort. I can say that at first hand because either in General Headquarters or in South East Asia Command I was in it from the beginning of the war; and at times I must say that one had the feeling of frustration at the difficulties and the immense effort which was needed to get anything done. One felt one was pushing the whole time and nothing was happening; but in spite of those groanings and travailings—groanings which sometimes seemed almost deafening—we did gradually get it built up; and personally I am proud of the machine which was created. But to suppose that that machine which was built up in six years can be undone in six months is asking too much of any one. And it is surprising to me how much effort it also means to undo what we did do during those six years. One has to push very nearly as hard to get undone what we then pushed so hard to get done. I can give an example. Every executive officer knows the stage when he knows he is overworked and he must get some help. Well he tries to convince other people that he needs an extra officer and he has to get quite a large number of authorities to agree. He pushes the proposal hard and at last he gets an officer. Well, now we have got to persuade him to get rid of that officer and again we have got to push back from the top and persuade him that he has to get rid of that officer. He is reluctant to get rid of that officer, he feels that at any moment there may be some terrific spate of work, some terrific rush of supplementary questions in the Assembly which will put on him additional labour. But I can assure my Honourable friend that we are applying that pressure and trying to reduce as fast as we can.

Somebody said, I forget who it was, that this budget which ought to have been a peace budget was really a war budget. Well, I agree that in size it does compare with budgets in the earlier stages of the war but here I would like to quote from my friend the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party who, as on so many occasions, said much in his speech with which I agree very warmly. He said that India is in a very dangerous position. The world is in a ferment. He pointed out the dangers on the North West and the North East, both of which, I agree with him, are very real dangers. He spoke of India being in the future the policeman, as well as the arsenal of the East. I must say that I was very glad to hear him say that, just as I was very glad last week to hear him and the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League speak of the pride which they felt in India's armed forces. If India is going to be the policeman and the arsenal of the East—and I hope she will and I am sure that she will take a place consistent with her greatness, and that she will use her strength in the case of peace,—if she is to take that place she must have armed forces and she will have to pay for them and it would be folly to throw away all the experience that we have gained in the last six years and all the organisation that has been built up and get rid of it at such a speed that it would be waste.

I should like to look back for a moment into the days before the war and to remember,—with a good deal of shame—the fact that the natural policemen and arsenals of the West, who were the United Kingdom and the United States, tried to fulfil those roles without paying for them; and I think that was a very considerable cause of the misery and bloodshed that we have been through in the last six years I hope, Sir, that India will not make the same mistake.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): May I at this stage make mention of one fact. Unfortunately I have been suffering from ill-health for two or three days. I felt unwell and myself and my friend Mr. Debendra Lal Khan were proceeding home to our quarters. The roads were blocked. We want to know whether traffic to and from the Assembly Chamber has been blocked to the knowledge of our President. If not who is responsible for this. As President, you will kindly consider whether it is consistent with the dignity of the House to allow traffic to and from the Assembly to be treated like this.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: My car was also stopped.

Mr. President: The point is now before us. Every member need not support the statement that the roads were blocked. I do not know what the orders are.

Mr. P. Mason: I am not aware of the orders but without information as to details, I should have *prima facie* supposed that possibly one road was blocked to let traffic to move in one direction but the men who were stopped were probably asked to go round by another road

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: That is not correct. I do not know what is the function of the people on duty. We definitely said that we wanted to go to Ferozeshah Road and Canning Lane which are our quarters and they said that they had definite instructions that the parade was passing and they would not allow traffic to go. We tried several rounds, round this Chamber. Everything was blocked and we were forced back into the Chamber.

Mr. P. Mason: I am glad to see that the Honourable Member has surmounted this difficulty and managed to get in here. I will make inquiries and find out.

Mr. President: His complaint is the other way about. He wanted to go home and has been stopped.

Mr. P. Mason: If the Honourable Member will speak to me outside, I will make some arrangements for him.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Is it necessary that we should break the law and go home? Some arrangement must be made.

Mr. President: No advice on that point will be asked. The Honourable Member will make arrangements.

Mr. Sukhdev Udhowdas (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Before I begin my speech, I will read a few words from the budget speech of the Honourable the Finance Member. He says: "the monstrous ambitions of the Fascist dictatorships have been utterly destroyed." Will he forecast "when British Imperialism in India, which is as monstrous as any dictatorship, will be utterly destroyed?"

Now, Sir, on the budget I want to say what ordinary people in the street were expecting in this Budget. They thought that the war is over. For six years they have suffered day and night and now they will be given something. They thought that the salt tax would be abolished. The price of the post card would be reduced to half an anna, that the duty on kerosene, matches and betel-nuts would be abolished and relief would be given to the income-tax payers whose income is up to Rs. 3,000. But nothing was done by this Finance Minister. Perhaps he was thinking of pleasing the rich capitalists who

[Mr. Sukhdev Udhowdas.]

helped him in this war. In 1942 the nation rose in protest against the incarceration of our leaders. Then these very capitalists came to the assistance of this Imperialistic Government and it is perhaps for this that they have been given the first gratuity, the abolition of the E. P. T. This they have got for their treachery to the country, though it is called loyalty to the British Government. I think the days are coming when they should open their eyes and be patriots. Some relief has been given to the middle class with fixed income but the present budget continues to be a war budget. The war was over in Europe ten months back and in the Far East six months back. Yet the reduction effected in the expenditure of the army during 1944-45 is only 4½ per cent. Although there is no war this year, 445 crores have been provided for it which is more than double the provision for civil expenditure. 69 per cent. has to be spent on army in this peace time, which is a colossal drain on our slender resources. This is all due to our Rulers' Imperialistic policy to maintain a British army of occupation. Under a National Government such a huge army will not be maintained as India has no territorial ambitions and every Indian will be a reserve in the National Army.

Now, I come to agriculture. Since the commencement of the war the food situation showed signs of deterioration and in spite of the Food Department and the Grow More Food campaign, the production of foodgrains has not increased and the situation has gone from bad to worse from year to year. In 1943 we lost 3½ million lives from starvation and caused loss of vitality to 10 million who could not die. Now, we are faced with a country-wide famine and unless foreigners come to our rescue, we do not know what will happen in this country. What has been the achievement of the Agriculture and the Food Departments to improve the production and distribution of food in this country? Unless these Departments are handled by our National Government, under whose inspiration and guidance officers work zealously and in missionary spirit, no real progress can be expected.

The health of the masses of India is in a very deplorable condition. Yesterday we read in the newspapers about the Bhore Committee report. It gives some very sensational figures. Child mortality is 158 per thousand; there are 2 lakhs of maternity casualties every year; 10 crores of people annually suffer from malaria, out of which 2 million die; there are 2½ million tuberculosis patients. This is a verdict on our Rulers' criminal neglect of the people's health. To meet the minimum requirements, we want a national health plan. We need five times more doctors: hundred times more nurses; two hundred times more midwives and so on.

Now about the postal needs. The unfortunate feature of the present budget is that in spite of a huge saving from the working of the Posts and Telegraphs Department, relief is not at all given to the poor Posts and Telegraphs employees who have worked loyally and faithfully on a pittance all these years under a heavy strain and nothing has been done for them; nor has any relief been given to the poor population in the shape of the reduction of postal charges.

One hundred and fifty controls are said to have been removed, but we wish that all controls ought to be removed. As long as there are controls, there will be black markets. We wish the control on cloth and food to be removed. No sooner you remove controls, all the stuff comes into the market. It will be a little dear but all will get it.

As regards post-war planning and development, nothing has been done. We thought that during these six years of war, shipbuilding, aeroplane industry and some heavy industries would be introduced in India. But this British Imperialistic Government does not like this. They wish that we should purchase everything from England. Therefore, we should not expect anything from them but we make them quit India.

As regards demobilisation, I would give a little advice to the Government. Demobilisation priority should be given to that section of the army which was recruited from the peasantry and from country-side. It is they who are the tillers of the soil. They should be demobilised at once so that they should be able to go back to their land and cultivate it and solve the problem of this food muddle. They should not go back empty-handed. Seed should be provided to them and implements should be given to them and even those who have not got bullocks or even a piece of land, they should be supplied with these things free of charge. It is in this way that we will be able to solve the food problem and also we will help these poor people to go and settle in the country.

As regards sterling balances, many Members have spoken but I want to suggest that as His Majety's Government is going to get a huge loan from the American Government, why should they not part with a portion in part repayment of our sterling balances, so that our industrialists—though they have been traitors to our country, yet they are our people—should purchase machinery from America and repair and renovate their industry. With these few remarks I resume my seat.

Choudhury Md. Abid Hussain (Bhagalpur Division: Muhammadan): Sir, the budget which was presented the other day is the first post-war budget and it may rightly be called a transitional period budget, because it marks the transition of India's finance from war to peace time basis and; hence it must be looked into cautiously. The first impression which it makes upon the reader's mind is that the Finance Member has tried his utmost to please all sections of people. But if you go deeper into it, you will find that he has done more for the rich than for the poor. The Finance Member has succeeded to a great extent in minimising the burden of the rich people and has done nothing for those who were really in need of it, namely, the poor people. If we analyse the taxation system, at the very outset we feel that the eyes of the Finance Member fell, first of all, upon the rich people and he has given them relief by altogether discontinuing the E. P. T. No doubt this tax was the outcome of war period and it must go. But the Honourable the Finance Member in likewise should have thought for the poor. By taking away this E. P. T., he is only helping the rich to become richer. It is this class of people who have benefited most from the war. They have earned so much during the war that they really do not know where to keep their riches and how to spend them. My point is that the Finance Member ought to have devised some means to improve the condition of the poor people, he must have provided them with food, clothing and other betterments of life. He should have given help for development of agriculture. What will you find if you go to a village, poverty prevails everywhere, they live under the most unhygienic conditions, they have no wholesome food. Yet the richer people still expect them to work hard and hard. The irony of fate is that the rich people have to live on the toils of these labourers. If these labourers do not work hard, if they do not plough the fields, and if they do not study the wheather what would be the result? The result would be starvation on all sides. My point is that there should be provision made for improved methods of agriculture for these people for improved means of communication, etc. They should be given better education so that they could cultivate lands on modern lines. My point is India's wealth should be utilised in the best possible manner for the uplift of the poor people in the country. This could have been done if the Government could have cut down the defence expenditure and utilised the saving for the poor people. By the extinction of E. P. T., the Finance Member has simply tried to make India more industrialised. No doubt industrialisation should be done but all the facilities which he has given are mainly for the rich people. Now he should look to the actual needs of the poor also. These industrialists have a lot of money, but they never care for the welfare of the labourers, they do not increase the wages of the workers, they neglect the housing, the food and clothing of the workers. Every

[Choudhury Md. Abid Hussain.]

day we read in the newspapers that strikes are taking place in mills, sometimes in this mill and sometimes in that mill, not because the labourers want a share in the capital of the mills, but simply because they want so much that they can afford to live in a better way, so much that they can have wholesome food, so much that they can cover their nakedness. The object of helping the poor has been frustrated by the measure which the Honourable the Finance Member has taken in giving this E. P. T. relief to the industrialists who thrive on the toils of their workers.

Now, I come to the petrol tax. Relief is given in the duty on petrol. The petrol duty has been reduced by three annas. As against this, the reduction in duty on kerosene is only less than an anna. This means that the Finance Member is again helping the rich as against the poor. Who are the people who use kerosene? It is the poor villagers. Even this reduction in duty on kerosene would, I am afraid, go into the pockets of the middleman, because these villagers have to live on the mercy of the small shopkeepers in the villages who generally supply these commodities to them on credit, and thereby these shopkeepers have a hold upon the poor villager. If the shopkeeper supplies kerosene oil, he will charge the same old price and supply the same quantity of oil as before.

The tax on raw cotton is the same as before. I am afraid this will hit a great deal the handloom weaving industry. The handloom weavers cannot compete with the mills. From the outset, it appears that all the measures of relief proposed by the Finance Member are such as to grant special concessions only to the rich. Depreciation allowance of 10 per cent. on new buildings, 20 per cent. on new plants and, relief in customs duty on raw materials—all these are meant for the rich people. As against these, what does the Finance Member propose by way of relief to the poor? There is no reduction of salt tax which is consumed by all sections of people, no reduction in price of post cards, no reduction in money order commissions. All these had gone up during the war, and it is only fair that since the war is over, these extra charges should have been removed. The next thing which the Finance Member has taxed is the betel-nut. It is well known that whenever anybody goes to a village as a guest of some one, the first thing that is offered to him is *pan* and betel-nuts. But even this small luxury the Finance Member would not allow to the poor.

Looking at the budget, at the first glance, one sees a deficit of 144·95 crores during the current year and a deficit of 48·71 crores for the next year. The defence expenditure is more than eight times that of pre-war figure and even next year it is high, as high as six times. Though the war has already ended still we see the defence expenditure not coming down. The same is the case with civil expenditure. The amalgamation of surcharge on income-tax with basic rates is also a dangerous step which would, result in keeping the tax as high as possible on lower incomes. On the whole, I see that a large majority of people have not got any relief from this budget.

Mr. President: Before I call upon the Honourable Member Mr. Ananda Mohan Poddar to deliver his speech, I might explain to the House that the Honourable Member is not keeping well and he cannot stand. He has therefore asked my permission to deliver his speech while being seated and I have permitted him to do so.

I might also mention now that, I propose to call the Honourable the Finance Member to speak at about 4-25 P.M. today. I hope that time will suffice for him. If necessary, the House may continue for five or ten minutes after 5 P.M.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: That is enough, Sir.

Mr. Ananda Mohan Poddar (Bengal Mahajan Sabha: Indian Commerce): Sir, at the outset, I offer my grateful thanks to you, Sir, for the kind privilege of allowing me to speak from my seat and I also ask my brother colleagues to kindly realise my position and show their indulgence to me.

Sir Archibald in the opening sentence of his budget speech said that it would be the last budget to be presented by a British Finance Member. This is an indication which, I think, Sir Archibald, has been made to feel that the British Rule in India is reaching the extreme end of its existence. If this indication of his feeling genuine and sincere, I think I would first of all congratulate him before I offer him my compliments for preparing a budget in a critical time like this which has some very satisfactory features: aiming at the construction and development of national industries.

The end of the war and the consequent easing of the position have obviously helped him to formulate some constructive schemes for the well being of the country. He has contemplated setting up a Taxation Committee, and he has
4 P.M. also made proposals for the National Investment Board and the Industrial Finance Corporation. These proposals are certainly of utmost importance for any planned economic growth in the country. But, Sir, it is a controversial point, whether the existing Government is competent to tackle these problems at the present moment in the absence of necessary resources which have not been found out by Sir Archibald in his budget estimate. However, Sir, I feel strongly that these proposals must be entirely left for the Indian National Government which is coming very soon.

The Budget as a whole, I must say, is wholly disappointing. The war ended in May last year and Japan surrendered in September last but still the revised estimate of defence expenditure for 1945-46 is Rs. 376 crores against the original estimate of Rs. 394 crores showing a reduction of only 18 crores. Then, Sir, the defence expenditure, budgeted for this year—1946-47—is Rs. 244 crores which has been attributed to the cost of demobilisation. But in this connection Sir Archibald has given out that some portion of this will be spent on the maintenance of our Indian soldiers who have been stationed in Japan. Sir, I take serious exception to this sort of thing which has now been thrust on us, and which has been inflicted on the Indian finance without the previous sanction of the Honourable Members of this House. Indian troops have been stationed in Japan, and the irony of fate is that my Honourable friend, Sir Archibald, has stated that Indian occupation in Japan will evince India's advanced political status. I take serious exception to this. What is today the actual status of India? I feel, Sir, that this has not been done in the ordinary course, and as it has come through the statement of my Honourable friend in the budget estimate, I think it is our duty to refuse it. He has talked of advanced political status, but I think our's is in no way better than the Egyptian Status. He talks of status; it is no status, but he wants to give us false allurements which may induce some of my countrymen to sanction this item. We must legitimately do away with it. I am glad that it has now come within the competency of the Honourable Members of this House, and we should refuse it entirely.

[At this stage, Mr. President vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan)]

I would like to point this out from his budget speech:

"Apart from the great part played by her Armed forces in the subjugation of the Japanese, India's representation amongst the forces of occupation is an appropriate and inevitable recognition of her international importance."

It is not a correct statement which we can accept. It is a misnomer.

Sir, in respect of the heavy civil expenditure, I would like to point out that these have not been curtailed in any way. Sir Archibald would have done well to attempt to snatch away some money from this item for the benefit of the poor people and for the amelioration of the miserable condition of the general mass who have been practically ignored by the Finance Member. I would like to say that I realize the difficulties of Government in undertaking immediate retrenchment and cutting down the scales of their existing Departments, but as the war was over quite a long time ago he ought to have made some attempts to cut down the staff which is employed without any work whatsoever.

[Mr. Ananda Mohan Poddar.]

money which would become available by scaling down all this unnecessary sta which is now a heavy burden on the Indian exchequer, would have provid some relief to the poor who have been left out in the preparation of this Budge I would like to point out one very grave thing. Here, Sir, we have come listen to many big things about the impending famine, but, alas, Sir Archiba has got no statement, no machinery, no measures to announce in respect this impending famine. Neither has he indicated lines as to how the In Governnment propose to deal successfully with this famine question, and ho they are going financially to mitigate the sufferings of the impending famin of which we have heard so much, if not to stop the famine altogether. I thin he ought to have made this statement. But sorry, he has absolutely refrain from making any announcement in this vital matter. The majority of t population has suffered and sustained extreme miseries during the long period seven years of war when their very existence was threatened. I would ask Archibald to take note of this and see that some sort of relief is given. He h abolished the excess profits tax and given us relief. We can afford to lo all these things for the sake of our poorer brethren. I may say that he h shown very little sympathy by reducing nine pies tax on kerosene but he h reduced it by three annas in the case of petrol which concerns the richer section

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: He has been paying fifteen annas

Mr. Ananda Mohan Poddar: Yes, now reduced to twelve annas—*i.e.*, relief by three annas. But there should be an attempt for abolition of duties betel-nuts, tobacco, salt and sugar at least. I have to remark that Sir Archiba did not care to know that these foodstuffs of daily life are not used for luxu but these are of imperative necessity to the labourers and agriculturists of country. He should take note of it. Our country demands absolute aboli of these uncalled for taxes in a time like this especially after our countrym have sustained extreme troubles and hardships during the long period of se years of war. He should make it a point to give some relief to the poor othe wise he will have to face serious opposition and cut after cut motions unl there is an adequate provision of relief for the poor in his budget.

I would take one minute more. There is a vast area of fallow lan which has not been considered in the budget. Sir Archibald should undert a comprehensive scheme so that the uncultivated area can be gradually take under the plough and this will contribute to solving the problem of famine to great extent.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: On a point of order. Will the Honourable th War Secretary ask the authorities not to allow these planes to fly so low ov the House when the Assembly is in session because they cause unnecessar disturbance.

Mr. Ananda Mohan Poddar: You need not worry about this now,—we wi catch him on the point of cut motions when he will have to revise all the things. I will lastly make a humanitarian appeal to my Honourable friend Sir Archibald to revise his estimates before we deal with the cut motions for a adequate amelioration to the poorer sections of the population who have bee neglected.

Mr. Deputy President: Mr. Gounder. The Honourable Member has onl ten minutes to speak.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non Muhammadan Rural): I would like to say a very few words as most of th subjects have been dealt with by my other colleagues. I am mostly interested in village welfare. I should like to say something in what way the Honour able the Finance Member has arranged to conquer the enemies which he ha clearly pointed out in his budget speech. All these enemies he has pointed out as lying in the villages and not at all in the towns. The towns are growing

at the cost of the villages. From the advent of British administration these villages have been isolated and every amount of collection and taxation to a very large amount is spent upon the improvement of big urban areas and in presidency towns and in the construction of big trunk roads. In these areas, Sir, there are any amount of devastations, still going on and especially after the declaration of war these devastations have become complete, I should say. Along with that declaration of war came controls. The controls have no meaning at all especially to the villagers and the more the controls came the villagers have been drifting into the town areas. They are not able to get anything in the villages. This procurement work, and the food control work, all this brought more and more the villager to the town to get something for his livelihood and this position has been made all the more difficult, and in these methods, whatever you have heard about the additional income to the agriculturist, it is only for one year or so. Some improvement was noticed in the village. Soon after these controls multiplied and procurement of grain and the price of necessities of the villager grew up largely. This was not on account of any commodity being scarce but because of the black-market. The black-market grew more as more controls came into being. I would like to dilate more on village conditions prevailing if I had more time when I can clearly point out what the natural cause of destruction is and what the position is. I would like to say one or two things with regard to irrigation and with regard to technical departments and with regard to the other requirements in connection with the Grow More Food Campaign. With regard to irrigation I would say that the policy adopted is only to that extent the official knowledge goes, without understanding local conditions either with regard to big irrigation or small irrigation schemes. With regard to big irrigation works that were started, the object was that they should be remunerative and made to pay a certain percentage. So far as our Province is concerned they are to give 5 per cent. But their actual incomes are not so when calculated. I know, Sir, that in such big irrigation schemes the Government of India helps. As soon as an irrigation work is opened all other works necessary in connection with that expansion are put down in statistics. But there were nearly a lakh of acres under the big irrigation works "Mettur" which have yet to be brought under cultivation. Though it is more than ten years since the works were started, it is only now after the starting of the "Grow More Food Campaign" that it came to the knowledge of the P. W. D. that there was this vast tract of land which could be brought under cultivation So it appears the money available for the "Grow More Food Campaign" was spent feverishly on this land. I understand that this amount of money was completely wasted. Not only did the Government waste it but made the agriculturists also to waste their money. They just sowed the seed on the land but they had no labour, no implements, no bullocks and there was not even proper ways to go into these land newly brought under irrigation. Tracts in other plans were water-logged or not properly irrigated with an adequate amount of water in many delta areas.

With regard to minor irrigation, it is a tragedy that since the advent of the British administration in India minor irrigation works have been completely neglected. I know as a matter of fact that several irrigation tanks have been neglected and their irrigation channels have been completely gone into ruins. Even under this Grow More Food campaign I have noticed that one tank which was irrigating double crop on a land has been neglected. It is in this way that the Grow More Food campaign has failed. Minor irrigation is going to play a very great part in agriculture, if proper attention is devoted to it. It should not be considered as a productive thing. Although it will not be productive immediately in course of time it confers an indirect benefit on that part of the country. They will be of great use in a tract where there is precarious rainfall and it would be wise to get expert knowledge if necessary even from outside and put them in order at once. If you are going to spend 99 crores on irrigation, minor irrigation should be given the first opportunity

[Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder]

to be developed. The water table should be brought near. Rainfall has not been properly stored up in the higher regions.

One important point which the Agricultural Department should take notice of is the question of implements. Without implements the agriculturist will be able to do nothing at all. England which yields only coal and iron has been able to increase its production of food by 50 per cent. That country was able to convert more land in the course of two or three years than our country, which has got an ancient system of irrigation, and it has not been able to do in the course of 6 years. The Industries Department cannot even make an implement to cut the wool of a sheep, because the engineer says that there is no proper metal available in the country. The tractors can be manufactured in this country. At least the ordinance factories which have been started in India on account of the war can be converted into agricultural machinery manufacturing factories. It is not very difficult, if you only want to do it.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member's time is up.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: I will have an opportunity to speak when the cut motions come.

Raja Sir Saiyid Ahmad Ali Khan Alawee (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I am very thankful to the Honourable the Finance Member for giving me this time from his time. I must thank him from my heart because I could not get an opportunity in spite of my best efforts.

Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member deserves my warm congratulations on producing a budget which has received unanimous support from all sides of the House. I believe he is the most fortunate among the Finance Members to get that support from this House.

I would like to be as brief as possible and take no undue advantage of the kindness of the Honourable the Finance Member. I come from a rural area and whatever I will say is meant for the benefit of that area. I am not competent to speak for the urban area or the civilised portion of the country.

There is one thing which the Honourable the Finance Member has said. He said:

"The monstrous ambitions of the Fascists dictatorships have been utterly destroyed and the peace-loving and democratic nations can look forward to the building of a new world in the confidence that for many years to come their plans will not be frustrated and set at naught by the threat of external aggression."

I wish I can share that optimism. I myself have a feeling of pessimism so far as the future is concerned especially when I hear from some sides of the House that the Indian defence forces should be cut down. A nation with a strong army alone can defend itself in these days. It is only with brute force that you can meet an enemy, whether it be from inside or outside. Our position should be as strong as possible and I think I am right in saying that in so far as war budget is concerned we should be very careful in bringing it down. We must have a very strong army to defend ourselves; and if the policy of the Congress Party according to what the Deputy Leader of that party said yesterday is that India should be the patrol and police of the East and the arsenal of the East, then our responsibility becomes very great indeed. I think it is very easy to say it, but if we really mean it we will find that we have to take up the question very seriously. There can be no more of the policy of non-violence. It will be all violence, with all engines of violence. The Honourable the Finance Member has warned us about the whole array of dangerous and enduring enemies—poverty, squalor, ill-health, illiteracy, under-nourishment, and under-employment which are threatening this country from all sides and of which the most formidable enemy is poverty. May I Sir, with his permission, add another most formidable enemy, and it is the gross neglect of the Government in the past towards the betterment and improvement of the general lot of people. He further said that all these centre round poverty and he assures us that if we are able to overcome this enemy we will be able to

meet other allied enemies with advantage. But I am sorry to find that in the preparation of this budget the poor man's economy finds no place. Hardly any efforts are available in the budget to cut down the top heavy expenses for the various services and to lighten the poor man's burden of taxes.

The abolition of the Excess Profits Tax is no relief to the poor who continue to suffer on account of high prices of daily necessities required for general consumption. Here I would appeal to millowners and other industrialists, that now that E. P. T. has gone, they should voluntarily reduce the prices of cloth and other commodities of life.

The tax on imported betel nut has been increased. I wish it could have been decreased, if not wiped off. I am going to offer one of my *pans* to the Honourable the Finance Member and he will understand how the betel nut is useful for every one of us in India, whether he is rich or poor.

The other tax to be lowered from the point of view of the poor man should have been the reduction of duties on the most essential necessities of life, such as sugar, tobacco, and also a reduction in the postal rates. The railways and the Posts and Telegraphs Department have been making very large profits during the war period.

Unfortunately, agriculture and cottage industries are all provincial subjects, but if we really are aiming to have a happy and contented India in our minds, then these rural indigenous industries should have a prominent place in shaping the economic evolution of the rural areas. I believe it will be admitted by all sides that the real Mother India is located in our villages and the country's pride should be its strong and healthy yeomanry.

The 'Grow More Food' campaign still remains a slogan like many other slogans such as "Quit India", "Divide and quit India", or "Delhi Chalo". This should be a countrywide campaign and the Central Government should see that the arable land gets under plough and its fertility and productiveness increases. To leave it only to Provincial Governments with limited spheres of activity and resources will not produce the desired result at the opportune time. And let me submit, Sir, that no post-war planning development scheme for India can be complete and successful if it is not effective both for the development of industries and agriculture as two distinct development schemes for our father-land . . . . .

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member has got one minute more.

Raja Sir Saiyid Ahmad Ali Khan Alawee: I will finish, Sir, in one minute. These two developments of industries and of agriculture should be two distinct developments for India. We should not have a very elaborate scheme only for the town folk and nothing for the villages in all parts of the country. A poor villager is as much deserving of most of the amenities of life which are within the reach of the town people.

I am glad to note that the Government contemplates the possibility of setting up Model Housing Schemes in selected villages in Delhi or other centrally administered areas. Perhaps if a beginning in this direction is also recommended to be made to the Provincial Governments it will go a long way in encouraging model housing in the rural areas.

What I would suggest is that a central as well as provincial subsidy be given and if the village is owned by a well-to-do landlord, he should also subsidise in model housing scheme and for the betterment of the village sanitation. We should make a start in some villages in every province as soon as possible and the result, I am sure, it will be a success.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member's time is up.

Raja Sir Saiyid Ahmad Ali Khan Alawee: Sir, I will only say a few words about infant mortality. The whole thing has been brought out very well in the Bhore Committee Report and I think it is a position for which every Indian should feel. We should take up the question of health and medicine in the countryside. There are few hospitals and few doctors and there is the scarcity

[Raja Sir Saiyid Ahmad Ali Khan Alvi]

of the medicine. That is the position today. Where there are hospitals and there are patients and there are also doctors there is no medicine. This question must be taken up and remedied as quickly as possible. I shall not take up any more of the time. I will mention only one point. I would like to say that the question of providing amenities to agricultural labour should be taken up seriously, as seriously as for urban labour. They are far worse than the industrial labour. Labour in towns can go to cinemas and have some relaxation and leisure; but the village labourer ploughs the land the whole time and when he goes home he probably has only one meal a day. That is a thing of which we all should feel ashamed.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Sir, nobody can accuse me of not being a sportsman; but, if I had known that my Honourable friend the Raja would be so critical, I might have been less forthcoming.

With your permission, Sir, and the indulgence of the House, I should like in the first part of my reply to pay rather close attention to my notes. There are one or two matters of importance that I want to say and I do not want their significance to be qualified by bad phrases or ambiguous terms.

I have little cause for complaint about the way that this debate has proceeded. It is true a number of brickbats have been thrown at me, but I have a feeling that they have been hurled more in sorrow than in anger . . . .

An Honourable Member: What about the bouquets?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I am just coming to the bouquets. Honourable Members have also thrown several bouquets, which I must gratefully acknowledge, even if the cards which accompanied some of them detracted somewhat from the fragrance of the flowers. My Honourable friend, Pandit Balkrishna Sharma, for example, sent a most lovely bouquet with a card which read with a charming and most disarming note, which has quite lamentably failed to achieve the object which it set out to achieve. Of the several bouquets I have received, the one that has given me the greatest pleasure has come from a quarter which does not normally regard these benches with an excess of affection. I am referring to the comment in a newspaper which I shall not more closely identify than by saying that it is one of India's leading journals and that I do not normally read except when it contains the work of one of the world's most distinguished cartoonists. The comment was to the effect that my Budget might have been framed by an Indian Finance Member. I know how difficult it is for the West to don with dignity the clothes of the East but I can honestly say that, in formulating my proposals, I tried to keep prominently in mind the task which, in a few months time, will confront my successor.

Now, Sir, before proceeding to deal with the main criticisms that have been levelled against my Budget, I should like to pay tribute to the speech of the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party. While Mr. Asaf Ali would not expect me to agree with all that he said and while, as I shall attempt to show later on, he has at least to some extent, missed the inwardness of my proposals, his approach and the general tone and tenor of his speech are, in my humble judgment, exactly what is required at the present time. If, during the next two or three months which are pregnant with destiny for India, the British Commonwealth and the world, we can go on sweetening the atmosphere in the way that Mr. Asaf Ali has sought to do, then I am certain, I am absolutely certain, that we shall emerge from the critical days ahead with dignity, mutual respect and full confidence in the future.

And now, Sir, I turn to the gravamen of the main charge brought against me in the course of the debate. It is this. That in framing my Budget I have deliberately set out still further to enrich the already rich and to give no relief to the miserably poor. As I shall demonstrate in a moment, the charge is entirely untrue and is based on an inadequate examination of the Budget and the Demands for Grants. I never thought that I should live to see the day

when I should be portrayed as the champion of the wealthy, and particularly of the wealthy industrialist. I, who have never in my life drawn a single pie by way of dividend from any company, whether industrial or commercial or financial, since I have never possessed a share of any kind; I who have known what it is to keep myself at the University and pay my college fees on 55 rupees a month. I have, it is true, many industrialists among my personal friends, but in their public, as distinct from their private, capacity I only like them to the extent that they add to the wealth of the community as a whole.

But let us leave my own personal position and attitude and get down to facts and figures. It is true that I have abolished E. P. T. but several things are to be noted about that. First, that it makes no difference to next year's revenue. Secondly, that its retention would act as a damper on the advance of Industrialisation which holds out the greatest promise of increasing the national income and the earning power of the people. Thirdly, that it would produce in the years immediately ahead a progressively diminishing yield. Fourthly, that its continuance carries with it a liability to make good losses incurred in the transitional period and it is significant that the Chamber whom Mr. Manu Subedar so ably represents has already tabled a claim that losses incurred during the next three years should be charged back to E. P. T. already paid. I sincerely hope that my successor will resolutely reject any proposal to keep the matter open for so long a period.

Apart from E. P. T. my proposals represent a relief to the Industrialists and the so-called rich of no more than a net Rs. 4½ crores on a rate of taxation which the war had driven to excessive heights. But let me compare the position now with the pre-war position. In 1938-39 Companies paid 41 pies in the rupee by way of income-tax and super-tax. Under my proposals they will pay, even if the dividend distributed does not exceed 5 per cent., 72 pies, while there is a steeply rising rate for distributed dividends. On dividends exceeding 60 per cent. of the total income, the total charge will be no less than 144 pies in the rupee. Is this undue favouritism for the rich?

My proposals relating to the dividend tax are intended to discourage the distribution of excessive dividends and indeed the earning of excessive profits and I appeal to companies to co-operate with me in securing this result. In my judgment the profits in certain sections of India's industry are excessive and it would, I submit, be in their own interest, as well as in the interest of the country voluntarily to reduce their prices to the consumer.

So far as the individual is concerned, the man with an earned income of rupees one lakh pre-war paid Rs. 19,354 income and super-tax, under my proposals he will pay Rs. 47,875; a Rs. 2 lakh income paid Rs. 48,129, it will now pay Rs. 1,25,375; a Rs. 3 lakh income paid Rs. 83,111, it will now pay Rs. 2,14,438. For a Rs. 4 lakh income the figures are Rs. 1,24,865 and Rs. 3,06,625 respectively. For a Rs. 5 lakh income Rs. 1,73,389 and Rs. 4,00,375. Does this show an undue tenderness for the rich?

Nobody has had anything but approbation for my proposals relating to people of moderate means, but I have been savagely assailed for my alleged failure to do everything for the poor man for whom, I may say, I have as much solicitude as any of my friends opposite. It would have been very easy for me to have gained cheap popularity and won the plaudits of the multitude by slashing indirect taxation right and left. But I tried to keep in mind the task which will confront my successor. As I pointed out in my Budget, India will need a great deal of money to overcome her internal enemies—poverty, squalor, ill-health, illiteracy, under-nourishment and under-employment, and, in my judgment, the interests of the common man (I dislike the word masses) would be best served by financing, at the expense of the rich, schemes which will ensure to his advantage rather than by a wholesale remission of indirect taxation. To what extent, indeed, would the common man benefit by the wholesale remission of indirect taxation and how far would my Honourable friends opposite and to the right be prepared to go in this direction? Would they, for example, abolish the salt tax which has been the plaything of politicians for so-

[Sir Archibald Rowlands]

long? I very much doubt it. Indeed, I have heard it said that the Congress would, on coming to power, at least double it and I expect that a Pakistan Finance Member would do the same. Anyway, what would a wholesale remission of indirect taxation amount to? My Honourable friend Mr. Asaf Ali mentioned a figure of Rs. 22 crores; this would give relief of about 12 annas a head. Is this going to be of greater help than the schemes which are being financed through the Budget and the Demands for Grants next year? These schemes will cost Rs. 99 crores in 1946-47 and, apart from the employment that they will provide, will, in the main, promote the economic and social well being of the common man.

Nevertheless, on reflection and in the light of the debate, I fully confess that while, as I submit, Government's proposals are eminently sound on economic grounds, they may be in some measure defective psychologically, in that the man in the street, and particularly the man in the village street, may not have seen the true inwardness of the Budget proposals. Partly on these grounds and partly because Government, at any rate, in their present mood, are anxious to be as responsive as possible to the views of the House, I undertake, between now and the debate on the Finance Bill, carefully to review the whole field of indirect taxation to see whether any, and if so which, relief can be granted, whether, for example, it could be a cheaper postcard, a cheaper box of matches, a cheaper biri, a cheaper betel nut or something else. When we come to the Finance Bill, I shall seek guidance from my friends to the front and to the right as to what remission might ensure the passing of the Bill.

Sir, I think I have covered the more significant of the criticisms which have been raised in the debate. I shall now attempt briefly to deal in chronological order with some of the more important points with which I have not already dealt. I do not however propose to go into any of the matters which do not affect the Finance Department. If the Opposition wishes to raise any points, they may do so on a Cut Motion relating to a particular Demand.

When you, Sir, were speaking from your place in the House, you raised the point that the Posts and Telegraphs Department were expected to yield a revenue of Rs. ten crores this year and that in spite of that fact, the Government had taken no steps to remedy the grievances which were being represented by the postal employees. Well, Sir, I should like to tell you that it is entirely due to your intervention that Government is considering this matter and, as will be announced at a Press conference this evening, in addition to certain concessions, which are in relation to pension, namely removing the present limit upon the maximum pension earned, the allowances and pensions for inferior servants will be brought into line with those of superior servants *in toto*. In addition to this, the dearness allowance which was granted to these employees of the postal department, in common with the other employees of other Government departments with effect from 1st January last year, will be antedated to 1st July 1944. In addition there will be roughly an addition of Rs. 5 in the good conduct pay of the postal employees. They have also agreed to refer to arbitration the question of any further relief which should be granted to all the employees whose pay was reduced by the 1931 cut in the rates of pay. So there will be at least some cut in these Rs. ten crores anticipated surplus.

The next point was about the American purchases and the suggestion was made that the purchases should be confined to articles which are likely to be of some use to India. Although the agreement has not yet been finally fixed up, we are on the point of concluding an agreement, which is however subject to negotiation at Washington as was announced in my budget speech. This will place at the disposal of India all the American surplus, and we can dispose of them at such time and at such rate as we think in the best interets of India, having regard to the requirements of the consumer. Then, Sir, the point was raised about earned income between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000 and I think it was you, Sir, who raise the point. If anybody is paying tax on incomes less than Rs. 2,000 it is contrary to law.

Then, I come to Mr. Asaf Ali who said in his speech that India should acquire cruisers and aircraft, so that she might stand before the world as a full sovereign State with full sovereign powers. I am quite sure His Majesty's Government will do all they can to make the best equipments available to India. But it is not enough to have equipment, you have to have trained personnel. I know Indians, I have seen them at work they are as good airmen or sailors or soldiers as the other races, but at the moment it is not enough to have merely control; they should have the technical skill also.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi: General): I hope it will be forthcoming.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Then he suggested that what was required in addition to the Taxation Enquiry Committee was to set a Council of Economists. Well, Sir, I do not know how far my Honourable friend is an economist. I have had a lot to do with them. Surely they have their uses, but God forbid that I should have to have a Council of Economists. You know the story that if you have six economists studying a problem you will get six different opinions and you may get a seventh one also. That is the sort of thing that you can get from economists. I understand what the suggestion means. There is a great deal in it; if you set up an Economic Council. It will have to have a general staff collecting data all round, with a head of the staff. If you like, I can have one like that.

Then, Sir, a lot of savage attack was launched by my Honourable friend Lieut.-Col. Chatterjee on bureaucracy. Well, Sir, I do not like it myself. I think his attack was a little unfair to begin with. He suggested that there was greater expenditure as compared with last year. That is not true. The expenditure is about Rs. 112 crores as against Rs. 129 crores in the revised estimates of this year. But I do agree with him that the course of bureaucracy is very insidious and it should be watched. Nevertheless if Government launches on new activities and ceases to be merely a tax gatherer and policeman and accepts responsibility for those activities which are the normal functions of every civilised Government, then you have got to have additional staff. But the growth is there and I entirely agree it should be closely watched. That is the point which Col. Chatterjee made. Most of us are aware that salaries grow. In my humble judgment, the salaries paid in this country are too high and require revision. I am not thinking of the salaries you have to pay for us from overseas. You have to take the salaries paid in India man for man and I say they are much higher than what is paid in England.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: That is what we have been agitating against all the time.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: The next broadside came from my Honourable friend Mr. Nauman. With a great deal of what Mr. Nauman said I do not agree; but there is one thing I do like in his remarks, because in spite of what he said against my budget, he showed a solicitude for the consumer. Since I have been in India I have heard too much talked about the producer, too much about the grower of this or that; about the manufacturer; but the consumers interests to that extent are apt to be overlooked. To that extent I entirely agree with him. You know the lot of the Finance Member in this country is like that of the Gilbertian policeman, not a happy one. On the one hand, I have some friends who say, for heaven's sake do something to the poor grower of betel nuts as against the foreign industrialist and levy a customs duty; on the other hand, I get an attack from my friend Mr. Nauman for having done that.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammadan): Use enough intelligence to keep your balance.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: That is exactly what I am trying to do.

I think I have dealt with most of the points that affect the Finance Department in Mr. Nauman's speech. He raised some points which affect the Department of Industries and Civil supplies.

[Sir Archibald Rowlands]

Next I come to my Honourable friend Mr. Abdul Ghani Khan, I would like to add my own meed of praise to what was showered on him for his most attractive maiden speech, if indeed the word 'maiden' can appropriately be attached to such a stalwart and valiant representative of the North West Frontier Province. I will not say his remarks were irrelevant to the budget, some of them were; but from others I could make out that his main theme was an appeal to the Afridis that they should in future practice their natural sport on the British instead of on the Pathans or, in the alternative, that I should transfer one of my munition factories to North West Frontier Province.

The next one was from my Honourable friend Sardar Mangal Singh who was overwhelmed by the turbulence of his oratory and I just managed to keep his head above water. He thoroughly enjoyed himself and so did I. I was very surprised to be portrayed as a matrimonial agent bringing about an unholy wedlock between British big business and Indian big business. I am sure Mr. Manu Subedar will not accept me as a matrimonial agent. He suggested that I framed my budget with an eye on the Cabinet Mission. My budget was ready before I even heard of the Cabinet Mission. I am afraid that is another bit of moonshine.

He then stressed very strongly what I ought to have done instead of what I have done and have not tried to do. He said that we should go in for a capital levy. I would like to assure him that I did study the problem in very considerable detail, and it was only because I came to the conclusion that it is impracticable that I abandoned it. I abandoned it for many reasons, but there are two principal reasons: experience in other countries has shown that a capital levy has never been a success unless it carried with it the wholehearted support of the tax-payers. It cannot be said that this Government carries any support of the tax-payers. Secondly, it requires a very large staff which we do not have. There are other reasons too. Thirdly, in my judgment it should come after and not before estate duties. But that is another matter.

5 P.M.

Sardar Mangal Singh suggested that the scope of the Taxation Enquiry Committee should be widened to embrace some other things—the land revenue system—I entire agree. I have not had an opportunity of studying the land revenue system of India, except of course the land revenue system of Bengal for five months, but I have no doubt myself that the land revenue system should be included.

He then referred to the sterling balances as a blood bank. I think that is a very good phrase, and the purpose of a blood bank, of course, is to promote health amongst the people and I am looking to the sterling balances as providing that health to get India going ahead.

Mr. Sanyal, who is not here because he is not well, was rather angry with me because I did not deal with food, textiles and so on. I sympathize with him, because food will be a dominating problem with us for the next six months but he can be assured that in so far as it rests with the Finance Department —the provision of funds—there will be no impediments in the way of saving this country from disaster.

He also wanted the Government to adopt an overall river policy. Perhaps this Government will go out tinsing and unwept, but there is one thing it has done. It has laid down the foundations of a policy to utilize the enormous resources of the rivers of India, and in the Budget this year there are grants to no less than thirteen schemes—rivers on which work is being done, the Damodar, Kosi, Moor, Sone and others. All these great rivers are being studied and work is being started on a good many of them. This Government has laid a very sound foundation for, as I have said, the utilization of the enormous resources of power and irrigation.

I will not attempt to cover the whole ground explored and investigated by my Honourable friend the Leader of the European Group because to do that would detain the House too long. I do not think there are many things on which I disagree with him. He was critical of defence expenditure. It is high, he said. I think my Honourable friend, the War Secretary, has dealt with that in the course of his remarks. He also asked a question about surplus stores, and I explained that the things we want immediately are medical stores, and there are large supplies of American medical stores available. As for controls, I entirely agree with him. Controls have no use once they have outlived the purposes for which they were created, and I agree with him that if controls get into the hands of bureaucrats, they get into their blood. With regard to the policy of the Ordnance Factories, it is not in my portfolio, but I can ensure him that the utilization of these factories for civil purposes is definitely a short term policy; and indeed they will only be used when stores are urgently required.

I shall not deal with his other remarks.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Are you so soon afraid of his remarks?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I am not afraid of him; I am not even afraid of my Honourable friend; not even of the soldiers because I am restoring budgetary control on the Army.

I also agree with him that borrowing will continue to play a very considerable part in public finance in the next few years.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Polonius' advice to his son!

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Where does that come from?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Shakespeare.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: With regard to the Small Savings Movement, I am very glad to have his support because I feel very strongly on this point. I think it can be a great social movement; it is in the interest of individual and it is in the interest of the country.

The question of co-ordination has been dealt with by my Honourable friend the Commerce Member. On the question of housing, we are trying to do all we can to make available supplies of cement, timber, steel etc. [illegible] to the National Investment Board, it is rather in its early stages [illegible] I do not think I need go into that at this time.

The price level is a topic of the day. At the moment we are living in an artificially closed economic system which has affected the price levels. Deflationary tendencies have manifested themselves and we are doing our best to see that prices do not remain too high.

Other matters that he raised I will deal with at the time of the Finance Bill. I do not think the House wants to listen to me any more. I really end where I started. There are two problems in my judgment in front of India at the moment: One is how to allay the phantom of politics and the other is how to destroy poverty. On the first I can make no contribution, but I shall try to abstain from doing anything which will obstruct the second. I submit that my Budget has done a little towards achieving that.

Mr. Deputy President: The House now adjourns until Eleven O'Clock tomorrow morning.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 6th March 1946.

Copies of the Debates of the Legislative Assembly and of the Council of State are obtainable on sale from the Manager of Publications, Civil Lines, Delhi.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 6th March, 1946

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Muslim Administrative Officer in Central Public Works Department

715. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) the number of posts of Assistant Administrative Officer in the Central Public Works Department;

(b) how many of these posts are occupied by Muslims; and

(c) if the reply to (b) is in the negative, what steps he has taken to fill the vacant post of Administrative Officer by a suitable Muslim?

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

(b) None.

(c) The inference implicit in this question does not necessarily follow from (a) and (b) because the Central Public Works Department cadre is and must be treated as one. The subject is however, now under consideration.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Since the reply to (b) is none, may I ask the Honourable Member why a Muslim should not be appointed to the post of Administrative Officer?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I did not quite follow.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Since there are no Muslim Assistant Administrative Officers, may I ask the Honourable Member why should not the post of Administrative Officer be filled by a Muhammadan?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It is a matter for consideration. I cannot give a guarantee that the post will be reserved for a particular community.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Have applications been received for this post?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Applications will not be called for.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: Has it been advertised?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Not necessarily.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Why will not a Muslim be appointed?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I said that I cannot give an assurance. Besides, the Government of India cannot accept the principle that any community has a vested right in any particular post.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Particularly in view of the fact that the Honourable Member's Department is the worst in the Government of India. . . . .

Mr. President: Order, order. The Honourable Member will please put the question.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: In view of the fact that the Labour Department is not sufficiently representative of Muslims, may I ask the Honourable Member to consider the appointment of a Muslim to the post?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I deny the assumption of the Honourable Member.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I. . . . .

Mr. President: I believe there is one misunderstanding under which the Honourable Member is putting his questions. Will he resume his seat? What the Honourable Member of Government said was that he makes a distinction

between a particular post and the quota in the departmental posts. Am I right?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes, Sir.

Mr. President: He said he cannot assure a particular post being filled by a particular community. That is different from the quota.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: My submission is that in view of the fact that his Department has not the required quota of Muslims of 25 per cent., will he consider the question of appointing Muslims up to the minimum quota?

Mr. President: Yes, that is proper.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I do not accept the principle that that is the only method.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Does the Honourable Member deny that his Department has in the services the 25 per cent. quota of Muslims?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I deny it.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: With what result?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I cannot help the result, if there are not sufficient Muslim candidates. That is not my fault.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I tell the Honourable Member that this is nothing but a lame excuse on the part of the Honourable Member to say that there are not "sufficient Muslim candidates" when they are really available?

Mr. President: Order, order. That will be a criticism. The Honourable Member may put his question.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I tell the Honourable Member that sufficient Muslims are forthcoming but their claims are overlooked intentionally.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have nothing to add to what I have said.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I request your permission to add one word in part (d) of the question:

"(d) whether in view of the fact that in the event of prohibition of export of groundnuts as 'rightly' demanded by the public, ..."

That word is not there.

Mr. President: That is an argument. It means the same.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I did not want them to understand that it is not what is "rightly" demanded by the public.

EXPORT OF GROUNDNUT AND OTHER OIL SEEDS

716. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Agriculture Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if Government are thinking of prohibiting the export of groundnut and other oil seeds;

(b) whether Government are aware that the marketing trade of groundnut is very much in the hands of a few European and Indo-European concerns;

(c) whether according to the Government's report on groundnut marketing, these semi-monopolist industry concerns are in a position to control the prices;

(d) whether in view of the fact that in the event of prohibition of export of groundnuts as demanded by the public, the prices of groundnut will be depressed; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take to protect the interests of peasants and see that remunerative prices are paid to the producers of groundnuts?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) The export of groundnuts has been suspended for the present. In respect of other oil seeds it has been decided to allow exports only after meeting India's full requirements.

(b) The export trade is largely in the hands of such concerns, but the internal trade which covers more than two-thirds of the total production as well as movements from internal markets to ports for shipment abroad is almost entirely in the hands of Indian firms.

(c) Exporting firms are not in a position to control prices. The buying limits of these firms are, as a rule, based on the prevailing level of prices in importing countries. The prices of groundnuts in India are largely influenced by the extent of the internal demand.

(d) A complete ban on the exports of groundnuts may have a depressing effect on their prices.

(e) The whole position will be reviewed by the Oilseeds Committee when it is set up. In the meantime it may be pointed out that the present price for groundnuts is in the neighbourhood of Rs. 19 per cwt. as against Rs. 7 per cwt. in the pre-war period.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether the exports by the Food Ministry of the United Kingdom are subject to any licenses by the Government of India, and whether it is not true that notwithstanding the suspension of the export mentioned by my Honourable friend the Food Ministry has not only collected a large amount of groundnuts but is actually exporting them?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: I believe it is a fact that before the exports were suspended, the Food Ministry had made large purchases in this country. But since the suspension, no further exports have taken place.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government assure this House that, in view of the acute food position in this country, and that groundnuts can stay unsoiled and undeteriorated for a long time, the amounts collected by the Food Ministry will also be taken over by the Government of India and that they will not be permitted to export?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: That will be considered. In fact it is already under consideration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why is that in view of the fact that Government has prohibited all exports of groundnut, they do not fix the price of groundnut at which they consider it to be remunerative for the growers and then see that price is actually received by the growers?

Why is it they do not fix one price for groundnut and see that the growers of groundnut actually receive it?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: Is it the suggestion that the price should be fixed for all groundnuts throughout the country?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Yes, by province after province, if necessary!

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: That suggestion has not been considered by Government so far, but I am prepared to examine it.

Mr. Leslie Gwilt: In regard to part (e) of the question, if I heard the Honourable Member correctly, he said the price of groundnuts is Rs. 19 as against Rs. 7 per-war. That is, I presume, the wholesale price. Has the Honourable Member any information as to what is the proportionate increase in prices that is being received by the grower?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: I am afraid I have no actual figures of the prices received by the growers.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that your marketing report on groundnuts has made it clear that 25 per cent. is absorbed by middlemen, including the deductions that they make?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: A certain percentage is absorbed by various intermediaries. I do not remember the exact figure. It may be about 20 or 25 per cent.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government consider a scheme of monopoly procurement for groundnuts fixing a fair price to the growers and eliminating the middleman altogether?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: The suggestion will be examined.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: The ban is put for the present. May I know how long the ban is expected to continue?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: I am afraid I am not in a position to answer that question. The matter is under examination and until the examination is completed the ban will continue.

MANUFACTURE OF PALUDRINE FOR CURE OF MALARIA

717. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Health Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if his attention has been drawn to the A. P. I. report of the 9th February published in the *Hindu* of the 9th February, 1946, that a new drug known as Paludrine provides a complete and permanent cure for malignant tertian malaria;

(b) whether the drug is being produced on a small scale in Scotland;

(c) whether he is aware that Dr. D. G. Davey, ex-discoverer of Paludrine, has said that eminent doctors and experts of the Imperial Chemicals have considered it to be a great advance in the chemotherapy of malaria;

(d) whether Government are at present in great need of adequate supplies of quinine;

(e) whether it is the policy and responsibility of the Government of India to do all they can in co-operation with Provincial Governments to fight this wasting disease; and

(f) whether the Government of India are prepared to take early steps to start their own manufacture of this Paludrine drug?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: (a) to (e). Yes.

(f) Arrangements have been made to obtain as soon as possible supplies of the new drug in order that extensive trials may be carried out. If the results of these trials are favourable the question of manufacture in India will certainly be considered.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it proposed to import any expert from abroad in order to help the Government to manufacture this drug in India or are Government considering the advisability of sending India's own experts and scientists abroad in order to learn the process of manufacturing this drug?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: That question does not arise until the trials are carried out and the results known.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What is the raw material of this particular drug?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: We have no information on that.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government gather full information as to whether the particular raw material for this drug is or is not available in India and if it is available in India will they set up an experimental centre in India at once?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: The question of setting up an experimental centre does not arise until the trials have been carried out and we are satisfied that the drug is one which will be useful to us.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government put themselves in communication with manufacturers of drugs in this country and invite them on their own account to undertake the experimental manufacture of this drug?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: Until we are satisfied that the drug is a useful one such action will be premature.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: May I know if any steps have been taken to increase the production of quinine in this country?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: Yes, Sir. During the last three years some 9,000 acres have been brought under cinchona cultivation.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: When is it expected to get quinine from this additional area?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: The first supplies should be available before the end of this year.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In what research institutions are these trials being made?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: They will be made in various hospitals and field centres in the various Provinces.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Does it mean that the Government have not yet decided where and how these experiments are to be carried out?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: Definite arrangements have not yet been made. They are under consideration and will be complete by the time the supplies are received.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the drug has been already found useful and in Scotland they have already undertaken its manufacture, why is it that the Government of India want to make trials in order to see whether it is going to be useful in this country or not?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: This drug has been tried among military personnel in Australia and we are advised that before the drug is adopted for general use in India it is necessary to have trials of the drug under Indian conditions.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN LABOUR DEPARTMENT

718. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state the exact number of Joint Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, Superintendents, Assistants, Clerks, etc., in the Establishment Branch of the Department of Labour (Main Secretariat)?

(b) How many Muslims and Non-Muslims are there in each grade?

(c) If the reply to (b) regarding the Muslims is in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) and (b). A statement giving the information is placed on the table.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

	Total	Muslim	Non-Muslim
Joint Secretaries	3	1	2
Deputy Secretaries	4	1	3
Assistant Secretaries and Under Secretaries.	13	2	11 (including 1 European, 1 Anglo-Indian and 1 Scheduled Caste)
Superintendents	21	6	15 (including 1 Sikh and 1 Indian Christian)
Assistant in Establishment Branch	9	2	7
Clerks in Establishment Branch	9	...	9 (including 1 Scheduled Caste)

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Sir, I did not ask for a statement to be laid on the table of the House, but I want the number to be stated on the floor of the House, as I want to ask supplementary questions.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: May I, Sir, give the figures?

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: There are no figures to give.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes, there are. My learned friend need not assume a threatening attitude.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: I am only reciprocating the threatening attitude of the Honourable Member himself.

Mr. President: If the list is not too big the Honourable Member may read.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:

	Total	Muslim
Joint Secretaries	3	1
Deputy Secretaries	4	1
Assistant and Under Secretaries	13	2
Superintendents	21	6
Assisstants in Establishment Branch	9	2
Clerks in Establishment Branch	9	...

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Do these figures include Muslim representation in the Resettlement and Employment Directorate?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I must have notice of that question.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: I asked for the figures of the Labour Department of the Main Secretariat. Cannot the Honourable Member say 'Yes' or 'No'; whether these figures include the figures of Muslim representation in the Resettlement and Employment Directorate or not?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I must have notice of that question.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Will the Honourable Member kindly tell us what Department in answer to the question 'in the establishment branch of the Department'.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It is the Main Secretariat. As I said I want notice in order to be accurate in my information.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is the Honourable Member aware that the Resettlement and Employment Directorate is quite separate from the Main Secretariat?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Of course I am aware.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Why is this large army of Joint Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries, Assistant and Under Secretaries necessary for the Labour Department and may I know whether my Honourable friend would not satisfy my Muslim friends by reducing some of the other communities in order to restore the Muslim proportion which they want?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I do not want to express any opinion on the Honourable Member's question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Muslimise the whole Department.

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I submit in all humility that the Government may lay on the table before the beginning of every session a full list of all the various communities in the various departments, so that the necessity for most of these questions may be obviated and temper kept under control?

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: In view of the Government Resolution of the Home Department of 1934 fixing a 25 per cent. quota for the Muslims, and in view of the fact that there is shortage of Muslim representation in accordance with this resolution in the Labour Department, will the Honourable Member rectify and make up the quota by employing more Muslims?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The posts to which I have made reference in the course of my reply are not posts which are governed by communal representation. They are promotion posts.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I take it that the resolution does not apply to his Department?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The Honourable Member ought to read the Government Resolution more carefully than he seems to have done.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: The other day in reply to Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad the Honourable the Home Member said that Government Resolution does apply to the Labour Department. Will he transfer the resolution to the Honourable Labour Member?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I know the resolution very well.

Mr. President: Next question.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: One more question, Sir. Is the Deputy Secretary's post a Class I post?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: There is no such thing as a Class I post there.

LOSS OF PUBLIC MONEY IN THE 'DELHI STORE SUB-DIVISION EMBEZZLEMENT CASE'

719. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please give the approximate amount of loss of public money in the 'Delhi Store Sub-Division Embezzlement Case'?

(b) Who were the culprits, and what action has so far been taken to bring them to book?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) There is no such case as "Delhi Store Sub-Division Embezzlement Case." If the Honourable Member has in mind the case of alleged over-payment in cartage of cement in Stores Sub-Division under Construction Division No. I, I can inform him that the matter is under investigation.

(b) Does not arise.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is it a fact that the S.D.O. in question who embezzled two lakhs is still in service?

Mr. President: Order, order. The Honourable Member has already stated that there was no embezzlement.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: I entirely agree with the Honourable Member's reply. The point which he refers to is the same that a sum of two lakhs was overpaid.

Mr. President: My point is that the Honourable Member has replied that there is no case of embezzlement but only a case of over-payment. In his next question the Honourable Member need not again presume embezzlement: he can put a question on the over-payment.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The matter is under investigation and unless and until the result of that investigation is known Government cannot take any action against the officer.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: I ask whether the S.D.O. concerned who is responsible for this over-payment of 2 lakhs is still in service.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Of course he is.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Why?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Because the case is not yet proved against him.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: In such cases where matters are under investigation is it not the practice to keep the officer concerned under suspension?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Not unless we receive the report of the investigation.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is it because he is of the scheduled caste?

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: With regard to part (a)—about the amount involved—cannot my friend tell me what the amount involved is?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I must have notice of the question. As regards Mr. Jaffer's question, I would like to inform the Honourable Member that the man does not belong to the scheduled castes.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Even if he did belong to the scheduled caste, is it wrong not to suspend a man when there is a case against him?

Mr. President: Order, order: No arguments.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: How long has this been under investigation and is it departmental or by the police?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: So far as I remember—I cannot say definitely—the matter of course is investigated by the C.I.D.

GRIEVANCES OF MUSLIMS *re* APPOINTMENTS AS SUPERINTENDING ENGINEERS

†720. ***Mr. Muhammad Rahamat-Ullah:** (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Labour Member been drawn to the articles published in the *Dawn* of the 27th October, 12th November and 19th December, 1945? What action has been taken to redress the grievances of the Mussalmans? If not, why not?

(b) Is it not a fact that out of the fourteen Superintending Engineers only one is a Muslim?

(c) Are Government aware that there are three qualified Executive Engineers in the Headquarters who are competent to hold the office of Superintending Engineer?

(d) Are Government aware that persons of less qualifications and standing of other communities have been appointed Superintending Engineers, if so, why were the claims of the Mussalmans ignored?

(e) Are Government aware that an I.S.E. Muslim Executive Engineer was ignored and the chance of a Superintending Engineer in the Headquarters Office was given to an officer who has risen from the ranks and is to retire very shortly?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) I have seen the articles. The posts in the Central Public Works Department which are subject to the operation of the communal representation rules, are duly filled in accordance with the requirement of those rules. It is, however, not possible to earmark individual posts for officers of a particular community.

(b) Yes.

(c) It is not clear which Executive Engineers the Honourable Member is referring to. None of the Executive Engineers of the Central Public Works Department who are posted in Delhi have, however, become due for promotion to the rank of Superintending Engineer.

(d) and (e). The posts of Superintending Engineer are Selection Posts and appointments to these are made purely on the basis of merit. In filling these posts the claims of all eligible Executive Engineers are considered and the officer who is considered to be most suitable is appointed. The case of the I.S.E. Muslim Officer mentioned by the Honourable Member was also duly considered.

COST OF STAFF AT KAMARAN QUARANTINE STATION

721. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** (a) Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations please state whether it is a fact that in 1919 Col. Wilkinson estimated the cost of the permanent and temporary staff at the Kamaran Quarantine Station at Rs. 69,670?

(b) What is the present cost of the permanent and temporary staff at the Kamaran Quarantine Station?

(c) Are Government aware that according to the Anglo-Dutch Agreement Article No. 12 a sum of Rs. 10,000 only is to be paid annually from the revenue of the Kamaran Quarantine Station to the Government of India towards the maintenance of the Civil Administration of the Island of Kamaran, and that a much larger amount is paid? If so, why and what is the amount actually paid?

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

(d) Is it a fact that the amount of pension charged to the Kamaran revenue was Rs. 2,437 in 1920-21? What is the amount charged now?

(e) Is it a fact that the amount of allowances was Rs. 1,153 in 1920-21? What is the amount now?

(f) Is it a fact that Col. Hutchinson estimated not more than Rs. 60,000 for supplies at the Kamaran Quarantine Station?

(g) What is the amount of supplies for the Kamaran Quarantine Station now?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: (a) Yes.

(b) Rs. 87,468, plus free water, ice, fuel and furniture.

(c) According to the Anglo-Dutch Agreement only a sum of Rs. 10,000 is paid annually and not a larger amount.

(d) The information for 1920-21 is being collected and will be furnished on receipt.

A provision for Rs. 4,940 has been made for the year 1946.

(e) The amount of "allowances" in 1920-21 was Rs. 3,661 and not Rs. 1,153.

The amount under "allowances" has been estimated at Rs. 15,860 for the year 1946 including a war allowance of Rs. 12,180.

(f) Yes.

(g) A provision for Rs. 54,040 has been made for the year 1946 under the head "supplies."

CAPITAL AND RECURRING EXPENDITURE ON PILGRIMS AND STAFF AT KAMARAN

722. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** (a) Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations please state if it is a fact that a large amount of capital expenditure was incurred in 1927-28 and budgeted for 1929 and the surplus of Rs. 39,59,386 was converted into a deficit of Rs. 1,36,694? If so, do Government propose to give details of the capital expenditure incurred up to date, separately, for the convenience of the pilgrims directly and for the staff connected with the pilgrims and for civil administration?

(b) What are the figures of the recurring expenses per year of the Kamaran Quarantine Station since 1919, and what are the portions of the expenses borne by the Government of India and the Dutch Government?

(c) Is it a fact that repairs to military huts are also charged to the revenue of the Kamaran Quarantine Station?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: (a) The question does not state what expenditure the Honourable Member has in view. Presumably it refers to expenditure incurred on the Kamaran Quarantine Station. On this presumption the reply is that necessary but not lavish capital expenditure was incurred in 1927-29 to bring the Kamaran Quarantine Station upto date. There was a deficit of Rs. 2,31,138 in 1929, which was met from the balance at the end of 1928 leaving a balance of Rs. 11,00,431-3-0 on 31st December 1929.

The information regarding details of the capital expenditure is not readily available and the time and labour involved in collecting it would not be commensurate with the importance of the matter.

(b) The information is not readily available and the time and labour involved in collecting it would not be commensurate with the importance of the matter.

(c) The information is being collected and will be furnished on receipt.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: With regard to part (c), will this be charged to the revenue of the Kamaran Quarantine Station?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: As I have said, we have no definite information yet.

Mr. President: The next question of Mr. Jaffer cannot be put. It is the sixth question in his name today.

SUPPLY OF WATER BY CONDENSERS AT KAMARAN

†723. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations please state if it is a fact that much more water is supplied to His Majesty's ships by the condenser at Kamaran than is supplied to pilgrims? Will Government give figures of the supply of water by the condenser at Kamaran to the pilgrims and others, separately, since its establishment, stating to whom water was supplied besides the pilgrims and what charge was recovered for the same? And if the charge was made did the amount recovered cover the cost of the condensing of water?

(b) Was the Kamaran Quarantine Station used for accommodating troops and prisoners of war or any other purpose during the World War Nos. 1 and 2? If so, was any charge made for the use? If so, what amount was recovered?

(c) Are the Government of India aware that no epidemic has broken out on board a pilgrim ship since the pilgrims are being fully immunised against cholera and small-pox necessitating the landing of pilgrims at Kamaran?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: (a) The information regarding first portion is being collected and will be furnished on receipt.

The information with regard to the rest of the question is not readily available and the time and labour involved in collecting it would not be commensurate with the importance of the matter.

(b) The information is being collected and will be furnished on receipt.

(c) Yes.

SUPPLY OF EXTRA RATIONS FOR MANUAL WORKERS

724. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Food Secretary please state:

(a) if, in view of the cut in rations announced in the various parts of India, any extra rations are going to be allowed to any particular class of people, such as Railway workers, mill labourers, artisans and land workers, domestic servants who have to do heavy manual work, and other workers of the like class, and, if so, to what class;

(b) whether the cut in rations is going to be uniform throughout all the Provinces of India, or whether different Provinces are going to be treated differently; and

(c) whether, in case of refusal by surplus Provinces like the Punjab and Sind to send their surplus wheat and rice to other Provinces, he will recommend that other surplus products such as cloth or sugar or other materials in such other Provinces should be supplied short to the above surplus Provinces?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) Yes. Supplementary ration will continue to be allowed to heavy manual workers.

(b) The cut in ration will be uniform in all Provinces.

(c) This is a hypothetical question.

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to part (b), may I know if the cut in ration is going to be uniform, and whether it is not a fact that in the Punjab only three urban areas are rationed and that the percentage of rationed population is extremely small both in the Punjab and Sind, and whether Government propose to take more powers and to do something urgently and seriously about this matter?

Mr. B. R. Sen: As I have said, along with the cut in ration, we are trying to extend rationing in all provinces in India, including Punjab and Sind. That is a part of our policy.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that at the time of the Bengal famine, it was well known—and I regret to have to say this—that Punjab and Sind authorities were reluctant to permit surplus grain even to leave

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

those areas in time, will not Government be forewarned and will they not arm themselves with proper authority before the tragedy occurs?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The Government of India have all the authority they need, so far as legal powers are concerned.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if any consignments of rice or wheat are being sent from the Punjab and Sind to other deficit areas?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Yes.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it a fact that Punjab has refused to send any large quantities of wheat on the pretext that no surplus is available?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The point is that no province up till now has admitted a surplus and then refused to give it.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What is the situation as regards the Punjab? Has it declared itself a surplus province, or a deficit province or a normal province?

Mr. B. R. Sen: At the beginning of the year the Punjab declared a certain surplus, but as the months proceeded they found that the surplus could not be located: they could not get hold of the surplus. Therefore they came to the view that the surplus declared was an over-estimate.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What is the basis on which the surplus is declared? Is it open to the Punjab Government to say "We must have a stock for two years before we can declare a surplus in this year"?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The surplus is determined according to a formula laid down by the Policy Committee presided over by Sir Theodore Gregory in 1943; and according to that formula a surplus is declared; but the trouble arises when there is a mistake about the production of a particular year.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What steps are Government taking in order to enforce monopoly procurement in these provinces, which will disclose the true surplus, if any? Again may I say that the surplus increases when rationing is introduced? Have Government taken that into account?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Government have taken that into account and as I have said more than once in this House, we have asked the Punjab Government to introduce a system of levy and they are examining the question.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I am sorry to persist in this, but I want the Government of India to realise the acuteness of public opinion on this question. It is not merely enough that this Government asks the Punjab Government: but we want this Government to assume powers as they did by 270 ordinances throughout India when there was an emergency and is the famine emergency not considered serious enough to take direct powers in the Punjab of procuration?

Mr. B. R. Sen: We have no reason to think that the Punjab Government do not realise the situation in India and we are fully assured by the Punjab Government that they will do everything possible to make over whatever surplus there is in the province.

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: May I ask whether it is a fact that in the Madras Presidency, especially in the west coast, they are giving groundnuts instead of rice, that the rice ration has been cut down to the last degree and whether the ground-nut is going to replace rice in places like the west coast of the Madras presidency?

Mr. B. R. Sen: It is proposed that groundnuts should also be included in the ration; because there is a shortage of cereals, there is no reason why we should not utilise our other food resources for meeting the deficit.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Has the Government taken any steps to transport rice quotas which are given in large quantities here in the north and in the United Provinces, to the south where they consume rice, and send the ground nut or wheat to the northern provinces?

Mr. B. R. Sen: We have taken all that into account when we formulated the basic plan. We had all this before us before we made our allotments.

Mr. Leslie Gwilt: Will the Honourable Member be good enough to inform the House as to whether all provinces have accepted the recommendations made by the Central Government in the matter of cuts in rations and whether any of them have accepted it with any reservation—particularly the surplus provinces?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I think all the surplus provinces have accepted the recommendation that we have made. We have not yet received a reply from one province up till now?

Mr. Leslie Gwilt: Which province is that?

Mr. B. R. Sen: It is the N.-W. F. P. Punjab and Sind and other provinces have all accepted our recommendation.

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: May I ask whether ground-nuts have any food value. I know it can be used to extract oil but is the ground-nut supposed to have any food value. I want to ask whether it can be given as part of the ration instead of rice?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Ground-nut has got some food value and that is why we are preventing the further export of ground-nuts and including it in the rations.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: How many provinces have declared themselves to be surplus provinces?

Mr. B. R. Sen: That varies from year to year.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: What are the surplus provinces this year?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The surplus provinces this year are the Central Provinces, Punjab, Orissa and Assam.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not a fact that in the United Provinces the rice quota has been increased?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The total ration in the United Provinces is one pound and owing to shortage of wheat they have decreased the wheat part of the ration and increased the rice part.

Sri M. Anantasayanam Ayyangar: Who not send the wheat to the United Provinces and the rice to Madras?

Mr. B. R. Sen: It is very difficult to make adjustments of this nature and we have got to take a long view of things. As I explained a few days ago the United Provinces Government had a target for procurement of wheat for the next few months and during the last two months they have failed to procure what they had set out to do. Therefore they are utilising rice to make up the ration. If, you send away the rice from the United Provinces, they won't have the necessary quantities of other foodgrains to make up the whole ration.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: We hear every day that Canadian wheat is being shipped to India. Why should not that wheat be sent to the United Provinces and rice from the United Provinces be sent to Madras?

Mr. B. R. Sen: We are seeing to it every day.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it suggested that Sind is not a surplus province this year, in view of the fact that I heard about six weeks ago that wheat was selling below the controlled rate in the province of Sind, which clearly indicates that it is a surplus province?

Mr. B. R. Sen: At the beginning of the rabi year, Sind declared a surplus of about 180 thousand tons of wheat. They then reduced it to 150 thousand tons. Ultimately they said that their wheat surplus was very low. As a matter of fact, in the months of December and January, we had to give some help from our imports because they could not maintain their ration in some of the rationed towns.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In order to allay the general feeling that everything may not be all right in the declarations of the Provincial Governments and Administrations, who are necessarily cautious, may I again suggest that in these usually surplus provinces compulsory monopoly procuration should be adopted by the Government of India?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The whole question of tightening up the method of procurement in Sind is under examination by the Sind Government. They have appointed certain officers to survey their stocks. Every attempt is being made by the Provincial Government to place their procurement on a satisfactory basis.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: With regard to the question of the uniformity of rations all over the country will my Honourable friend explain why in Malabar alone the ration allowed is 11 ounces as against 12 ounces all over the country?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I am not sure if the figure quoted by the Honourable Member is correct. So far as I know, the ration in Malabar is 12·3 oz. or so, a little over what it is in the other parts of the province.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: I have just returned from Malabar and I heard there has been a reduction in the ration?

Mr. B. R. Sen: There has been no reduction in Malabar, because the ration was already low.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: With regard to ground-nut, will the Honourable Member consider the suggestion that it should not be allotted to Malabar but sent to the east coast where the people are used to it?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Not to the East Coast but to Northern India.

Sri A. Karunakara Menon: Although there are several varieties of rations given, in the West Coast there is a restriction that only affixed quantity of rice ought to be given; whereas in other parts of the Madras Presidency 12 ounces of rice or any other variety of cereals are given, in Malabar they are given only 8 ounces of rice and for the balance, they are compelled to take from other varieties. Why is this distinction maintained in Malabar.

Mr. B. R. Sen: That, I think, depends upon the supplies at a particular moment. There are variations from district to district, according to the supplies available.

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: What is the value of the supplementary rations to manual labourers?

Mr. B. R. Sen: One pound under the reduced scale. It is 12 ounces basic and 4 ounces supplementary.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is there any difference between different types of workers?

Mr. B. R. Sen: There is a differentiation between heavy manual labourers and ordinary workers.

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Does the Honourable Member think that the quantity allowed to the manual workers is sufficient?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I do not think so but we must cut our coat according to our cloth. We must spread over our supplies throughout the year.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: Are the textile mill workers classed among the heavy manual workers?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Yes.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are the agricultural labourers treated as heavy manual workers?

Mr. B. R. Sen: They have been treated as heavy manual workers.

NUMBER OF INDIAN SWEEPERS SENT TO BURMA

725. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Indian sweepers sent to Burma since its re-occupation by the British;

(b) on what conditions these sweepers were sent to Burma; and

(c) if they have been sent with their families?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: (a), (b) and (c). The information is being collected and will be furnished on receipt.

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I know the circumstances in which it was thought necessary to send my fellow countrymen as sweepers in Burma?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I made a statement on this subject last month. The Government of India have not sent any sweepers to Burma. As I explained last month, the Indian public, particularly representatives of Burma Indian interests, have been insisting on all Indian evacuees returning to Burma. When we put forth that demand before the Burma Government, we cannot very well object to evacuee sweepers also returning to Burma. All that we have done therefore is that we have taken no exception to Indian sweepers who used to be resident in Burma before the war and who evacuated to India as a result of the Japanese occupation, being allowed to go back.

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I take it that a large number of my countrymen applied to the Honourable Member that they were most anxious to have the privilege of cleaning Burmese commodes?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Only such evacuees as are willing to return are returning now. No pressure or compulsion has been brought to bear on any evacuee of any class to return to Burma.

LOSS OF INDIAN LIFE AND PROPERTY IN BURMA

726. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state the total number of Indians in Burma before the Japanese invasion in December, 1941?

(b) What was the total number of Indian evacuees who returned to India?

(c) What was the approximate number of loss of life on the way to India?

(d) What is the approximate number of Indians in Burma at present?

(e) Is he aware that more than two lakhs of Indians are reported to have been killed after the withdrawal of British Forces from Burma? If so, has he taken any steps to verify this report?

(f) What is the approximate value of the Indian property lost or damaged since the withdrawal of the British Forces?

(g) Will Government consider the feasibility of taking necessary steps to ascertain the exact figures of the loss of life and property suffered by the Indians in Burma?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: (a) The Indian population in Burma immediately before the war was estimated at one million.

(b) About 4 lakhs.

(c) No reliable information is available but the estimate made soon after the evacuation was about 5,300.

(d) No reliable figures are available.

(e), (f) and (g). No information is available but efforts are being made to obtain it. Any information collected will be furnished in due course.

FACILITIES FOR EXPORT OF WOOL FROM INDIA

727. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state whether Government have received the resolutions passed by the All-India Organization of the Indian Wool Manufacturers? If so, what action, if any, have Government taken thereon:

(i) to secure the transport and shipping facilities for the Indian wool for export to the U.S.A.; and

(ii) to secure export of the Indian Wool to continental countries?

(b) When do Government propose the abolition of the Government Central Buying Agency for the black, grey and coloured wools?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Yes.

(i) Wool for export is given the same assistance by rail when necessary as other exports but as large stocks are reported to be at ports already, no special action is called for to move wool. As regards shipping facilities for export of wool to United States of America, Government have been informed by the American Mission that all arrangements for export to United States of America would normally be arranged by traders and only in exceptional cases would the American authorities ask for special assistance. No such request has been received so far.

(ii) The question is under active consideration.

(b) The question of the abolition of the Government Central Buying Agency for the Black, Grey and coloured wools is under active consideration of Government.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know why the profiteering is going on at the expense of the wool growers of this country throughout the operations of the Government Central Buying Agency?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am not aware of any profiteering going on.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it not purchased at a price fixed by Government on monopoly conditions?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am not aware of it, but I will try to get the information.

BAN ON IMPORTS OF STARCH

†**728. *Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have lifted the ban on imports of starch into India and that they are either granting or propose to grant licences for imports of starch; and

(b) if so, whether it is not in contravention of the repeated assurances given by the Government of India to protect the interests of the indigenous starch industry?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Imports of limited quantities of starch are being permitted in the interests of the textile manufacturing industry having regard to the fact that the food position in India makes it impossible for enough maize to be spared for the indigenous production of starch.

(b) No. In permitting imports the legitimate interests of the starch industry are kept in view. I may add that the case of the starch industry has already been referred to the Tariff Board for investigation.

GRANT OF LAND IN NEW DELHI TO KHALSA YOUNGMEN'S ASSOCIATION

†**729. *Sardar Mangal Singh:** (a) Will the Agriculture Secretary please state if it is a fact that the Khalsa Youngmen's Association, New Delhi/Simla, sent an application for the grant of land in New Delhi as far back as 1940 but so far no land has yet been granted to them?

(b) Is it a fact that land has been granted in New Delhi to certain other institutions after the Khalsa Youngmen's Association approached Government with such a request? If so, to whom, and on what terms?

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

(c) Is he aware that whenever any Sikh Association or other body approached Government with such a request, it has always received unfavourable consideration?

(d) How long are Government likely to take to grant land to the Khalsa Youngmen's Association?

(e) Now that the war is over, will he kindly consider the proposal to have a piece of land near the Baird Road area in New Delhi allotted to them soon? If not, why not?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) The application received in 1940 was rejected in June 1944 and the Association informed accordingly by the Chief Commissioner, Delhi.

(b) Yes. A statement is laid on the table.

(c) No. The Education Committee of the Gurdwara Bungala Sahib Sat Sang Sabha was allotted a site adjoining the Gurdwara Bungala Sahib in 1940 for constructing a primary school at a premium of Rs. 1,000 per acre plus 5 per cent. annual ground rent. The Young Men's Sikh Association were offered a portion of the open land on one side of the Gurdwara Bungala Sahib provided they secured the consent of the Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee. They could not secure the necessary consent and the matter was, therefore, not pursued further.

(d) and (e). The Government of India have received an application from the Association on the 12th February, 1946 which has been referred to the Standing Advisory Committee for the development of New Delhi for advice.

Statement

(i) *Garhwal Sarab Hiteshi Sabha.*—Perpetual lease—Site measuring approximately 0·5 acre on Panch Kuin Road at a premium of Rs. 500 per acre with 5 per cent. annual ground rent.

(ii) *Anjuman-e-Tarraqqi-Urdu.*—Perpetual lease—site measuring about 3 acres at 'J' point at a premium of Rs. 5,000 per acre *plus* 5 per cent. annual ground rent.

(iii) *Children's Air Society.*—Perpetual lease—additional land measuring 0·19 acre adjoining the existing building at a premium of Rs. 500 per acre without ground rent.

(iv) *Red Cross Society.*—Perpetual lease—site measuring about 0·104 acre at a premium of Rs. 1,000 per acre *plus* 5 per cent. annual ground rent.

(v) *Cambridge Mission.*—Perpetual lease—additional site measuring about 0·137 acre at a premium of Rs. 8,000 per acre *plus* 5 per cent. annual ground rent.

PROPOSED GRANT OF ROUSE PARK TO SOME WOMEN'S VOLUNTEERS CORPS ASSOCIATION

†730. ***Sardar Mangal Singh:** (a) Will the Agriculture Secretary please state whether he has received any application from the Local Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee or Sat Sang Committee of Gurdwara Bangla Sahib, New Delhi, for the grant of land opposite to Gurdwara Bangla Sahib which is called the Rouse Park?

(b) Is it a fact that it is proposed to give the Rouse Park area to some Women Volunteers Corps Association in preference to the requests of the Sikh Institutions? If so, why?

(c) Is he aware that when a pavilion was erected on this plot, it was announced by the then Chief Commissioner, Delhi, that the area would always be used as Children's Park and was named as Rouse Park instead of Bangla Sahib Park?

(d) Is he further aware that there was then great resentment among the local Sikhs over the change of the name and for not handing over the Park to S. B. Dharam Singh Trust?

(e) Is he aware of strong feelings that now exist over the idea of this land being given to an association other than the Sikhs?

(f) Are Government prepared to reserve the land, in question, (if at all it is to be given away for any purpose), for either the Bangla Sahib Gurdwara Sat Sang Committee or the Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, Delhi, or the Khalsa Youngmen's Association in preference to any non-Sikh Institutions?

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) No, but a representation has been received from them protesting against the allotment of this land to the Central Committee of the Women's Voluntary Services.

(b) An application for the allotment of the site in question to the Central Committee of Women's Voluntary Services is at present under consideration but no decision has so far been taken in the matter.

(c) and (d). No information is available on these points.

(e) Representations have been received by Government on the subject.

(f) A decision about the allotment of the land will be arrived at after examining the recommendations of the Standing Advisory Committee for the development of New Delhi. Due consideration will be given for the purpose to the claims of Sikh Associations.

VISIT OF BRITISH CABINET MEMBERS TO INDIA

†731. ***Sardar Mangal Singh:** Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state whether there is any truth in the Press report that members of the British Cabinet including the Secretary of State for India and his deputy will pay a visit to this country at the end of April or early May to assist the Viceroy in his negotiations with the party leaders for instituting a constitution-making Body?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Honourable Member will have seen the statement made in the House of Commons by the Prime Minister and in the House of Lords by the Secretary of State for India announcing that His Majesty's Government have decided, with the approval of His Majesty the King, to send out to India a special mission of Cabinet Ministers consisting of the Secretary of State for India, the President of the Board of Trade and the First Lord of the Admiralty to act in association with the Viceroy in the steps outlined in His Excellency's statement of the 19th September 1945.

Mr. B. B. Varma: May I put this question, Sir, as I have been authorised by Mr. Gauri Shankar Saran Singh to put it on his behalf?

Mr. President: Has the Honourable Member got the Honourable Member's written authority?

Mr. B. B. Varma: Yes, Sir; I will produce it before you.

Mr. President: Very well; he can then put the question.

FOOD SITUATION IN BIHAR

732. **Mr. B. B. Varma** (on behalf of **Mr. Gauri Shankar Saran Singh**): (a) Will the Food Secretary please state the present food situation in the Province of Bihar?

(b) Is he aware of the failure of *kharif* crop in most parts of the Province?

(c) Will he state the extent of estimated decrease in total production of paddy in comparison to two previous years, *viz.*, 1943-44 and 1944-45, and also to normal production?

(d) What is the approximate shortage of rice (or paddy) which the province will need for feeding its population?

(e) Will he state the quantity of rice and paddy imported into the Province during the years 1938-39 to 1944-45, year by year?

(f) Has the Government of Bihar made urgent demands for the supply of rice from outside the Province? If so, what is the quantity asked for?

(g) Have Government considered the constant worsening of the food situation in Bihar? If so, with what result?

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

(b) That is not our information.

(c) Yes.

(d) The present price of paddy provides a fair return to the grower for his produce.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What steps have Government taken to see that the peasants actually receive these maximum prices? They are only ceiling prices; they are not expected to be the actual prices?

Mr. B. R. Sen: This question does not arise, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The Honourable Member has said that they are satisfied that the growers are receiving remunerative or fair prices. What is the basis on which he assumes that the growers will receive remunerative or fair prices, when he has not considered it to be his duty to ascertain . . . . . .

Mr. President: Order, order; the latter part of the question need not be put.

Mr. B. R. Sen: What I have said is that the maximum prices fixed for rice and paddy in Bihar are the prices which provide a fair return to the grower.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask when these prices were fixed?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I think they were fixed in February 1945.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Arising out of the answer to part (b) of this question, may I know if he does not admit that Rs. 20 to Rs. 25 per maund is the prevailing price now? May I ask what is the present price now according to his information?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Immediately after the food debate in this House there was a rise in prices in Bihar and at some places the price went up to even Rs. 20 per maund. Since then the prices have come down in different districts.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In view of the fact that these prices were fixed so long ago as February 1945, may I ask what steps Government have taken to increase the prices?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The Honourable Member must be aware that the prices went up very high in 1943. Since 1943 the attempt of Government has been directed towards bringing down the prices all over India and to fix them according to the normal parity.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that these maximum prices are considered to be remunerative or fair, why is it that Government does not consider it its duty to see that these maximum prices are actually received by the producers?

Mr. B. R. Sen: So far as I am aware, the Provincial Governments have satisfied themselves that a fair price is received by the grower. I may explain tha these prices are the prices at which Government make their procurement. These are not the maximum prices.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In view of the fact that there is growing scarcity, have not the Government considered the Resolution of the House that in order to induce agriculturists to grow more food and produce more foodgrains, the prices must be increased?

Mr. B. R. Sen: This question was brought up at different times, it was brought up in the Food Debate and again in connection with the Adjournment Motion. I have already explained the Government point of view on the subject.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: After the Resolution was passed in the Food Debate, what steps have Government taken to increase the prices where they are necessary?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The Government do not think that increase in prices in the present state of scarcity in this country is a sound policy for stimulating production.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will not this inaction on the part of the Government encourage black market and is it not now forcing the price of rice and paddy also to an abnormal level, such as Rs. 20 and Rs. 25 as hinted here in this question?

Mr. B. R. Sen: That is not the view of the Government.

GRANT OF MONEY FOR TAMING RIVER KOSI IN BIHAR

734. *Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Is the Honourable the Labour Member aware that the Governor General, during his last tour of Bihar, had flown to the area devastated by the vagaries of the river Kosi and that he was so much impressed with the pitiable situation obtaining there that he decided to move the Central Government for granting an adequate amount for taming the river and thus to save the lives and properties of the millions of the people concerned? If so, what is being done in that regard?

(b) Has any project been made ready? If not, what steps are being taken to expedite the matter which concerns the question of life and death for millions of people?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The Governor General during a recent tour did fly over the area devastated by the Kosi floods and did cause a communication to be sent to the Labour Department emphasising the importance of controlling the river as early as possible.

(b) The Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission are conducting the investigations. They have with the permission of the Government of Nepal started aerial and ground surveys and the geological and hydrological investigations for the purpose. Investigation is being conducted with a view to planning the control of the Kosi by means of a storage dam in the Nepal Himalayas. Such dam will not only store surplus flood water and the large volumes of coarse silt carried by it and so prevent the damage at present caused by Kosi floods but it is hoped will also provide water for perennial irrigation of an area estimated at 3 million acres in both Nepal and Bihar and also will offer opportunities for the generation of cheap hydro-electric power. The investigation is being treated as one of high priority.

RECOMMENDATION OF NAMES FOR FOREIGN SCHOLARSHIPS FROM BIHAR

735. *Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Will the Education Secretary be pleased to state if the Government of Bihar have recommended any names for foreign scholarships for training in different subjects?

(b) Is it a fact that last year no such recommendation was received here from the Government of Bihar, while many other Provincial Governments had sent names and have sent names this year also?

Dr. John Sargent: (a) No, Sir, not yet. All Provincial Governments have been requested to forward to the Education Department by March 31st 1946. the names and other particulars of the candidates recommended by them for Overseas Scholarships to be awarded this year. This information has not so far been received from any Provincial Government.

(b) No, Sir, last year the Government of Bihar recommended 6 students whose names are given in the Report of the Selection Board, Overseas Scholarships, 1945. In addition to these students selected for Provincial Scholarships, the Bihar Government also deputed some Government servants for advanced studies abroad.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Out of these six recommended by the Bihar Government how many were actually accepted as scholars by the Government of India?

Dr. John Sargent: All the six.

CONSUMPTION OF TIMBER AND OTHER INDIAN FOREST PRODUCE

†**736. *Sjt. N. V. Gadgil:** Will the Agriculture Secretary please state:

(a) the total consumption, in tons, of timber and other forest produce from the Indian forests during the war-time;

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) The Bihar Government have enough stocks to meet their commitments for the present.

(b) There was no widespread failure of the *kharif* crop in Bihar but it was somewhat below the average.

(c) and (e). Two statements are laid on the table of the House.

(d) The Provincial Government estimate that they will need 150,000 tons of rice during the present year in addition to 59,000 tons already received.

(f) Yes. The Bihar Government have asked for 50,000 tons of rice immediately and additional 100,000 tons later.

(g) Discussions have been held with the Bihar Government who are promulgating a levy order requiring all large producers of paddy to sell specified portions of their produce to Government and are extending rationing to several towns as stocks become available.

Statements

Part (c).—Forecasts give figures in terms of rice and not paddy. The estimated decrease in total production of rice in comparison with the average production and production in the two previous years is as follows :—

335,000 tons decrease over average production.
546,000 tons decrease over 1943-44 production.
236,000 tons decrease over 1944-45 production.

Part (e).—Quantities of rice and paddy imported into Bihar during the years 1938-39 *to* 1944-45.

Year	Rice	Paddy
1938-39	208,135	19,908
1939-40	225,786	12,194
1940-41	225,498	15,663
1941-42	161,295	16,985
1942-43	92,621	9,436
1943-44	14,457	25
1944-45	438,76.6	2,802
1945-46	59,000	...

(These figures exclude imports from Nepal)

Mr. B. B. Varma: May I ask if arrangements are being made to supply the demands of the Bihar Government?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The demands of these Provincial Governments can only be met to the full if we get sufficient quantities of imports. If we have not been able to supply Bihar the full quantities that they had asked for it is because we have not got the imports.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: There are many rural areas in Bihar which are deficit areas. May I ask if any effort is being made to introduce rationing in order to assure some supply of rice and other foodstuffs?

Mr. B. R. Sen: As far as I am aware, the Bihar Government have undertaken to extend rationing in the near future to four or five other towns. There is no scheme of extension of rationing to rural areas at the present moment.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why is it that the Government of India do not think it their duty to see that the rural areas are provided with the minimum supplies of foodstuffs?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Government of India have issued general instructions to the Provincial Governments that they should extend rationing to the fullest extent not only to urban areas but also to rural areas and we expect that the Provincial Governments will take all necessary steps in that direction.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Is the Honourable Member aware that in the towns of Ranchi, Hazaribagh and Chatra there is a great scarcity of rice at the present moment?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I believe that is correct.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Does that mean that if a Provincial Government does not choose to protect the rural people from starvation, it is not the concern of the Government of India to see to it that these rural people are also assured of minimum supplies of foodstuffs?

Mr. B. R. Sen: That is the concern both of the Central and the Provincial Governments. Steps are being taken by the Central as well as Provincial Governments to extend rationing as far as possible.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member send a copy of this question and his answer and also a copy of the supplementaries and their answers to the Provincial Governments concerned?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Certainly, Sir.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Sir, in one place the Honourable Member says that the Government of Bihar has got a sufficient stock of rice and at another place he says that the Government of Bihar has asked for more rice. May I ask how do these two statements tally?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I have said in reply to the first question that they have got sufficient supplies for the present. There are still 8 months of the year to go and that explains what I have said.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: What is the amount of sufficient stock that the Government of Bihar have got at present?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I must ask for notice of that question.

Mr. President: Before the next question is put by Mr. Varma, I should like to put in a word about the written authority. I have accepted this time the Honourable Member's assurance that he will produce it before me, but henceforward I should like the authority to be produced before me before the question is asked. I should like to know the nature of the authority. If it is a general authority for the whole session, I am not going to accept it.

Mr. B. B. Varma: No, Sir, it is not a general authority; it was only for a particular day.

Mr. President: Next question.

PRICE OF FOODGRAINS IN BIHAR

733. ***Mr. B. B. Varma** (on behalf of **Mr. Gauri Shankar Saran Singh**): (a) Will the Food Secretary please state whether the Government of Bihar has fixed statutory maximum prices for principal foodgrains? If so, will he quote the prices fixed for rice and paddy in February 1945, and the present fixed prices for the said commodities?

(b) Is it a fact that rice is selling at present at the rate of Rs. 20 to Rs. 25 per maund in most Districts of Bihar?

(c) Do Government consider the interest of the producers while fixing the statutory maximum prices?

(d) In view of smaller crops especially of paddy, this year, do Government propose to take steps to fix a fair price in the interest of the paddy growers?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) Yes. In February 1945, the maximum prices for rice and paddy were Rs. 9 for coarse rice, Rs. 10 for medium rice and Rs. 6 for paddy. These prices are still in force.

(b) the pre-war consumption of timber and other forest produce from the Indian forests;

(c) the total quantity of timber and other forest produce exported during the war-time;

(d) to what extent the war-time average annual consumption of timber and forest produce is higher than the pre-war average;

(e) the extent of deforestation because of the above;

(f) how many years it will take to rehabilitate the forests, and the approximate cost for such rehabilitation; and

(g) whether Government have allocated any funds for this purpose; if so, what the amount is?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a), (b), (c), and (d). On the basis of such information as is available at present and assuming that annual consumption is the same as annual production, the figures for timber are 21 lakh tons produced on an average annually during the war, 12 lakhs tons produced annually in the pre-war period and 4 lakhs tons exported during the war. The war-time production is thus $1\frac{3}{4}$ times the pre-war production. Figures for other forest produce are not available.

(e) Deforestation technically means that the forest is unfit for any further yield. In this sense, there has been no deforestation in Government and Indian State forests, as war demands were met by making advance but silviculturally sound fellings. Deforestation may have occurred in privately owned forests but no information is available about the extent thereof.

(f) It is considered by experts that no permanent damage has been done to Government and Indian State forests by the advance fellings that have taken place. The return to the normal yield will depend on the post-war working plans adopted by Provincial and State Governments; it is expected that they will spread the reduced fellings over a number of years, so that the effect on post-war yields will be small. No estimate can be made of the cost involved.

(g) The different Provincial Governments have provided funds in their post-war plans for the improvement of forests and the Central Government will give assistance to them on such principles, terms and conditions as may be decided upon in connection with central assistance for provincial post-war development plans in general.

PRICE CONTROL ON GOODS EXPORTED FROM INDIA

737. *Mr. P. B. Gole: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state whether Government have imposed price control on goods exported from India?

(b) Is it a fact that no control of price has been imposed on goods imported into India? If so, why?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Yes, Sir; price control has been imposed on certain goods exported from India, namely, jute, lac, sugar, gur, cotton textiles, and cotton waste.

(b) No, Sir; prices on imported goods are controlled under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, 1943, and specific Control Orders for individual commodities, such as the Paper Price Control Order, 1945, the Civil Motor Cars Control Order, 1945, the Motor Vehicles Spare Parts Control Order, 1944, the Brass and Copper (Control) Order, 1945, the Aluminium Utensils (Control) Order, 1945, and the Drugs Control Order, 1945.

Mr. P. B. Gole: Why should price control be imposed on export of goods from India?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: That is because, it is in the interest of foreign trade and in the interest of internal control over prices within the country.

DECIPHERING AND PUBLICATION OF EPIGRAPHS IN BOMBAY PROVINCE

†**738. *Mr. D. P. Karmarkar:** Will the Education Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of epigraphs available for deciphering and study in the Bombay Karnatak districts, *i.e.*, Dharwar, Belgaum, Bijapur, and North Kanara;

(b) the number of epigraphs copied till now under the auspices of the Archæological Department;

(c) the number of epigraphs copied but not yet published;

(d) the measures contemplated by Government to expedite publication of the epigraphs already copied and deciphered; and

(e) the probable time within which the unpublished epigraphs are likely to be published?

Dr. John Sargent: (a) About four thousand.

(b) About two thousand and four hundred.

(c) About two thousand and one hundred.

(d) During the war, printing of the publications of the Archæological Department was suspended. Urgent steps have now been taken to resume publication and Government have sanctioned the appointment of a Superintendent of Publications in the Department for this special purpose.

(e) The probable time within which the unpublished epigraphs (including those not yet copied) will be published, is estimated at twelve years.

GRAIN SHORTAGE IN BOMBAY PROVINCE

†**739. *Mr. D. P. Karmarkar:** Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) whether failure of crops this year has resulted in serious grain shortage in three of the Karnatak districts, namely the Belgaum, Dharwar and Bijapur districts in the Bombay Province;

(b) the number of villages in each of these districts where scarcity conditions have been declared and the measure taken under the Famine Relief Code;

(c) the anticipated deficit in cereals for this year in these districts, and the measures taken to meet that deficit;

(d) whether steps have been taken to see that no cereals are exported from those districts; and

(e) whether the situation in these districts came up for discussion when the Food Secretary accompanied His Excellency the Governor-General recently to the south; if so, what decisions were taken to meet the food deficit in these districts?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) Yes; except in Bijapur where about 49,000 tons of last year's cereals stocks were carried over to this year.

(b) Scarcity has been declared in 258, 533 and 392 villages of Belgaum, Bijapur and Dharwar respectively. Able-bodied labourers have been encouraged to migrate to centres where labour is required, and steps are being taken to employ such labourers. Programmes of scarcity relief works are also being worked out, and Collectors have been authorised to open works in anticipation of Government sanction. Collectors have also been asked to organise health units to prevent malnutrition and disease and to undertake deepening and repairing of wells and digging *kachcha* wells, etc. Distribution of *tagai* for maintenance in exceptional cases and for fodder, wells, etc., has been undertaken. Revenue collections have either been suspended or remitted, and distribution of gratuitous relief in kind and cash have been authorised. Government are also arranging to purchase fodder and cattle feeds for distribution to cattle owners at subsidised rates and are also encouraging by subsidies the growth of food and fodder crops by wells and other types of irrigation.

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

(c) Estimated cereal deficit in these districts is about 1,15,000 tons. Measures are being taken to make allotments to these districts from outside.

(d) No inter-district movement of foodgrains is allowed except on Government account.

(e) The difficult food situation in the whole of Southern India was brought under review and steps to be taken to meet the situation were generally discussed. Among the important questions discussed was the desirability of distributing the shortage on an all-India basis by a uniform cut in rations.

Loss to Junior Copy Holders in Government Press, New Delhi

740. ***Maulana Zafar Ali Khan:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member kindly state whether it is a fact that in the Government of India Press, New Delhi many Junior Readers are sustaining a loss of Rs. 10 or Rs. 5 per month in their promotion from the post of a Copyholder to that of a Junior Reader, and that the rate of increment too is Rs. 5 per annum in the case of Copyholders whereas Rs. 3 only for Junior Readers?

(b) What steps do Government propose to take to compensate them for their monetary loss and redress the anomaly in the existing rates of pay of a Copyholder and a Junior Reader?

(c) Is it also a fact that the arrears of the unified scale of pay to Copyholders sanctioned in the month of July, 1945, still remain unpaid, in spite of there being several representations in person?

(d) What are the reasons therefor, and do Government propose to give any compensation for such delay under the Payment of Wages Act? If not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes, in the case of those Copyholders who chose the unified scale of pay and were later promoted as Junior Readers.

(b) The question is under consideration.

(c) Yes.

(d) Although issued in July 1945, the orders had retrospective effect from September 1st, 1944. Time had to be allowed to the employees concerned to elect for the unified scale. Then the pay of those who chose the scale had to be fixed allowing each the benefit of past service to the extent of three years. The accounts authorities are pre-auditing the bills. Payment will be made shortly. The reply to the latter portion of the question is in the negative.

Muslim Gazetted Officers in Estate Office

741. ***Khan Bahadur Makhdum Al-Haj Syed Sher Shah Jeelani:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member kindly state the existing number of the Gazetted posts in the Estate Office, New Delhi?

(b) How many out of them are being held by Muslims?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that in 1943 it was decided by the Labour Department in consultation with the Home Department that the posts of the Assistant Estate Officers will be filled by promotion from amongst the highly qualified Superintendents of the Central Public Works Department? If so, does the Honourable Member propose to see that the policy once laid down is adhered to?

(d) Do Government propose to see that the post now vacant which was reserved for a Muslim is under the rules filled by another Muslim in replacement?

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

(b) None at present.

(c) Although prior to the separation of the Estate Office from the Central Public Works Department Organisation, the normal method of recruitment to the post of Assistant Estate Officer in the office of the Chief Engineer was by

selection and promotion from among the Superintendents in that office, this position has since changed. The Estate Office now is not a part of Central Public Works Department but is directly under Labour Department. The Superintendents in the Chief Engineer's Office have therefore no claim now, as of right, for promotion to the post of Assistant Estate Officer in the Estate Office, but their cases may also be considered on merits when filling any of these posts.

(d) The question as to how the post which is now vacant should be filled is still under consideration.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: With reference to part (b), may I know how these five posts were filled and were there no Muslims who could be considered fit to occupy these posts?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I must have notice of this question.

Expenditure on 'Grow More Food' Campaign in Punjab and Sind

742. ***Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** (a) Will the Agriculture Secretary be pleased to state how much money has been spent by the Government of India during the past five years for the 'Grow More Food' Campaign, and how much of this amount has been spent in the Punjab and Sind?

(b) What was the additional yield?

(c) How much of this additional yield has been made over to the Government of India for their Basic Plan?

(d) What is the additional extent of agricultural production in the Punjab and Sind during the past five years?

(e) What steps, if any, have been taken to send consignments of food from the Punjab and Sind to the deficit areas?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) The 'Grow More Food' Campaign was started in 1942-43. A statement is laid on the table showing the loans and grants sanctioned since then.

(b) The additional yield due to the 'Grow More Food' Campaign cannot be ascertained separately from the actual increase in yield due to seasonal and climatic factors. It is estimated, however, that the increase due to the former would be of the order of 1½ to 2 million tons under normal conditions.

(c) It is not possible to differentiate between the surplus of food-grains offered to Food Department from the normal yield of exporting Provinces and their additional yield as a result of the 'Grow More Food' Campaign.

(d) A statement is laid down on the table showing the average annual production of food-grains in the past 4 years as compared with the pre-war average.

(e) The surpluses of major foodgrains in the Punjab and Sind are distributed by the Food Department to various deficit areas for whom the Punjab and Sind Government procure the food-grains. The actual despatch of consignments is done by them in consultation with the receiving areas.

Statement

Part (a)

	Loans in Lakhs	Grants in Lakhs
All-India	494	251
Punjab	Nil	21·7
Sind	Nil	6

	Four-year (1944-45) Average	Pre-war (1936-39) Average
	(in million tons)	
Punjab	6·53	5·40
Sind	1·39	1·08

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member give this House an idea of the land that was brought under cultivation under the 'Grow More Food' Campaign in New Delhi?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: I do not think that arises out of this particular question. But if the Honourable Member wishes, I can supply him that information at some other time.

Mr. Manu Subedar: With reference to part (e), may I know what reasons the Government have got for supplying from the Central Reserve of Food to Sind? The Honourable the Food Secretary just now said so. Why is Sind, a surplus Province, be allowed to make depredations into the central reserves of food. Sind is normally a surplus Province. According to this answer we are told that surpluses from these Provinces of the Punjab and Sind are being sent to the Government of India. I like that answer. But the answer which the Honourable Food Secretary gave this morning was that Sind was in deficit and therefore the Government of India recently supplied a small quantity of foodgrains to Sind from their own reserves. How do you reconcile these two answers?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Both are correct.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Has any foodgrain been supplied to Sind since the beginning of this year?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Yes, Sir; 10,000 tons.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Then may I know why this surplus Province—which in our opinion is shamming—is allowed to make inroads on the central food reserves of the Government of India, why they are not putting full monopoly procurement in their own districts and why they are not imposing full rationing as in other parts of the country before they come to the Central Government's resources for food in this manner?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Sind is a surplus province in normal seasonal conditions. Their argument is that last year the present *rabi* crop suffered from certain seasonal factors and the yield was very much less than they had anticipated.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Government of India give an assurance to this House that no normally surplus Province will be permitted to indent on the Government of India for any food supply until they take all the measures, both for procuration and rationing, to the same extent as they are taken in deficit Provinces?

(No reply was given.)

(*b*) WRITTEN ANSWERS

STOPPAGE OF EMPLOYMENT OF FORCED LABOUR

743. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of forced labour in this country;

(b) what steps, if any, Government propose to take to stop the employment of forced labour in this country;

(c) whether any steps have been taken by Government to fix a minimum standard of wages for agricultural and industrial labourers in several parts of this country; and

(d) whether Government is proposing to take any steps either by legislation or otherwise to see that labour is adequately and regularly paid; if so, what; if not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) No detailed information is available.

(b) The attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to the reply given to Starred Question No. 381 of Professor N. G. Ranga, on 20th February 1946.

(c) Proposals for minimum wage legislation for agricultural and industrial labour are under consideration.

(d) The proposed minimum wage legislation will provide for fixing minimum wages and for ensuring payment of wages at not less than the rates fixed.

POSITION OF DELHI PROVINCE AS PART OF PUNJAB FOR PURPOSES OF RATIONING

744. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Food Secretary please state:

(a) if the Province of Delhi was treated as part of the Punjab, at any time during the war, for purposes of rationing of food or fuel or sugar, and if the same position continues now, if not, why not?

(b) if it is a fact that high officials for the Municipal, Judicial and other services in Delhi and New Delhi are mostly recruited from the Punjab services; if so, how many are in this Province now?

(c) what the objection is for treating Delhi as part of the Punjab for rationing purposes in all matters; and

(d) if the Province of the Punjab refuses to treat Delhi as part of that Province for the above purposes, whether he proposes to advise the Government of India to return all the Punjab officials in whatever capacity they may be employed in the Province of Delhi, to the Punjab, and recruit officials from the adjacent Province of the United Provinces?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) Free trade in food-grains between Delhi and the Punjab was agreed to in May 1943. Since the introduction of rationing in Delhi free imports of wheat and rice from the Punjab into the rationed areas of Delhi have been stopped and these commodities are being imported on Government account. The movement of certain non-rationed foodgrains like gram and millets has been temporarily banned by the Punjab Government. The movement of wheat, rice and other food-grains by road to Delhi has also been banned by the Punjab Government. These restrictions have been imposed in order to facilitate the procurement of food-grains in the Punjab.

Certain supplies of fuel for Delhi used to be derived from the Punjab but since 1944 these supplies have been stopped altogether on account of scarcity of fuel in the Punjab.

Sugar for Delhi has all along been exclusively received from the mills in the United Provinces.

(b) Yes. The number of Gazetted Officers borrowed from the Punjab for service in Delhi and New Delhi is 30.

(c) The appointment of officials from the Punjab is not connected with the question of supplies of rationed commodities.

(d) Does not arise.

EXPENDITURE ON CONSTRUCTION OF NEW DELHI AND ITS MAINTENANCE

745. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Health Secretary please state:

(a) the amount spent on the construction of New Delhi so far, and on its maintenance per year;

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) and (b). The total number of temporary and officiating Executive Engineers in the Civil Engineering and Electrical Engineering Branches is 65 and 18 respectively, of whom Muslims are 9 and 2 respectively.

(c) and (d). It has not yet been definitely settled how many of the existing temporary incumbents can be permanently absorbed in the Department. If the need for retrenchment arises, the orders regarding observance of the communal representation rules in effecting retrenchment will be duly followed.

(e) Does not seem to arise in view of the answer to clause (c), but the Honourable member may rest assured that the communal representation rules will be duly followed.

REFUSAL OF PERMITS TO INDIANS BY BURMA GOVERNMENT TO RETURN TO INDIA

749. *Sri V. Gangaraju: (a) Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state if it is a fact that a large number of Indians who went to the office of the Release and Rehabilitation Section of the Burmese Government to ask for permits to go back to India were not given any hearing?

(b) Are Government aware that they were lathi charged even while the Agent to the Government of India was present on the occasion?

(c) Did the said Agent protest against that unprovoked and violent attack on Indians?

(d) What steps have Government taken to protest against this indignity?

(e) What steps are being taken against the repetition of such attacks on Indians?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: (a) The number of Indians anxious to return to India is out of proportion to shipping facilities available so far. The procedure that has to be adopted for deciding and communicating priority for passages has been rather complicated. The Government of Burma's staff for dealing with applications for return passages is also reported to be inadequate and overworked. This has caused great delay in the disposal of applications for passage and complaints have been frequently made that applicants for passages are not given the necessary information.

(b) and (c). Towards the end of January, a very large number of Indians assembled at the Burma Government's Passage office and gave expression to their impatience and exasperation at delay in obtaining information and six eye witnesses complained to our Representative that those who were ostensibly regulating the crowd had assaulted about 50 persons. Our Representative drew the attention of the authorities concerned to the matter immediately with the result that the office for the issue of passages was shifted to a less congested place on the 4th February. The Representative also received further unconfirmed complaints about lathi charges and actually saw one policeman using a lathi on the crowd also at the new office. On the Representative's intervention, the policeman stopped.

(d) and (e). Necessary representations have been made to the authorities concerned and the issue of passages at the new office has been suspended for some time with a view to completing the repatriation of over 5,000 persons whose applications have already been registered. Active steps are also being taken to obtain additional shipping accommodation and simplify the procedure for registration of application for passages.

REFUSAL OF FACILITIES TO DETAINED INDIANS IN BURMA TO RETURN TO INDIA

750. *Sri V. Gangaraju: (a) Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state if there are Indians in Burma who have expressed their desire to return to India? If so, how many of them had been in jail in (i) Japanese custody and (ii) the British Burma custody after the cessation of hostilities with Japan?

(b) Have any travel facilities for returning to India been provided to such Indians as had suffered from detention in jails or internment camps?

(c) To how many of them were such facilities refused, and why?

(d) Are any steps being taken to help them to return to India to meet their relatives and look after their paternal properties?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: (a) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative.

Information regarding the second part is being collected and will be furnished on receipt.

(b) Yes.

(c) Facilities to return to India have not been refused to any but their return has been delayed owing to essential formalities connected with their repatriation and partly owing to lack of adequate shipping.

(d) Yes.

INDIAN DETENUS AND CONVICTS IN BURMA JAILS

751. *Sri V. Gangaraju: (a) Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state if it is a fact that a large number of Indians are still kept in jails in Burma? If so, how many of them are detenus, and how many are convicted prisoners?

(b) Why are they still being detained or forced to serve their sentences even after the war is over?

(c) What are the charges against the detenus and against the others?

(d) How many of them have been released during the last three months?

(e) In the case of how many of them, facilities to return to India have been refused?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: (a) About 1,100 detenus mainly civilian I.N.A. personnel are in detention in Burma awaiting repatriation. No figures of Indians convicted of any charge are available.

(b) and (c). Detenus are being detained under Rule 26 of Defence of Burma Rules but all are now awaiting repatriation to India.

(d) About 15 who claimed Burma domicile have already been released and five more are about to be released.

(e) Facilities to return to India have not been refused to any but their return has been delayed owing to essential formalities connected with their repatriation and partly owing to lack of adequate shipping.

APPOINTMENTS TO THE POST OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, CENTRAL P.W.D.

752. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) the number of persons who have successively held the post of Administrative Officer, Central Public Works Department so far;

(b) to which community each one belonged;

(c) whether it is a fact that no Sikh or a Hindu has so far been appointed to this post; if so, why; and

(d) if he proposes to consider the advisability of appointing a Sikh to the post which is now lying vacant; if not, why not?

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

(b) The communities to which the officers belonged were as follows:

(1) Anglo-Indian. (3) Anglo-Indian.
(2) Muslim. (4) Muslim.

(c) Yes. The orders regarding communal representation in the public services are not applied singly to the post of Administrative Officer but to all Class I posts in the Central P.W.D. taken together. It is, therefore, not possible to ensure that the post of Administrative Officer is filled by a member of a particular community.

(d) The question of filling the post is still under consideration.

(b) the amount realised by way of taxes and lighting and water charges in the New Delhi area during the year 1945-46 (up to January, 1946);

(c) the amount spent on the maintenance of staff in the various Branches of the Central Public Works Department services for the same period; and

(d) the amount spent on education, sanitation and public amenities during the same period?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: (a), (b) and (d). A note giving the information available at present is laid on the table.

(c) Information has been called for and will be furnished to the House when received.

Statement

(a) (i) Expenditure to the extent of Rs. 20,48,08,217 has been incurred on the New Capital Project.

(ii) No separate figure for annual maintenance of New Delhi is readily available. However, the cost of maintenance of Central Government's Buildings in Delhi, including Old Delhi, for the current financial year is expected to be Rs. 50,34,500. These figures do not include the cost of construction and maintenance of Defence and Commercial Departments Buildings.

(b) Actual income for the period from April to December 1945 :

	Rs.	
(1) House Tax	5,00,330	
(2) Terminal Tax	1,66,488	
(3) Motor Tax	1,28,785	
(4) Dog Tax	2,982	
(5) Milch Tax	476	
(6) Wheel Tax	819	
(7) Lighting	16,90,667	
(8) Water rate (filtered)	7,08,014	
(unfiltered)	2,45,470	(to the end of January 1946).

Figures for items 1—7 for January 1946 are not readily available.

(d) Actual expenditure for the period April to December 1945 :

	Rs.
(1) Education	1,38,281
(2) Sanitation (including sewage disposal)	6,81,747
(3) Public Amenities—	
(i) Maintenance of parks and gardens, etc	1,93,625
(ii) Free water in public places	56,411

Figures to the end of January 1946 are not readily available.

MUSLIM ENGINEERS IN CENTRAL TECHNICAL POWER BOARD

746. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Engineers selected and appointed so far in the Central Technical Power Board;

(b) the number of Muslim officers appointed;

(c) if no Muslim has been appointed, why;

(d) if it is a fact that some Muslim Engineers applied for the posts of different grades of officers but these candidates were overlooked in utter disregard of the Government order fixing communal quota; and

(e) in view of the *zero representation* of Muslims at present in the Power Board, whether Government propose to take up the question of appointing adequate number of Muslim officers to conform with the communal quota fixed by Government order?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) 17 excluding Chairman, as detailed below:

Hydro-electric Member	1
'A' Grade Project Officers	2
'B' Grade Project Officers	5
'C' Grade Project Officers	9
	17

(b) *Nil.*

(c) No Muslim officer possessing the requisite technical qualifications and experience was available for any of the posts.

(d) The Muslim Officers who applied for the posts were not considered suitable by the Federal Public Service Commission.

(e) As there has been no infringement of the Rules relating to the representation of different communities in the services, no action is called for.

MUSLIMS FOR ADVANCE TRAINING IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

747. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Electrical Engineers selected by the Electrical Commissioner on behalf of the Labour Department and deputed overseas for advance training in the Electrical Engineering last year;

(b) the number of Muslims thus selected;

(c) if it is a fact that this selection was made without the publicity being given through the Press; if so, why; and

(d) if the Muslim quota has not been kept up in the last batch, whether the Honourable Member proposes to give an assurance that a larger number of Muslims will be included in the next selection?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Selected—10, Deputed overseas—9.

(b) One.

(c) The Provinces and major States were apprised of the scheme for training of Indians abroad and asked to make a preliminary selection of suitable candidates. 24 names were put forward by them of whom 22 appeared for interview and ten selected.

There was therefore no necessity to give publicity to the scheme in the Press.

(d) The Provinces and Major States recommended only one Muslim for selection and he was selected by Government. As such, the latter portion of this part of the question does not arise.

APPOINTMENT OF MUSLIMS AS ENGINEERS IN CENTRAL P.W.D.

748. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) the number of temporary Executive Engineers and Assistant Engineers in the Central P. W. D. (i) in the Civil Engineering Branch, and (ii) Electrical Engineering Branch;

(b) the number of Muslim officers in each of the above Branches;

(c) whether it is proposed to retain all of them for permanent appointments;

(d) if the answer to (c) is in the negative, the number proposed to be retained; and while retrenching the staff, whether Government will bear in mind the need for maintaining the communal quota of Muslims; and

(e) if the answer to (c) is in the affirmative, whether in view of the small number of Muslims, Government propose to consider the question of appointment of additional Muslim officers to make up their representation?

IMPORT OF FOODGRAINS FROM EAST AFRICA

753. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if Government are considering the suggestion made by the Indian Rural People's Society in their letter, dated the 8th instant that there are great possibilities for importing foodgrains from East African territories and that the Indian Trade Commissioner at Mombasa should be asked to contact the local Government with a view to persuading them to spare some quantities of foodgrains for India;

(b) whether they have instructed by cable their Trade Commissioner to move in the direction suggested; if so, what his answer is; and

(c) whether Government propose to take expeditious action in this regard so as to obtain urgently imports from East Africa?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) to (c). Reports about the availability of surplus foodgrains in East Africa have been brought to the notice of the Secretary of State for India as well as the Indian Trade Commissioner at Mombasa. They have been requested to explore the possibility of imports of these foodgrains into this country.

RESTRICTION ON FEASTING IN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS

754. *Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Has the attention of the Food Secretary been drawn to the suggestion made by Mahatma Gandhi in regard to the threatening food situation in the country, namely that feasting on ceremonial occasions should be stopped?

(b) In pursuance of that suggestion, does he propose to move Government to pass a law immediately for rural and urban areas all over the country, stopping feasting on all ceremonial occasions or at least restricting the maximum number of people to be fed at fifty only?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Restrictions on the maximum number of people to be fed at ceremonial occasions are already in existence in most of the Provinces in rationed areas. Further instructions have recently been issued to all Provinces and States to tighten up these restrictions and extend them to non-rationed areas where possible.

IMPORT OF CARTRIDGES

755. *Hajee Chowdhury Mohammad Ismail Khan: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state the quantity of cartridges imported by sea during 1938, 1939, 1940 and 1945?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: A statement giving the required information is laid on the table.

Statement showing the quantity of cartridges imported by sea into India during 1938, 1939, 1940 and 1945

—	Imports into British India			Imports into maritime states of Kashmir		
	Cartridge cases, Filled No.	Cartridge cases, Empty No.	Cartride cases, Total No.	Cartridge cases, Filled No.	Cartridge cases, Empty No.	Cartridge cases, Total No.
1938 . . .	16,209,311	530,039	16,739,300	5,015	...	5,015
1939 . . .	12,169,022	580,500	12,749,522	1,000	...	1,000
1940 . . .	12,720,322	822,444	13,542,766	10,140	...	10,140
1945 (January to November.)	6,189,783	...	6,189,783	Information not available		

N.B.—There were no imports of cartridges by sea into Travancore.

APPLICATION OF PAYMENT OF WAGES ACT TO JODHPUR RAILWAY

756. *Seth Sukhdev: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the provisions of the Payment of Wages Act, IV of 1936 apply to the portion of the Jodhpur Railway running through British India; if so, why the Conciliation Officer (Railways) and the Supervisor of Railway Labour's annual reports for three years 1941-44, published in the Indian Labour Gazette, contain no reference to Jodhpur Railway; and

(b) if the information in regard to the inspection of the British portion of the Jodhpur Railway is available for these years whether the Honourable Member proposes to lay a statement on the table of the House giving the following information for the Jodhpur Railway:

(1) the number of staff (i) adults, (ii) children, (iii) substitutes and (iv) total wages paid to them,

(2) the number of employees fined and the amount of fine recovered,

(3) the number of employees debited with loss or damage of goods and the amount so recovered, and

(4) the number of inspections held and irregularities noted?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The note published in the Indian Labour Gazette contains merely a general summary of the annual reports for 1941-44 on the working of the Payment of Wages Act on Railways.

(b) (1) to (3) A statement containing the available information is placed on the table of the House.

(4) The information is not readily available.

Statement showing the staff employed by the Jodhpur Railway Administrations in factories and otherwise than in factories in the British Section of the Railway according to the returns submitted in pursuance of the provisions of Rule 17 of the Payment of Wages (Federal Railways) Rules 1938.

—	1941-42	1942-43	1943-44
Total number of persons employed—			
Adults	1901	1933	2024
Children	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*
Total wages paid	Rs. 5,82,379	Rs. 6,35,938	Rs. 6,21,433
Number of employees fined . . .	128	102	140
Amount of fine recovered	Rs. 41	Rs. 31	Rs. 48
Number of employees debited with loss or damage of goods.	1102	1127	1303
Amount recovered for damage . . .	Rs. 1,287	Rs. 1,129	Rs. 1,985

FRESH CULTIVATION OF LAND DUE TO GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN

757. *Mr. B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Will the Agriculture Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) what steps were taken in the "Grow More Food" campaign to bring larger acreage of land under cultivation; and

(b) what acreage of land province-wise was so brought under fresh cultivation, and the average production of such acreage compared with the production in adjoining areas?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) Government "waste" lands where available have been leased to cultivators at economic or concessional rates of rent or free (as the case may be) for the production of food crops to the extent of nearly 900,000 acres. A statement is laid on the table showing the province-wise distribution of this acreage. Loans and grants have been given by the Central Government to the tune of Rs. 49 lakhs and Rs. 56 lakhs respectively for land reclamation and improvement projects, including the construction of contour bunds, covering 1½ million acres. A statement is laid on the table showing the province-wise distribution of the loans and grants.

(b) Reliable figures are not available showing the increase in acreage and production due to the measures mentioned but a statement is laid on the table comparing the average figures for acreage and production in British India in the 3 pre-war years with those for the 3 years 1942-45, showing an increase of 11 million acres and 3 million tons of the principal food grains.

Statement showing the extent of area of culturable waste lands leased out to cultivators in different Provinces at economic or concessional rates or free of any charge.

Name of Province	Total area brought under cultivation (acres)
Assam	97,655
Bengal	22,231
Bihar	6,673
Bombay	1,82,125
C. P. and Berar	87,990
Madras	93,276
N. W. F. P	*Nil*
Orissa	1,211
Punjab	2,40,077
Sind	1,64,706
United Provinces	880
Total	8,96,834

List of the schemes sanctioned during 1943-44 for reclamation and improvement of land

—	Loan	Grant	Grant sanctioned from Cotton fund
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Bombay— Interest free taccavi advance repayable in three years for the cultivation of culturable waste Lands.	3,00,000	1,00,000	
Coorg— Grant of Bonus to actual cultivators at Rs. 7/8 and Rs. 20 per acre for the cultivation of waste lands to the extent of 1,500 acres of dry land and 1,500 acres of wet land respectively.	...	41,250	
Orissa— Reclamation of waste lands to the extent of 66,000 acres.	3,76,500	44,900	
Punjab— Reclamation of 50,000 acres of sailab (riverain) area.	...	3,00,000	
Total	6,76,500	4,86,150	

List of the schemes sanctioned during 1944-45 for reclamation and improvement of land

—	Loan	Grant	Grant sanctioned from Cotton fund
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Madras— (1) Reclamation of 40,000 acres of dry land in Pattukkotai taluk to bring it under irrigation for paddy for 1944-45.	15,00,000	1,72,820	
(2) Reclamation of 25,000 acres of Government land in compact blocks in Chittor District.	1,25,000	41,666	
(3) Reclamation of 1,000 acres of land in Anantpur District.	...	2,500	
Bombay— Bunding and dry farming development scheme	...	15,00,000	
Bihar— Scheme for contour ridging in Chhota Nagpur.	...	5,76,970	
C. P. and Berar— Converting single crop area into do-fasli	1,98,970	52,150	
Orissa— Reclamation of 1 lakh acres of waste land out of which 33,000 acres will receive financial assistance.	4,45,500	44,000	
Punjab— Extension of cultivation to riverain areas	...	6,00,000	
U. P.— Construction of Daulbandi	...	1,01,000	
Baroda— Subsidy for land development and cortour bunding of 40,000 acres at Rs. 2 per acre and the cost of spl. staff and equipment,	...	...	52,000
Total	22,69,470	30,91,106	52,000

List of the schemes sanctioned during 1945-46 for reclamation and improvement of land

—	Loan	Grant	Grant sanctioned from Cotton fund
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Ajmer Merwara— Scheme for survey of land for contour bunding for a period of six months.	...	6,190	
Bombay— Bunding and dry farming and survey development.	...	14,83,860	
C. P. and Berar— Conversion of 18,050 acres of rabi area into do-fasli by field embankment.	4,91,500	40,960	
Subsidizing repairs to old paddy bunds	78,333	7,833	

	Loan	Grant	Grant sanctioned from Cotton fund
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Madras—			
Scheme for the reclamation of undeveloped lands for wet cultivation in the district of Trichinopoly.	...	20,855	
Reclamation of 15,000 acres of land in Pattukkotai Taluk.	5,62,500	62,375	
Orissa—			
Reclamation of waste land	5,00,000	1,66,666	
Conversion of single cropped area into do-fasli	3,07,733	66,933	
Punjab—			
Scheme for the soil conservation in Gujrat, Ambala, and Attock Districts and soil conservation division and Hisiarpur, Jhelum, Rawalpindi Forest Division.	...	39,440	
Scheme for the soil conservation in the districts of Gurdaspur.	...	7,660	
Scheme for the extension of cultivation to riverain areas.	...	1,23,210	
Total	19,40,066	20,25,982	
Grand total for the year 1943-44 to 1945-46	48,86,036	56,03,238	52,000

Statement showing area and production of principal foodgrains in British India*

Provinces	Area ('000 acres)		Production ('000 tons)	
	Normal (Average 1936-37 to 1938-39).	Average 1942-43 to 1944-45	Normal (Average 1936-37 to 1938-39	Average 1942-43 to 1944-45
Ajmer-Merwara	232	325	34	52
Assam	5,280	5,398	1,797	1,957
Bengal	22,686	26,604	8,982	9,740
Bihar	15,760	15,857	5,002	4,973
Bombay	17,412	17,718	3,254	3,168
C. P. and Berar	14,880	15,473	3,655	3,765
Coorg	85	88	55	64
Delhi	178	213	47	52
Madras	19,342	20,026	7,304	7,401
N. W. F. P.	2,004	2,158	582	567
Orissa	5,454	5,476	1,618	1,394
Punjab	19,709	22,965	5,403	6,685
Sind	3,897	4,464	1,075	1,476
U. P.	31,166	32,828	9,063	9,594
Total	158,085	169,583	47,871	50,888

* Including rice, Wheat, Jowar, Bajra, Raji, Maize, Barley and gram.

IMPORT OF ARTIFICIAL MANURE

758. *Mr. B. P. Jhunjhunwala: (a) Will the Agriculture Secretary be pleased to state the total quantity and value of the artificial manure imported from foreign countries during the last fifteen years?

(b) How much of the same was used by or through the Agriculture Department?

(c) What steps were taken by the Department to propagate the use of this manure?

(d) Why does the Department advocate the use of the artificial manure in preference to organic manure, farmyard manure and green manure?

(e) Has the fertility of the soil increased and is that fertility maintained by the use of this manure? If so, what is the total increase in production per acre as a result of the use of such manure?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b) The Department of Agriculture did not import any fertilizers until 1944. During the fertilizer year 1944-45 the Central Government made the following purchases:

Sulphate of Ammonia	90,000 tons
Ammonium Phosphate	14,000 ,,
Triple Superphosphate	3,500 ,,

During the fertilizer year 1945-46, the Combined Food Board has allocated:

Sulphate of Ammonia	1,54,000 tons
Ammonium Phosphate	6,634 ,,

All fertilizers purchased by the Government after 1944 were controlled by the Central Government and were allocated to the various Provinces and States for distribution.

(c) The Central Government has been providing grants for subsidizing the distribution of Sulphate of Ammonia for use on food crops mainly paddy. The subsidy varies from 50 per cent to 25 per cent of the cost of the fertilizer. This has made the cultivators more fertilizer-minded.

(d) The Department does not advocate the use of fertilizers in preference to organic manures. Fertilizers are recommended to be used in conjunction with whatever organic manure is available. Since large quantities of organics are not available to give sufficient plant food to the growing crops, application of fertilizers helps to distribute the organics over a wider area and at the same time provides the necessary plant food in a more readily assimilable form.

(e) Fertilizers are not applied to increase the fertility of the soil but to produce bigger yields of crops. The plant food in the fertilizer becomes very readily available to the crop. Judicious use of fertilizers increases the yield of crops by 20 per cent. to 40 per cent.

Statement showing the imports of artificial manures into India from foreign countries during the last fifteen years

I.—QUANTITY (TONS)

—	1930-31	1931-32	1932-33	1933-34	1934-35	1935-36	1936-37	1937-38	1938-39	1939-40	1940-41	1941-42	1942-43	1943-44	1944-45
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1. Nitrogenous :—															
(a) Nitrate of Soda.	4,329	2,009	1,241	2,217	3,542	2,732	2,476	3,404	2,171	6,226	3,151	2,639	2	..	..
(b) Sulphate of Ammonia.	19,761	16,382	37,601	29,782	40,762	46,226	60,811	53,570	77,096	80,438	32,154	1,627	1,361	2,550	50,841
(c) Others .	1	1,203	407	890	708	482	544	589	891	3,350	900	20	..	..	..
Potassic :—															
(a) Muriate of Potash.	4,318	5,047	3,386	3,112	3,937	3,376	2,064	2,928	1,829	2,110	1,585	100	696	1,258	597
(b) Others .	..	1,547	433	717	1,796	1,099	690	1,604	965	1,045	140	..	..	..	..
3. Phosphatic :—															
(a) Superphosphate.	..	3,983	3,478	2,980	4,740	6,478	5,975	7,405	6,788	7,758	6,732	2,722	..	148	1,572
(b) Others .	26,291	1,354	1,088	2,109	1,116	3,931	3,087	3,779	3,882	1,839	337	20	..	..	1,500
4. Compounds :—															
(a) Ammonium Phosphate.	..	72	699	3,781	7,321	5,529	3,999	2,167	2,569	973	1,389	250	..	..	54,822*
Fish manures .	2,874	1,742	1,675	1,007	1,143	1,479	2,616	1,783	2,375	2,498	3,867	2,189	1,451	1,558	2,452
Others . .	787	691	2,300	2,930	1,039	557	675	1,746	1,294	2,056	1,256	1,737	60	1	..
Total .	58,361	34,030	52,308	49,525	66,104	71,889	82,937	78,975	99,860	1,08,293	51,511	11,304	3,570	5,515	1,11,784

* Under Verification

II.—VALUE. THOUSAND (RUPEES)

—	1330-31	1931-32	1932-33	1933-34	1934-35	1935-36	1936-37	1937-38	1938-39	1939-40	1940-41	1941-42	1942-43	1943-44	1944-45
1. Nitrogenous—															
(a) Nitrate of Soda.	597	255	159	254	279	273	239	320	229	803	485	714	...	...	...
(b) Sulphate of ammonia.	2,639	1,000	3,834	2,902	3,980	4,555	5,800	5,643	8,337	9,690	5,469	369	354	374	10,861
(c) Others .	...	109	37	97	75	43	47	59	103	348	169	6	...	...	..
2. Pottasic—															
(a) Muriate of Potash.	181	603	466	396	402	324	209	286	182	270	203	24	292	522	204
(b) Others .	...	140	64	92	199	121	75	180	112	121	23	...	...	...	...
3. Phosphatic—															
(a) Superphosphate.	...	271	210	216	343	466	396	568	595	628	1,050	460	...	37	389
(b) Others .	2,533	55	51	232	77	320	313	406	418	213	42	1	...	..	178
4. Compounds—															
Ammonium Phosphate.	...	21	152	562	1,115	794	601	316	395	160	338	64	...	...	2,714*
5. Fish manures	275	150	129	61	93	103	173	58	74	99	124	72	79	116	100
6. Others . .	50	74	154	426	100	71	80	164	146	253	79	97	24	...	...
Total .	6,575	3,578	5,256	5,238	6,663	7,080	7,933	8,000	10,561	12,585	7,982	1,807	749	1,049	14,446

*Under Variation

AVERAGE PRODUCTION PER ACRE OF MAIN CROPS IN INDIA

759. *Mr. B. P. Jhunjhunwala: (a) Will the Agriculture Secretary be pleased to state the average production per acre of different main crops in India?

(b) How does it compare with production in Italy, Japan and other countries in Europe and America?

(c) What steps have Government taken to bring the cultivation to the same level of production as in foreign countries?

(d) What amount of money has been spent on this Department for the last fifteen years? How much of this money was spent in supplying improved seeds and implements free or at concession rates to cultivators?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) and (b). A statement showing the available information is laid on the table of the House.

(c) Owing to climatic factors and the condition of the soil, the yield in all areas cannot be the same. Government have been carrying on research to evolve improved types of seed and better cultural practices so as to improve yields. Since 1942-43, the Central Government are subsidizing schemes relating to (1) the multiplication and distribution of improved seeds (2) the distribution of manures (3) the provision of facilities for irrigation, contour bunding, drainage cuts and other works of land improvement under the Grow More Food Campaign.

(d) In connection with the Grow More Food Campaign, Rs. 494 lakhs have been spent as loans and Rs. 491 lakhs as grants. Of this amount a sum of Rs. 253 lakhs has been given by way of loans and Rs. 87 lakhs by way of grants for the distribution of improved seeds and a sum of Rs. 2 lakhs by way of loans for the distribution of implements.

* *Average production per acre of main crops in India as compared with the production in Italy, Japan and other countries in Europe and America* (Average, 1936-37 to 1938-39)*

1	India	Japan	Italy	France	Germany	Poland	Rumania	Argentina	Canada	U S A
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Rice (in the husk)	1,150	3,461	4,761	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,224
Wheat	655	1,568	1,294	1,399	2,114	1,070	997	923	591	797
Barley	744	1,739	1,018	1,307	2,002	1,025	630	957	933	1,033
Maize	696	1,422	1,872	1,409	...	1,110	895	1,454	...	1,350
Sugarcane (tons of cane).	1,334	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,982
Cotton (Lint)	92	200	...	...	...	...	...	134	...	245
Linseed	259	...	542	...	...	448	...	571	227	384
Rapeseed	386	1,004	...	...	1,622	867	499	...	...	755
Groundnuts (in shell).	848	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	855
Tobacco	874	1,539	1,164	1,636	...	...	675	...	...	

* Figures for foreign countries for war years are not available.

CULTIVATION OF FALLOW LANDS IN NEW DELHI

760. *Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: Will the Agriculture Secretary please state if Government propose to take immediate steps to bring under plough all lands lying fallow in New Delhi for growing vegetables and eatables, in view of the terrible food crisis that is going to confront the country?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: Steps have been taken to bring under vegetable cultivation 60 acres *i.e.*, about half of the Central Vista; and part of it has already been dug up for the purpose and the rest will be ploughed after the Victory celebrations are over. Tenants of Government bungalows have also been asked to grow vegetables in their compounds. Arrangements have also been made for officers of the Department to go round to the houses and advise householders as to where vegetables, etc., should be planted, of what types and when, and for the supply of seeds, manures, etc. The limiting factors in most cases are water and lack of staff trained in the growing of vegetables.

RATIONING IN GOVERNMENT HOUSE, LAHORE

761. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Food Secretary please state:

(a) whether Government are aware that rationing on an austerity basis has been introduced in the Government House, Lahore, as stated by an Associated Press report;

(b) if so, whether the Government of India will take steps to convey the suggestion of such a practice to other Government Houses and high officials like Collectors, Commissioners, etc.; and

(c) whether, in view of food shortage, they propose to give instructions to various organisations concerned as well as hotels and general public to prohibit parties being given by anyone or by an organisation at one time for more than ten persons?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) His Excellency the Viceroy has already made a general appeal to this effect.

(c) Certain restrictions are already in force in most of the Provinces and they have recently been asked to tighten up these restrictions as far as possible and to apply them more rigidly.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIAN TRADE COMMISSIONER IN IRELAND

762. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) the arrangements made for promoting Indo-Irish trade; and

(b) whether the Government of India propose to consider the question of appointing a Trade Agent or a Trade Commissioner in Ireland?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Ireland is included in the jurisdiction of the Indian Government Trade Commissioner, London.

(b) The question of appointing a separate Trade Commissioner for Ireland will be considered should trade conditions warrant such an appointment.

FOOD PRIORITY FOR INDIA OVER GERMANY

763. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Food Secretary kindly state:

(a) whether the Government of India are aware of the statement of Lord Vensittart, Former Chief Diplomatic Adviser to the British Government, that needs of the starving India are paramount and that the food earmarked for Germany should be given to her;

(b) whether they are also aware of the statement that the Allies should be better treated than foes;

(c) whether Government propose to emphasise this point before the British Government; and

(d) whether they propose to see that India gets food priority over Germany?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) and (d). Government are doing all they can to press India's case for imports of foodgrains from abroad.

DISPOSAL OF U.S. ARMY CHAPEL IN NEW DELHI

764. *Sri S. T. Adityan: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state whether the U. S. Army Chapel, Parliament Street, New Delhi, is going to be surrendered to Government; if so, what Government propose to do with it?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes, the matter is now under consideration.

RESTRICTIONS ON SHIPPING SPACE FOR HAJ PILGRIMS

765. *Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: (a) Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state whether the Government of India are going to continue the restrictions on the shipping space for Haj pilgrims during 1946?

(b) If the restrictions are to continue, are the ports of Bombay and Calcutta likely to be opened for Haj pilgrimage owing to the changed circumstances on account of the end of the war?

(c) If the reply to part (b) is in the affirmative, how many Haj pilgrims will be allowed to sail from Karachi, Bombay or Calcutta?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: (a), (b) and (c). Arrangements for the next years Haj pilgrimage are under consideration and will be finalised in due course in consultation with the Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to the Hejaz. There are only seven ships left which can be used for the pilgrimage and it is hoped that all the seven will be available for the next pilgrimage. The maximum number of pilgrims these ships can carry will not, however, exceed 17,000. Whether pilgrims should be left to obtain passages direct from the shipping companies or a system of priority should be adopted for the booking of passages through Government has yet to be decided. Whether sailings will be allowed from all the 3 ports cannot also be decided at present.

ARRANGEMENT FOR HAJ PILGRIMAGE BY AIR

766. *Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: (a) Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state whether the pilgrimage to Haj would be possible by air during the ensuing Haj season?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, which company would be making arrangements for the flying of pilgrims?

(c) What air ports would be serving in India for this purpose?

(d) How much luggage each passenger would be allowed to carry in the plane?

(e) What rates of fare for single or return journey are proposed to be levied?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: (a) to (e). It is unlikely that arrangements can be made for a regular air service to Saudi Arabia for the purpose of the Haj pilgrimage during the next Haj season. Subject to air transport operating capacity being available at that time, Government will be pleased to give all assistance possible in making arrangements to facilitate flights for this purpose on a commercial basis. Intending travellers should make their proposals to one of the established air transport operating companies.

OPERATIONS OF U.K.C.C. IN INDIA

767. *Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state if they propose to take necessary steps to prohibit the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation from operating in India in view of the cessation of hostilities and India's need to build up her export trade? If so, when?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given in this House on the 5th February 1946, to Mr. Manu Subedar's starred question No. 17.

RE-ENTRY INTO MANIPUR OF INDIAN BUSINESS MEN

768. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state whether any representation has been received by Government in regard to re-entry, into Manipur State, of certain Indian businessmen who evacuated therefrom during the war emergency period? If so, will he be pleased to indicate the nature of the grievances represented, and the action, if any, that has been taken on behalf of Government for the removal thereof?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Representations have been received by the Crown Representative from certain Chambers of Commerce against the Manipur Darbar's desire to refuse to re-admit into the State those merchants who abandoned their property in 1942 unless there should be any special reasons for allowing some of them to return; and also against the action of the Political Agent, Manipur, in cancelling the 'Pattas' of some former holders of land in the British Reserve in Manipur who similarly abandoned their property in 1942 without continuing to pay land revenue. These representations are at present being considered by the Crown Representative in consultation with the Governor of Assam and the Manipur Darbar.

RELEASE OF PERSONNEL FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

769. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state the total number of men, temporary and permanent, who are to be, released in 1946 from (i) the War Department, including Army, Navy and Air Force, (ii) Railways, and (iii) other Departments of Government?

(b) Is it a fact that some of them have put in exemplary service and are being now released?

(c) What steps are Government taking for getting them re-absorbed in other Departments?

(d) What special works do Government propose to set up for getting these men re-absorbed?

(e) Is it a fact that, simultaneously while Indians from various services are being thrown out of work, Britishers are being recruited for other services?

(f) Have Government considered the desirability of stopping such recruitment and taking Indians by giving them an opportunity to adapt themselves for other work for which fresh recruitment is started?

(g) 70 per cent of posts ordinarily filled by direct recruitment occurring Central Government and in the various Provincial Governments, and what is the machinery devised by Government to make necessary arrangements?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The information is not readily available. It is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course.

(b) Yes.

(c) Instructions have been issued requiring Departments to arrange for the registration at Employment Exchanges of discharged personnel and directing them to fill vacancies as far as possible through Employment Exchanges.

(d) Central and Provincial Governments are embarking on schemes selected out of the five-year plans with the special object of counteracting any tendency

to deflation and unemployment. These include productive schemes and schemes of economic importance which may not be self-financing, *e.g.*, minor irrigation, roads, anti-errosion, agricultural measures, forests, etc. The two categories will provide *inter alia* considerable scope for building works, training and research, resettlement of *ex*-servicemen. Some other schemes, outside the 5-year plan, *e.g.*, public health schemes, especially anti-malarial measures, water supply and drainage schemes, which will provide a considerable volume of employment, are also being taken up.

(e) No: except in those cases where specialists are required for particular appointments or the number is small and is required in the public interest.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) 70 per cent of posts ordinarily filled by direct recruitment occurring between the 29th June 1942 and 31st December, 1945, have been reserved for 'war service' candidates. Information regarding proportion of vacancies reserved by various Provincial Governments is not readily available. Appplications for war reserved vacancies in the Superior Services have been invited from candidates and the last date of the receipt of applications was 15th February 1946 in respect of vacancies in non-technical Services and 1st April 1946 in respect of vacancies in technical Services. Candidates for technical Services will be interviewed by the Federal Public Service Commission who will make a final selection. Candidates for the non-technical Services will be first tested by Selection Boards of the type used by the War Department for recruiting officers for Commissions and subsequently interviewed by the F.P.S.C. who will make a final selection. In respect of vacancies in the Subordinate and Inferior Services arrangements have been made to receive applications from *ex*-service men after they are demobilised.

CONTROL ON METHOD OF PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF SALT DURING WAR TIME

770. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Food Secretary please state in what essential respects the method of production and distribution of salt in India was altered and brought under control during the war time?

(b) Is it a fact that special agents in different areas during the war time were appointed by Government who were granted sole monopolies over salt distribution in their respective areas? If so, what margin of profits was allowed to such agents?

(c) Are Government contemplating to grant monopoly of salt export from Sambhar and other salt producing centres in various Provinces in India to any particular individual or incorporated company? If so, to whom, and what terms?

(d) What are the advantages of that scheme?

(e) In the future schemes of salt distribution, will there be no place for free private trade whereby traders could, as before, directly import from the salt producing centres? If not, why not?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) No major change was made in the method of production. Distribution during war time was regulated by the Salt Emergency Distribution Order, 1942, (amended in 1943) which enabled quota allocations to be made to district nominees on a priority basis.

(b) The agents were appointed by the Provincial Governments. The Government of India have no information about the grant of monopolies or the margin of profits allowed to them.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) There is no question of cutting out private trade. Only to ensure regular supplies to every area, priority will be given to traders nominated by District authorities.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

EXPORT OF SUGAR AND GUR TO MIDDLE AND NEAR EAST

69. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Food Secretary please state:

(a) whether any quantity of sugar or gur will be exported to the middle and near East countries this year or next year with particular reference to Persia; and

(b) what other articles of food will be sent to these countries?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) Small quantities of sugar and gur were allotted to Iran and Persian Gulf Sheikhdoms in the beginning of this year. The whole question is being reviewed in the light of the changed supply position. No decision has yet been taken about exports in 1947.

(b) Export of small quantities of onions and garlic, tea and coffee, and pepper is permitted. Export is also permitted of pickles, chutneys and vinegar, spices (other than pepper and cinnamon), essential oil-seeds (Coriander, Fennugreek, Fennel, Cumin Dil, Ajama, Ajwain, Alsica, Aniseed), malt, sauces, condiments, curry powder and tamarind.

The question whether the export of small quantities of pulses for use of the Indian community in the Persian Gulf Sheikhdoms should be stopped is under consideration.

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE OF STAFF IN VICEREGAL ESTATES DIVISION

70. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state the detailed conditions of service, *i.e.*, scale of pay, other free concessions granted and the place of duty, etc., under which the clerical and subordinate staff used to be employed in the Viceregal Estates Division at Simla or Delhi prior to the 14th July 1936?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: A statement is laid on the table.

Statement

S. No.	Name	Designation	Scale of Pay	Pay at the time of tranfers from the Viceregal Estates	Nature of free concessions enjoyed	Place of duty
			Rs.	Rs.		
1	Mr. Hussain Ali .	Sanitary Overseer .	80—7—255	241	Rent-fee accommodation and exemption from payment of taxes, water rates and lighting charges	New Delhi
2	Mr. Shiv Saran Das .	Building Supervisor .	200—10—400	340	Ditto	Ditto
3	Mr. B. G. Mathur .	Ditto	Ditto	290	Ditto	Simla
4	Mr. B. C. Banerjee .	Ditto	Ditto	200	Ditto	Calcutta
5	Mr. Mohan Lal .	Draftsman .	60—5—150	130	Ditto	New Delhi
6	Mr. Madho Narain .	Sub-Overseer .	75—4—95—5—150	135	Ditto	Simla
7	Mr. P. N. Chatterjee .	Electrical Supervisor .	200—10—400	400	Ditto	Ditto

1. Retired.
2. Since died.
3. Retired.
4—7. No more in the Viceregal Estate Division.

APPLICATION OF HOURS OF EMPLOYMENT REGULATIONS TO JODHPUR RAILWAY

71. Seth Sukhdev: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hours of Employment Regulations apply to the Jodhpur Railway portion running through the British India;

(b) if the reply to (a) above be in the affirmative, why no reference to it is made in the Conciliation Officer and Supervisor of Railway Labour's report for three years 1941-44, published in the issue of the *Indian Labour Gazette* for December 1945; and

(c) whether the Honourable Member will please lay on the table of the House a statement showing the following information for the British portion of the Jodhpur Railway, separately, for three years, 1941-44—

(i) the number of staff employed,

(ii) the number of staff affected by the regulations,

(iii) the number of staff classed as continuous workers,

(iv) the number of staff classed as 'essentially intermittent workers',

(v) the number of staff excluded,

(vi) the percentage of staff enjoying calendar day's rest,

(vii) the number of inspections held,

(viii) the number of cases in which the classification was challenged by the Labour Inspectorate,

(ix) the number of doubtful cases which were referred to the Labour Department of the Government of India for decision; and

(x) the number of employees discovered working beyond rostered hours (i) habitually and (ii) occasionally?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Information is not readily available.

STATUTORY RULES *re* INSPECTIONS OF RAILWAY CONTRACTORS' LABOUR

72. Seth Sukhdev: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a remark in the report of the Conciliation Officer (Railways) and Supervisor of Railway Labour, for the years 1941-44, published in the *Indian Labour Gazette* for November, 1945 to the effect that the Labour Inspectorate appointed under the Payment of Wages Act, was handicapped in the inspection of Railway Contractor's Labour Establishments in the absence of statutory rules requiring contractors to maintain registers of wages, fines and deductions; and

(b) whether it is proposed to amend the statutory rules; if so, when; if not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

RESEARCH SCHEMES FOR COTTON GROWING IN PROVINCES AND STATES

73. Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Will the Agriculture Secretary please state:

(a) the various schemes of research which are in operation in the various cotton growing Provinces and States, year by year, from 1935 up to date; and

(b) the proportion of expenditure borne by the Indian Central Cotton Committee, the Government of India, the Provincial Governments and the Indian States in the case of each such scheme?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the table.

Name of Scheme	1935-36	1936-37	1937-38	1938-39	1939-40	1940-41	1941-42	1942-43	1943-44	1944-45	1945-46	Committee's share of Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
BOMBAY												
Agricultural Research Scheme											...	Full cost of Scheme.
Plant Fuller Propaganda Scheme.	5,289	3,606	2,917	1,669	4,870	3,786	362	...	...	...	6,780	Full cost upto 1-4-42 and 50% of full cost thereafter. Balance met by Provincial Government.
Punjab Cotton Breeding Scheme.	11,921	9,251	9,360	9,416	9,446	9,092	10,222	4,814	5,837	6,140	4,350	Ditto.
Jalgaon Cotton Breeding Scheme.	10,865	8,740	5,230	6,397	6,395	4,805	5,496	2,105	3,715	3,677	...	Full cost of Scheme.
Survey of Goghari Cotton .	870	871	1,101	739	108	...	...	...	...	...	...	Ditto.
Defibration of Cotton Seeds	1,265	29	124	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Ditto.
Breeding of Wilt Resistant Cotton in Surat.	...	355	2,157	2,345	2,000	2,661	2,710	3,248	1,539	4,851	4,781	Ditto.
Inclusion of Northern and Western in Dry Farming Scheme at Bijapur.	...	...	1,467	1,455	1,971	2,076	...	...	...	...	...	Ditto.
Breeding of Wilt Resistant Cotton in Poona.	...	...	10,227	7,627	4,666	3,266	8,236	8,113	9,264	10,061	10,417	Ditto.
Improvement of Dholleras Wagad Cotton at Viramgam.	...	...	5,128	4,974	4,595	4,810	4,122	7,091	7,949	7,966	8,387	Ditto.
Interspecific Hybridisation in Cotton at Surat.	...	...	...	1,478	2,491	12,040	8,740	9,068	9,062	10,500	11,383	Ditto.

Expenditure borne by the Committee

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Model Projects for extension of Improvements in Cultivation of Crops in Surat District.	...	...	...	....	...	...	735	363	231	852	782	25% of full cost. Balance 25% by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and 50% by Provincial Government.
Improvement of Cotton Crop in Kaira District.	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,286	1,561	2,784	3,139	3,610	Full cost of Scheme.
Improvement of Dharwar-American Cotton.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,964	2,707	2,036	3,333	Ditto.
Seed distribution and extension schemes												
Hebli Seed distribution Scheme.	10,079	878	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Ditto.
Gadag Seed distribution Scheme.	8,018	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Ditto.
Athani Seed distribution Scheme.	7,140	3,125	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Ditto.
Surat 1027 ALF Seed distribution Scheme.	11,188	7,793	8,872	12,025	1,564	4,247	4,770	4,589	1,894	1,559	96	Cost of Staff & Seed depots upto 31-3-39 and 75% of cost of staff from 1-4-39. 15% total cost from 1-4-43. Balance by Provincial Government.
Khandesh (Berrilla) Seed distribution Scheme.	40,356	—5,043	7,029	186	—73	2,104	...	...	...	...	...	Full cost.
Deccan Canals (Berrilla) Seed distribution Scheme.	219	—7,126	3,189	2,754	—442	106	263	107	...	...	...	75% of cost of staff only. Balance by Provincial Government.
B. D. 8 Seed distribution Schemes.	1,065	2,635	2,641	3,824	6,788	7,353	5,107	3,816	3,292	...	...	Cost of staff upto 30-11-40. 75% of cost of staff from 1-12-40. Balance by the Provincial Government.
Khandesh (Jarila) Seed distribution Scheme.	...	...	12,075	10,778	14,652	23,572	26,637	25,830	26,243	31,408	36,243	A portion of expenditure upto 28-2-38. Cost of staff, from 1-3-38, from 1-3-42. 75% of cost of staff. Balance by Provincial Government.
Revised Jayawant & Gadag No. 1 Seed distribution Scheme.	...	31,918	27,379	34,137	41,804	44,492	10,535	7,591	10,838	11,978	10,005	75% of total cost upto 31-5-41 and 15% from 1-6-41. Balance by Provincial Government.
Scheme for Control of selection I.A. Cotton.	...	...	...	...	4,404	824	1,924	1,051	382	381	...	Full cost of staff upto 31-1-45 and 75% of cost of staff from 1-2-45. Balance by Provincial Government.
Cultivation of 1027 ALF Cotton in Nawapur Taluka.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	876	2,064	2,329	1,915	Full cost of staff only. Balance by Provincial Government.
Scheme for Vijaya Cotton in Middle Gujerat.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	81	9,213	17,070	Full cost of contingencies. Balance by Provincial Government.
Scheme for Wagotar (Seg. 4-1) Cotton in Ahmedabad.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,819	9,222	Full cost of staff. Balance by Provincial Government.
Scheme for Suyog (Seg. 8-1) Cotton in Surat tract.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	10,576	Full cost of contingencies. Balance by Provincial Government.
BOMBAY												
Maintenance of nucleus of pure seed of improved varieties of Cotton.	...	...	2,320	1,500	1,817	2,008	2,011	...	...	...	...	Full cost of Scheme.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
MARKETING SCHEMES												
Grading and Marking of 1027 ALF and Suyog Cotton in Surat area.	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,081	139	3,100	6,128	3,142	50% of full cost. Balance by Provincial Government.
MADRAS												
Agricultural Research Schemes												
Herbaceum scheme . .	...	264	19,974	8,075	2,186	...	...	...	...	...	...	Full cost of scheme.
Pempheres and Physiological scheme.	...	21,342	26,458	25,680	22,590	14,503	9,908	7,585	7,128	1,191	...	Ditto.
Fodder Cholam Scheme .	4,210	3,785	1,167	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Ditto.
Breeding of Nadam Cotton	2,429	2,283	22,200	1,687	1,993	2,028	555	...	...	...	...	Ditto.
Scheme for improvement of Mangari Cotton.	...	...	362	4,996	5,729	4,841	4,708	6,602	9,671	6,711	12,242	Ditto.
Scheme for improvement of Cocanadas Cotton.	...	...	...	...	727	5,237	6,938	9,240	10,212	10,781	14,858	Ditto.
Investigation of the possibilities for Control of Cotton stem Weevil in South India.	...	...	...	...	2,400	3,890	...	...	...	...	...	Ditto.
Seed distribution and extension Schemes												
Tirupur Seed Scheme .	5,613	5,398	326	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Full cost of Staff. Balance by Provincial Government.
C. O 2. „ „ . .	10,629	10,852	4,223	—632	1,081	...	...	...	...	...	...	Ditto.
H. 1 „ „ . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,055	5,542	9,865	14,633	Ditto.
G. O. 3. „ „ . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,062	4,282	16,988	22,759	Ditto.
(in salem district)												
Maintenance of nucleus of pure seed of improved varieties of Cotton.	...	...	...	510	542	593	590	412	—38	1,796	960	Full cost of Scheme.
PUNJAB												
Agricultural Research Schemes												
Botanical Scheme . .	35,091	24,112	26,927	23,004	24,188	17,812	19,723	23,042	23,226	27,045	...	Full cost upto 31-3-36 of full cost of staff from 1-4-1935. Balance by Provincial Government.
Entomological (Pink and spotted Bollworm) Scheme.	32,402	27,810	9,147	60	47	...	...	...	...	...	...	Full cost of Scheme.
White fly Scheme . .	8,522	2,482	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Ditto.
Root Rot Scheme . .	8,394	9,471	10,008	9,719	10,345	7,943	4,591	...	...	...	...	Ditto.
Physiological Scheme .	30,948	48,861	49,404	54,668	46,368	42,954	42,764	44,513	53,180	...	...	Ditto.
Clean up campaign of spotted Bollworm.	...	...	28,800	21,718	7,571	1,667	...	...	...	...	...	Ditto.
Jassid Investigation Scheme	...	...	3,102	3,426	2,406	2,171	2,480	2,796	2,676	3,186	...	Ditto.
Improvement of Punjab American 289 F Cotton.	...	...	...	2,081	2,678	2,438	2,713	2,988	3,318	4,292	...	Ditto.
Improvement of Cotton in Jhang district.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,100	Ditto.
Improvement of Cotton in South Eastern District.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,704	Ditto.
Improvement of Cotton in Lower Bari Doab Colony	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,488	Ditto.
Improvement of Cotton in South Western District.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50% of full cost. Balance by Provincial Government.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
MARKETING SCHEME												
Cotton Marketing Survey in the Punjab.	...	...	...	2,000	4,423	...	...	...	...	...	...	Full cost of Scheme.
MISCELLANEOUS SCHEMES												
Survey of nutritional values in relation to milch buffaloes of fussy Cotton Seed and Cotton Seed Cakes manufactured from such seeds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13,800	7,755	...	...	Ditto.
CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR												
Agricultural Research Scheme												
Botanical Scheme	39,869	43,132	43,818	21,891	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Ditto
Entomological Scheme	3,804	3,541	2,803	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Ditto.
Investigation of Helid this Obsoleta.	...	...	..	...	959	740	...	...	...	...	...	Ditto.
Central provinces and Berar Cotton Breeding.	...	...	...	...	10,673	7,684	10,716	8,774	10,158	11,477	12,848	Full cost 31-3-39 and 50% of cost thereafter Balance by Provincial Government.
Model Projects for extension of improvement in Cultivation of crops.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,242	—115	725	697	25% of full cost. Balance 25% by the I.C.A.R. and 50% by the Provincial Government.
Seed Distribution and extension Scheme												
Maintenance of nucleus of pure seed of improved varieties of Cotton.	...	...	...	...	1,400	984	908	...	...	...	...	Full cost of scheme.
Jarila Seed distribution Scheme.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	611	5,619	...	...	Incidental charges. Balance by Provincial Government.
Marketing Scheme												
Distribution and marketing of Jarila Cotton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,016	Marketing Staff & incidental expenses. Balance by Provincial Government.
Extension and marketing of V. 434—Cotton	41,662	40,356	33,474	26,259	22,274	14,732	23,080	21,329	27,878	1,168	...	Full cost of staff up to 28-2-39. 75% of cost of staff up to 1941-44 and 15% total expenditure thereafter. Balance by Provincial Governments.
Distribution and marketing of Bari 107 cotton in Burhanpur Tahsil	...	...	...	...	5,698	2,464	3,986	3,176	5,169	...	...	Full cost of staff up to 28-2-43 and 75% cost of staff thereafter Balance by Provincial Government.
UNITED PROVINCES.												
Agricultural Research Schemes												
Rohilkhand and Bandelkhand Cotton Survey	4,879	3,771	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Full cost of scheme.
Botanical Scheme	...	...	...	12,540	13,571	14,026	16,865	17,351	19,600	...	...	Ditto
Entomological Scheme	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Ditto
Model Projects for extension of improvement in cultivation of crops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	866	366	604	644	25% of full cost. Balance 25% by the I. C. A. R. and 50% by the Provincial Government.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Hybridisation in arboreum Cotton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,816	3,371	50% of full cost. Balance by Provincial Government.
Seed distribution and extension Schemes												
C. 402—Seed Scheme	6,660	7,463	5,075	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Cost of staff in full. Balance by Provincial Government.
Perso-American Cotton in Western Districts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,715	14,589	17,789	16,454	Full cost of staff. Balance by Provincial Government.
SIND												
Agricultural Research Schemes												
Physiological Scheme	36,470	32,649	7,961	1,771	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Full cost of Scheme.
Jassid Investigation Scheme	...	...	...	2,840	2,661	1,954	3,267	3,961	789	...	...	Ditto
Investigation into Black headed Cricket in Sind	...	...	...	1,940	3,741	3,564	...	...	...	...	...	Ditto
Scheme for Production of Long Staple Cotton	...	...	...	...	817	26,912	21,405	24,084	28,939	31,588	41,974	Ditto
Bollworm Investigation and clean up Scheme	...	...	...	...	...	6,837	30,628	14,432	22,537	12,870	12,975	Full cost up to 29-2-44 and 50% of full cost from 1-3-44. Balance by Provincial Government.
Scheme for memorial work on cotton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,000	A portion of the total cost.
Seed distribution and extension Schemes												
Sind Seed Distribution Scheme	56,752	52,739	59,201	55,483	21,524	19,986	5,161	5,492	5,204	6,271	6,265	Full cost of staff. Balance by Provincial Government.
Maintenance of nucleus of pure seed of improved varieties of cotton	...	...	...	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	...	...	..	...	Full cost of scheme.
Financing of seed distribution	...	...	...	...	...	...	19,100	15,900	47,557	22,727	45,000	A portion of contingencies. Balance by Provincial Government.
BALUCHISTAN												
Agricultural Research Schemes												
Co-ordination of Research work on Black Headed Cricket in Sind and British Baluchistan	...	...	...	...	...	1,395	11,205	9,582	11,190	15,762	...	Full cost of scheme.
BENGAL												
Agricultural Research Scheme												
Comilla Cotton Scheme	4,258	4,419	4,265	4,413	6,412	5,855	6,750	7,405	...	...	...	Ditto
Scheme for Production of Long Staple Cotton	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,776	4,039	3,722	4,176	2,808	Rs. 2,000—0 per annum by Bengal Millowner's Association. Balance by the Committee.
INDORE												
Agricultural Research Schemes												
Institute of Plant Industry	97,600	1,11,000	1,11,000	1,00,000	1,11,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	A lump sum grant every year. Balance by Member States in Central India.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
INDORE—*contd.*												
Agricultural Research Schemes contd.												
Cotton Genetics Research Scheme	...	...	...	...	...	34,614	34,597	39,017	37,512	39,858	44,390	Full cost of Scheme.
Scheme for cotton Physiological Research	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43,947	51,887	80% of full cost. 20% by Sind Government.
HYDERABAD												
Agricultural Research Scheme												
Botanical Scheme	46,055	33,279	45,593	35,912	22,866	22,342	24,467	17,171	15,760	...	...	Full cost of scheme up to 31-3-39 and 50% from 1-4-39. Balance by State Government.
Cotton Survey Scheme	8,055	4,090	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Full cost of Scheme.
Pink & Spotted Bollworm Scheme	17,012	14,686	23,500	22,228	28,864	17,450	...	...	...	...	...	Ditto
Scheme for improvement of Kumptee Cotton	...	...	2,690	5,908	5,414	5,032	7,635	6,672	7,792	10,641	12,535	Ditto
Inclusion of Northerns and Westerns in Dry Farming Scheme at Raichur	...	...	263	405	427	448	454	...	...	...	...	Ditto
Scheme for improvement of cottons of the Oomras tract	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,571	11,195	11,862	12,975	14,167	Ditto
Georami Cotton improvement Scheme	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18,002	17,178	50% of cost including cost of a portion of staff. Balance met by State Government.
Seed distribution and extension Scheme												
Hyderabad Seed Scheme	6,132	3,081	...	9,636	5,543	6,126	...	...	...	...	...	Full cost of staff and carrying expenses. Balance by State Government.
BARODA												
Agricultural Research Scheme												
Root Rot Scheme	15,567	9,493	7,610	5,494	5,795	5,358	5,587	4,101	1,055	1,612	...	Full cost of Scheme.
Survey of Goghari Cotton	995	1,000	616	—266	622	419	...	...	...	...	...	Ditto.
Plant Puller Propaganda	2,348	3,562	5,474	8,162	4,543	5,960	2,485	...	...	...	...	Ditto.
Improvement of Dholleras Mathis cotton at Amreti and Jagudan.	...	...	2,833	3,675	3,256	3,988	4,091	5,910	5,626	6,367	7,470	Ditto.
Seed distribution and extension Scheme												
Navsari seed storage Scheme.	2,639	2,535	3,746	1,943	4,843	1,294	4,192	5,143	5,852	3,719	281	Full cost of contingencies up to 15-4-39. 75 % of contingencies from 16-4-39 and cost of staff only. Balance by State Government.
B. D. 6. Seed Scheme	...	...	...	...	2,699	2,964	3,166	3,694	4,808	...	...	Cost of staff only. Balance by State Government.
B. 9. Seed scheme	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,555	3,397	4,064	4,329	Ditto.
Scheme for creation of a pure wagad cotton Zone in Mehsana District.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,500	3,781	4,990	Ditto.
Scheme for creation of a pure wagad cotton zone in Mehsana District	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,400	Full cost of contingencies. Balance by State Government.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
BARODA—*contd.*												
Seed distribution and extension Scheme-contd.												
Vigaya Cotton Scheme .	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	24,841	25,093	Full cost of staff. Balance by State Government.
Distribution of Suyog (Seg 8-1) Scheme.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,202	Ditto.
Marketing Schemes												
Marketing of 1027 ALF cotton in Baroda State.	...	...	...	2,264	1,349	3,796	2,706	1,538	2,040	2,040	2,040	Full cost of Scheme.
MYSORE												
Agricultural Research Scheme												
Doddahathi Cotton Scheme	988	2,654	2,089	2,181	3,138	2,933	3,288	3,405	4,125	5,465	5,853	Ditto.
BIKANER												
Agricultural Research Scheme												
Bengal's Cotton improvement Scheme.	6,104	5,405	3,916	4,919	5,365	4,814	2,693	3,010	2,726	...	...	Full cost upto 31-12-40. 50% of full cost from 1-1-41. Balance by State Government.
NAWANAGAR												
Agricultural Research Schemes												
Preliminary trials at Nawanagar for improvement of Dholleras Cotton.	...	343	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Full cost of Scheme.
Other Schemes												
Technological Research . .	4,803	6,242	6,291	5,636	6,076	—364	...	4,361	9,322	37,438	17,330	Full cost. 50% from 1-9-45.

Technological Research												
Technological Laboratory .	2,07,427	1,71,164	1,65,617	1,65,956	1,53,712	1,68,224	1,71,266	1,76,569	1,71,937	1,97,191	2,08,699	Full cost.
Technological Provincial .	18,536	15,210	20,889	20,101	19,512	19,556	19,772	20,233	20,513	23,999	25,565	Full cost.
Development of alternative uses of Indian Cotton.	235	5,027	4,976	6,809	6,162	12,542	30,542	5,912	6,500	5,688	...	Full cost.
Investigation for improvement in the ginning of Indian Cotton.	...	...	...	...	...	29,615	9,902	6,096	4,267	5,975	6,803	Full cost.
Scheme for Research on Chemical Finishes on Cotton.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,600	2,400	2,544	Full cost.
Research Studentships .	9,162	9,361	6,234	7,461	5,971	2,353	...	104	...	...	...	Full cost.

ASSISTANCE BY IMPERIAL COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IN COTTON RESEARCH WORK

74. Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Will the Agriculture Secretary please state what assistance is given by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research in the research work being carried on in the country as regards cotton cultivation?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research does not finance research on cotton cultivation. This is done by the Indian Central Cotton Committee.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STRIKE BY INDIAN SIGNAL CORPS, JUBBULPORE

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Has the attention of the War Secretary been drawn to the report, published by the A.P.I. from Jubbulpore that the ring leaders of the strikers in the Indian Signal Corps, Jubbulpore, have been arrested and placed under strong military custody pending their trial by a court martial?

12 NOON

(b) Is it a fact that other Sepoy Strikers are on hunger strike in protest of arrests of their leaders?

(c) Is he aware that Congress leaders, Maulana Azad and Pandit Nehru, have expressed great concern over the said strike lest the recent history of Bombay may not be repeated?

(d) What steps are Government going to take to end the strike?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) I have seen a statement this morning by Pandit Nehru advising men not to refuse their duty.

(d) The measures already taken appear to be having good results and the situation appears to be better today. Except for those under arrest, the men appear to be returning to work.

Shri Sri Prakasa: What are the measures taken and what are the results?

Mr. P. Mason: They have been described in the press.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What do Government propose to do in regard to those men who are already under arrest?

Mr. P. Mason: An inquiry will be held and, if it is judged necessary, they will be brought before court-martial.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How many of them?

Mr. P. Mason: I do not know.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member make inquiries?

Mr. P. Mason: Certainly, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I submit that when replying to our questions the Honourable Members on that side should stand in their seats.

BHAGAULI TRAIN DISASTER

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state if he is aware of the reports appearing in the press regarding an accident between the 10 Down Dehra Dun Express and a Goods Train on Monday at Bhagauli, 48 miles from Lucknow, resulting in serious casualties?

(b) What is the number of killed and wounded, as well as the number of bogies damaged?

(c) What is the cause or causes which led to this accident?

(d) In view of past experience of such accidents, what preventive action had the Railways taken to avoid accidents?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Sir, I have not accepted this short notice question and I received it at 11·10 today. At the same time at 11·5, I have received notice of an adjournment motion. I do not know what is your wish and the wish of the House. I am quite prepared to answer the short notice question and give supplementary information but if I do that I think we should not have the adjournment motion.

Mr. President: I gathered the impression that the Honourable Member had consented to the short notice question and that is why I allowed it. But, it is a matter for the Honourable Member's choice.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am perfectly willing to answer it and give some further supplementary information outside the scope of the question, if that meets with the wishes of the House. By doing that I hope to avoid repeating the same matter in the afternoon.

Mr. President: It need not be necessarily presumed that after the information is received, the adjournment motion will be withdrawn. It all depends on the statement of the Honourable Member.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Sir, we cannot possibly bind ourselves to any kind of undertaking as regards the adjournment motion.

Mr. President: That is what I said.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I did not ask for any undertaking; I was expressing the hope that my wish to give the House all the information will be taken into account in the matter of moving the adjournment motion. I will now give the answer to the question.

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to my information there have been 43 persons killed and 56 injured. Two bogies were smashed completely and one was severely damaged.

(c) The cause or causes will be ascertained by the inquiry of the Government Inspector of Railways. This inquiry will be opened at Bhagauli on the 8th and will be continued at Lucknow on the 9th.

(d) The Government of India in the Railway Department have framed elaborate general rules for safety of operation in exercise of the powers conferred by the Indian Railways Act. The Railway Department takes into account the recommendations of the Government Inspectorate of Railways in the Posts and Air Department. Consultation and conference with the Government Inspectorate is sought before changes in the rules are made. Government will consider whether any further additions of changes are necessary following the report of the Inspector of Railways.

That answers the question but I have a certain amount of further information which will probably interest the House. Of the 43 persons killed, according to the General Manager's latest report, 26 have been identified. The bodies were evacuated to Lucknow under the directions of the Railway Police and those that were unidentified were photographed for subsequent identification. A number of the names of the killed and injured have been published; but as a number of persons killed are still unidentified I am unable to publish complete lists. Of the engine crews of 10 Down Dehra Dun Express, all the three members of the crew were killed and on the goods train two were killed and one injured. Of the injured I am informed that there are 56 of whom 11 were severely injured and 45 had comparatively minor injuries. I see that in the press a much larger number is given and doubtless there were numbers of people shaken by this disastrous accident. The injured were evacuated, as soon as possible, to Lucknow and Hardoi hospitals.

As regards the attention given to the sufferers, the Chief Medical Officer of the Railway happened to be on the train and immediately organised aid to the injured with the help of certain local doctors who appeared on the scene. Immediately the news was received at Lucknow and other railway centres assistance was sent out. A light engined brake van and signal inspector's carriage were sent out from Balamau and a motor trolley with various officers on board from Hardoi. The Lucknow relief train and Rosa relief trains were sent out and various other officers left from Moradabad. Special additional bogies were put on the relief trains for the removal of the injured, and they were removed as soon as possible either to Hardoi or to Lucknow. The Divisional Superintendent, whose report I received as I was coming into the House, reports that he made arrangements for refreshments to be put on to the relief train, and he states at the end of his report that from personal enquiries made among the passengers who were in the undamaged portion of the 10 Dn. Express, he was satisfied that all had been supplied with food and water and had no complaints on this score.

In response to my message of condolence to the General Manager, he sends me his assurance that everything possible is being done to relieve the sufferings of the injured. I might mention that the Posts and Air Department will set up an enquiry which will apparently commence on the 8th at Bhagauli and will continue on the 9th at Lucknow, and the public are requested to give any evidence which they may be able to give. That I think gives the bulk of the information which I think will interest the House, but I shall be glad to answer any questions.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member state whether the place where the accident took place was a single track or a double track, and whether the accident took place through defective Signalling, or in which manner according to his information?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have not got full information. There were three tracks at the station in question. The goods train was in the centre track moving apparently slowly when the passenger train came at a greater speed from one of the other lines on to the centre line on which it should not have been. The causes of the accident remain to be disclosed by the enquiry.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In what state was the driver found—sober or drunk?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Both the drivers are dead and I think that is a most unwarranted suggestion which has been made by the Honourable Member.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: Disgraceful.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know how many such accidents have happened during the past year?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I want notice of that question.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I gave a Short Notice Question with reference to a similar accident on the 31st of January, and the Honourable Member had not the courtesy to accept that Short Notice Question. He also requested me to withdraw my adjournment motion.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: To the best of my recollection it was an extremely minor accident. No one was killed in that accident.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Two were killed and nine people were injured—that was a minor accident. Life of two Indians has not much value.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is most unfair, Sir. I might refer the Honourable Member to the ruling of the President which he gave on the 10th of February last year. The President ruled that because there has been an accident there is no reason why a meeting of this House should be adjourned.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not a fact that because one accident in which people did not die, is not properly studied and investigated, such other accidents begin to take place?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: There was an investigation held in that accident; there is an investigation in every case.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact that I informed the Honourable Member on the phone before 10 O'clock this morning that I was putting in a Short Notice question?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Honourable Member asked me if I would accept a Short Notice question and in reply I said that if he would be good enough to show me the question I will then consider giving a reply. I received it at twelve minutes past eleven, and I have done my best to give all the information which I possess.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact that the engine of the 10 Dn. Dehra Dun Express was completely smashed?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Both the engines were inextricably mixed up.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact that the through bogies were attached next to the engine?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I think that is so.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is the Honourable Member aware that these through bogies are generally very overcrowded?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That does not seem to arise out of the question.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: My information is from the persons who have arrived from Lucknow last night that there were larger number of casualties and deaths, and, as a matter of fact, these two bogies were completely smashed. The Honourable Member could find out from the Delhi station as to how many tickets were issued for Lucknow that day?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am not quite sure what my Honourable friend wants by way of reply. The first two bogies were smashed and the third was severely damaged, and it was in those carriages that the casualties occurred.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I want the Honourable Member to find out how many through tickets were issued on that day from Delhi to Lucknow and from Meerut to Lucknow?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I cannot answer that question off hand. I will be very pleased to get this information for the Honourable Member.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I want him to find out.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Certainly.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that two bogies were completely destroyed, is not the figure given by the Honourable Member, which is doubtless what he has received in turn, a little too low to cover the figures of the dead and the injured? If two bogies were completely destroyed, there should be much more than 43 killed and 56 injured as he has mentioned?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is possible of course that further bodies may be found. I am not, for instance, clear whether the bodies of the Engine Drivers and firemen, which are buried in the debris, have yet been recovered, but I suspect they are included in the 43 killed. It is possible that there may be additional dead discovered, but this is the best information which the Railway people have from the evidence which is available.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact that the newspapers published yesterday that the number of those who have been killed is 53 and those injured

150, and they also published that many of the dead bodies were entangled in the debris and they could not be extricated?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir. In the adjournment motion which I have received, the figures are 50 dead and 150 injured. The figures which have been reported by the Railway authorities, doctors and others of those admitted into hospital, and so on, are 43 killed and 56 injured of whom 11 are severely injured and 45 received minor injuries. I have no doubt, as I said before, that probably a hundred other people were very badly shaken but they were not in such a bad state as to require admission into a hospital. Not all the 56, who have received injuries, have actually been admitted into the hospital.

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: Will the Government appoint a non-official body to enquire into this disaster?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: As it is doubtless well known to the Honourable Member, the Provincial Government has full powers to set up an enquiry, and they will decide whether to do so or not. That enquiry can be either an independent enquiry or conducted in conjunction and simultaneously with the enquiry by the Railway Inspectorate under the Post and Air Department. That is a matter for the Provincial Government to decide.

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: May I know why the Railway Department should not also appoint a non-official body to enquire into the accident? Railways come under the Central Government, and it is the duty of the Government of India to appoint an enquiry committee.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: An elaborate machinery is set out for this purpose: There is a Branch Railway Inspectorate under the Post and Air Department who enquire into all these cases. In addition to that if the Provincial Government has any reason to interest itself in an enquiry, as it doubtless will in a case like this, they may also hold an enquiry independently or simultaneously with the Post and Air enquiry, and in those circumstances it is not necessary to set up a further enquiry. In two cases in the past there have been judicial enquiries by the Central Government. One was in the case of a disaster where there were a number of extraordinary circumstances attached to the accident, and the other was in the case of a series of accidents on the E.I.R. where an enquiry was set up under Mr. Justice Broomfield who looked into the series of accidents to see whether there was any connected reason such as sabotage. In that case there had been a series of accidents attributed in some cases to sabotage which had greatly perturbed the Government of India and the public and in that case there was reason to set up a separate judicial enquiry. But it is not the usual practice and in a case like this the ordinary practice will be followed.

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: Will I take it that Government is not prepared to make a departure in this matter?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Not under the present circumstances.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: How many railway disasters have taken place during the last six months?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Some other Honourable Member asked for that information and I shall be glad to place a statement on the table.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How many railway accidents have taken place in the last six months on the East Indian Railway?

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: Especially on the East Indian!

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I will confine my answer to be laid on the table to the East Indian Railway.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: Will this not be interpreted to mean that the Government of India is more concerned in accidents in which it suspects any political tinge and is then prepared to institute its own enquiries but is not in the least perturbed over the loss of lives and injuries to persons involved in other accidents? Therefore, will the Government of India, in view of its responsibility for the railways as a whole and, in view of the number of accidents taking place all over the country, not consider the feasibility of appointing a committee of enquiry with which non-officials and members of this Non-Muhammadan Rural): Isn't it at the instance of the Government of India? Assembly should be associated, to go into this accident and also to report as to the best way of ensuring that such accidents are, as far as possible, avoided in future?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The answer to all three parts of the question is, 'No.' But I would add.....

Pandit Govind Malaviya: I feared so.

Mr. President: Order, order. Let him finish.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is a long question.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: And a short answer!

Pandit Govind Malaviya: It relates to a long list of crimes!

Mr. President: Order, order.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: If as a result of the enquiry by the Railway Inspectorate Department of the Posts and Air Department it is found that further amendment of the rules are wanted, we will go into it carefully. The indications are that it is the error of some railwayman, but that will be disclosed by the enquiry and what measures are necessary to prevent a recurrence will be considered when we know the facts.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Member himself go down to the scene of occurrence and find out what loss of life has taken place and put at rest the rumours afloat and the charge against railways that they generally minimise loss of life and numbers of injured.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I think it is a most unfair suggestion that railways minimise loss of life.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: That is the public impression.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is a wrong impression. You have a check both by the independent enquiry by the Posts and Air Department and also by the Provincial Government. As regards my own going down, it is rather difficult to get away on all these questions in view of my duties in the House. But I am in the closest touch by telephone and by letter as the information I have given to the House shows. I could have given a great deal more other details but I have given what is necessary.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Has the Chairman of the Railway Board been sent there?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know why the Government of India do not consider this matter of sufficient importance to have it attended to by the highest officials of the Railway Department and not to leave it to the local agents of the railway.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: To white-wash!

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is the duty of the local officers to attend to these matters, and we cannot.....

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: And the highest officers take fat salaries!

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that His Excellency the Viceroy thought it necessary to go down and inspect the famine stricken districts, will not his subordinates in the Railway Department, untouched by Indian hands, now in view of the feelings expressed, deputate the Chief Commissioner at once to investigate and look into this matter and send us a report here?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: They are bigger than the Viceroy!

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I will consider that suggestion.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why does not the Honourable Member say straight away "Yes, we are going to send our man there".

Mr. President: Order, order.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Because the Chief Commissioner has legislative duties here.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will he give facilities to any Member of this House to go down to that place?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I did not follow.

Mr. President: "Will he give facilities to any Member of this House to go down to that place"?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, I will do my best to arrange it. I would suggest that if Members of the Central Advisory Council for Railways are prepared to go, I could arrange it.

Mr. President: We will now take up the adjournment motions.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

HUNGER STRIKE BY I.N.A. OFFICERS IN RANGOON CENTRAL JAIL

Mr. President: I have received notices of two adjournment motions. The first one is from Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda. He wishes to adjourn the business of the Assembly:

"To discuss the failure of the Home Department to see to the implementation of its assurance that the I.N.A. officers and men who surrendered at the time of the fall of Rangoon would be treated as Prisoners of War, thus necessitating a hunger-strike by 1,000 I. N. A. patriots in Rangoon Central Jail."

When did this hunger-strike start?

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda (United Provinces: Landholders): I believe that the hunger-strike started on the 4th. But the Government of India, as usual, is sitting on the fence and not telling us how the prisoners are, and as this is a matter of very urgent importance I put in this adjournment motion.

Mr. President: May I know the Government view?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee (Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department): I think this refers to about 1,100 Indian civilians who were connected with the I.N.A. and who are still under detention at Rangoon.

Mr. President: May I interrupt the Honourable Member? Detention by the Burma Government or the Government of India?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: By the Burma Government.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Is n't it at the instance of the Government of India?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: No. Question No. 751 which was put down in the list of questions today would have raised the matter and I would have perhaps been able to give the House some information on this subject. But unfortunately we did not reach that. But I have accepted a short notice question given by my friend, Mr. Sinha, on this very subject of the hunger-strike. I take it that the element of urgency in this matter is the hunger-strike but our information is that these people had become rather restive and threats of hunger-strike had been held out. But we have had no information so far that the hunger-strike has actually occurred. In any case I have accepted the short notice question and I expect to answer it on the 8th and give the House up-to-date information.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha (Darbhanga *cum* Saran: Non-Muhammadan): When did you receive that short notice question?

Mr. President: I think it would be better if the Honourable Member states such of the facts as he has in his possession. They would be helpful to judge the admissibility of the motion.

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Sir, we have been endeavouring for sometime to have these people brought back to India. But there has been delay in obtaining full information about their connections in India, their residence and other details. All difficulties are now settled and we are only waiting for shipping accommodation and I believe these people are due for repatriation to this country any day after the 8th of this month. We had a telegram a few days ago to say that they were threatening hunger strike but we have had no confirmation of it and I believe the hunger strike has not yet started. Now the Government of Burma have been informed by us that all preparations for their repatriation have been concluded and I imagine that the persons themselves have also been informed of these arrangements. It is therefore very unlikely that any hunger strike would take place now. I may also state that our Representative is maintaining a very close touch with these people and every endeavour is being made by us to expedite their repatriation. That is all I can say.

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: There is a statement by the Leader of the Opposition. With your permission, Sir, I will just read a few lines in regard to this particular matter . . . .

Mr. President: Is it a statement with reference to this mattter?

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: Yes, Sir. He says:

"Prisoners do not resort to hunger strike for the fun of the thing: it is sheer desperation that drives them to it. The Government of India owe it to them to take steps forthwith. I am sure members of the Central Assembly belonging to the Congress Party will see to it that the Government of India awake up to their sense of responsibility in this matter and take proper steps before it is too late."

"The Home Member of the Government of India stated in the Central Assembly recently in answer to a question put to him that I. N. A. personnel in detention have been treated exactly like prisoners of war."

Sir, the fact of the matter is that the strike has been threatened, because they are not treated like prisoners of war and that is precisely why they are going on strike. If that assurance is implemented properly, then the strike will not take place. Who knows that the strike is already on now. The Government of India whenever it suits them . . . . .

Mr. President: By whom is this statement made?

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: By Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose, the Leader of the Opposition, from Calcuttta.

Mr. President: Is the Honourable Member sure of the hunger strike.

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: I am, absolutely. They said that they will go on strike on the 4th and as to whether they are actually on hunger strike nobody can tell but the Government of India. As a matter of fact, whenever any political prisoner goes on hunger strike, the Government only give out the information when the prisoner's condition becomes very serious but not till then.

Mr. President: At any rate, the information today with the Honourable Member is that thy were to go on hunger strike on the 4th.

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: Yes, Sir, at this time.

Mr. President: There is no information as to whether they have actually gone on hunger strike.

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: If they had actually gone on hunger strike, it is most unlikely that our representative would not have informed us immediately of it, because we are maintaining very close telegraphic communication with him on this subject. To the best of our information there has been no complaint of ill-treatment during detention. Their main complaint is the delay in their repatriation to India and, as I stated, all preparations for their repatriation, any day after the 8th March, are now complete.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: That is wrong. I passed on a letter to my Honourable friend stating how in a similar situation people are treated. They are not given even ordinary soap to wash themselves and their clothes,

[Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]

nothing to clean their teeth with or comb their hair. Food is not given properly and no allowances are paid to them. They are starved. Those are their complaints . . . .

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: That refers to Malaya.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: And, therefore, their grievance is repatriation which they are awaiting and that on that account they are threatening hunger strike, is wrong. They are not treated like . . . .

Mr. President: Whatever it may be, it appears clear that on the essential question of urgency we seem to be in doubt.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): May I make a suggestion, Sir? Let the Government send a cable to their agent to ascertain whether or not these people have gone actually on hunger strike. Thereafter this question can be taken up.

Mr. President: The Government may send a cable if they like. That is a different matter. Not being sure on the essential ground of urgency, I would not admit this motion at this stage. But I would make it clear that, in case the hunger strike starts and we are sure about it, then the present ruling on the adjournment motion will not be a bar to a subsequent motion.

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: My idea was to prevent that hunger strike.

Mr. President: If it has not started, it has not started: that is all.

BHAGAULI TRAIN DISASTER

Mr. President: Then there is another adjournment motion by Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Prof. Ranga and Mrs. Ammu Swaminandhan regarding:

"The train collision between the Dehra Dun Express and a Goods Train resulting in 50 deaths and 150 injured and the carelessness and the indifference on the part of the Government to take steps to avoid such train disasters."

With reference to this I might say to the House my own reaction to it and then Honourable Members may of course have their say. The matter undoubtedly is important and it is undoubtedly urgent also. But it would be better if further consideration of this motion on the question of admissibility is put off by a day or two, so that in the meanwhile the Honourable Member may have fuller information on the question and enlightened as on the details. We will then consider, in the light of the information that he gives, whether the motion is admissible or not.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): What is the suggestion, Sir? A further short notice question?

Mr. President: I neither admit the motion nor reject it.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Sir, I suggest that if it is a matter of such urgent public importance as it is made out to be, it would be better to take it up today. I would, however, draw your attention to the ruling of the President on the 10th February, 1945. He said:

"Because there has been an accident that is no reason why a meeting of this House should be adjourned. There is no allegation that there was any negligence on the part of the railway authorities."

Mr. President: I do not propose to admit it on the ground that whenever there is an accident on railways involving a large number of deaths, it necessarily becomes a fit subject for an adjournment motion. The difficulty which I have felt is that we are not clear about the causes of the accident or even the exact extent of deaths and the number of persons injured. That is the difficulty which I have been feeling. The adjournment motion speaks of carelessness and indifference on the part of Government to take steps to avoid such train disasters.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I should like to clear that charge today. As regards the cause of the accident that cannot be ascertained till the enquiry takes place. In fact, I would like to hear what the accusations are.

Mr. President: I would prefer to keep it over for a day or two.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: On a point of principle, if an adjournment motion, is raised as a matter of urgent public importance, it should be brought up on the first occasion and the House should discuss it immediately. I would submit that we should have the adjournment motion today or I shall be glad to give further information to the House on a short notice question on another day. It would not be proper for the House to adjourn an adjournment till a later date.

Mr. President: I do not mean to suggest that a matter which is urgent can be postponed for an indefinitely long time. Urgency does not necessarily mean that a delay of 24 or 48 hours will be absolutely inexcusable. That is how I look upon an adjournment motion. My point in making the suggestion is that unless we have some facts and further information, the discussion of the adjournment motion would mean nothing but accusations by one side and denials from the other. The House will not have the benefit of a clear discussion as regards the merits of the question. That is how I have been thinking.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: If the motion is taken up this afternoon, I shall undoubtedly have further information to give the House as a result of telephonic messages which I may receive. As regards the causes of the accident, nothing will transpire until an inquiry has been held.

Mr. President: Then, of course, in view of what the Leader of the House desires and has stated, I think the best course will be to admit this motion and fix it for discussion today at 4 o'clock.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): May I make one request to you and to the leader of the House also? As it is, we get very few days for non-official legislative business. Now that you have admitted this adjournment motion, I should like to make a request to you and to the Leader of the House that, in case all this non-official business is not completed, he will be good enough to give us another non-official day for Bills. As it is, you will find that the time given is very short and you will see that my request is very reasonable, and I hope you and the Leader of the House will accede to it.

Mr. President: Let us proceed with the business and we will see what happens.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi: General): I must say a word or two about this, Sir. As a matter of fact it was our practice before to ask for two additional days for non-official bills and resolutions. I believe this matter was mentioned to the Leader of the House,—at any rate it was being discussed somewhere privately, but it has not yet been settled. But we do feel that the number of days allotted for non-official Bills and Resolutions are not enough for our purpose; and therefore we should like to have two additional days, one for non-official Bills and one for non-official Resolutions. I hope the Leader of the House will consider this question and necessary arrangements will be made. I am perfectly certain that we can arrive at some understanding.

Mr. President: This particular matter can be considered and talked over by Members of the different Groups and Parties with the Leader of the House. Now, we proceed with the business of the day.

FACTORIES (AMENDMENT) BILL

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): Sir, I present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Factories Act, 1934.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Special Marriage Act, 1872, for certain purposes, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Sir Asoka Roy, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee, Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan, Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan, Shri Sri Prakasa, Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Sri A. Karunakara Menon, Sjt. N. V. Gadgil, Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai, Pandit Balkrishna Sharma, Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava, Sardar Mangal Singh, Mr. Leslie Gwilt, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Mr. Madandhari Singh, and the Mover, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

I do not propose to take longer of the time of the House than I can help with regard to this Bill, or even with regard to the other social bills which stand in my name today. I should think that long speeches are not necessary at this stage and at this time of the day, for reasons which I will give; and that is that with regard to these social Bills, our social system has admittedly been very old. We are being governed by social laws which were associated with custom and religion for, I may say, hundreds of years. It is unnecessary for me to point out that the society has changed and is changing; that whereas the laws have remained rigid, the society is constantly changing and therefore whatever was applicable to the society then existing cannot be applied today.

Now, some other factors also that I might point out are these. We now feel that we are perfectly justified in changing our social laws for the reason that we are representatives of the people and as such I think we have a perfect right with the help of the Government, whichever the Government of the day may be, to change our social laws. I must say that the attitude of the Government also in this respect has been very helpful. I will also draw your attention to one more fact and that is, that not only we have changed the laws; but that if we had not changed the laws, then it is quite likely that we would still have been in the stage of *sati* and child marriage and all the inhuman conditions which were associated with the Hindu religion. One more fact of political importance I would point out and that is this: the coming of the Congress. Now that the Congress has come and it represents the public opinion, then you must take this factor into consideration. The Congress by its Karachi resolution has resolved that there shall be social justice for all Indians, irrespective of colour, creed, religion and sex. That is by a resolution of the Congress they have for all times determined and have made it known to everybody that so far as the social justice is concerned, they will not observe any difference with regard to sex. As you know, so far as the older laws of Hinduism were concerned—it may not have been done by design or purpose—but there is not the least doubt that modern opinion is that the laws of the Hindu society have been very unreasonable so far as the female element of the society is concerned; and therefore it cannot but be a matter of pride for all Indians and a matter of hope that the Congress has come and Congress has declared in no uncertain terms that they are for social justice of every individual concerned in India. Further, let me point out to you one thing, and that is the present members of this body have come to this House with the majorities that the public very well knows, and that this social reform in this House has been carried on by the Congress for the last ten years—if not earlier, at least for the last ten years; and the representatives of the Congress left no doubt in the minds of the electors that they were coming here for the purpose of social reform as well. I made it quite clear and I am informed that my colleague Mrs. Swaminadhan also expressly told her constituency that she was coming here for the sake of social reform. In spite of our making it quite clear the very fact that we were returned—and we were not returned by scratch majority—will show you how the public wind is blowing. Therefore under the circumstances I hope no arguments will be advanced and no objections will be raised that this is a legislative body and it cannot interfere with our social legislation nor such of the other obsolete arguments which we were used to hear before and which are repeated

meaninglessly to this day outside this House. Having established our right as far as I can see, to legislate for the social reform, I now come to this particular proposal.

In connection with this I will also mention one or two other instances which may help us to realise that the legislation that we are bringing forward is not a hasty piece of legislation that we have brought forward by impulse and without giving it proper consideration. The other factor I wish to refer to is the Draft Committee of the Hindu Code which has done very useful work in the matter of collecting facts and drafting a Code which will certainly be of great use to all legislatures which have anything to do with social legislation of any kind. Ourselves and the Government who appointed this committee realise that if you want to make any reform you must have an ideal code. From a practical point of view, to expect the large Hindu society to agree to this whole code dealing with succession, marriage and adoption and so on is not a practical proposition. Therefore we have to fall back on whatever reforms we can do by means of so called piecemeal legislation. As everybody knows life and logic do not go together. I must really congratulate the Government on the attitude they have taken. Let us do what we can so that in any case the progress of the society should not be hindered but it should go forward.

With regard to this particular Bill, I gave notice of it for the reason I will mention presently. You will find in the draft of the Hindu Code Committee an attempt is made to divide Hindu marriage into two types—sacramental and civil marriage. If you are going to have this division for future marriages, what is the remedy for the unhappy marriages which have taken place before and where the marital relations are not as happy or ideal as they are supposed to be. As you know, the ideal marriage is supposed to be made in Heaven and marital relations should never be disturbed. But as a matter of fact, I find that there is no society in the world where marital laws do not exist and therefore evidently it cannot be something that is made in Heaven. After all it is a worldly thing and therefore we must have laws to regulate these worldly affairs. It is also common experience that these marital people instead of being in Heaven find themselves in Hell. An attempt must certainly be made to bring them down to earth. The draft Hindu Code is trying to find a *via media*. It has divided marriages into sacramental marriages and civil marriages.

One more point I should like to bring to the notice of the House. It is a permissive or what is called an enabling measure. If they want to have sacramental marriage, they can have it. If they want to marry under the Civil marriage law, they can do it. What is the remedy for all those other cases where the marital relations are not as happy as they should be. That is one thing. Another thing is that educated people would like to take advantage of the modern ideas of marriage legislation. Therefore there must be some kind of redress or way open to them. Therefore they suggested an optional method of registering the marriage. In my opinion the draft code has provided a very good way and that is even if a marriage was sacramentally solemnised, if the parties want to turn it into a civil marriage they could do so by applying to the Registrar. Since there is a good deal of difference of opinion with regard to succession to property and things like that, I thought that if I could bring in a Bill which would provide for some such measure as was suggested by the Hindu Code Committee that would be accepted and my Bill really does not do anything more than practically incorporate the principle of the Hindu Code Committee.

However it has been pointed out to me that this is likely to raise many technical difficulties in law. Out of deference to my colleagues in this House who are more versed in law and who know the difficulties of the technical situation I am prepared to send this Bill out for eliciting public opinion rather than to Select Committee. So far as this Bill is concerned, I accept the amendment of my friend Mr. Ayyangar. This will enable us to have public opinion elicited on the Bill. I therefore do not want to waste the time of the House by going into details at this stage. With these remarks I move my motion.

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Mr. President: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Special Marriage Act, 1872, for certain purposes, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Sir Asoka Roy, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee, Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan, Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan, Shri Sri Prakasa, Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Sri A. Karunakara Menon, Sjt. N. V. Gadgil, Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai, Pandit Balkrishna Sharma, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, Sardar Mangal Singh, Mr. Leslie Gwilt, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Mr. Madandhari Singh, and the Mover, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

I find that the Honourable Member has not mentioned any time limit by which the Select Committee should report.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: It is not necessary, as I accept the amendment of Mr. Ayyangar for circulation. I shall mention a date if you are particular about it.

Mr. President: As the motion for circulation is going to be proposed and carried, I am not very particular about it.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st August, 1946."

It ought not to be understood that this is a dilatory motion at all. I have got the greatest respect for my Honourable friend Dr. Deshmukh who has been taking interest on social legislation. One thing which he has done after the Sarda Act is that piece of legislation which is generally known as Dr. Deshmukh's Act of 1937, whereby the widow of a member of a joint Hindu family, who did not at the time of his death make any provision for her, gets the share of her husband. That is a very wholesome thing in practice, but unfortunately it has not gone the whole way because the Central Government under the list has no jurisdiction to legislate in regard to agricultural lands. Therefore, it was found by the Federal Court that so far as the agricultural lands are concerned, that Act will not apply and the Provincial Governments have not yet taken steps to extend the operation of that Act to agricultural lands. As there is a defect, I am sure as soon as the popular governments come into being it will be removed and the widow will be entitled to a share in all property left by her husband. That is a piece of legislation for which I must congratulate my Honourable friend in having done a real social service. He has a peculiar knack of finding out some defects or some inconveniences that persist today and with respect to which he is more than alert. He is an eminent doctor and he has applied his knife to certain defects which had crept into the society.

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But, Sir, I do not agree with some other friends who are prepared to discard everything ancient. I do admit that when institutions start, they are not perfect and later on on account of change of circumstances some modifications may be necessary with respect to those institutions. Therefore, we need not accuse our ancestors for having started certain institutions. They had brought into existence certain institutions according to the exigencies of times and they have changed now. Though all of us are Indians, yet most of us talk in different languages. Many new things have happened since and therefore consistently with the change in circumstances some modifications are necessary. That is the reason why he has introduced already three pieces of legislation. Two more are coming up for discussion today.

The first is the amendment of the Special Marriage Act. I would have immediately consented to its being referred to a Select Committee but for one difficulty. You will see, Sir, whether the House is full or half empty. I do not accuse Honourable Members, though, according to me, it is a matter which ought to be decided by a composite House. Any law which our *Rishis* made was not accepted fully whenever a change was thought necessary. Institutions or assemblies of learned men gathered together and in these assemblies matters

which required some reform or modification were discussed and passed in the laws which governed the Hindus during that period. Before that Manu was holding the field. As there was a change between one age and another, a number of seers went to Sri Veda Vyasa and requested him to modify the rituals and also the rules of succession in accordance with the changing circumstances. He said: "We shall go to my father Sri Parasara." The latter then laid down certain injunctions. He said: "The whole practice is not suitable to the existing conditions and therefore we shall modify them in every respect. If, however, there are certain circumstances which require further modification or which have been inadvertently left out, we shall refer them again to the decision of the Assembly. There must be an assembly of three learned men who are universally acknowledged to be adept in these matters and who are mixing up with the people and are anxious to set things right. The assembly of such three persons must decide from time to time as to what course is to be followed and what reforms are necessary." Likewise I would have welcomed this piece of legislation to have gone into the country and to the assemblies of those who are interested in religious reform. I would have welcomed it to go even to other Associations of men and women who might have gone into this matter and given us advice as to what ought to be done. From the Statement of Objects and Reasons it does not appear that this has gone about and that we have already got the opinions of various persons. The Statement of Objects and Reasons is short. It says that there is a very large volume of educated public opinion in favour of reform in the existing marriage laws. I do not disagree with it. It further says that the object of this Bill is to provide a means of having the benefits of modern ideas on legislation respecting marriage without in any way interfering with the religious sentiments of the communities concerned. The object of the learned Mover is a noble one and he does not want to offend those sentiments which have an age-long standing in our country. Similar circumstances prevail all over the world. Therefore, he does not want to rub any particular section the wrong way in order to introduce this piece of legislation. What he says is that this has already been put to the test and it has already passed under the criticisms of various institutions which are interested in public welfare and in the modification of ancient institutions to suit the modern conditions. It is for that purpose that I am requesting that this Bill may be circulated for eliciting public opinion and I have fixed a date which is before the House meets during the next Session, namely, the 31st August. The very date will amply bear it out that I do not want this legislation to be put off eternally. I do want it in some shape or other, so that we may be benefited by it.

Then, Sir, the Bill has not been properly worded or drafted and what the learned Mover intends by this Bill is frustrated. The object is one thing but the manner in which that object is sought to be achieved is quite a different thing. Various other inconveniences may arise for which the learned Mover has made no provision. Further, he ought not to have brought it as an amending Bill to the Special Marriage Act because the two are absolutely inconsistent. It can never be a piece of legislation to the Special Marriage Act, because the preamble to the Special Marriage Act says:

"Whereas it is expedient to provide a form of marriage for persons who do not profess the Christian, Jewish, Hindu, Muhammadan, Parsi, Buddhist, Sikh or Jaina religion (and for persons who profess the Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh or Jaina religion), and to legalise certain marriages the validity of which is doubtful; It is hereby enacted as follows . . . ."

The present Bill is to enable persons who are married under the ordinary rules of Hindu law. It does not apply to persons who celebrated their marriage long ago or who got it registered under the Special Marriage Act. It is not said here that that marriage which is done in a sacramental form is invalid. It refers only to marriages which are valid, solemnised according to Hindu Shastras and such valid marriages are registered once again under this Act and when once it is registered under this special law, the previous marriage becomes *null and void*. That is the object of the Bill. But that is not within the scope of the Special Marriage Act which came into existence as early as 1872 to

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enable persons belonging to different religions to get together in marital union by proclaiming that they do not belong to this religion or that religion. In some cases, if they belong to some religion other than Christian or Parsi, they can be married. The provisions were extended to all Hindus to whatever major caste they belonged, if they wanted to get themselves married under the Special Marriage Act the amending Act of 1923 enabled them to do so. Persons who are not already joined in union under the Special Marriage Act come within the scope and object of the Act. My Honourable friend wants to introduce an amendment in the Special Marriage Act to enable married persons to marry once again. The first marriage was under the sacramental form. These two persons can marry once again. That is what my friend wants. I am aware of the practice of persons who have reached the age of sixty celebrating the marriage once again, and it is called *shahstiabdi poorty*, that is completion of the sixtieth year of age for the husband. If both the husband and the wife are alive, they once again go through a miniature form of marriage, not *in extenso*, this means they are starting a fresh lease of life for the sake of service to humanity.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I have seen a person having 20 children celebrating his sixtieth birth day.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I am not going to accuse that person, because very soon I am likely to reach that number.

Such marriages do take place and I am sure they need not invoke the aid of my Honourable friend Dr. Deshmukh. If it is the intention of my Honourable friend that marriages solemnised in Hindu form should be registered under the Special Marriage Act, I may submit that the scope of the original Act is absolutely different and the present Bill does not come within the four corners of that Act. Not that human ingenuity is barren that we cannot devise some methods by which we can bring an amendment to the original Act. But I must say that the present amending Bill has no place in the original Act. That is one of the objects with which I want this Bill to be circulated for eliciting public opinion. It is for the public to say whether they want this Bill or whether they want a different Bill with a few clauses to give effect to the objects of the framer of this Bill.

Now, Sir, let us see what are the inconveniences that will arise by accepting this Bill as it is. I will refer only to one or two matters, as I understand that the Honourable Mover is accepting my Motion for circulation.

If, as I understand it, the object of the framer of this Bill is to give the right of divorce in an indirect form. . . .

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I did not say anything of the kind.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I am much obliged to my Honourable friend for making his object clear that he did not intend it. Unfortunately I have been accustomed for the last 25 years to interpret pieces of legislation that have been enacted. Therefore, as I interpret this Bill, it tries to carry out certain things which my Honourable friend does not want. Therefore, if it is not his intention, to introduce divorce indirectly, the Bill as framed allows it. If a Hindu husband wants to divorce his wife, one day he can say, this new legislation of Dr. Deshmukh is a much better law. He will say I cannot marry again, if I marry under the Special Marriage Act, because that Act imposes monogamy but under the ordinary Hindu law, I am allowed polygamy. Therefore, he can tell his wife, that he wants to be wedded to her alone, "come on, let us go and register our marriage before the Registrar". The wife perhaps guilelessly will accept the suggestion. After getting his marriage registered he can easily give notice to his wife saying that whereas the previous marriage under the Hindu law is dissolved under the Special Marriage Act. I hereby give notice of dissolution of marriage and I am free to divorce you. I say such a procedure is wrong. I am anxious that my interpretation should be wrong. Unforunaely, however, have interpretation is possible which my Honourable friend the framer of this Bill, has not contemplated. There are many other unthought of hardships likely to arise out of the Bill, but inasmuch as my Honourable friend has no objection for circulation of this measure, I need not dilate upon the defects in the Bill any further. There are two other Bills pending before us for consideration. I move.

Mr. President: Amendment moved:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st August, 1946."

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

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

Sardar N. G. Vinchoorkar (Gujrat and Deccan Sardars and Inamdars: Landholders): Sir, I appreciate the patience and perseverance of my Honourable friend Dr. Deshmukh in his ideas of reforming Hindu social life, but I am sorry to say that I fail to appreciate or understand the objects of the Bill before us, and it is only in this light that I should like to say a few words. If his idea is to let the people keep up the respect of or show respect for the Hindu form of marriage and also to enable them to avoid the restrictions that prevail now, I am afraid his object will not be achieved by the Bill before us, and it is only on that presumption that I will make a few observations. According to the present provisions of the Bill it appears that a man can marry according to the present form of Hindu marriage and also can change and adapt the provisions of the Special Marriage Act if and whenever he likes. That means that he will have to declare that he is not married and can then take advantage of the provisions of the Special Marriage Act. So I do not know how he can enable people not to offend the forms of the Hindu marriage law. The form of marriage according to Hindus is a sacrament. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons he says that the object of this Bill is "to provide a means of having the benefits of modern ideas on legislation respecting marriage without in any way interfering with the religious sentiments of the communities concerned".

This latter portion will be defeated the moment a person seeks the provisions of the Special Marriage Act because there he has to declare that he is not married. I will draw attention to clause 2 of the Bill which seeks to insert a new section 2-A, in Act III of 1872 regarding registration of marriages:

"A man and a woman described in section 2 who are already married to each other under any other mode of contracting marriage may get their such marriage registered under this Act if both the parties are agreed to have it so registered under the following conditions:

(a) neither party must at the time of registration under this Act have any other husband or wife living. . . .

So this means that even those who are married under the present Hindu law have to declare that marriage as cancelled and then take recourse to the marriage under the Special Marriage Act. I do not think this is in any way respectful or complimentary to the present law of Hindu marriage. I would wish parties to take straightaway to the Special Marriage Act rather than go through this formality which is more disrespectful than anything else. So, as I said before, I do not think the Bill is very clear in regard to the object of my Honourable friend Dr. Deshmukh as I understand it to be. As the Bill stands or as it is worded at present I find that it treats the Hindu form of marriage very lightly and not at all in a complimentary or respectful way; rather it seeks in a light-hearted manner to dissolve a marriage and enables parties to take advantage of the provisions of the Special Marriage Act. So you cannot think of a Hindu, either a husband or a wife, having it both ways. If they want to stick to the old form of Hindu marriage they must allow themselves to be under certain restrictions. After all a person cannot have always what he or she wishes because society and the laws and traditions will always have certain

[Sardar N. G. Vinchoorkar]

privileges, as also restrictions. But this measure seeks to facilitate both ways. A young man perhaps wishing to satisfy his e ders goes through a form of marriage according to Hindu law and then again he finds a way out of it by other means to dissolve the marriage and take advantage of the terms of the Special Marriage Act.

Then there is no time-limit fixed here as to when a person can take advantage of the provisions of the Bill. So I can anticipate certain complications arising in case there are issues in between.

Then again there are certain matters like divorce and succession and such others, which are also introduced by the back door. If a man chooses to take to the Special Marriage Act and take advantage of it, I have no quarrel with him at all. But what I object to is that he goes through a form of marriage according to the Hindu sacrament and then he can dissolve the marriage and go to the Special Marriage Act and take advantage of the provisions therein. This, of course, may not be in the mind of the Honourable Mover at all, but I mention these points just now as the Bill is meant to be sent out for eliciting public opinion, and I wish that it should be more clear and precise in meeting the objects of the Honourable the Mover; and if the Mover finds it necessary I think he can take time to make the Bill more clear and precise in order to meet his object in a more direct manner.

I also want the Honourable the Law Member to make the position of Government clear, specially as Government have got the report of the Rau Committee. Also, I imagine Government have certain other material with them, which will enable them to prepare a draft of codified Hindu law. That will be more welcome legislation than the present half-way attempts. That is why I want the Law Member to give us an idea as to what the intentions of Government are in this direction.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I rise to oppose the amendment moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Ayyangar. It may be asked why I should intervene in a debate which is generally supposed to be a measure for the Hindu community or rather for those who describe themselves as Hindus or are called Hindus Personally I feel that I need make no apology. My own position is that any man who lives in Hindusthan is a Hindu and that is the term used outside India and is still so understood. I remember many years ago when as a young man I was in America, that if I ever said that I was a Christian people they would stare at me and probably thought that I was either a Red Indian or at best a Muletto. Therefore I described myself as a Hindu and everybody there understood that we were Indians from this side of the world. We described ourselves as Hindus and we were always called Hindus. In France also if you want to describe your nationality you have to call yourself *'Ind Orenitale'*.

Now, Sir, what I mean to say is that just as a man who comes from England is an Englishman, a man who comes from France is a Frenchman, so a man who is born and lives in this country and whose ancestors have lived in this country is a Hindu and therefore it is wrong to say that only a man who is a Vishnuvite, or a Sanatanist, or an Aryasmajist is a Hindu and others are not Hindus. Secondly, I would also say that Hinduism or the word Hindu does not imply any definite religious creed. If there is such a creed which is called the Hindu creed, I would like to hear it, for I have never heard of it. I can understand a Sanatanist creed, I can understand Vishnuvite creed. I can understand an Aryasmajist creed, but I cannot understand what is the precise doctrinal creed which a man must subscribe to, if a man wants to call himself a Hindu. In my opinion Hinduism is the most tolerant of all religions. It is not a precise religious but it is a great social and cultural organisation, and an institution which has outlived ages and ages of history, and will outlive ages and ages of history till the end of this world or this civilization. I say, Sir, that it is perfectly right for a man to call himself a Hindu whether he is a Unitarian or whether he is a Trinitarian, or whether he is a pantheist, or whether he professes any other faith which involves adherence to a set of religious doctrines. And, therefore, Sir, I submit that if a man holds a certain religious belief—and even that belief may be the Christian belief, or the Muslim faith—he does not cease to be a Hindu, he is not deprived of the heritage of his long line of ancestors, nor does he, therefore, repudiate the Hindu culture, nor does he repudiate his right to be called a Hindu, whether he calls himself a Christian Hindu or a Muslim Hindu, or a Buddhist Hindu or any other kind of Hindu.

Then, Sir, finally I feel that a measure like this is a measure of social reform and a measure of social reform to whichever community it may apply in a narrow sense should be the concern of all those who live in this country and of all those who form a part of the social structure in this country.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Hear, hear!

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: Thank you. Those are my reasons for participating in this debate and I therefore make no apology for doing so.

The reason why I am opposing my Honourable friend, Mr. Ayyangar's motion for circulation is that he knows perfectly well and everybody else knows perfectly well that these are purely delaying tactics. My Honourable friend, I admit, is a patriot to the tips of his fingers, and also to the tips of his toes, but I think, Sir, it is surprising that it should be he who should try by this motion—as he knows perfectly well that he is doing so—to delay the passage of a very small measure of reform and a very small attempt at improvement in the status of women in our country. It is strange that history should repeat itself. As a humble student of history I am surprised how often and how truly history repeats itself. I well remember when what is known as the Sarda Marriage Act was before this House—I had the honour of being a Member of that Select Committee—it was an Ayyangar who was one of the strongest opponents of that Bill and he also sat very nearly where my Honourable friend the present Mr. Ayyangar sits. He did his utmost to try and prevent the passage of that Bill by trying to send it for circulation and by all other tactics better known to lawyers and politicians. That Bill of course was passed and it could only be passed, unfortunately one must admit, by every official having to vote for it, and therefore it is surprising that officials who had no particular or direct interest in the provisions of that Bill had to be mustered in order to carry out that very necessary measure of reform. I hope, Sir, today my Honourable friend, Mr. Ayyangar, does not desire that history should repeat itself in this case.

We have heard for years—you no doubt have heard again and again—of Sir B. N. Rau's Committee—I do not know for how long it has been sitting to codify Hindu Law—but so far as I understand, and even the mover of this Bill today said that he realizes that it is too large a bit to swallow and that will take years and years to become law. Therefore, Sir, I, for one, very much welcome these measures, although they may be very very moderate, to improve not the lot of any particular woman but really to raise the whole womanhood of India and bring them into the heritage into which they ought to have long ago. Not only this Bill but the other two Bills which stand in the name of my Honourable friend and will come up later on, try to seek this and they are very small measures of reform. I regret that he should have been so soft as to accept the motion of my friend, or said, or, at any rate, indicated that he is agreeable that these Bills may be sent for circulation which again means years of delay. I remember his brother bringing up a similar Bill in the last year and we know what happened to it because it was sent for circulation.

Let us now get on to the real question. I do not wish to tread on anybody's toes. I wish to speak straight. I love this country as much as any one else does; I am very much a member of Hindu society in its broader sense as any body else. And I wish to speak straight. The whole thing is that it is a question of vested interests. It is a case of subjection of the weak by the strong. How often should history repeat itself; how often it is from those

[Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee]

Benches that we hear of slaves, we hear of imperialism, we hear of exploitation of colonial people, and my Honourable friend, Mr. Ayyangar, who today wants to delay this measure of reform, is one of the loudest in his criticism of such wrongs which ought not to exist but do exist in this world.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: On a point of personal explanation, Sir. I want to make the Bill better.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: Well, let me have my say.

The point is this that the whole thing goes very deep; it relates to the question of domination and exploitation and imprisonment of women by men, such as has been a sad feature or curse of human society not only in India but everywhere. Today it is very prominent in India. I am fully conscious of the fact that less than 50 years ago—I speak subject to correction—a woman could not possess property in England in her own name nor could she have a bank account, but there women are now very advanced and they have got all that and many other things. What is happening in this country? In this country we give lip service to women just as a European used to give lip service of his women. He always said 'Ladies first'; when he opened the door to enter a carriage, he said 'Ladies first', and things of that kind, and gave them jewelry and presents, but dominated over them and yet gave them no real part either in politics or in the affairs of state, or anything else substantial. My Honourable friend, Mr. Sri Prakasa,—I do not know whether he is here or not—would remember that in the University of Cambridge when the first women took their degrees, they were, instead of being cheered, hooted and rotten eggs were thrown at them.

Now, Sir, this is a thing which has happened everywhere. But things have progressed elsewhere. Here in this country, my friend, Mr. Ayyangar, tries to keep up and wants to keep up that domination and I want to put this to him straight.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I have no such domination at all.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: The only difference is that in this country we call our women 'Shreemati'. We address them as 'Devi's. We call them 'Begum's. Are they not titles like the titles which an imperialist power as such confers on colonial and subject people? This is exactly the same thing. This is what I want to put to my friend. This is what we are doing in this country. We are denying to our women the most elementary rights. Whereas we consider that it is right, or at any rate it has been our custom that a man can marry as many wives as he wants but a woman may never marry even if she becomes a widow at 8 or 10 or 14. If reforms are going to be opposed in this way, then how far do we stand condemned before the bar of history when we condemn others who have done equally hard things even though they may have done it to people of other nations. Today we stand at the dawn of, a new era in this country and we stand at a time which may be called the most challenging period of history in India. Are my friends prepared to herald the dawn of this era by themselves coming forward and freeing the section of people who are the most enslaved in this country, the people who are most exploited, namely the womenfolk of India? No country can go forward: no country can go and stand as a free nation and gain the respect of free nations if we are not prepared to carry forward and that very substantially and quickly these measures of reforms, though these measures are just mere nibbles at something which is still a dead wall. Until we are ready to do so, there is no use thinking we are going to become a great nation. Lip service is no use. Therefore I would pray of my friend, Mr. Ayyangar, the patriot that he is, also the champion of the rights of the exploited colonial people and the slaves of the world, not to put any spokes in the wheel of freedom for that section of the community in India who are treated the worst, who are the greatest slaves and more exploited than any other people in the country.

Before I sit down I would like to ask you Sir, whether you have read the account of the Creation of the Sexes which Plato gave. I will read but a few lines. He says that Plato accepted—

"That man and woman are equal when he explained the creation of the sexes. The first people, he believed were 'compound humans' . . . . . '

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Even now they are so biologically.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: You are a medical man. I do not understand.

" . . . . . with a cylindrical body, four arms and four legs, one head and two faces facing in opposite directions. . . . . "

Shri Sri Prakasa: Do not go any further.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: ". . . . They peopled the earth and because they became arrogant, the gods cut them into halves. One has become a man and the other woman. Ever since man and woman have been two parts of a whole. Plato has warned us and said that if we do not behave properly the gods would cut each of us again and we would become quarters."

Let us take warning. Let us not become quarters but let us become worthy halves and thus a perfect whole in this India of ours.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma (Cities of the United Provinces: Non-Muhammadan Urban): I did not wish to intervene in the debate at this stage but for the remarks of Lt.-Col. Dr. Chatterjee who perhaps does not know the whole story and therefore most of his remarks are out of place. For instance, he has said that Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar is putting spokes in the wheel of progress Well, only if he had had the patience to hear what Mr. Ayyangar himself said at the time when he proposed his amendment to send the Bill into circulation, such doubts should have been removed. But I think at the time either he was not very attentive or absent from the House.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: I was here and heard it too.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: Oh, you were here! Then I do not think you heard him very attentively. Now the Bill as it stands has got certain lacuna and Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar and Dr. Deshmukh, the Mover of the Bill, both sat together and came to an understanding that, so far as was possible that sort of thing should be removed. Now there was only one way out of it: either to send it into circulation or to request the Government to allot us a day when the official Bills came, say two or three minutes, for the re-introduction of that Bill and save us from sending it into circulation.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: Why don't you take that course?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: If the Law Member accepts that I will have no objection.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: If the Law Member accepts it, the Doctor will have no objection. I would like to point out what those lacuna are. I think Col. Chatterjee will be convinced that it is necessary that they should be made up. Under this Act, if you are sacramentally married and you have children and somehow you fell out with your sons and you want to cut them off with a shilling, you persuade your wife and say: "Come along, dear, now let us go in for a contractual marriage". And they go in for a contractual marriage. The former sacramental marriages becomes null and void.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: Why should an educated wife resort to that?

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: For the very simple reason that she too may be dissatisfied with the children. Therefore, it is to avoid such a contingency. Then again there is something more. Suppose a man wants to get rid of his wife and somehow he gulls her into the belief that he is a very devoted man and he wants to live with her peacefully and does not want to marry a second wife; while he actually wants to get rid of her. He persuades her. She goes

[Pandit Balkrishna Sharma]

to the registration office. They enter into the contractual marriage and the former sacramental marriage being null and void he is free to give her the go bye. These things have to be removed and Dr. Deshmukh having realized the importance and the gravity of the problem that he was trying to tackle consented. Of course, Dr. Chatterjee was very eloquent in throwing diatribes at the Congress Benches. I can assure him that there was no desire on this side of the House in any way to interfere with the social progress, nor do we want to put any spokes in the wheels of our social chariot. Our Party, as a matter of fact, has unanimously decided that the coming two Bills standing in the name of Dr. Deshmukh shall be sent to the Select Committee. Of course, if there are dissentients in our Party—one or two hardly—and if they want to dissociate themselves from this legislation, they are free to do so. But we as a party have decided that we shall go the whole hog with Dr. Deshmukh. Only some individual freedom on the ground of conscientious objection, has been given to certain members.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: By way of personal explanation, I want to make it clear I had no intention whatsoever to make any derogatory remarks about the Party to which my friend belongs. I was talking of individual opinions and social problems. I had no intention or wish to do any such thing.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: Thank you very much.

Col. Chatterjee said that modern education has given us sense of chivalry and we say 'Ladies first'. So far as this Bill is concerned if we adopt that maxim, 'Ladies first', it will be like adopting the maxim 'Ladies first' even if the bull charges I do not think that Col. Chatterjee would like a lady to be crushed by a charging bull. There is something of a charging bull in this legislation that we want to avoid. It is for that reason that we are sending it for eliciting public opinion. I hope this will dispel the fears of Col. Chatterjee and those who think like him and I hope he will have no objection to sending the Bill for circulation.

3 P.M

Mr. President: I want to make one point clear to Honourable Members who wish to speak. We have only one hour left and there are two or three other Bills and I do not know what other private day will be available.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: We can cut down the speeches. So far as this Bill is concerned we are unanimous.

Mr. President: Is it the desire that this Bill should be debated upon further?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Not necessarily.

Mr. President: I just wanted to know because I found two or three Members on opposition side anxious to speak. That is why I made that suggestion.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy (Law Member): Sir, I should like at the outset to make the position of the Government clear in regard to this Bill. The attitude of the Government is one of neutrality. Government were prepared to accept the motion for reference to a Select Committee, if it was the sense of the House that that motion should be accepted. I find that the Mover has agreed to accept Mr. Ayyangar's amendment that this Bill should be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion. Government is not opposed to the circulation motion at all. Government feel that it is for the Members of the House to decide whether, as stated in the preamble to the Bill "it is expedient to extend the benefits of the Special Marriage Act of 1872 (Act III of 1872) to persons who profess the Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh or Jain religion and who are already married according to rites or mode of contracting marriage other than under the Special Marriage Act, 1872". It is for the Members of the House to say whether there is any real need felt by the communities concerned for the amendment of the Special Marriage Act in the manner suggested in the Bill.

I may remind Honourable Members that this Bill is exactly similar to a Bill which was introduced by the Honourable Dr. Deshmukh on the 20th October, 1941. On a motion adopted by the House on the 7th of November,

1941, that Bill was circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinions. The opinions received were very divided and I cannot say that they were at all encouraging to the Bill. It is not the practice of Government to support a Bill affecting the social and religious customs of any particular community, unless it is clearly and unequivocally supported by a majority of the community. Therefore, Sir, in regard to this Bill Government take up the attitude of neutrality and if it is the desire of the House that this Bill should be circulated for public opinion again, Government will accept that. But I agree with much that has been said by my Honourable friend Mr. Ayyangar in his criticism of the Bill. I do not know if Honourable Members have realised the full implications of this Bill and I do not know whether my Honourable friend, the Mover, has realised what he has sought to do by this amending measure. I may just refer to one or two clauses of this Bill. One clause alone will do, Clause 12.

In Clause 12 of the Bill the Mover has suggested that after section 15 of the Special Marriage Act the following new section shall be inserted, namely: "on the marriage being registered under this Act",—that is to say a marriage between two parties who are already married according to the Hindu Law being registered under this Act,—certain consequences ensue. The Bill says that on the marriage being registered under this Act, the previous marriage between the parties should be deemed to have been dissolved and the parties shall be deemed to be married under this Act as from the date of such registration. That introduces a tremendous complication. The parties were married under the Hindu Law on a particular date. As soon as they get their marriage registered under the provisions of this Act, their previous marriage stands dissolved and they are deemed to be married on the date on which registration takes place. A pertinent question will immediately arise: what is to happen to the children of the marriage, who were born before the date of the registration. That is a matter which requires careful consideration.

Then, again, in Clause 12, in that particular section which is sought to be introduced, it is further provided that "the parties to such registration shall 'thenceforth have all the rights and be subject to all disabilities prescribed under sections', etc.". If you look at some of those sections you will find that the consequences are very serious. A Hindu who has been married under the Hindu Law gets his marriage registered under this Act. Immediately under Section 22, there is a severance effected from the joint family. Under Section 24 succession to their properties is regulated by the Indian Succession Act. Further, Sir, the man's father immediately has the right to adopt another son. Take the case of the father of a man who has got a son and a grandson by his son. The son gets his marriage registered under this Act. What is to happen to the grandson? Is he to lose the right of inheriting the grandfather's property? Some of the consequences which follow from the provision in Clause 12 that the disabilities prescribed under the Special Marriage Act will attach to the parties to the registration the moment their marriage is registered under the Special Marriage Act are serious. I submit that these are considerations which the Honourable the Mover of this Bill ought to bear in mind before he proceeds further with this Bill. But, as I told you, Sir, the Government's attitude is one of neutrality and I certainly do not oppose circulation.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I do not want to take more than two minutes. My idea of the legal Department of the Government of India is that it is not there merely to point out difficulties but also to help tyros in legislation like me and I am very thankful to the Law Member for pointing out some of the difficulties which, to give due credit to my friend Mr. Ayyangar, both of them have pointed out. It was because those difficulties were pointed out to me that we thought that the best way out of them will be in one of two ways, as my friend Mr. Sharma has suggested. One way is this: so far as the substance of this Bill is concerned, it seems to me that we are all agreed that something has got to be done with regard to these marriage laws. At least that is the opinion, so far as I can see. Now, I admit that the legal form may not be correct; and therefore if the Law Member can extend his sympathies further, the best way out of this

[Dr. G. V. Deshmukh]

would be if he would say "You correct the Bill with my friend Mr. Ayyangar and I will do the rest"; and then in one minute it can be introduced on an official day and all these objections are likely to disappear. I may point out to him that there have been many precedents like this . . .

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: May I explain? I did not intend to convey the impression that I am satisfied that this Bill ought to be proceeded with at all. I do not think that this Bill ought to be proceeded with at all, and I am not satisfied that there is any need for the Bill. That is why I have left it to the communities concerned to come to a decision.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: That will be a new Bill.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: It will be a new Bill which could be introduced on an official day in a minute. But if the official side is not willing, the only other alternative would be to send it out for public opinion; and the advantage of it will be that it will educate the public opinion; As the Honourable the Law Member himself has pointed out—I admit it was given in 1941, but he cannot deny that it helped his draft Code or the Hindu Law Committee for the very simple reason that he himself admits that many of the provisions of this Bill have been taken in the Draft Code Committee. I accept the amendment moved that it should be sent round for public opinion.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st August, 1946."

The motion was adopted.

DELHI SIKH GURDWARAS AND RELIGIOUS ENDOWMENTS BILL

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab: Sikh): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the better administration of the Sikh Gurdwaras in the Delhi Province and their properties wheresoever situate, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Sir Asoka Roy, the Honourable Sir John Thorne, Sardar Bahadur Captain Sardar Harendra Singh, Colonel Kumar Shri Himmatsinhji, Squadron Leader Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia, Sardar Sampuran Singh, Mr. M. Asaf Ali, Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava, Sardar Jogendra Singh, Shri Sri Prakasa, Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan, and Sardar Mangal Singh, with instructions to report before the 31st July, 1946, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five".

The Bill which I have the honour to move in this House is a simple measure. As is clear from the Statement of Objects and Reasons, there are several historical important Sikh Gurdwaras in the Delhi Province and some of these Gurdwaras have considerable properties attached thereto. At present these gurdwaras are managed by a committee registered under the Societies Registration Act and affiliated to the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, Amritsar, constituted under the Sikh Gurdwaras Act, 1925. Experience has shown that the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, though a statutory body, has got no legal powers to manage these gurdwaras, and therefore it has been thought desirable to bring forward this measure to provide for their better management and administration. Similar legislations have already been passed in the Punjab and the North West Frontier Province. This measure, as I have already said, is a simple one. It seeks to constitute a committee of 21 elected members, elected by the Sikh residents of Delhi, which committee will manage the gurdwaras, rituals in the gurdwaras and the properties attached to them. Some of the property is situated in the province of the Punjab.

I want to make it clear that this Bill does not in any way affect any vested interests. We have not to turn out the *Mahants* or the trustees who are managing the gurdwaras. That was done twenty years ago when the *Mahants* were asked to go. In some cases a liberal compensation was provided for them. In other cases they left themselves. At present there is no vested interest. My object is simply to give legal powers to a committee constituted under this Act.

The second point which I wish to make clear is that so far as the Sikhs are concerned, there is no difference of opinion on this measure. A similar measure is being introduced in the upper House by my Honourable friend, Sir Sobha Singh. All sections of the Sikh community are agreed—of course there may be difference of opinion in matters of detail here and there—that such a measure should be adopted by this House. I do not want to take much of the time of the House as other Bills are awaiting consideration. I therefore request this House to pass this motion. I notice that the Honourable the Home Member has tabled a motion for the circulation of this measure. Just now the Honourable the Law Member got up and said that he was prepared to accept a motion if it was for Select Committee but he would oppose if it is a motion for circulation . . . . .

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy (Law Member): I did not say that.

Sardar Mangal Singh: I am sorry. I hope my friend the Honourable the Home Member will agree to accept my motion. I recognise that the Bill as at present drafted requires certain modifications but that can be done very well in Select Committee. I have therefore provided that the report of the Select Committee may be given before the 31st July. That gives sufficient time to consult both the Government and the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee or any other public bodies interested in this measure. I wish to make one point clear. I will have no objection if, instead of this Bill, the Government agrees to put the management and administration of these gurdwaras under the Sikh Gurdwaras Act of 1925, passed by the Punjab Legislative Assembly. This is for the Government to consider. If they are prepared to make suitable provisions in the Bill that these gurdwaras should be put under the administration of the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, Amritsar, personally I have no objection. But I have to take into consideration the wishes of the Sikh residents of Delhi. If they have any objection to that course, of course that will have to be taken into consideration, because I want that this measure should have the fullest support of the Sikh residents of Delhi who are after all to manage these gurdwaras and who are closely affected by this measure. Sir, I move.

Mr. President: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the better administration of the Sikh Gurdwaras in the Delhi Province and their properties wheresoever situate, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Sir Asoka Roy, the Honourable Sir John Thorne, Sardar Bahadur Captain Sardar Harendra Singh, Colonel Kumar Shri Himmatsinhji, Squadron Leader Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia, Sardar Sampuran Singh, Mr. M. Asaf Ali, Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava, Sardar Jogendra Singh, Shri Sri Prakasa, Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan, and Sardar Mangal Singh, with instructions to report before the 31st July, 1946, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five".

The Honourable Sir John Thorne (Home Member): Sir, the motion standing in my name is:

"That the Bill be circulated in Delhi Province for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon."

With your permission I should like to add to that phrase 'by July 1st, 1946'.

My Honourable friend Sardar Mangal Singh rather surprised me just now by expressing the hope that I would not move my amendment, because I thought, as the result of a number of talks with him, that he was going to accept my amendment. However, I will refer to that again later.

An Honourable Member: "Sikh strategy"?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I think it has already been made plain to my friend the Mover but I should make it plain to the House as well, that my motion is tabled not in any sense whatever of hostility to this measure or with any intention of needlessly delaying it. But experienced members of this House know that it is the usual practice to circulate for opinion a measure which affects the religious practices, authority and institutions of any community. And there is a further reason in regard to this Bill in that it bears

[Sir John Thorne]

signs of very hasty draftsmanship. I would not go through it clause by clause but I would call attention to clause 4 which says that, 'The Board shall consist of twenty-one members as under'. I had the curiosity to work out an arithmetical sum from the subsequent sub-clauses and I find that the total is 19 and not 21. Then again there are parts of the Bill which I think would more suitably be found in rules or bye-laws passed by a body to be set up by the measure. Those matters no doubt are such as could be rectified in Select Committee without much trouble, but I feel myself that a measure of this kind, which affects rights in property as well as religious practice, is one on which we should have the opinions of people who may be concerned within the Delhi province; and very few of us have that close acquaintance with Sikh religion and practice which would enable us in Select Committee to spot the details which needed correction. Therefore, Sir, I would press that this should be circulated. I have worded my motion so that circulation should be within the Delhi province only, but it will be necessary to look outside the province as well—not by circulation, but what I had in mind was that the Government should address the Punjab Government at the same time that the Bill is circulated in the Delhi Province, asking for any comments that the Punjab Government could give us from their experience of 20 years in the administration of the Gurdwaras Act which is in force in that province and also calling attention to certain parts of this Bill which affect authorities situated in the Punjab Province. For instance, sub-clause (vii) of clause 4 requires two members of the Board to be nominated by the President of the Shiromani Gurdwaras Parbandhak Committee, Amritsar. Then again clause 28 sets out a procedure for dealing with disputes and requires that—

"all disputes regarding the properties of the Gurdwaras under this Act, regarding the membership of the Board or the committees constituted thereunder and all other disputes in any manner whatsoever concerned with the said Gurdwaras shall be brought by a petition or by a regular suit as may be provided for under the law for the time being in force before the Sikh Gurdwara Tribunal, constituted under the Sikhs' Gurdwaras Act of 1925 (Punjab Act, No. VIII of 1925) and the decision of the said tribunal subject to the revisional powers of the High Court of Judicature at Lahore shall be final between the parties to all such proceedings."

Clearly it will not be proper for us to legislate in that sense without previous consultation with the Punjab Government and without asking them to say whether the authorities named there, the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, Amritsar, the Sikh Gurdwara Tribunal and the Lahore High Court would be prepared to undertake the duties which the Bill, if passed, would impose on them. Therefore, Sir, I think it is quite necessary not only that the Bill should be circulated in the Delhi Province but that we should have time in which to consult the Punjab Government and give them time to consult the authorities who have been named in this Bill and obtain their views as to the practicability of these proposals and obtain the consent of those authorities and the Punjab Government to these functions being imposed upon them. I would therefore answer my Honourable friend's appeal to me to accept his motion by pointing out that there are certain very strong reasons why he should accept my motion and should allow this Bill to be circulated. Sir, I move.

***Mr. President:** Motion moved:

"That the Bill be circulated in Delhi Province for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by July 1st, 1946."

Sardar Sampuran Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): Sir, I rise to support the motion made by my Honourable friend Sardar Mangal Singh. The object of proposing this Bill is very laudable. The Bill is designed for the better management of the Sikh Gurdwaras in this great capital of the country and also to utilise their funds for the betterment of the community. We have an Act in the Punjab for the same purpose. That had to be rather elastic because it had to deal with large properties and a very large number of Gurdwaras spread over the whole province and each Gurdwara required a different type of management both on account of the conditions and the vested interests of the *Mahants*

and old managers. Consequently, we had to put up a Special Board called the Gurdwara Tribunal. All the Gurdwaras whose names were mentioned in the schedule were under it. People could raise objection on the inclusion of certain Gurdwaras or properties in that schedule and all those matters were fought like civil suits. In the same way if name of any Gurdwara was not included in that schedule, any Sikh could bring a suit to prove that the community had a special interest in that Gurdwara and those matters had also to be fought in that Tribunal and the parties concerned had to establish their rights. I am glad that we have not to adopt that long procedure so far as the Gurdwaras of Delhi province are concerned because there are very few Gurdwaras here and we claim that everything is so nicely defined already that there will be no trouble on that account and no Bourds would have to be put up for that purpose. But we have to consider what type of management we will have to give to these Gurdwaras.

In the Punjab we have two methods. Some Gurdwaras are managed directly by the Shiromani Gurdwara Committee and except Akal Takhat these have local Committees as well, but they are without much authority and they are only nominal Committees. Consequently, in the case of Delhi we cannot adopt that style. The other method is to manage certain Gurdwaras through local Committees—subject to certain control by the S. G. P. C. All these Committees are elected. Naturally, we will have to give more rights to the resident Sikhs of this place, and the local Committees which we will have to organise or provide for Delhi will be more autonomous, subject to, in certain matters, control of the Shiromani Committee because they have to co-ordinate the activities of the whole Sikh community. For that purpose, we will have to keep some sort of affiliation with the mother body for the proper management of the Gurdwaras of this place as well.

I know that in our community there is no difference of opinion, so far as the general principles of the Bill are concerned and I have no hesitation in accepting the amendment proposed by the Honourable the Home Member. A few months' delay no doubt may cause some difficulty, but considering the importance of the measure and the time required for further inquiry into the matter, we will have no hesitation in accepting this motion and allow the Bill to be circulated for the present. With these remarks I support the original motion of Sardar Mangal Singh.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Sir, it is true that in my talks with the Honourable the Home Member I agreed to accept his motion, but I did not think it proper at that stage, if I may say so. I reserved those remarks for the present occasion. In view of the difficulties pointed out by him and in view of the observations made by my Honourable friend Sardar Sampuran Singh, I think I should accept the motion for circulation. I never doubted for a moment that this circulation was meant as a dilatory motion. I recognise the difficulty of the Honourable the Home Member. He wants to consult the Punjab Government, the Delhi Administration and certain other interests as well. I am prepared to give him that time. In return, I would ask him that he should give me facilities to get this Bill through the next Session. If my Bill is blocked by my Honourable friend Dr. Deshmukh, who always brings half a dozen Bills every Session, then the Honourable the Home Member will be kind enough to give me some time on an official day, so that we may get this Bill through during the next Session. Sir, I accept the circulation motion moved by my Honourable friend the Home Member.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): I do not get the official support; you do?

Mr. President: The question is.

"That the Bill be circulated in Delhi Province for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by July 1st, 1946."

The motion was adopted.

POSITION *RE* SUPPLY OF QUESTION LISTS TO MEMBERS CONSEQUENT ON STRIKE IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.

Mr. President: Before I call upon the Honourable Member, Dr. Deshmukh, to move his motion in respect of other Bills, I have to make a statement to the House about a situation which is a sorry one. I have just come to know that, on account of a strike in the Government Press, it will not be possible for us to have printed lists of questions prepared as usual. We have to devise some other method till the Press is again in the working order. Ordinarily, Departments are supplied with printed questions five days in advance and a number of copies that are struck are sent to the Honourable Members to their residences and are also placed on the table of the House. In view of the situation that has now arisen, the only other course is to have the copies cyclo-styled or to resort to some other process of multiplication. Obviously, a large number of decent copies cannot be had by any process other than printing. Therefore, we have to consider the other alternative of having a fewer copies and yet meet the reasonable needs of the Honourable Members as also of the Departments. It is, therefore, proposed that instead of each Department of the Government being sent copies of these questions, copies should be sent only to the Department concerned, which has to reply the questions on a particular day. In case any other Departments or even the Departments concerned want any further information, they can always have access to the Assembly Office and get the information about the questions that they may want. They are supplied advance copies of questions as they come in, but they may like to know exactly the forms of questions as admitted and also as disallowed. What I would suggest in these circumstances is that they may proceed on the assumption that the advance copies are copies of questions as permitted and then a little modification here and there of questions disallowed may be looked to thereafter. That is so far as the Departments are concerned. So far as Honourable Members are concerned, each Honourable Member knows which questions he has given notice of. There are two alternatives before Honourable Members; either copies may be sent to the residences of Honourable Members in which case, it will not be possible to have an equal number of copies placed on the table of the House, so that Honourable Members will have to carefully preserve the copies sent to their residences and bring them here when they come to the Chamber; the other alternative is to have the copies placed here on the table of the House, instead of being sent to the residences of Honourable Members. I am entirely in the hands of Honourable Members.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi: General): That will not work.

Mr. President: Then, the only alternative that can be adopted is to send copies to the residences of Honourable Members, of course, excluding official Members.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy (Law Member): Presumably questions as admitted will also be supplied to the Departments.

Mr. President: But as I said, fewer number of copies will be supplied. At present, I believe we are supplying 15 copies. Instead of that the number of copies will be three or four.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I am not quite certain how long this arrangement is expected to last. Does it mean that the present strike is going to last very long? If I am not mistaken, questions relating to 14th or 16th March are already in circulation. That is to say we have got copies of these questions in advance. If the press strike is going to be extended beyond the 16th, I do not know what might happen. I do not see why we should not take steps to end the strike. This is an urgent matter of public importance and we ought to be able to devise some way to settle this dispute as quickly as possible. I suggest that the Honourable Member in charge of the Press may invite the leaders of Parties or their representatives to a conference and invite others also and we can all sit down and settle the whole issue straightaway.

Mr. President: The time for transacting the non-official business set down on the agenda is very short. I am anxious to see that the two Motions of Dr. Deshmukh are carried through today, otherwise they do not stand the chance of ever going through. So, I will hurry up. My only purpose in inviting the attention of the House to this factor was that inconvenience may not be caused to Honourable Members all at once and as a matter of surprise. That does not mean that the strike may be continued any longer. Steps will no doubt be taken to see that the strike ends soon. If the Press works normally or even less than normally, efforts will be made to have these questions printed, as usual, but so long as the facilities are not there, we have to restrict ourselves to this rationing of questions, if I may say so.

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab: Sikh): May I suggest that copies of questions may be printed at the Viceroy's Press. There is no strike there.

Mr. President: We will discuss all these matters, later on.

HINDU MARRIED WOMEN'S RIGHT TO SEPARATE RESIDENCE AND MAINTENANCE BILL.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to give Hindu Married Women a right to separate residence and maintenance under certain circumstances be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Sir Asoka Roy, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee, Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan, Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan, Shri Sri Prakasa, Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Sri A. Karunakara Menon, Sjt. N. V. Gadgil, Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai, Pandit Balakrishna Sharma, Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava, Sardar Mangal Singh, Mr. Madandhari Singh, Mr. Leslie Gwilt, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, and the Mover, with instructions to report by the 21st March, 1946, and that the number of Members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Sir, I do not want to make any speech in commending my Motion for the acceptance of the House. I hope we are coming to less controversial matters. My Party is practically unanimous that this measure should go to the Select Committee, and as far as I know the Honourable the Law Member is sympathetically considering this question. This is a very old question which has been discussed by the previous Assembly and it was unanimous in appointing a Select Committee. So I do not wish to make any speech. Sir, I move.

Mr. President: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to give Hindu Married Women a right to separate residence and maintenance under certain circumstances be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Sir Asoka Roy, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee, Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan, Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan, Shri Sri Prakasa, Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Sri A. Karunakara Menon, Sjt. N. V. Gadgil, Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai, Pandit Balakrishna Sharma, Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava, Sardar Mangal Singh, Mr. Madandhari Singh, Mr. Leslie Gwilt, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, and the Mover, with instructions to report by the 21st March, 1946, and that the number of Members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Mr. P. B. Gole (Berar: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I have tabled an amendment to this Motion for the circulation of this Bill. But if it has been settled in our Party that this Bill should go to the Select Committee, I do not propose to move that amendment. But at the same time, I would like to bring to the notice of the House certain features of this Bill.

Mr. President: I might inform the Honourable Member before he brings in those features, there is another Bill of Dr. Deshmukh which has to be moved. There is another Bill of Shri Sri Prakasa. There is a further motion by Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer. We have now got only 13½ minutes, to be exact.

Mr. P. B. Gole: I am very sorry Sir, there is no time. But that is no reason why I should not have my say on the measure.

Mr. President: There is no reason why the Honourable Member should curtail his remarks. I merely pointed out that these are private Bills and it will be for Honourable Members to adjust the discussion as they think fit.

[Mr. President]

do not want any Honourable Member to curtail his remarks, not the least. That is not my intention.

Mr. P. B. Gole: I am not on the Select Committee. It would therefore be much better if I offer my remarks at this stage.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi: General): Do you wish to be on the Select Committee?

Mr. P. B. Gole: I do not wish to force myself on the Select Committee.

Mr. President: Does the Honourable Member wish to have his name included in the list of members for the Select Committee?

Mr. P. B. Gole: I shall offer my remarks now, if I am not included in the Select Committee.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I formally move, Sir:

"That the name of Mr. P. B. Gole be added to the Select Committee."

Mr. President: Motion moved:

"That the name of Mr. P. B. Gole be added to the Select Committee."

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy (Law Member): I accept the Motion for reference to the Select Committee. There are certain defects in the Bill which can of course be remedied in the Select Committee.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the name of Mr. P. B. Gole be added to the Select Committee."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the Bill to give Hindu Married Women a right to separate residence and maintenance under certain circumstances be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Sir Asoka Roy, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee, Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan, Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan, Shri Sri Prakasa, Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Sri A. Karunakara Menon, Sjt. N. V. Gadgil, Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai, Pandit Balakrishna Sharma, Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava, Sardar Mangal Singh, Mr. Madandhari Singh, Mr. Leslie Gwilt, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Mr. P. B. Gole, and the Mover, with instructions to report by the 21st March, 1946, and that the number of Members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

The motion was adopted.

HINDU MARRIAGE DISABILITIES REMOVAL BILL.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to remove legal disabilities under Hindu Law in respect of marriage between Hindus, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Sir Asoka Roy, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee, Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan, Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan, Shri Sri Prakasa, Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Sri A Karunakara Menon, Sjt. N. V. Gadgil, Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai, Pandit Balkrishna Sharma, Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava, Sardar Mangal Singh, Mr. Leslie Gwilt, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Mr. P. B. Gole, and the Mover, with instructions to report by the 21st March, 1946, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Mr. President: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to remove legal disabilities under Hindu Law in respect of marriage between Hindus, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Sir Asoka Roy, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee, Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan, Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan, Shri Sri Prakasa, Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Sri A Karunakara Menon, Sjt. N. V. Gadgil, Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai, Pandit Balkrishna Sharma, Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava, Sardar Mangal Singh, Mr. Leslie Gwilt, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Mr. P. B. Gole, and the Mover, with instructions to report by the 21st March, 1946, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Mr. Madandhari Singh (Bihar and Orissa: Landholders): Sir, I have tabled a motion that the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Sir, I should like to point out that this should be the least controversial because it was accepted by the last Assembly.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy (Law Member): By a majority of one vote.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Still, it was accepted. And I take it that the same attitude of sympathy on the side of Government and on this side continues.

Mr. President: If the Honourable Member wishes to move his amendment I cannot prevent him from doing so.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: If he would like to come to the Select Committee I have no objection. That will give him a chance to express his views in a more authoritative way, and I am sure he will agree to it.

Mr. Madandhari Singh: I have no objection, Sir.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma (Cities of the United Provinces: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I move:

"That the name of Mr. Madandhari Singh may be added to the list of members of the Select Committee."

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the name of Mr. Madandhari Singh may be added to the list of members of the Select Committee."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: Sir, I shall accept this motion for reference to Select Committee but I shall only repeat what I said on the last occasion that caluse 2(b) of this Bill is wholly unnecessary. And I also presume that my Honourable friend the Mover does not wish that his Bill should go further than is suggested by the Hindu Law Committee in their draft Code.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: That will be settled with the guidance of the Law Member.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded District and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, clause 1 is absolutely non-controversial and must be accepted. As regards clause 2 the Select Committee suggested that freedom may be given to the provinces to modify it so as to make it suitable. Whichever province is forward may accept it and if any province wants to wait, the power may be given to the Provincial Government.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: I did not go into the matter in detail.

Mr. President: We need not go into all these details now.

The question is:

"That the Bill to remove legal disabilities under Hindu Law in respect of marriage between Hindus, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Sir Asoka Roy, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee, Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan, Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan, Shri Sri Prakasa, Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Sri A Karunakara Menon, Sjt. N. V. Gadgil, Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai, Pandit Balkrishna Sharma, Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava, Sardar Mangal Singh, Mr. Leslie Gwilt, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Mr. P. B. Gole, Mr. Madandhari Singh, and the Mover, with instructions to report by the 21st March, 1946, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

The motion was adopted.

INDIAN COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Companies Act, 1913.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Companies Act, 1913."

The motion was adopted.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

HINDU INTER-CASTE MARRIAGE REGULATING AND VALIDATING BILL.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to regulate and validate marriages between different castes and sub-castes of Hindus.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to regulate and validate marriages between different castes and sub-castes of Hindus."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

INDIAN ARMS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer (Bombay Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Indian Arms Act, 1878.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Indian Arms Act, 1878."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

BHAGAULI TRAIN DISASTER

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Assembly do now adjourn."

By moving this motion I wish the House to consider a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the train collision between the Dehra Dun Express and a Goods Train resulting in 50 deaths and 150 injured and the carelessness and indifference on the part of Government to take steps to avoid such train disasters.

4 P. M.

Sir, all Members of the House will be aware that the accident took place on Monday last in the early hours of the morning at Bhagauli, 48 miles from Lucknow. The latest information regarding the casualties is 50 dead and 150 injured. It is said, Sir, that it is a major disaster. In the *Hindustan Times* it is stated that the head-on collision is described by officials who visited the scene of the accident as a 'major accident'. It is not the non-official version, but the official version itself, and the figures speak for themselves. It took place in the early hours of the morning and there could be no justification for it unless there is something wrong in the mechanism itself and the manner in which the Government has been managing its business. It is not the first instance within recent years when a collision of this sort has occurred. I have got here, year after year, the figures showing the number of collisions—owing to the beautiful management of the Government and the Administration—and you will see that they have been increasing, and the number of casualties have been mounting up. Collisions alone have increased from 263 in 1940-41 to 371 in 1942-43, 423 in 1943-44, and 423 in 1944-45. Within a period of five years, they have increased by 75 per cent.—from 263 to 423. Similarly, derailments have also increased from 5,601 in 1940-41 to 8,550 in 1944-45. It is an appalling figure.

Then I come to the number of persons killed and injured. The number was 9,993 in 1940-41 and it rose steadily to 11,146 in the next year—1941-42. 11,245 in the third year; 13,734 in 1943-44; and 14,667 in the last year 1944-45. The figures speak for themselves.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): May I ask the Honourable Member if that includes train accidents due to trespassers and so on?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: No, they are only collisions and derailments. I have taken these figures from your Red Book.

This is the tale. So far as the present year is concerned, I have been anxious to get the figures from the Honourable Member himself and put a question across the floor of the House and my Honourable friend, Mr. Saksena also asked for the same information. It is easy to gather that information. My Honourable friend had notice of a thing like this. I can refer him to one such after the Assembly started this year. On the 31st of January there occurred an accident near Jodhpur where two persons were killed and nine were injured. You can see how this Government has been callous and indifferent. My Honourable friend himself was asked by me to accept a question of short notice regarding this, but he considered the death of 2 persons on a train smash as absolutely unimportant and refused to accept a short notice question. Has he answered that till now. Life of an Indian is absolutely nothing so far as this Honourable Member is concerned; that is how he has flouted this House and the entire Indian nation. It is for this thing alone that an adjournment not only for one day but for the entire Session will be proper though it is cutting off our own nose to spite others.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Why not cut off his nose to spite us.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: If I had power I would certainly do so.

Let us now consider how such accidents happen. Such occurrences can happen in one of three ways. First of all, I would like to have some information from the Honourable Member. It is said in today's *Hindustan Times*:

"An eye-witness of the accident gives the following account: "It was a ghastly sight . . . . . I am sure that the driver of the Dehra Dun Express, who has been killed, was not to blame. The home signal had been given, but the points do not appear to have been changed. That was how the collision occurred. The Express was running at a speed of 20 miles per hour. . . . . ."

If it is so, the home signal was given but the points did not change. It is a matter which is entirely due to the faulty system. I would like to know from the Honourable Member if the automatic interlocking system prevails on this section of the E. I. R.? May I know from the Honourable Member if it is so?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I could not tell you. I require notice.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I am aware of these alternatives. If the interlocking system is there, the points must have changed. If they did not, then there is a defect. This defect was pointed out to the Honourable Member—not to his department—by two persons one from the M. & S. M. Railway where in spite of the interlocking, points did not change. The man was sought to be sacked. He was a Station Master at Gudur, one Ayyangar. That man complained and wrote out a long article, and also sent a report saying that in spite of the interlocking system certain defects occur and those defects must be removed. He was sacked and this is how this 'inconvenience' has been cured. That is all due to the beautiful administration of the department in the hands of my Honourable friend. If there is no interlocking system there is absolutely no reason why in a major line of this kind interlocking sysetm ought not to have been established. Therefore in either way the Administration has been responsible for this kind of fault. Interlocking system will automatically do away with many of these accidents. Even in certain cases in spite of the interlocking system being established, accidents may occur, but the Administration must be on the look out for such defects occurring and they should adopt remedial measures. He has not done so.

At this stage Mr. President vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan).]

I am also informed that a driver at Betragunta went into a wrong line. He was sought to be dismissed and on appeal he was reinstated. Ultimately he was able to satisfy the authorities that there is a defect in the mechanism

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—lowering of the signal does not change the point. It is more than a year ago. What steps have been taken by the Administration to remove this defect and bring the system absolutely up-to-date?

Thus they cannot run away with the explanation that some people there were responsible for this. It is easy for the administraton to say this. Most of the reports, where inspectors have entered into the investigation of such accidents, have thrown the blame on the man on the spot,—a coolie who gets about Rs. 10 to Rs. 12. He is ultimately sacked. But that man is not responsible. It may be due to negligence or due to sabotage. Neither of these has up to now been alleged. Let me take the first: negligence on the part of those people. They are overworked. The Honourable Member has those men on duty for 16 to 17 hours a day. He thinks that those people must work like machines. When I enter into the compartment of a railway train my life is in the hands of the railway administration. It is not a matter of indifference. You invite people to get into your trains. You create a monopoly, and then when these things happen you say it is an ordinary affair! I say the blood of every individual that has been shed rests on the Centre. But look at the indifference with which they have taken it. They have not even tried to alleviate the grievances of the people in charge of it. If it is negligence, you must reduce the hours of work. There is a railway strike already threatening. The strike of the postal peons seems to have been resolved. We have yet to see how the railwaymen's grievances are redressed. We do not know whether the strike is coming. If it is sabotage, even then the railway administration is responsible for it. In any case, whether it is the machines or the persons who misbehave, these things could be averted. I do not want to throw blame on the Honourable Member's organisation provided it is absolutely due to causes beyond the control of hmuan agency which can be prevented by proper steps being taken. I say, this could have been prevented.

Even to-day, what is the attitude of the Honourable Member? My Honourable friend asked him if he would run up. He says he is too busy. He would not send the Chief Commissioner. He would not send the person in charge of the Traffic Department. Would he be allowed to do this in his own country? As regards the officials, the Inspector is subordinate to this Government and subordinate to the Honourable Member. But whether he is subordinate or not, I have found that these people white-wash themselves and they throw the blame on some individual there. I say that the administration will have to pay compensation for the 50 that have died. Therefore a man of the administration would not do justice. Therefore, Justice Thom, a High Court Judge, was appointed to go into the Bihta disaster. There they said that it was due to sabotage. He said:

"I am satisfied after a full consideration of the entire evidence that the Railway Administration have been guilty of negligence. It was suggested in the course of argument that the Railway Administration in relation to the matters under discussion had acted throughout in a manner consistent with ordinary railway working."

That is again the explanation that my Honourable friend was going to give.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member's time is up.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Continuing Sir John Thom says:

"I am unable to accept this contention. The law upon the matter is perfectly clear. It demands from the Railway Company, as indeed from every other concern which has a duty to make due provision for the safety of the Public, that care, caution and circumspection which a prudent man of business would exercise in the direction of his own affairs. The Railway Company, in my judgment have clearly failed in the discharge of their functions to exercise that ordinary care upon which the law insists."

I do say, Sir, that in any case, judging it from any point of view, this loss of life of 50 people and injury to 150 (possibly the actual figures may be more than 150) is the result of maladministration and carelessness and indifferece. I cannot find words strong enough to censure this Government. I do request the whole House to support this motion for adjournment.

Mr. Deputy President: Motion moved:

"That the Assembly do now adjourn."

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): May I suggest that the Honourable the Leader of the House do give use the additional information which he promised and also deal with this subject from the Government point of view? That is the usual practice: that early in the debate the Member for Government intervenes.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths (Assam: European): That is not so. On a point of order. It is the general presumption in this House that when a Member moves an adjournment motion he is himself in possession of the facts on which it is based. He is not supposed to rely on the Government Member for the facts that he wishes to charge against them.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Let us hear the Government case.

Mr. Deputy President: The Chair cannot force the Honourable Member to speak. That is his look out and the look out of the House.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I do not wish to make a speech at this moment. I think it is much better to answer the points raised by Honourable Members. I gave very full information this morning. I have certain further detailed information to give which I will give in the course of my speech. If you will permit me just to give one or two additional facts and then speak again when I am winding up the debate . . . .

Mr. Deputy President: If the Honourable Member wants he may speak now. If he wishes to defer his speech he may.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Honourable Member asked for certain facts on a point of information.

Mr. Manu Subedar: He said by four o'clock he would be in possession of more facts as he was himself in telephonic communication with the authorities.

Mr. Deputy President: Either the Honourable Member can speak now or defer. He cannot make half the speech now and the other half at another time.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I can give one or two points of information.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division Non-Muhammadan Rural): Some other Member can give the information.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I am sorry the Government are not helping us with additional information which they must have secured by telephone between the discussion this morning and by four o'clock now. I hope that they have adequate answer to give to the charge which is levelled against them, namely, one of negligence, one of carelessness, of broken promises and of failure to carry out the undertakings given to this very House after the last disasters. I remember, Sir, after the Bihta disaster there were prolonged enquiries and in this very House a long list of assurances was given to the public that Government would take all these various measures in order to prevent such disasters. I shall await from the Honourable Member, *seriatim*, a reply to those points, to those definite promises which he himself made in this House and which his predecessor made in this House after the Bihta disaster.

The first impression one gets when one reads of a terrible tragedy like this is one of gloom. We cannot imagine the scenes of the train suddenly going off into a crash and in that very instant of the crash hundreds of people being shocked nervously, hundreds being injured and many killed outright. It is a

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scene which we may deplore, we may offer our sympathy to the victims and to all those people connected with them, but nothing that we say here is going to bring those back to life. Our sympathy, Sir, and the sympathy of every Member of this House goes out to those who have suffered in this manner, and I was glad to hear from Government this morning that the Chief Medical Officer was on the train and something was being done for those who were injured. I, doubt however, whether there was any medicinal equipment available.

As a matter of fact, I remember on previous occasions it was definitely suggested that medical equipment of the first aid variety should accompany every big express train when it is running. Was that done on this occasion? Was such equipment available, I ask? Sir, the Honourable the Leader of the House said this morning that relief trains were run down there, the injured were brought back to Lucknow and every thing possible was being done. I hope that information is correct and I hope that from the popular side we shall not hear that this is an exaggerated account and that officials are taking credit to themselves for something which they had not done.

With regard to rewards and compensations, these victims were all third class passengers. If that is so, all the more my sympathy goes out to those bereaved and to those who were dependent on the dead. And in this connection may I make a suggestion for the consideration of Government and that is this. They came to this House and got this House to accept a Limiting Act, by which the total amount of compensation to any particular individual was limited. But I know the manner in which these compensations are worked for the very poor. They do not know their rights. The Railway Administration does nothing to inform them what their rights are under such circumstances. It is some wily lawyer who gets hold of them and divides probably the bulk of the money given between himself and the members of the family. I would ask the Government in this particular case to consider whether a little more liberal allowance of compensation may not be given in those cases where the number of dependents is large and where the distress is very real. In view of the fact that the railways have made enormous earnings, what I say is only just and fair, that those who are really aggrieved and those who have really left behind an unmanageably large family and to whom the meagre sum of compensation which will be given under the legal award will not be adequate, should be considered sympathetically by this Government.

The causes which usually lead to this sort of thing are many. In this particular case the Honourable the Railway Member has pleaded that he is not aware so far of the cause and that enquiry is going on. On the last occasion it was a question of speed. Whether the speed was not excessive, whether it was possible for the driver as he was speeding up to be able to judge, whether he was going at 40, 50 or 60 miles an hour—I will confess myself that travelling between Bombay and Delhi I have occasionally felt that the train was going at an unduly high speed—it is not possible for a layman to judge whether the speed is within the limits prescribed or whether it is not excessive. On the last occasion when this point was raised the Railway Administration said that it was not possible even for the driver to judge, because he had not the means in all cases. He had not the speedometer. He had not the equipment to judge within five to ten miles whether he was going over prescribed speed. In case a driver is driving at an excessive speed he is asking for trouble and personally I would say that if the Railway Administration cannot do better than produce this dismal record, which my friend read out, let us reduce the speed all round. We would rather have safety first. We would rather have a complete assurance that this sort of disasters would not occur than try and ape at European and American standards of speed without the same efficiency in the administration of the railways, which those railways possess.

Then there is the question with regard to signals and points. These are old stagers, old friends of ours, and they come up whenever a large accident occours and whenever the question arises as to whether the signal equipment was

correct and whether the points were correct. In this connection I think the House will pay the just weight to what my friend, from the experience of another station master, clearly indicated; *viz.*, that the points have a way of getting out of order and if they are not frequently inspected by superior authorities they would misbehave on some occasions. These enquiries by the Senior Government Inspector are routine enquiries and they are of no use. They go on evidence which is forthcoming. May I ask whether this Government has always accepted the findings of their own officers and the recommendations of their own Senior Government Inspectors in respect of past accidents, whether all the recommendations of those people have been carried out or whether they have been blue-lined and red-lined by superior officers sitting in Delhi, who thought that these recommendations were not necessary. In any case these enquiries generally take the line of white-washing and as my friend rightly pointed out, it is the small pointsman who is victimised. Take the case of these pointsmen. They are poor men who are not given a proper minimum wage, men who are unable within the small amount which is given to them to get adequate food, men who are worked long hours. I hope in this enquiry it will not be the small man who will be victimised to cover it up. The real culprits are at the top and it is they who have failed in the system. It is not the small man whom they will find out.

We have to learn the lesson with regard to these disasters when they occur. As I said, in 1938 a long list was drawn up of the precautions which the Railway Administration was going to take in order to prevent accidents and tragedies of this order and yet since 1938, in spite of all that was promised, my friend has read out there are every year no less than 423 collisions, no less than 8,500 derailments and no less than 14,300 lives lost.

Sir, these are poor men. It is a mere accident and good fortune that any one of us is not involved in this disaster. Therefore I call upon every Member of the House to judge the depth of the tragedy from the point of view as if it would occur to anyone of us and I say that this is no laughing matter.

Now, Sir, the administration of the railways in this country, in spite of many protests from this side of the House, has been kept at the top both in every system of the railway and in the Railway Board entirely in the hands of the whiteman. I do not wish to bring racialism into this problem but I cannot avoid pointing out to the attention of this country that we must hold these men responsible. They are drawing fat salaries, they are drawing salaries which should go to the sons of the soil and they have been found incompetent, they have been found inefficient as the story of the collisions, derailments and the lives lost clearly proclaims. As my friend said, just assume that in this disaster 50 whitemen had been killed. Assume that it was a military train in which white soldiers had lost their lives to the extent of 50 men and 150 injured. You would have then found all my friends here moving heaven and earth and trying to find out what was what and trying to put it right. It is true that in the past the attitude has been that life was cheap in India and that they need not go out of their way to do anything special. But I say that no Government should put a limit to the extent of the care which it extends to the provisions which will prevent tragedies of this kind.

This is no place for complacency of any kind. Every Government must look into every disaster of this kind and draw a lesson for the future, as to what could possibly be done in order to prevent a repetition. Has this Government done this properly in the past? I have no hesitation in saying that after the immediate enthusiasm, after meeting the adjournment motion in this House, this Government goes to sleep. It does not do its work properly. And what more proof could we have found of their negligence in this direction than the reluctance of the Honourable Member this morning to accept the suggestion that was put forward from here that the Chief Commissioner for Railways should go? I understand the difficulty. I myself have had occasions to deal with factories lying in further parts of the country where difficulties have arisen;

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and if you send down a head office man, it does appear as if you are for the time being passing over the authority of the local man. But it can be done without this departmental sensitiveness. These national disasters are not the kind of occasions when you should stand on this sort of narrow and technical ceremony, and I again suggest, and I trust the Honourable the Railway Member will give us a definite and categorical assurance, that the Chief Commissioner of Railways whose direct responsibility it is, to look into these accidents and to take all the measures which would avoid such accidents in future, I do want this assurance that Government have decided to send him down and that the report which he will prepare on this subject will be given to Members of this House. Sir, I support the motion for adjournment.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to support the motion before the House. I have no doubt that the whole House including Sir Edward Benthall the Honourable Member in charge, do feel that happening of such tragedies should be avoided in this country. These accidents have been so frequent in the last few years that sometimes we have begun to suspect the capacities of these people who run the Railway administration. I should point out one fact which just came out in one of the newspapers which is printed at Bombay and has been delivered here by air—it says that the engine was too powerful and that the number of bogies were not sufficient to give the necessary load with the result that the speed could not be controlled and the engine ran at a speed which was responsible to some extent for the accident. I am not going to say anything regarding the verification of the fact at the moment, because that is one of the many other versions that has been given by the press. I would certainly like that a categorical assurance should be given to this House by the Honourable Member in charge in this connection that the whole thing will be looked into carefully and a further assurance that efforts will be made in future to avoid this as far as practicable.

Of course, the Government may say that it was never the intention of E. I. Railway administration to have brought about this accident. Accident itself carries the philology which means what it means; but at the same time human efforts should be directed on lines which would minimise the chances as much as possible. I would like to impress upon this House that if we compare the figures of accidents per 1,000 miles run average in other countries where traffic probably is more dense than here, the percentage of the accidents in our country as compared to any other country in the world—is higher by nearly three hundred times.

Most surprising feature is that this has happened more frequently during state management of Railways. Probably during the company management, things were not bad enough. I have always been one of those who advocate the cause of the Railway employees and pleaded for their better conditions of service; but at the same time I am not here to say that these employees should be allowed to neglect their duties and do things which would not be in the interests of the public whose servants they are. It is in that very spirit, that I have been advocating their cause but when we feel that these Railway servants were not coming up to the expectation we have to warn the administration. We expect that they also should take due care of responsibility that they have in the matter. With these few words, I support the motion.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (Secretary, Posts and Air Department): My only reason for rising to take part in this debate is to deal with the points raised by the Honourable the Mover and the Honourable Mr. Subedar regarding the inquiry into this accident. Last year, at the time of the Railway Budget, a cut motion was moved by Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: he advocated the desirability of judicial inquiries into railway accidents involving loss of human life. The

matter was debated at very great length and on that occasion I explained to the House the exact constitution of the railway inspectorate and its function. Perhaps as the House is new to some extent, it would be useful to explain that as a result of the report on the Bihta disaster and the subsequent resolutions passed in this House and in the Council of State, the Government of India decided to separate the railway inspectorate from the Railway Department. Formerly, the Government inspectors were selected from among railway engineers and they worked as inspectors for a certain number of years and when their turn came for promotion they were reverted to the railway. The result was that the inspectors felt to some extent afraid of the General Managers when they were inquiring into an accident which occurred on a railway system. The present constitution is this—there is a Chief Government Inspector of Railways who is the adviser to Government in the matter of railway safety. He is not under the Railway Department. He is under the Posts and Air Department, the Member for which is different from the Member in charge of the Railway Department. (Interruptions). There are five inspectors who are stationed in different parts of India and it is their duty to inquire into accidents. Section 4 of the Indian Railways Act lays down the duties of the inspector and section 83 explains when the railway inspector is required to inquire into accidents. The section says:

> "When any of the following accidents occur in the course of working a railway, namely, any accident attended with loss of human life or with grievous hurt or with serious injury to property, any collision between trains of which one is a train carrying passengers, or the derailment of any train carrying passengers in any part of a train, any accident of a description usually attended with loss of human life or with grievous hurt as aforesaid and any accident of any other description which may be notified in this behalf by government."

Now, the railway inspector receives the very first intimation of an accident and he proceeds to the scene of the accident as soon as he possibly can; and when he has made his inquiry, he submits his report to the Chief Government Inspector, who then sends it to the Posts and Air Department. During the course of the discussion last year, Mr. Nauman who spoke on the motion, complained that the public did not know when and where the Government Inspector held an inquiry. I made inquiries as a result of Mr. Nauman's complaint, and we have since prescribed that whenever a Government Inspector of Railways is going to hold an inquiry, he shall immediately communicate it to the press, have it broadcast through the A.I.R. and give intimation in the local area; he calls upon any member of the public whether he is a passenger or whether he is a spectator at the time of the accident or soon after, to come and give evidence; and if it is inconvenient to such witness, we are prepared to allow him to come up to any place where it is convenient to take his evidence.

It was suggested by Mr. Manu Subedar that the Chief Commissioner or the Honourable Member in charge of the Railway Department should go and inquire. I would submit that this is extremely undesirable. The Government Inspector should not have these big personages going there and making inquiries. The Inspector is the statutory authority for making inquiries and I think we would hold his inquiry and make his report with far less difficulty or embarrassment than if the Chief Commissioner or the Honourable the Railway Member went and stayed there to make inquiries. An inquiry of this kind takes considerable time. It involves an examination on the spot of various technical matters and taking evidence from the people. In this particular case I do urge upon the House to hold its judgment in abeyance. Various allegations have been made and the newspapers have been publishing all sorts of allegations. Well, I say—give time to the Government Inspector to go and find out for himself. My friend, Mr. Manu Subedar said that there must be a defect in the interlocking system. May be it is so, I do not know. Mr. Nauman says that the train had got a light load and therefore the engine could not stop in time. That may be so—I do not know but I urge on the House to hold its judgment in abeyance. I have no reason whatsoever to hold that the Government Inspector would in any

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way try to whitewash the administration. I would like to tell the House that I have been in charge of this Government Inspectorate for the last nearly 4 years. I have never seen any attempt on the part of any Government Inspector to try and show that the Railway Department was all right. Whenever there have been defects, he has not hesitated to point out what the defects were. Sometimes it is a failure of the human element—a driver driving against signals. Well, you cannot rule out such accidents. They occur in every walk of life. Sometimes it may be a defect in the system in which case immediate steps are taken to remedy that defect. A new rule is prescribed or a new device is adopted by which such accidents could be stopped.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I ask one question. Is it a fact that whenever any recommendations were made by Inspectors, they were immediately implemented by the Railway authorities?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: That is a matter for the Railway Department to implement. We call for a report as to what action the Railway Department has taken. There have been cases in which the Railway Department has not been able to implement anything. I can give one small instance—headlights on engines. During the war we could not get the bulbs. Engines had to travel without headlights or sometimes A.R.P. precautions stopped engines using head-lights and some accidents had occurred, due to this absence of a head-light but I have never had a case in which the Railway Department refused to accept the recommendation of a Railway Inspector and the system is exactly the same in the United Kingdom. I would like to assure Mr. Manu Subedar that on the last occasion I visited England I went and saw the Chief Government Inspector of Railways there and I ascertained that both the principles of working and the methods of working of the Inspectorate are exactly the same. The inquiry is made by an independent Inspector. As you know, in England railways are run by companies whereas here they are run by the State but the Inspectorate is independent and an inquiry is made by the Inspector and by none else.

I would like to state one more point. A railway Inspector not only inquires into the cause of the accident but it is also his duty to inquire into the number of casualties that occurred and the remedies adopted for evacuating the injured, the provision of refreshments for the people on the spot, the time taken in clearing the railway line for open running and so on. All these matters are reported upon by the Government Inspector. In order to satisfy the House and in view of the interest that the House is taking, I am prepared to make available the preliminary report of the Inspector. The preliminary report confines itself to a factual presentation. In order to arrive at the exact cause of the accident, as you will understand, he has to examine a large number of witnesses. Most witnesses, particularly those in the department try to protect each other or protect themselves by throwing the blame on some one else and he has to have a technical examination made but the preliminary report gives as accurate a presentation of the facts as possible regarding the place where the accident occurred, the casualties, the medical relief that was given and so on and I am quite prepared to make that available to the House. I would urge upon the House not to take the view that there has been neglect or that there has been this or that, before an inquiry has been made into this accident. The inquiry will be made by an independent authority and his report will be available to the House.

I have no reason to suppose that there have been many more accidents than usual. Various figures were read out but those include all kinds of accidents, those which occurred in ordinary goods yards and various other things. (*An Honourable Member*: "Collisions"). Every kind of thing is called a collision. (Interruption). The Honourable the Railway Member will explain the position as it concerns the Railway Department but I am concerned with the accidents

into which the Inspectorate is required to inquire under the law and those are the accidents in which, as I mentioned, there has been either loss of life or grievous hurt or serious loss of property. Into those the Inspector inquires. As the House is aware, during the last five or six years, the Railways have been working under very great strain. There has been an enormous amount of traffic moved, which in ordinary times would not have occurred. They have stood the strain very well indeed and there is no reason to believe that accidents have increased in any way. I do not think my friend Mr. Manu Subedar need be afraid of travelling by the Frontier Mail at 60 miles an hour. The speeds are all examined and prescribed with due regard to safety. I therefore urge that this adjournment motion should not be supported by the House.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: Mr. Deputy President: I do not propose today to make a lengthy or a formal speech. I shall merely explain in a few sentences why we in this Group are not prepared on the evidence at present before us to support this adjournment motion. (*An Honourable Member*: "Why not"?) I will tell you why not.

I take it for granted that every member of every Party in this House is deeply moved and shocked at the tragedy that has taken place. The number killed and the number injured are not yet exactly known. Whether that number be small or great, the fact that this tragedy should have occurred is a fact which must move us profoundly, but our sorrow at that fact must not blunt our reason or lead us impulsively into forming conclusions before we have before us the facts on which alone those conclusions could be based.

At this stage I must say, and I say it with reluctance, that I deplore the attempt made by Mr. Manu Subedar to introduce a racial issue. I deplore his statement that if fifty white men had been concerned we in this Group should have been crying out for an inquiry. Whether the people who were killed were white or of whatever other colour, we in this Group would regard their death as a tragedy. We should nevertheless wish to know the facts before we attempted to pass our judgment regarding these facts. I trust that my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar, if he values at all the maintenance of goodwill and a calm atmosphere for the next few weeks, will try to abstain from this kind of unfair racial insinuation.

Mr. Manu Subedar: You are callous. The British officers are callous at Indian deaths.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: When my friend made the insinuation before, he pointed out at our Benches and he spoke not of the British officials but of the European Group. Now he has changed his ground. Let him be more careful in his statements and charges.

As far as we are concerned, we try to examine the motion as it stands before us today. It charges Government with carelessness and indifference. I speak, Sir, from a fairly long association with these problems. Although I have charged the Government many times before with many things, and I am as severe a critic as anybody else in this House, I have never charged them and can never charge them with indifference to human life or to human suffering. Many other faults they have, but indifference to human life is not amongst them. When I come to the second charge, the charge of carelessness, I frankly do not know on what facts this charge is based. It is a very fine phrase to say: "You are careless'. People have died and so there must have been carelessness. Does it always follow in human affairs that if people die, there has been carelessness? I frankly have no idea whether the Government or the Railway are blameworthy or are not blameworthy in the present case.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is not the Railway bound to take people safe?

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: They are bound to try to make people safe and if I had evidence to show that they have failed to try to make people safe, I shall be the first to come forward to condemn them. Let me remind my friend that we in this Group have not supported Government throughout in matters of this kind. (*An Honourable Member*: "Question"?) I am glad my friend says "Question".. Either he has a short memory or his political experience does not go back as far as mine. Perhaps he forgets that at the time of the Bihta disaster the first person in this House to condemn Government was not a member of his party, but myself. I severely condemned the Government at that time for what I considered their gross negligence and it was very largely as a result of that censure that the Government Inspector has since been taken away from the Railway Department. We in this Group are just as ready as my friends over there to censure the Government if and when we find there has been dereliction of duty. But we hold that even Government is entitled not to be judged until the facts have been made available. As far as we are concerned, we shall, therefore, suspend judgment on this issue and as long as we suspend judgment, we cannot go into the lobby with our friends who have moved this adjournment motion.

I have one more point to make. My friends over there made a great fuss about the fact that the Chief Commissioner or one of his colleagues has not been sent down to conduct an inquiry at once. Their memory is very short. They are forgetting that it was alleged at one time that inquiries made by those under the control of the Railway Member or those under the control of the Railway Board could not be regarded as impartial inquiries. It was they who came forward with the plea that inquiries into these accidents must be made by persons not under the control of the Railway Department and it was for that reason that Government took the decision, which I personally consider a very wise decision, to transfer the Department of the Government Inspector from my Honourable friend's Department to the Department of Posts and Air. That transfer was made purely in the interests of impartiality, and now my Honourable friends say: Send your Chief Commissioner to make an inquiry. In politics one does not expect very much consistency, but at least one ought to see some faint imitation of it. When I see the new point of my Honourable friends with regard to this matter. I cannot help feeling that they are now going back on their attitude to this transfer saying "Send your Chief Commissioner or one of the Members of the Railway Board to inquire." I feel that even in the depressing sphere of politics a little more consistency would not be wholly unwelcome.

Finally, let me reiterate what I said in the beginning, that we hold no view at the moment on the question of the blame for the present accident. We shall wait with great interest and attention for the report which will come forth in due course from the Government Inspector. When we have dealt with that report if we disagree and often we have disagreed with such reports in the past, we shall have no hesitation in saying what we think about it. If we think Government worthy of condemnation, we shall condemn them as loudly and vociferously as my Honourable friends on the other side of the House.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Without going into the lobby.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: Which lobby we go to will depend on what is the issue before the House. Unless we know that, we cannot decide what lobby we should go to. When these facts are before us and when the inquiry has been held, we shall assess the inquiry report and thereafter we shall know how to act.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. Deputy President, I rise to support this motion and in doing so I want to make it clear that when I suggested to the Honourable the War Transport Member to go on the spot and see things for himself, I did not want him to hold the inquiry. I suggested that course purely on humanitarian grounds. A friend of mine who had left Lucknow on the evening of Monday reached here last night. He had to come *via* Sitapur and he reached here only last night.

He gave me such a horrible account of the accident that the first thing I did this morning was to phone the Honourable Member and to tell him that I had received this information. I could not believe him because his stories may be baseless. So, I wanted authentic information and I told the Honourable Member that I was putting a short notice question on the subject. In reply he said that he would look into the question and see whether he could accept it or not.

Now, in the morning he informed us that there were only 43 deaths and about 55 injured. Just now I have got this paper which says that there were at least 60 deaths. It is the *National Herald* of Lucknow. It says:

"Forty-two bodies have so far been identified and handed over to the relations of the dead. Four unidentified bodies have been made over to a Muslim organisation at Aishbagh and three others kept in the King George's Medical College Hospital."

In addition to this 49 dead, he says 12 more are lying buried in the debris and he gives the names of the persons whose relations are supposed to be buried there. He says:

"Mr. Radheylal Agarwal and four other members of his family, residents of Narahi in Lucknow. They are supposed to be buried in the debris."

Not only that, here is a list of the persons who were identified and the list is printed in the morning paper of Lucknow, but the Honourable Member did not have that information in his possession. That paper also gives the number of injured. It says that so many were brought to Lucknow, so many were taken to Hardoi and so many to Shahjahanpur. The number is much more than 100. But what I want to bring to the notice of this Honourable House is this and I would like to draw the attention of my friend Mr. Griffiths to it. There is no doubt that the authorities were very callous. Let us see how these dead bodies were treated and how they were brought to Lucknow and how these injured persons were looked after. I will read out the statement from one of my friends who went to the station and who says in what condition he found these dead bodies. This is Mr. C. B. Gupta, the President of the City Congress Committee. He says:

"This morning I visited the railway station. It was the most pitiable sight to look at the bodies that were brought from Baghauli. Possibly it was one of the worst disasters in the history of railways. The arrangements made by the railway authorities to bring the injured as well as the dead were most unsatisfactory. No consideration was given by the authorities to the hygienic conditions in placing the bodies for inspection in the open space, flies hovering round their bodies and faces disfigured and smeared with blood. Till late in the afternoon no attempts were made to ward off the flies nor was any help given to the friends of the deceased to provide them with lorries to take the bodies to the cremation ground on behalf of the administration. It was the most callous exhibition of the wooden system of the administration that prevails in the country. While it should have been the duty of the railway administration to help the friends and relatives of the deceased by providing them with money and other things necessary for cremation, nothing was forthcoming from their side, and it was only left to a few public spirited citizens including the Chairman of the Municipal Board of Lucknow, and the Congress volunteers to arrange for the removal of the dead bodies to the cremation ground. I cannot but too strongly condemn the inhuman attitude of the railway administration."

5. P M.

I want the Honourable Member to deny this. I want him to tell me what arrangements were made for the disposal of these dead bodies. In what condition they were kept. Even in the report that I read today, it was given out that when the bodies came they were emitting very bad smell. They had not been properly kept. Anyway, surely some help should have been given to the relatives of the deceased. My Honourable friend did send a message of condolence. I thank him for this small mercy. But he sent the message of condolence to whom? To the Manager of E. I. Railway at Calcutta. He did not care to send any directions to those looking after the dead bodies at Lucknow as to what is to be done in respect of these dead bodies. Nor was any help given to the friends and relatives of the deceased. My Honourable friend must realise that in many cases, their relatives having died, the people who went there to look after the dead bodies must have been left penniless. They had not the wherewithal to enable them to dispose off the dead bodies or keep in touch with their friends.

[Shri Mohan Lal Saksena]

What I meant by my suggestion this morning was that some responsible member of the Government should go to the spot. The Government should have done at least what an ordinary lorry driver is expected to do in the case of accidents. When a lorry driver or a motor driver is found to have killed or run over a person, we take into account the subsequent conduct of the person as to how he looked after the persons injured or killed and in determining the sentence or the punishment, we take that fact into consideration.

It was admitted on all hands that this was a major disaster in which so many lives were lost, and still my Honourable friend says it was not the concern of the House. I did not want any enquiry to be made by them. I only wanted that some responsible officer of Government should go and see what was done to the injured and the dead, whether they were cared for at all. In case of such disaster, I know certain facts will have to be examined and enquired into before arriving at any conclusions. Our only suggestion is that non-officials also should be associated with this enquiry, or that some judicial enquiry should be held. What we are most anxious is that at least so far as the relatives of the deceased and injured are concerned, they must be made to feel that the Government are doing all that was possible under the circumstances. So, on this side of the House, we could not remain silent.

The Honourable Member for Railways was given an opportunity by the President to say whether he wanted more time to ascertain the real facts. But the Honourable Member wanted the adjournment motion to be taken up today. I suspect that he felt that later on more facts would be revealed and if the adjournment motion was taken up some other day, then it will not be possible for the Honourable Member to deny them. Unfortunately for him, full facts have come to me and I have read them out from the newspaper. I have got these figures, and I read them out. I want the Honourable Member to deny them. They cannot be denied, because the names of 42 persons who died are given out. The names of persons whose dead bodies were handed over are given out, the names of persons whose dead bodies lay in the debris are also given. Four persons were handed over to a Muslim organisation for disposal. I want to know whether any money was paid to that Muslim organisation. Three bodies were kept in King George's Medical College.

I do not want to go into the number of accidents. The facts and figures before me show that there were more collisions during recent years. My Honourable friend, Sir Gurunath Bewoor, said that there were collisions and collisions. But I say that here is a collision which cost human lives. We find from the report that the loss of life as well as the number of injured have gone up. If the number of accidents had gone up but the number of injured and killed had decreased, there would have been some justification in the way in which my Honourable friend wants to explain.

Now, Sir, I want to put it to my Honourable friend, Mr. Griffiths, through you, Sir, Mr. Deputy President, is it or is it not callous to have left the dead bodies in the condition in which they were left, the manner in which they were brought to Lucknow and the manner in which they were left in the open place for identification and the manner in which relations and friends of those killed were treated. They were not given any help by the railway administration in the matter of lorries to remove the dead bodies or in the matter of any monetary help. Does this or does this not show callousness on the part of the railway administration? I do not want this House to censure the Government for this disaster, because the causes of this disaster have yet to be enquired into. Those causes may have been different. I want the House to censure the Government for their failure to have done what was necessary on humanitarian grounds towards the deceased . . . .

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: I rise to a point of order.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I do not give way. My time is limited.

Mr. Deputy President: Since the Honourable Member wants to raise a point of order, he must be allowed to do so.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: I would recall to the House the terms of the Adjournment Motion of which notice was given:

"The train collision between the Dehra Dun Express and a Goods train resulting in 50 deaths and 150 injured and the carelessness and the indifference on the part of the Government to take steps to avoid such train disasters."

There is no mention of callousness in this motion.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Callousness is there. Callousness is proved beyond doubt. Indifference is there and it can be proved. I do not think the Motion can be modified now. But from the facts which I have brought before the House, it is evident there has been gross callousness on the part of the railway administration.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: May I say, Sir, I do not accept the version given out in the newspaper read out by the Honourable Member?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I do not want him to accept these facts merely from newspaper reports. I offered the Honourable Member to go to Lucknow. I wanted him to give the number of tickets of passengers that were issued from Delhi and from Meerut. We know that two Upper class carriages were attached next to the engine, next there was a third class bogie. It was smashed. It was said that third class passengers suffered more. I fail to understand how it is that the upper class passengers who were in the bogie next to the engine did not suffer damage, whereas the passengers in the third class bogie which was farther from the engine suffered more. In a way, the facts are as I have stated. I should like the Honourable Member to deny those facts. I made it clear to the Honourable Member that we on this side of the House desired that he should go to the scene of disaster or we suggested that he should send some responsible officer, or send one of ourselves to the scene of occurrence. It was not to hold an enquiry. We wanted to ascertain what were the things which could have been avoided. That was all we suggested.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member's time is over.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Sir, I myself find these accidents extremely distressing and shocking, accentuated by the fact that I and my Department are responsible for them. There is enough suffering in the world without these things taking place in addition. But I must say that I find it also positively sickening that my Honourable friends opposite should endeavour to make political capital out of this kind of thing and that they should try to raise racial animosity in such a mean way out of people's suffering. Not only that, but they do not even abstain from throwing stones at their own countrymen. Some of my Honourable friends opposite also did not hesitate to accuse us of deceiving them or trying to conceal facts. Why should we want to conceal facts? I stood up this morning in response to an irregular short notice question and gave all the information at my disposal, and I promised to give anything further that came in the course of the day. I am glad to meet the wishes of the House now in giving such further information as has come in since I spoke this morning. My information is secured from the railway authorities and I may point out that there were no less than seven doctors present on the spot, apart altogether from local doctors who came to help, and I do not think professional men of that sort would normally be accused of putting forward misleading figures. Up till this afternoon my information is that there are 47 dead. This morning I said there were 43; two more have since been reported as having died at Hardoi, and I do not know what the difference of the other two is due to. I have the names of 26 and the other 21 are unidentified. I will not argue much about that because the figure of 47 dead and the figure of 50 given in the adjournment motion are sufficiently near and it is possible that one or two more may be discovered under the wreckage of the engines, although five engine drivers and firemen who were killed have, I understand, been identified.

[Sir Edward Benthall]

As for the injured, my information is that there are 58 or 59 who were sufficiently bad to be taken to hospital. This morning I think I mentioned 56. I do not know how the discrepancy occurs; but of the injured, eight with major injuries have been taken to the Medical College and the Railway Hospitals at Lucknow and 36 with minor injuries, a total of 44; and 14 were taken to Hardoi Sadr Hospital. There were three more who were slightly injured and who did not want to go to hospital at Hardoi, and that may account for the difference between 56 and 59. But these were, as I understand it, the hospital cases. I have no doubt, as I said this morning, that there will probably be fully a hundred people who got shock and slight cuts, and naturally having been present at such an accident, found it very distressing to the nerves; and it is quite easy to make the figure up to 150 by including those who were not hospital cases.

Now I will show the thoroughness with which these figures were gone into. I am able to give the House full details of all the passengers on the train, those who were dead except the unidentified, those who were injured and those who were on the train but were not injured.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: How many are unidentified now?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is 25 or 21; it depends of course on the time of the report.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: When was this report sent?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: At 2-45 this afternoon.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I have here the names of 43 identified people.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: We must agree to differ. When the enquiry report comes out we shall see who is correct, and I have little doubt that my figures will be more accurate than those of my Honourable friend.

I was asked for various further information this morning. Somebody asked me for the number of tickets from Dehra Dun and Mussourie. I have some details here of about 111 tickets issued from those places. I do not quite see the relevancy of it because I think there is no proof that these people were in the carriages affected. Somebody again asked me where the coaches were put on and whether they were through coaches. The first coach—a First, Second and Intermediate coach—was put on, I understand, from Meerut to Lucknow; the second—also a First, Second and Intermediate—was from Delhi to Lucknow and the third coach was a third class coach running from Hardwar to Gaya.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: What about the number of tickets from Delhi to Lucknow?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I will find that out and give the Honourable Member the information.

Then I was talking about the relief given. I mentioned at considerable length the extent of the relief measures taken by the railways the moment they got the information; and I have not yet received complaints—I do not think I shall—of lack of medical attention. In fact I have the report of the Divisional Superintendent who made special inquiries on the spot that the passengers in the rear coaches were properly attended to and given food, water, and so on. As regards the dead bodies laid out for identification, they of course will be in the care of the railway authorities guided presumably by the medical officers. The bodies were under the charge actually of the railway police. My Honourable friend opposite asked whether any money was given to the friends and relatives of these people. The standing orders are that every assistance is to be given in such cases, but in the case of these dead bodies the trouble was that they were unidentified and therefore no relations were available to help. Once the relations turn up every assistance is given.

My Honourable friend Prof. Ranga this morning made what I thought was a most reprehensible suggestion that the driver was drunk. If my Honourable friend had read the *Hindustan Times* this morning he would have seen the testimonial of some passengers that the driver appears to have acted with great presence of mind. The moment he realised his points were wrong and he was going on a wrong line he jammed on the brakes, otherwise there would be an even more serious accident. This was reported in the *Hindustan Times*.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: It also says that the number of killed is over 50 and the number of injured over 100.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have dealt with that. I do not understand why my Honourable friends opposite denigrate their own countrymen in a way which is sometimes extraordinary. Unfortunately the drivers were killed,—one a Hindu and one a Muslim. The firemen killed were one Muslim and two Hindus. I do not frankly understand why aspersions should be cast in this manner; it is beyond my comprehension.

My Honourable friend Mr. Ayyangar asked why we did not send down a responsible officer. We did; we sent down the Chief Operating Superintendent of the Railway, the officer responsible for operating the line. He happened to be in Delhi on that day attending an operating meeting; and as soon as information came through we sent him down to the scene of the accident or rather he went of his own volition. He is the officer responsible.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Why did not the Commissioner in charge of the Traffic Department go?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: He did. The Chief Operating Superintendent of the Railways went down immediately. In addition to that the Divisional Superintendents of two Divisions went immediately to the spot and it is they whose duty it is to attend to unfortunate accidents of this sort. My Honourable friend Mr. Saksena contradicted my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar's suggestion that the Chief Commissioner for Railways should have gone down to report. My Honourable friends, Sir Gurunath, and Mr. Griffiths have both explained why that sort of thing is not done.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Not even after the enquiry of the senior Government Inspector, in order to see what steps should be taken to prevent such accidents in future?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That comes at a much later stage, but my Honourable friend in his present frame of mind would have been the first person to suggest,—as he did indeed by using the word 'white-washing', —that if a Member of the Railway Board had gone down to the spot, it would be interference with the independent enquiry, and we would have been accused of trying to formulate opinion as to the causes why the accident happened. My Honourable friend knows that very well. But some Honourable Member this morning asked whether a Member or Members of this House could go down. I said I could see no objection to that. The objection certainly does not come from my department, and I do not think it will come from the Post and Air Department who will conduct the enquiry. If Members of the Central Advisory Council wish to go down and attend the enquiry and see how these things are carried out, I should be only too pleased and perhaps then they would be able to see that these enquiries are impartial and they would be able to report to the House that things are not as they fondly imagine they are. That is an offer, and I should be very pleased if Honourable Members of the Central Advisory Council would accept it.

The real gravamen of the adjournment motion, as I understand it, is "the carelessness and indifference on the part of Government to take steps to avoid such train disasters". One Honourable Member opposite asked how many accidents there had been on the E. I. R. during the last six months.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member has two minutes more.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am sorry I cannot give my Honourable friend the statistics that he wanted, but there have been no derailments and collisions to passenger trains on the E. I. R. in the last six months before this accident. In the previous six months there were two which were enquired into by the Inspector of Railways.

It is suggested that we do not take sufficient trouble to avoid such train disaters. There are in existence elaborate rules which Honourable Members will find in the Library of the House . . . .

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: On paper.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: . . . .covering the railway operation and I should like to take this opportunity of assuring the House that these rules are not usually amended, ratner they are not ever amended, without reference to the Inspectorate, and practiaclly all the recommendations arising out of an Enquiry Committee are accepted. We are just as anxious as anybody else, rather more anxious than anybody else, to prevent these accidents.

I do not think I need cover at length the ground which has been covered by my Honourable friend, Sir Gurunath Bewoor, but I would like to say, in addition to the points that he has made, that the Government Inspector is charged with reporting specifically on the adequacy or otherwise of relief measures. That touches on the point of callousness.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What about the interlocking system?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: As regards the interlocking system, I have made enquiries. As that station is on the main line, I am informed that the probability is that it is fully interlocked, but whether the accident occurred due to failure of the interlocking gear, or whether it was due to the human element is entirely a matter for the Railway Inspectorate, and the United Provinces Government if they wish to appoint any enquiry committee.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In either case you are responsible.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: And I might add that the Government Inspectorate is entirely Indian, and I hope my Honourable friend will not say that they are partial.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: It makes no difference so long as you are there.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have no jurisdiction whatsoever over the Railway Inspectorate and if they wish to censure me or my officers, it is their duty to do so.

Mr. Deputy President: Honourable Member's time is up.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I can only close by saying how deeply I deplore this occurrence, and assure the House once again that in spite of what has been said, all steps are being taken and will be taken to try and mitigate the dangers of railway travel, which, statistics show, are infinitesimal, and incidentally less than those in the United States. I have here figures to show that the accidents per thousand passenger miles are less than $\frac{1}{4}$ in one year and less than $\frac{1}{3}$ in another of those that take place in the United States of America. I can only hope that the United States of America will work up to our standard of efficiency.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That the Assembly do now adjourn."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—56.

Abdul Ghani Khan, Khan.
Abdullah, Hafiz Mohammad.
Abid Hussain, Choudhury Md.
Adityan, Sri S. T.
Ali Asghar Khan, Mr.
Asaf Ali, Mr. M.
Ayyangar, Sri M. Ananthasayanam.
Banerjee, Sree Satyapriya.
Chettiar, Sri T. A. Ramalingam.
Daga, Seth Sheodass.
Damodar Swaroop, Sjt. Seth.
Dani, Mr. G. B.
Deshmukh, Dr. G. V.
Gangaraju, Sri V.
Gole, Mr. P. B.
Hans Raj, Raizada.
Ishaq Seth, Haji Abdus Sattar Haji.
Jaffer, Mr. Ahmed E. H.
Jagannathdas, Sri.
Jhunjhunwala, Mr. B. P.
Jinachandran, Sri M. K.
Khan, Mr. Debendra Lal.
Lahiri Choudhury, Srijut Dhirendra Kanta.
Mahapatra, Sri Bhagirathi.
Malaviya, Pandit Govind.
Mangal Singh, Sardar.
Manu Subedar, Mr.
Menon, Sri A. Karunakara.
Mukhopadhyay, Mr. Nagendranath.
Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava, Pandit.
Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.
Narayanamurthi, Sri N.
Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.
Neogy, Mr. K. C.
Paliwal, Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt.
Rahmat-ullah, Mr. Muhammad.
Ram Narayan Singh, Babu.
Ramayan Prasad, Mr.
Ranga, Prof. N. G.
Reddiar, Sri R. Venkatasubba.
Saksena, Shri Muhan Lal.
Salve, Mr. P. K.
Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar.
Sharma, Mr. Krishna Chandra.
Sharma, Pandit Balkrishna.
Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
Sinha, Shri Satya Narayan.
Sri Prakasa, Shri.
Sukhdev Udhowdas, Mr.
Surjit Singh Majithia, Squadron Leader Sardar.
Swaminadhan, Shrimati Ammu.
Thakur Das Bhargava, Pandit.
Vadilal Lallubhai, Mr.
Varma, Mr. B. B.
Vinchoorkar, Sardar N. G.
Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.

NOES—36.

Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Dr. Sir M.
Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.
Bewoor, Sir Gurunath.
Bhattacharyya, Rai Bahadur [redacted] Mohan.
Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. [redacted]
Cook, Mr. B. C. A.
Fenton, Mr. R. V.
Griffiths, Mr. P. J.
Guruswami, Mr. S.
Gwilt, Mr. Leslie.
Harendra Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain Sardar.
Himmatsinhji, Col. Kumar Shri.
Hirtzel, Mr. M. A. F.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasjee.
Joshi, Mr. S. C.
Kharegat, Sir Pheroze.
Lawson, Mr. C. P.
Mason, Mr. P.
Morris, Mr. R. C.
Naqvi, Mr. A. T.
Oulsnam, Mr. S. H. Y.
Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
Sargent, Dr. John.
Sen, Mr. B. R.
Sharbat Khan, Khan Bahadur.
Spence, Sir George.
Sri Chand, Chaudhri.
Stokes, Mr. H. G.
Sundaresan, Mr. N.
Thorne, The Honourable Sir John.
Turner, Mr. A. C.
Tyson, Mr. Geoffrey W.
Vaidyanathan, Mr. L. S.
Waugh, The Honourable Mr. A. A.
Weightman, Mr. H.

The motion was adopted.

POSITION *RE* SUPPLY OF QUESTION LISTS TO MEMBERS CONSEQUENT ON STRIKE IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI

Mr. Deputy President: I want to inform Honourable Members that the President had stated this afternoon that it might be possible to get cyclostyled copies of the questions which would be available in a small quantity. Now the Legislative Assembly Department has learnt that it may not be possible to get even the cyclostyled copies, because all alternative arrangements for printing or duplicating the lists of questions have failed and it will not therefore be possible to have lists of questions prepared for the meetings of the 12th March onwards until the strike in the Press comes to an end. There is therefore no alternative but to ask Members at question time to read each question to the House from a copy which will be supplied to them for this purpose. The answers will then be given by Government in the ordinary way.

That is a very unfortunate situation but it cannot be helped as long as that situation remains.

The Assembly than adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 8th March, 1946.

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18 JUL 1946
MADRAS GOVERNMENT

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 8th March, 1946

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(*a*) ORAL ANSWERS

RESIGNATION OF COL. MISS RANGA RAO

771. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Has the attention of the War Secretary been drawn to the All-India Women's Conference resolution passed at Hyderabad (Sind) regarding the subject WACIs?

(b) Have Government received this resolution, and have they replied to it?

(c) What were the reasons for the resignation of Col. Miss Ranga Rao?

(d) Have Government seen the reports of interviews by her in the press?

(e) Has any official reply been vouchsafed, and what is the correct information on this subject?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Government have received the resolution and a reply has already been sent.

(c) and (e). The reasons for the resignation of Miss Ranga Rao have already been explained in my reply to part (a) of Starred question No. 196, asked by Mr. Ayyangar, on the 12th February 1946, and also in her interview in the press.

(d) Yes, Sir. Government have seen an account of an interview given by Miss Ranga Rao to a representative of the Associated Press of India which appeared in the *Statesman* of the 17th September, 1945, and other Indian papers.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the great agitation in the minds of the public over the causes of Miss Ranga Rao's resignation, why have Government not published the letter of resignation in which the causes have been given?

Mr. P. Mason: I have replied in the House giving the reasons. She has herself stated the reasons and it seemed unnecessary to discuss the matter further.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is there any reason why the terms in which the resignation was given and the causes as they were given in Miss Ranga Rao's own words, should not be known to the public and, if there is no such reason, will the Honourable Member place a copy of that resignation in the Library of the House?

Mr. P. Mason: Yes, Sir. I will place it in the Library of the House.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May we know if the Honourable Member is prepared to have any independent inquiry regarding the fact whether racial discrimination was shown or not and what was the cause of these resignations?

Mr. P. Mason: Yes; I have explained before that we have considered the matter and held what might be described as a departmental inquiry into this matter and the whole question was gone into; and the shortage of Indians in the officer ranks was one of the main reasons for the decision to disband the corps.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What is the reason for not having an inquiry into the allegations that have been made and a number of other allegations also? Has not the Honourable Member written to me that he would send an A. P. I. agent to make an investigation into the matter and report to him?

Mr. P. Mason: There are two parts of that question. (a) I do not think that there is really any value to be obtained from a public inquiry which would take up the time of officers who are hardworked in view of the decision that has been taken to disband the corps. (b) With regard to the reply to my friend in which I said we would ask the A. P. I. if they would care to have an interview with Lady Carlisle, they replied that they did not wish to do so, and as I have explained the matter very fully to the House it has had a good deal of publicity, all that has been answered.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know why Government are not permitting the All-India Women's Conference, if they are so willing, to hold this inquiry and will they give full official co-operation if the All-India Women's Organisation institute such an inquiry?

Mr. P. Mason: No. We would not. The women of this corps have work to do and they are very busy. We are disbanding them steadily and that will mean that those who remain will have increasingly a good deal of work to do, and an inquiry of this nature would take a lot of their time. I cannot see that there is any need.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know why Government are permitting allegations of the gravest character, of outrages by British officers on these women to go unchallenged and uninquired into and why they will permit the assumption in the public mind through burking an inquiry as my Honourable friend is doing?

Mr. P. Mason: Why we permit these allegations to be made is because we believe in the freedom of the press. Why an inquiry is not made is, as I have explained, because I cannot see that it will serve any useful purpose. As for saying that we are allowing these things to go unchallenged, I have challenged them in this House a number of times and made a very full statement.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Why not permit the women sufferers to come forward in an open and public inquiry and see what they have to say? Why not let them face those who have assaulted them and who have taken advantage of their superior position?

Mr. P. Mason: Will the Honourable Member kindly repeat his question?

Mr. Manu Subedar: Why should Government not hold a public inquiry and permit these women who have suffered these outrages at the hands of persons who held superior authority to have their say and why should Government merely content themselves with challenging these allegations here in this House?

Mr. P. Mason: I am unable to know of any case in which a person has been treated in this way. As I explained the other day, two reports of rape have been made and both proved on investigation to be unfounded.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Who made this investigation? Were the women concerned permitted to say what they had to say? Were they before this particular investigator in the company of people who would protect them against victimisation?

Mr. President: The Honourable Member will put one question at a time.

Mr. P. Mason: Yes; it was a court-martial.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: In view of the fact that this question has aroused deep interest among the members of this House, will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of appointing a committee of Lady Members of this House to submit a report to us for our guidance, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Ammu Swaminadhan?

Mr. P. Mason: No. I have already said that I do not think an inquiry would serve any useful purpose, and it would take up the time of members of the corps and it would stir up a great deal of trouble, which I do not think is necessary in view of the decision to disband the corps.

Mr. President: Next question.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY CORPS (INDIA)

772. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the War Secretary please state the total number of WACIs whose salary comes partly or wholly from the Indian Treasury, and how many of these are Indians, Anglo-Indians and non-Indians?

(b) What is the total number of officers of WACIs and how many of them are Indians, Anglo-Indians and non-Indians?

(c) How many WACIs have been demobilised, how many are going to be demobilised, and how many of these would be Indian, Anglo-Indians and non-Indians?

(d) Is recruitment of the WACIs still going on, and is there any training exhibition in connection with new entrants?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) The incidence of the expenditure on the salaries of members of the W. A. C. (I) is the same as that of the unit or formation in which they are employed. To work out the actual figures asked for in this part of the question would involve an amount of time and labour which would not be worth the result.

(b) The total number of W. A. C. (I) officers on the 1st January 1946, was 1,008, of whom 152 were Indians, 196 Anglo-Indians and 660 non-Indians.

(c) 603 members of the W. A. C. (I) had been demobilised by the 1st January 1946, leaving 10,575 persons still in the Corps. Of these 4,229 are Indians, 4,152 Anglo-Indians and 2,194 are non-Indians. I regret that no figures are available showing the nationalities of those already demobilized.

(d) As regards the first part, recruitment was stopped on the 1st January; as regards the second part the answer is in the negative.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know why in the process of demobilisation Indians and Anglo-Indians are preferred and why non-Indians are not demobilised first?

Mr. P. Mason: That is not a fact.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that so many Indians and Anglo-Indians have been demobilised and 2,000 non-Indians are still in this corps, will my Honourable friend now tell this House whether Government will demobilise the non-Indians first before sending on the streets persons who have rendered good service to Government?

Mr. P. Mason: No; demobilisation does not proceed on a racial basis at all. It proceeds on the grounds of groups which are based on length of service and age.

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: May I ask the War Secretary how many among the Senior Controllers and Senior Commanders are Indians and how many are Anglo-Indians—among the senior officers?

Mr. P. Mason: I should require notice of that. I have answered it also.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: How many posts of officers who have resigned—I mean Indians such as Miss Ranga Rao, Mrs. Srinivasan and others—have been filled up by Indians or Europeans?

Mr. P. Mason: The numbers are not much. There were 5. I do not know who has filled the posts which they held.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have not more Indian officers resigned?

Mr. P. Mason: If you look at the statement which I made on the last occasion, you will find full answers to that.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it not a fact that some of them have subsequently resigned?

Mr. P. Mason: Subsequent to what?

Mr. Manu Subedar: Subsequent to that answer.

Mr. P. Mason: Not so far as I am aware.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it a fact that not one of these posts of officers who have resigned has been filled up by Indians?

Mr. P. Mason: I am afraid I cannot tell you who is holding those appointments now.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: When will you disband the whole of this corps?

Mr. P. Mason: I have repeatedly answered that question. It is hoped to completely disband this corps early in 1947.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is there any provision for resettlement or rehabilitation of the W. A. C. (I).

Mr. P. Mason: I gave a very long answer to that on the last occasion.

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know whether the Indian and non-Indian members of the W. A. C. (I) were getting the same treatment?

Mr. P. Mason: Yes, they do.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know why European women are still being retained in this service at the cost of this country while Indian women are being demobilised?

Mr. P. Mason: That, Sir, does not arise out of the question on the paper.

SMUGGLING OF PRECIOUS METALS AND GOODS OUT OF INDIA

773. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) What special measures were taken by the Honourable the Finance Member to prevent smuggling of precious metals and goods, of which the export is either prohibited or controlled, through the land frontiers in India towards the west and by means of countrycraft from the western coast to the Middle East, and how many cases were detected?

(b) What steps have Government taken to prevent smuggling of precious metals and goods, of which the export is either prohibited or controlled, along the land frontiers of India to the east (into Burma and China) by land routes, and how many cases have they detected?

(c) Have Government got hold of big parties engaged in unauthorised exports of cloth from India, or have they only succeeded in tracing a few petty cases and petty parties?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: (a) and (b). I regret that it is not possible to specify within the compass of this reply all the measures adopted by Government to deal with the danger, of export smuggling nor obviously, be in the public interest to do so. It is not possible to give detailed results more particularly since the Hon'ble Member has not limited his enquiry either in respect of time or space. In general, however, the position is as follows.

At points of exit from British India by land, sea and air, Customs or other staffs are posted for traffic regulation as required; these include certain land customs lines for the regulation of traffic between British India and neighbouring foreign possessions or Indian States. Such regulation provides for the checking of goods of which the export is either prohibited or controlled. Ever since the introduction of control Government has been taking constant measures to make such regulation effective including re-distribution and reinforcement of staffs where necessary, such measures being where possible co-ordinated with 'Service' security arrangements. This applies equally to the Eastern frontier where, however, until recently the danger has been by air rather than over the land routes. Rewards admissible to members of the staff responsible for successful detection of offences are on a scale calculated to encourage keenness.

(c) Government have not succeeded in tracing any such big parties, but, if the Honourable Member has any evidence to suggest that such big parties are engaged in this traffic, I should be very grateful if he would give it to me in confidence. Many cases have however, been detected and the offenders have been dealt with.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it a fact that an airman was found taking gold from Calcutta, that he was tried and let off, because the evidence was not satisfactory?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: I do not know. I will have to make inquiries.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I know if cloth worth crores of rupees was exported from the Jamnagar port. If so, may I ask the Honourable Member what action the Government of India have taken against the Government of India officials who were posted at that port to control smuggling?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: I must ask for notice.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have the Government now taken any measures to prevent smuggling of gold in India and what is the position with regard to the smuggling going on in the North-East frontier of India?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: I do not understand what the Honourable Member means by smuggling of gold *in* India.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Hitherto precious metals and goods were being smuggled out of this country and all sorts of means were employed at various ports and land frontiers—countrycraft, Arabs, Iraqi Jews and others were found dabbling in this nefarious traffic to the disadvantage of the country. My whole suggestion is whether at the Portuguese Ports, the Indian State ports and generally as regards countrycraft and the land frontiers the Government have strengthened their hands in order to prevent things leaking out of this country, which should not leak out, at least so far as gold is concerned.

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: We have a preventive staff which, I believe, is adequate in all places, and I do not think there has been any change in the situation since the imposition of the import duty on bullion.

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to cloth, may I put one question. The supply of cloth to Bengal has disappeared in thin air. The Honourable the Commerce Member has repeatedly mentioned that he has actually given Bengal more than Bengal's quota. Have the Government been able to trace by any special agency, instead of mere rewards, the systematic smuggling of cloth out of India which must exist on the borders of Bengal?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: That is hardly a matter for the Customs staff. There is no customs frontier between Bengal and other parts of British India.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member tell this House whose duty it is to prevent the taking away of thin, fine cloth which this country needs very badly across the Eastern Frontier of India?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: I agree that that is a matter for the customs staff but I have no reason to believe that the Customs staff are not doing all that is necessary. If the Honourable Member has any detailed information, perhaps he will give it to me in confidence?

Mr. Manu Subedar: Why has not a special C. I. D. organisation been set up for tracing cloth which is disappearing from the Eastern borders of India.

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: The Government have no reason to believe that the disappearance is on such a scale as to warrant the appointment of a special staff.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Another member of Government told a different story.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not a fact that the Madras staff for this purpose is undermanned and they are not able to prevent smuggling to any extent?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: I do not think so. I will make inquiries.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Has not the Honourable Member received any representations from the Madras Department that the staff there ought to be increased and brought into line with the other provinces?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: I must ask for notice.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not a fact that detective officers were murdered in Madras? What steps are Government taking to prevent that?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: That also is news to me. I will find out.

PROPAGANDA THROUGH AND SUBSIDY TO NEWSPAPERS

774. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable Member for Information and Arts been drawn to the leading editorial of the *Dawn* newspaper, dated the 25th January, 1946, and does he propose to indicate as to how many papers are receiving subsidy, grant or subscription, and of what amount, from the revenues of the Government of India through the Department of Information and Arts or any other Department of Government?

(b) How many papers are receiving money through advertisements given by the Information and Arts Department of the Government of India or by other Departments excepting advertisements relating to business, such as supply, disposal, tenders &c.?

(c) In what kind of views or policies are Government still interested in instilling into the public mind through newspaper propaganda?

(d) What steps have Government taken to stop all expenditure of this nature?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) Yes. Apart from the subscriptions paid by the various Departments of the Government of India for the purchase of copies of newspapers for their own use no subsidy or grant is given to any newspaper out of the revenues of the Government of India.

(b) The number of newspapers who receive such advertisements varies between 300 and 350.

(c) Government's publicity is factual and informative.

(d) Does not arise.

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to (b), will the Honourable Member give us an idea of the amount spent per month on these advertisements in 300 to 350 newspapers?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: The Honourable Member has misunderstood my reply. There is a list of 300 to 350 newspapers out of which a certain number of newspapers are chosen, according to whether the publicity has to be all-India publicity or only regional publicity. For example the House will remember that during the cloth crisis there was a good deal of advertisement in most newspapers about cloth control. There were advertisements in regard to the arrival of consumer goods and in a very few days Government are embarking on an All-India campaign of publicity in regard to food. It is for these purposes that these advertisements are issued.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the feeling that is in the public mind and which has been frequently expressed in this House itself on previous occasions that Government expenditure on this purpose was very high and very extravagant, will the Honourable Member consider a scheme by which this expense can be kept down?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: This is being done on entirely commercial lines. We get a certain rebate from the newspapers because of the two months or three months publicity, but I will certainly consider any suggestions which the Honourable Member might make to me as to how the expenditure on advertisements can be reduced.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know when the name of this Department was changed and who metamorphosed it into the Department of Information and Arts and why?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if any foreign periodicals are receiving any substantial amount from this Government?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: Not that I am aware of.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY CORPS (INDIA)

775. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the War Secretary please state if it is a fact that complaints have been made with regard to discrimination against the Indian members of the WACIs, and whether Government have noticed in the press complaints of the rudeness of the Army personnel to the Indian members of the WACIs?

(b) What is Government's policy with regard to the future of this service?

(c) Do Government propose to give an undertaking that only Indians (including Anglo-Indians) will be taken in this service in future, and that no European will be recruited?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Yes, Sir. Two cases of rudeness were reported, both of which were investigated.

(b) It has been decided to disband the Corps. All recruiting has been stopped.

(c) Does not arise.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask whether he has any reply to the first part of the question?

Mr. P. Mason: I have replied to that.

Diwan Chaman Lall: My Honourable friend has replied to the second part of the question. Is there any reply regarding the first part of the question?

Mr. P. Mason: Yes, Sir. Complaints of that nature have been mostly not from the members of the Corps itself. I could answer it in detail but it will take some time. I do not know whether I am expected to do that.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member can answer it in detail.

Mr. P. Mason: I think this question of discrimination arises from a very simple fact, one which I rather deplore and which, I am sure, other Honourable Members of the House deplore, but it is a fact, that until quite recently it was exceptional for an Indian girl to earn her own living and to be trained for that purpose and to have experience of the earning of her own living, whereas among the European and Anglo-Indian community it is exceptional for a girl not to expect her to earn her own living. Therefore, when this corps was formed, a vast majority of those who had previous experience of this kind of life, that is, business life, and of earning their own living, were either Europeans or Anglo-Indians and for that reason the great majority—admittedly—of the officers are either Europeans or Anglo-Indians.

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: May I ask whether the Honourable the War Secretary has read the article written by the Chief Commander Anne Collins under the caption "Eight months with the W. A. C. Is." which runs thus:

"This second ideal will not be easy of achievement, as, to speak to the average Indian women of responsibility and of service to India is to appeal to conception at present unknown to her."

I want to know from the War Secretary whether he has read this article and whether he thinks that she is correct in making that remark?

Mr. P. Mason: I have seen that article. It is an expression of personal opinion. And if I am asked to express an opinion, I would say that I do not agree with it and I am very sorry that it was said.

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: Why do you consider this a personal opinion, when it is the Chief Commander of the W. A. C. Is. who has made this report and it must have been published? What steps the War Secretary has taken to contradict such a report?

Mr. P. Mason: Actually, this lady is not a member of the W. A. C. Is. but of the A. T. S. The rank of Chief Commander sounds rather more important than it is. It is equivalent to Lieutenant-Colonel and this article is an expression of her personal opinion.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Does my Honourable friend consider a person like that fit to hold the post she is holding?

Mr. P. Mason: Well, Sir, I very much regret that she did write this particular article, but every one should be entitled to express a personal opinion.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: As a large number of questions are being asked in the House and a large number of complaints have been made by the public on this subject, will it not be proper for the War Secretary to place the case of the W. A. C. Is. before the Defence Consultative Committee and let them decide whether an inquiry should be made. Let the whole situation be explained to them and then they can come to a definite conclusion instead of having questions and answers in this House every day.

Mr. P. Mason: I think that is an excellent suggestion. I may say that I very much regret that I have not been able to make a statement of that nature to the House because this is the first occasion on which this question has been reached for oral answer and I should welcome that proposal.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I have heard that Government propose to reconstitute these W. A. C. Is. some time in the future. If that is so, may I know why Government will not consider the claims of those who have rendered good service to them and recruit after some time some new persons to this service, or will they give an undertaking that if and when this service is re-constituted, the Indian and Anglo-Indian women who were concerned with this service will be given preference?

Mr. P. Mason: As I explained before, owing to the social conditions to which I have just referred and which are rapidly changing, the great majority of the officers are at present either Europeans or Anglo-Indians, and in my opinion and I think in that of Government, it will be preferable to have a corps in which all hope an equal start. Therefore we decided to disband it now and at some future time, when these social conditions have changed to some extent, to start it again. But that will be a decision for the future Government to take and I think it would be very wrong indeed for me, to give any assurance as to what they will do.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In case the future Government has not got the control of the Defence, will this Government, whose spokesman is my Honourable friend, convey such an assurance to these unfortunate women who are being thrown out of work?

Mr. P. Mason: That, Sir, depends on or assumption which I do not think is worth considering.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: May I ask whether there is any question of re-constituting this corps?

Mr. P. Mason: Not at present, Sir. It may possibly be re-constituted in 15, 20, 25, 30 or 35 years.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Who first started the idea of re-constituting this corps?

Mr. P. Mason: My friends over there.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Is it the Government's intention to reconstitute this corps?

Mr. P. Mason: No, Sir. What I said was that possibly some time in the future the future Government may wish to re-constitute it.

Diwan Chaman Lall: What are the social conditions my Honourable friend is referring to?

Mr. P. Mason: The Honourable Member wishes me to repeat the remarks I made a few minutes ago. I was trying to explain that the education of Indian women has not in the past usually been directed to their earning their own living and the number of Indian women who have actually earned their living has in the past been small. Their number is now increasing and the part they are taking in public life is, I am glad to say, increasing steadily.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask whether he has had any difficulty in getting the number of recruits for this particular job that he wanted?

Mr. P. Mason: Very great difficulty, indeed.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is the difficulty due to the racial discrimination that exists?

Mr. P. Mason: I do not think so.

RETURN OF REQUISITIONED PROPERTY

776. *Mr. C. P. Lawson: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to inform the House whether he has any further and more detailed information to give in continuation of that already given in his answer to question No. 49 asked on the 7th February, 1946, regarding the return of the requisitioned property to its original owners?

(b) Is he now in a position to indicate any progress made in respect of the following categories: (i) Housing accommodation, (ii) Office accommodation, and (iii) Storage accommodation?

(c) Does the War Secretary propose to inform the House what steps have been taken to release hotel accommodation to the general public?

(d) What proportion of hotel accommodation previously reserved for Service personnel has now been released for civilian booking?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Details up to 31st December 1945 are now available and they show that the percentage of buildings derequisitioned up to that date had increased to approximately 10 per cent.

The distribution by commands is:

Northern Command 24·5 per cent.

Central Command 9·3 per cent.

Eastern Command 9·5 per cent.

Southern Command 7·2 per cent.

These figures exclude cases in which parts of buildings have been released.

(b) Information according to categories of buildings is being obtained and will be available at the end of March 1946.

(c) The general instructions which have been issued requiring the utmost importance to be attached to derequisitioning apply also to hotel accommodation.

(d) Approximately 43 per cent.

Mr. C. P. Lawson: Can the War Secretary—I am sorry to ask this question without notice—give even rough figures of what this requisitioning is costing?

Mr. P. Mason: I am afraid I cannot give them without notice.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that my Honourable friend gave the figure as 5½ lakhs a month which is the cost in Bombay City alone,—he gave us figures last time when I asked for them, up to 31st December,—is he in a position to give us something more today, with regard to Bombay City, as far as 10th March?

Mr. P. Mason: The last figures I gave were up to the end of November and these figures are up to the end of December. As I explained before, I think, one of the main causes which is holding up the pace of derequisitioning is shortage of officers.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that in Bombay City alone this Government is spending at the rate of 70 lakhs a year on this requisitioning business, and from which we may infer that in the rest of the country they may be spending 3 to 4 crores, may I know when the Government intend to prune down, in the interest of economy needed, to meet deficit budget of this year, and will the military authorities co-operate in this respect?

Mr. P. Mason: I am not quite sure what my Honourable friend means by pruning down.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I mean you should derequisition houses so as to save money and also give back to the civil population the conveniences which were forcibly withdrawn from them.

Mr. P. Mason: We are very anxious indeed to derequisition all these properties. A certain progress has been made. But it is extremely difficult, because it is a technical matter. It frequently happens that a building has been changed possibly into officers' mess or barracks or in some cases into a welfare centre and things of that kind. All these mean that it is difficult to get the building back to its original condition or decide whether the owner should be paid what compensation, if any. This is technical business. We are doing all we can. As I said we are held up for lack of officers. One of the things we have done recently is to hand over the remaining business in our Northern Command, where it is much simpler, to the Lands and Cantonment Department. That has released a certain number of officers who are doing that work in that area and they will go to Bombay and Calcutta and they will do the work there with greater speed. Another thing which we have done is to delegate increased powers to Commands. They were previously only able to dispose of cases involving less than one lakh of rupees. They can now dispose by themselves of cases involving less than five lakhs. In the same way, there has been further decentralisation to Districts or Areas, and to Sub-Areas and that will take effect from 1st April. I think that should result in very considerable speeding up.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I am much obliged to my Honourable friend, but may I ask in view of the fact that practically all Americans will have gone by the end of this month and that a certain amount of the British army is also reported to have left from here, will he not consider whether those who are at present occupying important and startegic urban areas could not be moved into the premises made available by these British and American demobilisation and thus give back to the civil population the conveniences which have been taken away from them during the war?

Mr. P. Mason: Most certainly.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: In view of the fact that the percentage quoted by the Honourable Member for the Southern Command, namely 7·2 per cent., is much lower than that for other commands, will the Honourable Member issue immediate instructions to the military authorities of the Southern Command to derequisition properties as quickly as possible, especially in Poona and Bombay?

Mr. P. Mason: I have already done so, Sir.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Is the Honourable Member aware that some properties which were requisitioned for war purposes have been retained for some other new purposes?

Mr. P. Mason: I should be very glad if the Honourable Member will give me information on that point.

INDIANS IN HIGHER RANKS IN ARMY

†777. ***Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** (a) What steps is the War Secretary taking to appoint Indians to the higher ranks in the Army?

(b) How many Generals, Brigadiers, full Colonels, Lieut.-Colonels are there in the Army, and how many of them are Indians?

(c) Has His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief considered giving accelerated promotion to Indians? If not, how is the demand for Indian officers in the highest levels going to be met, when further British recruitment to the Indian Army is going to be stopped according to the statement of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief?

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Indian officers are being given equal consideration with British officers for appointments appropriate to their seniority and ability.

(b) The number of Generals, Brigadiers, Colonels and Lieut.-Colonels in the Indian Army are as follows:

	Total	Indians
Major Generals	63	..
Brigadiers	120	4
Colonel	214	23
Lieut.-Colonels	1,868	240

NOTE.—These figures include substantive temporary acting ranks.

(c) No, Sir, no orders have been given for accelerated promotion. Recruitment starts at the bottom, not at the top. While the existing British officers are wasting out, Indian officers will continue to rise to higher positions as they gain the requisite seniority and experience.

COINS AND CURRENCY NOTES

778. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please give:

(a) a list of the various types of coins current in the country and recognised by Government and the exact metallic contents of each;

(b) the denominations of the various currency notes that are still legal tender; and

(c) the amount of one-rupee currency notes in circulation at the present time, and state if Government are withdrawing these from circulation?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: (a) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(b) Re. 1, Rs. 2, Rs. 2½, Rs. 5, Rs. 10, Rs. 20, Rs. 50, and Rs. 100.

(c) One-rupee currency notes issued in 1917, in circulation on 31st December 1945, amounted to Rs. 31,62,894. This does not include Government of India one-rupee notes issued under the Currency Ordinance, dated the 24th July 1940, which are deemed to be rupee coins and not currency notes.

The answer to the second part of the question is in the negative.

Statement

The following coins of the Government of India are current in this country:

Rupee and Half-rupee.—In quaternary alloy, consisting of 50 per cent. Silver, 40 per cent. Copper, 5 per cent. Nickel and 5 per cent. Zinc.

Quarter-rupee.—In Standard Silver alloy (11 parts Silver and 1 part Copper) and also in quarternary alloy as stated above.

Two-anna- One-anna and Half-anna.—In Nickel-brass alloy consisting of 79 per cent. Copper, 1 per cent. Nickel and 20 per cent. Zinc issued during the war period, also in Cupro-nickel alloy of 75 per cent. Copper and 25 per cent. Nickel.

Single Pice.—In Bronze alloy consisting of 97 per cent. Copper, 2½ per cent. Zinc and 1/2 per cent. Tin, with a central hole. The pre-war type of Single Pice in Bronze alloy of 95½ per cent Copper, 3 per cent. Tin and 1½ per cent. Zinc, without the central hole is also a current coin.

Half pice and Pie.—In Bronze alloy of the pre-war type.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: How many such currency notes which are treated as rupee coins are in circulation?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: The figures on 1st March 1946 were 72,67,92,000.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: How many rupee coins are in circulation besides currency notes?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: 89 crores, 14 lakhs 92 thousand.

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Is it not a fact that these rupee notes get soiled quickly and that when such soiled notes are tendered at the treasury, they refused to exchange them or pay for them in coins?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: They do not have such a long life as some other notes, but I do not think they get soiled particularly easily, if they are taken care of.

Mr. Manu Subedar: These one rupee notes were introduced owing to shortage of silver, and in view of the fact that the Government have reduced the silver content of the rupee, will the Government consider the advisability of withdrawing these rupee notes and introduce rupee coins?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: I am sorry I cannot answer that off hand.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: According to the Currency Commission Report, the total number of rupee coins which were in circulation in 1927 were 450 crores. May I take it from the Honourable Member that the rupee coins have dwindled down?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: I should have to make enquiries

CLASSIFICATION OF I. N. A. PRISONERS

779. ***Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) the names of the jails in which I.N.A. men sentenced by courts of law, are imprisoned;

(b) the classifications that are given to them; and

(c) the number of prisoners under each classification?

Mr. P. Mason: (a), (b) and (c). The men who were sentenced to terms of imprisonment were dismissed from the army and are thereafter treated as ordinary convicted criminal prisoners. Such men normally spend their terms of imprisonment in jails in their own provinces where they are governed by the rules regarding classification, etc., which are laid down in the Provincial jails Manuals.

Shri Sri Prakasa: With reference to part (b), what is the answer?

Mr. P. Mason: I do not know the classification.

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that many such persons are put in 'C' class, while they really deserve a higher classification will the Honourable Member kindly issue instructions that they should be put in 'B' class?

Mr. P. Mason: No, Sir. I have said that I will obtain information and place it on the table. I certainly would not issue instructions to provincial jail authorities as classification does not lie within my province.

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that jail authorities have nothing to do with the classification and that they only follow orders given to them, will the Honourable Member kindly take steps to see that proper classification is given to these persons?

Mr. P. Mason: I have no reason to suppose that proper classification is not given to them.

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that I have reason to think that they are not given proper classification, will the Honourable Member kindly make sure that they are properly classified?

Mr. P. Mason: It is a matter for provincial authorities.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: Is it not a fact that the magistrate who awards the sentence recommends the class in which the prisoner is to be put?

Mr. P. Mason: These are not convicted by magistrates.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The Honourable Member evidently does not know that it is the duty of the magistrate . . . .

Mr. President: Order, order, the Honourable Member has not heard the War Secretary's reply. He said that these are not convicted by magistrates.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Then who tries them?

Mr. P. Mason: Courts Martial.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Then, is it not the duty of the Courts Martial to look into the classification of prisoners convicted by them and may I suggest . . . .

Mr. President: The Honourable Member should put a question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member consult the Home Member and the Home Department on this question of classification and see that justice is done to these people?

Mr. P. Mason: I have consulted them.

Mr. President: Perhaps one answer has been missed. He said it is a matter for the Provincial Governments.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member at least now consult the Home Department and the Provincial Governments and then ascertain whether or not it is duty of the Court Martial, or whatever court it may be, to classify these people and not for the Provincial Governments in their discretion?

Mr. P. Mason: Certainly not, because I know it is not the duty of the Court-Martial.

Shri Sri Prakasa: But whose duty is it? Does the Honourable Member send all these names to the Provincial Governments and ask them to classify them according to the whims of these Governments?

Mr. P. Mason: Yes, Sir; they are classified by the Provincial Governments according to their own Jail Rules.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Are there any similar rules for classification in the Delhi Province or in the centrally administered areas?

Mr. P. Mason: I do not know.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not the duty of this Government to see that these people who were in their empoly only the other day are not improperly classified by the Provincial Governments?

Mr. P. Mason: I have no reason to suppose that they are.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In answering these questions about the classification of these people, is it not the duty of the Honourable Member to get information which is ready at hand in the Delhi Province?

Mr. P. Mason: I have already said that I will get the information.

Sri V. Gangaraju: Is the Honourable Member aware of the basis for this classification?

Mr. P. Mason: I do not know.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member find out what the basis of the classification is and how these people are treated, so that real justice can be done and all avoidable hardship eliminated?

Mr. P. Mason: It is a matter for the Provincial Governments, as I have said before, and my understanding is that it is in accordance with the past circumstances in life of the person concerned, which the provinces are in a better position to judge than I am.

Shri Sri Prakasa: But is the Honourable Member aware that the Provincial Governments are not taking into consideration just those things which the Honourable Member has now mentioned? And in view of that fact, will the Honourable Member kindly impress on the Provincial Governments the extreme desirability of taking all these factors into consideration?

Mr. P. Mason: No, Sir; and yes, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member at least now consider.

Mr. President: Order, order; next question.

SENTENCE ON SHYAMLAL PANDE AND AVADHBEHARI RAI OF I. N. A.

780. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) if two I.N.A. men, Shyamlal Pande and Avadhbehari Rai by name, were confined till lately under sentence of life imprisonment in the Benares Central Prison;

(b) if these men were kept in solitary imprisonment and fetters all the time and given only 'C' class treatment;

(c) if they have been recently transferred from Benares, if so, where; and

(d) the charges for which they were sentenced?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) Two convicted enemy agents named Shyamlal Pande and Avadheshwar Rai were confined in the Benares Central Prison up to the last week of December 1945.

(b) It is correct that they were in 'C' class. It is not correct that they were kept all the time in solitary imprisonment and fetters, but I understand that the jail authorities found it necessary at one time, for disciplinary reasons to award them separate confinement with imposition of bar fetters for a brief period, under Section 46 of the Prisons Act.

(c) They have been transferred to the Agra Central Prison.

(d) They were convicted under Section 3 of the Enemy Agents Ordinance and Section 121A of the Indian Penal Code.

Shri Sri Prakasa: With reference to part (b) will the Honourable Member take it from me that they were actually in solitary imprisonment all the time; that they had fetters all all the time; that these fetters had cut into their flesh, and that they were in great agony? And will the Honourable Member kindly ask the prison authorities to give him correct information? And will he also kindly see that such hardship is no more undergone by these prisoners?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Sir, like the War Secretary in answering the previous question, I must disclaim authority over the Provincial Government in a matter of this sort. But if the Honourable Member will give me the grounds for his belief that the information that I have just given is incorrect, I will certainly pass them on to the Provincial Government.

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that the Honourable Member is so helpless about Provincial Governments, will the Honourable Member see to it that he keeps all his prisoners himself so that we may have a chance to bring to his attention the conditions under which they live? And so far as the grounds are concerned, will the Honourable Member take it from me that I have the evidence of persons who have been released from the Benares Central Jail, to support what I have said?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: That question covers rather a lot of ground, or rather, two lots of ground. As regards the latter part I think it is covered by what I have already said, that if the Honourable Member will give me the basis of his information I will pass it on to the Provincial Government. But the first part of it is a matter which raises a rather big question of policy and I cannot deal with that in answer to a supplementary question.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member kindly state if these two persons today are in fetters and in solitary confinement or not, in the Agra Central Prison?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I rather hesitate to answer my Honourable friend because when I answer him he contradicts me. But according to the information which I have, they are certainly not in fetters, and I think I should deduce from the information I have received that they are not in separate confinement.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I know if it is a fact that these two gentlemen and others similarly placed are prisoners of the Central Government? How does the question then arise of these prisoners being made a charge on Provincial Governments?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: No, Sir; I think they were committed to jails which are not under the Central Government.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is it a fact that they were tried by Court-Martial and, if so, whether they are prisoners of the Central Government? How does it then arise that they are made a charge on the Provincial Governments?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I do not think they were tried by Court Martial; but I have given my friends all the information that I have received, which I received only at a late moment, and I must ask for notice if they want any more details.

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I know if they are still in the "C" class?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I think so, Sir, but there again I should hesitate to run the risk of contradiction by the Honourable Member.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member kindly ask the authorities to put them in the "B" class because of their education and status which entitle them to that class even under the rules of the Provincial Government, which the Provincial Government themselves do not care to follow?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: If the Honourable Member will give the grounds for his information, I will certainly pass them on.

Shri Sri Prakasa: This is the ground.

Mr. President: Order, order; next question.

PUNISHMENTS TO ENEMY AGENTS

781. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) the number of alleged enemy agents who have been caught and tried in India during the course of the last World War;

(b) the manner and place in which the various trials took place;

(c) the punishment meted out to them; and

(d) if any were hanged; if so, where, and how their bodies were disposed of?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) 42.

(b) The trials were held in accordance with the provisions of the Enemy Agents Ordinance at Madras, Delhi and Calcutta.

(c) 27 were sentenced to death; one to 5 years' rigorous imprisonment and 14 were acquitted; of the 27 death sentences, 14 were commuted to transportation for life.

(d) 13 were hanged—10 in Madras and 3 in Delhi. In all except one case, the executions and details of the charges against the convicts were announced in press communiques at the time. The bodies of those hanged in Madras were buried in the public burial ground at Otery, Madras. Of the three persons hanged in Delhi the body of one was claimed by his relatives and was handed over to them for burial; the bodies of the other two were not claimed and were cremated through the Seva Samiti at the expense of Government.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Were facilities given to these persons to defend themselves?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Yes, Sir, they certainly were.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the trials were held in secret?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I think that is so.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the bodies of two of these unfortunate people, who were hanged,—one Mr. Nair and another Mr. Thevar,—were buried in the jail grounds in Madras?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: That is not my information, Sir. My information is that the bodies of those hanged in Madras were buried in the public burial ground at Otery.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: But did Government take any steps to see that their relatives were given a chance to pay their last respects to the bodies of these people?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I must ask for notice of that.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Were they allowed lawyers to defend them?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Yes, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that these lawyers were not freely chosen by these prisoners but were deputed by Government?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I think, according to my recollection, that the choice of lawyers for persons tried under that Ordinance was limited.

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that custom in the case of some of these prisoners required cremation and not burial, may I know why the bodies of all were buried and not cremated?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I shall require notice of that question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are any records of those trials kept, and, if so, when will the Government publish them?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I presume the proceedings were recorded in the usual way. I cannot undertake an answer to the second part of the question, *viz.*, whether the proceedings will at any time be published.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask my Honourable friend as to what the case was in which no communique was issued?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I cannot say. I have not got that information before me at the moment.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is it not a fact that till now no communique has been issued? Nobody knows who that man was.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I think that is a fact.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Will my Honourable friend make an enquiry into this matter and let the House know full details regarding this case?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I will see what the case was and why no communique was issued.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if the cases are reviewed from time to time by the Central Government or the Provincial Government?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: The cases or the punishments?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: If they are sentenced, their cases come up for review and they are given remissions and so on. I want to know whether these cases come for review to the Central Government or the Provincial Government so far as punishments are concerned?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I should require notice. I think the Provincial Government, but I am not sure.

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I know if the Honourable Member was really serious when he asked for notice as regards the custom that prevails in the country because of which many people are actually cremated after death? Are we to give him notice to enquire whether this is a custom or not?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I do not understand what the Honourable Member wants to know.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member has perhaps not understood the reply given by the Honourable Sir John Thorne. He does not want notice to enquire as to what custom prevails, but wants notice for collecting details with regard to what particular bodies were cremated or buried. Is that so?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Yes, Sir, and why, if the custom to which the dead man subscribed was not observed—the reasons for that.

DETENTION OF SJT. SATYARANJAN BAKSHI

782. *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) the latest report of Sj. Satyaranjan Bakshi's health as given by the Bengal Government;

(b) whether the Central Government will have any objection if the Government of Bengal release him on grounds of health or otherwise;

(c) whether any instructions were given by the Central Government to the Provincial Government at the time when the prisoner was handed over to the latter; if so, what; and

(d) whether the grounds on which the prisoner was arrested are still in existence?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) As Mr. Satyaranjan Bakshi is no longer a prisoner of the Central Government no reports of his health are received and I have no information of his present state of health.

(b) and (c) No.

(d) This is a matter for the Government of Bengal.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether or not the detention of this gentleman is in continuation of the original arrest by the Central Government?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: It was not the same detention. The authority ordering the detention is different.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Was he arrested by the Central Government or by the Provincial Government?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I am not quite sure under whose orders he was originally arrested, but he was at one time under detention by order of the Central Government.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Was he ever released after that detention by the Central Government?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: He was sent back to Bengal where, I understand, the Bengal Government for reasons of their own, issued a fresh order of detention.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: What was the legal position of the original order by which the Central Government took him into custody? And may I know if the original order of detention, which was issued by the Central Government, is alive or is that spent up?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: That order is spent.

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I know if Mr. Bakshi was regarded as a Central subject when he was in the United Provinces, and has suddenly become a provincial subject when he is transferred to Bengal, and, if so, what were the circumstances in which he was sent from the United Provinces to Bengal, and under whose orders?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Could I have that sentence split up into parts?

Shri Sri Prakasa: Could not the Honourable Member do it himself?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: My memory is not good enough to enable me to perform the dissection.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is it not a fact that he was under the Central Government when he was in the United Provinces and that he became a prisoner of the Bengal Government when he was transferred to Bengal?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I am not sure when he was in the United Provinces, but he was at one stage—at an early stage—a prisoner of the Central Government, and he is now a prisoner of the Bengal Government.

Shri Sri Prakasa: I want to know the circumstances in which he became a prisoner of the Bengal Government after having been a prisoner of the Central Government, and why did the Central Government transfer him to the Bengal Government as its prisoner?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: He ceased to be a prisoner of the Central Government because for the purposes of the Central Government it was no longer necessary to continue the order of detention. He become a prisoner of the Bengal Government because for their own purposes the Bengal Government desired to detain him and he was transferred to Bengal for that purpose.

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I take it that there was interregnum between his being a prisoner of the Central Government and his being a prisoner of the Bengal Government, and where was he in this interregnum?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: There was no interregnum.

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Did the Central Government release him at any time?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: No.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Did the Central Government issue orders to the Provincial Government to re-arrest him?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: No, Sir.

Mr. Debendra Lal Khan: Did the Provincial Government requisition his arrest at any time, originally, or subsequently?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I could not follow the question, Sir.

Shri Sri Prakasa: The question is: "Did the Provincial Government ask the Central Government to transfer him to Bengal as the latter's prisoner?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: That should be addressed to the Provincial Government.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: The question of my Honourable friend is this: Was he at any time requisitioned for the purposes of arrest by the Bengal Government?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I do not understand the term 'requisition' and I do not understand the term 'arrest'. The Provincial Government said that they wished to detain him. He was not freshly arrested. He was transferred to Bengal and I assume that the moment the order of the Central Government expired, the Bengal Government enforced their order.

Shri Sri Prakasa: But did the Central Government inform the Provincial Government that they had no cause for keeping Mr. Bakshi any more in detention, and is it that they then suddenly discovered that he was wanted by the Bengal Government? I should like to know the procedure that was adopted in this case. It seems the Government has been cruel in this case.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: The Central Government informed the Bengal Government that for their own purposes they did not propose to detain him further whereupon the Bengal Government announced their intention of detaining him.

Mr. Debendra Lal Khan: May I ask what that purpose is?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Which purpose? The Provincial purpose?

Shri Sri Prakasa: No, the Central purpose.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I must ask for notice.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Was it legally necessary for the Central Government to send this information to the Bengal Government?

Mr. President: That is a matter of opinion.

Shri Sri Prakasa: I want to know whether it was right. There is a valuable life involved in this case. He is seriously ill and we want his release. The Honourable Member simply hands over a person to another province.....

Mr. President: That will be a matter of argument. Next question.

RETRENCHMENT *vis a vis* SHORTAGE IN MUSLIM QUOTA IN GOVERNMENT OFFICES

783. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state whether it is a fact that Government have issued orders for the classification of temporary staff of the offices of the Central Government into three categories for purposes of their retention in Government service? If so, what criterion has been laid down for giving effect to their orders and what safeguards have been provided to guard against the indiscriminate classification of persons in category 'C'?

(b) Have Government issued instructions that at the time of retrenchment the shortage in the Muslim quota in the offices should be made up? If so, what measures do Government propose to take to find out that their orders have been given effect to by the various authorities concerned?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) and (b). A copy of the instructions issued by Government in this matter (Home Department Office Memorandum No. 31/18/45-Ests. (S), dated the 2nd October, 1945) is placed on the table of the House. The instructions provide, first, that temporary employees shall be so discharged that the composition of the retained temporary staff is in accordance with the communal ratios prescribed for recruitment; and, secondly, that within each community men will be discharged according to three categories of fitness combined with seniority. It follows that a man in the top category of fitness will be retained in preference to a man in the second category even though the latter has more temporary service. But no member of a recognised minority community can be discharged even if he is in the lowest category of fitness if his retrenchment would leave his community with less than the prescribed ratio of representation.

Government do not consider it necessary to prescribe special measures to ensure that these instructions are observed.

No. 31/18/45-ESTS. (S)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

New Delhi, the 2nd October 1945

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT :—*Application of rules regarding communal representation to the discharge of temporary Government servants*

The Home Department have had under examination the steps necessary to ensure that the retrenchment of temporary staff consequent on the cessation of hostilities does not adversely affect the representation of minority communities and it has been decided that the following procedure shall be followed :—

(a) Temporary employees shall be so discharged that the composition of the retained temporary staff is in accordance with the communal ratio prescribed for recruitment or as near thereto as possible, including the provisions that any deficiency in "other minorities" is made up by Muslims and that any deficiency in "Scheduled Castes" is treated as belonging to unreserved vacancies.

(b) Within each community recognized for the purpose of the rules regarding communal representation, *viz.*, Hindus, Scheduled Castes, Muslims and Other Minority Communities, temporary employees will be discharged in the reverse order of seniority as determined by date of appointment.

(c) In accordance with paragraph 1(2) of the Home Department Office Memorandum No. 70/49/45-Ests., dated the 7th July 1945, temporary employees should be classified as—

(1) outstanding and for whom every effort should be made to find a permanent post;

(2) definitely fit for permanent appointment if a vacancy exists; and

(3) the rest

For the purposes of retrenchment, all persons in class (1) should be considered as senior to all those in class (2) and all in class (2) as senior to all in class (3).

2. These orders will not apply to the posts or services in the list appended to Home Department Office Memorandum, No. 14/9/37-Ests. (S), dated the 28th May 1940, recruitment to which is exempt from the rules relating to communal representation, or to any posts or services so exempted subsequently.

3. These orders will remain in force until further notice.

P. V. R. RAO,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

To

All Departments of the Government of India; Political Department; Secretaries to the Governor-General (Public), (Reforms) and (Personal); Secretary, Executive Council; Registrar, Federal Court; Crown Finance Department; Military Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy; Director, Intelligence Bureau and the Federal Public Service Commission.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: In view of the fact that the Honourable Member gave in his reply to my question the other day that the representation of Muslims in the Central Services falls below the minimum quota, namely that it is 20·6 per cent., will he now issue instructions to the heads of all Departments under him not to retrench Muslims wherever they fall short of this quota?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I said in the reply which my friend quotes, that I was considering steps to ensure that this representation should be properly observed, and that is a matter which is now under consideration.

(*b*) WRITTEN ANSWERS

MUSLIMS IN INDIAN AUDIT DEPARTMENTS

784. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state the total number of gazetted officers and Accountants (permanent and temporary, separately) employed in the Indian Audit Departments, and the number of Muslims holding these posts?

(b) Are Government aware that in the Accountants' cadre at least one third of the posts are reserved for the minority communities? If so, how many Muslims who have qualified themselves in the departmental examination for Accountants have been permanently promoted as Accountants each year for the last ten years?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: (a) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(b) No. Appointments to the cadre of Accountants are made by departmental promotion and no reservation is made for minority communities. The rules regarding the reservation of posts for minority communities do not apply in the case of departmental promotions.

Statement showing the total number of Gazetted Officers and Accountants (Permanent and Temporary, separately) in the Indian Audit Department and the Number holding these posts

	Permanent		Temporary	
	Total No. of posts	No. of Muslims	Total No. of posts	No. of Muslims
1. Indian Audit and Accounts Service officers.	143	24	71	14
2. Assistants Accounts officers .	113	10	..	..
3. Accountants	556	29	172	16

REVERSION OF MUSLIM ASSISTANT ACCOUNT OFFICER

785. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether it is a fact that the only Muslim Assistant Accounts Officer under the Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs, has been reverted to his former post and replaced by a Hindu officer?

(b) Was any inquiry instituted against the Muslim Assistant Accounts Officer?

(c) Was the request of the said Muslim officer for a copy of the report of the enquiring officer refused? If so, why?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: (a) Yes; the Muslim officer who was officiating as an Assistant Accounts Officer was reverted to his permanent post of Superintendent, as his work as an Assistant Accounts Officer was found to be unsatisfactory. The next senior man who happened to be a Hindu, was promoted to officiate as Assistant Accounts Officer in his place.

(b) The officer was asked to reply to certain adverse comments on his work, which were communicated to him in writing, and it was not until after consideration of his written reply that it was decided that he was unfit, for the time being, for promotion as an Assistant Accounts Officer. No enquiry was held, the fact being as just stated.

(c) As already stated in part (b) above the adverse comments of the reporting officer were communicated to him in writing.

BRITISH W. A. C. (I)S IN INDIA

786. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: With reference to his previous answer on the subject, will the War Secretary please state:

(a) the justification for keeping a thousand or more British WACIs in India for more than six months after the cessation of hostilities;

(b) whether the duties now performed by them cannot equally efficiently be discharged by men who have been or will shortly be thrown out of employment in the various Government offices as being surplus to requirements; and, if not, in what respects the WACIs are indispensable; and

(c) whether he proposes to take early steps to send out of this country all British WACIs, if possible before the 1st of April this year, in view of the serious food situation in the country, if not, why not?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) and (c). The Honourable Member seems to be under some misapprehension. All members of the WAC(I) were recruited in India, and the European members are either domiciled in this country or are the wives or daughters of officers serving in India. They cannot therefere be sent out of the country unless they wish to go.

(b) As already announced, the Corps is to be disbanded over a period of about a year, which is the minimum time in which men can be fitted into the large number of appointments held. This process will reduce the number of men to be discharged.

LOW PAY OF INDIAN SOLDIERS

787. *Mr. P. B. Gole: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state whether Government are aware that amongst the troops fighting in Africa for the Allies, it was the Indian soldier who got the lowest pay?

(b) Are Government aware that the Indian soldier proved his valour and earned laurels on the battle fields of Africa?

(c) Has any attempt been made to compensate the Indian soldier for the lowest pay he was given?

(d) Is the Honourable Member aware that there is great discontent in the Indian Army fighting outside India owing to the marked difference in pay and other treatment?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) (c) and (d). As I have explained before, the rates of pay of soldiers of various countries are based on the cost of living and other factors in those countries. For the reason the American soldier gets higher pay than the British soldier, who in his turn, gets higher rates than the Indian soldier. To attempt to equate these rates of pay would effect the whole economic structure of the country and create demands in every Branch of Government service which would be impossible to meet.

(b) Yes, Sir.

CIVIL SECTIONS OF I. N. A.

788. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) how many of the civil sections of the I.N.A. are kept in Government Camps;

(b) where are they, and what numbers of them are kept in such camps;

(c) what allowances, diet and clothing are given to them;

(d) against how many of them legal proceedings are taken or are pending; and

(e) why the rest of them are not released immediately; and how soon Government expect to release them?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) At present there are 34 civilian members of the Indian National Army in detention in India.

(b) Three are awaiting release at Jhingergacha and 31 are in hospitals in Calcutta.

(c) The same allowances, diet and clothing as are given to military personnel held pending interrogation, discharge, dismissal or release are provided for the civilians.

(d) None.

(e) The three civilians held at Jhingergacha are being released in a very few days. The remaining 31 will be released as soon as medical authorities advise they are fit to leave hospital.

EXCISE DUTY ON BETEL-NUT

789. *Shri D. P. Karmarkar: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news under the heading "Condemnation of the betelnut tax: meetings and hartals" at page 3 of the *Samyukta Karnatak* of the 10th February, 1946, and the news under the heading "Excise Duty on Betelnut: plea for removal" in the *Madras Mail* of the 22nd January, 1946;

(b) whether it is a fact that numerous meetings were held and hartals observed in all betelnut growing areas on the 31st January, 1946, as a protest against the continued imposition of the betelnut excise tax;

(c) whether the growers of betelnuts are, in most of the areas themselves, rendering it ready for marketing, and whether as a matter of fact that excise tax is being paid by the betelnut gardeners themselves;

(d) whether it is a fact that, owing to betelnut being given low priority on the Railways, there has been no adequate movement of betelnut with consequent loss to the betelnut gardeners;

(e) whether it is a fact that there has been a fall in the prices of betelnut as compared with the prices prevalent when the excise tax was first imposed; if so, how much; and

(f) what Government propose to do to alleviate the sufferings of the betelnut gardeners?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Most growers are also curers. In the latter capacity they may, if they so desire, clear their produce themselves on payment of duty and may then include the duty in their sale price. Otherwise, if they so prefer, they may sell their produce to a licenced wholesale dealer who has a bonded warehouse, in which case the duty need not be paid until the goods are cleared from the warehouse.

(d) Representations have been received to this effect.

(e) After the introduction of the excise, wholesale prices increased but subsequently prices have declined,—particularly since V-J day, in view of the prospect of a revival of imports from abroad. They are, however still more than double prewar prices.

(f) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to paragraph 51 of my Honourable friend's Budget Speech.

WOMEN'S CORPS ATTACHED TO GENERAL HEADQUARTERS AND OTHER ARMY SERVICES

790. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) the names of the various auxiliary or other services attached to the General Headquarters or other Army services in India, such as the WACI or WVS or ATS, etc., etc. whether recruited in India or out of India, who are paid from Indian revenues;

(b) the total number of each of the above services;

(c) the total amount spent on each of the above services during the war, and the total amount budgetted for during 1945-1946;

(d) whether the passages and other expenses of these persons are borne out of the Indian revenues; and

(e) how many of these persons, employed in the ATS, WVS, WACI, etc., who are of non-Indian domicile and who got married since their arrival in India, are continuing in the same service, and whether their marriage has not affected their efficiency in the discharge of their duties?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) and (b). In order to make the matter clear, and as there is much misconception on this subject, I include all Women's Services, and not only those who are connected with the Army. The Services in question are as follows:

(i) WRNS. This is a purely British Service. Of those members of this Service who came to India, all but 26 came to work with the Royal Navy and were in no way a charge on Indian revenues. The only exception is that 26 WRNS officers were seconded for periods ranging from 5 to 13 months to the Royal Indian Navy to assist in forming and training the WRINS which is the Naval Branch of the WAC(I).

(ii) A.T.S. This is a British Army Service, which was started in 1938. Members of the A.T.S. came to India as normal reinforcements, the auxiliaries replacing British other ranks and the officers, who are all staff or technically trained, replacing British officers, as there were not enough WAC(I)s to fill available vacancies. A small number of A.T.S. officers, who were trained instructors, were also lent to the W.A.C.(I) to assist in the training of W.A.C.(I) officers and auxiliaries; the number of officers so lent never exceeded 28 and the maximum number of A.T.S. officers and auxiliaries in India at any one time was 51 and 121 respectively.

(iii) WAAF. This is the British Women's Air Service and all those who came to India were brought for work with the Royal Air Force. The greatest number who were ever in India was 500.

(iv) WAC(I). This is the Indian Service and is intended to assist all three Services—Navy, Army and Air Force. All the personnel of this corps were recruited in India. The strength of the Corps on 1st January, 1946, was 10,575.

(v) WVS(I).. This is a voluntary Service which exists in a similar form in all countries of the Commonwealth. It was intended to provide a means of assisting the war effort for those women who, because of family or other ties, could not take up whole-time service in the WAC(I). The service provided by this organisation has taken many forms of which the principal are work in canteens, the despatch of parcels on behalf of members of the Services, the visiting of hospitals and the organising of entertainments for the troops. The members of the WVS(I) are not paid. Grants made by Government were about Rs. 27,440 as a contribution towards expenses. It was found, however, that the activities of this organisation which have proved most popular with the troops, could be greatly assisted if co-ordinated by a small number of whole-time workers, and therefore 84 whole-time workers were brought from the U.K. These workers have not received any salary but have been paid an allowance from Government to cover their expenses which has varied between Rs. 130 and Rs. 275 p. m.

The incidence of cost in the cases of A.T.S., W.A.C.(I), and W.V.S. depends on the unit with which the person in question is serving and is divided between the Government of India and HMG in the same way as other Defence expenditure.

(c) The total amount spent on all the Women's Services during the war is not available, but the amount spent on the WAC(I) who are by far the most numerous, is approximately Rs. 339 lakhs to end of 1944-45. The provision in 1945-46 on this account is estimated at Rs. 191 lakhs. Of these amounts the shares representing India's liability are approximately Rs. 187 lakhs and Rs. 115 lakhs respectively. In the case of other Women's services, the numbers and consequently the expenditure are comparatively small.

(d) All expenditure of this nature brought to account in India is the 'Joint' liability of both Governments.

(e) Since, as I have explained, all members of the W.A.C.(I) were recruited in India, the question of their marriage since their arrival in India does not arise.

One member of the A.T.S. and two of the W.V.S. who married since their arrival in India are still in service. Since the numbers are so small, I feel that any comparison of their efficiency before and after marriage would be invidious.

EXTENSIONS TO SUPERANNUATED PERSONNEL

791. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that according to the rules extensions of service beyond the age of 55 should not ordinarily be granted;

(b) if it is a fact that various Departments are granting such extensions in violation of that rule;

(c) if he proposes to issue a direction that all such cases should be referred to the Federal Public Service Commission before any extension is granted and only in very exceptional cases should such a thing be done;

(d) if Government are aware that persons like Sir Richard Tottenham and Sir Allan Lloyd have continued in the Government of India Secretariat beyond the age of 55; if so, when it is proposed to retire them, and whether there are any more in the same category in the Government of India Secretariat and attached offices; and

(e) whether the rule is intended to apply only to the ministerial staff or to the superior and gazetted staff also?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the replies given by me on the 1st February to questions No. 414 and 426. 55 is however not the age of superannuation in all cases.

(b) No extensions have been granted in violation of the rule or where they were not in the interests of good administration.

(c) Government already have this under consideration.

(d) Attention is invited to the statement placed on the table on the 21st February, in reply to question No. 413 Sir Richard Tottenham does not reach the age of superannuation until 1949. Sir Alan Lloyd was re-employed after retirement because of the acute shortage of officers.

(e) Fundamental Rule 56 which governs the grant of extensions of service applies to ministerial staff as well as superior and gazetted staff, but it is not necessary to retire ministerial servants until they attain the age of 60 if they continue to be efficient.

NATIONALITY OF MEMBERS OF W. A. C. (I)

792. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: With reference to answer to part (a) of starred question No. 321 regarding nationalities of the members of the W.A.C. (I) asked on the 18th February, 1946 will the War Secretary please state as to what nationality the three "Others" who are shown as Senior Commanders belong, how much they are paid, and whether it was not possible to obtain Indian or British officers in their places? Does he propose to take immediate steps to replace them as well as other non-Indian personnel till such time as the corps is disbanded?

Mr. P. Mason: The three Senior Commanders whose nationality is shown as "Others" are one Anglo-Burman, one Anglo-Persian and one Armenian. These three officers are holding staff appointments and draw Rs. 380 per month pay of rank *plus* Rs. 100 per month staff pay.

It is not the policy of the Corps to discriminate against women of any race who are British subjects.

ACQUISITION OF CRUISERS ON BEHALF OF INDIA

793. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: With reference to the reported acquisition of three cruisers on behalf of India, will the War Secretary please state:

(a) the price paid for the same and from whom they were acquired;

(b) the age of these cruisers, and if they are thoroughly modern, and also the additional cost, if any, of converting them to modern cruisers; and

(c) the total strength of the personnel employed in these cruisers and how many of them are Indians at present and when the personnel will be entirely Indian?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) It is hoped to obtain three cruisers from the Royal Navy but His Majesty's Government have not yet signified their final agreement to make them available. I should explain that there is a good deal of competition for them. The sale price will be negotiated with His Majesty's Government, and will depend upon their age, original cost of construction, present condition of modernisation, re-fits, etc.

(b) This question cannot be answered as it is not known definitely which vessels, if any, can be made available. It is, however, proposed to acquire cruisers with modern equipment, and with a residual life of at least 12 years.

(c) The average complement of a cruiser of the type envisaged is 30 officers and 800 men. If cruisers are acquired, it is anticipated that all ratings and 50 per cent. of the officers will be Indian. Personnel are not specially earmarked for particular vessels, and replacement of British Officers by Indian officers will take place progressively throughout the Service. The time taken to complete this process cannot be forecast at present.

CONVERSION OF NATIONAL WAR FRONT INTO FIELD PUBLICITY ORGANISATION

794. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Arts be good enough to state:

(a) Whether the former National War Front (N.W.F.) has been converted into the present Field Publicity Organisation (F.P.O.);

(b) When this F.P.O. was started, and when the N.W.F. was closed;

(c) The legislative sanction for the establishment of the F.P.O., and whether any sanction of the Assembly was obtained for the expenditure on the F.P.O.; if not, under what authority public money has been spent on it;

(d) How much has been so far spent and proposed to be spent in 1946-47;

(e) How many of the officers formerly employed by the N.W.F. are now in the employ of the F.P.O.; and

(f) The specific role it is playing to solve the food crisis?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) Yes.

(b) The Field Publicity Organisation was started on the 1st June, 1945, at the Centre and in the Provinces except in the United Provinces and Madras where it came into existence from 1st July, 1945, and 10th July, 1945, respectively.

The National War Front was closed from the 31st May, 1945, at the Centre and the Provinces except in the United Provinces and Madras where it ceased to exist as from the 30th June and 9th July, 1945, respectively.

(c) The National War Front grant was shown in the 1945-46 Budget and the intention to replace National War Front by Field Publicity Organisation was announced to the Assembly in the last Budget Session.

(d) Estimated expenditure during 1945-46 is Rs. 30,57,100. Budget provision during 1946-47 is Rs. 51,38,400.

(e) Three.

(f) The Field Publicity Organisation is trying to keep the rural population informed of the measures that are being taken to meet the crisis; it is aiming at creating opinion against the hoarding of and profiteering in grain; and is also stressing the necessity of austerity and the sharing of the shortage in food.

COOPERATIVE RELATIONS OF FIELD PUBLICITY ORGANIZATION WITH OTHER BODIES

795. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Arts be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Field Publicity Organisation is intended mainly to provide employment to demobilized people and to help them settle down in their villages;

(b) whether it has, as yet established any cooperative relations with the existing Kisan and handloom weavers congress organisations, the All-India Spinners Association, the village Industries Association and the Federation of Rural People's Associations in order to aid them in their efforts to serve the rural masses of India;

(c) if not, will it offer its cooperation and services to all such organisations as are catering to the needs of rural masses; and

(d) whether it will place its resources at the disposal of adult education movements such as the Rural Library and Anti-Illiteracy Organisations?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) No, Sir.

(b) Its aim is to act in co-operation with all such organisations as are willing to lend a helping hand; and those mentioned by the Honourable Member must be counted among them.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Certainly; it will try to assist any constructive nation building activity.

INDIAN AND FOREIGN LIQUOR SHOPS IN DELHI PROVINCE

796. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian Foreign liquor shops in the Delhi Province before the 3rd September, 1939;

(b) the number of these shops now;

(c) the cause of increase or decrease, if any, in the number of these liquor shops;

(d) the Government policy underlying the opening of new shops; and

(e) whether there is any fixed date on which licences for liquor (Indian and Foreign) are issued by the Delhi Government, if so, whether there have been any instances in which licences have been issued after the fixed date or during the course of a year, and why?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: (a) 20.

(b) 20.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The number of shops in any locality or the opening of new shops is determined by the requirements of that locality.

(e) A licence may be given from any date up to the 31st March following. The latter part of the question does not arise.

NEW LIQUOR SHOPS IN DELHI

797. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representations have been made by the public of different localities of Delhi requesting unanimously that no liquor shops should be opened in their localities; if so, what action has been taken on their representations;

(b) whether the Delhi Government is contemplating the issue of licences for opening liquor shops in such areas from which the above representations have been made;

(c) if it is a fact that Government propose to increase the number of liquor shops in Delhi; if so, why; and

(d) whether Government are aware that in the United Provinces there are local non-official Licensing Boards, in consultation with which licences for new shops are issued, if so, whether Government propose to consider the desirability of setting up similar Boards for Delhi?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: (a), (b) and (c). Representations have been received but they have expressed the view of only some, not all, of the local residents. The Government do not propose to increase the number of liquor shops in Delhi at present. The number, however, of shops licensed at any time will depend on the demand of *bona fide* consumers.

(d) An Excise Advisory Committee including non-officials already exists in Delhi, and it is generally consulted before licences for opening of new shops are issued. The question of enlarging this body and constituting it on the lines of the U. P. Licensing Board is now under consideration.

TREATMENT OF CIVIL MEMBERS OF AZAD HIND MOVEMENT IN BRITISH JAILS IN EUROPE

798. *Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Home Member been drawn to the report in the *Hindustan Times*, dated February 17, that the civilian members of the Azad Hind movement are rotting in several British Camps in Europe and that many of them are kept separately in dark cells in a civil jail in Germany?

(b) Does he propose to give the House detailed information about them?

(c) Is it a fact that at the Cramwich Camp in England some of the POWs are reported to have committed suicide on account of cruel treatment meted out to them by the police officials?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) I have seen the report.

(b) Enquiries are being made and full information will be furnished later.

(c) No.

RELEASE OF COLONELS BHONSLE, LOGANADHAN AND OTHER I. N. A. MEN

799. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) if his attention has been drawn to reports in the press about the illness of Colonel Bhonsle, Colonel Loganadhan and others of the I.N.A. detained in various places in India or elsewhere;

(b) if he will make a statement regarding their health as soon as possible, and whether their ill-health is due to want of proper food and other amenities and when he proposes to get them released;

(c) if his attention has been drawn to reports about the bad treatment of I.N.A. personnel still in Europe, by officers who have been put in charge and whether he proposes to order an inquiry to be made into such allegations; and

(d) the amount of money spent on keeping these men and officers of the I.N.A. in detention in India and elsewhere and whether in the interests of economy of expenditure, he proposes to order their release as expeditiously as possible?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) and (b). As I have stated more than once, the medical treatment accorded in hospitals to members of the Indian Army is not affected in any way by the fact that they joined the I.N.A.

Lt.-Col. Bhonsle was admitted to the I.M.H. in Cantonments on the 15th of last month, suffering from diarrhœa. He is now well on the way to recovery and should be discharged from hospital shortly.

Lt.-Col. Loganadhan was admitted to the I.M.H. in Delhi on the 27th of November last, suffering from a Gastric ulcer. His illness is one of long standing, possibly aggravated by want of proper food for the last few years. In neither case can the illness be ascribed to conditions which have prevailed since the fall of Japan.

(c) This part of the question presumably relates to civilian members of the I.N.A. and should have been addressed to the Honourable the Home Member.

(d) As regards the first part, I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to my reply on the 7th February to question No. 76. For the rest, the cases of these men are being disposed of as rapidly as possible consistent with justice.

PRIVATE OWNERSHIP OF ALL-INDIA RADIO

800. *Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Arts be pleased to state if they are contemplating to remove the All-India Radio from the purview of the Central Government and make it over to private ownership? If so, why?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: As the Honourable Member is aware broadcasting is at present a constitutional responsibility of the Central Government. There is no plan at present before Government envisaging any change in that position but the question of setting up a semi autonomous corporation is under consideration.

PERMISSION TO MAJOR GEORGE MANNUAL LEE, MEDICAL OFFICER OF I. N. A. TO RETURN TO THAILAND

801. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Home Member please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one Major George Mannual Lee, Medical Officer of the Indian National Army, who was released from the Red Fort on February 7, last, has been refused permission by the Government of India to return to Thailand, where he was domiciled for the last fifteen years;

(b) whether it is a fact that this gentleman was also selected by the Congress Medical Mission which was going to Malaya but could not accompany the Mission because of Government orders;

(c) whether it is also a fact that his family, his wife who is a Siamese lady and his two children, are in Siam in destitute condition and that Government have refused to give any maintenance allowance; and

(d) whether they propose to consider the advisability of granting permission to this gentleman to return to Thailand and to his family in Siam?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) Dr. George Muller Lee has not been refused by the Government of India permission to return to Siam.

(b) Government have received no application for the inclusion of this gentleman in the Congress Medical Mission to Malaya but they have decided not to agree to the inclusion in that Mission of members of the Indian National Army, since the local administration is likely to take exception to their entry into Malaya and this would tend to delay the visit of the Mission.

(c) I have no information about Dr. Lee's family in Siam.

(d) Government have no objection to his return to Siam.

DEMAND FOR WITHDRAWAL OF PRESS RESTRICTIONS

802. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable the Home Member kindly state:

(a) whether the Government of India are aware of the demand of the All-India Newspaper Editors' Conference that press restrictions in this country should be withdrawn; and

(b) in view of the changed political conditions resulting from the end of the war, whether Government propose to consider an early withdrawal of these restrictions?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) Yes.

(b) Government have already withdrawn all restrictions which were necessitated by the war. Government have received and are considering a recent recommendation of the All-India Newspaper Editors' Conference that they should appoint a committee to review enactments affecting the Press and to recommend their repeal amendment or alteration.

NEW CEMENT FACTORIES

803. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state:

(a) what new cement factories have now been sanctioned, giving their names and localities;

(b) whether the production of cement after these new factories begin working will be sufficient to meet the requirements of the country, or whether Government contemplate sanctioning more of such factories, or whether Government propose to ask these factories to increase their production; and

(c) by what time these factories will begin working, and how long will it take to get the necessary plants to this country?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) I refer the Honourable Member to my reply to Starred Question No. 616, asked by Mr. Manu Subedar, on the 4th March, 1946.

(b) As at present advised: yes. If, however, their production is not found sufficient, action to increase the total cement production in the country will be taken by measures considered most appropriate at the time.

(c) We expect that the factories will be able to obtain the machinery required within two years and will be in full production in about three years.

DISPOSAL OF WAR SURPLUSES

804. *Sri V. C. Vallingiri Gounder: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state the arrangements so far made to dispose of the war surplus materials, such as food, machinery, medicine, hospital equipments, dairy farms, vegetable farms and buildings?

(b) What is the nature of arrangements made by the Civil Department for purchasing from the Military Department of the Government of India and from the American Military Department?

(c) what are the arrangements so far concluded, in what areas and in what items of surpluses?

(d) What are the surpluses so far disposed off, and the places where they were disposed off?

(e) As regards the disposal of the military buildings, which of them will be kept permanently to be handed over to the Civil Department, and which are to be demolished?

(f) In places where lands are taken up for permanent occupation by the military, do Government propose to compensate the land-holders by grant of suitable lands in exchange, if available, in the neighbourhood?

(g) In case of lands being given back to the owners, do Government propose to see that those lands are made fit for cultivation as before?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) (i) *Food.*—Any surpluses of indigenous food stuffs that occur from time to time are reported by the Q.M.G. to the Food Department for disposal.

Surpluses of imported food stuffs are in the first instance reported by the Q.M.G. to the War Office under whose arrangements they were originally procured. The War Office will then utilise these surpluses as far as possible to meet the requirements of all theatres notably S.E.A.C. and any balance which the War Office cannot utilise will be reported by the Q.M.G. to the Food Department for disposal.

Any part of this balance which the Food Department is unable to dispose of will be reported through the War Office to the Ministry of Food for disposal.

(ii) *Machinery, medicine and hospital equipment.*—A Directorate-General of Disposals has been created with headquarters at New Delhi; Regional Commissioners at Lahore, Cawnpore, Bombay and Karachi. Surpluses of all categories of stores are being reported to the Director-General, Disposals, who is acting in accordance with the policy laid down by the Disposals Board.

(iii) *Lands and buildings (including dairy and vegetable farms).*—Requisitioned lands and buildings surplus to service requirements will ordinarily be returned to their original owners. Acquired property which has become surplus including dairy and vegetable farms will be offered first to Departments of the Central Government, Provincial Governments and States and if not required by them will then be disposed of to private bodies or individuals. The disposal agency is the Directorate General of Lands Hirings and Disposals and its local representatives.

(b) and (c). A list showing the categories of stores likely to be declared surplus by the Defence Services was circulated to all Provincial Governments and States with a request to prepare lists of their requirements Catalogues of actual surpluses reported including surpluses taken over from the American Foreign Liquidation Commission are under preparation and will also be circulated shortly to all concerned. The order of priority to be observed is:

(i) Departments of Central Government;

(ii) Provincial Governments;

(iii) State Governments;

(iv) Semi-Government institutions; Public Utilities;

(v) Public Bodies; and

(vi) General Public.

Further, attention is invited to the proceedings of the Policy Committee relating to disposals of which a meeting was held on the 20th October 1945—a copy* of the proceedings is placed on the table. In the same way, lists of

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

immovable property declared surplus or likely to be surplus to service requirements are circulated to Provincial Governments and States. Provincial Governments have appointed liaison officers who maintain touch with the local Lands & Hirings & Disposals staff and give notice of any property in which a Provincial Government is interested.

(d) A statement showing broad categories of surplus stores disposed of, together with their disposal values, up to 31st January 1946 is placed on the table.

(e) It is not possible to give an answer in detail. Ordinarily no military building will be demolished for which a purchaser can be found. There may be cases where demolition is necessary if the site is required for a public purpose or if there is no purchaser forthcoming and the material has to be broken up and sold as salvage.

(f) The normal procedure is to pay compensation in cash. There is no provision in the Defence of India Act and Rules for paying compensation by exchange of land. Such provision does exist in the Land Acquisition Act and in certain circumstances would be relevant if lands were acquired under that Act. It is for the acquiring officer to decide whether this procedure should be adopted, subject to the sanction of the Provincial Government.

(g) The general policy is to return land to the owners in the state in which it was at the time of taking over. This however is not done when the labour and expense involved do not justify the adoption of this course. In such cases the land is either acquired or compensation is paid to cover the costs of damage.

Statement showing disposals of Surplus Stores by Main Categories of Stores up to 31st January 1946

Main Category of Stores	Value of Disposals Rs.
Clothing & Textiles	3,02,81,917
Leather & Leather Goods	3,96,477
Tentage & Connected Stores	91,038
Machinery & Plant	6,40,993
Metals	17,84,117
Vehicles & Spares. AFVs.	4,78,906
Transportation Stores.	2,92,816
Building Material, Furniture & Misc. Engineering Stores	3,41,670
Communication Stores	36,975
Scientific Instruments other than Aircraft Instruments	19,376
Antigas Stores ARP & Firefighting Equipment	5,78,124
Arms and Ammunition	1,638
Medical and Veterinary Stores	2,99,445
Acids and Chemicals	5,21,754
Paints, Varnishes and Enamels	1,87,623
Petroleum Oil and Lubricants	8,10,064
Other Foodstuffs	10,54,809
Livestock and Dairies, Farms	29,41,799
Containers	4,75,223
Aero Stores	4,87,693
Naval Craft and Parts	2,93,962
Amenity Stores	557
Other Miscellaneous Stores	3,78,039
Total	4,23,95,015

LAND COLONISATION SCHEMES IN PROVINCES

805. *Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state the number of Land Colonisation Schemes in the several Provinces so far formulated, the extent of each area, and the number of demobilised persons proposed to be settled in each area?

(b) What is the nature of work so far undertaken to make these areas fit for early occupation and cultivation?

(c) What is the area of an economic unit of land to be given to these persons in the case of dry garden and wet lands?

(d) What is the nature of initial help, Government propose to give them?

(e) In alloting lands for the demobilised men, do Government propose to see that the existing facilities of the landholders in the villages are not interfered with?

(f) What is the amount of expenditure so far incurred in starting the colonisation schemes?

(g) Will Government be pleased to consider the employment of demobilised men for work in the new irrigation schemes?

(h) What other forms of employment do Government propose to give to the demobilised men?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) The only Provinces which have so far formulated schemes are Madras, C. P. and Sind; but schemes are being worked out in Bengal, Orissa and U. P. and they are under consideration in the remaining five Provinces.

The schemes so far formulated are shown in the statement which I lay on the table:

(b) In Madras the land is being cleared of bush and scrub in at least two areas. It is also being cleared in the Sind area, but work has not yet started in the C. P. area.

(c) The unit proposed in each case is as follows:—

Madras:—5 acres wet land or 10 acres dry land, or a mixture of the two, *e.g.*, two acres of wet with 6 acres of dry land.

C. P.—10 to 12 acres including 5 acres wet.

Sind.—32 acres irrigated.

In each case the object is to give a colonist an economic holding and no more, *i.e.*, sufficient to maintain him and his family on a reasonable standard of living.

(d) The Provincial Governments have been informed that they may expect the following assistance from the Central Government for schemes which prove acceptable to them:

(i) A contribution not to exceed one-third of the cost of a scheme subject to an over-all maximum of Rs. 500 per *ex*-serviceman settled under the scheme.

(ii) A contribution of 60 per cent. of the recurring cost of any training that may be given to colonists in the principles and practice of co-operative and collective farm management.

(iii) A contribution to the cost of training any additional co-operative staff required.

The Central Government will also be prepared to consider making a grant-in-aid for a period of years sufficient to meet half the overhead charges of any supervisory staff required by a colony.

The initial help proposed to be given by Provincial Governments varies in each case but it is likely to amount to at least Rs. 1,000 per colonist.

(e) This is a matter which primarily concerns Provincial Governments, but the Central Government will not be prepared to give financial assistance to any scheme which involves any unnecessary interference with the rights of existing landholders, or, where interference is necessary, which does not provide full compensation for disturbance.

(f) Information is not available with the Central Government, but can be obtained, if desired, from the Governments concerned. So far Madras, and Sind are the only Governments likely to have spent anything material.

(g) The provincial post-war plans provide for the employment of demobilized men for work in new irrigation schemes.

(h) This part of the question should have been addressed to the Honourable the Labour Member who is responsible for resettlement of discharged war workers. It may however be mentioned that a number of vacancies have been reserved in the various branches of Government Service for candidates with "war service".

Statement

Provinces	Area to be colonised	No. of demobilised persons to be settled
	Acres	
Madras (a)	3200	400
„ (b)	8800	910 (including 470 ex-servicemen)
„ (c)	400	50
C. P.	3562	150
Sind	12000	350

EXCISE DUTY ON TOBACCO

806. *Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state the amount of duty collected from tobacco in each Province?

(b) What is the classification made in the several types of tobacco and the rate of duty on each of the classes in the beginning and in subsequent years?

(c) In levying the duty, what consideration was given to the fact that land has been taxed already and the landholder has to pay additional tax on land?

(d) Are Government aware that tobacco growing is a costly business which is exhausting the land of its fertility?

(e) Do Government propose to guarantee a fixed minimum price for tobacco to prevent loss to the cultivator?

(f) Do Government propose to see that the tax is collected only from the tobacco dealer and not from the cultivator, when he is compelled to keep the crop on hand due to low prices?

(g) Owing to a fall in prices of tobacco, will Government consider the advisability of reducing the rate of tax on the tobacco locally consumed?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: (a) and (b). Statements are laid on the table of the House.

(c) The amount of land revenue paid on land on which tobacco is produced has no relevance to the excise, which is a tax on consumption.

(d) Government are aware that if tobacco is grown on the same land year after year, there is a tendency for it to deteriorate. They are, therefore, discouraging such a practice and have recommended a suitable rotation of crops.

(e) No Sir, especially when the cultivation of food crops is so essential.

(f) The Central Excise Rules already provide that, whether the curer sells his produce immediately after curing or retains it for subsequent sale in the

hope of better prices, he can sell it to a wholesale dealer without payment of duty and the duty will be realised from the wholesale dealer.

(g) Tobacco grown for the personal consumption of the grower and members of his household is already exempted from excise. Wholesale prices of tobacco have no relevance to the rate of the excise which, as already explained, is a tax on consumption.

Gross receipts from excise duty on Tobacco during 1943-44, 1944-45 and 1945-46 (April—December)

Provinces	1943-44	1944-45	1945-46 (April—December)
	R.000	R.000	R.000
India General	5,82	7,79	4,78
Baluchistan	63	1,45	32
Coorg	..	..	..
Madras	1,65,49	2,86,29	3,21,83
Bombay	1,01,89	1,58,58	1,17,43
Bengal	4,62,27	8,51,30	2,14,03
United Provinces	40,78	98,81	1,74,54
Punjab	24,42	60,51	46,67
Bihar	54,23	1,16,98	1,99,96
C. P. & Berar	82,55	1,02,37	61,53
Assam	1,55	61	55
N. W. F. P.	10,32	18,46	11,92
Orissa	6,27	10,71	6,79
Sind	9,04	14,40	11,05
Total	9,65,26	17,28,26	11,71,40

Note.—Figures for 1944-45 are provisional.

Excise duty on tobacco in 1943

Unmanufactured

	Per lb. Rs. A.
I.—VIRGINIA TOBACCO—	
A.—Flue-cured—	
(1) If intended for manufacture into—	
(a) Cigarettes—	
(i) Containing more than 20 per cent. weight of imported tobacco	1 12
(ii) Containing 20 per cent. or less than 20 per cent. weight of imported tobacco	1 4
(iii) Containing no imported tobacco	0 8
(b) Biris	0 6
(c) Cheroots	0 2
2. If intended for any other purpose	1 12
B.—Air-cured	0 6

	Per lb. Rs. A.
II.—COUNTRY TOBACCO—	
(1) If intended for manufacture into—	
(a) Cigarettes	0 6
(b) Biris	0 6
(c) Cigars or cheroots	0 2
(d) Hookah tobacco	0 1
(e) Snuff	0 6
(2) If intended for sale as chewing tobacco, whether manufactured or merely cured	0 1
(3) If intended for any other purpose	0 6
III.—STALKS, STEMS AND OTHER REFUSE OF TOBACCO—	
(1) If intended for use in the preparation of any form of manufactured tobacco	0 1
(2) If intended to be used for agricultural purposes	*Nil*

PART II.

Manufactured

	Per hundred Rs. A.
Cigars and cheroots of which the value—	
(i) Exceeds Rs. 30 a hundred	6 0
(ii) Exceeds Rs. 25 a hundred but does not exceed Rs. 30 a hundred	5 0
(iii) Exceeds Rs. 20 a hundred but does not exceed Rs. 25 a hundred	4 0
(iv) Exceeds Rs. 15 a hundred but does not exceed Rs. 20 a hundred	3 0
(v) Exceeds Rs. 10 a hundred but does not exceed Rs. 15 a hundred	2 0
(vi) Exceeds Rs. 5 a hundred but does not exceed Rs. 10 a hundred	1 0
(vii) Exceeds Rs. 2-8-0 a hundred but does not exceed Rs. 5 a hundred	0 8
(viii) Exceeds Rs. 1-4-0 a hundred but does not exceed Rs. 2-8-0 a hundred	0 4
(ix) Exceeds As. 10 but does not exceed Rs. 1-4-0 a hundred	0 2

Excise duty on tobacco in 1944.

	Per lb. Rs. A.
I.—Unmanufactured tobacco—	
(1) If flue cured and intended for—	
(a) Manufacture into cigarettes containing—	
(i) More than 20 per cent. weight of imported tobacco	3 8
(ii) 20 per cent. or less than 20 per cent. weight of imported tobacco	2 8
(iii) No imported tobacco	1 0
(b) Any purpose other than the manufacture of cigarettes or of the products enumerated in (3) (a) and (3) (b)	3 8
(2) If other than flue cured and intended for—	
(a) Manufacture into cigarettes	0 9
(b) Any purpose other than the manufacture of cigarettes or of the products enumerated in (3) (a) and (3) (b)	0 9
(3) Whether flue-cured or not, if intended for—	
(a) Manufacture into—	
(i) Biris	0 9
(ii) Snuff	0 9
(iii) Cigars and Cheroots	0 3
(iv) Hookah tobacco	0 3
(b) Sale as chewing tobacco, whether manufactured or merely cured	0 3
(c) Agricultural purposes	*Nil.*
(4) Stalks, stems and other refuse of tobacco intended for use in the preparation of any form of manufactured tobacco	0 1

II. Manufactured tobacco—

Cigars and cheroots of which the value—	Per hundred Rs.	A.
(i) Exceeds Rs. 30 a hundred	12	0
(ii) Exceeds Rs. 25 a hundred but does not exceed Rs. 30 a hundred	10	0
(iii) Exceeds Rs. 20 a hundred but does not exceed Rs. 25 a hundred	8	0
(iv) Exceeds Rs. 15 a hundred but does not exceed Rs. 20 a hundred	6	0
(v) Exceeds Rs. 10 a hundred but does not exceed Rs. 15 a hundred	4	0
(vi) Exceeds Rs. 5 a hundred but does not exceed Rs. 10 a hundred	2	0
(vii) Exceeds Rs. 2-8-0 a hundred but does not exceed Rs. 5 a hundred	1	0
(viii) Exceeds Rs. 1-4-0 a hundred but does not exceed Rs. 2-8-0 a hundred	0	8
(ix) Exceeds annas 12 a hundred but does not exceed Rs. 1-4-0 a hundred	0	4

Excise duty on tobacco in 1945.

I. Unmanufactured tobacco—

	Per lb. Rs.	A.
(1) If flue-cured and intended for—		
(a) Manufactured into cigarettes containing—		
(i) More than 60 per cent. weight of imported tobacco	7	8
(ii) More than 40 per cent. but not more than 60 per cent. weight of imported tobacco	5	0
(iii) More than 20 per cent. but not more than 40 per cent. weight of imported tobacco	3	8
(iv) 20 per cent. or less than 20 per cent. weight of imported tobacco	2	6
(v) No imported tobacco	1	0
(b) Any purpose other than the manufacture of cigarettes or of the products enumerated in (3) (a) and (3) (b)	7	8
(2) If other than flue-cured and intended for—		
(a) Manufacture into cigarettes	0	9
(b) Any purpose other than the manufacture of cigarettes or of the products enumerated in (3) (a) and (3) (b)	0	9
(3) Whether flue-cured or not, if intended for—		
(a) Manufacture into—		
(i) Biris	0	9
(ii) Snuff	0	9
(iii) Cigars and cheroots	0	3
(iv) Hookah tobacco	0	3
(b) Sale as chewing tobacco, whether manufactured or merely cured	0	3
(c) Agricultural purposes	*Nil.*	
(4) Stalks, and other refuse of tobacco intended for use in the preparation of any form of manufactured tobacco	0	1

II. Manufactured tobacco—

Cigars and cheroots of which the value—	Per hundred Rs.	A.
(i) Exceeds Rs. 30 a hundred	12	0
(ii) Exceeds Rs. 25 a hundred but does not exceed Rs. 30 a hundred	10	0
(iii) Exceeds Rs. 20 a hundred but does not exceed Rs. 25 a hundred	8	0
(iv) Exceeds Rs. 15 a hundred but does not exceed Rs. 20 a hundred	6	0
(v) Exceeds Rs. 10 a hundred but does not exceed Rs. 15 a hundred	4	0
(vi) Exceeds Rs. 5 a hundred but does not exceed Rs. 10 a hundred	2	0
(vii) Exceeds Rs. 2-8-0 a hundred but does exceed Rs. 5 a hundred	1	0
(viii) Exceeds Rs. 1-4-0 hundred but does not exceed Rs. 2-8-0 a hundred	0	8
(ix) Exceeds annas 12 a hundred but does not exceed Rs. 1/4/— a hundred	0	4

INDIA'S MEMBERSHIP TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

807. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state what the International organisations are of which India is a member, giving a complete list of names together with the amounts of subscription payable by India?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: A statement is being prepared and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

EMPLOYMENT FOR RETRENCHED PERSONS

75. Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state, having regard to the desirability of providing employment to as many as possible of the young men who are being thrown out of employment as a result of the end of war and the consequent retrenchment of expenditure, whether Government will consider the advisability of taking the same action as they did in 1922-23 and 1932-33, by insisting upon the retirement of such of their officers and ministerial staff as have rendered, say, 25 years' service or more?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Action was taken in 1923 and 1931 in consequence of retrenchment in permanent establishments. There is no proposal to make a reduction in permanent posts at present. It is not the policy of Government to insist on the retirement of such of their officers and staff in permanent service as have rendered 25 years' service unless they have reached the prescribed age of superannuation. It would not be in the interests of the administration to retire compulsorily senior experienced and efficient permanent officers in order to make room for temporary staff who may be thrown out of employment by a reduction in temporary posts.

RULES FOR CORRECTION OF BIRTH DATES OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SERVANTS IN OFFICIAL RECORDS

76. Seth Sukhdev: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether any rules exist for the correction of birth dates of the Central Government servants in the official records, if so, what the procedure is, and what documents are required in support of the claim for the alteration of birth date records; and

(b) if no rules exist, whether Government propose to frame some rules to enable the correction of genuine mistake in birth dates in official records, if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to Article 62(1) (b), Civil Account Code, and the Notes thereunder, of which a copy is attached for reference. The date of birth as entered in the official records can subsequently be altered only under the orders of the Department of the Government of India or the Head of the Central Department concerned. Except where the date of birth has been wrongly recorded by a clerical error, a claim for alteration must be supported by satisfactory documentary evidence such as the matriculation or equivalent certificate, and a duly attested extract of the birth register or the baptismal certificate in original. A satisfactory explanation of the circumstances in which the wrong age came to be recorded and a statement of any previous attempts to have the record amended may also be required. The date of birth once entered in the official records is however ordinarily treated as final and is not altered except for strong reasons.

(b) Does not arise.

Extract of Article 62 (1) (b), Civil Account Code.

(b) The date of birth, of appointment to present post, and of promotion to present pay of each person, as well as the number and date of the orders creating the post as it now stands should be clearly entered in the appropriate columns of the statement; the date of birth by Christian era should be given, and if the exact date is not known, the approximate date or year should be stated. This date can be altered, except in the case of a clerical error, only under the orders of the local Government.

Note 1.—The Departments of the Government of India exercise the powers of a local Government for the purpose of this Article.

Note 2.—A local Government may delegate this power, in the case of non-gazetted Government servants, to Heads of Departments and Commissioners of Divisions.

DANGER OF DICTATION OF POLICIES BY NEWSPAPER COMBINES.

77. Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: Will the Honourable Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the warning issued by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru at Allahabad on the 16th February, 1946, against big combines starting chains of papers and dictating policies detrimental to the interests of the country; and

(b) whether Government propose to examine Section 5 of Act XXV of 1867 in connection with this danger?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) I have seen a newspaper's report of the speech.

(b) Government will be prepared to examine the law if developments render it necessary.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

HARDSHIPS OF MEMBERS OF AZAD HIND FAUJ IN RANGOON CENTRAL JAIL

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Has the attention of the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations been drawn to the A.P.I. message, published in newspapers that more than one thousand members of the Azad Hind Fauj lodged in the Rangoon Central Jail will resort to hunger strike from March 4th, unless their grievances are redressed within that date and that Mr. Amianath Bose, Secretary, Indian National Army Relief Committee, Bengal, has received copies of the five letters sent to the authorities in India, by Captain B. P. Rao of the Azad Hind Fauj, now in the Rangoon Central Jail, narrating in detail the main grievances of these prisoners in Burma?

(b) Is it a fact that irrespective of their ranks they are put to fatigues at the jetties, stores and in the streets of Rangoon and are made to do menial as well as hard labour and, as a remuneration, given I. T. Rations and Shelter in the Jail?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: (a) and (b). Government have seen the message in the Press and they have obtained a report from their Representative in Burma. About 1,000 civilian I.N.A. detenus contemplated hunger strike from the 4th March. All their grievances relating to unrestricted correspondence, interviews and other amenities have, however, been met and they are now satisfied. No hunger strike is now contemplated. The Government of India's Representative visited the jail on the 5th March and found the detenues satisfied. Their main grievance is delay in repatriation. Repatriation is now awaiting the first available military shipping and the detenus have been informed of this. About 20 of the detenus who claim Burma domicile have been released.

After the reoccupation of Burma, this I.N.A. personnel as prisoners of war was made to do fatigue in the Rangoon Dock; but this practice was stopped in August last. Since then, the detenues have done no fatigue at jetties, stores, streets or elsewhere, nor are they being made to do menial work or hard labour. Their rations are also satisfactory.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How long do Government expect to take before these people are all repatriated to India, and when they are brought here, what is the intention of the Government? Do they want to detain them here or do they want to let them go freely in the country?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I stated in reply to the adjournment motion the day before that preparations are now complete for their repatriation to begin any day after today. I cannot give any more definite date. I need hardly add that we are most anxious to ensure that this repatriation is expedited. On their arrival here, they will of course be released and they will be at liberty to go wherever they like.

Sardar Mangal Singh: The Honourable Member said that these I.N.A. prisoners are required to do fatigue work in certain places but not now. Are they required to do fatigue work in other places?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: The clear import of the information we have had is that they are not being subjected to this sort of treatment in the jail. They are now in ordinary confinement.

Mr. President: Next question.

RESTRICTIONS ON LAWYERS DEFENDING I.N.A. MEN IN SINGAPORE

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state:

(a) if Government are aware that the lawyers sent from India by Government to Singapore to defend the members of the I.N.A., who are being prosecuted there are not allowed to defend persons accused of offences other than collaboration with the enemy;

(b) the instructions given to the lawyer sent from India by Government;

(c) if Government are aware that the lawyers are not having any work now at Singapore; and

(d) if Government intend immediately to arrange for all Indians I mean I. N. A. prisoners being defended by the lawyers sent from India?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: (a) The lawyers sent from India have now been allowed to defend Indians charged not only with the offence of collaboration with the enemy but also with all offences arising out of a collaborationist background.

(b) I hope the Honourable Member will appreciate that it may not be in the interest of the accused Indians to disclose the instructions which Government gave these lawyers.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Necessary action has already been taken.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Did not the Honourable Member receive information from the Lawyers that were sent that they were without work for about a fortnight?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: There was a very minor hitch. But the matter is now settled to the entire satisfaction of everyone, and I hope the Honourable member would avoid further public discussion of it because any public discussion would not be in the interest of our countrymen.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Why not?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Let it go. I will ask another question. I would like to know whether any other trial of I.N.A. people has commenced and how long the entire trial is expected to take for whom the Indian lawyers have been sent from here?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Adjournments have had to be taken because the lawyers have had to prepare their cases. They had to go through their briefs. It is not possible at this stage to give any idea of the time that the trials

would take but everything is now ready for such of the trials to begin as would really be undertaken.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: What is the number of I.N.A. people confined in the Singapore Jail.

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: The last time that we had information on that point the position was that only about five were in confinement for collaboration, and there were about eighteen to twenty for specific offences but some of them were on bail.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Are they all to be tried?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: As I have said before, we are making every endeavour to persuade the British Military Administration not to proceed against those who have been accused of collaboration only with the enemy, but so far as we can make out now, the trials of those who have been accused of specific offences, such as extortion and torture, would continue.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not a fact that so far as I.N.A. trials are concerned, persons charged of brutality were alone proceeded against and why were not similar instructions given to that Government also?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I believe, Sir, I have stated on more than one occasion that exactly similar requests were made to the British Military Administration.

Mr. President: Next Question.

CERTAIN A.P.A. MESSAGE FROM LONDON SUGGESTING SCALING DOWN OF INDIA'S STERLING BALANCES

Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the Honourable the Finance Member ascertained the authenticity of the A.P.A. message from London, dated the 25th February, 1946, in which British officials were alleged to have declared that the sterling balances were frozen in London in the interests of British and world economy, that proposals should be made to India for the settlement of the sterling debt corresponding to the manner in which the Lease-Lend debt was settled by the United States of America and that, if the American loan did not come off, India would have to wait for two hundred years to receive repayment of the sterling debt?

(b) Who were these officials, and to what Department of His Majesty's Government did they belong?

(c) What authority had these people to make the kind of statements, which they are reported to have made?

(d) Has His Majesty's Government been apprised of the strong feeling in India against scaling down and in favour of an early repayment?

(e) Is he in a position to make any statement on this subject, conveying the views of His Majesty's Government?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) to (e). I have ascertained that, as I expected, the issue of the A.P.A. message referred to was not only not authorised by, but was not even known to His Majesty's Government. There is no question of this statement being official propaganda as was suggested by my Honourable friend in his earlier question.

In spite of enquiries it has not been possible to establish the identity of the individual who is reported to have given the interview, but His Majesty's Government are satisfied that no official having responsibility in these matters would have made such a statement.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that two messages have come down today putting various words in the mouth of Mr. Taft and Mr. Clayton from America and in view of the fact that these messages, adverse to India's interests, are sending the jitters down our spine frequently and several times

in the course of a week, will not the Honourable Member and the Government of India endeavour to get from His Majesty's Government a straightforward short statement on this subject, so that the whole question may be put beyond any doubt?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: The Government of India have no responsibility in this matter and it is a little hard for me to have to answer for these messages emanating from America in relation to Senator Taft and Mr. Clayton. As to the last part, I have nothing to add to what I have said in the past.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government take steps to see that their statement that so far as India is concerned, she is determined to prevent any scaling down of the sterling debts, is given wide publicity in America through their agents there?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I think it is up to the correspondents in this country, if they so wish, to give the necessary publicity. We have nothing to do with America.

Prof N. G. Ranga: The Government of India have got their publicity department there attached to their Agent. Will it not be possible for the Government to see that their Agent gives due publicity to this most important matter there?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I do not think the Americans are unaware of the feelings in this country regarding this matter.

Mr. Manu Subedar: My question was, in order to put an end to the frequent messages coming from irresponsible sources, which neither the Government of India nor His Majesty's Government can help, will not the Honourable Member endeavour to induce His Majesty's Government to make a short statement on this subject, which will be final and authoritative, so that we may not have these frequent disturbances of public feeling in India?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: As I have already explained, I have left no stone unturned to acquaint His Majesty's Government with the strong feeling in this country and particularly the feeling in this House. I have already told them two or three times and if need be I shall say it again.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What I was requesting was whether His Majesty's Government could not make an authoritative statement which will once for all eliminate all these unauthorised statements. Will they not make an authoritative statement on this subject saying that they will not come to India with any proposal for scaling down of the sterling balances?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I cannot answer for His Majesty's Government. All I can do is to represent the feeling that has been expressed in this House and in the country.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

DISTURBANCES IN DELHI ON THE VICTORY PARADE DAY

Mr. President: I have received notices of three adjournment motions practically on the same subject, though worded differently. The first in point of time is from Prof. Ranga and Mr. Gangaraju relating to:

"The persistance of Government in proceeding with their Victory Parade celebrations in Delhi on the 7th instant despite the hartal declared against these celebrations by the Congress, the Muslim League and the Tramway Workers and others which incensed the people of Delhi, leading to widespread and spontaneous disturbances; firing by the police and military, inflicting death and injuries on so many people on the Victory Parade Day."

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi: General): Sir, I am afraid there seems to be a misunderstanding on the part of my friend Prof. Ranga. The Congress declared no hartal.

Mr. President: Was a hartal declared by the Muslim League?

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): I do not think, Sir.

Mr. President: So that also is a misstatement in this motion. I do not want to hear the Honourable Member on this motion. Looking at the wording and the substance of the motion, it will not be admissible, because the point of emphasis is "the persistence of Government in proceeding with their Victory Parade celebrations." This matter has been going on for a long time and there is no urgency about that persistence any longer.

SHOOTING OF CITIZENS AND USE OF TEAR GAS AND LATHI CHARGES BY THE POLICE IN DELHI ON THE VICTORY PARADE DAY

Mr. President: The next motion is by Mr. Siddique Ali Khan regarding:

"the shooting of innocent citizens and the use of tear gas and lathi charge against them by the Police yesterday in Delhi."

This motion *prima facie* appears to be in order.

The other one by Pandit Govind Malaviya practically relates to the same subject. The motion reads:

"The deaths and injuries to person and property caused in Delhi yesterday due to police and military firings and to mob frenzy during the public disorders resulting from the peoples' resentment against the Government's persistence in their Victory Week Celebrations in the teeth of public opposition and the Government's failure to take steps to put out the fire in the Town Hall and other places by rushing to those spots fire brigades from New Delhi where in the official world, parades, bands, illuminations, fire works and other gaiety proceeded undisturbed while Delhi literally burned."

It seems to me to be a piece of literature also? The adjournment motions that are tabled should not be argumentative and in the form of a speech, but that is a different matter. This motion raises practically the same subject as the adjournment motion by Mr. Siddique Ali Khan. I should like to know what the Honourable the Home Member has to say about the admissibility of this motion. Before he does so, I may make a suggestion for the consideration of the House *viz.*, whether this subject could not be more appropriately discussed on the cut motions that are now coming on the discussion of the Budget.

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan (Central Provinces and Berar: Muhammadan): The urgency and importance of this motion requires that it should be taken up today.

Mr. President: I said therefore that I was merely making a suggestion that the House will be getting an opportunity during the cut motions which will continue from today, but it is for the Honourable Members to accept or not to accept this suggestion. The only point I had in mind was that two hours' time allotted for the discussion of cut motions will be taken up.....

An Honourable Member: Only one hour.

Mr. President: That is the point I wished to remind Honourable Members, that they will get ample opportunity of discussing the matter on the cut motions; but it is only a suggestion. I do not mean to rule it out on that ground; that is not my point.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): May I point out that the debate on this motion may take two hours and the other parties have not been given such a long time and that they may have other subjects to discuss on their cut motions—matters which can only be taken during the budget time? Therefore it will not be possible to bring this matter up on cut motions, except perhaps on a general discussion during the Finance Bill which will be very difficult and it may not be fair to Government to be made the target of attack only on this particular issue of this local administration.

Mr. President: My idea was to save time; that is all.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (Home Member): I am not quite certain which adjournment motion you are now considering.

Mr. President: Nawab Siddique Ali Khan's adjournment motion.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I cannot urge anything on the specific ground on which you have asked me to speak, namely, the admissibility of the motion. I can only say—and I quite understand that it is not strictly relevant to the question that you have put to me—to the House generally what I have said to the Honourable Member and his friends, that in my opinion no good can be done and harm may be done by the discussion today of a motion expressed in these terms. I have not received yet any full information of yesterday's happenings. I have received a few minutes ago, while I was in this House, an account of the movements of the District Magistrate covering a number of incidents. It will take some time clearly to get a conspectus of various happenings from eye-witnesses in various parts of the city—the incidents cover a considerable area and it will be quite impossible for me to give any full information this afternoon; and I shall therefore be very much handicapped in dealing with the insinuation made in this motion that innocent persons were shot. That, I quite recognise, is not strictly relevant to the question you have put me, but I would again ask the Honourable Member to consider whether it is not likely to do harm to the cause which we all have at heart, namely, the restoration of order in Delhi, if this motion be discussed this afternoon. I understand that things are quiet now in Delhi, shops are open, traffic is moving; and I should have hoped that we would all desire that nothing should be said or done in the course of today which might revive the animosities which were evident yesterday.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: Sir, what I understand from some people who said they were eye-witnesses is that they said they saw some two boys were shot near the red fort, where there was no demonstration of any kind, and they were shot like rabbits by the military. We do not know if the Honourable Member will make an inquiry; the Delhi Administration is not situated so far away that information cannot be had: if the Honourable Member wants, the D. C. can easily come and explain to him orally. He need not get the information in writing and he can get this information verified whether people were shot. I think it will do good to find out the facts now. Instead of a persecution which may start later on, it may have a healthy effect on those irresponsible people who resort to shooting people when there was no necessity, and if these facts are borne out later on, and if my honourable friend the Home Member is convinced that these things did take place, then I think he will see to it that these things do not recur. If this matter is postponed, probably we will find that matters may become *res judicata* in many cases. Or it may become *sub judice*—they may go to court and say the matter is pending there. If we wait till the Finance Bill, probably everything will be finished by then—the people would have been hauled up and sentenced.

Mr. President: That is an argument against the suggestion. I am not concerned with the merits. I would like to know the views of the Honourable Member who has given notice of the adjournment motion—his views about what the Honourable the Home Member has said.

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: With reference to what he said, I am sorry to say that myself and the members of my party do not agree with those views—it is only a matter of opinion. The Honourable Member has said that he will not be in a position to know the facts by this evening. I do not think he can say that, because the local officials are so close here—he can get all the information. I have got all the information before me. But as you say that the merits of the case are not to be considered now, I do not wish to say anything about it. What I want to prove is that there was not sufficient police *bundobast*: if the authorities had taken proper precautions to check this sort of looting and hooliganism, they would have surely succeeded. I wish to assure my honourable friend that nothing will be said here which may add to the animosity which is prevailing here. I have nothing more to add. The matter is very urgent and of public importance and I request you to admit the motion.

Mr. President: As regards the question of propriety or otherwise on the merits or even on the other consideration which the Honourable Home Member has mentioned, that is a matter for the House to consider and not for the Chair to

[Mr. President]

come to any conclusions as regards the merits this way or that way. It appears then that the motion has to be taken up today. That seems to be the wish of the member who has tabled the motion and of his party. (*Honourable Members on the Muslim League Benches*: Yes, yes.) I will admit the motion.....

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Leader of the House): Sir, I am not quite clear whether you have left it to the House, as you yourself said; I am not quite clear whether in this case 25 members are in favour of the motion being taken up this afternoon. Would you, Sir, ask if he has the necessary support?

Diwan Chaman Lall (West Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): That point only arises if anybody objects. Do I take it that my honourable friend is objecting?

Mr. President: That is what he does: he need not say the words "I object" but that is the substance of what he said. I have to request members who are in favour of leave being granted to rise in their places.

(More than twenty-five members rose.)

Obviously more than twenty-five members are in favour of leave being given. So the motion is admitted. As regards the time of the discussion, I do not think less than two hours will be required for this. I need make no suggestion. Otherwise I would have suggested what was passing in my mind with a view to save time: this can be taken up at 4 and can end at 5 if possible. It seems it is no use making that suggestion as the matter could not be finished in one hour.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: If the matter finishes before 6, then the House may sit till 6 and give the unattached members as much time as is necessary out of the question hour.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I cannot speak, as I was shouting a lot yesterday. Immediately after the motion had been moved by Mr. Siddique Ali Khan, I would ask the Honourable the Home Member to make a statement straightaway and I think it will economise time. There may not be more than one or two speeches and we can finish the whole thing by five o'clock.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: If the House adjourns, then you cannot sit.

Mr. President: Whatever it is, I was considering whether it could be started at 5 o'clock. I feel a difficulty about the rule. It says it shall be taken up at 4. It means that you can take it up earlier by consent. I doubt whether you can take it up later.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): The adjournment motion can be formally moved at 4 and then we can go back to other business.

Mr. President: I do not think that can be done. What I would propose is this. If the adjournment motion is taken up at 4, it may be discussed. If it is finished before 6, whatever time is left may be utilised for the cut motion.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose (Calcutta: Non-Muhammadan Urban): That raises a novel question. If the House decides to adjourn, can the House decide, after half a second, to sit again?

Mr. President: The Members are talking from a practical point of view. I am merely stating from a theoretical point of view. I do not know whether the adjournment motion will be accepted or rejected. If it is acepted, the House will adjourn. If the motion is talked out without any conclusion, the House could sit.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: It is possible to get over the difficulty if the Standing Order is suspended for the day. Whatever the other side might say, it is always open to the Chair to suspend the Standing Order any time. The unattached members can get time in that way.

Mr. President: Paragraph 51 provides that the motion shall be taken up at 4 o'clock or, if the President with the consent of the Member of the Government concerned so directs, at any earlier hour at which the business of the day may terminate. The Honourable Member's suggestion is that this Standing Order be suspended for the day.

Diwan Chaman Lall: It is the usual course, if the House is agreed, that the motion may be taken up at a later hour than the hour fixed by the Standing Order. It will be suspended for the day and you can fix the time.

Mr. President: I will have to satisfy myself that the Standing Order can be suspended like that, with the unanimous consent of the House.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy (Law Member): Unless the Standing Order itself gives the power to the President to suspend the Standing Order, it is doubtful if you can suspend any particular Standing Order. There is no provision made in this Standing Order itself for suspension.

Mr. President: That is what I want to find out. I am not sure whether it can be suspended by the President, even with the unanimous consent of the House. I will require some time to be satisfied about this.

Sir George Spence (Secretary, Legislative Department): I would draw your attention to Standing Order 38 on page 154. The relevant portion occurs on top of page 155. This is in support of the Law Member's point that unless there is specific provision in the Standing Order, there is no general power in the President to suspend the Standing Order.

Mr. President: The matter requires consideration. I have to be satisfied whether under the Rules or Standing Orders or previous precedents there is power to suspend the Standing Order like that. If I am satisfied that it can be suspended, then of course I will put the proposal before the House. That is a different matter. For the present we may decide that the adjournment motion will be taken at 4 and the time lost to any party may be made up by a *pro rata* reduction in the time allot to all. That is the only other alternative, instead of a slice being taken from the time allotted to unattached members today. However, that will be a matter which we shall decide later on.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: There is provision for suspension of some Standing Orders by the President. If you look at the index, you will find a reference to suspension of Standing Orders. There are several Standing Orders in which specific provision is made for their suspension. For instance.....

Mr. President: Instead of taking this up now, let us take it up if necessary at 2-30, so that, I also may have time to consider the point. I want to make one point clear to the members. There are various provisions which authorise the President to suspend the Standing Orders. The question will still be whether this House, apart from the President, can by its own vote suspend any Standing Order for a particular period or day. That will be a different question from the question of the President's power. If that also is impossible, then of course matters stand differently. That question has to be examined. I am merely giving the lines of examination and not coming to any conclusion.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths (Assam: European): May I make one submission, Sir? If the power to fix the time for the adjournment motion depends upon the unanimous consent of the House, that consent will not be forthcoming from this Party.

Mr. President: That will also be helpful in considering the matter.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: It may save time.

GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS

SECOND STAGE

Mr. President: The House will now discuss the Demands for Grants. I understand that the time-table agreed by all the Parties and Unattached Members in regard to the moving of Cut Motions has been circulated to Honourable Members.

[Mr. President]

As regards the time-limit for speeches, I suggest that, as usual, the mover of cut motions will have twenty minutes, and the Government Members replying will have twenty minutes or even more, if necessary. Other speakers will be limited to fifteen minutes.

I take it that this will suit Honourable Members.

Mr. Leslie Gwilt (Bombay: European): Sir, may I draw your attention to the fact that the time now is 20 minutes to 1 and that the European Group has lost 40 minutes of its time under this programme?

Mr. President: That is inevitable, I am afraid; but it should be a matter for adjustment between the Parties. The time lost may be *pro rata* adjusted by the Parties. Any more discussion on the time will mean further loss of time.

DEMAND No. 46—PUBLIC HEALTH

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member): Sir, I move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 42,98,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Public Health'."

Mr. President: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 42,98,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Public Health'."

The first cut motion may now be moved by Mr. Griffiths, but I might just mention that today is Friday and the House will adjourn in two minutes' time.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths (Assam: European): In that case, I suggest that I should merely formally move the motion and make my speech after Lunch.

Mr. President: Yes; the Honourable Member can do so.

Improvement in Public Health with reference to Bhore Report

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Public Health' be reduced by Rs. 100."

With your permission, Sir, I will speak after Lunch.

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

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Quarter Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: Sir, our object in moving this Cut Motion is not to advocate any particular theory, nor yet to allot praise or blame for the achievements and the shortcomings of the past. We are concerned only with one thing. We are concerned to arouse interest throughout the country in this particular subject of public health, and especially to try to focus attention upon the somewhat voluminous report which has been prepared by a Committee under the chairmanship of Sir Joseph Bhore. It has always seemed to me that the most difficult of all problems in this country is the problem of priorities. The needs of the people are so many, so urgent and so vital, and yet the resources with which we have to fulfill those needs are so slender both in respect of money and in regard to man power. It follows that there are many things which ought to be considered essential, which nevertheless have to remain undone. So at every turn one is beset by the problem, I might almost call it the nightmare, of priorities; in other words, the problem of having to determine which of various essential things must be left undone for the time being. Education, agriculture, and public health, these are three obvious matters which compete for our attention and for their share of the available money. In one mood, one thinks of education. One says, education must have precedence over everything, for one rightly argues that if the spirit of man is not unfolded by education there is no hope of any forward movement, any real advance in any other sphere is impossible. Again, one tours throughout the country, one is overwhelmed with a sense of the poverty of the crops and one reflects upon the fact that the yield of rice per acre is lower in this country than in almost any other rice growing country in the world. At such a time, one says that agriculture must have priority, for until we increase the wealth of the land by increasing the agricultural produce, there can be no progress in any other field. Then, at another time, one reflects upon public health and inevitably one begins to think that attention must be concentrated, before everything else on improving the health of the people. For one can argue rightly that as long as people are in bad health, they cannot possibly contribute to advancement in any other direction, that as long as children have their health undermined by malaria, they cannot possibly apply their mind to their studies with effect. It seems therefore not unreasonable to say that health must have the first priority. Education, agriculture, public health—each has its own special claim to be considered the first priority. It seems to me that one of the most urgent things for Government to do is to get down more systematically to this question of priorities. The time has come when we ought to take all the main outlines of various schemes that have been prepared, put them all together and decide on some order of allocation of funds between them,—unless and until this is done, all our post-war plans will remain meaningless. In all these three great spheres, education, agriculture, public health, we now have a blue print. In agriculture, we have the Linlithgow Report, a great report, a report such that even if one half of its major recommendations had been implemented, India today would not be in her present parlous state. In the sphere of education, we have the Sargent Report, a report which is direct, to the point and practical and which focuses attention at once upon what is to be done. Now, in the sphere of public health, we have the report of Sir Joseph Bhore and his committee. The report itself is somewhat prolix and not altogether attractively written, but in spite of that, it is compact, filled with valuable suggestions and proposals upon which India's future development in the sphere of public health can be soundly based. I do hope, however, that the Information and Broadcasting Department will at once get busy and see that a readable summary is prepared and presented in such a form that he who runs may read. As regards the present form, it takes a very determined man to pore in the small hours of the morning, through these somewhat depressing volumes. I do trust that we shall soon see in their place a well written, attractively presented summary which will enable the man in the street to understand what has been recommended by this committee. If we are to understand the recommendations of the committee, we need to judge them against the background of the present state of health in India, the facts regarding this are unfortunately too well known to my Honourable friends. But there are three sets of figures in this report which throw out in sharp relief the unsatisfactory condition of public health in this country. First, you have on page 8 a survey of the figures of expectation of life. I learn from those figures, that a child born in Britain can expect to live 58 years; while a child born in America can expect to live for 59 years, a child born in Japan can expect to live for 44 years, but the expectation of life for a child born in British India is only 27 years. Passing on from that to the next table, the figures of infantile mortality tell an equally depressing tale. Those figures show for Britain, 58, for America, 54, for Japan, 10 and for India, 162 as the infant mortality figure. It is important to try to keep a balanced view of these figures. It would not be altogether fair to compare conditions in a tropical or sub-tropical country with those in the West. It is therefore important to remember—while still recognising how bad the situation is here—that the figures in India are roughly comparable with those in Ceylon, the Federated Malay States and Egypt. That does not mean that we need not bother about them. The comparison has to be borne in mind, but the main point is that there is an appalling wastage of life in this country today. When you turn to cholera and small pox, those comparatively easily preventible diseases, you still have 200,000 deaths per year. To examine the matter from another angle if you turn to page 13 of the survey, you see the figures showing the number of

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will become very much less when India is completely self-governing, when in the last resort the Provincial Government—their own Government—has the control of policy in all these matters. Once that control is in the hands of the people of the country it does not seem to me to be at all necessary that in the executive sphere in districts, these popular bodies should be brought in.

I have to pass over many of the points that have been raised in the report because it is impossible to deal with them in the time allotted. There are two vital problems which I must mention in passing and with regard to which I think the Committee has done a very real service. I am thinking firstly of the problem of nutrition. Here the Committee has drawn attention to the possibility of meeting the needs of people by increasing supplies of fish, milk and food yeast. I invite the particular attention of the House to the relevant chapter. Likewise I commend to its attention the chapter on health services for school children. The only thing about which I have time left to speak is finance. The Committee were puzzled as to where to start and as to how much they were to say the country could afford to spend. Their first method of approach was to examine the national income in this country, in Britain and the U. S. A., and then to take the medical expenditure of Britain and the U. S. A., and to say that India ought to be able to afford medical and public health expenditure on a proportionate scale. Taking these figures they found that in Britain Rs. 54 per head and in America Rs. 51 per head is spent on these matters; so they came to the conclusion that India should, if necessary, spend something between Rs. 2/5 and Rs. 3/3 per head. That sort of approach does not seem to me to mean very much. For one thing the proportion of the national income which does or could find its way into the coffers of the State varies very much from country to country. And apart from that, conditions in tropical and sub-tropical countries may be such as to require a larger proportion of expenditure on public health matters than is required in the West. It seems to me that you cannot approach this problem by itself. You cannot say,—could we afford to spend on public health the 360 crores of capital expenditure suggested here? Or could we afford the 60 crores annual expenditure which will arise at the end of the first five years? Or could we afford the 120 crores which will arise at the end of the first ten years? Questions of that kind do not seem to me to mean anything. There must be co-ordination and integration; Government must take the various schemes,—education, agriculture, public health and the like, and all the different development schemes and make an integrated plan,—after that we shall be in a position to say what we can or cannot afford on any particular form of improvement. In one sense of course, it is true to say that we cannot afford not to spend this money. The health of the people is too important for us to afford not to spend it. But that does not alter the fact that the money has to be found; and you cannot go about the business of pronouncing an intelligent view on this plan until there is this integration. Frankly, I am surprised that Government have not gone down before this to the business of allocating the proportionate expenditure on different schemes. The time has come when this must be done—and if it is not done all these schemes will stop just where they are. Apart from that I make one other suggestion. It is that instead of contenting ourselves with grandiose schemes which we hope to achieve in ten, twenty, thirty or forty years, it would perhaps be more practical if we went in for a successsion of targets, if we defined a certain target down now to be achieved in two years another which would be achieved in the following two years, and so on so that at every stage, between now and the full implementation of these plans we could see if we were falling behind or not. I believe this kind of fixation of a short term plan would be very much more real and very much more practicable than a long term and grandiose plan. In saying this I am not minimising the value of the excellent work done by this Committee. They have given us a blue-print; they have laid the foundations on which we can build. But we can only build on these foundations if we approach these matters in a spirit of crusade. You will not get

improvement in the health of India from Secretariat files. There is only one place from which the drive the dynamic impulse can come, and that is from you and from me. Let us resolve firmly to embark on a crusade to improve the health of India. But remember, a crusade does not mean living up in the clouds; it means coming down to earth and working out the details, and implementing those details in practice.

My last plea is this: Let us take this report in all seriousness. Let Government take this report more seriously than other reports in the past have been taken. Let us begin in this House by every single Member reading and studying it so that in the full light of knowledge we can bring pressure on Government up to the utmost possible financial limits to get this plan translated from theory into practice.

Mr. President: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Public Health' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Before I call upon any Member to address the House I have to inform the House of a little new device which I have proposed. I have set up a bell here and instead of my getting up in the middle of a speech and reminding the Honourable Member of his time limit, I shall be ringing the bell about two minutes before the time limit, so that the Honourable Members may not be interfered in their speeches, and I may not have to stand up and interfere them.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: May I suggest something which might be even an improvement on that. In the Bengal Assembly they have a green light and a red light. One of the lights is flicked on to give an indication to the Member who is speaking that his time is almost up.

Mr. President: The arrangement may have to be improved. Something of that type will be considered if necessary.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. President, Sir. On behalf of my Party I rise to support the motion so ably and so eloquently moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Griffiths. I should like to congratulate him for being in possession of such a very receptive brain for he seems to have been able to digest the four volumes of the Report in the short space of two or three days that was all that was given to us. The size of the Report so frightened me that I thought I would wait for some time before I would begin, and it was only this morning that I looked into it because I found that the European Group was moving a cut and I was very much interested in the subject.

What we need most is to have a practical view of things. We—I fear the Government and ourselves—are all becoming too theoretical. We produce very good reports; we have very good ideals; we have fine aspirations, but the difficulty is that we always come against stone-wall of practical needs and practical limitations, and then sorrowfully find that all our ideals, all our schemes and all our dreams go to pieces. What I fear is that this Report too, like other reports, is more idealistic than realistic from the little that I have been able to judge of its contents. There is no doubt, as Mr. Griffiths has said, that the health of our people is very bad, that there is a great deal of malnutrition, of disease, and of premature decay and death. I feel that the best thing that we can do is to have a system of doctors and instructors moving about from village to village and bringing instruction, practical and helpful, to the door of the villager.

As my Honourable friend, Mr. Griffiths, has said, the tendency to enhance the importance of a town is very great. I have heard it said that while 95 per cent. of our population lives in villages, 95 per cent. of our doctors live in towns. In those circumstances it is indeed difficult, if not impossible, for our villagers to have any medical relief at all. Therefore I suggest that means must be devised whereby persons who are in a position to know these things, should be constantly moving about and bringing useful information to the door of the villager. We are essentially a domestic people and even the educated amongst

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medical practitioners per head of the population in various countries in the world. You will find for example that in British India, there is one doctor for every 6,300 people, whereas in my country, there is one doctor for every 1,000 people. I cannot dwell more on this aspect of the matter. I have said enough to show the urgency of this problem.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Who is responsible for this state of affairs?

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: If my friends spend their time in saying how badly the British have done and if we spend it saying how well the British have done, we shall not advance public health much. Let us forget politics, and talk about health. The present appalling state of affairs, does not by any means indicate that nothing has been done up to now. Take, for example, a few of the matters which I have mentioned. Take small-pox. In the last forty years the mortality from this disease has been reduced from 40 per 100,000 to 25 per 100,000. If you take cholera, it is not a mean achievement that the annual deaths from this disease have dropped stedily from 444,000 fifty years ago to 147,000 today. Even that is far too high—there is no reason why there should be any deaths at all from cholera if we got down to business of eradicating it. But at any rate a good deal has been done, enough to show that the problem is not hopeless. There are many aspects of the proposals contained in this report; I can only deal with two or three of them. The most important proposal is that which plans the setting up of certain medical and nursing facilities. There are two plans, a long-term one which is estimated to take about 40 years for its full implementation and a short-term one to carry over about ten years. When I first read these papers very late at night, I rather misread them; I took the details of the long-term plan and I thought for a moment that this was intended to be achieved in ten years and I experienced great satisfaction as I realised the grandeur of that plan. The essence of the plan is something like this. In every district there is to be a medical organisation and a public health organisation, at three levels. At the centre there is to be a district health centre. This is to have a hospital with 2,500 beds and all the appropriate scientific laboratories. And then the district is to be divided up into secondary units, each of about the size of a subdivision or tahsil, and in each of these there is to be a hospital with 650 beds. Again each secondary unit is to be divided up into primary units, each catering for from 10 to 20 thousand people; and in each of these units there is to be a hospital with 75 beds, six medical officers and six public health nurses, besides the nursing staff. When I compared that proposal with what exists today—and I was still labouring under the misconception that this was the short-term plan—I felt that it was little short of miraculous. Then I realised that they were plans which were to be achieved in 40 years; and then I saw too that the short-term plan, which was on about a quarter of the scale of the long-term plan, was itself going to cost very much more money than we can be certain that we can raise. And indeed it seems to me that it is not worth thinking very much at the moment in terms of the long-term plan. I doubt myself whether planning 40 years ahead means anything in a world which is changing so fast these days. It is better to think only of the short-term plan.

In the short-term plan the primary unit, which is the focal point of all the work will have to deal with 40 thousand people and not with 20 thousand; and instead of a large hospital it is to have only two maternity and two emergency beds; though by the end of ten-year period there is also to be a hospital with 30 beds for every two units, which means, roughly speaking, 30 beds to every *thana* jurisdiction. When you come to the secondary units, each is to have a hospital with 250 beds, rising before the end of the ten-year period to 500 beds; and again in the short-term plan there is to be no district health centre.

When I saw all this I was very much disappointed. Then I began to think again and I began to compare what we should get even under the short-term plan with what we have today; and I began to realise that it would at least be a very great step forward. I noticed for example, that in the primary unit, roughly a *thana* jurisdiction, we are to have two medical officers, four public health nurses, one nurse attached to the dispensary, four midwives, four trained *dais* and so on. And I looked back to my own days in districts and sub-divisions and thought with what joy and gratitude we should have welcomed even that modest equipment for dealing with the problems of health in the mofussil. And so I feel that if this report can be put into practice, whatever its short-comings may be, it does take us a very definite step forward. Apart from anything else, it proceeds on the plan of combining curative and preventive functions in the same organisation, a plan which I believe most modern thinkers regard as of extreme importance.

The second important point in the report is the method by which medical practitioners are to be made available. There were two possibilities to be considered. The Committee could have plumped for private practitioners or it could have put down its weight in the scales in favour of a State medical service. The Committee has decided that the right way of dealing with the problem is to make medical attendance free and to base that attendance upon salaried State medical services. It is possible, under their proposals, that the private practitioner may almost disappear from the mofussil. I must say that I am bound to regard that proposal as right. I do not like it; I have an instinctive dislike of the cold, impersonality of a State service. At the same time I do believe that in the conditions of India, and particularly in the conditions of the mofussil, you will not make medical facilities available to the public except through some such method as that of a State medical service. The truth is that the mofussil does not attract practitioners of the right calibre in large enough numbers. There is no reason why it should; it is a dreary enough life in all conscience for a professional man to go and bury himself in the backwoods, living perhaps in a place where he has hardly any others of his own intellectual class. It is not an easy thing to ask a professional man to do, and I am quite certain, therefore, that the Committee are right in saying that the only way to get these people to the spot is by starting a large-scale State service and staffing all these different grades of hospitals with them.

Continuing with the problem of organisation, I am now not going to talk about the higher levels of organisation, the Central and Provincial Health Boards and the like, because they are largely bound up with constitutional matters; I want to talk about the districts. It is proposed to have three types of medical authority in the district,—the District Health Board, the District Health Officer and the District Health Council. We need not bother about the District Health Council because it is an entirely technical body. But the District Health Board is going to be the chief authority in the district for all medical and health matters. It is to consist of elected members,—some elected directly and some elected indirectly,—together with the Collector. Let me say straightaway that I disagree profoundly as regards the composition of that Board. I do not believe that a popularly elected board is the right way to secure the efficient running of medical and public health services. Popular control there must be, but that control is in the sphere of policy; and it seems to me that the right place for popular control to be exercised in regard to these matters is through the Provincial Ministers in the Provincial Governments. When we come to the executive sphere I frankly do not believe that any popularly run body can deliver the goods. I think I can say without offence that the experience many of us have of district boards has not been particularly encouraging in this respect. I would favour a District Health Board of an altogether different kind, consisting of the Collector, the Civil Surgeon and two or three non-official advisers; and I believe that a body of that kind would get very much more done than a purely democratic body of the kind suggested. I know there are great objections to handing over power to officials instead of leaving it in the hands of democratically run bodies. But I want to suggest to my Honourable friends that these objections

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us are very hesitant in going to hospitals for instance. We think that there is something *infra dig* in being sent to a hospital, and we fear that our neighbours will think that we cannot take care of our dear ones when we send them to a hospital. We like everything to be done in the home. There is no doubt that there are trained nurses in hospitals, there are traind doctors, and various facilities are available day and night there that are not available at home; but you cannot help the psychology of the people, and you must legislate in accordance with the inner desire of the people themselves.

We are a domestic people. We like to live and die in our own home; we like our own people to look after us when we are ill. They may not be trained, but certainly they have love and affection which make up for their lack of trained knowledge. In such circumstances I think that Government would be well advised if they could make arrangements for an army of trained persons moving about in the country bringing information and instruction to the doors of our village folk. We should have, so to say, mobile columns. Then alone from the ideal we shall get down to the real. Whatever proposals we make, must be in keeping with our means. It is no use thinking of having very large hospitals and very large residential places when we are not in a position even to have decent huts and small dispensaries.

Not only should these doctors, whom I envisage going about from village to village, not only should they bring medicine with them, but also education. We really need proper education. Our people are conservative but they are intelligent; and if once they are told what is the right thing and they grasp the right thing, they do the right thing. It may take some time for them to understand things but when they understand it they stick to it. I therefore think that if those doctors and instructors would go about from place to place and tell people what exactly to do and what not to do, they will soon be able to produce smiling fields and happy homesteads in the countryside.

Because of various social customs and also for lack of proper knowledge, there are too many children in India. It is time that people were instructed and told that it is wrong to have more children than one can take care of. It is not impossible that proper instruction along those lines could be given. The Bhore report itself has taken cognizance of that fact. It is no use being prudish on that matter. Prudery may have its place in social life; but it can be taken to extremes. For instance, we have the system of early marriages. Now proper education can help more in eliminating early marriages than even penal legislation. Penal legislation is important and necessary, but education is even more necessary; and if people are taught that certain customs are really bad and that they should be done away with, I think that in time people will learn to do the right thing and to abolish those customs that are really bad and that have become cankers in the body politic. When there are more children than one can take care of, a large number is bound to die. We may sorrow for their death, but it is something that we cannot help.

We have also to teach people how to live. We can tell them how within their means they can live in a manner which would bring health and comfort. We can tell them how to build their little houses. We can tell them how to clean their village streets. We can tell them where they should stock the cow-dung which creates so much squalor in the village. We can tell them various other things, and when there is a sympathetic doctor giving such advice, he is bound to be listened to with respect and with affection by those for whom the instruction is meant.

We can tell the humble people how they should grow vegetables for instance. I am not a medical man, but I think one of the chief causes why there is so much of disease in the countryside is that the people there do not get fresh vegetables. Green vegetables are a necessary part of the food of the human being. It is a long time since I read such things, but if I recollect aright what I read many

ears ago, the human anatomy needs fresh vegetables for health. In the village ey only have wheat and barley and pulses and what passes as vegetables are otatoes, which are really not fresh vegetables and what we know in the United rovinces as *kohra*, the English equivalent of which I do not know, but which so is a sort of vegetable that is kept for years. It is in no sense a fresh vege-ble. These are the only two types of vegetables—potatoes and *kohra* that our llage folks get. In other words they get no fresh vegetables at all. While so uch care is taken . . . .

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan (East Central Punjab: Muhammadan): I believe in egetables but I believe more in mutton!

Shri Sri Prakasa: I have prospered without mutton for 55 years and so I am supporter of mutton.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): But mutton produced by vegetables. It is a tabloid form of vegetables!

Shri Sri Prakasa: . . . . while so much care is taken about the milk supply towns, nothing is done in the villages. In Delhi, when I go out for my orning walks, I see inspectors stopping men with milk cans on their bicycles id examining the milk. But in the village where one would expect plentious pply of fresh milk, there is no milk at all. So, if we have sufficient milk for r children in the villages and vegetables for adults in addition to and even in bstitution for, the grains that they eat, they would have much better health.

Then there is the problem of clothes. They really need more clothes because have no doubt that the very premature decay of the people in the country-side due to lack of proper clothing in the winter. They have to depend on their vn internal heat in order to keep themselves warm on cold days and nights. they had clothes they would keep much better health. Persons who have arm blankets to sleep in at nights cannot realize what it is to have to sleep ddled up through a cold night without practically anythng on the body and en to stretch their limbs only when the sun is up. They shrivel up very uickly. In the village, and I speak from personal experience, a man really is as d as he feels. Most of them do not know their ages. So long as they are rong they feel quite young. If you ask a young person of 18 or 20 in the llage when he is strong and healthy . . . . .

Mr. President: Time limit!

Shri Sri Prakasa: . . . if you ask a man like that about his age, he will tell u he is only 10 years. But when he begins to shrivel up at 30, he says he 40. Every year he gets 10 years older. If you ask him when he is 30, he will y he is 40: if you ask him a year later he will say that he is 50: and when he comes 50 he tells you that he is 100. Each year they get 10 years older. is is because he lacks clothes. Therefore, whatever proposals we make, they ust be in keeping with the economic condition of the people, and I think if approach this problem in a spirit of sympathy and understanding we can put ward proposals that would not be idealistic but in keeping with conditions of l life and that would do good to the State and the people alike.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari (Member for Information and Broadsting and Planning and Development): I rise to speak in my capacity as anning and Development Member. I won't take very much of the time of the use. But there is one very important point which Mr. Griffiths, in moving motion, has made, and I am very glad that he has made it because it gives an opportunity of explaining the present position. He said that we must w have an integrated plan. We must be able to say that we will give so much Health, so much to Education, so much to Agriculture, both in respect of ntral schemes as well as on Provincial schemes. I am glad to say that we are w on the point of being able to take decisions in regard to this matter. Our ficulty so far has been that these plans have not been ready and we did not

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know what each of them was going to cost over whatever period of time the planners had set themselves.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Have a healthy voice! We cannot catch you!

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: We also wanted to know what Provincial plans in the matter were. I am glad to say that most of the Provinces have now submitted their five-year plan. Some of them are provisional and some of them are final. Anyhow, we have now the Bhore Report, we have the Kharegat Report, and various other reports, and very shortly Government will take decisions as to the amount of money which should be allocated to each subject during the next five-year period.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: Which Government; the present Government or the Government that is to come?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: The Government of the day.

Shri Sri Prakasa: And of the night.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: Now you have asked what is the machinery we have for coming to these decisions whatever the Government may be at the time.

We have got a Development Board presided over by the Secretary of Planning of which the Secretaries of the other Departments concerned are members. The problems are put to them and then these are put for orders to a small committee of the Executive Council, which is the Co-ordination Committee of Council. I hope Mr. Griffiths will be satisfied with my assurance that very shortly we will be in a position to come to the public and say "for the next 5 years Agriculture is going to have so much, Education so much, Health so much, etc., etc."

Just a word about targets. I entirely agree with Mr. Griffiths that it is no good at this stage working to a target of 40 or 20 years. I would much rather have shorter targets as part of a bigger one and that is the reason why in all these sanctions a five year period is being taken. You go step by step.

As regards the other point raised namely whether the Information Department could produce a condensed copy of the Bhore Report in a readable form, I have consulted my friend, the Health Secretary and he wants us to do that, and we will be very glad to produce one as soon as it is possible to do so. It is a very big report and requires rather careful handling. A certain amount of time will therefore be taken to do it.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Sir, I agree with the Leader of the European Group that it is a very voluminous report and that it is difficult for any Member of this Assembly to go through it in the available time. I have tried my best and I cannot say that I have been able to go through it as I should have liked to do. However, there is one thing about the report which must strike all of us, those who are in the country, whether Indians or Europeans. It is usually said that India is a great country of contrasts. You will find the same with regard to this report. This report is an ideal report. So far as health is concerned I must say that it is almost an encyclopœdea. However, my complaint against the report is that it has lost touch with the practical facts in this country. As an ideal report to which to look to it may work but if you want to translate it into practice, I am afraid the report, as it is, is not going to be of much use.

Let me give you a concrete example. The report talks of Basic Doctors and having four or five thousand doctors per year, so that the percentage of the patients per doctor might come up to what it is in other countries. That is the ideal position which the report aims at. But what is the actual state of affairs. There are utmost about six medical colleges in the country and the difficulties of admission for medical studies are so great that the number of students who

cannot get admission is very considerable compared to those who get admission. Even students who are graduates would like to be doctors but there are no facilities in this country for their becoming doctors. That is the

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state of affairs. You would like to have good pharmacists and there are no teaching institutions where pharmacy could be taught. In the same way as I find it with regard to doctors you will find it with regard to other things as well. I think it is no good having very good plans and trying to start right at the top of the pyramid. What you should do really is to start at the base. It will not be of any use following this report and having a Board of Health at the Centre and a Board of Health in each Province. I am sure it would take very long for this facade of workers to come into the field and it is not going to solve the practical health problems in India. You will have to go about it in a practical way and start right at the bottom. From that point of view the suggestion made by Mr. Griffiths is very useful. You cannot start with a huge population like this. You will have to start with a smaller unit and start in as many small units as possible and then gradually build up from the smaller units to bigger units. It is the only way to do it in this country.

With regard to the writing of these reports I have a few things to say, and I hope they will be taken in the right spirit by the people concerned. I also had the good fortune to read something about the Educational Report, being interested in education. It seems to me that writing of these reports means an enormous expenditure of time and money and at the end of the period when you actually look at the reports you really do not find anything very much more in them than what we have known for years and years. Take the Education Report. I was told that it took six years to write and yet at the end of that, if you go through the report you feel that it is a thing for which no specialist need have been engaged and practically all that is there in the report is almost common knowledge amongst the educationists. Similarly, with regard to this report on health, you will find that many of the things which have been written in it are absolutely common knowledge to those who were concerned with the report.

There is another objection with regard to these reports. Experts, special and highly paid experts and imported experts are brought over here and in their expert knowledge in an expert way they say "Have the whole report or do not have any: the whole of it or nothing". That is a thing which I in my ignorance have never been able to understand. What I am going to say in this connection might be useful to our Planning Member also, who happens to be here and listening. Have 80,000 teachers or do not have any teachers at all. The whole scheme goes through or no part of it. I am very glad that Sir John Sargent has just come in. If that is the attitude of these experts, then I say that it is merely going round and round in a circle, whether you call it vicious circle or anything else. I am sure in a practical way it will lead to nothing whether it is in the Education Department or in the Department of Health. I think that that kind of attitude will not do for a poor country like India. You have to start piecemeal, in parts, in a small way and gradually build up. That seems to me to be the only way of going about it in this country. Another point about the problems in India is this: we try, or at least the experts seem to try to isolate problems when the problems are interconnected. How can you separate the problem of food from that of health or that of health from that of food, or that of food and health from that of agriculture? I really do not understand it, and yet I find there are three different departments with absolutely no co-ordination between them, so far as I can see. We get reports on food, we get reports on education and we get reports on agriculture and yet there not being any co-ordination between the three departments, we seem to be standing still, in spite of all talk of progress. All that we get is academical reports. That is a position which has to be altered. If the new Government comes in and we have a voice in it, I dare say that

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attempts may be made in that direction. But even if the present Government continues, I think it is up to it to see that something is done. Take the question of food and famine. We have had a number of days discussion here, about so much more acreage, so much food added, and yet there is a famine and you read in the reports of 7 million acres being brought under cultivation and the surplus has been 50,000 tons only. But in spite of all this experience, it is amazing that this Government will not change its methods, nor its mentality; and instead of increasing acreage if they had taken a lesson from other countries and tried to produce more food per acre and increase the production of each acre, I think all these years need not have been wasted and today we would not be whining for food and going to other countries. Take the case of fisheries. They will go in a groove. I suppose that is the difficulty of all Departments and Governments; but whereas I find that Governments responsible to the public, in other countries, where the public has something to do with their own Governments, they are forced to change their grooves, over here not having the pressure of public opinion, they will continue in their old grooves and yet come forward here and expect to be complimented by us for the enormous work they have done, which has produced really and substantially nothing. Fisheries is one of the things where government might have extended their energies. I do not say that the whole of the food problem would have been solved, but it is not a new idea either. Many nations are trying to have their food problems solved by means of fisheries; even a nation like Japan. It has been a question of international importance.. But I find that this Government has done absolutely nothing in that line. By way of increasing protective foods, has done absolutely nothing. Every now and then they say we are short of cereals by so much and therefore there is the dread of famine and let us go and send deputations all over and see what we can get. In my opinion that is not the way.

I do not want to take up more of the time. I say this report may be ideal; it may be encyclopaedic and it may even be a standard book of reference to which we might go to consult. But if we want something practical to be done in this country, I hope there will be co-ordination between health, food and education departments and that this obstinate policy of the experts—"Take the whole thing; otherwise do not have anything to do with my report"—will go and the experts shown their proper position: that in this country you cannot ask for 200 or 300 crores of rupees, even by spreading it over thirty or forty years. After all you have to cut your coat according to the cloth. This is what the country can afford; and yet I do not think that even in this poor condition our country is in, we cannot improve matters. With regard to public health we can improve matters to a very great extent provided proper attention is given to it. All these years in the Provincial Governments, it has been a joke with medical men to see the amount of money that is meant for public health. Mr. Griffiths has given some figures about three rupees and five rupees. I think the figures for public health in this country comes to about three annas . . . .

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam (Secretary, Health Department): Five annas.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I will accept that. It is a very great deal, isn't it? After all said and done, we talk about malaria and such obviously preventible things. As I quoted the other day it means one and a half million men dying per year; and the economic loss comes to about 200 crores; and with all that we do not do anything but these huge reports of experts which in the opinion of ignorant practical men mean nothing. I therefore request that the question will be looked at in its proper light and that something really practical will be done, and that stress will be laid more on the practical side than on the theoretical and academic side and that we will be able to achieve within our means something. I am of the opinion that within our limited means we can achieve a very great deal.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, in supporting this cut motion I want to say a few words. When we say public health, it means how to get rid of ill-health—one of the evils mentioned in the Honourable Finance Member's budget speech. Ill-health is very much to be found among the population in the villages, and to some extent in the towns also. This ill-health can be attributed to many causes, not only owing to the want of medicine but in not doing a lot of preventive work. That work is now undertaken by the authorities. In the district there is a health officer, and in municipal areas there is a municipal health officer. The district is a very wide area and there is only one officer with one or two other lesser officers under him. They are not in a position to study local conditions throughout their area with a view to doing preventive work. After an epidemic has started and taken a toll of a large number of people, the health officer writes his report in the usual way and goes to work after so much damage has been done to the population. Even afterwards they are not in a position to supply sufficient medicine or efficient medical help in proper time. The sanitation of villages which is now under the Health Department is also very much neglected; and for every small ailment the villager has to go to the town; and when he goes there his financial conditions will not permit him to get proper medicine and attention and he has to succumb to the disease. Very rarely we find a medical man is available in the villages; and within certain limits it is impossible to expect any medical aid. The rural medical practitioners are given a certain limited sphere of work with a limited stock of medicines given by Government. That is not the proper method at all. There were several medicines in former times given by local physicians who were practising the ayurvedic or unani systems of medicine; but after the advent of this costly allopathic system, all those are rapidly going out even in towns; and it is impossible for those practitioners of indigenous medicine to make a living out of them and those cheap medicines are becoming more and more scarce and the villagers are put to a considerable difficulty. In the municipal areas and in the village areas, it is to be very much regretted that no effective steps are taken to prevent contagious diseases. It is our experience in the municipal areas that the larger a municipality grows the greater is the ill-health and insanitation prevailing there and also five or six miles around the municipal areas. There is also the difficulty of the medical officer attending to them. The medical officer in the municipal areas should be made responsible for a radius of five miles or so around big municipal areas and they should be made to realise that prevention is more important than cure.' For this, pure water should be made available. Now, open spaces in the villages especially are very scarce. To a question in this House today whether the waste lands in a village, which are no man's land would be allotted to ex-service men or whether proper facilities will be given if villagers are deprived of the advantages of the open space of land the reply was that it is the concern of the Provincial Government to give them adequate compensation. What I was aiming at was not the question of compensation at all. It is important that adequate open spaces should be left untouched in the villages, so that the villagers may have a certain amount of open recreation ground for the purpose of improving the health of the villagers. In these control days, the health of the people has been very much damaged on account of the food that has been supplied in the villages. The skimmed milk, powders, and foreign vitamin foods and products which are supplied are unsuitable to the health of the people where there is scarcity of milk and cause ill-health. Also, the Health Officers are not properly acquainted with local conditions. They are ignorant in the ordinary work of sanitation. They do not know how to adjust themselves to the proper requirements of the village conditions and even in towns any amount of money is wasted in doing some type design works and other things. After spending so much money they come to know that these are not suitable to the local conditions and in the municipal towns, this is a scandal. The larger a municipality grows, the more insanitary it becomes.

[Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder]

The Health Department should train and send such officers who will study the local conditions and know how to do things properly and also cheaply. At present, owing to this, a large amount of money is being wasted. This sort of thing should be prevented. With these words, I close my remarks.

Sardar Sampuran Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): The question of public health is very important in this country because we are just at the stage of A, B, C, and in this direction yet we have to travel a long distance before we become abreast of the other nations of the world. This deficiency does not affect only one aspect of human life, namely, health but this is a question which affects us all round. For example, we have so far not been able to tackle the problem of malaria effectively and the result is not only that we are losing millions of lives every year but thousands of miles of very fertile land in submountaneous area are lying barren simply because we cannot make them habitable. If we start from Saharanpur and go to the other end of the Himalayas, we see very large areas of beautiful land which would grow anything but on account of malaria nobody lives there and consequently it is not cultivated and we are deprived of millions of maunds of wheat and other foodgrains. If we had only cultivated these lands, perhaps we would not be suffering on account of shortage of food today. It is too true that this problem of public health is very much connected with our economics as well, but it is not necessary that we should have very expensive doctors. I think considering the poor economics of the land we should accustom our physicians and surgeons to behave in such a way as not to expect very high salaries and fees from the people of this country. I would make one suggestion. In all hospitals at central places we should have honorary surgeons and physicians as they have in Europe and only house surgeons and physicians who work under those renowned doctors should mainly run these institutions and these people should not be very highly paid; if we have such hospitals spread all over the country with experts only at the top I think we will be able to do greater service to mankind at much cheaper rates. With these remarks, I support the motion of Mr. Griffiths.

Mr. Leslie Gwilt: Sir, I propose to be very brief. Unfortunately I have not the mental capacity to enable me to absorb something like a thousand pages of a fairly closely typed report in 72 hours as has my brilliant colleague Mr. Griffiths. I have therefore only been able cursorily to glance through this report and I want to speak particularly on the subject of tuberculosis and in so far as tuberculosis occurs in industry; I should like to make one suggestion in regard to the prevention or rather retarding of it. I am sure that any Member of this House who employs labour has had the experience of the difficulty in finding a sanatorium to which he can send any member of his staff found to be suffering from tuberculosis, and the tragedy of it is that when a man so suffering subsequently applies to the doctor for examination, usually the disease has got so much of a hold on him that the treatment is all the more difficult. I would suggest, therefore, that Government should consider legislation to enforce factories employing more than 300 workers to instal an X-Ray screen. That is not an X-Ray photographic equipment, but it is a piece of medical equipment simple to use which will show whether or not a man is suffering from primary tuberculosis. I think I am correct in saying that. If not, I hope my Honourable friend Dr. Deshmukh will put me right. I would suggest that the staff be screened every six months. By that process, if there is a suspicion of tuberculosis in a man's lungs, it will be shown and the treatment that he can then be given would probably have the effect of arresting the progress of that disease and may well save his life. I realise that the natural corollary of that is that a doctor must be employed, and I feel that a factory which employs 300 workers should, at any rate, employ a part-time doctor. That is the suggestion I have to make. So far as I could see, it was not made in the Bhore Committee report. I feel it is a matter of

urgency and I submit that it should be considered by Government. Before I resume my seat I should like that the question be now put.

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: Sir, I think it is many years since any public health matter has occupied the time of this House. I think that is partly because in former years the subject itself did not attract the same attention as other more attractive matters. Partly for that reason and partly because when the Reforms of 1921 and 1937 were introduced the legislative and executive functions in the field of health were transferred to the Provinces. The idea then grew that the Central Government was hardly concerned with the health of the country, and that attitude was, I think, reflected in the proceedings of this House. That idea, I may say, no longer prevails. It is now recognised, and certainly recognised by the Health Department, that the Centre, although it may have no legislative powers and it may have no executive power, it cannot be indifferent to the state of public health of the country, that it must take an active part in the solution of health problems and that it can promote the solution of health problems even within the constitutional limitations. I say 'within the constitutional limitations', because there is no intention of interfering with the provincial authority.

Well, Sir, this Committee was appointed by Government to make a survey of the present conditions and to make suggestions for the future development. The survey is contained in Volume I of the report and I hope that at least that volume will be read by every Member of this House. The Committee calls it a dark picture. One might call it a tragic picture. Anyone who reads this volume will say that something must be done. Not something in a small way, as my Honourable friend from Bombay suggests, but something in a large way; not 5 annas a head.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Start things in a small way and then go up to a bigger way.

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: I agree with that suggestion, but at least the target must be a large one. Even in so-called normal years 1,50,000 people die of cholera and 60,000 die of small-pox. Both the diseases can and should be controlled, even if they cannot be eliminated. In some places one child in three dies before it completes the first year of life. Surely, these are conditions in which something must be done. The Famine Commission pointed out that a community which is weakened in mind and body by disease cannot be a prosperous community. This Committee has also pointed out similar obvious facts and I think the House will agree that considerable improvement in the health conditions and health services is essential to any economic advance. Of course, Government knew these facts which have for many years been reported in official reports but which have not attracted the public attention which they should have done. That is why the Government appointed this Committee. It is a representative Committee consisting of laymen as well as of representatives of the medical profession and of non-officials as well as officials. It also included representative Members of this House and of the Upper House and of professional Associations and the Indian Medical Council.

I should like to take this opportunity of making public acknowledgment of the great public service which has been done by the members of this Committee in carrying out this work. Sir Joseph Bhore gave to the work of the Committee many months of his time without remuneration and I am aware that he did it at considerable personal loss; so did also many of the non-official members of the Committee. The majority of the members were non-officials and many of them were busy men and the work on the Committee necessarily involved personal sacrifice. I must acknowledge also the conscientious and thorough manner in which the Committee has discharged its task. One might have wished that it had been received earlier and I must say that the late receipt of the report has been a great handicap to us in framing our plans. But

[Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam]

taking into account the extraordinary wide field and very heavy task which was entrusted to the Committee, I do not think we have cause for complaint.

I think the House will not expect me at this early stage, within a few days of its publication, to announce any decision of Government on the recommendations. The first thing we have to do is to consult the Provincial Governments, whose responsibility it is to prepare the plans and whose responsibility it will be to execute them. That we intend to do. Copies of the report have been sent to them and we intend to call a Conference in April in order that we may be able to arrive at agreed conclusions at as early a date as possible. Government will certainly take note of all the suggestions made by the Honourable Members, many of which, in my opinion, are valuable and they will also bring these suggestions to the notice of Provincial Governments. I hope the Honourable Mover will see his way to withdraw his motion.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: The discussion has served the purpose I have in mind. I beg leave to withdraw the amendment.

Mr. President: Honourable Members will note that the cut motion was tabled "to raise discussion on the measures to be adopted to improve public health with particular reference to the Bhore Report". The discussion has already been raised, and a negative vote is not going to nullify the discussion that has already taken place. Of course, I need not urge anything in favour of or against the motion. That is the only point I wish to invite Honourable Members' attention to. Leave has been asked for to withdraw the motion. Is it the pleasure of the House that the Honourable Member should be given leave to withdraw the motion?

Some Honourable Members: No, no.

Mr. President: The question is.

"That the demand under the head 'Public Health' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. President: Before we proceed to the next cut motion, I am requested to inform Honourable Members that the meeting of the Defence Consultative Committee which was fixed for 5 P.M. today will in view of today's adjournment motion, now be held as soon as the House rises. The meeting will take place in Committee Room No. 50.

As regards the other point about the difficulty due to strike in the Press, the Honourable the Deputy President had made a statement making a little alteration in what I suggested formerly, on account of subsequent circumstances disclosed. I have to make one further suggestion in view of the continuance of those difficulties. In view of the time taken up today and also one hour on account of the adjournment motion, I am informed by the Chief Whip of the Congress Party that all Parties in the House are agreed—of course he said on the authority of the Whips of all other Parties—that on the 11th, when the House meets, the question hour will be suspended. This is for the purpose of regaining the hour that may be lost now. Twenty minutes of that will be allotted to the European Group, in view of the loss of time which they suffered this morning and forty minutes will be allotted to the unattached Members, in view of the loss of time now. After this, I want to make one more suggestion. As the question list for the 11th has already been printed that may be treated as the question list for the 12th. That will obviate certain difficulties of having the question list of 20th to be prepared. There will be further advantage that instead of the printed question list of the 11th going in as unstarred questions, these questions may be put on the 12th and the list for the subsequent dates for which there is difficulty of printing may go as unstarred. If the House unanimously agrees to this proposal, it will be adopted.

Some Honourable Members: We all agree.

Mr. President: Then the question list for 11th will be treated as the question list for 12th. The questian hour for the 11th stands suspended. The questions for the 12th will be treated as unstarred.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): There was also the suggestion that all short notice questions for these days of cut motions, should not be taken up on these days but should be taken up subsequently.

Mr. President: If the parties agree that may be arranged.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: It was suggested to the Chair by the Chief Whip of the Congress party.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha (Darbhanga *cum* Saran: Non-Muhammadan): This may be done, Sir. The short notice questions may stand over till the voting on demands are over.

Mr. President: This means that the notice for short questions must be accepted for later dates. If the Government agree, I have no objection.

DEMAND NO. 11—EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Sir, I move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,55,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Executive Council'."

Mr. President: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,55,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Executive Council'."

Delay in Derequisitioning of Property and in Settling Claims

Mr. C. P. Lawson (Bengal: European): Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Executive Council' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sir, it will come as no surprise, I fear, to the Honourable the War Secretary that we are putting in this cut, but he may not be completely aware that there are very much two sides to this cut and we are moving it not merely because we ourselves have complaints and indeed inconveniences, although those complaints and inconveniences are considerable. We also put in this cut because a problem is before us, which if we are not careful is going to cost us a great deal of money. Sir, the waste of public money with which we are at the moment confronted is one which this House is certainly entitled to consider. The problem, as I see it, is two fold. First of all we, particularly, my community, are very short of accommodation and I will make a reference in a minute which will give the House some idea of the extent to which our particular property has been requisisitioned. The second necessity is to save the money which is gradually falling away down the drain. The problem itself is made clear in section 11 of the Explanatory Memorandum of the budget estimates of the Defence services and perhaps I could quote a very brief portion of that as possibly some Honourable Members may not be carrying it in their mind, although I am certain they will all have read it.

"During the course of the war large areas of land were requisitioned any many buildings requisitioned or hired for the use of the services. It may be necessary to acquire some of these for the continued use of the services, but in the great majority of cases it is the intention of Government to restore the lands and buildings to their owners. When the property is in the condition in which it was at the time of requisitioning no difficulty arises. In a very large number of cases, however, there has been either improvement or deterioration."

The sections go on to say that of course improvements will have to be paid for on the one side while deterioration will have to be paid for on the other.

[Mr. C. P. Lawson]

Now, Sir, let me deal first of all with the inconvenience that particularly my community is suffering from the present situation. It is almost exactly two years ago that I had certain remarks to make in this House on this particular subject. It was then that I quoted just exactly how far we were suffering from requisitioning; and perhaps I may read just a very short extract from the account of the debates of that day. I was speaking about residential accommodation in the part of Calcutta in which I live, and I said:

"Any reliance upon finding further accommodation of this type would therefore be entirely misplaced. Taking, for example, the Alipore, watgunge, Hastings area as a large representative residential area, the number of houses so far requisitioned is 80 and the number remaining in the occupation of civilians, Government officers, Supply Department officers, etc., is 106."

That will show you the extent to which even residential accommodation was requisitioned. Now I am willing to believe that the figures recently given to us by the War Secretary have possibly been exceeded in the case of residential property; that is to say, although he has so far been unable to let us know the separate figures for derequisitioning of the various types of accommodation, I will assume that something more than a total of 10 per cent. of the residential accommodation has been returned. But even so, with the very large quantity of houses that have been taken over that is still extremely small. I would also like to point out that while the War Secretary made it clear in a recent reply to a question that it was expected to return all requisitioned property to their owners by the end of 1946, the rate of progress that has obviously been made in the direction of derequisitioning is far slower than that. For instance, a month ago the figure of 24·1 per cent. of derequisitioned property was given for the Northern Command. This has increased only in one month by 1·4 per cent. The Southern Command which had derequisitioned a month ago only 5·7 per cent. of the requisitioned property has in the next month derequisitioned less than 2 per cent. more. A slight calculation assures me that at that rate the complete derequisitioning of property will not take place by the end of 1946, nor even by the end of 1947. So we have every reason to be rather worried about the situation, and particularly about the money that is being wasted. I am personally in constant touch with people of my community living in the mofussil who come down to the big centres like Calcutta and Bombay and who require hotel accommodation when they get there. It is extremely difficult for them to get such accommodation, and when they do it is only for a short period after which they have got to get out. When they get out, where they can go no one seems to know. I should like also to mention that the only reason that we in Calcutta were able to manage, with the enormous number of houses that were requisitioned, was that over 50 per cent. of our community were called up under the National Service (European British Subjects) Act. In fact our male community was reduced by rather more than 50 per cent. If that had not happened we could not possibly have lived in the accommodation that was left to us. Now these men are coming back being demobilised—very slowly demobilised but still they are being demobilised—and when they come back there is nowhere for them to stay. I need only quote the case of Delhi as an instance of what is happening in a somewhat worse degree in Calcutta and I believe also to some extent in Bombay. Delhi hotels we all know about. Sometimes we are called up here to carry out our various legislative duties. Then Government want to see us. If by any chance although Government do not wish to see us we want to see Government, no arrangements of any sort are made and any application to a somewhat disobliging person known as the Estate Officer usually results in something the equivalent of a short and sharp negative monosyllable. I was speaking only the other day to a gentleman in a state of great indignation, having been moved from one of the principal hotels of New Delhi because certain high personalities who sit in another place in this building were coming to Delhi. He said he did not think it was fair that he should be moved

and he certainly adopted at the time very strong democratic principles. In all fairness I had to point out to him that the Highnesses who had replaced him had their houses taken by the authorities and these houses were still in the possession of the authorities. When one looks round at all the private houses still in the hands of the authorities in Delhi alone one wonders whether the G. H. Q. will ever become any less. I believe that the betting at the moment is against it. I asked the War Secretary this morning whether he could give me even a rough idea of what all this requisitioning was costing. In a sense I am rather glad he was not able to, although I am a little surprised because I would have thought that the shocking waste that is undoubtedly being incurred would have imprinted itself upon his memory in the shape of figures. Whatever that figure may be, I am willing to bet it is a pretty big figure, and that kind of wastage is the most serious kind of wastage because it is totally unproductive. If the minute the services moved out from a requisitioned piece of property, the rent to the landlord stopped, there would have been a howl that would have been heard all the way to Delhi from Bombay and Calcutta. The fact of the matter is that the landlord goes on getting money for that property whether it is occupied or unoccupied and there is no necessity for him to go and look for a tenant. He just sits down and collects his rent. He knows that in the end it will be necessary for the Government to put that property into the state in which it was when it was requisitioned, and so he does not bother and the property falls further and further into disrepair and the loss of the public funds becomes greater and greater. That means that the property that we need so badly lies vacant with no one to occupy it. The rent which should be paid by a tenant to the landlord is paid by the Government, and presumably the whole thing comes out of our pocket in due course.

I do not wish to be purely destructive or purely critical. I think that it is the duty of this House to consider the problem which I admit is a problem not entirely avoidable. The thing is what can we do? We know that these properties were taken on very quickly at a time of great danger and of great emergency, and most of us had a rough idea that there would be some wigs on the green when this property started going back. What can we do? In the first place, I would like to throw in a suggestion,—I do not know how practicable it is—that the reoccupation of these various requisitioned premises should not be delayed while an argument occurs as to what the Government should or should not pay in the way of repairs. Surely it would be possible to get a rough idea of the state of the property and to wait for the settlement until afterwards. I would also suggest, Sir, that the Requisitioning Boards, which helped he Government so much when requisitioning was started, might be reconstituted in some other form to meet this enormous shortage of valuers which is obviously causing the Government so much trouble now. I am sure there would be reliable elements who could and would assist the Government in the settling of these matters. One other thing I will say, Sir, before I sit down, and that is that from the Government's point of view it would be better to lose a little on the settlement than to go on throwing money down the drain by hanging on to empty requisitioned property and paying away enormous sums every month. Sir, I move.

Mr. President: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Executive Council' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): Sir, I find myself very happy to be in company with and to be able to support wholeheartedly the motion moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Lawson. Until this morning I was somewhat happy at the assurance which the Honourable the War Secretary had given us that derequisitioning was proceeding, will proceed faster and everything will be all right. But in the last two hours I have received a first hand communication from my friends—both Indian

[Mr. Manú Subedar]

businessmen and Englisa businessmen—in the Standing Quartering Board of Bombay who are pointing out that instead of derequisitioning what is today happening is that the R. A. F. are actually coming in and asking for more accommodation both for office and for residential purposes. In other words, instead of improving, the position is getting worse. So far as the military authorities are concerned, I have no hesitation in saying that Bombay has been the worst sufferer in this respect, and while I have every sympathy with the grievances of the community to which my Honourable friend, Mr. Lawson, belongs, I plead for business houses and for residential houses. I have never been able to understand why the Military . . . . .

Mr. President: Order, order. It is four of the Clock now, and the adjournment motion will be taken up.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I will resume my speech on Monday.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

SHOOTING OF CITIZENS AND USE OF TEAR GAS AND LATHI CHARGES BY THE POLICE IN DELHI ON THE VICTORY PARADE DAY.

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan (Central Provinces and Berar: Muhammadan): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Assembly do now adjourn."

It was suggested in the morning that the admission of this adjournment motion will add to the animosity between the officials and the public. Sir, I may say plainly that the object of my Party in asking me to table the adjournment motion was to prove that the Government was entirely responsible for the unfortunate happenings yesterday in Delhi, and, secondly, our object now is that in future no such incident should take place.

Mr. President, I may say at the outset that my Party strongly condemns hooliganism, rowdyism, looting of shops and burning of houses. My Party is deadly opposed to such heinous things which took place yesterday in Delhi. There are two questions before us : The first one is what was the cause of yesterday's disturbances, and the second question is whether the measures which were taken by the police and the Local Authorities were justifiable or not. The first question is simple, and does not need any elaborate arguments to give a reply. The House is aware that the detention and the trial of I.N.A. personnel, the strike, of naval ratings, and the recent happenings at Karachi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras infuriated the people to boycott the victory celebrations. The two political parties in this House—the Congress and the Muslim League—decided in their party meetings to boycott the victory celebrations, and the two political parties in Delhi Province—Muslim League and the Congress—passed resolutions to the same effect. They had not asked the people to observe *hartal* but the resentment amongst the traders was so strong that they, of their own accord, closed their shops yesterday, and there was complete *hartal*. I hope the Honourable Members of this House are aware that about two days back the city fathers of Delhi Municipality wanted to move a Resolution in the Municipal Committee meeting, but it was disallowed by the Deputy Commissioner. The resolution was also to the effect that the Municipal Committee should not spend a single pie from its funds on illuminations and other things connected with the Victory celebrations. Sir, it is unthinkable that in these circumstances, Government should have thought it desirable to celebrate Victory, when the people were against it and they had expressed their resentment from the platform and through the press. They said that we do not, want to waste Rs. 10 lakhs on the Victory celebrations when starvation and hunger is at our doors. They decided not to take any part in the celebrations. The Government, as usual, treated our appeals and resolutions with contempt. Sir, can it be said that the Government was not aware of the feelings of the people

in this country? Surely, after having been 200 years in this country, they cannot say that they are not aware of the temperaments of the people of India. If they say that, I must say that they do not deserve to occupy those Treasury Benches for a minute.

Sir, let us see what precautions were taken to put a stop to any untoward incident. What steps were taken to protect the lives and property of innocent people who suffered to a great extent yesterday. It is clear from the report published in the *"Hindustan Times"* that the police came on the scene after some hours. Had the policemen and the officers and the District Magistrate gone to sleep in their houses especially when they knew that there was danger and a likelihood of a disturbance in Delhi in view of the resolutions and the feelings of the people of Delhi? Sir, it is also mentioned in the report published in the *"Hindustan Times"* that twenty-five girls were answering their Matriculation examination papers in the Town Hall and there was no police. It is also published here that the Town Hall building was burning and there was no fire engine to extinguish the fire.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member): Why?

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: Because all the officials were busy in the Victory parade.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: They burnt it!

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): The Railway Clearing Accounts Office was razed to the ground.

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: It is clear that the police arrangements were insufficient and they should have taken proper precautions to stop, this, but they were elsewhere as I have just said.

The two or three occurrences which have been narrated to me by two responsible gentlemen—Mr. Chaman Lall and Mr. Sharma—who are members of the press gallery, and some other gentlemen who were on the scene of occurrence show that shooting was indiscriminate. It is published in the newspapers that two young boys, one aged 17 and the other boy aged 18 were standing in the Park near the Red Fort. The younger boy had a bag in his hand. Probably he had returned from the market and both of them were standing in the park to witness the 'tamasha'. But what happened? These two young heroes got two Victoria Crosses on Victory Day. What I mean, Sir, is that the chests of these two young heroes were pierced with two fatal bullets and they died on the spot. (*Cries of* "Shame, Shame", from the Congress Benches). Afterwards the people there took out these two dead bodies in a procession. When they neared Kuchai Bali Maran and Chandni Chowk, the District Magistrate of Delhi, as it is said in the *"Hindustan Times"*, who was present at the time ordered, the use of tear gas and ordered lathi charge to be made on the peaceful processionists who were taking the dead bodies to Fatehpuri Mosque for funeral prayers.

Sir, I wish to censure the Government for indiscriminate shooting, the unnecessary use of tear gas, and the lathi charge on innocent people.

Sir, Victory Day ended in the irreparable loss of six precious lives and serious injuries to fourteen people.

[At this stage Mr. President vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan).]

Sir, our Victory Day will be quite different from the Victory Day of yesterday. Our Victory Day, God willing, will be that glorious day when our masters will leave the shores of my country. (Congress Benches: Hear, hear!).

Mr. Deputy President: Motion moved:

"That the Assembly do now Adjourn."

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma (Cities of the United Provinces: Non-Muhammadan Urban): It is not without a full sense of responsibility that on behalf

[Pandit Balkrishna Sharma]

of my Party I rise to support the motion for adjournment moved by my Honourable friend, Siddique Ali Khan Sahab, so ably and with such restraint. Sir, I am one of those in this House who have been dealing with crowds. For the last quarter of a century I have been in the habit of moving, controlling and dealing with sometimes unruly and disorderly and some times plaint crowds. This mass upsurge which we are witnessing today is a great revolutionary contribution which the Indian National Congress and its great leader, Mahatma Gandhi, have made to the political life of this country. A disarmed nation, groaning under the yoke of foreign domination, could not find any way out of this situation, with the result that some of those young men to whom constitutionalism did not appeal during those days took to the life of bomb and pistol. Lord Morley in one of his despatches to the then Viceroy of India said: "The bomb has failed in Russia, it will fail in India also." But Lord Morley had forgotten that the bomb or the philosophy of the bomb does not end where it begins, that the philosophy of the bomb develops and develops into a mass action and when the mass action comes even the mightiest of empires have to totter down. As I said it was the revolutionary imagination of my great leader Mahatma Gandhi which gave us a weapon of public demonstration and a weapon of non-violence to fight with the organised violence of the British Empire and since then my people have taken to this mass demonstration, both Hindus and Muslims together. For the last 25 years I have been dealing with these political crowds and I believe for an equal number of years the Government also have been dealing with them. The question today is, have the Government learnt any lesson? Have they forgotten their old lesson? I am pained to say that they have done neither. Neither have they forgotten the old lesson of coming out with force nor have they learnt the new lesson of sometimes at least to give in to the popular will. The question is, if the Government have not learnt the new lesson, should we, the representatives of the people, not condemn the Government when they use force in an indiscriminate manner, even though our own men sometimes may be guilty of stray unorganised violence. That is the question and I am quite clear on that point, that we the representatives of the people, both Hindus and Muslims, cannot leave our men in the lurch. We have to be with them, we are with them and we shall continue to be with them till we have created a situation when with their help we are able to establish our own selves on the benches opposite.

The question was very easy to solve. Both the Muslim League and the Delhi Provincial Congress Committee had decided in favour of the boycott of the Victory celebrations. The Government knew that in Old Delhi feelings were running very high. The Government also knew that people did not like the sort of Victory celebrations that were going to be imposed upon them at a cost of about ten lakhs of rupees. The nation did not like it and yet the Government went on with those preparations. The Government did not hesitate to befag the whole city, to erect arches and gates and to put on bulbs all over for lighting purposes. All that was I dare say against the wishes of the people. Now the question is, could they not give up this celebration at least in Old Delhi. Knowing full well that the people did not like it, could they not have passed an order that in Old Delhi there will be no Victory celebrations and that they will be confined only to the area of New Delhi? If that had been done I say that these six precious lives would not have been lost nor those ten or more, some of them very seriously injured. It can be said that perhaps had the Government done so, the Government might as well have taken a step which was not in consonance with their dignity, that it would be *infra dig* on the part of the Government to do so. I daresay that it would have been nothing of the kind. On the contrary, the Government might have added a feather to their cap by yielding at least once in a lifetime to the popular wishes. I am bound to say that the Government did not act according to the best dictates of reason. Is there anything ethically or morally wrong in my countrymen, both

Hindus and Muslims, taking exception to the celebration of the Victory Day. They were perfectly justified in taking a stand against these celebrations.

Of course it is said that it is a victory of right over might, that it is a victory of democracy over Fascism. All these empty phrases do not in the least convince us. Democracy indeed, but where is democracy? That is the question which Burma, Java, French Indo-China and Egypt are asking. After having laid low the ghost of fascism, where is democracy in the world today, where is democracy in India and if there is no democracy, why these hypocritical observations about Victory celebrations. For the lifetime of me I cannot understand the rationale behind it. Therefore I say that my people were perfectly justified in taking exception to this sort of thing and they were perfectly justified in showing their resentment.

I now come to another point. The Deputy Leader of my Party, myself, Mr. Satyanarayan Sinha and Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena, all of us rushed to the scene yesterday and to our surprise we found that there was not a single policeman, except one who was standing for controlling the traffic. Traffic had totally disappeared from the streets of Old Delhi. The Clock Tower was burning. Some people were there doing some petty incendiarism. We dissuaded them and they obeyed us. The crowd was cleared, we extinguished the fire, though not with water, for there was no bucket nor water available at the time. The shops were closed and yet we did that much. Though from New Delhi we could reach that spot, remained there for two or three hours persuading the people, yet we did not find any policeman nor any other arrangement on the part of the authorities. Is it perchance any intention on the part of the authorities to allow our disorderliness appear as a cloak for maintaining their authority in this country longer? That question strikes us. I say so because I have experience of a similar character in my own city of Cawnpore. There on one occasion I informed the Dy. S. P. and the Superintendent of Police and the Collector and the District Magistrate that on a day a certain event was going to occur which might end in civil commotion and I pointed out to them definite spots where the trouble might occur. To my great surprise they did not take any action whatsoever. Was it not possible for them to take action, especially as I had pointed out to them even the places where trouble was likely to occur. They had their C.I.D. and their informers. But they did not do anything. Similarly, the Delhi authorities have handled the situation. I cannot understand for the life of me, when both the organisations had declared a boycott and when there was to be a *hartal*, why the authorities were so indifferent as not to send their men to the spot and try to nip the trouble in the bud. They did not do it; and why did they not do it? For the very simple reason that most of the police force was posted in New Delhi. We saw that every half a furlong policemen were posted on the roads of New Delhi. Actually the police force was depleted in Delhi: perhaps they did not have sufficient amount of police in the city, and then they did not care, with the result that when they came upon us with a thud, there we were—our men lost their lives. I have got here a list of those who have been injured and who are in hospital, and when I scanned the age of every one of them, I find that with one exception—a man named Sikandar Ali who is aged 35—all of them are young boys, hardly out of their teens:

Yash Ram who has been injured in the leg and is now lying in the hospital is only 18. Devakinandan is a boy of 13 years. Muhammad Zakir is 18 years of age Then there is one dumb and mute Afghan who is 16 years. Dr. Salim a dentist who is 24 years of age. Mohammad Isak is 19 years. Ram Kishan is 21 years. Abdur Rashid is 17 years of age. Jalal is 20 years old. Gopichand is 18. Jabbar is 32 years. Munawar Ali is 16, and Muhammad Rafiq who is dead was 18 years, Prabhu is 20 years of age.

These are the men lying in hospital: they are all children or nearly so; and it cannot be said there was any organised attempt on the part of any one to bring about a situation which was a case of crowd psychology, as I call it. In my

[Pandit Balkrishna Sharma]

College days I happened to read something of psychology, and when I read the chapter on crowd psychology I learnt that it is a sort of ideo-motor act as the psychologists call it which is responsible for the behaviour of the crowd! an idea suddenly strikes and when that idea strikes the brain, the nerves begin to move in that direction and they happen to do something for which the crowd cannot hold themselves responsible. I think my crowd behaved absolutely in that irresponsible manner, and the responsibility for giving them this rein and for giving them an opportunity of behaving in this manner lies on the shoulders of the Government, because I know that had the police reached the spot in time all this trouble would have been avoided. Let us not forget that the feeling in the country is there, that a mass upsurge against the present authority is there, and that, however much we may quarrel among ourselves regarding Pakistan or Akhand Hindustan, all of us are united in one respect and it is that the present Government should quit India. On that we are all united. It is for this reason, as you will find from this list, that the blood of Hindus and of Muslims has flowed together, and, if more such occurrences take place in this country, then differences between the Hindus and Muslims will be cemented by this tie of blood. With these words, I support the motion.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammadan): Sir, I do not want to take much time of the House on this motion. The Honourable Mover has described the reasons for the strained feelings that exist in this part of the country. I do not want again to introduce any heat in this debate or stir the injured sentiments of our countrymen in the conditions that we are today. I only want to say how this happened on a parade day, although the Government was displaying and demonstrating the most modern weapons of war that they had, yet they could not carry with them the prestige of a victorious nation, and they could not convince the Indian people that they could celebrate this Victory in any manner they liked. Of course the army's capacity to commit crimes might be greater, but their capacity to do good was very small. That is the unfortunate position which this Government ought to understand and realise. When the Government know, that the two organisations in this country, which are of importance, the League and the Congress, had definitely taken up the position that they could not be party to the Victory celebrations, Government officials should have thought that there was some chance of an outburst of feeling in some quarter or another, and necessary precautions should have been taken to avoid same. The Honourable Member speaking before me, from the United Provinces, has just described that there was no precaution whatever taken, there were no police force posted in those places which required particular care, those spots which were required to be illuminated, where Government wanted that the Victory celebrations should be the brightest—no possible care was taken to keep police watch there. Then you will notice that the class of people who were killed were more or less sightseers and these men could not have been expected to have challenged authority or stopped a parade or their guns or for the matter of that could not make any demonstration which the authorities might have disliked: they were just boys and probably some of them were preaching to their own countrymen not to be a party to that sight and nothing more nothing less. I do not wish to repeat the names that have been given by the last speaker: I only want to say that from the report available to me from a doctor who had visited these boys in the hospital, I am told that they are all of a young age except one whose age has been quoted to be 30 and further that it was mostly bullets that were fired on—it was not cartridges carrying small shots. These bullets were probably the same as they are used in war. That is the unfortunate incident to which I want to draw attention. If we examine the list, we find that many of them did not belong to Delhi—they were people from Bihar and from Bengal and U.P. and other Provinces, which only proved that they did not go to that place with

any idea of creating disturbance, but they were just disturbed in their minds; as Pandit Balkrishna Sarma has said it was the psychological condition in which they were trying to demonstrate anti-Victory attitude and probably if there was proper precautions taken, and warnings had been given by air shooting, this incident would have been avoided. That shows the failure of the Government or probably there might have been a policy by certain officials to do what they thought would increase their prestige in demonstrating power. That is a position for which this Government requires to be condemned and they should understand their position that there was no occasion for opening of fire in this place. With these few words I support the motion.

Pandit Govind Malaviya (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, the *Hindustan Times* of this morning opens out with yesterday's happenings in the city by saying:

> "Delhi presented the sight of a bomb-shattered city after Thursday's happenings. Mass demonstrations against Victory celebrations, destruction of public property worth about 10 lakhs through large scale incendiarism, continuous use of tear gas and repeated firings by the police and military, etc., etc. . . . . "

That was the grim picture of things as they were. But those of us who happened to be in the city of Delhi yesterday and who moved from place to place to see how things were occurring and to try to see if we could in any way help, found that the actual state of affairs was worse and grimmer than even these lines convey. Sir, the trouble started some time in the morning. Some of us were there during the day. Others were there in the afternoon. Others stayed there till late in the evening and we did not come across, I am sorry to say, any organised or systematic attempt to meet the situation. It is not my object here to apportion blame for what has happened. That will probably come later. Possibly, the police and the authorities were not to blame. Possibly, they restrained themselves. Possibly, the mob, the crowds of people who were out, were not able to control themselves. Possibly there was mob frenzy and in that frenzy people did things which might not have been done or which ought not to have been done. Possibly, things were the other way. I am not prepared at this stage to apportion blame anyway. I am prepared to say that these are matters which we shall have to go into and leave for the future to decide upon. But, Sir, the one thing that was visible everywhere in Delhi yesterday was that the official world, the police world, the military world and those who are so loud in their protestations of their responsibility for law and order were almost not to be seen. I moved from place to place, saw whole buildings in flames, telegraph and telephone posts burning, light posts destroyed, and the big Town Hall ablaze, emitting flames of fire. The fire started some time at noon. I do not know how long the burning went on. I was there till half past 8 in the evening and it was still burning and the fire was increasing. There was not a policeman to do anything in the matter and we wondered what things had come to.

I know, Sir, that yesterday there were other things going on in other parts of Delhi. I know that all policemen, and the military and the officials were busy parading performing celebrating and holiday-making elsewhere, but they had a primary duty to perform and my regret is that they did not realise it. It is not merely that they were not present, I have it from very reliable authority—as a matter of fact I have here in my hands a statement from a friend who himself was there and who told the District Magistrate to provide them with a loud speaker in order to patrol and announce to the people to disperse. We know that the use of loud speakers is not permitted to the public in Delhi. Hence he asked the District Magistrate to give him the police loud speaker but the request was turned down. Again, before the situation became critical and before the Town Hall was set on fire, a request was made to the District Magistrate that responsible Congress leaders like Mr. Asaf Ali and others should be informed

[Pandit Govind Malaviya.]

and it pains me to have to say it, will the Honourable Members on the Government benches try to realise this, that the District Magistrate said that it was none of his business. I am making a very definite statement because I have got here in my hand in writing that the District Magistrate said that it was none of his business. I ask, where the responsibility for all this loss of life, injury to person and property should rest? We know that the opinions of responsible leaders and their viewpoints are flouted. Why did the Government which chooses to call itself the Government of India, staying in India among the Indian people, not take care to put its fingers on the pulse of the people's mind and to understand that the Victory celebrations which were being celebrated in Delhi were an outrage on the people of India! India is in no mood for these celebrations. India today is panting in anger, in resentment, in misery and starvation. Is it for the Government to goad such people, to provoke them and to create for them such outrageous situations? Is it for the Government to goad these people among whom there is still a spark of life left, to create trouble, to rise in opposition, I might go a step further and say to rise in revolt? Is this Government bent upon doing that? I submit that anybody who had gone to Delhi yesterday and seen that grim picture of the Town Hall and the Chandni Chowk burning and come back to New Delhi and seen the gaiety and the illuminations that were rampant, the fireworks that were shooting high in the sky, any man with a sense of decency and propriety and any sense of a right perspective of things would have felt it sickening. That is what this Government has been doing. I submit that it is the business of this Government to realise that the temper of the people of this country has changed. If you will not take account of that fact, step after step, day after day, you will be face to face with awkward situations. Do you want to encourage that? Can you sit on those benches with equanimity and see episodes like this taking place day after day in the country? There was firing in Bombay, in Calcutta. There was all that trouble in the Navy and what not. Will you not for God's sake take note of these facts, this chain of facts and try to grapple with the situation and to meet it in the only rational way in which you can—not by trying to suppress a little trouble here today or another little or big trouble there tomorrow, but by removing the root cause of these troubles and making such things impossible. Sir, it may be that there are other difficulties also. I am coming to a topic in which I shall not go in detail but I shall refer to it only in passing. It may be that there is a certain group, that there are some people or some interests who might desire to create trouble for us, for the Government, for our people. Why don't you remove the root causes of discontent, why don't you take care not to provide the occasion for popular irritation and resentment, thereby making it impossible for such people to create and foment troubles of that nature. Sir, the Congress did not want this strikes. The Congress did not want these troubles and yet there have been these troubles. Do you know why? First of all, because the Congress cannot possibly say to the people that there is any other honourable course for human beings than to rebel against the foreign domination. We cannot say it. No honourable man can say it. Secondly, there is naturally such an upsurge of resentment, so much of bitterness against this foreign domination; such utter desperation in the minds of the people that the least incitement, the least lead, you might call it a mislead, simply carries them off and regardless of the consequences, regardless of the danger of firings and of bullets, they stand up and say that they would rather perish than submit to things which this Government enforces upon them. That is the situation. I ask, is it not at all possible even now when you are so loud in your professions both here and in England that you want to make India that object, is it not possible for the Government even now to try to act in a manner that the people may approve of, and that may remove this cause of daily irritations and troubles and may make it possible for those who are to

come and for those who are here, everyone of us in this country, to sit down peacefully round a table to see once yet again if it is possible that the matter of the struggle between India and England may be settled in peace and amity? Sir, these Victory Day celebrations in Delhi which were held in the teeth of public opposition have been the cause for all this trouble. I ask, what did the Government gain by it? There is such terrible poverty and hunger and there is such awful dissatisfaction and opposition going round everywhere and yet this Government persists in having these Victory celebrations and in keeping up pretences that the people are with it. I have here a Government *communique* in my hand from the Public Relations Directorate which purports to give a description of what happened. I read that among those persons who were at the Parade were so and so and so and so and the Members of the Council of State and the Legislative Assembly. Every one knows that no elected Member of this Assembly went anywhere near these celebrations. But, Government wants to give the impression that the country is with them in these Victory Parades. Is there any sense in that? Would it not be wiser for them to see that they go with the people? If the people did not want them, the Government should have dropped these celebrations and thereby gained public support.

There is one thing more to which I would like to refer. The Town Hall was ablaze yesterday. I went to the officials who were there and I asked them why the firses were not put down. Can you imagine what I was told? I was told that the Fire Brigade of the city had been destroyed and that the Fire Brigades which were lying idle in New Delhi were not available. I make that charge deliberately that the Town Hall, the meeting Hall of the City Fathers of Delhi, was allowed to burn from noon till night and the Fire Brigades of New Delhi would not be sent there to put down the fire. We had read that Nero was fiddling while Rome was burning but we saw the uncanny example of it actually happen here yesterday. New Delhi was revelling while Delhi, was burning only three miles away. Need anything more be said about it? I hope this Government will realise what it is doing and will make it impossible for such things to occur again. I, therefore, support this motion and hope it will open the eyes of the Government.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne (Home Member): Sir, I shall not spend much time in attempting to describe the incidents which made up the regrettable occurrences of yesterday. They have been described in the press and, I think, on the whole, that description is fairly accurate. I have done what I could to obtain from official sources a story of the events, but, as I stated my expectations this morning, it is too early to get yet a conspectus of a series of events that took place over a fairly considerable area. The main scene of the trouble was the Chandni Chowk. Various parts of the Chandni Chowk were affected at various times. There was trouble also at the Railway Station where an attempt was made at looting. There was a serious occurrence at the Queensway Fire Brigade Station which resulted in the destruction of fire engines which could otherwise have been used to put down the fires. There was trouble as far a field as Sabzi Mandi. There is some evidence of concerted organisation. The main evidence of that, I think, is in the starting of fires in the Chandni Chowk, the laying of road blocks to prevent people getting to the fires in order to put them out and the attack on the Fire Brigade Station in order to prevent the engines from going out. I am told that one engine in the earlier stages went from the Fire Brigade Station to the Chandni Chowk but it was turned back by road blocks and by stoning. It went again but it was turned back again. It was only in the third attempt that it succeeded in getting to the fire and saving some part of the Town Hall.

Now, Sir, I should remark at this stage on the use of troops. Actually, two companies of troops were called out at different times. One company stayed at the Railway Station and the other company patrolled the Chandni Chowk

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I have no doubt of the salutary effect of their being on the spot, but they took no active part.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: Were the British troops also called?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: One company was British and the other was Indian. They took no active part in the suppression of the disturbances and no shot was fired by them.

Now, Sir, I turn to the phrasing of the adjournment motion. It refers to the shooting of innocent citizens and the use of tear gas and lathi charge against them by the police in Delhi. Well, Sir, I will refer first to tear gas, or tear smoke as we call it, and lathis. It is a fact that tear smoke was used on a number of occasions—I think about a dozen. It was used to disperse crowds who were attempting to light fires, crowds attempting to make road blocks and people who were going up and down in a very disorderly condition. I cannot understand the Mover's grievance about the use of tear smoke. If firing is resorted to without tear smoke having been used, Government are bitterly assailed for not using more humane methods. Here is an instance where great restraint was shown. Tear smoke was used again and again and resort was had to firing only when it appeared that the crowd was so determined that tear smoke was not an effective deterrent. Lathis—I have listened in vain to the descriptions given by my Honourable friends, for any instance of the use of lathis and my information is that there was no beating up with lathis at all.

Now, Sir, I turn to the firing incidents. Firing was done by the police on three occasions. The first occasion was that one round was fired by a sub-inspector, I think actually under the orders of a magistrate, with a revolver. There was no casualty. Later in the day, a senior police officer who was attempting in the Chandni Chowk to prevent people surging up the *gullies* on either side from making road blocks and from keeping on with their work of arson, fired two shots.

An Honourable Member: Were they under the orders of a magistrate?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: The District Magistrate was with this officer when it happened.

An Honourable Member: But did he order the firing?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Undoubtedly he ordered in a way. They were together. If the order was not explicit, it was implicit. Two shots were fired and one person was injured. Then, later when a determined attempt was made on the Reserve Bank, an attempt, to set fire to the Reserve Bank, the same police officer fired. I think, six rounds and four people were injured. So that was all the firing by the police. There was no firing by any police officer except the two that I have named, one sub-inspector who fired one shot with his revolver, the other a senior officer who on two occasions fired seven or eight rounds.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): With a revolver?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I think with a gun which he took from one of his men. The casualties admitted to hospitals are, I understand, 18 of whom twelve had bullet wounds and one a contused wound. Of these 18 persons, one died last night and one is seriously injured but may live. The remainder are not seriously injured. So far as we have succeeded in ascertaining, the total fatal casualties are three altogether. Of those, one may have been caused by police firing. When the firing occurred, nobody was killed on the spot, but it is possible, it is likely I think, that one of these three fatal casualties was the result of the controlled firing which I have described. There are two fatal casualties unaccounted for. There, I cannot fill in the gap with any certainty. As I said, we are too near the events for a clear picture to have been obtained and so far as I can make out there was an incident of which we, on the civil side, have not yet had any official account. There was an incident in which a Deputy Provot-Marshal, an officer of the military police, was attacked, I think in a car, and in self-defence he fired and two people were killed. But I wish

to make it quite clear, I am not in any way making any imputation against the firing that was done on that occasion. It will be made the subject of a court of enquiry and the result of that court of enquiry will no doubt be made known to us.

An Honourable Member: Has any policeman received any injury?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Yes, Sir. Several received injuries. What I want to make clear is that there was no firing by troops under the orders of the civil authorities, and the only firing of which I have heard was this incident—that in self-defence an officer or perhaps more than one fired and, according to our information, two persons were killed. Now Sir, I am glad that today there have been no allegations of brutality on the part of the police. I was expecting to hear them, and I am very glad that none has been uttered.

In fact the charge as far as we can make out is not that the police behaved improperly but there were not enough police about. It is very difficult to please some people. If there are many police about, they complain of an intimidating show of force; if there are not enough police, they complain, that again is made the cause of complaint. From the impression I formed when I read the newspaper account this morning, and it is confirmed by what I have heard since, I have no doubt that the Delhi police behaved with very great restraint. It shows that not only were they in a state of excellent discipline, but that they are men of real courage, because it takes some courage to deal with dangerous crowds without losing your head. I maintain that Delhi should be genuinely proud of its police. There have been some imputations in one newspaper against honorary magistrates. I have the authority of the District Magistrate to say that those imputations are beyond doubt undeserved. The Honourary Magistrates, as was expected of them, gave up the best part of their day to the duties which they were asked to undertake and none of them showed the white feather in any way.

Now, Sir, what are the causes of this occurrence? Well, Sir, a great deal has been said about the strong indignation caused by the refusal of the Delhi authorities to refrain from taking part in the celebration of the Victory parade. I do not myself think that there is very much in that. I am afraid, if we look to other causes of this occurrence, we have to look back to six months. I think the seeds have been sown during the last six months. On all those occasions, whether it is in Delhi, whether it is in Karachi or Bombay or elsewhere whatever the immediate occasion is, the real cause of these disturbances is a state of turbulence which has been engendered by months of incitement to disorder and to contempt of authority.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Why don't you quit India?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: My Honourable friend asks why don't we quit India? Because, nobody will take our place. That does not mean that Government are supine or that Government have abdicated their duties, and in this matter of public order, I wish to make it quite clear to the House and to the people outside that Government, and by that I mean the Central Government and the Provincial Governments, have, in an agreed policy, deliberately and of set purpose observed in these past months a policy of patience and restraint. The reasons for that are first in order to ensure that elections should be held with the greatest possible freedom of expression, and secondly in order to refrain from anything that would prejudice the permanent settlement of Indian difficulties to which we are looking forward. In that permanent settlement of India's difficulties, we who are responsible for public order believe that we have the greatest assurance that public order will be maintained and preserved and handed on from our generation to the next. If in the meanwhile we did not exercise the restraint that has been exercised—and the temptations have very often been strong—then the danger would be that in order to make quite certain of some immediate settlement of disturbance we should prejudice the policy

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which in the long run, according to our belief, offers the greatest hope of peace and tranquillity in India.

Now, Sir, it is open to the House to pass this motion; it would be nothing new for Government to be censured on a case where I believe Government are not in any way open to censure. But it is open to the House to do it, and I do hope myself that that will not be done.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member's time is up.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I will finish in one sentence. I hope that my Honourable friend will after this discussion and explanation withdraw the motion, because I am quite sure that if the motion is passed against Government, not only will it be a discouragement to many people who are responsible for public order and deeply interested in it, but it will be an encouragement to those forces which, as we perfectly know, are always on the look-out for an occasion to break the peace.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi: General): Sir, my hoarseness today is due to my excessive desire to try and reach the ears of those who were surging about in the city yesterday and this morning. I have listened to the Honourable Member's speech with the closest attention. Before I come to deal with the main aspect of these happenings I should just like to ask him a question or two. While he was describing the occasions on which fire was opened by either a policeman or a military officer, he accounted for two killed by a military policeman and three killed . . . . . .

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: There were three killed altogether according to my information. One of these may have been killed as a result of police firing, some one wounded at the time who died later in hospital. The other two, according to our surmise, were caused by the incident of a military officer's firing.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: So far as I could gather, the first shot was fired by a policeman with a revolver and there was no casualty. Then he fired two more rounds at another place and another four rounds later.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: First a sub-inspector fired one round; later a senior officer fired two shots, and later—that was at the Reserve Bank—six shots.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Taking all these shots into account there were nine altogether but we find thirteen casualties lying now in the hospital, apart from the five or six who are dead. This means eighteen or nineteen casualties. That by itself, to my mind, is a case for investigation, to say the least of it. Somebody has made a blunder somewhere; either the Honourable Member has not been furnished with accurate information or those who were giving him all this information did not take these facts into consideration. Thirteen persons are actually lying in hospital at present, one of whom is seriously injured and five or six are reported to be dead. It naturally means nineteen rounds fired by someone somewhere; that is where my information comes in. What is being objected to today, quite apart from all that has been said here, is the use of fire-arms quite indiscriminately and without any justification by the Military police somewhere in front of the civil hospital or a place which used to be the civil hospital. Some of these fellows after having performed their duty the whole day long were rolling about on the maidan and the crowd that had been dispersed from the Reserve Bank was retreating. As they were retreating and reached a spot in front of the hospital it is reported—it is a matter for Government to investigate—that the military policemen got up, whether out of panic or anger or sheer callousness and brutality; they fired and these people were injured there. There would be some justification for the use of fire-arms against a crowd which, as they say, was trying to set fire to the Reserve Bank, if it could be proved. But what is the justification, I ask, for this fire being opened in front of the civil hospital? It is this which has caused, to my mind, the greatest resentment. But apart from that, I do not wish to go into other details. As far as these happenings are concerned, they are far too near to us; we cannot possibly see the whole picture in its proper perspective. I do not wish to rake up things unnecessarily. I was in the city myself for about three hours yesterday; I was there from about 11 A.M. to 2 P.M. and again in the evening, and I know what has happened. You can take it from me, Sir, that I was amazed to find, when I went into the city that fires were burning and our excellent policemen were standing there. They could not put out the fires; they were not moving their little finger to do anything. In fact one of them—an officer, having recognised me came up to me somewhere near Dariba and said, "See, Sir, we are only just a few here and you see these crowds; will you please ask them to disperse?" I said, "But this is exactly what we are doing; we are asking them to go back to their homes. But what about these fires that are burning." There were various gates put up by the police or other authorities,—I have not the faintest idea as to who put up these triumphal arches,—made up of bamboos. Fire was set to them and they were burning; in fact they had been burnt down. This happened in at least six to eight places. The one thing that struck me as I was passing through the city was the absence of adequate police service—complete absence. I am fully aware of the fact that it is sometimes said 'if we bring the police to the scene, you say it will provoke; if we withdraw them; you say they are not there'. That is not the kind of thing to go on with. I know that the District Magistrate of Delhi only slightly, unfortunately because most of the time that he has been here I was elsewhere. I saw very little of him in the beginning, and I have had some slight chance of seeing him since, but it is my impression that the District Magistrate had better go elsewhere. He has become completely unsuitable as far as Delhi is concerned. I have not the slightest doubt about that in my mind. The one occasion on which I saw him, I found him rather a gentleman who is over-burdened with the sense of his own responsibility. Imagine a remark like this coming from him on one occasion: I was discussing with the Chief Commissioner in his presence certain details about the Congress Session which was proposed to be held in Delhi. I told him that certain facilities were absolutely necessary, for instance, trained volunteers etc. etc. Oh! I beg your pardon. It was in connection with elections. I said that parties would go about canvassing, which means having small processions, corner meetings, etc. etc. He turned to me and said. "But the roads are for public use; they are not intended for processions" little realizing that the roads are for the public, and it is the public that wants to take out processions. Who else would? This means definitely that the District Magistrate has got his own sense of duty and the sooner he goes elsewhere the better.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): What will he do elsewhere?

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I am sorry that I have to say so.....

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member has got two minutes more.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: These two minutes will be more than enough for my purpose.

But I can assure him, Mr. Deputy President, that much of the trouble is due to the fact that the Deputy Commissioner of Delhi has been mishandling the situation the whole time. His behaviour in the Municipality, his behaviour otherwise, and the way he manages the show, is at the bottom of the whole thing.

But now, quite apart from these happenings,—I can say a great deal more about these things, but my time is very short,—I come back to the root cause once again. These are, Mr. Deputy President, but symptoms, you must find out the disease. Where is the disease? The disease has already been

[Mr. M. Asaf Ali.]

pointed out by previous speakers. The disease is deeper down, the disease is the impatience of the people with foreign rule. This is the disease; these happenings are only symptoms. I assure you, Mr. Deputy President, that it takes us all our energy to try and rein people in. We are failing, I tell you we are failing and I am not ashamed of saying so. Here were our people who would listen to us, who would do anything we wanted them to do, and yesterday as I passed through the city there were these crowds who would obey me any moment, but not yesterday. They felt hurt, they felt injured, there was something deep down in their hearts which I could not satisfy. I went on telling them 'go home'. They would surge back for a little while and as soon as we had cleared out, they would come back and I would hear whispers here and there 'yes, but what is all this going on; is it not indignity and insult to us?; here we are hungry, here we are starving and we see all this great *tamasha* going on; fires burning in old Delhi and fireworks going on in New Delhi'. Mr. Deputy President, these things are too obvious, too glaring to be overlooked as has been pointed out by the previous speakers so eloquently I endorse every word of what they have said, I also recognize what the Home Member has said today about the new attitude which the Government has tried to reflect. I recognize it to a certain extent, but if they wish to prove that the spirit is there then the sooner they take note of the fact that they have got to yield to common demands the better, the sooner they realize the fact that common feelings have got to be respected the better. They must bow before them. We must all bow before them. After all, this is the essence of democracy, if there is going to be a democratic India. If it is a democratic India to which power is going to be transferred, let us see to it that the coming events cast their shadows before. Here and now let them begin to act in a manner that the people may recognize that they respect their feelings.

Some Honourable Members: The question may now be put.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That the question may now be put."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That the Assembly do now adjourn."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 11th March, 1946.

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MADRAS GOVERNMENT

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Monday, 11th March, 1946

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

MEMBER SWORN:

Mr. Saiyid Rashid-Uz-Zaman, C.I.E., I.C.S., M.L.A., (Government of India: Nominated Official).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

†808*—859*.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Relative Seniority among Guards on N. W. Railway

78. Seth Sukhdev: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rules for the reckoning of relative seniority on the North Western Railway up to 1936 between two sets of Guards, (i) those already in service as Guards, and (ii) those transferred from other Branches of service, were to the effect that the seniority was to be determined on the date of confirmation as a Guard;

(b) whether the Honourable Member will please refer to his answer to Mr. Lalchand Navalrai's unstarred question No. 6 on the 27th July, 1943, to the effect that a representation from the Guards on the issue of seniority was under examination, and state if a decision has been taken; if so, whether he will please lay a copy thereof on the table of the House; and

(c) whether the decision referred to in (b) above is in conformity with the rules referred to in (a) above if not, what other rules have been observed in arriving at the decision, and why?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes, except that the fixation of the seniority of the staff referred to in item (ii) of this part was made in accordance with rule 25 (b) of the General Manager's Circular No. 1 of 1927, Part A (revised), which affords employees additional credit for purposes of seniority, if appointed on more than the minimum pay of the post.

(b) The reply to the first portion is in the affirmative. As regards the latter portion, I lay on the table of the House a copy of the General Manager, North Western Railway's letter communicating the decision.

(c) The reply to the first portion is in the negative. As regards the remaining portion, the decision in question is based on Note 4 below rule 25-G of the General Manager's Circular No. 1 of 1927, Part A, as amended which provides that seniority, in the case of those promoted as Guards as the result of a competitive examination in the Walton Training School, is in accordance with the order of merit obtained at the School.

Copy of General Manager, North Western Railway's letter No. 622-E/192-II, dated the 12th April, 1945, to the all Divisional Superintendents, N. W. Railway.

Representations from staff in service promoted as Guards Grade II/Class I, Grade I, protesting against the seniority of Guards Class I, Grade I, recruited from outside.

It has been noticed that several representations, telegrams and memorials have been submitted through proper channel as well as direct by the Staff in service promoted as Guards Grade II/Class I, Grade I, claiming seniority on the score of length of their service over those recruited from outside as Guards Class I, Grade I, against 50 per cent. quota. Almost all the points on which the staff in service have based their claim, have already been dealt with at length and are covered by the policy explained in this office letter No. 522-E/355, dated 14th September, 1938.

†The question hour for the day having been dispensed with, these questions have been transferred to be answered orally on the 12th March, 1946—*Ed. of D.*

2. After going through their representations it is felt that there is a general misunderstanding amongst the staff about the policy followed in this office in respect of their promotion as Guards along with the outsiders recruited direct. In accordance with the existing policy, 50 per cent. of posts of Guards, Grade II (old)/Class I, Grade I (new), are filled by direct recruitment of outsiders and 50 per cent. by promotion of staff. Staff, who qualify for promotion to Guards, Grade II, are placed on one list according to the order of merit of their passing out from the Walton Training School in the same batch. A second list is drawn on a similar basis in respect of probationary Guards (recruited from outside). One of every two vacancies is given to the top-most man in the former list and the other to the top-most man on the latter list and so on. It is, therefore, equitable that the order in which the men are appointed as Guards should normally determine their seniority. It is regretted that it is not proposed to make any modification in this respect.

3. The rules regarding reckoning of seniority contained in Agent's Circular No. 1 of 1927, Part 'A' (Revised) and referred to in the representations, do not apply to these promotions to Guards posts, *vide* note 4 below Rule 25 (g) of the Circular just quoted. It may, however, be stated that the general rule of counting seniority from the date of confirmation is followed when men have been confirmed as Guards, *i.e.*, a man in service permanently promoted as a guard does not lose his seniority to a man recruited from outside and confirmed after him.

4. It appears from their representations that some mis-apprehension also exists with regard to the determination of the relative merit of outsiders and staff after they have qualified in Guards duties. In this connection, their attention may be drawn to para. 2 above which clearly explains that the order of merit obtained by outsiders and staff is maintained separately. It is from these two separate lists that men are appointed to officiate as guards.

5. It has also been complained that at a selection made to select staff for training in Course P-1 (T-5 old) at the Walton Training School, Guards recruited direct with short service of upto 8 years were considered whereas no such consideration was given to staff promoted as Guards with 15 to 20 years' service in other branches as they were junior having been confirmed later. In this connection it may be pointed out to them that training in Course P-1 makes men eligible for promotion to A. S. Ms. Grade IV and Section Controllers. As it is from Guards, Grade II, that we mostly draw our material to man the higher and responsible posts of A. S. Ms. Grade IV and Section Controllers, it is, therefore, essential that individuals selected for this purpose should possess outstanding ability regardless of their length of service. It is not in the interests of the service to lower our standard of selection of Staff sent to the Walton Training School for training in Course P-1 in order to accommodate promoted Guards who have long service in the categories from which they were drawn as Guards.

Those who have submitted the representations may be informed accordingly.

GRIEVANCES OF STAFF OF ELECTRIC BRANCH, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY, AMBALA

79. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that serious trouble is brewing in the Electric Branch of the North Western Railway at the Ambala Station;

(b) whether it is a fact that repeated petitions apprising the authorities about this have been made from time to time;

(c) whether the Honourable Member proposes to have enquiries made into these complaints, specially with regard to—

(i) irregular duties and infringement of rosters,

(ii) grant of irregular leave and false travelling allowances,

(iii) theft of oil and consumption of double the allotted quota,

(iv) non-supply of ration cards to certain members of the staff,

(v) irregular alterations in the electric arrangement of sentinel coaches, disconnecting public communication,

(vi) non-supply of winter uniforms, and

(vii) communal discrimination, and place a copy of findings on the table of the House; and

(d) whether there are any rules to the effect that when there are general complaints and a state of unrest prevails, the Divisional Superintendent or a Senior Officer should make personal enquiries in the matter, if not, whether it is proposed to issue such instructions now?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b) Government are informed that the facts are not as stated; only one complaint has been received by the railway administration against the Electrical Chargeman.

(c) An enquiry was very recently made into the complaint referred to above by a committee consisting of an Electrical Foreman and Assistant Staff Warden and no irregularities in regard to the matters mentioned in items (i) to (vii) could be substantiated. I regret that I am not prepared to lay the findings of enquiries of this nature on the table, as I do not think that the public interest will be served thereby.

(d) No rules exist on the subject, but Railway Administrations detail responsible officials or officers to hold an enquiry in accordance with the needs of each case. As regards the concluding portion of the question, the issue of instructions is not considered necessary.

RECOGNISED UNIONS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

80. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recognition to the North Western Railway United Union was given temporarily during the period of war;

(b) if this recognition is being withdrawn now; if not, why not;

(c) whether the Honourable Member is aware that already recognised Unions exist on the North Western Railway and that the recognition of the United Union was purely temporary; and

(d) how many recognised unions there are on the North Western Railway and the maximum number that are to be recognised?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b) Yes; originally the recognition was provisional and it was extended in 1944 for the period of the war and six months thereafter. The Railway administration has however, already accorded the Union permanent recognition and does not consider it in the interests of the staff or the administration to withdraw it.

(c) Yes, but the railway administration is fully competent to confer recognition as a permanent measure.

(d) Four, a list of which is given in my reply to part (a) of Sardar Sant Singh's starred question No. 489, asked on 17th November, 1944. As regards the latter portion of this part of the question, no specific limit has been laid down but the policy is that the number should not be so large as to make dealings with all the recognised Unions difficult.

SELECTION OF ASSISTANT CARRIAGE CLEANING INSPECTORS

81. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether two written examinations besides interview were held at Delhi for selection of candidates for training and promotion as Assistants Carriage Cleaning Inspectors on the North Western Railway;

(b) the scales of pay of the Assistant Carriage Cleaning Inspectors under the old and 1931 (revised) scales of pay;

(c) whether it is a fact that selections held at the Lahore Headquarters' Office for superior posts of Carriage Cleaning Inspectors were not done through a written test, but by personal interview lasting for one to two minutes per candidate;

(d) the number of selected candidates, community-wise;

(e) whether a Sikh was selected; if not why not;

(f) whether it is proposed to introduce the method of selection by written examinations; if not, why not; and

(g) if the reply to the first part of (f) above be in the affirmative, whether it is proposed to hold a fresh and regular selection?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) One written examination, besides an interview, was held for the selection of candidates for training and promotion as Assistant Carriage Cleaning Inspectors, another written examination was held after completion of the training.

(b) The scales of pay of Carriage and Assistant Carriage Cleaning Inspectors are given below:

(i) Carriage Cleaning Inspectors . . { Rs. 210—10—270 (old) / Rs. 230 fixed (revised)

(ii) Assistant Carriage Cleaning Inspectors . { Rs. 105—5—140 (old) / Rs. 100—10/2—120 (revised)

(c) The reply to the first portion is in the affirmative. As regards the latter portion, reasonable time was allowed in the case of each candidate interviewed by the Selection Board in order to determine his fitness for the post in question.

(d) Four, *viz.*, (judging from their names), 1 Hindu, 2 Muslims and 1 Sikh.

(e) Government are informed that one Sikh, as his name implies, appears to have been selected, but I may remind the Honourable Member that promotions are not made on communal considerations.

(f) No. As regards the latter portion of this part, the selection-*cum*-examination method is only considered obligatory in connection with posts of certain categories.

(g) Does not arise.

RULES FOR NOMINATION OF PERSONNEL OF DEPARTMENTAL INQUIRY COMMITTEES ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

82. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether any rules exist on the North Western Railway for nomination of the personnel of the Departmental Inquiry Committees;

(b) whether these rules provide for the following safeguards:

(i) no two members of the committee having official relationship of one being subordinate to the other,

(ii) the members being practically of the same status,

(iii) that no member of the committee shall be lower in status or pay than the person in whose conduct an enquiry is held, and

(iv) that enquiries against senior subordinates are conducted by gazetted officers; and

(c) if no such rules exist, whether it is proposed to issue them now to this effect; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) No, although the necessity for these safeguards is well understood and acted upon.

(c) The matter will be further examined in consultation with the Railway Administration.

BIHAR LIGHT RAILWAY OWNED BY MARTIN AND COMPANY

83. Choudhury Md. Abid Hussain: (a) When does the Honourable the Railway Member propose taking over the Bihar Light Railway, owned by Martin and Company?

(b) Are Government aware of the total lack of amenities on this Railway, of the insanitary condition of the coaches, many of which have hardly a latrine specially in lower class, of insufficient lighting and of peculiar structure of the coaches which render travel uncomfortable?

(c) Do Government propose to ask the Company to provide necessary amenities?

(d) Are Government aware that on this line which is running through historic places like Nalanda and Rajgir, there are thousands of travellers not only from all parts of India but also Buddhists and pilgrims from abroad?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Government have no direct right to acquire this narrow gauge line except through the local authorities concerned. As the next option to purchase the line falls due in June 1950, the question of its taking over will be considered in due course.

(b) Government understand that all the stock is fitted with latrines. Every effort is being made to replace stolen or damaged train lighting bulbs and cushions to the greatest extent possible. Government have no information to the effect that the peculiar structure of the coaches renders travel uncomfortable.

(c) The attention of the authorities of the railway will be drawn to this request.

(d) Yes.

MONOPOLY OF BUS SERVICE IN DELHI TO G. N. I. T.

84. Choudhury Md. Abid Hussain: (a) Is the Honourable Member for War Transport aware of the difficulties of conveyance experienced by the public in Delhi?

(b) Is he aware of the discontent and agitation going on in the press against the monopoly of Bus service in Delhi given to G.N.I.T. on practically all the routes?

(c) Do Government propose to allow other Companies a chance so that competition may lead to better service and also to the lowering of rates?

(d) Are Government aware that while places like Bombay and Calcutta have excellent conveyance facilities, the Imperial city of India is without those facilities?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Government are aware that complaints have been made. The G.N.I.T. Company has recently extended its services and it is hoped that the improved facilities will help to minimise the public's difficulties, although improvements are largely dependent upon the easing of the present shortage of motor vehicles.

(b) Government are aware that complaints have appeared in the Press.

(c) and (d) The question of the introduction of new bus services in Delhi is one for decision by the Provincial Transport Authority in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Motor Vehicles Act. It is understood that ways and means of improving the services offered by the G.N.I.T. are under the consideration of the Provincial Transport Authority.

The trend throughout the world, especially in urban areas, is towards controlled monopolies; this practice is followed in Bombay, where facilities, according to the Honourable Member. are excellent. I agree that the service in Delhi could with advantage be extended, but as I have already stated such extension is at present hampered by conditions arising out of the war.

WAGES TO COOLIES ON GREAT INDIAN PENINSULAR RAILWAY STATIONS FOR SERVICES RENDERED TO RAILWAY.

85. Seth Sukhdev: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether licensed coolies on Stations on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway receive no wages excepting cooly charges from passengers?

(b) Is it a fact that Licensed coolies on this Railway are required to do Railway work in between train intervals? If so, do they get any remuneration from Railway, and what is the scale thereof?

(c) If no remuneration is received for services rendered to the Railway referred to in (b) above, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) The reply to first part is in the affirmative. No remuneration is paid.

(c) No remuneration is paid as the performance of this work is one of the conditions under which the men are permitted to work as Licensed Coolies. For the Honourable Member's information I would add that I understand that on the majority of railways remuneration for handling parcels is given. Government propose to examine the question of adopting a standard practice on all Government, of India Railways to give suitable remuneration for railway work performed by licensed coolies.

SHORT-WEIGHMENT OF SOAP SUPPLIED TO EMPLOYEES OF KARACHI DIVISION NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

86. Seth Sukhdev: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two seers of soap were supplied to the employees of the Karachi Division of the North Western Railway at the concessional prices of Re. 1;

(b) whether it is a fact that instead of two seers only eight cakes of soap weighing about one and a half seers were supplied;

(c) who was responsible for the short supply, in spite of a clear cash memo for two seers of soap;

(d) whether it is a fact that these orders were superseded on 24th September last;

(e) whether any refund has been paid to the employees who were given short-weight; if not, why not; and

(f) what general instructions the Railway Board have issued to stop such short-weights; if not, whether it is proposed to do so now?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have called for the information which will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

MINIORITY REPRESENTATION IN LAHORE DIVISION OF NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

87. Seth Sukhdev: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) the number of gazetted officers, communitywise in the Lahore Division of the North Western Railway;

(b) the number and communities of (i) Office Superintendents, (ii) Head Clerk personnel, and (iii) Sub-Heads in the Personnel Branch of the Divisional Office, North Western Railway Lahore;

(c) if there is preponderance of a certain community, whether it is proposed to make adjustments; and

(d) if no adjustments are to be made, whether it is proposed to cancel the rule of 50 per cent. posts for members of the minority community in the Personnel Section of Divisional Offices on the North Western Railway?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). The attached statements give the required information.

(c) The posting of officers on Divisions and the promotion of subordinate staff are not made on communal considerations, and the question of adjustments therefore does not arise.

(d) Government's decision to reserve for minority communities, as a temporary measure, 50 per cent. of the vacancies in Establishment Branches till such time as their representation in these branches is brought up to the overall percentages prescribed for those communities in each Railway, applied only to *vacancies among clerical staff of Establishment Branches filled by direct recruitment*. It is not proposed to cancel this reservation.

Number of gazetted Officers communitywise at present employed on Lahore division of the North Western Railway.

Anglo-Indians and Europeans	7
Muslims	10
Hindu	9
Sikh	2
Total	28

The present number and communal composition of (i) office Superintendents (ii) Head Clerks, personnal and (iii) Sub Heads in the Personnel Branch *of the Division Office, Lahore.*

Category	Muslims	Hindus	Sikhs	Total
(i) Office Superintendents	..	1	..	1
(ii) Head Clerk, personnel	..	1	..	1
(iii) Sub-Head, personnel	1	5	1	7
Total	1	7	1	9

MINORITY REPRESENTATION IN RATIONING OFFICES ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

88. Seth Sukhdev: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state the number of (i) Assistant Rationing Officers, and (ii) Food Inspectors communitywise, on the North Western Railway on (i) the 1st November, 1944, and (ii) on the 21st February, 1946?

(b) What are the reasons for increase in numbers of certain communities, and what steps do Government propose to take to see that no community receives undue advantage?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I lay on the table a statement giving the required information:

	Anglo-Indians and Europeans	Muslims	Hindus	Sikhs	Total
	(a) (i) *On 1st November, 1944*				
(i) Assistant Rationing Officers.	1	3	1	..	5
(ii) Food Inspectors	..	3	2	..	5
	(a) (ii) *On 21st February 1946*				
(i) Assistant Rationing Officers.	..	3	2	1	6
(ii) Food Inspectors	..	2	2	..	4

(b) The figures do not reveal any significant changes in the numbers of certain communities, or that any community is receiving an undue advantage.

RELEASE OF COTTON YARN FOR HAND-LOOMS

89. Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state what steps Government have taken towards implementing the resolution regarding release of cotton yarn for the use of

handlooms adopted by the House on the 31st January, 1946, namely the one which was moved by Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang to which certain amendments were moved in the matter of Cotton Yarn?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: The resolution in question made two specific recommendations: (a) that Government should immediately compel cotton textile mills to release at least one-third of the yarns manufactured by them for the use of handlooms, and (b) that Government should prohibit all export of cloth and yarn for some time to come.

The recommendation at (a) would, if adopted, result in a rise in cloth prices, a decrease in cloth production and, unemployment among mill labourers. The unemployment of mill labour would be about 13 per cent. and might lead to unrest amongst the remainder, so that even the existing supplies of yarn to handloom weavers might be jeopardised.

The cost of production of handloom cloth is much higher than that of mill-made cloth, and the wastage of yarn is also greater. The price of handloom cloth is much higher than the poorer classes of consumer can afford, and more difficult to control. The rate of production of cloth on handlooms is slower than mill production, and the measure suggested in (a) of the resolution would have the effect of reducing, for many months the inadequate amount of cloth at present available for consumption. In existing circumstances Government feel unable to accept this part of the Resolution.

Total prohibition of exports of cloth and yarn would mean going back on the existing agreement to an allocation of 400 million yards of textiles to countries east of Suez, to which India is and can at present be the only supplier of cloth. Such global allocation of cloth cannot be denied without a weakening of India's case for a global allocation of foodstuffs to guard against the threatening food conditions. Some of these exports are required to support imports of foodgrains, as from Burma and Siam. Other exports are intended to maintain the economy of neighbouring countries like Nepal and Afghanistan, whose breakdown would have repercussions in India. Still other exports are necessary to maintain India's foothold in her old markets and in the new ones opening to her as a result of the disappearance of Japan as a textile exporting country. The prohibition of exports would add only one yard per head to the present average *per capita* available of 13 to 14 yards. Government are of the view, that instead of total prohibition it is preferable to cut exports down to the lowest figure possible on these considerations.

Government agree with the spirit of the resolution and are therefore, planning the expansion of India's textile industry in such a manner as to ensure that the number of new spindles installed exceeds the number of new looms to an extent that will provide sufficient "free" yarn for handloom weavers. The possibility of importing yarn, particularly of artificial silk, is also engaging attention.

SAINTHIA-BERHAMPORE LINE PROJECT

90. Mr. Sarsanka Sekhar Sanyal: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether the Sainthia-Berhampore Line is one of the live projects?

(b) How far has the project been pushed through?

(c) Is there a chance of the line being operated for traffic in the course of the next three or four years?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) This project has been approved for investigation.

(b) The Survey will be taken in hand as soon as staff is available.

(c) The decision whether to construct the line or not will depend on the results of the survey and until this decision is taken, it is not possible to say when the line will be opened for traffic.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT PILOTS LICENCE "B"

91. Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state whether a Public Transport Pilot's Licence "B" issued by Britain is recognised in India by the Director of Civil Aviation? If not, why not?

(b) What is the number of solo flying hours required to gain a Public Transport Pilot's Licence in Britain, United States of America, South Africa, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and India?

(c) Why is the difference?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) A Public Transport Pilot's Licence (Licence B) issued in Great Britain is recognised as valid in India for the purpose of flying British Registered aircraft in India. The Central Government has power to treat such a licence as valid for flying Indian Registered aircraft in India. If the holder of a B licence issued in Great Britain applies for the issue of a corresponding licence in India, the Central Government has power to exempt him under the Indian Aircraft Rules, 1937, from all the tests prescribed by these rules for the grant of the licence except the examination in Indian legislation pertaining to Civil Aviation and Notices to Airmen. He must however have completed the flying experience required under the Rules.

(b) The number of solo flying hours prescribed for the issue of a B licence in Great Britain, South Africa, Canada, New Zealand and Australia is 100 and in the United States of America and India 200.

(c) The difference in the standards is based on what the respective countries consider to be the minimum necessary before a pilot can be entrusted safely with the lives of passengers.

GROUND ENGINEERS' LICENCES

92. Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state whether Ground Engineers' Licences issued in Britain are recognised in India? If not, why not? If so, are they endorsed as restricted?

(b) Are such licences renewed here? If so, why?

(c) How many Indian and European holders of British Licences applied for Indian licences separately since the beginning?

(d) How many persons' licences were restricted, and how many of them were Indians and Britishers, giving details separately?

(e) Why were they endorsed as restricted?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) Ground Engineer's Licences issued by the British Air Ministry are recognised in India and an Indian Ground Engineer's Licence of the same scope is issued if the holder is employed on civil registered aircraft. Such licences are not restricted in any manner.

(b) Yes, under the terms of an agreement with the Air Registration Board, London.

(c) and (d) The information is not readily available and its collection would involve an undue amount of time and labour incommensurate with the value of the results.

(e) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (a).

PILOTS' LICENCES

93. Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state how many took Pilot "A" licences in India since the beginning, and how many became "B" Pilots, and how many did not renew their "A" licences?

(b) How many were medically found unfit for 'B' licences, stating numbers and names? And how many Britishers were found unfit?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) The total number of persons in India to whom 'A' Licences have been granted so far is 1,493. Of these 109 subsequently qualified for 'B' Licences. 1,405 'A' licences have not been renewed.

(b) I regret the information asked for is not available.

PILOT'S LICENCES

94. Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state whether the Pilot's licences issued by United States of America, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Canada are recognised in India? If not, why not?

(b) Are the Indian licences issued to holders of such licences on application, or are they required additional flying experience? If so, why?

(c) Are they given Indian licences automatically here; if not, what is the position?

(d) Are the solo flying hours put in by an applicant for a Pilot's licence in foreign lands recognised; if so, why has the Director of Civil Aviation refused to recognise solo flying hours put in by an applicant in Japan?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) Under the Indian Aircraft Rules, 1937, the Central Government is empowered to treat as valid in India a licence which has been issued by the duly competent authority in any part of His Majesty's Dominions outside British India or in any foreign state.

(b) A person who possesses a current licence issued by a State which is a party to the International Convention for Aerial Navigation signed in Paris, may be exempted, for the purpose of the issue of a corresponding licence in India, from the flying tests and technical examination prescribed for the grant of such a licence other than the examination in Indian legislation relating to civil aviation. He must however fulfil the requirements in respect of flying experience prescribed by the Indian Aircraft Rules.

(c) They must submit applications and must fulfil the conditions prescribed for the grant of Indian licences.

(d) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. It is not possible to give a reply to the second part unless details of the case which the Honourable Member is referring to are given.

GROUND ENGINEERS' LICENCES

95. Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state whether the aircraft factory certificate or experience gained in Germany, Japan or other allied countries is counted as valid when an applicant applies for Ground Engineers' Licences? If so, which countries' experiences are held as valid?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Practical experience gained in aeronautical engineering in other countries by applicants for Indian Ground Engineers' licences is counted for the purpose of the tests prescribed by the Indian Aircraft Rules, for the issue of such licences.

RECRUITMENT OF STAFF FOR EXPANSION OF CIVIL AVIATION

96. Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state how many persons have been taken up for civil aviation expansion by the Civil Aviation Directorate? Of these how many have been taken up for administrative work and how many for technical work?

(b) What are the qualifications and experience in aviation of the above employees and how many of them are Indians?

(c) How many Britishers and other foreigners have arrived and how many are coming? What are their qualifications and experience in Civil Aviation?

(d) What is the method of recruitment of these officers?

(e) What are their pay, allowances and details of terms?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) Three officers so far been newly recruited for the reorganised Civil Aviation Department. Their appointments involve a combination of administrative and technical duties.

(b), (c) and (e) A statement showing the qualifications and experience of the persons and their pay and allowances, is attached. None of them is Indian.

(d) They were recruited by selection in the United Kingdom on contract for specific periods.

Statement

Air Vice Marshal Sir E. A. B. Rice—Deputy Director General, Aircraft Operation.

Terms of appointment	Qualifications and experience
On contract for five years on a fixed consolidated pay of Rs. 2,500 p.m. (less 10% as he is in receipt of an Royal Air Force pension).	Sir Edward Rice, Deputy Director General (Aircraft), has 32 years' experience of aviation in the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Air Force. His experience of flying operations ranges over France and Belgium 1914-1919, Iraq 1920-22, Egypt 1929-34 and Coastal Command 1935-38. Transferring to Bomber Command in 1938 he took part in the bombing offensive against Germany. In 1941 he organised in West Africa the air reinforcement of the Forces in North Africa at a critical stage in the war. At the end of the European war, after commanding No. 1 Group, Bomber Command, he commanded a Training Group to train crews for the Japanese War. He was knighted (K.B.E.) this year for his distinguished services in the Royal Air Force.

Air Commodore E. I. Bussell—Director of Training and Licensing.

Terms of appointment	Qualifications and experience
On contract for 5 years on a fixed consolidated pay of Rs. 2,000 p.m. (less 10% as he is in receipt of a pension from His Majesty's Government).	Air Commodore E. I. Bussell, Director of Training and Licensing was largely responsible in the early years of the war, for the enrolment and training of officers and men of the Royal Indian Air Force. He is a graduate of the Royal Air Force Staff College and has outstanding experience in air training, having served six years at the British Air Ministry, five years at Air Headquarters, India, and recently commanded a Training Base in England.

Mr. J. P. Jeffcock—Director of Communications.

Terms of appointment	Qualifications and experience.
On contract for 3 years on a fixed consolidated pay of Rs. 2,000 p.m.	Mr. J. P. Jeffcock, M.I.E.E., Director of Communications has for the past ten years taken a prominent part in the development of Aeronautical Radio Communications and is himself a keen pilot. During the war, he was seconded by the Air Ministry to the Ministry of Aircraft Production to assist in the development of Radar. He was the organiser and first head of the Central Radio Bureau, formed for the dissemination within the British Commonwealth and the United States of America of information on Radio Research and development. In January 1943, he was selected for planning the application of war-time technique to Post-War Civil Aviation. As a member of the Civil Aviation Radio Advisory Committee to the Minister of Civil Aviation and of the United Kingdom delegations to five Commonwealth and International Conferences on Radio for Civil Aviation, he brings to India an exceptionally wide knowledge of the subject.

SIR FREDERIC TYMMS, DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION

97. Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state what were the qualifications and experiences of Sir F. Tymms when he came out as Director of Civil Aviation?

(b) What was the salary he was getting before he joined as a Director of Civil Aviation?

(c) How many times has Sir F. Tymms accepted private jobs while he was connected with the Directorate?

(d) What pay he is getting?

(e) Does he get any private income directly or indirectly from air line-operators?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) A statement giving the necessary information is attached.

(b) The information is not readily available.

(c) Sir Frederick Tymms has on no occasion accepted a private job while employed in the Civil Aviation Directorate in India. His services were lent by Government to Tata Air Craft Ltd. from the 31st March, 1942 to the 4th June, 1943 solely in the interest of the War effort.

(d) Rs. 3,500 per mensem.

(e) No, and Government must strongly repudiate the implied suggestion in this question.

Statement

The qualifications of Sir Frederick Tymms before he joined as Director of Civil Aviation were his administrative experience and experience of Aviation. The following is a statement of his experience and qualifications:

Commissioned War Service—1915-1919.

Commissioned in Royal Flying Corps—1917.
Decorations:
Military Cross.
Chevalier of the Order of the Crown.
Belgian Croix de Guerre.

1918 British Aviation Mission to the United States of America.
Training and organising American Air Service in air observation.

1919 Instructor in Air Navigation at the Royal Air Force school of Navigation.

1920-27 Technical Officer in the Civil Aviation Department of the Air Ministry.

1924 Commanded the Air Section of the Oxford University Arctic Expedition to Spitzbergen.
Member of the Air Survey Committee, Great Britain.
Part Author of "Flying for Air Survey Photography".
Air Ministry Chief Examiner in Navigation for Pilots and Navigators' licences.
Part Author of "Commercial Air Transport".
1927 Appointed Air Ministry Superintendent of the Egypt, India air service.

1928 Seconded to the Government of the Sudan, Kenya, Uganda, and Tanganyika to Survey and organize air routes, including the Cape to Cairo air route, and to organize the administration of civil aviation.

1928-31 Chief Technical Assistant to the Director of Civil Aviation, Air Ministry.

1929-30 Air Mnistry Representative on the Commission to Africa, to survey, organize and negotiate the Cape to Cairo Air route.
Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society.
Holder of 1st Class Air Navigator's licence, and Pilot's "A" licence.
Author of a number of scientific papers on Navigation, Air Survey, Meteorology, and other technical Aviation subjects.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERALS OF CIVIL AVIATION

98. Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state who are Deputy Director Generals of Civil Aviation?

(b) What is their nationality?

(c) What are their qualifications and experiences?

(d) What pay and allowances each one of them draws?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) Lt. Commander W. H. Watt and Air Vice Marshall Sir Edward Rice.

(b) British.

(c) A Statement giving the necessary information is attached.

(d) They are getting pay on the following rates *plus* usual allowances admissible under the rules and orders of the Government of India.

Lt.-Commander Watt—Rs. 1,950 p.m. *plus* £18-6-8 Sterling Overseas pay in the scale of Rs. 1,950—100—2,250 *plus* £18-6-8 O.S.P.

Air Vice Marshall Sir Edward Rice—Rs. 2,500 p.m. less 10 per cent. on account of his being in receipt of an Royal Air Force pension.

Statement

Air Vice Marshall Sir Edward Rice, K.B.E., C.B., M.C., Deputy Director-General (Aircraft).—Sir Edward Rice, Deputy Director-General (Aircraft), has 32 years' experience of aviation in the Royal Flying Corps, and the Royal Air Force. His experience of flying operations ranges over France and Belgium 1914-1919, Iraq 1920-22, Egypt 1929-34 and Coastal Command 1935-38. Transferring to Bomber Command in 1938, he took part in the bombing offensive against Germany. In 1941 he organized in West Africa the air reinforcement of the Forces in North Africa at a critical stage in the war. At the end of the European War, after commanding No. 1 Group, Bomber Command, he commanded a Training Group to train crews for the Japanese War. He was knighted this year for his distinguished services in the Royal Air Force.

Lt.-Commander W. H. Watt, O.B.E., R.N.R. (Retd.).—Deputy Director-General (Airways and Aerodromes).—Wide experience for over 10 years in the Royal Navy and the Royal Naval Air Service, from which he retired in 1924, with the rank of Lieutenant Commander. First appointment in India Officer-in-Charge, Royal Airship Base and Karachi Air Port, 1930; appointed Chief Aerodrome Officer on 1st March 1935; appointed officiating Director of Civil Aviation in India, 3rd July 1940, to 13th November 1940 and 31st March 1942, to 6th January 1945; appointed officiating Deputy Director of Civil Aviation from 8th November 1945 to 30th November 1945; appointed Deputy Director General of Civil Aviation (Airways and Administration Division), from 1st December 1945.

DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION

99. Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state how many Directors of Civil Aviation there are in India and how many of them are Indians?

(b) How many of them are qualified in aviation?

(c) What is the salary and allowance of each?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) Six posts of Directors have been newly sanctioned in the headquarters organisation of the Civil Aviation Directorate. Four of them have been filled so far, and none of the incumbents is Indian.

(b) All the four Officers so far appointed are highly qualified in aviation.

(c) Two of the Directors have been appointed on contract on a consolidated pay of Rs. 2,000 p.m. (subject to a reduction of 10 per cent. where the officer is in receipt of a Royal Air Force pension). The other two posts have been filled by promotion of officers within the Directorate. They are receiving pay at the minimum of the scale of Rs. 1,300—100—1,700 *plus* £80 Sterling Overseas Pay. The officers are also entitled to the usual allowances admissible under the rules and orders of the Government of India.

DEPUTY DIRECTORS OF CIVIL AVIATION

100. Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state how many Deputy Directors of Civil Aviation there are in India?

(b) How many of them are Indians?

(c) What salary and allowances each one of them is getting?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a), (b) and (c). Seven posts of Deputy Director have been sanctioned for the headquarters organisation of the Civil Aviation Directorate. Only one of them has so far been filled and the incumbent is an Indian. He is drawing pay at the minimum of the scale Rs. 1,000—50—1,250 p.m. He is entitled to the usual allowances admissible under the rules and orders of the Government of India.

OFFICERS OF RANKS OF DIRECTOR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION

101. Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state how many other officers are employed who are equal in status as to pay to the Director, Deputy Director and Deputy Director General of Civil Aviation?

(b) How many of them are Indians and foreigners mentioning details of nationality of each?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) Apart from the posts of Deputy Director General, Directors and Deputy Directors, the following three posts, which correspond to the post of Deputy Director, have been sanctioned for the headquarters organisation of the Civil Aviation Directorate:

One Chief Administrative Officer.

One Chief Inspector of Accidents.

One Research and Development Officer.

(b) Only the post of Chief Administrative Officer has so far been filled and the incumbent is an Anglo-Indian.

MANAGEMENT OF WOULD-BE "INDIAN WESTERN AIRWAYS LTD." AND "INDIAN EASTERN AIRWAYS LTD."

102. Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state:

(a) The name of the Company to whom Government intend to give the management of the would be "Indian Western Airways Ltd." and "Indian Eastern Airways Ltd."; and

(b) the names of four Companies mentioned by Government in the internal Post-War Air Transport Plan?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) The Honourable Member is apparently referring to the proposals made for the operation of air services from India to countries abroad. These proposals are still under the consideration of Government and it will be some time before they arrive at a decision on the question of the precise commercial organisation for carrying out the operations.

(b) Licences for the operation of both internal and external air transport services in India will be granted by the Air Transport Licencing Board. The question of Government giving the management of air services to any particular companies does not therefore arise.

AIR TRANSPORT LICENSING BOARD

103. Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state whether it is a fact that the Air Transport Licensing Board has been formed? If not when will it be formed?

(b) Who are its members?

(c) Will it be formed with the approval of both the Houses?

(d) What are the rules which will govern the Licensing Board?

(e) Will it be totally of officials or non-officials also will be taken up?

(f) Will the Provinces get a place on it? If not, why not?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) The Air Transport Licensing Board has not yet been constituted. Government are taking steps to constitute it shortly.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Air Transport Licensing Board will be constituted by the Central Government in accordance with the statutory provisions I have referred to. The question of approval by the Legislature does not arise.

(d) The Honourable Member is referred to the rules published with the posts and Air Department's Notification No. 11-M(A)/-1-46, dated the 23rd January, 1946.

(e) The appointment of non-officials as members of the Board is not ruled out.

(f) The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative. As regard the second part, the Honourable Member is referred to the reply which I gave on the 5th March, 1946, to part (c) of starred question No. 665, put by Mr. Manu Subedar.

ACTIVITIES OF DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION AGAINST CERTAIN FLYING CLUBS

104. Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state whether Government are aware that whenever a flying club fell in popular hands, the Director of Civil Aviation threatened to stop subsidy to the club?

(b) Is it a fact that at each flying club Government representatives on the committee are non-Indians?

(c) What are the aeronautical qualifications of such representatives?

(d) Why are Indians not appointed?

(e) Are Government aware that the D.C.A. appointed at Bombay an *ad hoc* Committee of the flying club and asked elected members to resign? Under what rule did he do that?

Sir Gurunah Bewoor: (a) and (b) No.

(c) A statement is attached.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The statement in the first part of the question is not correct. The latter part does not therefore arise.

Statement

Name of the Club	Name of Government Representative
Bihar Flying Club, Ltd., Patna	(1) Commissioner of Patna Division Ex-Officio. (2) Mr. Y.A. Godbole, C.S.I., I.C.S. (Second member by name.)
Bombay Flying Club, Ltd., Bombay	(1) Mr. R. G. Higham, MIEE., JP., Secretary Public Works Department. (2) Mr. D. M. Langford, Aircraft Inspector, Bombay.
Karachi Aero Club, Ltd., Karachi	Mr. D. Chakraverti, Chief Aerodrome Officer, Civil Aviation Directorate.
Madras Flying Club, Ltd., Madras	Mr. S.W.C. Dunlop, I.C.S. Under Secretary, Government of Madras.
Northern India Flying Club, Lahore	Mr. Harnam Dass Bhano., C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Government of the Punjab.
Clubs not functioning at present—	
Bengal Flying Club, Ltd., Dum Dum	Mr. P. D. Martyn, I.C.S., Deputy Secretary to the Government of Bengal.
U. P. Flying Club, Ltd., Cawnpore	Mr. L. P. Hancox, O.B.E., I.C.S.
Delhi Flying Club, Ltd., New Delhi	Mr. Bhagat B. Lal, Technical Officer (Licences) Civil Aviation Directorate.

PRIVATE OWNERSHIP OF AEROPLANES FROM U. S. A.'s DISPOSALS

105. Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state how many aeroplanes Government have bought from U.S.A.'s Disposal?

(b) What is the carrying capacity and the price paid for each? How many hangars Government have bought, how many of the hangars are unpacked and how many of them are erected? What price Government have paid?

(c) Why have Government stopped public from buying planes from U.S.A. Disposals and why are Government coming in the way of deliveries?

(d) Why are Government not giving permission for fuel for these private planes?

(e) What is the motive of the D.C.A. in stopping people to own aircrafts?

(f) Why are Government coming in the way of flying clubs and their members in buying these two seater small planes?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(c) Under the disposals agreement between the Government of India and the United States authorities, no purchase of surplus aeroplanes can be made by the public directly from the United States Liquidation Commission. Purchases can however be made from the Disposals Directorate of the Government of India through the Director General of Civil Aviation.

(d) Fuel permits are being issued to private owners but on account of the general shortage of petrol in the country, the amounts must necessarily be restricted.

(e) and (f). Do not arise.

STEPS TO POPULARISE CIVIL AVIATION IN INDIA

106. Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state whether the Director of Civil Aviation is aware that his nominated *ad hoc* Committee for B.F.C. which has now captured the club and is so called elected has framed such rules as to make entrance to the membership two times costly?

(b) What particular steps has the Director of Civil Aviation taken to popularise Civil Aviation in India since his arrival?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) The Director General of Civil Aviation is aware that in 1944 the Committee of the Bombay Flying Club altered the rules relating to entrance subscription and monthly subscription. It is not correct to say that the Committee was nominated by the Director General of Civil Aviation in India.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the annual reports on the Progress of Civil Aviation in India which detail the measures taken by the Director General of Civil Aviation in India to popularise civil aviation in India.

GLIDING EXPERT IN CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT

107. Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state:

(a) who is the Gliding Expert in the Civil Aviation Department;

(b) his qualifications in gliding and soaring;

(c) who looks after gliding activities in India;

(d) how many Indians have gliding qualifications in India and their names; and

(e) how many were trained in India?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) No specific glider expert is employed in the Civil Aviation Directorate.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Director General of Civil Aviation in India.

(d) No records are maintained but Mr. F. H. Irani is known to be qualified and some others are known to have had training in Europe.

(e) None.

POST-WAR PLANS OF CIVIL AVIATION DIRECTORATE

108. Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state whether Government propose to furnish details of past gliding activities in India and Post-War Plans of Civil Aviation Directorate for the consideration of demands for grants?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: A summary of gliding activities in India in the past and the Government of India's proposals for the fostering of gliding in the post-war period are given in the booklet entitled 'Aeronautical Training and Education', a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS SERIOUSLY INJURED IN GLIDERS

109. Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state whether any one was seriously injured in gliders? If so, who is he, and when and where he was injured?

(b) Was the injured qualified?

(c) Why was he flying a glider?

(d) What has happened to the injured?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) Captain B. S. Leete, a Technical Officer of the Directorate of Civil Aviation, met with an accident while flying a glider on the 22nd of January, 1942, at Poona, which resulted in severe injuries involving fracture of his facial and nasal bones and of the lower jaw followed by the loss of both eyes.

(b) Captain Leete was a fully qualified and very experienced air pilot. He had, however, not previously flown the glider in which he met with the accident.

(c) He was flying the glider as part of his official duties, as he was in charge of all flying training activities including those in connection with the Indian Gliding Association.

(d) As a result of the injuries he was invalided from Government service and awarded an injury pension and gratuity.

GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—*contd.*

SECOND STAGE—*contd.*

DEMAND NO. 11—EXECUTIVE COUNCIL—*contd.*

Delay in Derequisitioning of Property and in Settling Claims—contd.

Mr. President: Cut Motion No. 2—that was under discussion—requisitioning of property.

I might inform the Honourable Member that we had twenty minutes: now we have only nineteen. It would be better if he makes his speech as short as possible because there are one or two other members who would like to speak.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): When the House broke up that day I was trying to call upon the Government to reflect what are the causes of the unpopularity of the army in this country with the common people and whether the Government knows that priority with regard to army matters ought to be very seriously revised. During the war period the army took coal, they took cloth, they took food, they took transport and lastly they took the accommodation, *i.e.*, the living room. This has created a lot of heart-burning and I have been urging in this House that Government should very seriously revise these priorities now that peace is restored and let the civil population now have the conveniences of which they have been forcibly deprived during the war.

With regard to requisitioning, owing to the limitation of time, I am not free to go into the scandals—I use the word 'scandals' deliberately,—which has been associated with this. There is the process of requisitioning. Lands and buildings have been taken. People have been thrown out of them. No warning was given. There are incidents connected with the acquisitions which are not very commendable to Government.

Then, Sir, there is the question of the determination of the rights of the tenant and the landlord. In this also there has been a lot of muddle. There is the question of repairs to property which Government have acquired and in this, too, Government have done a lot of *jabardasti* and taken wrong decisions.

Then there is the question of claims. On this I am not free to go into details but my friend, Prof. Ranga, has brought to my notice an outstanding case in South Kanara where 8,000 acres were taken from 1,000 families. Compensation

[Mr. Manu Subedar]

was awarded on a very small scale and even when the Government arbitrator raised the compensation in the case of 200 families, all these people were forced to accept the lower rate of compensation. It does not do for a big Government to adopt measures which are harsh and to adopt measures which are not fair, and in their dealings with the civil population, either by themselves or through the Provincial Governments, whose assistance they avail themselves of, to adopt ways and means which will not be regarded as fair by the civil population.

Then, Sir, I have pointed out in this House during the last Session, the discrimination which the military exercised in the City of Bombay with regard to the acquisition of the Indian Gymkhanas—the Hindu, the Parsi and the Muslim Gymkhanas. But the so-called European—I think they had better call themselves British, otherwise the Germans and Russians will claim a share—Gymkhana was not acquired. Even now, so many months after the war these amenities which were taken away from the civil population for reasons which we have regarded as very inadequate, have not been restored and I understand the reason for this is very peculiar. I understand there are a number of Ak-Ak sites on these properties.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Nominated: Non-Official): What is Ak-Ak?

Mr. Manu Subedar: Anti-Aircraft sites. These sites are not worth a few rupees in themselves. But there is no authority in Bombay that can deal with the removal of these sites. I am told that it is G.H.Q. alone here who are competent to do so, but G.H.Q. cannot be woken up within a matter of months. This is a perfect scandal. It may be that during the emergency of the war you had some requirements and you availed yourself of them. But at present an absolute priority should be on the issue how to derequisition and how to meet the demands and requests of the civil population.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Nominated: Non-Official): What about the Contracts?

Mr. Manu Subedar: That is another scandal which my friend points out in the sense that the contracts were long drawn out and I do not know whether they are going to terminate them soon. But public money which is being spent now ought to be stopped. It costs Rs. 65 lakhs a year in Bombay City alone and therefore I assume it must be of the order of three to five crores of rupees. The Honourable the War Secretary has not given us the figures though he was requested to do so.

It is not merely the military; it is the Central Government and the Provincial Government who are also now stepping in, expanding their departments and requisitioning properties so that the taxpayer and the common citizen is thrown from one fire into the other. I say it is the duty of these public authorities to build buildings for themselves or do something by which they do not trespass on the popular requirements of the civil population. I do not know why the military should have their offices in Hornby Road and their residences in Malabar Hill, *i.e.*, best parts of the city. That is to say nothing less than the best is good for my military friends. Why cannot the military department go to Colaba or Santa Cruz? That is to say a little further out where they have extensive property and accommodation. Why should they still continue to cause inconvenience and grave dissatisfaction to the civil population? It is merely incompetence and inefficiency, if I may say so, without serious disrespect. But the military authority is a by-word for waste, for duplication, for misdirection of public funds and for complete and utter connivance at public inconvenience. They do not care. They feel that they are above all law and authority. I say, even if we have a military Viceroy, in fact all the more, because we have in Lord Wavell a sympathetic military Viceroy it is necessary that the conveniences and the demands of the civil population should be met and should be very promptly met. One word more.

All these requisitionings should come to an end automatically six months after the war. This Government is coming to this House for power. I for one would never vote for any power to be placed in the hands of these men who have

abused the powers placed in their hands under the Defence of India Rules and I feel that before they come to us for further power, let them come with clean hands. Let them undo what they have done.

The Honourable the War Secretary gave us the figures the other day. The figures were up to the 31st December, not 30th November, as he said, in reply to a question of mine. Out of 159 lands and 412 buildings which were requisitioned in Bombay only 25 *plus* 2 that is 27 properties were derequisitioned till the end of December. This is a rate of derequisitioning which does not speak for very great competence or assiduity or care and interest in public complaints on the part of the military.

One word of warning, Sir, namely that this vast expenditure must now be stopped, that the military should remove their offices and their departments a little outside. They have still the control of petrol. They have absolute priority and we have seen their officers wasting public petrol for private purposes. They have still the control of communications. Why do not they remove themselves from the best residential parts of Bombay and the best office quarters of Bombay and take themselves a little outside and do whatever they want to do there?

I support this motion.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer (Bombay Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I heartily support the cut motion so ably moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Lawson. May I bring to your notice that the military authorities are still trying to requisition houses and properties. The powers vested with the District Magistrates under the Defence of India Rules, I submit, should be immediately withdrawn. Recently, the district magistrate, Poona, served an order on the landlord of a property in Poona, threatening, and asking him to hand over the property without any rhyme or reason, for the use of an officer. He did not say that the property was being requisitioned. He writes a letter threatening that his property should be handed over immediately for the use of a certain officer. This is nothing but highhandedness and the Defence of India Rules which have been misused by the District Magistrates in the past and are being misused even now, should be stopped forthwith. Having slept all through the war the District Magistrate of Satara has just issued orders to the landlords of properties in Panchgani and Mahableshwar bringing rents of properties under control. I submit that this is an afterthought. This thing should stop forthwith.

The other day Mr. Mason in reply to a question said that the percentage of properties derequisitioned in the Southern Command was 7·2 per cent. Coming as I do from the Southern Command area, I submit that this is too low a percentage. Immediate instructions should be issued to the military authorities in the Southern Command area that the derequisitioning should be accelerated as much as possible. The rate of derequisitioning in the Northern Command is 24·5 per cent. and I do not see any reason why properties in Poona and Bombay should not be derequisitioned and handed over to the landlords. In handing over the properties to the landlords, I would suggest that first preference should be given to those tenants who were dehoused as a result of the requisitioning. The landlords should have the next preference.

The Government of Bombay have a rule that in regard to any property that lies vacant in Bombay, the Government of Bombay should have the first preference. The landlords have to intimate about their properties when getting vacant to the Government of Bombay, and even a tenant before subletting his building should notify to the Government of Bombay. Now that the war is over, I submit that this rule should be withdrawn.

Similarly, on the question of lands, the Honourable the Finance Member in his speech the other day mentioned the encouragement given for building activities. I submit that the lands which Government have taken over during the course of the war should be handed over immediately to the landlords so that they can go on with building activities. Lands which are lying vacant should also be handed over; you should also remove those houses which were built on lands acquired and hand the lands back to the landlords.

[Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer]

With regard to hotel accommodation the Government have taken over several rooms in several hotels not only in Bombay but also in Delhi. I submit that they should be handed back so as to be available for the use of the public. As you know, in Hotels in Bombay in one room four people are put together, whereas a colonel or a brigadier has a suite of rooms, a bed room, and a sitting room. We have our difficulties in Delhi. We have a building here called the Western Court which was built mainly for the use of the Members of this House. We see that most of the rooms there are occupied by non-Members, and those available for the Members are only a few. If you are not lucky in the ballot you cannot get a suite of rooms. Speaking from my own experience, I can say that Members are occupying single rooms with their families. We have appealed to the Government without avail. I suggest that during the Assembly session the Members of the Assembly should have first preference with regard to accommodation in the Western Court. If there is any surplus accommodation in excess of the requirements of the Members of the House, that can be handed over to the military for their use.

With regard to the question of settling claims, unnecessary delay is caused. I also submit that Government is trying to profiteer in this respect. When it is a question of our properties, they say prewar levels of prices will be applicable. I know a piece of land in Poona of the Pocha which was requisitioned. When the question of settling claims came up, the owner of the land was informed that he will get prewar price. In the same vicinity in Korean Park the Government used to sell their own land at 9 annas per square yard. During the course of this war they are getting four times more and realised as much as Rs. 25,000 per plot, but to owners they won't pay current prices. When it is a question of paying us they say "We shall only pay you prewar prices". This is the justice that is meted out to the landlords.

I do not wish to take much of the time of the House. Sir, I support the motion on behalf of the Muslim League Party.

Mr. P. Mason (Government of India: Nominated Official): Sir, I have very little time for reply but fortunately I have some more information than I was able to give the other day. One point which I was asked the other day and to which I was not able to reply at the time was the total cost. The total annual cost, at present, of the property which has been requisitioned is rather over 9 crores. I said then that I was far from satisfied with the progress that has been made and, as the Honourable the Mover has said, by a simple process of arithmetic one can say that if we progress at the rate we did in December it will take something like four years to get rid of the property and we are therefore very far indeed from being satisfied with the progress we have made. I said before that I hoped that the process would be speeded up and I think it will increase month by month but particularly after April, as a result of the measures of decentralisation which I explained the other day.

One point made by the Mover was that we should not wait till all claims and disputes are settled but hand over the property straightaway and do the arguing afterwards. That is our policy to a certain extent. But it is necessary before handing the property over to get an agreed list of the alterations that have got to be made and the alterations that we have made and that is what constitutes the main difficulty, because that is a job which does need someone with experience and in fact it is a technical job. That is not a job which could not be done as the Honourable Member suggested by the Requisitioning Committee.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Why not use the practising architects of the city?

Mr. P. Mason: I do not know whether they will have the time to spare.....

Mr. Manu Subedar: They have all their spare time and they would be very glad to do this work.

Mr. P. Mason: We should be glad to consider using them. The Committee which the Honourable Member referred to consists of a number of representatives of other bodies and is only a part-time committee and will neither have the time nor the technical knowledge for this particular job.

Mr. C. P. Lawson (Bengal: European): Surely there are valuers on those committees.

Mr. P. Mason: If so, I am sure we should be glad to use them. I might mention, although I do not wish to suggest that the matter was not well handled before, that the old arrangement by which we had two departments—War and Defence—was not, in my opinion, quite so conducive to getting results as the present arrangements and it is only recently that those Departments have been unified and we have taken this over. With regard to hotels, which were mentioned just now, 43 per cent. of the accommodation we have has been handed back, and that also we are going on with as quickly as we can. Altogether I am not at all satisfied and I fully agree with most of what Honourable Members have said on that subject. But we are going ahead as fast as we can.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What about the Gymkhanas?

Mr. P. Mason: I do not know about that; I do not think the information which my Honourable friend gave can be quite correct.

Mr. Manu Subedar: It is the latest from the Standing Quartering Board.

Mr. P. Mason: If the property is valueless as he suggests there is no reason for its coming up to the G.H.Q., because it is only those cases where the cost involved is more than one lakh of rupees which come up to the G.H.Q., and in future cases of more than 5 lakhs.

Mr. Manu Subedar: But all demolitions come to G.H.Q.; that is our information.

Mr. P. Mason: I will find out and let the Honourable Member know about that particular case privately.

With regard to South Canara which he mentioned, I am afraid I have no information but I will find out that also and let him know. But I can say that if any one feels that he is not satisfied with the compensation offered he can always take the case to arbitration.

As to the question of contracts which was mentioned, the length of contracts is not holding cases up because, as the Honourable Member himself said later on in his speech, they are all arranged to end within six months of the termination of hostilities.

(The time allotted to the European Group for the Discussion of their Cut Motion was over at this stage.)

Provision of Unemployment and Dearness Reliefs and Social Security Benefits to Central Government Employees

Mr. S. Guruswami (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Executive Council' be reduced by Rs. 100."

I wish on this motion to discuss the failure of the Executive Council to provide for unemployment relief, adequate dearness relief and social security benefits for the employees of the Central Government. In moving this motion I want to apply three tests by which any Executive Council—whether the present or the future—can be judged; and therefore I wish to raise three important issues which any Executive Council will have to tackle satisfactorily if they have to justify their existence. In the first place, I want to take up the question of unemployment relief. This is a matter which is the collective responsibility of the Executive Council. But I say that so far no steps have been taken by the Central Government to care for those who have worked for them all these years. They have taken an irresponsible attitude in the matter of granting

[Mr. S. Guruswami]

relief, if at all. The little relief that has been provided is the giving of 12 days' pay for each year of service for daily-rated men and 20 day's pay for each year of service for monthly-rated men; and that is considered good relief. This Government ratified the Unemployment Exchange Convention of 1921; but when in 1938 the question was raised why this Government did not implement the provisions of that Convention, they instead of accepting responsibility denounced that Convention, with the result that today there is no machinery by which they can even maintain statistics for keeping a record of the number of persons who are unemployed. On 22nd December 1945 Government issued a circular to various other Departments for furnishing information about the persons that are likely to be discharged as a result of retrenchment measures. I say, Sir, that the way in which this whole question of relieving the miseries of the unemployed has been tackled up to now is very reprehensible and this is a matter on which the future Government will be saddled with a series of labour disputes if no definite decision is taken here and now for relieving unemployment. Unless Government realise that they have a duty to maintain the unemployed the situation which they will have to face in this country will be beyond the control of any responsible Executive Council. Not only that, I ask them whether they realise the sufferings of the unemployed. Shakespeare says, "take my life when you take the means whereby I live". If this Executive Council has any sympathy with the workers of the country it is here that they have to show their *bona fide*, on the floor of this House. And I appeal to the Executive Council not to abdicate their responsibility in the matter of maintaining those who have become unemployed.

An Honourable Member: You are appealing in vain.

Mr. S. Guruswami: I hope it will not fall on deaf ears when they are succeeded by a popular Executive Council. I have to register my protest on behalf of the workers and peasants of this country, that no steps have been taken to provide adequate relief for the unemployed.

The second question is about dearness relief. Here in the Central Government they have different yardsticks by which they give relief to the different employees of their own Government. For the postal employees they have one standard, for the railwaymen another standard, for non-postal and non-railway employees a third standard, and for Port Trust employees who come under the financial control of the Central Government a fourth standard. This is a very iniquitous way of dealing with this question of dearness relief.

I am glad that the Executive Council decided to appoint an adjudication authority to go into the question of the new scales of pay for postal employees. The implication of that decision is not only that they should see that the standards which the men have lost by the introduction of the new scales are restored, but the adjudicator should also decide whether the men have got at least the pre-war standard of living. That is the meaning of the demand for dearness relief. And for officers there is no zonal distinction; whether they are in a rural or in an urban area they get their 17½ per cent as dearness allowance without any distinction at all. But so far as the low-paid staff are concerned they are subject to zonal distinctions, pay distinctions and all different types of distinctions. All that I submit here is that if the Labour Department has to discharge its duty it should not be afraid of other Department. It should be the protector of the workers by appointing an adjudicating authority so that they may decide a formula by which there can be a decision on the proper compensation that should be given for the increase in the cost of living. The workers do not want to profiteer out of the present situation. What they want is that the low-paid workers should now at least get the pre-war standard of living, and that should be ensured by the appointment of a Standing Tribunal to go into disputes that may arise not only in various industries but also in various Departments of Government.

Thirdly, I want to deal with the question of social security. I do not want to deal with too many questions that would arise under this head. I want to deal with the present system of pensions and provident fund. Government have been maintaining the pension system on the principle that they have no obligation towards the families of those of their servants who die while in service or immediately after retirement from service. According to statistics which the Government Actuary produced in 1929, out of a hundred able-bodied men that enter Government service less than fifty live to earn their pensions; and out of these fifty many do not live for any number of years to receive the pension that is due to them under the existing rules. Belatedly they have extended the benefits of the subordinate pension rules to the inferior service employees; to that extent they have taken the right step. But what is the effect of this when they do not realise their obligation towards the orphans and the widows of Government servants who die while in service or soon after retirement? Therefore I want this Government not to ignore the claims of the widows and orphaned children of the Government servants. I want the pension system and the provident fund system to be so modified that adequate relief is given to these widows and orphans. In this connection, Sir, the Honourable the Railway Member will claim the provident fund system as a superior system. Here again I would invite his attention to the report of the Government Actuary made in 1929 where he said that the total benefits which the railwaymen get in the shape of provident fund contribution-and gratuity benefits is less than the commuted value of pensions of Government servants who are under the pension system. Therefore whether or not a Government servant is on a pension system or a provident fund and gratuity system, the benefits are inadequate to maintain him while he is alive, must less to provide for his wife and children after his death. Therefore I want an improvement in the pension system and the provident fund system with due regard to the claims of the widows and the orphans of the employees of the Government. I do not want Government servants to be treated as a special class by themselves. Charity begins at home and if the Government of India, which is the largest employer of labour in this country have to persuade other employers to discharge their duties, they must set a good example. Unless they set a good example to their own servants, they cannot persuade other employers to do better. I have limited the terms of my Resolution practically to the Central Government servants because they constitute nearly two million men who with their dependents will exceed the population of many countries in Europe which are members of the United Nations.

All this requires money and more money. You cannot get out of it. You must discharge your responsibility by placing this as the first charge on the revenues, namely, the maintenance of a proper standard of living of the workers and providing them with adequate social security benefits. Unless you do so, you have failed in your duty to the workers of the country. I would in this connection refer to the speech which the Prime Minister, Mr. Attlee made in Washington about three months back. He said that the British workers who stood out against Fascist dictatorships all these years are not going to be beaten by economics. I appeal to the Executive Council in the way in which the President of the British Trades Union Congress appealed to the British Government: "Whatever you may lack, do not lack in courage to do justice to the workers." I ask the Executive Council to take immediate steps to provide for adequate unemployment relief, to provide for adequate dearness allowances relief and to provide for a modification of the existing pensionary and provident fund system, so that the widows and orphans will get relief if the bread winner of the family dies. With these words I commend my motion for acceptance of this house.

Mr. President: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Executive Council' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): Mr. President, the object of this cut motion is quite clear from the notice which has been given by the Honourable Member. He proposes to discuss the failure of the Executive Council to provide for three specific matters which he has mentioned, namely, unemployment relief, adequate dearness allowance and social security benefits. The first point of comment that I would like to make with regard to this cut motion is this that if the cut motion was a general one, I have no doubt about it that it should have stood on a different footing but as the House will see the cut motion is restricted to the employees of the Central Government. And I venture to suggest that this is a very grave fault in this cut motion. I do not know whether it is the wish and the desire of the Honourable Mover of this cut motion that the Government of India should frame its policy with regard to the three matters that he has referred to in such a manner as to create a privileged class of workers in this country on no other account except that they happen to be employed by the Central Government.

In this country Government is not the only party that employs labour. There is a large amount of labour employed by private employers. As everybody in this House would agree the Government of India while framing its policy for the betterment of labour should frame it in such a manner that it should not create a privileged class on the one hand and an under privileged class on the other. The Government of India is not merely an employer of labour. It is a State. It is a Government and it has not only responsibility for those who are in the immediate employment of the Government of India. It has also a responsibility for labour in general. If therefore all these complaints which have been referred to by the Honourable Mover have to be dealt with by the Government of India, it is incumbent on the Government of India, as in duty bound, to frame its policy in such a manner that the policy shall benefit labour in general and not any particular class of labour.

Now Sir, my Honourable friend mentioned that the Government of India maintains various classes of allowances and salaries for different classes of its own employees. I confess that I am painfully aware of that fact but what I would like to ask is this—who is responsible for the gradation which one sees now in the scale of payment either of basic wage or of dearness allowance or of gratuity or any of the perquisites which the employees working under the Government of India are receiving today. I have no hesitation in saying that the fault entirely lies with the leaders of labour. Here we have got the Railwaymen's Federation. Any one who studies the policy of the Railwaymen's Federation, I think, will agree with me that it has always taken a parochial view of its own interests. The Federation happens to be in control of a strategic service on which the essential life of the community depends and they use that position for the purpose of coming down to the Railway Department and insisting that certain privileges shall be given to them. I may also say that they get certain Members of the Legislature interested in their case and there develops a partisan spirit which is blind to all other interests and concentrates itself on securing certain special privileges for railway workmen alone. The railwaymen, although there is no open declaration to that effect, maintain that they must always be in a leading position with regard to any other class of employees of the Central Government. If the Postal Department is given something which happens to equate the scale of wages of the postal employees with the railway employees, the railway employees immediately become dissatisfied and they say that owing to the margin of privilege which custom, usage or their position has enabled them to secure they must have a further increase, so that their privileged position is maintained. This sort of thing is going on and the position of the Labour Department has become completely difficult. My Honourable friend maintains or rather suggested that the Labour Department was not establishing arbitration boards as it should do but what is the advantage of appointing adjudication boards for specific cases, for specific services, each case being dealt with in isolation without relation to the other. The result is you have *ad hoc* boards, *ad hoc*

reports, *ad hoc* decisions which have to be dealt with *ad hoc*. The result is there is always a disparity, always a divergence. Therefore the situation which we have at present is entirely the result of the faulty organisation, if I may say so, of the working classes of this country and particularly those who are employed under the Government of India. I think the House will agree that the decision which the Government of India has recently taken in the appointment of a Salaries Commission is a decision in the wise direction, because the whole question of the wage structure in this country and the relation of wages paid by the Government of India to its different classes of employees and the relation of wages paid to them to the wages operating in private industry, will be examined by this Commission. I hope that we shall be able to get some recommendations from this Commission from which we shall be able to establish in this country some kind of a uniformity in the wage system, so that everyone would know the underlying principles on which the wages are based.

The other difficulty I find is that most of the employees of the Government of India, who are employed in certain services which earn revenue, have come to regard that they have a first charge on the revenues of their Department. The railway employees think that because the railways are earning a profit, it is they who must get something, more than anybody else, out of the profits that the railways have earned. If the Postal employees find that the Postal Department has made a profit, they also raise a claim on the ground that their betterment, a rise in the standard of their living, should be regarded as a first charge on the revenues of that Department. Now, Sir, so far as I am concerned, I have not the slightest doubt that I cannot accept that position and I shall always resist it. The revenues earned by the Government of India—no matter whether they are raised by taxation or whether they are raised by any commercial undertaking—are the revenues of India. They are not the revenues of any particular class of people. They are not the revenues of any particular Department of the Government of India. They are the revenues of the Government of India and the whole general public has a claim on those revenues and, as long as I am in charge of the Labour Department, I shall always resist any such claim made by any class of empolyees, namely, that because their Department earns any profit, they have the first charge upon it. That would lead to chaos and I am certainly not going to be a party to it at all.

Now, Sir, my friend, the Mover of the cut motion, has raised the question of unemployment. I am not going to deal with the specific questions that he has raised, but I am going to deal generally with the question of unemployment. His view seems to be that unemployment must be relieved by unemployment benefit and I have no doubt that that is a most fallacious argument. Unemployment must be relieved by employment and not by any relief as such. Unemployment by the payment of relief is a possibility when unemployment is on a very small scale, when it is only a tail and not the body of it. In this country, as everybody knows, practically over 50 to 60 per cent. of the people are unemployed and we have to find employment for them. If anybody were to come forward and say that the 50 or 60 per cent. of unemployment that exists in this country ought to be relieved by the payment of relief, I have not the slightest doubt in my mind that the State would come to a ruination if it undertook that kind of obligation. My friend, therefore, must agree that so far as unemployment is concerned, relief must be sought in the direction of a greater industrialisation. It is only rapid and greater industrialisation that can give us relief from unemployment, and, as this House knows, the Government of India has already prepared its plan and has already announced its decision with regard to industrialisation. I will, therefore, not dwell on that subject at any great length but I would like to tell the House what exactly the Government of India has done with regard to the advancement of general betterment and providing for social security with regard to the workers in this country.

[Hon'ble Dr. B. R. Ambedkar]

As the Honourable House knows, the Government of India has already announced its policy with regard to labour. I have no time to read the portions which deal with that question. This information will be found in the second part of the Reconstruction Committee of Council under Head XXV, pages 55 and 56. Nobody can, therefore, say that the Government has not an objective in this matter. We have and we have laid down the objective. I will go a step further and say that it is not that the Government of India has merely laid down its objective but the Government of India has also prepared a programme of action. With regard to the programme of action, the House will know that the Government of India has appointed, or did appoint two years ago, a fact-finding Committee in order to take a survey of the entire condition of workers in this country. So far, we have received 34 reports from this Committee on 34 different industries, besides one general report giving a bird's-eye-survey of all the specific reports that have been made. Of these reports, 18 have been already printed and the rest of them are with the printers. Apart from obtaining this general survey of industrial condition of workers, the Government of India have appointed a Special Officer, Professor Adarkar, to prepare a report on the health insurance of workers in this country. As I said, we have not only an objective, but we have a programme, and we are now in possession of the facts on which any plan of social security could be based. The next step now for the Government of India is to decide how to plan for social security. As the House will know, there are at present two views. One view is that we should go stage by stage, as other industrial countries will, dealing with each case of insecurity specifically and building an administrative machinery for the purpose of giving relief in respect of that case of insecurity. There is another school which is more or less influenced by the Beveridge Plan and which proposes to have an over-all policy of security, covering all cases of insurance at one shot. I do not wish to approach the issue in any matter and to say as to which plan would be better. The Government of India propose to appoint a Committee or such other body as it may be advised to tell the Government of India, after examination of the reports that have been made as to the method by which they should proceed in this matter whether they should proceed stage by stage or whether they should take up such ambitious plan as the one adumbrated in the Beveridge report. This survey, which I have given, which I am afraid is all too brief, I have had no time to elaborate or to develop, will convince the House that the complaint made by the Honourable Mover of this Cut Motion that the Executive Council is complacent, is indifferent and has taken no steps to provide for the welfare and security of the workers is entirely unfounded and I hope that the House will not accept the Cut Motion that is moved by him.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I rise to support the Cut Motion moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Guruswami. The Honourable Member in charge of the Labour Department, I agree, elevated the issue from its narrow surroundings to a higher plane. I agree with him that the problem of unemployment cannot be solved by merely paying doles to the unemployed. The only solution to unemployment is employment. But I want him to agree to this proposition that it is the function of the State to find employment and if the State does not find employment, then the State has no right to exist as it is. It is no good merely trying to shift the blame from the shoulders of the present Government or the present State to the shoulders of private employers in the country. The Government today is the largest employer of labour; at least one thing is expected of the Government and that one thing is the creation of model conditions for its own employees. So far as the present position is concerned, one finds that while the war was on there was practically no unemployment. With the cessation of the war, this problem of unemployment is assuming very serious proportion. It only means that if there is war, there is employment, and if there is peace, there is no

employment. That is not a tribute to the statesmanship of those who run this Government. Further, if we take the situation that existed before the war started, unemployment was widespread so far as the educated classes were concerned and as far as the rural areas were concerned, unemployment, although not so widespread, was still considerable. Today in the rural areas, with the cessation of the war, unemployment is figuring on a very great scale. If the Government disowns responsibility to relieve this, I think the Government has no right to exist. How to bring employment to every body is indeed a great problem. I do not want to minimise it, but the fundamental fact must be accepted before any remedies can be accepted, and that fundamental fact is that every citizen has a right to employment and the State must provide that employment. The Honourable Member in charge of Labour said that many things have been done by this Government. He referred to certain plans, he referred to the report made by Dr. Adarkar, he also referred to certain fact finding committee. But there is no necessity for finding whether there is employment or not, he himself knows it so well that no committee is needed merely for the purpose of finding whether there is employment or there is no employment. The need of the hour is to absorb as many people as can be done in some employment. Why not undertake industrialisation, as he suggests. He is afraid—I know his personal views on the subject—but the Government he represents is still afraid of going on vigorously with the plan of industrialisation, for reasons which are very obvious. In the first place, the soul of this Government is capitalistic. To safeguard British industries they do not want to encourage private enterprise. This Government consists of black, brown and white, this tricolour combination is a peculiar thing and is a definite hindrance towards greater industrialisation of this country. Industrialisation can only come when there is requisite determination on the part of the Government. Russia did this within a short period of 25 years. There unemployment has gone, not only that, but their standard of living also has improved. Some such thing is necessary, not merely making reports on planning, appointing one officer and then asking him to resign, appointing one professor and then making conditions impossible for him to continue, what is necessary is an honest effort for the industrialisation of this country and this alone will be sufficient to find employment all round.

The Honourable Member then referred to attitudes taken by some labour leaders, that in certain cases labour thinks that they have the first right on the income or revenues of the department. I agree with him that whatever revenues are earned by the Government of India, whether from the Commercial Departments or the public utility departments or otherwise, they all belong to the people as such. Nobody can have a privileged position with respect to them. But at the same time because they have taken such an attitude, which may be wrong or may be right, it does not detract from the fact that their claim for a minimum wage is just. I want to ask my Honourable friend what the Government have done since the publication of the report of Royal Commission on Labour towards minimum wage legislation. That report was published in 1930, and today, up to 1946, there has been no attempt made by the Government either for its own employees or for the general guidance of private employers. I understand that the business of the Central Government is to legislate in such a manner as to provide a form of legislation for the Provincial Governments and also provide some sort of standard for the private employers. No such thing so far as minimum wage legislation is concerned has been done by this Government. It is only recently that they have announced that a Commission would be appointed to consider whether there should be minimum wage. That commission is to make a report and after the recommendations of that commission are received, perhaps there may be legislation or there may not be any legislation.

[Sjt. N. V. Gadgil.]

Now, Sir, as regards social security, the Honourable Member was good enough to say that he has not made up his mind whether to follow piecemeal plan or the overall plan suggested by Sir William Beveridge. I think it is time for him to make up his mind one way or the other. (Interruption). When I come over there, I shall do it. My Honourable friend need not have any fear on that score. I know there are difficulties, but the difficulties have got to be overcome. Now, Sir, unemployment insurance, sickness insurance, old age insurance, all these are matters, which I do agree, cannot be dealt with separately. Therefore, it is necessary once and for all that every worker, in fact every citizen must be considered not an isolated creature, but an integral part of the State as such the State must look after him from the cradle to the grave. Looked at from that point of view, I am of opinion that instead of solving this problem piecemeal, it would be better if he followed the latter plan namely, of having an overall scheme for the whole country. That is my view in so far as the general principles which he enunciated are concerned. As I understand, the object of this cut motion is that the Executive Council has not done anything for the relief which is necessary today. That is the object with which you have to deal and that is exactly the point which the Honourable Member avoided—possibly deliberately. I agree that the Executive Council has done something. What is that something? Appointed a fact-finding committtee, promised to appoint a commission to fix minimum wage, and then certain reports—34 in number, and then certain appointments: if nothing else at least the unemployment problem gets employment for a few in the Secretariat—the Director and the Deputy Director and the staff, this that and other appointments. The Bengal famine has resulted in the creation of the Food Department—anyway the famine found food for some. That is not the way. Therefore, if the object as I understand it of the Mover is to secure immediate relief and to censure the Executive Council for not doing it. I think he has made out a case in spite of the eloquence of the Honourable Member in charge of Labour. Sir, I support the motion.

12 Noon

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammadan): Sir, I have listened with patience to the speech of the Honourable Labour Member. He has said so many things and initiated so many programmes for improving labour conditions, but I think it is more a programme on paper than in practice—even that which he has tried to convey to this House.

I would first refer to the conditions of labourers in the railway collieries. Probably the House is not aware that the treatment of the labourer by the contractors in those collieries is most unsatisfactory. The contracts for raising coal are given to such favourities as the heads of the department or the heads in charge may choose for their own purposes. The House will not be surprised to hear that these labourers in Manbhum, which is a part of my constituency, have not been able to draw dearness allowance in any sufficient numbers; and these contractors force them to sign any paper or put a thumb impression on such papers which would suit them to place a bill for the amount these contractors require.

Mr. President: May I know whether the Honourable Member is referring to any collieries owned by the Government of India?

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Yes. I am referring to those owned by the Government of India in Giridih and other places. I do not want to name the contractors here because they are not here to defend themselves; otherwise I have got all the details and can give the Honourable Member if he wants the names and details of the misdeeds of member contractors. Without mentioning their names, I merely want to draw attention to the fact that representation was made to the Honourable Member in charge of Railways and the Honourable Labour Member as well, giving them the details of how these

contractors have been behaving towards the labourers there. Not only that, but the most wonderful part of it is that these labourers are not allowed even to have free approach to the bosses and the heads of the department.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: If I may just intervene for a moment, I do not think I have received any such representation.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Your office must have received it: probably you might not have the same. A copy of that representation was handed over to me by the secretary of an organisation which is an organisation of the labourers there. Most of the contractors there are drawn from those who were once railway servants, and they have made a fortune out of it—being the favourities of those who are in charge of the Department now. I do not envy these labour contractors having enriched themselves, but I would ask Government at whose cost they have thrived? At the cost of the famished and half-starved labourers who deserve the sympathy of the administration and of the railways and every body else.

Another matter which I wish to impress on the Honourable Labour Member here is the question of his persistence and denial in the matter of recognition of labour unions. He has got peculiar ways and methods and peculiar denominations for recognising certain organisations. They are sometimes called communal; at other times they are called disturbing elements and I do not know what other plea is found at any time. He would not recognise a particular labour organisation because in that organisation they have got a particular class or section of workers professing a certain religion, and that is condemnable by this Government. That means Government representative would not allow such workers even to speak out their own feelings and place their grievances before the Government. Government refuses to look at any representations made by such workers as Government Member does not think he has any obligations in the matter of improving the conditions of those who are members of such Labour unions whom heads of respective Department have not choosen to recognise. This has been one of the pleas put forth by the Railway Department and Labour and other Departments—such rules and conditions are laid down by the Labour Department as would debar Muslims. I would like to hear from the Honourable Member in charge of Labour whether there is any justification for not allowing a certain group of people to organise themselves into labour unions. Can he make it a condition precedent that he will only recognise a certain number of unions—one, two, three or even ten for the matter of that and he would not recognise the eleventh, or he will only recognise those unions which suit his whims and humours or who come up to his standard according to his own point of view? I understand that a Bill is under contemplation and a Trades Union Bill will be in this House very soon, when probably I will have a better chance of elucidating this point. I shall not dilate any more on it at the moment. I would only say that the Honourable Member for labour when speaking, did not tell us whether he has any report of the conditions of labour in private individual concerns, in private mills and what has he done for labour there. The collieries to which I have referred are owned and run by the Government. I would like to inform the Honourable Labour Member that the conditions of labourers in individual and private organisations is still more serious, and unless legislation is brought up in this House to improve the general conditions which should be binding and obligatory on the employers, probably the conditions will not change. With these few words I support the motion before the House.

Mr. President: Does the Honourable Member for Government wish to reply?

Mr. S. C. Joshi (Government of India: Nominated Official): Sir, the Honourable Member, Mr. Nauman, made a point that the Labour Department has not recognised certain unions of workers in the collieries.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: You formulated your own conditions.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am speaking of recognition. On the larger railways there are in most cases more than one railway union recognised and there obviously must be a limit to the number of unions which you could recognise on any particular system. On the larger system the number is four. That is the maximum that can reasonably be recognised and on some of the systems, at any rate on one that I can think of there are already three recognised unions.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government place on the table of the House the conditions they have formulated for trade-unions on the railways?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I seem to have a recollection of having laid papers myself on the table or in the Library of the House in previous Sessions.

The point I am trying to make at the moment is that so far as the railways are concerned, there is at any rate recognition of railway unions, and the only point which we particularly have to stress in the conditions of today is that before we recognise additional unions, they must be adequately representative besides fulfilling other conditions and they must be on a non-communal basis.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: That is the only difficulty. What do you mean by non-communal? On that plea Muslim unions have not been given recognition. That is the point I wish to stress.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I was aware of that and my Honourable friend and I have had discussions on the subject. I adhere to the point of view of the railways that the unions must be on a non-communal basis and I am prepared to discuss that with him further.

My Honourable friend, Mr. Gadgil, pointed out that this motion was one bringing censure on the Executive Council. But he accepted the point of view that the solution of unemployment must be done not by relief but by finding employment, a point made by my Honourable friend, the Labour Member. He went on to say that it was the duty of the State to find employment and he felt that the Executive Council had not done sufficient towards doing away with unemployment. Well, Sir, I must just make two points in that connection. My Honourable friend in particular laid stress on the responsibility of the Executive Council of the Government of India for meeting unemployment in rural areas. But, Sir, Government shares this responsibility with the Provincial Governments. When my Honourable friend speaks of the State, he must not only think of the Government of India whose powers in this matter are in fact somewhat . . . . . .

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: I used the word "State".

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I was saying that in using the word "State" my Honourable friend must not only seek to look to the Central Government to find a solution. The solution of unemployment has to be found by co-operative effort between the Central Government and the Provincial Governments, and particularly so in the sphere of rural unemployment.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What has the Central Government done?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: If my Honourable friend would not be quite so impatient, I will tell him what we have done.

The first point is that it is not only in the power of the Central Government to find a solution. We must have the co-operation of the Provincial Governments on whom the larger part of the task lies. My Honourable friend, the mover, said that we had done nothing to deal with unemployment. He said "you take my life when you take the means by which I live." That in so far as the railways is concerned is not a fair criticism. We are stretching to the absolute limit the policy of trying to find employment for the railwaymen whom we have taken on in the course of the war. Wherever we can possibly find

work of an economic nature for them to do we are retaining them and we are entering on a large programme of rehabilitation and fresh construction as fast as our engineering and supervisory position permit us, in order to create employment for the railwaymen we have got. That, Sir, is the policy of the Railway Department, and I do not think there is very much more that we can do.

As regards the Government in general, we are, as my Honourable friend, the Finance Member's budget showed, trying to carry on into peace as much as possible of the conditions that prevailed during the war by providing the finance for creating work. We have, as my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, pointed out, endeavoured to give the maximum possible subvention to Provinces in order to enable them to get on with various works which will create employment. I do not think I need dwell on that further but it is certainly one of the main features of the budget.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Houses in the towns!

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Also, my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, has tried to create conditions for industry which will result in industrialists being able to go ahead in confidence with their programmes and judging by the reports of the stock exchanges it has been temporarily, at any rate, highly successful. So, Sir, I maintain that the Government, acting on broad lines, has done a very great deal to create conditions for minimising unemployment so far as possible.

My Honourable friend, the mover, made another point about the desirability of uniformity of scales of pay. My Honourable friend, the Labour Member replied to that. He explained the great difficulties with which his Department was faced owing to the diversity of the conditions which exists. On the railways, it is, I admit, theoretically not very defensible that you should have different scales of pay for different people doing the same class of work up and down the country. But that is at the present stage of development only theoretically indefensible. Actually I think, as it is with so many things in this country, caused by historical conditions. It is not fair, too, to compare this country with a small country like for instance, the United Kingdom. In the United Kingdom before the big railway amalgamation took place, I believe it is correct to say that there was a very wide divergency in scales of pay in the different railways which eventually went to make up the "big four" and that as a result of the amalgamation ultimately uniformity was achieved. But one must remember that the total population of the United Kingdom is only about that of a province of India.

There is naturally diversity as there is such a great diversity of living conditions throughout the country.

I referred to the historical conditions which have created the diversity of rates which exists on the different railways. As everybody knows the Railways of India were in the main started originally by companies which settled their own rates of pay their own conditions, and so on and it is only gradually that the State has acquired the different railways and in acquiring them it has generally offered to the employees, with some exceptions, the same conditions as were being given to the men before the State acquired the railways. And therefore the State has taken over in the natural course a very great diversity of rates of pay, conditions and so on and it is a very laborious process to try to get unformity, even if you accept the principle that there should be one rate of pay for the same work throughout the country, despite the fact that living conditions are very different, for instance in North Bihar and South India, if you attempt to try to make uniformity in rates of pay throughout the country, it is bound to lead to an upward tendency. I do not say that the tendency should not be upwards but you are bound to fix the rates more or less on the highest scale which exists. It is not necessarily unfair but that is the natural tendency and that at once becomes a matter of great public concern, because as I have explained before, if you have to put up rates of pay by any

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I did not say that. I said that the Labour Department has not recognized many Unions and has got its own denominations—I don't know what. I did not refer to that particular union.

Mr. S. C. Joshi: He also made a general point that the Labour Department has not accorded recognition to a large number of unions of workers. There seems to be some misunderstanding or misconception about this. It is not for the Labour Department to accord recognition to any union of workers. It is for the employers to accord recognition to the unions of workers working under them. Of course, as a matter of general policy, Government have laid down that unions of workers ought to be registered and recognized. Recognition of unions goes a long way in removing the misunderstandings or the points of difference that exist between the employers and the workers. That has been the declared policy of Government, and in connection with that policy Government expected up to now that employers would go ahead and grant recognition to the unions of workers. Unfortunately, however, it has been found that certain employers have not granted recognition and Government now consider it necessary and desirable to have legislation on that point. The legislation will be brought before this House in this Session. Details of the proposed legislation were discussed at the last meeting of the Labour Conference. A sub-committee which was appointed by the Conference, consisting of members representing labour and employers, considered certain points in detail. The legislation, which as I say will be introduced, will provide compulsory recognition of certain unions, provided they satisfy certain conditions. It is, therefore, not correct to say that the Labour Department has failed.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: It is the conditions, which you have laid down, to which I object.

Mr. President: Order, order. Let the Honourable Member proceed.

Mr. S. C. Joshi: What should be the conditions or what should not be the conditions is a matter of detail, and that point can be well discussed, as the Honourable Member, Mr. Nauman, himself said, at the time when the Bill comes before this Honourable House.

Then, Sir, he referred to the harassment of labour in railway collieries by the contractors. The whole point on this subject was directed to the contract system of labour . . . . . .

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Why don't you abolish it?

Mr. S. C. Joshi: That is a general point. But so far as the payment of dearness allowance is concerned, I think—if my memory does not fail me—that dearness allowance is being paid by the contractors to the workers employed in the railway collieries.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: On a point of information. Has the Government got any machinery to see that the workers actually are in receipt of their wages as well as the dearness allowance?

Mr. S. C. Joshi: Yes, Sir. I am glad my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga has asked me that question. A machinery has now been set up and we have got Labour Inspectors in the collieries; we have also got Conciliation Officers in the collieries; we have got Regional Commissioner also, and I myself go to the collieries and enquire into all complaints and all disputes. Recently, we have deliberately transferred the headquarters of our Conciliation Officer from Jamshedpur to Dhanbad.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it extended to the Railways also?

Mr. S. C. Joshi: It extends to all the concerns which come under the central sphere. There were, no doubt, certain complaints received from people working in the railway collieries. These were looked into and set right. Complaints received from other workers in the collieries were also looked into and wherever

it was found that justice was necessary, action was taken. The employers agreed and gave relief.

Then the Honourable Member, Mr. Gadgil, made a point that nothing has been done so far with regard to minimum wages. As regards minimum wages also, the Honourable Member will find that the matter has been under consideration for some time past . . . . .

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: For the last 16 years.

Mr. S. C. Joshi: Yes, Sir. It has been under consideration for 16 years, but it is under active consideration now, and it has reached a definite stage. He must have read the circular which has been circulated amongst the Honourable Members of this House stating the legislation which will possibly be placed before this House in the course of this Session. It includes an item relating to the legislation on minimum wages. The kind of legislation that has to be brought up was also discussed in the recent labour conference. It was further discussed in detail on other occasions, and it might be possible to introduce that legislation in this Session.

About social security also steps will be taken to introduce certain Bills—for sickness insurance to industrial workers, and so on—and it is hoped that within a short time the House will be considering several measures affording relief to labour.

Finally, Sir, I think that although the cut motion was confined to small matters—namely provision for unemployment relief, adequate dearness relief and social security benefits for the employees of the Central Government,—the discussion that has taken place in this House has been on a wider plane. I think it is desirable that all such matters should be discussed in a general way and they should not be confined to a particular section of the employees only. The trend of discussion in this House is, therefore, a desirable one in so far as it has given us an opportunity to explain the steps that have so far been taken by Government in these matters. Government is fully cognizant of its duty to find employment and thereby afford relief to those, who happen to be unemployed, and I am sure Government will move in those directions.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): As various points have been directed to my Department I should just like to say a few words.

My Honourable friend, Mr. Nauman, referred to this question of railway contractors and said that he had addressed to me a copy of his complaints in regard to them. He should of course have directed it in present conditions to the Supply Department who now operate the railway collieries. I certainly have no recollection of having received it myself. In any case, the complaints that he made appear to be of rather a vague nature and directed, as my Honourable friend has just said, against the contracting system rather than against the railway collieries themselves.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why don't you get it?

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I have said that I have got those facts in my possession, but I did not like to bother the House with those details especially because those contractors were not here and I did not like to name them. I can however give all the details, which I possess, to the Honourable Member if he so likes.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I was going on to say that I will make enquiries and see whether any such complaint has been received in my office. The matter will be looked into.

He also observed that Government were backward in the recognition of Unions. I do not think that can be directed against the Railway Department because the Railways have, I think, been quite generous in the recognition of Unions.

[Sir Edward Benthall.]

great extent, you will also have to put up the cost of transport and travel to the public.

One other point—I was very glad indeed to hear my Honourable friend the Mover accept the point—*viz.*, that to carry out the programme which he has in mind you will require money and more money. I think that my Honourable friend is now fully conscious that if his demands, the demands of the people whom he represents, are to be accepted, the public ought to pay and, in the case of the railways, the travelling public and the public wishes to move its goods. I am very glad that my Honourable friend recognises that fact and I think that we have gone quite a considerable way since the beginning of the session in recognising the real difficulties which lie before us.

I join with my Honourable friend the Mover and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom that we will not be beaten by economics. But if we are to deal with these problems and minimise unemployment as much as possible, it has got to be done by cooperation and so far as this Government is concerned, we will do our best to meet the reasonable demands of our employees.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the demand under the head 'Executive Council' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was adopted.

Prosecution of the I.N.A. Personnel.

Sardar Mangal Singh: (East Punjab: Sikh): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Executive Council' be reduced by Rs. 100."

I wanted to make a frontal attack on the Defence Department of the Government of India but it is not open to me to do that, as the Defence Department has become, particularly after the 1935 Act, a Purdah Department. Not a single pie spent on the Defence Department is votable by this House and therefore I have decided to attack the Department by a flanking movement, by proposing a small cut in the demand under the head Executive Council.

By this motion I want to raise the point that the Government of India was certainly very wrong in coming to a decision to prosecute the Indian National Army personnel. The feeling in the country was so decisive at that time that even those sections of the Indian population which generally go with the Government asked the Government of India to exercise clemency and generosity towards all personnel of the I.N.A. Coming as I do from a province which has contributed the biggest share to the defence forces of the country and coming from a province which has also contributed a big share to the I.N.A. personnel, I thought it my duty to raise this point and protest against this decision of the Government to launch prosecutions against the members of the I.N.A. The three officers in the first case which was started came from my province. I refer of course to Major Shah Nawaz, Capt. Sahgal and Lieut. Dhillon.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Grand chaps.

Sardar Mangal Singh: On a matter like this I wish to speak with the utmost restraint and caution, because I am one of those who believe that the defence forces of the country should be disciplined, should be obedient and should behave like one body. Without a first class army (I include in this also the air force and the navy) it is not possible to defend the independence of the country. I therefore want, Sir, that our army should be first class in every way. From that point of view I regret the decision of the Government to prosecute these people. Instead of that the Government should have first conducted a detailed inquiry into the circumstances of how Singapore fell, what were the conditions of the Indian Army after Singapore fell: these were the points which should have been inquired into in a detailed manner. I remember in those days after Singapore fell there was an agitation in England that an

inquiry should be conducted as to why and how and under what circumstances a force consisting of more than 75,000 men surrendered without a shot. I remember the Prime Minister of England said at that time that it was not possible then, but that after the close of the war an inquiry would certainly be ordered into the circumstances. The Government of India should have waited for the result of that inquiry. What was the condition under which these young boys of the army acted as they did? After the 15th February 1942, when the whole of the army was surrendered to the Japanese, the British senior officer, Lt.-Col. Hunt went to the Indian prisoners and he made a speech which gave the impression to the Indian soldiers and officers that henceforth they have to obey the Japanese command as they had been doing the British officers' command. That speech of Col. Hunt was very unfortunate and misleading. Again when Singapore fell, the Japanese authorities decided to separate the Indian officers from the British officers. This was against international law. The senior British officers should not have agreed to this decision; but I am told that the senior British officers consented to this arrangement that the Indian officers—the Indian King's Commissioned officers, not the V.C.O's. alone—were separated from the British officers. This was against international law and the British senior officers including Lt.-Col. Hunt, should have protested against this, but they did not.

At that time in Malaya and Burma the treatment of the civil population by the Japanese was very bad. It was horrible; and I have first hand information that the chastity of no woman between 16 and 50 was safe in those days. Left to their own resources, the Indian personnel of the army, officers and men had to face the dangers that were before them and before their countrymen in that part of the world. That was the question before them and they merely got together, organised themselves and called it, what is known as the 1st Indian National Army. The case of the 1st Indian National Army has not come before the public notice so far. The 1st Indian National Army was organised under Captain Mohan Singh and that army continued till December 1942. How it was disbanded gives a clue how their mind was working.

At that time the Japanese wanted the first Indian National Army to march under their command into this country. Those of our countrymen who had seen the brutalities practised by the Japanese in that part of the country did not like that their country and the women of their own country should also be subjected to similar treatment, and at that time after the Bangkok conference, the leader of the 1st I.N.A. refused to attack our country under those circumstances. He definitely demanded that those armies, if they had to attack the country, should be under their own command and not under the Japanese command, and that was the crucial point. The Japanese did not yield and Captain Mohan Singh decided to disband the Army. They were arrested then and there. Most of the personnel of the 1st I.N.A. were arrested and kept under imprisonment by the Japanese till August 1945. They suffered hardships and indignities and some of them were sent to New Guinea. I hope that when the brilliant War Secretary gets up to reply, he will tell the House some of the brutalities carried on by the Japanese in the prisoners of war camps in New Guinea. I am told that the prisoners were made to stand in line; the Japanese doctor would come and would take up the healthiest people and these men were slaughtered and given to the Japanese to eat. I hope the War Secretary will say something about it. These were the people of the 1st I.N.A. I am also told that the brutalities of the Japanese were so horrible that in certain cases they used to take some flesh or some limb of the living man and that flesh was eaten and next day another part of the man was taken away and thus in three or four days the man was allowed to die. I have mentioned these brutalities because the personnel of the 1st I.N.A faced all these brutalities but they did not yield to the Japanese pressure, and these are the men some of whom this Government has decided to prosecute.

[Sardar Mangal Singh.]

I want to put it to the Honourable the War Secretary, what have they decided about Captain Mohan Singh, what have they decided about Lt.-Col Niranjan Singh Gill? These people were the leaders of decided about Lt.-Col. Niranjan Singh Gill? These people were the leaders of the 1st I.N.A. They remained in Japanese prisons from December 1942, till August, 1945. when tney were rescued by the allied armies. How were they treated? They were arrested then and there, kept in cells in Singapore, and then they were flown to this country, and they are still under detention awaiting to hear what the decision of this great Government is going to be. It should not have been difficult for the Government to decide straight-away so far as the personnel of the 1st I.N.A. is concerned. Because they stood firm, they did not yield to the Japanese pressure; they demanded almost similar conditions which were later on conceded to Subash Chandra Bose. At that time the Japanese Government did not yield. All honour to those officers who stood between the horrors which would have occurred in this country at that time. I wish to stress this point, that the Government should have been thankful to these people. but on the contrary they are still carrying on interrogations and investigations. I wish to point out to the War Secretary, before he replies, that under those conditions even the Manchester Regiment signed a parole sheet, which was against the pledge which they had taken because the accusation is similar against the I.N.A. officers. They also were forced to do that. I am referring to the leading article in the *Statesman* dated the 5th March, in which it is said, describing the conditions "then, the doctors warned Lt.-Col. Holmes of the Manchester Regiment who was in command that if these conditions long continued the majority of the prisoners would die". The article goes on to say: "Col. Holmes then decided to advise officers and ordered the men to sign the Japanese parole sheets".

Now, even if these people had to sign their parole sheets, it was against military discipline. Our men were left without any resources, any assistance by the senior British officers. They were left without any guidance. They were left under conditions in which it was difficult for them to come to any judgment. Most of them were young men recently recruited in the army and then there was enemy propaganda and then even the Government of India also distributed leaflets that they should join the I.N.A. I hope the War Secretary will also say something about that—why Government did it. There was probably some other object but those people situated as they were under those conditions could not know the mind of the Government of India—as to why they were doing it. Under these circumstances to guard themselves, to protect the honour of their womenfolk at that time, they just came together to protect themselves and after that when the war closed, the Government of India, without making any inquiry decided to prosecute these people. I think it was quite wrong on their part. On the other hand I would submit that the Government of India should decide that all this personnel of the I.N.A., First and Second, both should be absorbed in the present Indian army and these people will be a great asset to the coming national army in this country. They are all brave men, good fighters, courageous and willing to lay down their lives for the country. At that time they had to fight under a foreign flag, fight for a cause which did not appeal to them but if you give them a cause, a very good cause to fight and die for, and their own national flag under which to fight, I hope these young men of the I.N.A. would become excellent soldiers of the coming army. I would therefore request the Government to retain them in the army so that our coming national army may be a really first class and efficient army. Sir, I move.

Mr. President: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Executive Council' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. P. Mason: I rather regret that we should be discussing this subject now, because there is a debate on the subject which is still in progress and every one has an opportunity to speak on that. I have already said most of what I have to say on that subject and expressed my views clearly. It is a highly controversial subject which has caused a great deal of emotion and I think therefore it would have been better had we not discussed it today. However, since it has been raised, I will try to answer the points my friend the Mover has made.

The first point that strikes me in his whole speech is that he appears to be condemning the Government for doing something which they in fact have not done. He appears to be condemning us for taking action to punish those people who joined the I.N.A. for that reason and for no other. What I mean is he is proposing to condemn us for punishing people for that reason. Well, Sir, as I explained the other day, after very great and very anxious consideration, the Government came to the conclusion that while this offence of joining the I.N.A. is the most serious offence which a soldier can commit, in spite of that fact, taking into account all the circumstances which prevailed at that time and also the state of feeling in the country, the Government decided that no one should be punished merely for joining the I.N.A., serious though that offence is.

Sardar Mangal Singh: That was one of the charges?

Mr. P. Mason: I shall answer all your points. The Honourable Member proceeded on the assumption that we were doing exactly what we decided not to do. He described at very considerable length the circumstances which we did take into account and which were one of the factors on which we based this decision.

The Honourable Mover began by saying that we should not have instituted any prosecutions against these men in view of the great wave of public opinion which at that time was decisive against any such prosecution being undertaken. That, Sir, is not in accordance with the facts. The first communique which we issued was on the 27th August and that announced that the policy would be one of clemency but that certain people would be brought to trial and the reception which that received in the Press was an extremely favourable reception. (*An Honourable Member*: "Question"). I mean a favourable reception, as compared with the kind of reception which most of our communiques do receive. For instance, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said at that time—I forget his exact words but the implication was—that it might have been a good deal worse and that from Pandit Nehru is quite high praise for Government.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: They expect very little from you.

Mr. P. Mason: Since then I have seen a very marked tendency in almost every body of opinion to be wise after the event, that we should have foreseen developments of public opinion which occurred later, which no one had foreseen at that time.

Another thing for which we are now criticised is something which was received in quite a friendly way at that time, received, I would say, almost with approbation and that is with regard to the limitation of trials to brutality. Now, Sir, in a very early stage of the trial which took place, the Counsel for the Prosecution said—if you limit the trials entirely to matters of brutality we have nothing more to say and we should agree with your policy. That is exactly what we have done.

My friend the Mover also suggested that we should have waited before taking any action in this matter until some time had elapsed and until a full inquiry had been held into the whole circumstances of the surrender at Singapore. He thought that it was necessary that there should be an inquiry into an incident which resulted in a large body of troops surrendering without firing a shot. Why he supposes that no shot was fired I am unable to understand as the surrender took place after six weeks of very heavy fighting. But I must say that it is refreshing for once to be criticised for doing something too quickly which is not usually a charge made against us.

He also revived the story about Col. Hunt at Ferrer Park. I have spoken on this already and I have said what actually happened and I will say it again. At Ferrer Park Col Hunt called the party to attention and explained to the men that they were now prisoners of war of the Japanese and that they must therefore obey the orders of the Japanese. Now, Sir, I

4 P.M.

[Mr. P. Mason.]

do not think anyone could really suppose that that meant anything other than that they should obey the orders of the Japanese as prisoners of war and, as I have said before, 45,000 men understood that that was what was meant and only 20,000 men later on came to the conclusion that that statement was capable of another interpretation. I also gave you my reasons for thinking that it was only later on that this interpretation was put on the statement of Col. Hunt, because Shah Nawaz said quite clearly in his defence that it was not until May that he was in favour of forming the I.N.A. It is perfectly true, as my friend said, that the British officers were separated from all the Indians on, I think, the second or third day after the surrender, but it is not true that they agreed to that or that they had had any say in the matter whatever.

My friend then went on to talk for some time on the subject of the bad behaviour of the Japanese. Well, I agree with what he said. They did behave extremely badly. I should not myself have thought that their bad behaviour was a very good argument for joining them and becoming Allies to them, but possibly my logic is different from that of my friend.

He, then, went on to talk about the first I.N.A. Now, here, Sir, I did not say very much the other day and I can say a little more now. The matter is not really as simple as my friend supposes. I wonder if he has read through the minutes of the Council of Action of the India Independence League, but I have read through those minutes and all the course of events which led to the arrest of Mohan Singh. From those minutes the position appears to be as follows: The Council of Action of the India Independence League, of which Mr. Rash Behari Bose, was the President, were trying to stand out for certain conditions. They wanted it to be agreed that the I.N.A. should be independent of the Japanese to some extent. They were also trying to insist that their control over Mohan Singh and the I.N.A. should be complete. Mohan Singh, however, had other ideas. He had made every man in the first I.N.A. to take a kind of oath of allegiance to him personally and not to the Council of Action. Well, a time came when the Japanese wanted the first instalment of the I.N.A. to move to Rangoon and Mohan Singh sent them. He did not consult the Council of Action before he sent these men and the Council of Action called him to task. They asked him why he had done that without their consent and thus demonstrated his independence from them; and also he had prejudiced their case in trying to stand out for certain conditions with the Japanese by removing one of their principal bargaining counters. They called him to task and asked him to report to the Committee and I think I am right in saying that he refused to do so. At any rate, on that point a split occurred and as a result, I think I am correct in saying, representations were made to the Japanese by the Council of Action and Mohan Singh was arrested. So, the position is not quite as my friend suggests. He asked why Mohan Singh could not be released? My reply is the same as I gave the other day, because there is no doubt whatever that the worst of the very serious brutalities which occurred were in the first period, the period of recruiting for the first I.N.A. That was during the summer of 1942, when some very shocking things, indeed, were carried out in the Concentration Camp of Bidadari. Now, how far Mohan Singh knew about that is the subject that is being enquired into. I read out the other day the opinion of Mr. Rash Behari Bose, who was the President of the Council of Action. He said that Mohan Singh must be held responsible for the shocking atrocities which were being committed in order to force men to join the first I.N.A., and that requires an investigation which is going on.

Diwan Chaman Lall (West Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): For how long has the investigation been going on?

Mr. P. Mason: I said the other day that they will be completed by the beginning of May. I agree generally with what my Honourable friend said about the brutalities practiced by the Japanese, though I am not sure about the actual stories: but I do agree that the most shocking brutalities were

carried out and what I deduce from that is that we should all be very proud of those men who stood up against those brutalities. But, as I said before, none is going to be prosecuted or punished merely because he was in the I.N.A. They will be punished if they were themselves guilty of brutality.

My friend also referred to the question of parole. He appeared to imply that by signing an undertaking not to escape—which is all that parole means—, those men of the Manchester regiment were doing exactly the same thing as those who joined the enemy. I can only say that if you cannot see the difference between joining the enemy and undertaking not to escape, I cannot help you.

Sardar Mangal Singh: I only said that this was also against their outh of allegiance.

Mr. P. Mason: It is not a question of the oath of allegiance; it is preferable not to do so. But in these circumstances I think it was excusable.

Sir, I will not take up the time of the House any more. I did speak the other day on another subject—of the necessity for trying to understand each other's point of view, and I have tried to do it. I have tried very hard to understand the point of view behind this motion, but I am afraid I really cannot. You see what we are being censured for is for trying any one in the I.N.A. We are trying only those who are alleged to have committed brutality. Now, Sir, I have tried to understand the point of view of someone who says that we should condone the case of a man who is alleged to have beaten some one until he was unconscious and, in another case, to have beaten some one until he died. I am unable to understand how anyone can say that those men should not be punished merely because they were members of an organisation of which someone happens to approve politically. I would not say for a moment that any man, because he belonged to the Police, should be exonerated for offences of that kind. I said the other day that we would apply the same standards to Bidadari and Neelganj, and I think we have done; and if it is the view that persons should be excused for committing brutalities and atrocities because you happen to approve of their political views, if that is the view, then it appears to me that such a view can only be justified, if reason entirely gives place to emotion; and it appears to me to be a step on the road to Fascism and to Nazism and to augur very badly indeed for the future of India.

Sardar Sampuran Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): Sir, the question of I. N. A. is really disturbing the whole country and the points which have been raised this morning about this organisation are really very important.

Mr. President: I may remind the Honourable Member that he has only five minutes. The debate will not be continued any further from half past two of the clock and onwards.

Sardar Mangal Singh: My Motion may be put to the House.

Mr. President: I only wanted the Honourable Member Sardar Sampuran Singh to realise that he has only five minutes now, according to the agreement arrived at.

Sardar Sampuran Singh: In that case, I have finished my speech and have nothing further to say.

Sardar Mangal Singh: I want my Motion to be put.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths (Assam: European): The Honourable Member Sardar Sampuran Singh is on his legs. He must continue his speech.

Sardar Mangal Singh: He has already concluded his speech.

Diwan Chaman Lall: I move that the question be now put.

Mr. President I do not think that the matter has really been discussed sufficiently. That is my view of the matter. But if nobody wishes to catch the eye of the Chair . . .

Diwan Chaman Lall: I have already caught the eye of the Chair and I have moved for closure.

Mr. President: It seems to be the general desire of the House that the question be put.

The question is:

"That the question be now put."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—58.

Abdullah, Hafiz Mohammad.
Abid Hussain, Choudhury Md.
Adityan, Sri S. T.
Ayyangar, Sri M. Ananthasayanam.
Banerjee, Sree Satyapriya.
Bose, Shri Sarat Chandra
Chaman Lall, Diwan.
Chettiar, Sri T. A. Ramalingam.
Chaudhari, Sreejut Rohini Kumar.
Daga, Seth Sheodass.
Damodar Swroop, Sjt. Seth.
Dani, Mr. G. B.
Gadgil, Sjt. N. V.
Gole, Mr. P. B.
Gounder, Sri V. C. Vellingiri.
Govind Das, Seth.
Guruswami, Mr. S.
Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur.
Hans Raj, Raizada.
Ishaq Seth, Haji Abdus Sattar Haji.
Jaffer, Mr. Ahmed, E. H.
Jagannathdas, Sri.
Jeelani, Khan Bahadur Makhdum Al-Haj Syed Sher Shah.
Jhunjhunwala, Mr. B. P.
Jinachandran, Sri M. K.
Khan, Mr. Debendra Lal.
Lahiri Choudhury, Srijut Dhirendra Kanta.
Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada.
Madandhari Singh, Mr.
Mahapatra, Sri Bhagirathi.
Mangal Singh, Sardar.
Menon, Sri A. Karunakara.
Mukhopadhyay, Mr. Nagendranath.
Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava, Pandit.
Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.
Narayanamurthi, Sri N.
Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.
Neogy, Mr. K. C.
Paliwal, Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt.
Ramayan Prasad, Mr.
Ranga, Prof. N. G.
Reddiar, Sri R. Venkatasubba.
Salve, Mr. P. K.
Sampuran Singh, Sardar.
Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar.
Satakopachari, Sri T. V.
Sharma, Mr. Krishna Chandra.
Sharma, Pandit Balkrishna.
Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
Sinha, Shri Satya Narayan.
Sukhdev, Seth, Mr.
Swaminadhan, Shrimati Ammu.
Thakur Das Bhargava Pundit.
Vadilal Lallubhai, Mr.
Varma, Mr. B. B.
Vinchoorkar, Sardar N. G.
Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.
Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Sir.

NOES—34.

Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.
Bewoor, Sir Gurunath.
Battacharyya, Rai Bahadur Devendra Mohan.
Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.
Cook, Mr. B. C. A.
Fenton, Mr. R. V.
Griffiths, Mr. P. J.
Gwilt, Mr. Leslie.
Hirtzel, Mr. M. A. F.
Hydari, The Honourable Sir Akbar.
Inskip, Mr. A. C.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasjee.
Joshi, Mr. S. C.
Kharegat, Sir Pheroze.
Lawson, Mr. C. P.
Mason, Mr. P.
Naqvi, Mr. A. T.
Oulsnam, Mr. S. H. Y.
Raja Bahadur of Khallikote.
Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
Rowlands, The Honourable Sir Archibald.
Sargent, Dr. John.
Sen, Mr. B. R.
Sharbat Khan, Khan Bahadur.
Spence, Sir George.
Stokes, Mr. H. G.
Sundaresan, Mr. N.
Thorne, The Honourable Sir John.
Turner, Mr. A. C.
Tyson, Mr. Geoffrey W.
Waugh, The Honourable Mr. A. A.
Weightman, Mr. H.
Zaman, Mr. S. R.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the demand under the head 'Executive Council' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Quarter to Three of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Quarter to Three of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

POSITION *RE*-SUPPLY OF QUESTION LISTS TO MEMBERS

Mr. President: Before the Honourable the Finance Member moves his motion, I have to make an announcement to the House with regard to the supply of copies of questions to be put by members. It was said last time by the Deputy President that a copy will be supplied to each of the Members who wishes to put the question and that he will read the question and the answer will be given as usual by the Member for Government. We have been making some efforts in the Assembly office to have a larger number of copies, but we cannot have a sufficiently large number so as to ensure distribution of copies to each Member either at his place or on the table. Therefore what I propose to do is as follows:

As many copies as possible will be made out and copies will be sent to those Members who have tabled the Questions. They will preserve these copies and bring them to the House for their use. Those other Members who wish to have copies for themselves may apply, when they come here, to the notice office and get copies. There will not be a sufficient number of copies to be placed on the table.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Copies will of course be supplied to the Party Whips.

Mr. President Those Members who want to have copies, including of course Secretaries and Whips of Parties, may go to the Notice Office and get the copies. I am not restricting their number at all, till we find that the demand is so great that we cannot cope with it.

Diwan Chaman Lall (West Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): How long do you think that the emergency is likely to last? Are steps being taken by the Government to put an end to this strike?

Mr. President: I do not know what the position of the strike is, but I hope that Government will be taking as early steps as possible. That is what I shall hope, but till the situation is normal again, we must improvise something.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Would it be possible for the Government to accede to all the demands till at least the Assembly is sitting, and then settle with them afterwards?

Mr. President: I do not know whether they will do it, but the arrangement which I have announced will do for our present purposes.

GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—*contd.*

SECOND STAGE—*contd.*

DEMAND No. 51—AVIATION

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member): I move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,25,65,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Aviation'."

Mr. President: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,25,65,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Aviation'."

Aviation Policy and Nationalisation of its Services

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Aviation' be reduced by Rs. 100."

By moving this cut I wish to raise a discussion about Aviation policy and nationalisation of its services. Sir, the history of civil aviation in our country is a woeful tale of sterility and bankruptcy. Whereas other countries have advanced with the march of time by leaps and bounds, here in our country the hands of the clock have been put back. After the first world war each country

[Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal.]

in the world went about putting civil aviation on the basis which would not only answer the peace-time requirements of the people and the country, but would also serve as a second line of the Air Force if and when war started. The reason was obvious—to maintain an air force in times of peace, is a costly undertaking, and therefore every progressive Government in the world encouraged private enterprise by giving subsidies so that in the event of war the State could fall upon these compositions and use them for the purposes of war. For example, in Germany, through Universities and Colleges the State gave encouragement and extended patronage to civil aviation to such an extent that just at the beginning of the last war there were as many as five lakh Glider pilots and about twenty thousand transport pilots besides private aircrafts which were very useful during the war time. This also happened in other free countries of Europe, but what has been done in our country? Aviation which started in 1926, or rather to be more accurate in 1928, introduced some facilities through some of the flying Clubs, and the result was that in 1939, when other countries had thousands and thousands of pilots, we had only some hundred Class 'A' pilots trained by these Flying Clubs, and five dozen commercial pilots to our credit. So far as these few hundred pilots were concerned, they were not made available for war time use. The practice was discontinued, the facilities were withdrawn, and the whole scheme was put in cold storage. This small number of five dozen Indian pilots, some of whom had been trained abroad, were absorbed as commercial pilots.

About fifteen years ago our present Director-General, Sir Frederick Tymms, came at the helm of affairs. It is a woeful tale that during his stewardship during the last twenty years India has not had more than four or five dozen of commercial pilots. There is something wrong somewhere, and I hope the House will apply its head and mind to discover that flaw. Not only that, but during war time there were tremendous opportunities. Other countries availed of the opportunities and we let them go. For example, in Canada, Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, even in Iraq and China, they have pilots of all descriptions; they have their own factories for manufacturing aircrafts. But, Sir, today after 20 years of aviation activities of the Indian Government, we have not been able to produce a single aircraft; we have not been able to assemble the different parts which we have taken from other countries. Experts say that it is much easier and less costly to bring into existence an aircraft than a motor car.

Why has this happened? It is an important question. The answer is clear and simple. Whereas all the countries in the world have taught their own nationals to apply their minds and imagination to building and re-building aviation projects, in this country the entire work has been left to the blind, unimaginative and unsympathetic stewardship of foreigners. Look at the authority and what it is composed of. You will find that the Board of Directors of Aviation consist of the following personnel: one Director General, Sir Tymms at the top. He has several Deputy Directors who are Europeans. Then there are Directors who are also Europeans. It is a complete composition of vested European interests and throughout these twenty years several crores of rupees have been spent out of the Indian exchequer to benefit Europeans and none but Europeans. For example, Sir, you find how Indian aspirations are throttled. There is no question of any factory for Indian aircraft. Even coming to the personnel such invidious discrimination is made between an Indian and a foreigner that, Sir, one's blood ought to boil. Then to-day, orders have been placed for sixteen planes at a cost of Rs. 3 crores and these orders have been placed with foreign countries who are not likely to supply these planes in the near future. They are now in the draughtsman's table.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor (Secretary, Posts and Air Department): Orders have been placed by whom?

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: At least orders have been placed against our money and it is for the Honourable the Secretary to give us the information.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I have asked the Honourable Member to say who has placed the orders.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: I have collected information from the books circulated by Government, marked for official use only.

I will give, Sir, some few more startling facts for my Honourable friend there. Do you know how discriminating they are even between pilot and pilot. In England the rate per flying hour is ten shillings, that is Rs. 7/8. For an Indian pilot it is Rs. 25/30. An English pilot is qualified after 100 hours flying, whereas an Indian pilot is qualified only after 300 hours. Then a "B" Pilot, if he comes from England and belongs to the English race, will be taken in without an examination. But if a brilliant Indian comes with British qualifications, he will be subjected to another examination and he will be found wanting.

Then, Sir, so far as hangars are concerned, private pilots will not be allowed to use Government hangars. The other day a leading Indian daily, with a plane of their own, and whose head office is in Delhi, were told they could have their plane passing in the air but they have to land in Cawnpore if they must land. That is how discrimination is practised. Then every company is forced to keep a Britisher as the first pilot and an Indian pilot however eminently qualified cannot be superior to the Britisher and against a background that a European will take Rs. 1,500 to 3,500 while our Indian boys, though brilliant, they can serve their country and their families on less than Rs. 1,000. This is about the past, and this past has been under the stewardship of a brilliant European Sir Tymms! He has been knighted for his brilliant achievements. He has stood very well by the Britishers. They have imported all Britishers and it is time that he was asked to go back to England so that my countrymen are relieved of him. The schemes that are up his sleeves now are still more atrocious. He has two schemes. One is the external and the other the internal services scheme. So far as external services are concerned, at page 1 of the book which is meant for official use, it is said that a considerable proportion of European personnel will have to be employed. Why? We shall spend our money but we shall employ British personnel. Why? Are our boys not competent? During the war our Indian pilots showed remarkable skill and bravery. They flew up to Germany and against the Luftwaffe, they carried on bombing at night and drew the admiration of the whole world. Cannot they manage the external services connected with our country? India is the key position of all air services. It is meteorologically ideally suited for all-world activities. It is also geographically in a key position. If we close our frontiers against all other places, they will have to go on bended knees, because the far east and the west will be disconnected. We must raise our voices for flying over the whole world. It is not only a question of finance but of national mortality. It is a question of pride and prestige. Suppose a Britisher pilots my plane. That is to say my inefficiency will be advertised. I want to put a stop to that. I want my Indian boy, with an Indian flag flying over the plane, moving around and over the world . . . .

3 P.M.

Srijut Dhirendra Kanta Lahiri Choudhury (Bengal: Landholders): "Jai Hind".

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: . . . so that people of the whole world will realise that we have our efficiency and our national pride. Two companies, not only with subsidies but with shares in the capital, are going to be given long term leases for these external services. The Honourable the Secretary will contradict me if it is wrong, but he cannot; it is a pitiful tale. Our money must be spent entirely for our benefit and we will not allow other people to take advantage of our money before we have completely availed ourselves of those advantages.

[Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal.]

Coming to the question of internal services. All along these twenty years, crores and crores of rupees have been spent at financing some European companies, some pseudo-European companies and some Indian companies who happen to be compelled to swallow British personnel in their composition before they could get a subsidy from the State. The idea is that four companies will be given these 11,220 miles of scheme. Only 4,500 miles have been covered. The companies are Tata's, the Indian National Airways, Air Services of India, and Indian Air Survey and Transport. Indian Air Survey and Transport is the company of a Britisher. Air Services of India is a national company but then it has to maintain inferior quality of British personnel so that they could enjoy and continue to enjoy the assistance which is given by the State, and the British manager has to be kept simply to please the gods of the Directorate Board. Then there is the Indian National Airways. It is neither Indian nor National. It is simply airways. This will enjoy Rs. 4 to 5 lakhs a month of Indian money so that European capitalist shareholders can enjoy the dividends.

Coming to Tata's. I have no complaint against them. Tata's is an Indian Company but then here also the same tale is repeated. British management has to be accepted by force and British pilots have to be kept even if they do not fly. The flying has to be done by Indians but the higher salaries go to the British people who are at the helm of affairs.

Then comes the question of restricting the subsidies to these four companies. It is stated that the subsidy will be confined to not more than four companies. Why this? If there are other Indian companies able and willing to ply planes why should not they get the advantage of state assistance. There is neither science nor logic in creating a monopoly. We want to build up our national aviation. We want to distribute patronage to all and sundry so that in course of a short time we can build up our services to a high standard.

There should also be room for competition, because today on account of the fact that the Government is giving subsidies to the extent of 50 per cent. of the losses of these companies, inefficiency has been given a premium. If there is no competition and if there is a guarantee of recuperation of losses, there will be neither efficiency nor good management. Therefore some healthy competition is necessary. After the service has developed to a desirable extent, then the question of co-ordination or control will come. If there is a good Indian pilot and he is willing to fly planes for the service of society, why should the Government deny them the privileges which are their natural and moral due?

Then, Sir, there is another body in contemplation, namely the composition of the Air Transport Licensing Board. I want to warn the House against another Railway Board consisting of British personnel or something like that coming into existence. It is proposed that there will be five members with the Director General of Civil Aviation, who has stood so well by Britain all this time at the cost of India. Then there will be a Deputy, who will certainly be a European. Then there will be a nominee of the Finance Department. If my good friend Rowlands is not there, there will be some Lowlands who will be there. Then somebody of the Political Department and then a High Court Judge, a colourless and odourless High Court judge, who will also be spineless.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: May I ask the Honourable Member what he means by an 'odourless' judge?

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: May I ask my Honourable friend if he has a nose?

There is a danger in this board coming into existence, which will be another wheel within wheel and nobody knows how and where it will turn. We demand that all Provinces must have representation on the board. We demand that the people's representatives must find a place in the board. We must demand that it will be an Indian affair for India's benefit.

If we look at the white paper you will find that the Policy Committee has enunciated that the policy of the Government of India has been and is to develop civil aviation with Indian capital under Indian management. We know what has been done in the past and what is going to be done on the basis of these two propositions will be a further throttling of Indian aspirations. I want to make our demand clear that this Board must be Indianised. We want to make it clear that our Air Transport Licensing Board must be our concern and we demand that every key position must be filled by an Indian and there is no dearth of proper qualified Indians. We have enough technicians and to spare. We can lend them even to foreign countries. We have got aeronautical engineers who have stood well by the country and we have got pilots who have showed remarkable skill and bravery during the last few years and they have played the part of saviours of Great Britain. Therefore at a time when we are thinking and talking in terms of husbanding our resources for a free India, the least what we would expect the Government to do is to stand up and say that whatever may be done in the future will be done consistent with the declared policy of the Policy Committee and will be done for the benefit of Indian capital and the Indian masses. Every pie that is spent by India must bring in an outturn which is thoroughly Indian.

Mr. President: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Aviation' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Sir, I rise to support the cut motion so ably moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Sanyal. I need not go into the details of the past history of aviation in India. I should like to say that India has been the last to take advantage of aviation, thanks to the policy of indifference of the present Government. Look at the other countries in Europe and the Far East. They have made tremendous advance and we are still lagging behind. As early as May 1926 a memorandum was submitted by the Indian Air Board which stated:

"India is a country admirably suited for the development of aerial transport. Meteorological conditions are excellent for many months of the year and there is no reason to believe that the difficulties occasioned by the monsoon although serious are insurmountable. Apart from the question of internal services, it has been recognised ever since commercial aviation became a practical proposition that India's geographical position marks her out as an all-important link in any air route between Europe and the Far East."

Then, Sir, the other day the Honourable Member for Posts and Air, Sir Mohd. Usman, addressing the Reconstruction Policy Committee on the 8th January, 1946, said:

"It has been recognised that the internal air services of a country shall be the sole and exclusive concern of that country and that Cabotage, by which is meant traffic which originates from and terminates in the territory of the same country, shall be reserved for the national services of that country."

As far as I am aware, there are four Air Services in India, namely, the Tatas, the Indian National Airways, Ltd., Air Survey and Transport Ltd., and the Air Services of India, Ltd. May I ask how many of these four are national? The first of them is working with Indian capital, but under British management; the second is neither Indian nor national, and the third is hundred per cent. foreign. Only the Air Services of India is, I hear, cent. per cent. Indian, but even on that company a British Manager has been forced.

Coming to the question of internal air services, Government propose to offer subsidies to four companies only and thus give monopolies for a long term period. The other day we had a meeting of the Standing Committee for Posts and Air and my colleagues and I, brought home to the Honourable Member and the Secretary to the Department that we want that these companies should be Indianised and subsidy should be given to such companies which are cent per cent Indian. I should like in this connection to read the official minutes of that meeting in which it is said:

"Mr. Jaffer demanded an assurance that all the companies to be licensed by the Air Transport Licensing Board will be Indian companies and that only Indian companies will be subsidised. Sir Gurunath Bewoor referred to Sec. 116 of the Government of India Act which debarred the Government of India from laying down as a matter of policy that only Indian companies will be subsidised, as it will lead to discrimination against British companies."

[Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer.]

I ask my Honourable friend Sir Gurunath Bewoor who is present, why not scrap this damn Government of India Act, particularly the section 116 under which you take shelter as it suits you.

Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel (Bengal: European): May I ask the Honourable Member to read the paragraph he is quoting through to the end?

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: I leave this to the Honourable Member himself to do so when he speaks on this cut.

Mr. President: I did not hear the Honourable Member properly. Section 116 of what Act, Defence of India Act or Government of India Act?

Mr. Manu Subedar: The Honourable Member is referring to the safeguarding clauses of the Government of India Act.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Let the Honourable Member approach Parliament at Home and have the Act amended and then there will be no question of discrimination against Britain. Is it not a fact that in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa, foreigners, including British, have no say in the matter?

Referring to the question of Indian companies I also made it clear the other day and I repeat it on the floor of the House, that Muslim companies must have a share in the new companies that are going to be licensed. At present we have no Muslim company. I raised the said question the other day also in the Standing Committee meeting, the minutes of that committee are as under:

"Mr. Jaffer stated that the claims of Muslims should be safeguarded and instructions issued to the licensing board that at least a few Muslim companies should get licenses for air services. He said that this was the view of his party, the Muslim League, and that his party was very strong on the point and had instructed him to press for this. He considered that Muslim companies coming up for license before the licensing board would satisfy all the technical standards. H. M. was not prepared to accept specific reservations on a communal quota basis."

I respectfully differ from this. I maintain and I insist that we Muslims should have our share in the air services that are going to be licensed and subsidies to be given in future.

With regard to external routes, I put it before the Standing Committee and I repeat it today that we want a service from Karachi to Jeddah for Haj, to be run by a Muslim company. This too was raised at the meeting and Sir Frederick Tymms gave some sort of. . . .

Mr. President: I think the Honourable Member will do better in not referring to these proceedings off and on of these committees and reading their proceedings: he can make whatever point he wishes to make without reference to those proceedings.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: I want to criticise the attitude of the Government and I want to bring to light what happened there. I do not think there is anything that I am debarred from doing so.

Mr. President: The point is, generally it is a matter of convention—generally I say—that what happens in committees is not the subject matter of quotation in the Assembly. The Honourable Member may refer to the points made, raise the same arguments which he raised there; but that will be different from referring to the proceedings in the committee and also from quoting the proceedings of the committee.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I rise to a point of order? I take it you are referring to the proceedings of Select Committees. It is a convention that as far as proceedings of Select Committees are concerned, they cannot be referred to on the floor of the House. That does not apply to Standing Committees: copies of Standing Committee's proceedings are circulated to all Members; but Select Committee proceedings are of a different nature.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: May I just say that a summary of the proceedings of every Standing Advisory Committee is circulated to every member of both

Houses? It is now being printed but I am sorry we have not been able to get them out yet, but it will be circulated to everybody.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: But the fact remains that it is not in the hands of Honourable Members now . . . . . .

Mr. President: It seems my remarks are not very clear to the Members of the House. I do not want to shut out reference to these proceedings on the ground that they are private and should not therefore be referred to or the point should not be made in the House. But I made it quite clear that ordinarily this convention should be followed, and proceedings of the committees should not be quoted here again. What I mean is that the points raised there and discussed there may be referred to here: there is nothing confidential about them; but to read the proceedings would be needless here.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: I am not reading the entire proceedings—I am just reading particular lines which affect the debate.

Mr. President: I did not prohibit the Honourable Member from reading. When he read once, when he read twice. But when he was going to read the third time, I thought I should just invite his attention.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): The third time was the conclusion!

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Very well, Sir. Coming to the question of air services between Karachi and Jeddah, the Director General said that he was going to consider it. I hope they will consider it very seriously and see that we have a service from Karachi to Jeddah at least for the Haj season; during the off season it can be diverted to Cairo or East Africa or South Africa. But I maintain this should be operated by a Muslim company.

Coming to the question of the licensing board, I need not go into the details which have been set forth by the Mover. But I should like to say that this was also one of the points which my colleagues and I insisted before the Standing committee, that it should be Indianised. I further maintain and I stated this to the Honourable Member, that we must have two Muslim members on this committee and I hope my suggestion will be favourably considered by Government.

Coming to the question of the Air Training School, I insist that Muslims must have a reserved share of admission to this school—25 per cent. according to the quota fixed in other respects. At present we have no Indian pilots, or rather there is a scarcity. I blame Government for their neglect in this respect. As far as I understand, during the last 15 years Government have been able to train only 60 pilots—I am open to correction and I hope the Honourable Member in his reply will give us the correct figures as to how many Indian pilots have been trained and are available. . .

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: They are not releasing them from the forces. We must demand their release.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: The fact is that Government is giving no encouragement to private enterprise. They tell us that there is no local enterprise. I submit that we are prepared to have our own flying clubs if Government is prepared to give us encouragement. I have in mind the question of the Aligarh University flying club. This club was started in 1940 by that university, thanks to the efforts of my Honourable friend Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmed, the Vice-Chancellor. I am sure he will correct me if I am wrong that Government have not extended any help to this club so far; but thanks to the efforts of the Court of the Aligarh university, this club has been making good progress and will carry on whether Government comes forward with help or not. But I suggest here is an instance where Government should come forward and extend the hand of co-operation when it is required.

There is an air training corps also in this university and cadets of the air training corps are taught compulsorily, while joy flights are given to students to make them airminded. An aeronautical workshop is also being opened by

[Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer.]

the university so that it will help repairs to the aircraft. But I am sorry to say that in the future plans no proper arrangements have been made to make the present aerodrome at Aligarh quite perfect. The present aerodrome is very defective. For four months in the year it is difficult to use it, due to the low land. I hope Government will see that we have a good aerodrome at Aligarh so that the new schemes we have in view of having an air service from Aligarh to Delhi and Moradabad will fructify.

Now, I come to the question of the Civil Aviation Directorate. We have been given a chart of so many appointments to be filled up. The Director General of Civil Aviation is on top and we see so many Directors and Deputy Directors to be appointed. Only yesterday morning I was reading that the Government have imported three experts from England. I have no objection to importing experts if we are lacking in them. I do not wish to adopt an anti-British attitude and say "Do not have them". I differ in that respect from some of my friends because I know in many cases we cannot do without them. But what I mean to say is, why have them for a long term of five years. Does it not prove that you are not going to encourage Indians to replace them? Is it that you are not going to train them and make them occupy those positions for which you are getting people from outside? It is clear that you do not want Indianisation for years to come, especially when they are being brought out to India on five-year contracts. Speaking of this Directorate, there is no gazetted Muslim in this Department. Very few Indians exist as Assistant Aerodrome officers and those too in temporary appointments. There is no Deputy Director General, Civil Aviation. I feel that he should be an Indian, especially as we have a Director General an Englishman. In the Technical Branch, and Engineering Branch of Civil Aviation, there is no Indian worth the name, let alone a Muslim. This much as far as Aviation Directorate is concerned.

I wish to deal now with the question of gliding in which I am personally interested and as the Honorary Secretary of the Gliding Association in Poona I should like to say how the Government have behaved towards this institution. The original idea of starting it was that of the well known Airman Mr. Kabali in 1930 but this association was revived in the year 1937 or 1938 by Mr. H. C. D. Irwin of the Burma-Shell, Bombay, to whom I should like to pay my personal tribute. It was his love of India and admiration for Indians that made him work day and night in starting this institution, with the result that ultimately he succeeded in having an institution called the Gliding Association of Poona. We have a beautiful site in Ganeshkind on the hill. At the first display in Bombay the Governor of Bombay was present and when the institution was started, thousands of people mustered strong to have a look and we had a very successful flight when the work of the Association started. We have been able to collect several gliders. We have a beautiful site. Hangars were constructed. Sir Frederick Tymms came down to Poona to have a look and I must say he went away satisfied. We did not have any practical help from the Government in this respect. I am sorry to say that the Government have neglected this subject of gliding to which I attach the greatest importance. I shall read what the Government say in their report with which I entirely disagree. They say: "India has one body concerned with gliding which has maintained a precarious and mainly inoperative existence for about 10 years."

I tell my friend that this is absolutely wrong. This was an active organisation working very well. One day when Mr. Leith came down to Poona from the Directorate—he was supposed to be an expert in flying—unfortunately he had an accident and he lost his eye sight, with the result that the Director General lost his head and he said that this institution should be put in cold storage for the duration of the war. I say this was very wrong.

Then they say: "Difficulty in getting suitable aircraft and materials during the war caused the attempt to be abandoned and the Association's activities have been suspended for the duration of the war."

This also is entirely wrong. We had sufficient gliders to carry on. We had a very good club. That was functioning but due to the orders of the Government of India we had to stop. The importance of gliding cannot be overestimated. I would like to remind the House that the invasions that were carried on by Germany in the early part of the war were entirely due to gliders. Crete was invaded by gliders. Gliders played a very important part in Europe and I see no reason why we should not have more and more gliding in India and especially when we have got an institution of our own. We have got a very good pilot for gliding. We have Mr. Irani, we have Mr. Kabali and we have many more but the fact is that the Government do not look at this institution with favour.

Here they say in their report: "India is not topographically blessed with natural hill gliding and soaring sites."

That is wrong. We have a good site in Poona and we are prepared to have many more. Then the Government say further on: "Provided the necessary local initiative is forthcoming, there might well be 10 or more gliding clubs in existence five years after the war."

This is really surprising. Why five years after the war?

I do not want to take up any more time. We support this cut motion and I hope that the policy of Government in the matter of aviation will be considered seriously and that the general opinion of the House will not be overlooked and we hope that the Honourable Member will do his best to comply with our wishes.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose (Calcutta: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Mr. President, my Honourable and learned friend Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal has placed before the House some of the considerations which led my Party to table the cut motion which stands in his name; and my Honourable friend Mr. Jaffer has added a few more considerations on behalf of the party which he represents in this House. I wish, in my turn, to add a few words of my own in support of what they have said. I would start by reminding the House that the policy that was declared by the Honourable Member in charge of this Department, not very long ago—to be exact, on the 21st April 1944,—was in these words:

"The policy of the Government of India has been and is to develop civil aviation with Indian capital under Indian management and to afford training and opportunities for employment to Indians."

I was at some pains to go through some of the booklets which have been issued by this Department, most of which have been marked 'For official use only'—not meant for non-officials like myself who are uninitiated into the mysteries of this Civil Aviation Department.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: May I explain. When these booklets were printed originally, they were intended for official use but. . . . .

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: My Honourable friend is not giving way.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: I was at some pains to go through the booklets and I find that never has there been a more flagrant departure from what was the declared policy of the Government. Of Indian management there is none today. As regards developing civil aviation with Indian capital, one can say it is Indian capital only partially. As regards affording training and opportunities for employment to Indians, there is none whatever. Sir Frederick Tymms has been in charge of this Department for the last 15 years or more. Will it surprise the House if I were to say that during these 15 years a total amount of about 30 crores of rupees have been spent on one of the most vital sections, namely, the section for training air crew and personnel, and Sir Frederick Tymms has succeeded in training about 60 commercial 'B' pilots in all? That is his record. And quite recently, not day before yesterday as was announced by Reuter but on the 10th February last or before that, as announced by the "*Times of India*", Sir Frederick Tymms thought it fit to import three foreigners from England into this country as part of his civil aviation expansion scheme. I know that one of them has been described as Air Vice-Marshal.

[Shri Sarat Chandra Bose.]

This House is not terrified nor even impressed by high-sounding titles such as Vice-Marshal or Air Vice-Marshal and all the rest of them. They are just ordinary pilots the like of whom we have in plenty in this country of ours.

I say, Sir, with a full sense of responsibility, that the Civil Aviation Department does not need a single foreigner to manage it. We have got plenty of qualified young men of our own. We have not forgotten that we have Kabalee, the pioneer in civil aviation in India, whose name was just mentioned by my Honourable friend Mr. Jaffer. We have got Raha, who is now representing India at Montreal; we have got Chakravarti, who was the Chief Aerodrome Officer; we have got Pradhan; we have got Bhagat Lal; we have got B. K. N. Rao; we have got Wing Commander Awan; we have got Ali; and we have got Katju and a host of others who are quite competent to take their places in the Directorate of this Department. In those circumstances, I submit, it was entirely wrong for the Government of India or for Sir Frederick Tymms, for the matter of that, to import foreigners into this country in order to place them in the Civil Aviation Directorate. I consider it one of the tragedies of our national life that Indians can be found to lend their support to these schemes of Sir Frederick Tymms. I repeat Sir, that I consider it one of the tragedies of our national life that Indians can be found to support the importation of foreigners when plenty of competent Indians are available to run the Civil Aviation Department.

I shall not go into the details of the Internal Air services. My Honourable friends Mr. Sanyal and Mr. Jaffer, have told you and the House that of the four services in respect of internal air routes, not more than two are Indian. What becomes then of the declared policy of the Government of India that civil aviation is to be developed with Indian capital and under Indian management?

Coming to the External Air services, I find in the booklet entitled "Post-war planning—External Air Services" a statement to this effect: "The Avro Tudor II aircraft, which will be used on this service, are expected to be available in 1947." It follows from that that my Honourable friend Mr. Sanyal was not far wrong when he presumed that orders had already been placed for this type of aircraft. Then follows another sentence which is even more important: "A considerable proportion of European personnel will have to be employed." And why? I ask I am sure if the Honourable Member in charge of the Civil Aviation Department and his Secretary, who is in this House, were to ask for the requisite number of Indians to man the different services in this Department, they will find plenty of competent Indians who can compete with the best Britishers that either Sir Mahomed Usman or Sir Gurunath Bewoor can think of today.

Coming to the second page of that booklet, in the paragraph entitled "Organisation", I find: "For the operation of external air services, it is recommended that two commercially managed corporations should be established, one for all operations to the West and the other for all operations to the East. These Corporations might be called Indian Western Airways Limited, and Indian Eastern Airways Limited." Now, Sir, let us not be deceived by the word "Indian". The words that follow show to what extent they are going to be Indian. "A substantial share interest in each Corporation should be given to one experienced air transport operator." It is not mentioned what that substantial share is going to be; but there cannot be the slightest doubt that the "one experienced Air Transport Operator" will be foreign and not Indian. Then, it is said, that Government should take a substantial interest in the share capital. And what is it? Only 20 per cent.! They say: "Other airlines and possibly shipping interests should be allowed to take an interest, amounting to possibly 15 or 20 per cent." One would not be far wrong if one presumed that the airlines and shipping interests would also be foreign. They add: "the balance of the shares should be issued to the public." Why, I ask, is this service not nationalised? If Government do not have 100 per cent. of the capital required surely there is Indian capital in plenty which will flow in if it is asked for.

Then, Sir as regards the personnel of these two Airways called the Indian Western Airways and Indian Eastern Airways, it is said: "The personnel, so far as necessary, shall be recruited from abroad". I am not in doubt at all that after a few months or after a few years, as the case may be, it will be found that all the personnel necessary for these two services have been completely recruited from abroad. The time has come for us to raise our voice of protest against the policy which is in action—a policy which is quite different from the one declared two years ago. It is time for us to demand that every phase of civil aviation in India—operation, direction, management maintenance, research—every phase of it, shall be Indian and national. And, in addition to the demands which have been placed before the House by my Honourable friends Mr. Sanyal and Mr. Jaffer, I shall demand on behalf of this side of the House that not one more farthing should be spent and not one more foreign recruit should be imported until this House has had the opportunity of examining the scheme in detail. That demand I make in all seriousness and with a full sense of responsibility; and I hope that the demand for a Committee of the House to examine the whole question will be accepted by the Secretary of the Posts and Air Department, Sir Gurunath Bewoor.

Sir, this motion is certainly a motion for censuring the Government. There can be no doubt about it. This motion has been tabled with a full realisation of its import. We censure the Government, firstly, for not taking steps for Indianising and nationalising this Department; secondly, we censure the Government for importing foreign personnel into the service of this Departmet while Indian personnel, qualified, competent and experienced, can be had in plenty; and thirdly, we censure the Government for allowing a monopoly to four Air Services to control all the internal air routes. I thought that the time was ripe for doing away with all monopolies, whether eastern or western. We are here not to defend but to oppose vested interests, whether European or Indian. We definitely want these services to be nationalised and progress to be made in that direction. That is why we have brought this censure motion; and I hope it will be passed by the House.

Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel: Mr. President, I am a little surprised at the vehemence which the Honourable Gentlemen of the Opposition have shown in speaking on a cut motion of Rs. 100. I should have thought that if they felt so strongly as they appear to do,—and it appears to me that they feel more strongly than they expressed themselves on the subject of road-rail co-ordination,—they would have been fully justified in withholding supplies. I am afraid they have not done so, and therefore we, on this side, must come to the conclusion that they perhaps spoke a little more strongly than they actually feel and they know a little more about the details of the plans that have been put before them than they are prepared to admit. I am confirmed in that impression by the fact that as I understood the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition, he wound up by saying that civil aviation should be nationalised. If I understood the Honourable Member, who introduced the cut motion, on behalf of his Party, he said that there should be no nationalisation, but entire freedom of competition in the country.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: If the Honourable Member has not understood my speech properly, I cannot help it.

Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel: I can well understand in these circumstances the Leader of the Opposition's desire to make the position of his Party rather clearer. Naturally under conditions today, he was unable to do that without putting on the usual frills. I do not propose to enter into the racial controversy this afternoon myself. As I, with my limited intelligence, understand the position, it is the accepted international principle of civil aviation that internal aviation is reserved for the nationals of the country concerned. External

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aviation is a matter of bi-lateral negotiations. We, therefore, on this side of the House take the view that so far as external aviation is concerned, India will get as good as she gives. So far as internal aviation is concerned, the question is largely settled by international principle. That, as I understand it, was confirmed at the Standing Committee on civil aviation, but unfortunately the records of that Committee are phrased so as to indicate that India wishes to discriminate against the British and not that she wishes to reserve to herself her rights against all non-nationals. My Honourable friend Mr. Ebrahim Jaffer unfortunately did not read the full quotation from the proceedings through to the end, and I am now barred by your Ruling, Sir, from reading the same to the House. I would ask Honourable Members to read the passage which Mr. Ebrahim Jaffer quoted through to the end.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Also read section 116 for the benefit of the House.

Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel: My time is very short, and I do not propose to deal in detail with all the literature that has been given to us by the Civil Aviation Department. But, I, on behalf of our Group would like to congratulate them on the great detail of the plans which they have put before us. I suspect that some Honourable Members opposite not only have not read them but probably have not seen them. The Civil Aviation Department has in fact produced very detailed plans and I think they have produced more detailed plans than any other Department has put before us.

Now, Sir, I should like to speak a word on principle. The most important principle, so far as internal aviation is concerned is to cover the largest area possible and in the case of India, the difficulties of principle which arise in the case of external aviation are also demonstrated, because we have the Indian States, and the immediate issue today is to secure that in India civil aviation is a single system. What then is the position of the Indian States in relation to the Government of India's plan on that subject? The utmost indication we have is that Government *hope* that there will be collaboration. I suggest that hope is not sufficient in this matter. There must be full agreement and full collaboration of all the constituent parts of India as a whole, if the internal services are to be built up effectually. Then comes the question of how are the internal services to be operated. There are four main methods. Mr. Sanyal suggested that this Licensing Board would be another Railway Board. Had it been so, we on this side would certainly have opposed it. There are four main methods of operating civil aviation. The first is State operation on lines corresponding to the Railways. Then secondly, a statutory Corporation with a monopoly and supported by public finance. The third possibility of operation is a single commercial company financed on commercial principles and also subsidised, if necessary. The fourth possibility is a limited number of companies. Now, Sir, it seems to us that the decision as to which of these methods of operation is the most satisfactory depends and must be taken on the basis of what the State's main interests are. What are the issues which are at stake for India in this matter? First of all there is the provision of international facilities, that is to say, such ground facilities as will enable international air lines operated by or in conjunction with India to operate through and across India. The second principle is the great need, to which we fully subscribe, for expanding civil aviation to the utmost. Thirdly, the maintenance of adequate standards of safety and security. Fourthly, the need for limitation of liability on the revenues of the State. Finally there is the question of India's defence liabilities. Now, Sir, in our view, we cannot disregard any of these main heads, and they are in fact closely interwoven with each other. If expansion is too slow, it means that there will be inadequate reserves of trained men for defence purposes. If there is unnecessary financial liability on the part of the State in financing companies, it will mean that the Government will be able to spend less on ground facilities and so international aviation will be adversely affected. And so on.

Now, Sir, taking these five principles, the main grounds for Government intervention and control appear to us to be the need to provide international facilities, the need to maintain standards of security and the need to answer expensions of personnel to meet defence liabilities. These three certainly justify State intervention, State licensing to maintain standards and State training to provide personnel. Beyond this, in our view, State intervention should not go. The expansion of air services and the high quality of service required will, we believe, be best achieved by a commercial system of operation *plus* a self-eliminating subsidy. State operation in our view is ruled out altogether by the position of the railways today. (Prof. Ranga "Oh!"). The Honourable Member says "Oh!" Let me remind him that the capital position of the railways is not really known. The broad principles of their operation have been constantly mooted and constantly left undecided in the matter of the Railway Convention; and no country has yet solved the problem of the State as an employer of labour. For all these reasons we think it would be most unwise to take on further obligations at this stage in the matter of civil aviation.

Now the position as I have outlined it appears in fact to be nationalisation modified only to the extent that the principle of commercial operation is admitted for two purposes, namely, (a) to secure the most rapid expansion of services, and (b) to limit the financial liability of the State. The question, therefore, is not whether there should be nationalisation or not but whether the measure of nationalisation which Government in fact proposes does not go too far. On this question we ourselves are prepared to keep an open mind and to watch developments on an experimental basis. But I do claim that the examination that I have given shows that Government's position will in fact be well safeguarded in the plan, but there is a chance that even so the public needs may not be fully met. And that is what really interests us. As we see it, the public needs are: (a) safe and quick transport of personnel and valuable cargo; (b) adequate terminal facilities; and (c) cheap and regular mails promptly delivered.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: And no profiteering.

Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel: I am referring to the service that we require when we go to the civil aviation companies and have to pay for it.

The first of the needs that I have mentioned appears to be amply covered by the Government's plan. But I must say that we are not fully convinced as to whether the second, namely, adequate terminal facilities and cheap and regular mails promptly delivered, have been so fully provided for. Government in our view must adopt a very liberal policy in these matters, because the service given has itself great publicity value. In the plan we have not found any provision for publicity, but publicity in our view is of the first importance. It is perfectly true that the satisfied user will do some publicity, but the dissatisfied users will do counter-publicity. All the users must therefore be satisfied; and thus a much bigger publicity campaign is certainly needed if India is to be made air-minded.

For all the reasons that I have given and considering the wide variety of factors which have to be reconciled, we on this side of the House believe that Government's plan for civil aviation on the whole keeps a fair balance between nationalisation and free competition, and we prefer to accept it as such on an experimental basis and to see how it works. But I would emphasise again to Government that the test is whether these proposals do not in fact go too far and we shall have to see how far the needs of the public will be met. Sir, I oppose the motion.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Sir, I am much obliged to my Honourable friend Mr. Sanyal for the opportunity he has given me of giving an explanation of the policy of Government in regard to aviation, regarding which there seems to be a considerable amount of misconception. I am convinced that there is a great deal of misinformation, some perhaps deliberate, which has been spread about

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civil aviation, and I am confident that the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition who very strongly criticised the Department will be satisfied when I have explained to him exactly what the position is.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: Will you agree to a committee of the House to go into the whole question?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I should like the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition to listen to me and then decide whether a committee of the House is necessary. There is nothing that I have to conceal in this matter.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: My question was directed to Government. Are Government prepared to agree to a committee of the House going into the whole scheme?

Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel: Is there not a standing committee of the House?

Mr. President: The Honourable Member will proceed.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The cut motion is to discuss the aviation policy and nationalisation of air services. The Mover did not speak about nationalisation in the sense of a State monopoly. The term 'nationalisation' has two meanings, one nationalisation may mean Indianisation, and the other nationalisation may mean a State monopoly as against private enterprise. As the Mover only spoke about Indianisation I gather that it was not his intention to raise any discussion about nationalisation in the sense of State operation

4 P.M.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: My Leader has already spoken in favour of it. Don't take umbrage at what he said.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I am taking no umbrage whatsoever. My Honourable friend is himself in a perpetual state of indignation.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Come to the point.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I should first of all like to state clearly what the policy of Government is with regard to civil aviation. This is, to promote as rapidly as possible the orderly development of India's air services, both internal and external, on an economic basis by Indian enterprise and under Indian management, and to encourage the training and employment of Indians. I repeat that in this House, and if I am accused of not having carried it out I think Government deserve to be censured. I felt rather hurt at the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition saying that I who am an Indian and occupy this position merely because of the efforts of the Members of the opposition towards Indianisation and my Honourable Member would lend ourselves to any subterfuge for employing Britishers when Indians were available.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: I adhere to every word I said.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I merely expressed my regret. Now as regards development by Indian capital and Indian management, this has been the policy declared and followed for many years.

An Honourable Member: Declared but not followed.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I would in this connection refer to the criticisms made that the four companies which operate the air services in India are not Indian. Surely in the case of Tata Air Services, I do not think anybody can say it is not Indian. (Interruptions).

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces: Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural): You are making a mistake in not following the right line.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: As regards Indian National Airways, it has been said that this is not an Indian concern. By the courtesy of the Indian National Airways I have received information from them which I have pleasure in giving to the House. The total number of shareholders in this Company is 1,270 of whom 1,165 are Indians, *i.e.*, 91·70 per cent.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is their total holding?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The total capital is 30 lakhs. The capital held by Indian shareholders is Rs. 26,88,036 or 89·6 per cent. The capital held by non-Indian shareholders resident in India is 8·59 per cent.; capital held by non-Indian shareholders resident abroad is 1·81 per cent.

Srijut Dhirendra Kanta Lahiri Choudhury: What is the management of the Indian National Airways?

Mr. President: I think it will be better if the Honourable Member is allowed to proceed in his own way, and then questions may be put at the end. It is no use putting questions every now and then and after every sentence or two. (Interruption.) Please hear his point of view first; he has got his own point of view.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: It is somewhat upsetting when Honourable Members are impatient. I was going to tell them about management; only I was not allowed to finish.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): The House is not air-conditioned!

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Of the I.N.A. Directors . . . . .

An Honourable Member: Which I.N.A.?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Indian National Airways. Seven out of the ten Directors are Indian. The Managing Agents are Govan Brothers. This is a private Limited Liability Company registered in India with a rupee capital. Seven Indian shareholders hold 40 per cent. of the capital.

Srijut Dhirendra Kanta Lahiri Choudhury: Who are they?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: And there are seven directors of the Company of whom two are Indians.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai (Ahmedabad Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): Is 60 per cent. of the holding foreign?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Of the holding by Europeans, a percentage is surrendered on retirement and it has been the policy of the company for a considerable time past to increase the number of Indian Directors. All European shareholders are resident in British India, and are actively engaged in the management of the Company.

[At this stage Mr President vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang (one of the Panel of Chairmen).]

Now, Sir, as regards the Air Service of India Limited, it is admitted that it is an Indian Company. As regards the Air Survey and Transport Company, no air services are operated by that company. Their whole work is connected with survey and mapping on charter by private parties.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Mr. Smith's Company?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I therefore hold that the Government of India have followed a consistent policy of Indianisation.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Question.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I was asked who are employed by these companies, and that the Government forced these companies to employ Europeans. I would like here to give a flat contradiction to that statement. Government does not force any company to employ any particular person. It is entirely their choice.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: On a point of information. Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state if any of these four companies are running without British personnel?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I was coming to that also; I was not given time.

The first part of accusation against Government was that either the Director-General or Government forced these companies to employ Britishers. I simply wanted to contradict that statement. The Companies employ Britishers because they probably find them more competent or more experienced.

[Sir Gurunath Bewoor]

In the Tata Air Lines today out of the Air Crews—that is to say pilots and wireless operators—there are 21 pilots and 23 operators; they are all Indians. Among the Engineering staff, out of 50 Ground Engineers only 8 are Europeans . . . .

Srijut Dhirendra Kanta Lahiri Choudhury: Why are they there?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Probably the Company find that they are more useful and experienced.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: To please the Director-General.

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Member should be allowed to go on, as already ruled by the President, and at the end questions can be asked.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: In the Indian National Airways today out of the Air Crews there are 16 pilots and 13 Wireless Operators, and all are Indian. Out of the Engineering staff out of a total of 32, three only are British. That will give the House an idea of what has been done in the way of Indianization, and again I would like to state that there is no question of appointing a Britisher in order to please the Director-General of Civil Aviation, and if any Company has any such idea I hope my statement in this House will remove it and I shall be the first man to congratulate them on employing Indians in place of Britishers in those Companies.

Government have also been accused by Mr. Sanyal and others on not having developed civil aviation in India in the early years. Here, Sir, I think if anybody is to be blamed, it is the past Government encouraged to a certain extent by this House. In the old days it was the most difficult thing to get any money for civil aviation and I know that the present Director-General had done his best and put up the biggest fight he could to get more money, but he could not get it. I have here figures of the budgetted expenditure from 1931-32, but I need not trouble the House with those figures. From 1936 the amounts allowed every year were about 17 or 21 lakhs and the highest figure before the war was 35 lakhs in 1939-40. On the capital side again, the capital expenditure was between 18 and 20 lakhs a year. Civil aviation could not be developed with this small amount of money and no subsidy was given by Government. You may blame the past Government, but that was the policy in those days and people said that this was a luxury service. India wanted its money for other purposes, and the natural result was that civil aviation could not be developed. To give the House a conception of the amount of money required, I would like just to mention here that for the next year we have had to provide Rs. 125 lakhs only as the first beginning with post-war planning.

Post-war planning for Civil Aviation was taken up about two years ago and has been worked out in great detail. These plans were prepared in the first instance for the consideration of the Policy Committee which, as the House is aware, consists of representatives of all Provincial Governments and of certain industries and certain operators. When they were first printed, they were naturally marked 'For official use only' because it was not intended to release them until the plan had been seen and approved by the Policy Committee, then by Government, and then by the Standing Finance Committee and the Standing Advisory Committee. Now Government have decided to release them and I am sorry that 'For official use only' was not crossed out before the copies were supplied. The copies have been placed in the Library of the House, and it is our hope that we shall make it available to the general public who may be interested in these plans. These plans are really in far greater detail than have been worked out by any other country so far as I know, and I have been to some other countries. We have tried our very best to indicate what are the general ideas on the subject, but I would like the House to accept this from me that the statements made there do not indicate any decisions of Government. They are plans giving certain views as to what is thought necessary e.g., to employ a certain number of technical personnel from other countries.

It does not mean that it is the policy of Government that Britishers only will be taken.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: Does it not indicate a policy of British infiltration into the Civil Aviation Department?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Certainly not.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: Then, what does it indicate?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: These plans have been put to the Policy Committee, the Standing Advisory Committee and the Standing Finance Committee and they approved of them subject to certain comments which have been duly noted and which will be incorporated when the plans are going to be implemented. The Standing Finance Committee, for example, approved of these plans and . . . .

Diwan Chaman Lall: By a majority.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Yes, by a majority. They said that any company which gets the contract should take steps to train Indian personnel and Indianise the operating services.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: In the Standing Finance Committee I made a very strong protest and wrote to the Finance Member that I did not agree to the policy.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: The dissentient notes have not been published.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The Standing Advisory Committee also made certain comments which we noted and in this connection I think my friend, Mr. Jaffer, should not have stopped where he did when he read the minutes. I did refer to Section 116 to the Government of India Act which debarred the Government of India in laying it down as a matter of policy that only the Indian companies will be subsidised. But I explained that the subsidy will be given only to companies licensed by the Licensing Board and the policy of the Government was to develop civil aviation with Indian capital and under Indian management and added that as the policy was clear, the question could arise only in the unlikely event of a European company getting the license from the Licensing Board. I do not think that there is any question here of subsidizing a European company. We have been accused that these plans do not go far enough and perhaps we could have made bigger plans with more services. But when we made these plans our intention was to provide a system of air services which are essential in modern conditions for the proper development of India as a whole. But it is not intended to stop here. Government are confident that stimulated by these trunk and link services there will come into existence a considerable number of feeder air services to serve local needs. I think a good deal of development has been done and I am sure the House will be glad to note that whereas in 1938 Indian air transport services flew 13 lakhs of miles and carried 784 passengers, in 1945 they flew 21 lakhs of miles and carried 24,310 passengers. Well, Sir, we are going ahead . . . .

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Only in the wrong direction!

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: . . . with the implementation of the plan.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: With British personnel recruited from England.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: And here we come to the question of the recruiting of the staff about which we have met with very bitter criticism. I have fully recognised that the aim of the House—that is also of the Government is—to Indianise the services as fast as possible.

Shri Moham Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Utilise them first and then Indianise!

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: But if we are going to wait until Indians are trained and then take up flying, I am afraid we shall have to wait a considerable time.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is it his contention that there are not Indians trained sufficiently to take over these services?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: That is the contention of Government.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask my Honourable friend whether it is not a fact that the Government found no difficulty in getting pilots for the war?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: We are not talking of pilots alone. We are talking of the development and the management at the head. There has been vast progress in the technique of flying, flying control and navigational aids. Indian Air services have an enviable record for safety. We want to maintain it. Everything possible must be done to ensure safe flying. Any unsafe flying would hold up the development of flying and air consciousness among the people.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: May I put a question to the Honourable Member? Will the Honourable Sir Gurunath Bewoor tell this House what Sir Frederick Tymms was in England before he came out to India?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The qualifications of Sir Frederick Tymms before he joined were his administrative experience and experience in civil aviation.

Diwan Chaman Lall: The same sort of experience that you yourself have.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Let me continue. I am not stopping there. Sir Frederick Tymms was commissioned in the war of 1915—19 and was commissioned in the Royal Flying Corps in 1917.

Diwan Chaman Lall: What?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I must ask Honourable Members kindly to hear the statement completely before making remarks.

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Member should be allowed to complete his statement and questions can be asked later on.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I do not think it is quite fair to me.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: You have not been fair to the country! That is the trouble.

Mr. Chairman: Order, order.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: He has received the Military Cross, the Chevalier of the Order of the Crown and the Belgian Croix de Guerre. In 1918 he went on a British Aviation Mission to the United States of America regarding training and organising American Air Service in air observation. In 1919 he was Instructor in Air Navigation at the Royal Air Force School of Navigation. In 1920—27 he was Technical Officer in the Civil Aviation Department of the Air Ministry. In 1924 he commanded the Air Section of the Oxford University Arctic Expedition to Spitzbergen. He was a member of the Air Survey Committee, Great Britain, and part Author of "Flying for Air Survey Photography". He was the Air Ministry Chief Examiner in Navigation for Pilots and Navigators' licences and part Author of "Commercial Air Transport". In 1927 he was appointed by the Air Ministry as Superintendent of the Egypt-India air service. He was seconded to the Government of the Sudan, Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika to survey and organise air routes, including the Cape to Cairo air route, and to organize the administration of civil aviation. In 1928—31 he was Chief Technical Assistant to the Director of Civil Aviation, Air Ministry. He is a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society, the holder of 1st Class Air Navigator's Licence and Pilot's "A" Licence. He is also the author of a number of scientific papers on Navigation, Air Survey, Meteorology and other technical aviation subjects. Now, Sir, I ask the House . . .

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: How were the services of such an experienced person dispensed with in England?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: His services were lent to the Indian Government at the request of the Government of India in order to succeed Sir Francis Shelmardine, who was the previous Director of Civil Aviation. I am surprised at the amount of prejudice that I see against a distinguished and faithful officer of the Government of India. I wish to state that I have had the honour and privilege of working with Sir Frederick Tymms for the last four years. I have attended with him the private conversations we had with the United States Government. I went to the Chicago International Civil Aviation Conference with him.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Why didn't you both remain there?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: And I have been in a number of various conferences with him. I have never known Sir Frederick Tymms ever raise any question which smacked of his favouring the British as against the Indian. The House may refuse to accept my statement but I must express my personal conviction about this matter.

I think, Sir, a man who is in charge of a big Department like has to do many things and Sir Frederick Tymms is a strong man and it is quite possible that he does not put up with fools gladly. He may have had to do many things which are not quite liked by many people. It would be most unfair to consider that an officer of this kind who has worked with singular energy and singular devotedness should be accused of being anti-Indian.

Mr. Chairman The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I understood that the Government representative can have 20 minutes and even more if further time is required.

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Member has had 20 minutes already but I can give him five minutes more.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I shall require more time, because I have to deal with a large number of questions which have been raised.

As regards the presence of Britishers whom we have got, I would like to state here that we only got these Britishers when Government was convinced that we have not got the necessary men to deal with the post-war plans. Before the War this Department had one Director of Civil Aviation, one Deputy Director of Civil Aviation and we were working with a small staff of officers. We planned this large expansion—as I stated the expansion is six times what we had before the war—and in view of the large progress made in aviation and its technique we felt that we must have men who knew something about it. The selection was made when we were in London, by myself, Mr. Sen Gupta, our Financial Adviser and Sir Frederick Tymms. In this connection I must express my obligation to the Air Ministry and the Civil Aviation Ministry in England who were able to spare these experienced men for our service here.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Why did you give them such long contracts?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: We took Sir Edward Rice as Deputy Director General. The Leader of the Opposition was not impressed by the fact that he was Air Vice-Marshal. I quite agree that an Air Vice-Marshal need not necessarily be suitable.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: He was just an ordinary pilot like many of our Indian pilots.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I would explain to the House who Sir Edward Rice is and what experience he has got. He has had 32 years' experience of aviation in the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Air Force. His experience of flying operations ranges over France, Belgium, Africa, Egypt and the Coastal Command. He was transferred to the Bomber Command in 1938 and took part in the bombing offensive on Germany. In 1941 he organised in West Africa the air reinforcement of the Forces in North Africa at a critical stage in the war. At the end of the European war, after commanding No. 1 Group, Bomber Command, he commanded a Training Group to train crews for the Japanese War.

We have taken Mr. Bussell who was in India for nearly five years and he was associated with the enrolment and training of officers and men of the Royal Indian Air Force.

Now, Sir, these people have been taken on contract. The contract is for five years and I am told that this is too long a period. May I assure Honourable Members that these contracts are subject to termination on six months' notice. If suitable Indians are available, it will always be possible to employ them in these places but, Sir, ...

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: It is a foul libel on Indians as the Honourable Member himself knows.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I think that is a very wrong statement. I would not make a foul libel on my own countrymen.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: That is our tragedy today.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: It is a matter of opinion. Where we have had men of experience in a particular line of operation. . . . . .

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: You are selling our future.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I am not selling our future. These people are on contracts which are terminable on six months' notice.

There is one more point, Sir. No amount of training is a substitute for experience. What we wanted was men who have had some experience of actual air transport operation and they have come here to help us to build the air transport of this country. We are putting Indians in the next lower level and we are hoping that they will learn in the course of a year or two or three years the method of work. In fact we might say that most countries have done it. Every country imports experts from outside in order to learn by their knowledge and experience, to teach the people in the country and when we are capable of looking after ourselves we would be able to Indianise the service completely.

As my time is ending I intend to deal with the question of nationalisation. In the case of nationalisation I understood that it is not a case of State *versus* private enterprise. But so far as nationalisation in the sense of Indianisation is concerned, I have already stated the policy of the Government and if Europeans or Britishers are being taken it is solely as an interim measure to enable us to take up and progress more rapidly with the development of air services in India and not for any other reason whatsoever.

There was unfortunately a misunderstanding about the four companies which have been mentioned in the plan. This memorandum dealt at that time with the various possible modes of operation. It examined the advantages and disadvantages of a state service operated departmentally or operated as a corporation or a private company or corporation. All that is stated about the four companies is this. It is stated that the services which were set out in the plan could be operated by four companies and there was never any intention that there would be only four companies or that they would be those which existed or that there would be four and no more. I hope that that misunderstanding is removed.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Why did not the Department consider the feasibility of a nationalisation scheme in connection with civil aviation?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Government did consider at very great length indeed—the question of state *versus* private enterprise. . .

Diwan Chaman Lall: Why did you not adopt it?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I will tell you. This question I am not going to examine on any basis of abstract economic theory. I know that there is a great deal to be said for either type of operation of air transport services. Both of them have their advantages and disadvantages. Government was anxious to see what method would promote the most rapid and orderly development in the present conditions of India. That was the only test which was applied. The four methods have already been mentioned in this book which Honourable Members must have read. Now, Sir, the arguments which. . . .

Srijut Dhirendra Kanta Lahiri Choudhury: On a point of Order, Sir. The Honourable Member's time is up. You said five minutes and he has already taken five minutes. We want to know how long more he will be allowed to speak.

Mr. Chairman: If Honourable Members go on putting question after question, the Honourable Member's speech is bound to be lengthy. I think

Honourable Members should resist the temptation to put questions and then he will come to the end of his speech sooner.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I am sorry I am taking so much time.

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Member cannot have more than one minute.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: What we felt was this: we felt that if we nationalised all air transport, that is, bad State monopoly, the rate of development would be slowed down, due to limitation of capital and recurring expenditure. Development would be subject to the fluctuating conditions of Government finance. Air transport is still a luxury service and might therefore get neglected as compared with other development plans of Government. In a new and changing type of transport like air, flexibility in management and imagination in development is essential. State enterprises are notoriously lacking in these . . . .

Diwan Chaman Lall: You are condemning yourself.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I cannot finish at this rate.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: On a point of Order: can we not have an end of this continuous fire of interruptions?

Mr. Chairman: The only way to terminate this interminable parley is to tell the Honourable Member that his time is up.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I should like to say that I think it is most unfair that Honourable Members criticise me when I give the opposite point of view: I did not interrupt them when I was listening to what they had to say. But when I speak and when I am on very strong ground in replying to them, I am interrupted at every step. I know that for every view there is an opposite view; but if Honourable Members will not allow me to give my answer to them, I cannot help it.

Some Honourable Members: The question may now be put.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the demand under the head 'Aviation' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 15.—DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,36,29,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Department of Information and Broadcasting'."

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,36,29,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Department of Information and Broadcasting'."

Abolition of the Organisations of Research and Reference, Information Films, Field Publicity Organisation and Arts Section

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Department of Information and Broadcasting' be reduced by Rs. 93,34,000."

This is an economy cut. I must trace the history of this Department so as to make Honourable Members of the House appreciate as to why it is necessary to cut to the extent of nearly a crore of rupees from this demand.

At the outset I would like to tell Honourable Members that this Department of Information and Broadcasting which comes under demand No. 15 is absolutely different and distinct from demand No. 52 relating to Broadcasting proper. Broadcasting in India was made a State department in 1932. It was

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originally started in 1927 by a company which ran it with a capital of 6 lakhs from 1927 to 1931. Ultimately the company had to be wound up in 1931. In 1932 the State was forced or persuaded to take up this as a State service. Till 1935 there were only one or two installations here and there; but in 1935 or 1936 about 20 lakhs for capital outlay, and in the next year another 20 lakhs were given. By the end of 1937-38, all the various radio stations now existing in India were installed. Soon after, the war came in, and during the war, expenditure under this head mounted steadily from year to year. Till 1942 this broadcasting was a branch of the Department of Industries and Labour. In 1942-43 the Government found it necessary to create a new Department of Information and Broadcasting and an Executive Councillor was also added—I believe it was Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer who was there for a very short time as the first Councillor in charge of this Department . . . . .

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari (Member for Information and Broadcasting): No.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: If he was not, his predecessor was, whoever he may be. In 1942 the approval of the Standing Finance Committee was sought for converting this Broadcasting Department into one of Information and Broadcasting. Even then the members of the Standing Finance Committee did not allow the enlargement of the broadcasting section by the introduction of some other items from various other Departments. The other items were the Bureau of Public Information, Office of Chief Press Adviser, All-India Radio, Office of the Film Advisory Board, Counter Propaganda Directorate. Their remarks were:

"The Committee approved the proposal but Messrs. Haji Sathar H. A. Essak Sait, Maulana Zafar Ali Khan, Mr. Umar Aly Shah, Khan Bahadur Fazul Huq Piracha, (members of the Muslim League Party), wished to record their opposition on political grounds."

During this period Honourable Members might have noticed that the only opposition was being conducted and conducted very well by my Honourable friends sitting to my left, the Muslim League: they were the opposition; they functioned effectively on behalf of the opposition, and opposition was made to this new Department; and in spite of that the departmental expenditure mounted. In 1942-43 the expenditure on broadcasting was 60 lakhs. In 1943-44 it fell no doubt to 58·18 lakhs; but in 1944-45 it rose to 64 lakhs; and in 1945-46 it went up to 90 lakhs: and in the budget for the coming year, 1946-47, it is 98·66 lakhs. One thing has to be noted. This broadcasting was called by various denominations. It bulged sometimes; it contracted also later. From 1932 to 1942 it went by the name of Broadcasting pure and simple. In 1942 it had a number of other offices attached to it and then it went on till 1945-46 under the name of Information and Broadcasting. When Broadcasting started it did so with 60 lakhs in 1942-43: today we are spending 98 lakhs for Broadcasting alone. The Department of Information has now been converted into one of Arts and Information. Under that head the budget for the present year is Rs. 138 lakhs odd. I am not trying to interfere with Broadcasting at all, though even there a number of additions have been made, out of all proportion to the needs of our country and the present state of our country. While the Finance Member has shown a deficit in the budget to the extent of 44 odd crores, he has not shown us the ways and means by which we can cover it. The poor man is starving—I shall refer to this at a later stage when we come to the Finance Bill. It is enough now to ask whether under these adverse circumstances it is worth while to have this Department of Arts and Information which has now been started in the year 1945 and which has come into existence quite recently. I would like this Department wholly to go. I would like that this Department should go in its entirety and be abolished, and 138 lakhs saved, so that the poor man who wants to write a postcard can do so for half an anna or two pice, and the man who lacks a pinch of salt can get his salt cheaper, and other people may be relieved of the heavy tax burdens, direct and indirect, sitting on them. It is for this purpose that I have moved this cut motion.

I have said that this department is absolutely new. How has it come into being? My Honourable friend, the Member in charge is an exceedingly nice person as also the gentleman who spoke for Air, the Secretary for Posts and Air. This is another Air. The previous Air was also in charge of an Indian but what can they do? They are helpless. I do not want to use the words 'played into the hands' of Europeans. Enough to say that he finds himself helpless.

Now the addition consists of the following departments. There were certain new Departments created for the purpose of the war. For instance the Dilkhush Department. The Dilkhush was lending out a number of people—I am not well versed in Hindustani or Urdu). This Dilkhush Department was sending batches of entertainment parties to Western countries, to the Italian and other fronts to help our Indian soldiers to while away their time, to put it mildly. They call it art. This has been transformed according to me into an Arts section here for which my Honourable friend wants to provide 2½ lakhs of rupees.

The major item is the National War Front. As Honourable Members are aware, this was abolished by a Resolution of the House in march last year. My Honourable friend, Sir Yamin Khan, the Deputy President of the Assembly, who is a leading member of the League moved a Resolution in November 1944 for the abolition of the National War Front, both on the ground that it was spending a lot of money and also on the ground that it was interfering with the politics of the day and taking sides, one way or the other. That is improper. It should not take sides. That resolution dragged on from November 1944 to the Budget Session of 1945. The Honourable Member who was in charge of the Department then, Sir Sultan Ahmed and his Secretary, Mr. Bozman gave an assurance that they would take two or three months to consider how it could be effectively abolished but after three months they only said—Hitherto he was Raman. Now, we will call him Jesus or Jacob. They only gave a new name, that is, the Field Publicity Organisation. All the three months were spent only for this purpose. When was this Field publicity started? I would only give the dates for the purpose of showing how this Government repeatedly insults this House. In March last year, during the Budget Session by a vote of 55 against 43, a Resolution was carried in the teeth of opposition. Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan said even then when winding up the debate that this would reappear in some other form. That has happened. They have tried to bring in another publicity organisation, so that instead of fighting elsewhere they might fight in the rural areas in our country. Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan with his wisdom cleverly found out that this would be used against us and therefore he was opposed to that principle. I am referring to it because it ought not to be said by the other side that the Resolution related only to the abolition of the National War Front. Even there it was disclosed by the Honourable Member's predecessor that it would be superseded by its successor, the Field Publicity Organisation, for which the vote of the House is asked for in this Budget Session. This is not therefore a new thing. It was condemned even then. Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan said that there were three classes of organisations, district, regional or provincial. Now, this organisation was condemned even by Honourable Members like Sir Cowasji Jehangir and Mr. Jamnadas Mehta. Even after this condemnation, we find that the same organisation is sought to be carried on under another name. This money has been wrongly used on party propaganda and there were also other evil features connected with it which were pointed out by Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan. He asked if the present organisation now proposed to be set up is not liable to the same errors and abuses. Mr. Bozman said: No. Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan said: Yes; and there the matter stood. The Resolution was put to the vote and it was carried by a majority of 55 to 43. The same thing has now reappeared. In spite of the clear verdict of the House the Government had the cheek to start this organisation, the Field Publicity

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Organisation on the 1st June 1945. Therefore I say that this thing ought to be condemned on that one ground alone. Whether the Member in charge was an Indian or an European both have played the same trick, so far as we are concerned. It is rather unfortunate.

The activities of all these organisations have been described in booklets with variegated covers printed on beautiful paper. I have brought them here to show them to the House. Evidently they want to appease Members of the House. (An Honourable Member: I never got them).

Now, Sir, as a sop, out of this 51 odd lakhs for this new Field Publicity organisation 44 lakhs are to be given to the Provinces. Madras will get 7 lakhs. Bombay will get 7 lakhs. The North-West Frontier Province will get Rs. 92,000. My friend Mr. Ghani Khan is very tall. He gets a small amount. I am a short man. I get a large amount. Bombay and Madras have both declared that they will have no truck with this. It is proposed that two-thirds will be the contribution from the Centre and one third from the Province. In Madras they refused to convert the National War Front into a Field Publicity Organisation. So far as Bombay is concerned, the National War Front was never in existence there. That is what we find from the memorandum circulated by my Honourable friend and referred in the Standing Finance Committee proceedings. The Bombay Government has not joined the scheme from the start. The Madras Government have now decided to close down their Field Publicity Organisation. The other Governments are not in favour. They have certainly shown greater respect to the vote of the popular Assembly. Therefore that was chucked out by these Provincial Governments. Now, it has come up in another form. This 7 and 8 lakhs is just like a pinch of salt thrown in a ocean of water. I am appealing to my friend Mr. Ghani whether 92,000 will be of any use to him. It is nothing to him.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan (North-West Frontier Province: General): Of course, it is nothing.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: The total demand of this Department is 188 lakhs. I have made a cut motion of only 93,34,000. I have not cut off the entire motion. I have made provision for 45 lakhs. That can be transferred away to the Provinces and this entire Department can be closed down. Leave the matter of actual working to the Provinces. Do not give them a legacy of the National War Front organisation and personnel. They served the country badly in the war. They may have served your purpose but they vilified this country from end to end. They created party politics. They stood between one community and another and created bitterness. This organisation ought not to be allowed in any shape or form and therefore I appeal to the House not to be carried away by the various amounts which are intended to be distributed to the Provinces. Whether they come or not, this organisation ought not to be allowed to exist.

The second item of importance is the film production and distribution. I was invited by my Honourable friend to see certain films. Although I was shown certain films, I was not shown the films which were shown in foreign countries. Sir, one of our able men, a man who served in war very well, has been sentenced to transportation for life. When he was at the Greek front, a film by the name of Gangadin was exhibited there. Whether my Honourable friend is responsible for it or this Government is responsible for it, I do not know. But do you think an American firm will produce a film by the name of Gangadin? It is no use my friend laughing at it. He is wrong if he thinks that by this laughter, he will put me off the scent. Gangadin was a scurrilous picture to which my Indian friend took objection. He did not want that in the military cinema that picture should be shown or the name of it should be put even on the board. He objected in advance, but they refused to hear him. He went there and asked them to shut it up. The Police sergeant shot at this man, but he escaped and in self-defence he

shot at him. Unfortunately for the Britisher, he died and this man escaped. That is what happened because of this film. Do you want to kill more men? If the white is killed, the Indian will go to jail. If the Indian is killed, all of us will mourn for him, not that I would not shed a tear for the Britisher also. It is unfortunate that the film section will be only, a tool in the hands of this Government. Why should you create such films at all? There are too many films in this country. If the Government wants to save expenditure, it might be made a condition that the film producers shall produce out of every four films one educational film.

I am now coming to two more items which I am objecting to. I will refer to them in brief. These are the items of Research and Reference Department. They cost 4½ lakhs a year. What is this Department for? It was doing counter-propaganda work and foreign publicity. Planning why do they plan for foreign publicity? Nichol's book is the result of that publicity. Then, there is one Raman who carries out a scurrilous attack against us in America. That is their foreign publicity. This gentleman Raman might have been sent away but other persons will be appointed. It is said that they are going to be utilised for the purpose of studying Russian, French, and German as if they are growing Universities. I would ask the Honourable Member to give it into the hands of my friend Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad, who is a Vice-Chancellor, and similar other Vice-Chancellors of various other Universities, who can study this problem and thus do away with the Research and Reference Department. It is an alliance with some war propaganda machinery.

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Member's time is up.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I will conclude my remarks by saying that there are already sections which are described as "Dil Khush". Let us not have them. (An Honourable Member: What is Dil Khush?) Dil Khush are dancing girls who are sent out, to dance before the soldiers so that they may give their life on the battle-field. Those girls cannot be sent away home back after the war and they have got to be employed. These four items make up the Rs. 93 lakhs and odd of my cut motion. If the Honourable Member thinks that these things are superior to a pinch of salt to the poor man or the reduction in the price of the post-card by a quarter anna, then he may vote against it, otherwise I expect even the Honourable Member to vote in my favour.

Mr. Chairman: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Department of Information and Broadcasting' be reduced by Rs. 93,34,000."

Before I call upon any Honourable Member to speak, I would like to ask whether the House would be willing to sit for a few minutes more.

Some Honourable Members: No, Sir. We may adjourn now. It is nearly 5 o'clock.

Mr. Chairman: In that case, I am afraid there is no time now for any Honourable speaker to make his speech. The House is adjourned till 11 A.M. tomorrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 12th March 1946.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 12th March, 1946

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(*a*) ORAL ANSWERS

MANUFACTURE OF RADIOS IN INDIA

808. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state what progress has been recorded in the manufacture of radios in this country?

(b) Have Government received any representations from manufacturers of radios for protection or assistance in any manner?

(c) Have Government received any applications from foreign companies for the establishment of radio manufacture in this country?

(d) If the answer to (c) above is in the affirmative, from whom such applications had been received, what concessions were asked for and what concessions were given?

(e) How many radio sets were imported in the years 1943-44 and 1944-45, and how many were on Government account?

(f) How many of these have been sold, what profit have Government made thereon, and how many remain in balance?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) In 1942 the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research set up a Radio Research Committee to examine the establishment of an Indian Radio industry. The Committee found that valves and other special materials could only be obtained from abroad. Government have endeavoured to procure as much of these items as possible.

Meanwhile research has gone on in the Indian Institute of Science and the Universities of Calcutta and Allahabad. A final report on the design of medium and short waive radio sets is under preparation, while the results of research on carbon, energised types of loudspeakers, condensors, resistance will shortly be made available. 'Pilot' equipment for manufacture of valves has now been received, and research work thereon is proceeding.

The Planning and Development Department have constituted a Panel to advise on the manufacture of radio sets. The Panel is collecting information and it is hoped to have its report next month.

(b) Government have received no application for protection. Assistance has been sought, and as far as possible given in the grant of import licences for increased quantities of radio tubes or valves and other wireless parts, for wireless manufacturing equipments, for permission to raise capital for establishing radio manufacturing companies, and for passage facilities to study the technique of manufacture and to negotiate the purchase of equipment abroad. A request for the reduction of duty on component parts is under consideration.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Complete wireless receivers imported into British India on private account numbered 5384 during 1943-44 and 895 during 1944-45. There were no imports on Government account during the two years in question.

(f) Does not arise.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know why an order for 25,000 radios was placed by the Hydari Mission in the United Kingdom, whether this order could not have been placed in India, whether the Radio manufacturers in India could not have been encouraged by the placing of this order here?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: The order was not placed by the Hydari Mission, but it was placed by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department. The reason for that was, as the Honourable Member would have realised, that we were getting very very few radios in India and the reason why we could not place that order in India was that, so far, we lacked the essential capital equipment which we must get from abroad to complete the whole manufacture of radio sets in India.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I ask whether the balance of this order may not now be cancelled and an opportunity be given to local manufacturers to import parts and prepare radios here, as they are doing in a very satisfactory manner?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I understand that out of this order for 25,000 sets, none has so far been received, but that a few thousands are under despatch. If we can only be sure that India can complete the requirements of the country at a very early date, I shall be quite pleased to take steps to cancel the remainder of the order, which we have power to do as from 31st July next.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that assembling is being done well and that some manufacturers have approached me and that the Radio journals are all writing about this, I am very happy to receive this assurance from the Honourable Member, but may I enquire in another direction why private transmission which was closed on account of war purposes is not permitted now, why scientific amateurs and experimenters are not permitted to try and catch each other and try to communicate with Mars, if they can, why is this penalty on research in the transmission of radio still held up in spite of the fact that war is over now many months ago?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I am afraid I have not got facts on this aspect of the question with me. But I would make enquiries from the Posts and Telegraph Department and let the Honourable Member know.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I can give the Honourable Member the facts from the journal which I have just got.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Are the Government giving any assistance for the import of capital goods necessary for the manufacture of radio sets?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: As I already explained, we are granting import licenses and granting passage facilities to those interested to get abroad and to study the technique and to negotiate for the purchase of equipment, if they can.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if any such machinery has already been ordered and if so, how many, and where are they going to be located?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I presume the Honourable Member refers to capital equipments for manufacture. I am afraid I have no definite information that any enquirer in this line of industry has so far been able to negotiate a definite order.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: How many persons have been given licence to proceed to America and other places for the purpose of studying the manufacture of this industry?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I have not got the figures, but as many people as applied for it have been given facilities to go abroad.

DISABILITIES ON INDIANS IN AFRICA

609. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Foreign Secretary please state if it is a fact that certain African Administrations and Governments have imposed disabilities on the wives of Indian nationals by insisting on a knowledge of English before they are permitted to enter those countries?

(b) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the disability imposed on Indians who wished to visit India, by certain African Governments cancelling their passports if they did not return to those countries during a given time?

(c) Are there any other disabilities on Indians, men and women wishing to visit India, and have Government received any complaint with regard to the denial of such facilities in any other country?

(d) What are the true facts, and what steps have Government taken in the direction of removing these and other disabilities imposed on Indians in foreign countries with regard to their movement to and from India?

Mr. H. Weightman: (a) It is understood that under an Ordinance issued by the Belgian Congo Administration, the wives of Indians who were not resident in the Belgian Congo before 1940 are prohibited from entering that Colony unless they can speak English or French. The matter has been represented to His Majesty's Government and it is understood that they are awaiting a report from His Majesty's Consul-General, Leopoldville, in the matter.

(b), (c) and (d). New Immigration Laws are believed to have been introduced in the Balgian Congo in 1945 reducing the period for which persons settled there can absent themselves without having to apply for re-admission from two months to one. This matter also has been represented to His Majesty's Government and it is understood that His Majesty's Consul-General at Leopoldville has been asked to approach the Belgian authorities with a view to the period being restored to two months.

Indians coming to India from Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika, are required to obtain re-entry permits from the Governments of those territories, if they desire to return there after an absence of more than two years. But the Government of India have been assured that Indians normally resident in those territories would be granted entry permits even if they have been away for more than two years. Regulations similar to those in force in Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika are in force in Zanzibar and Portuguese East Africa.

Indians coming from Northern Rhodesia and holding Northern Rhodesia certificates of identity are required to return within three years, which is the period of validity of these certificates. Recently the Government of India have been informed by the Government of Northern Rhodesia, that holders of certificates of identity who could not return to Northern Rhodesia within the statutory period of three years owing to circumstances beyond their control may be granted passports for Northern Rhodesia as if the certificates were still valid.

Indians coming to India from South Africa were also required to return to South Africa within three years. The Government of the Union of South Africa have, however, agreed to extend the time limit in cases where the persons could not return in time owing to shortage of shipping.

The Government of Mauritius require mauritius-born Indians to obtain permission to enter India from the Government of India before giving them facilities for travel to India. The Government of India are in correspondence with the Government of Mauritius on this matter.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it a fact that these rules apply also to those students who come to India and join the Universities? Or are they exempt from these rules?

Mr. H. Weightman: I am afraid I do not know: I have not heard of any such cases.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will he make inquiries? It is an important question, and we have a large number of students from South Africa studying at Aligarh.

Mr. H. Weightman: Certainly, Sir.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that there is grave dissatisfaction amongst various classes of His Majesty's subjects who are dealing with Africa and residing there and that the machinery indicated by the Honourable Member is not proving very effective, will the Government of India send a superior official from the External Affairs Department to ginger up the Consuls in these places

in Africa and to secure some results in weeks instead of keeping the matter hanging on and creating bad feelings between Indians and His Majesty's Government?

Mr. H. Weightman: I do not think it can be stated that there has been any grave delay in taking up these matters once they have been represented. It was only very recently, for instance, that the restrictions in relation to the Belgian Congo were brought to notice; and certainly it would be wrong to state that there has been inattention or undue delay shown by His Majesty's Consul-General there, who is making representations on our behalf.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: With reference to part (a) of the question, will the Honourable Member state if the Government of India propose to make it obligatory upon South African Europeans who desire to enter India that they must have a knowledge of Urdu, which is the *lingua franca* of this country, before they are allowed to enter India?

Mr. H. Weightman: I think not, Sir.

Seth Govind Das: Is the Honourable Member aware that the Honourable Dr. Khare assured this House some time ago that the restriction imposed upon Indians who want to re-enter Tanganyika, Uganda and Kenya even after two years will not be imposed in future?

Mr. H. Weightman: I am informed that the Government of India have been told that those restrictions will be removed this year.

RULES *RE* RESERVATION OF BERTHS IN E. I. RAILWAY

810. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the East Indian Railway have made a rule that persons can reserve berths in I and II class compartments in trains at the starting stations and in through bogies attached from intermediate stations, 10 days beforehand on purchase of tickets;

(b) if passengers, having so booked their berths and later wanting to cancel their journeys, have to show cause why they had to cancel the same before a refund is made to them on application to the Chief Commercial Manager, and that too after a ten per cent cut on the money paid;

(c) if refund is made without the asking of questions on the payment of only one anna if a ticket is purchased at the time of the arrival of a train and returned within two hours at the booking office itself; and

(d) why a difference of treatment is made in the two cases, and if Government propose to consider the desirability of suggesting to the Railway to put the two on the same basis?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) In cases of cancellation of reserved accommodation, refunds are granted under special circumstances only on application to the Chief Commercial Manager, subject to a deduction of 10 per cent.

(c) Yes.

(d) In cases covered in reply to part (b) of the question, cancellation of reserved accommodation is involved, and a deduction of 10 per cent. is made as a preventive measure for abuses such as speculative reservations, black-marketing of tickets and spurious reservations.

Cases of the type referred to in part (c) of the question, on the other hand, do not involve reservations, the passenger having bought the ticket at the time of the arrival of the train, and there is no reason for making a deduction as in the other cases where reservations are cancelled. The two types of cases cannot, therefore, be dealt with on the same basis and the reply to the latter part of the question is, therefore, in the negative.

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that berths cannot be reserved unless tickets are purchased, will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of making some arrangements so that *bona fide* passengers who have had to cancel their reservations are not put to unnecessary inconvenience and loss?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: One has to set one thing against another. This question of reservation of berths has led to a good deal of black-marketing and speculative purchase of tickets; and it was to meet that that these regulations were brought in, after very careful consideration by the Indian Railway Conference Association.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is it not a fact that the black-marketing to which the Honourable Member refers was done in the reservation certificates themselves at a time when it was not necessary that the tickets also should be purchased beforehand; but that such black-marketing was not possible when the actual tickets had been purchased and paid for?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I think it is still possible.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: With reference to part (c), is it a fact that bogus reservations were made and purchase of tickets made by the railway employees themselves and these were returned after two hours, at a cost of one anna only?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Honourable Member says "were made". Is the complaint a current one?

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I knew it about six or eight months back.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: If it is not a current one I submit that it does not require an answer.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is the Honourable Member aware that great difficulties are experienced by *bona fide* passengers who have purchased tickets and are not able to get a refund? For instance, is he aware that Mrs. Swaminadhan's son who is in the Government of India had reserved a berth, but could not go as his leave was cancelled and is still waiting to get a refund?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have no information about that case.

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member see that at least in cases where the journey is postponed this penalty is not imposed?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I do not think any differentiation can be made.

FEASIBILITY OF CHANGE OF ROUTE OF CALCUTTA-BOMBAY MAIL

811. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) if Government and the Railway Administration concerned have examined the possibility and feasibility of running the Calcutta-Bombay Mail *via* Moghalsarai-Benares-Allahabad instead of Moghalsarai-Mirzapur-Allahabad; and

(b) if there is any possibility of the change being effected in the near future, if not, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The suggestion has been examined in the past by the Railway Administration.

(b) No. The diversion through Benares would result in a slowing down of the train by about 45 minutes for operational reasons, such as speed restrictions over the Dufferin Bridge near Kashi, the inability of the Janghai-Allahabad section to take the heavier classes of engines, and the existence of a maximum speed restriction of 45 miles p.h. on the Janghai-Allahabad section as against 60 miles p.h. on the main line. The slowing down of the train would be prejudicial to the interests of the through passengers from Howrah to Bombay.

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that this matter has been bruited for the last 23 years, within my own knowledge, and the difficulties to which the Honourable Member has referred are of recent origin, could the Honourable

Member explain why this matter has not been taken up throughout this long period?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I do not know whether it has been considered for 28 years, but it has been under consideration for a long time; and these are the reasons why it has always on consideration been found to be unsatisfactory.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is it not a fact that the actual distance between Moghalsarai and Allahabad *via* Benares and Janghai is 94 miles and the distance between them *via* Mirzapur is 95 miles, and would not the difference of one mile make a difference also in the time taken?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Honourable Member knows that the Dufferin Bridge will not be ready for fast traffic for some time, and the matter therefore cannot be considered for another two years.

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I take it that after the Dufferin Bridge is renovated, the Honourable Member will take up this matter, and will he now take steps to strengthen the line between Phaphamau and Janghai which has been the standing excuse for not taking the mail that way?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: One has to consider the convenience of the majority of passengers by that train and not only the men who would be locally served.

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that the Mail stops only at one station—Mirzapur—between Moghalsarai and Allahabad; and in view further of the fact that Benares is more important than Mirzapur—not only because I live there but for other reasons also—will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of diverting this train *via* Benares and not take it *via* Mirzapur?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have no doubt the matter will get further consideration and that the Honourable Member will keep it well before us; but I cannot promise him any early satisfaction.

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that I have been after it for the last 23 years and I do not expect to live for another 23 years, will the Honourable Member kindly hurry up?

(No reply was given.)

ISSUE OF RETURN TICKETS ON RAILWAYS

812. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) when the Railway Administrations are likely to re-introduce the system of return tickets at concession rates;

(b) why the system of giving return tickets on the payment of even double the fares is not being followed; and

(c) if Government propose to consider the desirability of introducing at least the latter at an early date?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to Question No. 698, asked by Maulvi Abdul Hamid Shah, on the 5th March, 1946, wherein I stated that the question of introducing return tickets and week-end return tickets by such of the railways as allowed this concession before the War will be considered by them when traffic and operating conditions return to normal.

(b) This question was reviewed by the Commercial Committee of the Indian Railway Conference Association in 1944, but it was found not desirable to re-introduce these tickets for the following reasons:

(i) The need for discouraging unnecessary travel.

(ii) The difficulties in controlling passenger booking by individual trains on a quota basis.

(iii) The liability to fraud on account of the long period of availability of return tickets.

A further reference to the I. R. C. A. will be made asking them again to review this matter in view of the possibility that Upper Class accommodation on trains may, within the year, become less congested.

(c) In view of the present congested state of passenger travel, it is not considered that the time is yet ripe for the re-introduction of the return tickets referred to, but as I have stated, the question will be reviewed.

Shri Sri Prakasa: With reference to Honourable Member's reply to part (b) of the question, is it not a fact that booking agents like Govan Brothers are able to issue return tickets, and if that is a fact—and I know it is a fact—how is it that no difficulties arise when these booking agents issue return tickets, and difficulties arise only when the Railway Administration themselves have to issue tickets?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am not aware of that fact, but I will look into it.

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I take it that when the Honourable Member looks into it, he will not at least prevent Govan Brothers from issuing return tickets?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I make no promises.

DIVERSION OF RAILWAY LINE TO CONNECT BHANDARA TOWN

813. *Mr. G. B. Dani: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Railway Station of Bhandara-Road on the B. N. Railway is situated at a distance of about (seven) miles from the Bhandara town? If so, are Government aware that this has acted prejudicially against the political administration and industrial progress and development of the whole district, in general, and the Bhandara town, in particular?

(b) Is it a fact that the policy of the Railway Department is to connect all big towns with Railway lines and provide better transport facilities for the development of trade and industries?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware that a written memorandum has been submitted to the Central Government and the Provincial Government by the Bhandara Development Committee to divert the present Railway line from or near the Bhandara town? Has that memorandum yet been considered? If so, what is the decision thereon?

(d) Is it a fact that the B. N. Railway has established a Post-war Reconstruction Department and have decided to open new lines of Railways of the total length of 900 miles? If so, do Government propose to divert the present Railway line from or near the Bhandara town, in view of the present position of the town and its gradual growth in trade and industries? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative.

With regard to the second part, the Government are aware of the general advantages conferred on any area by railway communications and the drawbacks resulting from their absence.

(b) The policy in regard to the construction of new lines in the post-war period does include the provision of better transport facilities for the development of Trade and Industry as suggested in the question, but the question of a railway connection to any particular town must be considered on its merits in relation to other projects.

(c) The memorandum has been considered, but, taking all factors into consideration, it has not been possible to approve of the inclusion of the diversion of the Calcutta-Bombay main line in the present post-war plan.

(d) The B. N. Railway have been asked to survey about 1,100 miles of new lines. This programme has been evolved after full discussions with the Provincial Governments concerned and it is not proposed to include the diversion near Bhandara in the present post-war plan as it is considered that the projects already included are of greater importance.

Return on Outlay on Aerodromes in India

814. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state the total outlay of Government funds on aerodromes and equipments connected therewith in India and what return, if any Government are getting on this outlay?

(b) How much total expenditure has been incurred in connection with civil aviation during 1945-46 (estimated) and how much is proposed to be incurred during 1946-47?

(c) What are the reasons which led Government to give guarantees to certain companies? Which are those companies, what is the nature of guarantee, and how much Government moneys will be involved in these?

(d) Will Government gain anything on the traffic passing over India (including Indian traffic picked up by them) of American, Dutch and British companies, who are arranging transport from Europe to the Far East?

(e) What are the financial results of the carriage of civil passengers by the military plans, and under which head in the Budget they have been credited?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) and (b). I lay on the table a statement giving the information.

(c) With the termination of the war, the Lease/Lend aircraft loaned to Tatas and Indian National Airways were withdrawn by the U. S. authorities from the 1st January 1946, which necessitated new arrangements for the operation of civil air transport services in India until Government's post-war plans could be given effect to. The arrangements made by Government with Tata Sons and Indian National Airways provide that if traffic revenue on the services does not reach up to a certain prefixed amount (calculated on the basis of a fixed percentage of the capacity on the services being filled) the Government of India will make up to the companies the short-fall in revenue. The latest estimates of the loads carried on the services show that Government may not have to make any payment to the companies.

(d) India will be getting revenue in the shape of landing and housing fees paid by the foreign air services operating across India. Revenue will also accrue from custom duties paid by the companies on fuel and oil consumed by their aircraft in India.

(e) There are no military transport planes under the control of the Government of India for the carriage of civil passengers.

Statement

(a) The total capital outlay on aerodromes and equipment connected therewith in India upto 1945-46 is Rs. 2,61,62,500. The revenue realized during 1944-45 on this outlay amounted to Rs. 1,51,451. The figures for 1945-46 are not yet complete but the total revenue realized upto the 30th September 1945 is Rs. 93,682.

(b) The total estimated expenditure on Civil Aviation during 1945-46 and 1946-47 is as follows:

Year	Recurring	Capital
	Rs.	Rs.
1945-46	40,81,000	12,26,000
1946-47	1,25,65,000	1,58,25,000

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to part (a), can my Honourable friend give me the total figure, and does it include the expenditure on aerodromes and ground work incurred both by the Government of India or accountable by His Majesty's Government?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I have here the total capital outlay on aerodromes and equipment connected therewith in India up to 1945-46—it is Rs. 2,61,62,500.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it civil and military or both?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: It is entirely civil aviation estimate; it does not include the cost of aerodromes constructed for war purposes.

Mr. Manu Subedar: My question was with regard to military aerodromes. I was told last year that 82 crores had been spent on some aerodromes, and I understand that about 200 crores of rupees has been spent on aerodromes and ground equipment. If that is so, we want to know what is all that equipment doing, and whether it could not be put to some proper use? Will the Honourable Member now endeavour to secure this information and send it to me?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I will certainly do so, Sir. The question being addressed to the Posts and Air Department, I took it that it was in connection with civil aviation. I will collect information connected with aerodromes constructed for war purposes for the Honourable Member.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: The information may be laid on the table of the House.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: With regard to part (d), the Honourable Member referred to some income coming to us for traffic passing over this territory. Is it not a fact that Government have proposals for expending aerodrome facilities in order to receive those big liners which will pass through India, and that crores of rupees are proposed to be spent for this purpose merely to facilitate through traffic over India?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: In the Post-war plan, India, is to have four International aerodromes, *i.e.*, aerodromes of the size which can receive the larger planes, at Bombay, Calcutta, Karachi and Delhi.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Apart from this outlay which my Honourable friend now admits, will he tell us whether the Government of India are not contemplating some kind of subsidy to some of these liners and whether an agreement has not already been reached in London, of which we are not aware for such subsidies to foreign companies including British which will go over India?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: No subsidy of any kind is going to be paid to anybody and no such agreement has been made.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if the big aerodromes which are sought to be constructed will be constructed entirely at the cost of the Government of India?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: All aerodromes in India are constructed and maintained by the Government of India. These aerodromes already exist and they are going to be used both for the larger planes as well as for the smaller planes. They will serve both internal as well as external services.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I understood the Honourable Member to say that four aerodromes—namely, at Calcutta, Bombay, Karachi and Delhi—will be enlarged to receive larger planes. May we know if they are built at the cost of the Government of India or they receive any portion of it from those through liners which use these aerodromes, or do they pay any rent? What is the return that the Government of India gets if the entire outlay is made by the Government of India?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The revenue of the Government of India comes in the shape of landing fees which the planes which come from foreign countries have to pay when they land, if they land in this country. We do not ask any foreign countries to pay the cost of these aerodromes. If we did, we will have to accept their control. India, I think, will be in a position to provide such

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: No year selected for Government publications. It was contingent upon the requirements of the war.

Mr. Leslie Gwilt: As regards part (e), has the Honourable Member any information of the number of prosecutions that have been instituted under the Paper Control Order?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: No, Sir. I am afraid I have not.

Mr. Leslie Gwilt: Will he agree that this is the one Control Order that is probably broken more than any other?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: No, Sir. I could not.

Mr. Leslie Gwilt: Would he be interested to have a copy of all the various publications which have been sent to the Members of the Assembly since the House commenced and having received them, would he be good enough to tell the House whether all those who published them have received licences to do so?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I shall certainly be glad to look into that.

Shri Sri Prakasa: When the situation in newsprint continues to be precarious, is it not a fact that the situation in ordinary printing paper has eased, and if so, why does the Honourable Member not see his way to grant permission for the publication of weeklies and magazines on ordinary paper?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: Because the continuing deterioration of newsprint from abroad is using up the increased production of Indian made ordinary paper.

Seth Govind Das: Will there be any possibility of giving permission to new monthlies after the election period is over?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: That might be possible as soon as we get an improvement in the imported newsprint.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Is it a fact that though quotas have been granted more than 100 per cent., there are still controls on the printing presses just for production of ordinary visiting cards?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: Yes, Sir. Because of the over all position, they are still limited.

Shri Mohan Lal Sakasena: Will the Government consider the feasibility of removing these restrictions from handmade paper?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: There is still an overall shortage. I am not quite sure what restrictions are in force in the case of hand-made paper, but I could go into that.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government consider the difficulties of the local paper manufacturers and their inability to get coal and adequate and timely transport for their raw material and will they make a special endeavour to secure larger production in this country so as to bring down the price?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: We have secured larger production, and I might tell my Honourable friend that whereas the paper mills were getting 30,000 tons of coal a month, in recent months they have been getting 38,000 tons, and, if the coal situation improves, we will certainly try to give them more coal and transport.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I ask the Honourable Member whether this control order applies to invitation cards, whether it is still in force, particularly in Delhi, because I see invitation cards printed in Delhi that are bigger than the control size.

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I would be very glad to look into any instance that my Honourable friend would show me.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: What steps are Government taking to improve handmade paper production?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: This is rather a comprehensive question. We are trying to give the paper mills more coal and we are trying to assist them with imports of capital machinery and with the manufacture of machinery in India.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What about handmade paper?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Whether any subsidies have been given or any steps taken to increase handmade paper in the country?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I think the production of handmade paper is mainly assisted by Provincial Governments and I think they are giving financial assistance and other assistance as well.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Has the Central Government contributed anything towards this?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: No, Sir. I think this was, after full consideration, considered to be primarily a matter which Provincial Governments might develop.

Increase of Work in New Delhi Post Offices

816. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if he is aware:

(i) that with the greatly increased population of New Delhi, the existing Post Offices (both the main Office and the Imperial Secretariat North Block Post Office) have become entirely inadequate for their purposes;

(ii) that people find it very difficult to transact any kind of business and have to wait for a very long time, especially in the first half of the month, before they are able to get an article registered or a money order sent;

(iii) that the number of articles handled and the money orders despatched have greatly increased since the Post Offices were first built; if so, by what proportions; and

(iv) that even on ordinary days the staff in these Post Offices is heavily worked and customers have to wait for a long time?

(b) In view of the above, does he propose to make speedy arrangements for giving relief both to the postal staff and to the public? If not, why not?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) (i) Yes.

(ii) Yes, occasionally. But this is unavoidable.

(iii) Yes. It is not possible to collect the figures from the time these Post Offices were first built but I lay on the table a statement showing the traffic handled in the New Delhi and Imperial Secretariat (North) Post Offices during December 1941 and December 1945.

(iv) Yes, occasionally.

(b) Yes, efforts are being made to give relief to the public and the staff by opening more post offices in the locality.

IMPERIAL SECRETARIAT NORTH BLOCK P. O.

Opened on 3rd November 1926

December 1941			December 1945		
M. Os. issued	Regd. letters booked	Regd. parcels booked	M. Os. issued	Regd. letters booked	Regd. parcels booked
1,743	4,783	1,729	2,701	14,935	2,136

NEW DELHI SUB-OFFICE

Opened on 24th October 1926

4,192	4,927	880	6,121	5,055	961

aerodromes as are necessary in the general interest of aviation both internal and international.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Arising out of the answer to part (a), may I know if the outlay includes any aerodromes that have been taken over from the American Military Authorities—I mean those that were built for American purposes in this country?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The figures which I have given do not include any aerodromes which have not been taken over from the War Department as yet. I am not aware whether the Americans have constructed any aerodromes in this country at their expense; so far as I am aware they have not, but there may be a few . . . . . .

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that during the war, planes of a very large size did come to this country and the facilities existed, will the Honourable Member try to see whether the big outlay which he is proposing cannot be economised? We do not want any duplication.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: No, Sir. We are not duplicating at all. During the war certain aerodromes were enlarged, as for example at Palam, near Delhi. We are taking over those aerodromes. We are not constructing new aerodromes.

Chaudhri Sri Chand: What about the land you took on lease at Bahadurganj? When do you propose to return that?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: That question should be addressed to the War Department. It does not concern the Posts and Air Department.

Seth Govind Das: Is there any difference between the amount paid by England and other foreign countries for landing on the aerodromes?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: There is no discrimination.

REFUSAL OF PERMISSION TO START PERIODICALS

815. *Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state the figures as to in how many cases permission to start periodicals and print publications has been refused, and the reasons for the refusals?

(b) Is it a fact that the authorities under the Paper Control Economy Order have fixed a certain period for reckoning the consumption of printing paper for certain publishers who have been refused any quota of paper as they had not published anything during that period?

(c) Is it a fact that any special instructions have been issued for the Northern Division of the Bombay Presidency which are different from those issued for the rest of British India as to the working of the Paper Control Departments? If so, what are the reasons for making such discrimination?

(d) If the answer to (c) is in the negative, are Government prepared to investigate the various cases wherein the Paper Control authorities in the said area have been using their powers far in excess of the Paper Control Order?

(e) Do the Government of India propose to repeal the Paper Control Order? If not, why not?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) The Honourable Member has not specified the period in respect of which information is required. The number of applications for permission to publish new periodicals and journals has been very large recently, over 200 per month on the average. On account of the shortage of both newsprint and paper only a very few of these have been granted. In the case of imported newsprint, the position has deteriorated very considerably in recent weeks and increased the pressure on Indian production of paper. Thus apart from severely restricting the starting of new periodicals and journals, Government are reluctantly considering the need of cutting down the consumption of existing journals.

(b) Under the Paper Control (Economy) Order the permissible consumption of paper by publishers of books is based on their consumption in 1939, in the case of text books; and 1943, in the case of other books. In the case, however, of the publishers of text-books who were not in business during the year 1939 the year 1943 has been taken as the basic period.

With a view to allocating more paper for the printing of text-books a pre-war year was taken as the basic period. For other books, the consumption in the year immediately preceding the promulgation of the Order had to be taken into account; and the year 1943 was therefore selected as the basic period. There has been no discrimination against any particular publisher or publishers.

(c) No, Sir. The second part of the question does not arise.

(d) Government will investigate any specific case brought to their notice.

(e) No, Sir. The supply position of paper makes such a step impracticable at present.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I ask that in view of the fact that the control price of paper is 300 per cent. higher than the pre-war price, what steps will Government take for bringing more paper in India and of bringing down the price of the existing manufactures so as to give some relief to the civil population in the matter of price?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: The prices of imported paper are also very high. There has been a tremendous rise in the cost of materials and transport during the war, but I am quite willing to examine the costs of paper production as they are now.

Seth Govind Das: Is it not a fact that on account of the elections paper quotas to daily papers and weekly papers increased?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: Not specially in Delhi.

Seth Govind Das: I said 'daily' papers.

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: A temporary increase for election purposes was sanctioned at the end of October last.

Seth Govind Das: After the elections are over and this quota is again down to the original level, will there be any further need of reduction of paper quota to the existing papers?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I am very much afraid that this may prove to be the case, unless we are more successful in getting more paper.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Which are the few exceptions which the Honourable Member has made in granting paper for periodicals and other newspapers?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: The only figures I have are that out of 460 applications in the months of December to February, only 13 were granted. I have not full details, but I know a very few exceptions were made, when some-one wished to publish a book of exclusive scientific or industrial interest.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Is it a fact that during war time exceptions were made in the case of Communist periodicals and Roy's periodicals?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I must have notice of that.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Do these instructions apply to Government publications?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I think they do.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know for which year the requirements of Government are taken as the basis for sanctioning these quotas?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I have not followed the question.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: In case of Government publications which year's requirements are taken as the basis for sanctioning the quota?

CONFUSION DUE TO NOTIFICATIONS UNDER THE COTTON CLOTH AND YARN CONTROL ORDERS

817. *Seth Govind Das: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state whether the Government of India are aware of the varying day to day notifications under the Cotton Cloth and Yarn Control Orders creating a lot of confusion amongst the dealers?

(b) What steps were taken to give due publicity to all these varying notifications in the rural as well as urban areas?

(c) Is it a fact that the publicity of certain notifications was not made according to law and that certain challans for the alleged contravention of these control orders resulted in acquittals on account of lack of necessary evidence to prove their proper publicity?

(d) If the answers to (a) to (c) are in the affirmative, does the Honourable Member propose to give an approximate, or, if possible accurate, number of such challans which failed only on account of lack of proper publicity?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) The cotton textile control is very comprehensive, and it has been necessary to issue a considerable number of notifications. But I am satisfied that there is little genuine confusion among dealers, though dealers sometimes defend anti-social actions by pleading that they did not understand the notifications.

(b) Publicity is given by publication in the *Gazette* and by the issue of Press Notes both by the Central Government and by Provincial Governments.

(c) Some notifications did not contain a specific provision regarding the manner in which notice of them was to be given. These were held not to comply fully with the requirements of law. Such notifications have been reissued in proper form. I have no information of any acquittals on this account.

(d) As prosecutions are launched by Provincial Governments or authorities subordinate to them I am unable to give any figures of prosecutions which may have failed for lack of adequate publicity.

Seth Govind Das: Are the Government aware that on account of their bad educational policy nine out of ten in the population of this country are illiterate and therefore it is not possible for them to read these *Gazettes* and hence some other source of publicity is necessary?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I think, Sir, a great many of the class of people affected by these orders are literate.

Seth Govind Das: What about the villagers?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: The Honourable Member's question, I think, is concerned about the confusion among dealers, and I believe most of them are literate.

Seth Govind Das: Do Government know that in the villages there are some dealers who are not educated enough to be able to read Government *Gazettes* and Government Notifications and may I know what Government are going to do in respect of these people?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I think that is a question for the Department of Education.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: In view of the fact that a large number of these dealers are illiterate, they cannot even read Hindustani and certainly not English, is it not desirable that if any changes are made some method should be devised to communicate them?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I agree with my Honourable friend. The trouble has been that a great many evasions of the control arose, and led to a great many changes to catch up with the evaders.

HIGH COURT DECISION *RE* POSSESSION OF TIME-BARRED CLOTH

818. *Seth Govind Das: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies aware of the fact that according to the Nagpur High Court and now many other courts, the mere possession of the time-barred cloth is no offence or contravention of clause 14 of the Cotton Cloth and Yarn Control Order?

(b) Have Government issued any other notification under the cotton cloth and yarn Control Order according to which the possession of time-barred cloth has become a contravention of clause 14 of the said Order? If not, why did not Government issue instructions to all the subordinate authorities to withdraw all such prosecutions which are pending in the various courts in British India?

(c) Do they propose to do it now?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) Government have seen only a judgment of the Nagpur High Court in which it was held that the accused had lawful excuse for possession of the cloth after 31st December 1944, and had not contravened Clause 14 of the Order.

(b) The reply to the first query is in the negative. As regards the second query, Government have advised Provincial Governments to review pending cases with a view to dropping prosecutions where there is evidence that the accused made honest efforts to dispose of the cloth before it became time barred.

(c) Does not arise.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Do Government propose to ask the dealers to return those stocks which are time-barred?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I think steps have been taken in the majority of cases, but if my Honourable friend knows of any case where nothing has been done, I shall be very glad to have particulars and to take action thereon.

LICENCES FOR DEALING IN CLOTH

819. *Seth Govind Das: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state whether the Government of India are aware of the fact that applications for licences for dealing in cloth were required to be sent to the various Provincial Governments through the Police Station House Officers of the places where the dealers actually resided and that this procedure was adopted according to the instructions of the various Provincial Governments and specially in the Central Provinces and Berar?

(b) Are Government also aware of the fact that this procedure greatly increased bribery and corruption amongst the intermediaries?

(c) Are Government aware that a direct allegation was made in one of the Hindi weekly papers of Jubbulpore in the Central Provinces and Berar, namely *Shubh Chintak* that a responsible Police Officer in Damoh (C.P.) made Rs. 1,350 in one night in only forwarding these applications for licences in the month of December, 1944? If so, what action did Government take to inquire into such allegations, and was this procedure for inviting applications for licences according to the instructions and policy of the Central Government?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a), (b) and (c). The licensing of cloth dealers is done by Provincial Governments under their own powers, which are independent of the Cotton Cloth & Yarn (Control) Order. The only general directive which the Central Government has given to Provincial Governments is that in their licensing system they should avoid as far as possible disturbing normal trade channels. The Central Government has no intention of interfering with the discretion of Provincial Governments in their licensing of dealers, and I have no information as to whether the allegations made by the Honourable Member are correct.

Seth Govind Das: Will Government make enquiries with regard to part (c) of the question as to whether the official concerned did not even issue

a contradiction, whether it was not a fact that he took Rs. 1,350 and whether the Government of the Central Provinces, though approached several times, did not move in the matter?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I am not aware that the Central Provinces Government were approached and they refused to take action. If my Honourable friend will give me particulars, I shall take it up with the Government of the Central Provinces.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: The Honourable Member said that a direction was given to the Provincial Governments that normal trade channels should not be disturbed, but is he aware that in Delhi alone the Muslims have not been given their due quota, that representations were made to the Deputy Commissioner and to the Honourable Member as well and so far no action has been taken in the matter of un-rationed cloth?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I think my Honourable friend knows that the question he has raised is under examination.

CORRUPTION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND SUPPLIES

820. *Seth Govind Das: Does the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies propose to inquire into the alleged charges of bribery and corruption of small and subordinate officers working in his Department? If so, when will this inquiry start?. If not, do Government feel sure that there are no such cases of bribery?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I am not sure what the Honourable Member means by "alleged charges". I am always prepared to order inquiry into any definite charges against a specific individual or individuals, and to do whatever is possible to prevent corruption. But I am not prepared to order inquiry into general and indiscriminate charges, in which the honest and dishonest are stigmatised alike, in the case of any class of officers. The last part of the question does not arise.

Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member be prepared to make enquiries if applications are made in this respect?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: Yes, Sir, I will undertake to make enquiries on specific charges.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is the Honourable Member aware that in the Province of Madras an ordinary second grade clerk drawing only Rs. 60 was made the Licensing Officer for the whole district and one man made as much as Rs. 80,000 during the course of five or six months?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: No, Sir. I have not heard of it.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: There are cases in my own district. Will the Central Government make enquiries into these cases and will they suggest to the Provincial Governments that persons not below the status of a Deputy or Sub Collector should be made licensing officers?

Shri Sri Prakasa: They will take more!

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I want an assurance from the Government that they will make an enquiry into the matter and I would ask the Honourable Member whether he is going to evolve a uniform policy regarding the qualifications and status of persons who will be entrusted with the work of issuing licenses.

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: On the first part of the question, I would not like to inquire into Provincial Government cases. On the second part of the question regarding the status and standing of those who are in charge of control, I am certainly ready to examine that question.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact that the Government of India maintain a central C.I.D. organisation in every province and will they see to it that this Central C.I.D. makes enquiries into cases where there is any corruption and bribery in the administration of the control orders?

Mr. Manu Subedar: They share with the others!

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: If there are any specific complaints I think it is the function of the Central Police to take them up.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: The Honourable Member says that if there are specific complaints then the Central C.I.D. will look into those cases but is it not their duty to see that the ordinances issued by the Government of India are duly carried out in the Provinces?

Mr. President: That question does not arise out of this question.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: If the Honourable Member will please make enquiries of the Members of this Assembly, who have been elected to this House on the votes of the people, and who have personal knowledge of these officers, probably none of us will be able to point to a single man who is above corruption.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: The whole Department is corrupt.

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I deny the extravagant assertion made, and as regards any knowledge that any Honourable Member of this House has about definite cases of corruption, I shall be very pleased to have it and consider it.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In Madras an officer in charge of cloth control collected for a musical performance a sum of Rs. 80,000, whereas he would not have got even Rs. 1,000 ordinarily for the same and a case is pending against this man now.

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I have no information. It is a provincial matter.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In view of the fact that several officers have been prosecuted here and there, will the Honourable Member appoint a special C.I.D. to watch these high paid officers and their activities?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: No, Sir. One swallow does not make a summer.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not the duty of the Government of India to see that control orders are carried out without any corruption?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: As I have already explained, that is the primary duty of the Provincial Government concerned.

Seth Govind Das: Does the Government deny that there is bribery and corruption in any of these departments?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: No; I do not deny it for one moment. I would like to say that one of the main factors for the existence of corruption is the connivance of the public themselves. It is not the control which is at fault; it is the scarcity. If people generally refrain from offering bribes and from trying to profiteer or to hoard, I think there will be far fewer opportunities for temptation and corruption. But I do admit that there is corruption, and if specific cases come to notice I am anxious to do all I can to remedy them.

Seth Govind Das: Does Government deny that they are also responsible for this bribery and corruption, on account of these control orders?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: As I have already explained, we do our best to see that the rules are such as to remove opportunities for corruption.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Apart from individual cases being brought to the notice of the Government, I would like to know what steps Government are taking independently to find out where there are these corrupt practices indulged in by their officers and by others connected with this business?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I think my Honourable friend is aware of the special police branch which exists for making inquiries into such cases.

Shri Sri Prakasa: While agreeing with the Honourable Member regarding the responsibility of the public in this unhappy affair, may I ask if the Honourable Member does not realise the difficulties under which the general public labour and their pressing necessity owing to which they have to adopt questionable tactics in order to get cloth and other materials at the time of funerals and other such incidents when cloth is not otherwise available, and will not the Honourable Member himself, if he were put in an extremity of that sort, offer a bribe in order to get the necessary cloth?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I do realise these difficulties; but I refuse to do what my Honourable friend suggests to me.

Seth Govind Das: Is it not a fact. . . . .

Mr. President: Order, order, next question.

WITHDRAWAL OF TEXTILE CONTROL ORDERS

821. *Seth Govind Das: When does the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies propose to withdraw all the textile control measures, to restore free market and competition and normal conditions specially when the war is now over?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: As soon as circumstances permit. The Central Government enquired in December last from Provinces and States whether in their opinion it would be possible to relax Textile Control. Their unanimous opinion was that any such relaxation would be premature at present. The Government of India hold the same opinion. Control measures will be necessary so long as supplies are much below normal consumption.

Seth Govind Das: Is it not a fact that even now cloth is being exported from this country?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: A certain amount of cloth is being exported under previous agreements with His Majesty's Government.

Seth Govind Das: And when are these agreements coming to an end?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: The position will be reviewed when the present agreements are approaching their end.

Seth Govind Das: I am asking when, on what date, these agreements are coming to an end.

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: For the second half of the year we propose to review the situation very soon. We are committed for the first half of 1946.

Seth Govind Das: Will Government see that after this present agreement ends, no fresh agreements are made without consulting this House?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: No; I cannot undertake that. It is an executive action, and I think the Government will have to consider not only the cloth position but the food position which is the more serious.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that the food position requires, with regard to certain territories at all events in the east, for the temptation of some cloth being given, will not Government now bring down the overall quota for export which they have fixed and use that reduced quantity for swapping against food with eastern countries like Burma, Siam and Indo-China?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: Government will consider that.

INTERNMENT OF MR. SYEED UDDIN SWALEH IN GERMANY

822. *Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Is the Foreign Secretary aware that Mr. Syeed Uddin Swaleh went to England for studies in 1932?

(b) Is he also aware that Mr. Swaleh went to Germany for studies in Agriculture in 1936 when he had completed his studies in England?

(c) Is he also aware that Mr. Swaleh could not come back to India in 1939 when he had completed his studies and obtained Ph.D. in agriculture on account of the out-break of the war?

(d) Is it a fact that Mr. Swaleh with many other Indians is now interned in the American Occupation Zone in Germany and not even allowed to correspond with his family in India?

(e) Why is Mr. Swaleh being interned there and not allowed to return to India?

(f) Does he propose to give an assurance that all facilities will be extended to Mr. Swaleh and other Indian students who want to return to India?

(g) What is the number of Indians interned in Germany and Italy?

Mr. H. Weightman: (a), (b) and (c). The Government of India understand that Mr. Swaleh went to the United Kingdom as a student and later proceeded to Germany, where he remained during the war.

(d) and (e). According to information so far available Mr. Swaleh was detained in Germany, because he was connected with the Free India Centre in Berlin. Government have no information as to whether he was allowed to communicate with his relatives in India or not. His wife is in Germany.

(f) Government have no intention of impeding his return to India. They understand, however, that Mr. Swaleh has no desire to return immediately.

(g) 32 Indians were in detention in Europe in January 1946. Of these 22 have been released, 9 are in detention and one who would otherwise have been released is in hospital.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Can the Honourable Member give an idea as to what steps Government are taking to bring back our nationals from Germany?

Mr. H. Weightman: I take it that the Honourable Member's question refers to civilians. We naturally wish to know in the first place whether they are anxious to return. As in the case of Mr. Swaleh, there may be cases in which they prefer to stay where they are. But I think I can say that if I am informed that any British Indian subject against whom there is no order of detention indicates a wish to return, then assistance will be given; and I shall be glad to learn from any member of this House if he knows of any case of any young man who wishes to return, so that I can help.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is it not a fact that Government have an officer in Germany who contacts Indian residents there and helps to bring them back to India?

Mr. H. Weightman: Yes; we now have an Indian military mission in Germany and it is part of their duties to help Indians in this matter.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask what is the position of Indian and Anglo-Indian women married to Germans, if they want to come back to India with their children, or what would be the position?

Mr. H. Weightman: I think that is rather hypothetical: I do not know of any such case.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I give my Honourable friend the case?

Mr. H. Weightman: If the Honourable Member would inform me of any such case, I will certainly investigate it.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: May I inform the Honourable Member of an Indian who is stuck somewhere in the Far East and for the last fifteen days I have not got any news of him or whether he intends to get him back—Mr. Saberwal—he is stuck in China and he wants to come home.

(No answer was given.)

ACUTE SHORTAGE OF CLOTH IN NORTH BIHAR DISTRICT

823. *Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies aware that for the last two months, there is an acute shortage of cloth in the North Bihar District?

(b) Is he aware that the acuteness has been aggravated by the non-supply of Railway wagons for bringing cloth from the mills from Ahmedabad and Bombay?

(c) If so, what do Government propose to do to remedy the situation?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) and (b). During December, January and February last there were occasional stoppages of booking over the Oudh and Tirhut Railway from Bombay and Ahmedabad, which resulted in a temporary scarcity of cloth in North Bihar. Despite these stoppages, 20,435 bales were moved to North Bihar from Bombay and Ahmedabad during these months.

(c) Instructions were issued that Bihar buyers should be given special facilities during the month of February to enable them to buy their quotas without delay. Arrangements were also made for the transport of their purchases from both these centres as soon as they offered the cloth for movement.

EXPORT OF CLOTH TO PUNJAB AND SIND

824. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) how much cloth has been exported to the Punjab and Sind during the past three years;

(b) the quota per head allotted to the Punjab and Sind as compared to Madras; and

(c) whether Government are considering the question of stopping cloth exports to the Punjab, in view of their refusal (i) to part with their grain for the deficit areas and (ii) to introduce rationing within their own province?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) Statistics of despatches of cloth from producing centres to consuming areas are available only as from July 1944. During the period from July 1944 to December 1945 despatches of cloth to the Punjab and Sind deficit zones were 5,85,719 bales and 89,684 bales respectively.

(b) The quota per head allotted to the Punjab and Sind is 18 yards. For Madras it is 12 yards.

(c) No Sir. There has been no refusal by the Punjab to part with grains for deficit areas or to introduce rationing.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it not a fact that there are enormous accumulations in Amritsar which have not been distributed to the people of the Punjab, and until all these accumulations are actually distributed, will Government stop further despatches to the Punjab?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I do not know the full facts of that, but I gather that there was a hold-up in Amritsar which is in course of being cleared.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What is the reason for reducing the cloth quota to 12 yards in Madras as against 18 in the Punjab and Sind? Is it because there is a food shortage in Madras that there must be a cloth shortage also there?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: No. As I have explained in a recent debate, the amount of cloth allotted to a province depends on its pre-war consumption per head, related to the present population of the province.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Has he taken into account the cloth produced by handlooms in fixing the quota?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: Yes.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is the Government aware that the Madras Presidency comes second in the production of handloom cloth, and even if that is taken into account, the total quota comes to 13 or 14, but not to 18 yards?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I have no information on that point. I am afraid I must ask for notice.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Is it a fact that the 18 yards which is said to be available to Sind is not actually available to consumers there and the Government there has already made representations that the distribution was actually only 12 yards last year?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I have had no complaints from Sind.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Will the Honourable Member look into this matter?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: If I have a definite complaint.

Mr. President: Order, order: the question hour is over.

(*b*) WRITTEN ANSWERS

SHORTAGE OF TRAINS AND THIRD CLASS BOGIES ON M. & S. M. RAILWAY

825. *Shri D. P. Karmarkar: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trains with the routes on which they were running, which were stopped owing to exigencies of war, on the Madras and South Marhata Railway;

(b) how many of them have been restored after the cessation of hostilities;

(c) when the remaining trains are likely to be restored;

(d) whether Government are aware of the abnormal congestion in the third class bogies both on account of shortage of trains and the shortage of third class bogies on each train on the Madras and South Marhata Railway;

(e) whether Government are prepared to consider the feasibility of temporarily converting the upper class bogies for accommodating Inter and Third Class passengers; and

(f) what measures Government propose to take to relieve congestion in the lower classes (*i.e.*, Inter and Third) on the Madras and South Marhata Railway in the immediate future?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Information in regard to the specific number of trains which were discontinued on the M. & S. M. Railway, and the routes on which they were running, is not readily available. I understand, however, that the train services reduced on that railway from the beginning of hostilities upto November 1943, involved a total reduction of 3,107 train miles per day on the B. G. Section and of 3,088 on the M. G. Section.

(b) Up to the 1st January 1946, the M. & S. M. Railway have reintroduced or extended 40 B. G. & 14 M. G. trains, representing an increase in the daily train mileage of 859 and 639 respectively.

(c) and (f). Additional services will be put on as and when more stock and power become available.

(d) A certain amount of congestion,—which is not peculiar to the M. & S. M. Railway,—is inevitable when the transport demands so greatly exceed the available resources of railways.

(e) No. All classes of stock are required to cope with the transport demands and the withdrawal of stock for conversion from one class to another would result in a reduction of actual capacity while the conversion was in progress.

PRIORITY FOR EXPORT OF BETEL-NUT

826. *Shri D. P. Karmarkar: Will the Honourable Member for War Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that betel-nut growers have been put to serious losses on account of low priority being allotted to betel-nut;

(b) whether he is aware that merchants are encountering great difficulties on the Madras and South Marhata Railway in securing waggons for the export of betel-nut;

(c) whether, in view of the emergency of war having disappeared, betel-nut will now be given a priority higher than what it is now; and

(d) whether, pending a final decision in the matter, Government are prepared to temporarily recommend a high priority to betel-nut with a view to giving immediate relief to the betel-nut growers?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Government have no information regarding the amount or causes of losses incurred by betel-nut growers.

(b) Government have received a number of representations from betel-nut growers, particularly in Southern India, in which, amongst other matters, requests for better facilities in rail transport are included.

(c) Since the end of the war, railways in India are having great difficulty in meeting the largely increased demands for the movement of highly essential commodities for civil uses. Government are unable to include betel-nuts in this category, or to allot any general priority to their movement in regions where traffic in more important commodities is heavy. The only railways upon which it has been possible to allot any priority to the movement of betel-nuts are the M. & S. M. and S. I. Railways. On other railways no general priority is given, but it is open to Provincial Governments to approach Regional Controllers of Railway Priorities in the normal manner for assistance if they consider the supply of betel-nuts inadequate at any time in any particular area in the Province.

(d) Government do not consider that they would be justified in giving a high general priority to betel-nuts either temporarily or permanently.

SHORTAGE OF RAILWAY STAFF QUARTERS ON CERTAIN STATIONS ON N. W. RAILWAY

827. *Seth Sukhdev: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the matter of Railway Staff Quarters Building Programme consideration is paid to the difficulty in obtaining suitable private residential accommodation by staff and lack of private enterprise of building construction; and

(b) whether the Honourable Member is aware that there is acute shortage of private residential accommodation at Karachi, Hyderabad (Sind), Nawabshah and Sukkur Stations of the North Western Railway? If so, whether any funds have been allotted or are likely to be allotted during the financial year 1946-47 for the Staff Quarter Building Programme at these stations; if so, whether the Honourable Member proposes to give brief particulars thereof?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. The position at Karachi and Hyderabad being particularly acute, the construction of 90 units of staff quarters is in hand at Karachi and 190 units were built recently at Kotri near Hyderabad, inspite of the present high cost of construction.

In the post-war Rehabilitation & Development programme of the N. W. Railway for the quinquennium 1947-48 to 1951-52 the provision of 1,804 units of staff quarters in the Karachi Division of the North Western Railway is contemplated.

CORRECTION OF MISTAKES IN BIRTH DATE RECORDS OF RAILWAY STAFF

828. *Seth Sukhdev: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether any rules exist for the correction of birth date records of the Railway subordinate staff, if so, what documents are required to be produced in support of such an alteration, and the details of the procedure; and

(b) if no such rules exist, whether it is proposed to frame a suitable set of rules to enable correction of genuine mistakes in birth date records of the Railwaymen, if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). The rules framed by the Railway Board are contained in para. 144 of the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, as amended by Correction Slip No. N-2. The alteration of the recorded date of birth to the employee's advantage is permissible only in the case of illiterate staff where the General Manager is satisfied that a clerical error had occurred. To enable the railway administration to arrive at a decision, it may demand the production of evidence, especially documentary evidence, relating to the employees date of birth. Government consider that the existing rules are quite satisfactory.

GRANT OF KARACHI COMPENSATORY ALLOWANCE TO RAILWAY EMPLOYEES IN SIND

829. *Seth Sukhdev: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that the Sind Government are paying with effect from the 1st November, 1944, increased rates of the Karachi Compensatory Allowances to its employees, *vide* Government Resolution No. 1353A, dated the 2nd June, 1945;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board has received representations from the Railway staff employed in the Karachi area demanding payment of the Karachi Compensatory Allowance on the Sind Government scales; if so, how the same were disposed of;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Government of India are committed to the policy of paying local compensatory allowances to its employees on the scales at which such allowances are paid by Local Governments;

(d) whether the Honourable Member's attention has been drawn to the undertaking given by the head of a sister department of the Posts and Air in 1930, *vide* the Director General's letter No. EA/146/27/2, dated the 17th December, 1930, that the extra remuneration granted to the Posts and Telegraph officials is based *mutatis mutandis* on the local Government rates where there are local Government officials of the corresponding status; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take to conform to the policy referred to in parts (c) and (d) above in the matter of payment of local Compensatory Allowances to the Railway employees in the Karachi area on the Sind Government scales; if none, why?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes. Government are informed that the Sind Government have sanctioned for some classes of staff a Karachi Compensatory Allowance, in which certain local allowances, conveyance allowances and travelling allowances, sanctioned prior to 1st March, 1923, have been merged. In other cases the rate of compensatory allowance has been raised.

(b) The reply to the first portion is in the affirmative. As regards the latter portion, the matter is under examination in consultation with the railway administration.

(c) No.

(d) I have seen the letter referred to which makes a statement in regard to Compensatory Allowance or Special pay sanctioned by the P. & T. Department at the end of 1930, but contains no undertaking of the nature referred to.

(e) Does not arise in view of the reply to parts (c) and (d).

ABOLITION OF LOWER GAZETTED SERVICE ON RAILWAYS

830. *Seth Sukhdev: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether it is proposed to abolish the Lower Gazetted Service on the Indian Railway now?

(b) Will the Honourable Member please refer to a passage in his budget speech delivered in February, 1944, that the Lower Gazetted Service would be abolished on the Railways in due course and state when it is likely to be abolished?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Honourable Member is referred to my reply to Lala Sham Lal's Starred Question No. 1129, asked on 20th March 1945, which gives the present position.

SURVEY OF RAILWAY LINES CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

831. *Seth Sukhdev: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to lay a statement on the table of the House giving particulars of the proposed Railway lines construction projects, the survey of which has been taken in hand with the approximate mileage of each of them and the gauge?

(b) Which of these projects were surveyed before also, and when? What are the particulars of the estimated cost of each of them?

(c) Has the Railway Board laid down any basis for priority of construction? If so, will the Honourable Member lay a statement on the table of the House, giving particulars of projects which are to receive priority in construction?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). A list of projects approved for survey was placed before the House in answer to unstarred question No. 40, replied on the 19th of February 1946, in this House. The list is reproduced with the addition of 3 columns, showing the proposed gauge, the year of previous survey and the approximate cost of the projects as estimated in the previous survey.

(c) No priority for construction has been laid down. Unless the surveys have been completed and the reports considered, it is not possible to say which of the lines will be constructed, or to determine their order of priority for construction.

List of approved projects—New constructions, restorations and conversions

Year of previous survey	Approximate cost (in lakhs)		Approx. Mileages	The proposed gauge
		EAST INDIAN RAILWAY	Miles	
		(a) *Dismantled lines to be restored*—		
		1. Unao-Madhoganj-Balamau	78	B. G.
		2. Bijnor-Chandpur Siau	21	B. G.
		3. Utraitia-Sultanpur-Zafarabad	136	B. G.
		(b) *New Lines*—		
		1. Kicha-Chandausi	*65	B. G.
		2. Birmitrapur-Barwadih	*120	B. G.
		3. Chirmiri-Barwadih (Garhwa road or Untari Road).	*140	B. G.
		4. Barkagoan-Hazaribagh-Giridih-Dumka-Rampur Haut.	*225	B. G.
1912-18	†12·80	5. Gaya-Sherghati-Chatra-Ranchi.	*110	B. G.
		† Cost of 22 miles up to Sherghati only.		
		BENGAL ASSAM RAILWAY		
		(a) *Restoration of Dismantled lines*—		
		1. Shaistaganj-Habiganj	*8	M. G.
		2. Moranhat-Khowang	6	M. G.
		3. Amnura-Chapai Nawabganj	10	B. G.

* The projects for which the survey estimates have been sanctioned upto 31st January 1946 have been marked with an asterisk.

Year of previous survey	Approximate cost (in lakhs)		Approx. Mileages	The proposed gauge
		BENGAL ASSAM RAILWAY—*contd.*	Miles.	
		(b) *New Lines*—		
1927-28 & 30	† 1.89 15	1. Bhadurabad-Goalpara-Pandu with a bridge at Goalpara, Jogighopa and a link from the bridge to Bongaigaon, also Gouripur Mymensingh Mahendraganj.	*283	M. G.
1934	18.9	2. Sylhet-Bazar-Chatak	*21	M. G.
		3. Khowang-Dibrugarh	*12	M. G.
1914	3.49	4. Faridpur-Madaripur-Barisal	*80	B. G.
1926-27	2.23	5. Sainthia Barhampore-Bhairamara.	*96	B. G.
		6. Rohanpur-Nithpur-Dinajpur.	*76	B. G.
1925	62.67	7. Jharia-Jhanjail-Baghmara-Siju-Jankaray.	*37	M. G.
		(c) *Conversion*—		
		1. Tezpur-Balipara to be converted from N. G. to M. G.	20	M. G.
		† Represents cost of 164 miles surveyed.		
		BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY		
		(a) *Dismantled lines to be restored*—	10	B. G.
		1. Bobbili-Salur		
		(b) *New Lines*—		
1916	‡ 2.08.93	1. Ramagundam-Bastar-Jagdalpur Jaypur-Salur (or Vizanagaram *via* Padwa). The portion between Ramagundam and Bastar shall be surveyed by H. E. H. the Nizam's Rly.	*290	B. G.
		NOTE:—At the time of investigation it will be necessary to examine particularly the possibility of connecting Balharshah to Bastar.		
		2. Rajnandgaon (or Drug)-Bastar *via* Kankar and Taragaon.	*120	B. G.
		3. Sambalpur-Kondagaon *via* Kantabanji or Lanjigarh.	*247	B. G.
		4. Talcher (along the valley of the Brahmani river)-Koel Bank.	100	B. G.
		5. Talbandh (or Bangriposi)-Badampahar (or Sulapat or Rairangpur) including conversion of Rupsa-Talbandh to B. G.	85	(including 70 miles of conversion). B. G.
1891	2.37.00	6. Khurda Road-Bargarh	128	B. G.

*The projects for which the survey estimates have been sanctioned upto 31st January 1946 have been marked with an asterisk.

Year of previous survey	Approximate cost (in lakhs)	——	Approx. Mileages	The proposed gauge
		BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY—*contd.*	Miles	
1913	1.81.03	7. Vishnupur-Santragachi	68	B. G.
1929	§26.32	8. Contai Road-Contai-Tamluk-Kolaghat-Ghatal-Chandrakona	150	B. G.
1914-15	3.09.72	9. Extension of Lohardaga to meet Barwadih-Birmitrapur.	23	B. G.
		(c) *Conversion* —		
		1. Purulia to Lohardaga	*116	B. G.
		†Represents cost of 346 miles surveyed.		
		§Represents cost of 34 miles surveyed.		
		SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY		
		(a) *New Lines*—		
		1. Dindigul-Gudallur	*70	M. G.
		2. Kollengode-Cochin Port	*41	M. G.
1932	17.67	3. Tanjore-Pattukottai	*29	M. G.
		4. Arantangi-Karaikkudi	*20	M. G.
		M. & S. M. RAILWAY		
		(a) *New Lines*—		
		1. Alnavar-Haliyal-Yellapur-Karwar.	70	M. G.
1928	96.87	2. Ellore-Saveri Valley	70	B. G.
		G. I. P. RAILWAY		
		(a) *Dismantled lines to be restored*—		
		1. Cawnpore-Khairada	*81	B. G.
		(b) *New Lines*—		
1926-27	1.23.97	1. Diva-Dasgaon	93	B. G.
1926-27	79.00	2. Manmad-Nardhana	79	B. G.
1916	30.12	3. Belapur Road-Sheogaon	45	B. G.
1935-36	...	4. Baramati-Pandharpur	70	M. G.
		5. Kurla-Palasdhari	*35	B. G.
1931	62.52	6. Amraoti-Narkher	*79	B. G.
		B., B. & C. I. RAILWAY		
		(a) *Dismantled lines to be restored*—		
		1. Vasad-Kathana	*27	B. G.
		(b) *New Lines*—		
1918	17·42	1. Bulsar-Dharampur	*17	B. G.
		2. Khandwa Hingoli	*169	M. G.

* The projects for which the survey estimates have been sanctioned upto 31st January 1946 have been marked with an asterisk.

Year of previous survey	Approximate cost (in lakhs)	——	Approx. Mileages	The proposed gauge
		OUDH TIRHUT RAILWAY		
		(a) *New Lines*—	Miles	
1937	19·94	1. Kashipur-Kalagarh	*30	M. G.
1928	28·97	2. Chakia-Alwalia-Sidhwalia	27	M. G.
1906-7	† 50·30	3. Sitamarhi-Sonbarsa	*20	M. G.
		4. Murliganj-Madhepura	*13	M. G.
		†Represents cost of 68 miles Muzaffer-pur-Darbhanga-Sitamarhi.		
		JODHPUR RAILWAY		
		(a) *New Lines*—		
		1. Pithoro-Kahi Tando-Mithakhan-Sanghar-Jhol.	*62	M. G.
		NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY		
		(a) *Dismantled lines to be restored*—		
		1. Nagrota-Jogindernagar	35	N. G.
		(b) *New Lines*—		
1927-29	1·58·62	1. Havelian-Garhi Habibullah	*43	B. G.
1910 & 1927	‡ 43·61	2. Charsadda-Mardan	*17	B. G.
		3. Pezu-Dera Ismail Khan	40	B. G.
1929	48·90	4. Tando Mohd-Khan-Moghalbin (Jati Taluka).	*72	B. G.
1933	6·13·91	5. Badin-Gujrat (Bombay-Sind)	*268	B. G.
		6. Karachi-Kalat-Quetta	*410	B. G.
		7. Peshawar-Kohat	*40	B. G.
		8. Kohat to Bannu	*80	B. G.
		9. Rupar-Talaura	*37	B. G.
		10. Khushab-Nurpur-Darya Khan	70	B. G.
1929	§52·16	11. Kashmore-Dera Ghazi Khan	90	N. G.
		12. Jhang-Malout	100	B. G.
		13. Khewra-Chakwal	40	B. G.
		(c) *Conversion*—		
		1. Mari Indus-Bannu & Manzai-Laki Marwat from N. G. to B. G.	*158	B. G.
		2. Jacobabad-Kashmore from N. G. to B. G.	*77	B. G.
		3. Kohat-Thal	*64	B. G.
		‡Cost of the line up to Swabi Represents cost of 138 miles surveyed		

* The projects for which the survey estimates have been sanctioned upto 31st January 1946 have been marked with an asterisk.

ELECTRIFICATION SCHEME ON THE G. I. P. RAILWAY

832. *Sardar N. G. Vinchoorkar: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state if Government propose extending the electrification scheme beyond Igatpuri on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway North East Route? If so, when?

(b) What is the programme about the same?

(c) Are Government taking in hand the scheme of electrification on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway from Igatpuri to Manmad, Manmad to Dhond and Dhond to Poona?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (c). Proposals to extend electrification beyond Igatpuri to Bhusawal, from Poona to Dhond and Dhond to Manmad, are at present under preliminary investigation. As no decision has been taken, no date can be given.

(b) Does not arise.

TELEPHONE CONNECTION BETWEEN NASIK CITY AND NASIK ROAD RAILWAY STATION

833. *Sardar N. G. Vinchoorkar: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nasik Road Railway Station is more than five miles from the holy city of Nasik;

(b) whether passengers and pilgrims have to wait for hours as the Railway trains are often late and thus great hardship is caused to them; and

(c) whether it is possible for a telephone communication from the Nasik Road Station to the Nasik City Railway Booking Office being established for intimation to the general public about the arrival timings of trains at the Nasik Road Station, especially when the trains are very late; if so, when the same will be introduced; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) Inconvenience to the travelling public may be caused when passenger services are running late.

(c) The Telephone Exchange at Nasik is not at present in a position to give additional connections; but when it can do so, the question of providing telephonic communication with Nasik Road Station will be considered.

CLOSING OF RAILWAY GATE NEAR NASIK ROAD STATION

834. *Sardar N. G. Vinchoorkar: (a) Is the Honourable the Railway Member aware that traffic is held up and inconvenience caused at the Railway gate near the Nasik Road Station on the Nasik-Nagar Road due to Railway shunting and consequent closing of the Railway gate? If so, what do Government propose to do to remove the same?

(b) Are there any rules as to how long a Railway gate can be closed at a time in the interest of avoiding inconvenience to the general public? If so, are the same observed strictly?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Traffic is held up to the extent to which it occurs at all busy level crossings in station yards. The construction of a road overbridge is included in the Programme of Post-War Works to be carried out in 1947-48.

(b) The rules provide for a time limit of 10 minutes, if road traffic is waiting, in which case the shunting operations are suspended to allow the road traffic to pass. The rules are intended for strict observance. Any case reported regarding breach of rules is taken up.

WAITING ROOM IN NASIK ROAD STATION

835. *Sardar N. G. Vinchoorkar (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that one Waiting Room on the Nasik Road Station is used as office by the staff?

(b) Are Government aware that this causes inconvenience to the travelling public?

(c) Do Government propose to make the same available to the public again?

(d) Is it the policy of Government to close down such Waiting Rooms on smaller stations and convert them into office rooms?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) No complaints have been received by the Railway Administration.

(c) No.

(d) No.

SPECIAL TRAINS FOR HAJ PILGRIMS

836. *Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether the North Western Railway, Bombay Baroda and Central India and Great Indian Peninsula Railways would be prepared to provide special trains from Lahore and Delhi to Karachi and Bombay and *vice versa* for the Haj pilgrims during the ensuing Haj season?

(b) If the reply to (a) be in the affirmative, would the Railways concerned be prepared to run the trains according to the schedule of the departure and arrival of ships so as to minimise the stay of the pilgrims at ports?

(c) Would the Railways concerned be prepared to grant any concessions in the fares? If so, how much in each case?

(d) If the replies to (a) and (b) be in the negative, would the Railways be prepared to reserve special compartments from the stations mentioned above for the Haj pilgrims in mail and express trains during the Haj season, *i.e.*, August to November 1946?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a), (b) and (d). As it is not possible to forecast with any degree of accuracy the conditions that are likely to prevail at the time of the next Haj season, Government regret they cannot commit themselves in advance to any specific arrangements for the transport of Haj Pilgrims to and from the ports of embarkation and landing. The Railways concerned will, however, provide all the facilities they can within the limits of their resources of coaching stock and power, and in the light of the traffic situation at the time on the sections of line to be traversed. I am bringing this question and my reply to the notice of the Railway Administrations concerned by way of advance notice.

(c) A concession in fares is, I regret out of the question.

UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION SECRETARIAT

837. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Secretary for External Affairs please state:

(a) if he has official or unofficial information that the secretariat of the U.N.O. is being constituted in America or elsewhere;

(b) if he has any details about the proposed budget of the U.N.O. secretariat and its composition at the present moment;

(c) if he has instructed India's representative on the U.N.O. to take all steps in this initial stage to ensure that India gets adequate representation, proportionate to her contribution at least, if not more;

(d) if he proposes to take all steps to recruit purely Indian personnel for all posts which it may be possible for India to obtain in this secretariat and not recruit Britishers as part of India's quota; and

(e) if he proposes to lay on the table copies of the correspondence in this connection either from the U.N.O. or the Indian representative there?

Mr. H. Weightman: (a) Yes.

(b) A copy of the Provisional Budget of the United Nations for 1946 is placed on the table of the House. The Provisional Budget will be replaced by the First Annual Budget which is being prepared by the Secretary-General for presentation to the Second Part of the First Session of the General Assembly in September next.

The composition of the Secretariat has also to be determined by the Secretary-General. It is believed that eventually there will be 8 Assistant Secretaries-General who will be in charge of the principal units of the Secretariat.

Below Assistant Secretaries-General there will be Directors and Assistant Directors, etc. It is not possible at present to indicate the precise classification and the number of posts, since details, I understand, have not yet been worked out. It is estimated, however, that the total strength of the United Nations Organisation will eventually be about 2,400.

(c) and (d). The Indian Delegation was instructed to strive to obtain a fair proportion of the permanent appointments in the Organisation. It is learnt that the General Assembly has decided that recruitment to permanent appointments should be on a geographical basis, and should be conducted through an International Civil Service Commission, Standards of qualification for all categories and all levels are being drawn up and when they are ready the type of tests required for filling different posts will be given wide publicity. There may be written examinations as well as interviews. The aim is to attain a high standard of selection for all posts. For these reasons the representation of the nationals of any country on the staff of the U.N.O. will bear no relation to its financial contribution to the United Nations. Nor will there be any quotas. It is generally the intention of the U.N.O. to contact would-be candidates direct and not through governmental agencies. In this connection the Honourable Member's attention is drawn to the Press Note issued by External Affairs Department on 26th February, 1946. I can, however, add the assurance that any names put forward by the Government of India will be of Indians only.

(e) Government have so far received no communication on the subject from the U.N.O. The report of the Indian Delegation when available will be placed on the table of the House.

PROVISIONAL BUDGET OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR 1946

		U. S. dollars
SECTION I.—SESSIONS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES OF:		
General Assembly Security Council Economic and Social Council Trusteeship Council	..	1,500,000
SECTION II.—THE SECRETARIAT:		
(a) Personnel Services	5,875,000	
(b) Provident Fund contributions by the Organization	285,750	
(c) Allowances and hospitality expenses	221,000	
(d) Travel expenses on official business matters	529,000	
(e) Travel, transportation and per diem costs incidental to transfer of United Nations headquarters to interim site, and to initial movement and installation of staff	3,610,000	
(f) Rentals, contractual services and office supplies	3,470,000	
(g) Furniture, fixtures and equipment	2,520,000	
TOTAL FOR SECRETARIAT	16,510,750	16,510,750
SECTION III.—THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE	...	617,250
SECTION IV.—UNFORESEEN EXPENSES	...	2,000,000
SECTION V.—THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION and the FIRST PART OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY: estimated expenses up to and including 31st January 1946	...	872,000
GRAND TOTAL OF THE PROVISIONAL BUDGET	...	$21,500,000

Restoration for the Appropriation of Monies to Finance the Provisional Budget.

The General Assembly resolves that:

(1) An amount of $21,500,000 is hereby appropriated for the following purposes:

SECTION I.—For expenses of the General Assembly and the Councils	U. S.	1,500,000
SECTION II.—For expenses of the Secretariat	U. S.	16,510,000
SECTION III.—For expenses of the International Court of Justice	U. S.	617,250
SECTION IV.—For unforeseen expenses	U. S.	2,000,000
SECTION V.—For the expenses of the Preparatory Commission and the First part of the First Session of the General Assembly upto and including 31st January 1946	U. S.	$872,000

(2) The above amounts are to be available for the payment of obligatons incurred prior to 1 January 1947. The Secretary-General may transfer by written order credits among or within the above listed classifications.

PRODUCTION IN RAILWAY WORKSHOPS

838. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) the number and list of articles produced in the railway workshops during the war period (i) which could not be used for civilian consumption, and (ii) which could still be used for army and defence purposes;

(b) the number of workshops and the number of workmen employed in each category;

(c) how many of these workshops will have to be closed and men turned out;

(d) what objection there is from a commercial or administrative point of view, for continuing the workshops referred to in (a) above;

(e) if Government considered switching the workshops, that had been specially allocated or expanded to undertake war work, to the production of civilian goods or railway materials, if so, how and if not, why not; and

(f) what is the number of workshops so allocated or expanded for war work and how many men were employed in the same?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a), (b) and (f). Part of the capacity of all Government Railway workshops was utilised to a greater or lesser extent to meet the requirements of the War Department. At the peak period of April 1943, 20,695 men were engaged on munition work in Railway Workshops but by February 1946 this had been reduced to 2,750. A very large number of articles of great variety were produced from complete trains downwards. A few of the important items have been mentioned by the Chief Commissioner of Railways in his last Budget Speech but the compilation and publication of a comprehensive list of articles manufactured classified into articles which could still be used for Civilian and Military consumption respectively would not produce results commensurate with the work involved.

(c) No Railway Workshops have been closed.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes. In order to overtake accumulated arrears of maintenance requirements, the present capacity of Railway Workshops has been switched over for manufacture of Railway material.

RE-LAYING OF OLD DISMANTLED RAILWAY LINES

839. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) out of the 4,000 miles of track and 4 million sleepers utilised for overseas or for military requirements in India, how many miles of track and thousands of sleepers have come back from overseas or dismantled for railway purposes;

(b) the quantity of such returned articles used in relaying old lines and in laying new lines;

(c) out of the 4,000 miles of track, how many miles of the old track are going to be relayed and what mileage is going to be permanently abandoned;

(d) the number of the lines of which 4,000 miles were made up and a list of those which are proposed to be relaid;

(e) the policy regulating the question of relaying the old lines; and

(f) how many of the lines which are proposed to be abandoned, were working at a profit before 1939 and how many at a loss?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Out of the 4,000 miles of track utilised for military purposes, about 30 miles of track including sleepers have been released so far and used for railway maintenance and development works. War Department are investigating the possibility of releasing further quantities.

(b) Nil.

(c) Of the 4,000 miles of track, approximately 1,040 miles were supplied by dismantling branch lines. Of the dismantled branch lines, restoration of 81 miles has been sanctioned, about 426 miles are under investigation and the remainder are likely to be permanently abandoned.

(d) 31 branch lines aggregating about 1,040 miles of track were dismantled during the war. So far a definite decision has been taken only regarding the restoration of Cawnpore-Khairada Section of the G. I. P. Railway, and the restoration of the following 11 branch lines is under investigation:

E. I. Railway.—(1) Bijnor-Chandpur Siau, (2) Utraitia-Sultanpur-Zafarabad, (3) Unao-Madhoganj-Balamau;

B. A. Railway.—(4) Amanura-Chapai Nawabganj, (5) Moramhat-Khowang, (6) Habiganj-Shaistaganj;

B. N. Railway.—(7) Bobbili-Salur;

B., B. and C. I. Railway.—(8) Vasad-Kathana;

N. W. Railway.—(9) Nagrota-Jaginder Nagar, (10) Fort Abbas-Kut-al-Imara, (11) Mahmudkot-Ghazighat.

(e) The selection of lines for investigation with a view to restoration has been made after full discussion with the Provincial Government concerned. At these discussions due weight has been given *inter alia* to the road developments planned and whether the lines in question are likely to be remunerative.

(f) None of the lines proposed to be permanently abandoned were working at a profit before 1939.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIAN AGENT GENERAL IN MOSCOW

840. *Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: Will the Foreign Secretary be pleased to state if the Government of India propose to take up the question of appointing an Indian Agent General in Moscow with the Government of the Soviet Russia who is our ally and neighbour? If not, why not?

Mr. H. Weightman: The Honourable Member will realise that it is not possible in reply to a question to declare intentions in diplomatic matters relating to Foreign States.

RENEWAL OF CATERING CONTRACT OF HINDU REFRESHMENT ROOM AT DELHI

841. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the General Manager, North Western Railway, has extended the Catering Contract of the Hindu Refreshment Room at Delhi up to the 31st March 1946, which had terminated on the 11th February 1945, on the 31st March 1945 and on the 30th June 1945; if so, under what circumstances the extension was given and on what consideration;

(b) if it is a fact that the said contract was terminated on the 11th February 1945, after a full discussion at a meeting of the Local Advisory Committee, if not what the fact is;

(e) the reason for retaining the services of the said contractor in spite of the unsatisfactory report given about his work by the said Local Advisory Committee; and

(d) whether Government now propose not to renew all the contracts and licences of this contractor on all the State railways, if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes, except that the date when the contract was originally due to terminate was 14th February 1945, and not 11th February 1945. These extensions were given by the General Manager to enable him to consider the various representations received from time to time.

(b) No. The contract had been renewed for one year from the 15th February, 1944, and was accordingly due to terminate on the 14th February, 1945.

(c) As indicated in reply to para. (a), I understand the Administration after reviewing the matter decided that the services rendered by the contractor were not so unsatisfactory as to warrant termination of the contract.

(d) The decision is within the competence of individual administrations acting in consonance with the general principles recommended by the Central Advisory Council and accepted by Government.

DEFALCATION IN GRAIN TRANSACTIONS IN E. I. RAILWAY

842. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Special Police Establishment is investigating the case of defalcation of accounts to the extent of rupees two lakhs in grain transactions on the East Indian Railway in which the Purchasing and Distributing Contractors are involved; if not, what the fact is;

(b) whether it is the policy of Government to suspend the contracts of those persons who are involved in such cases to enable the investigating agency a free hand in the investigation; if so, the reasons why the said contractors are not suspended from the execution of their contracts on the State-managed Railways; and

(c) whether Government now propose to suspend the contracts of those contractors; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) It is a fact that the Special Police Establishment is investigating a case of a debit of over Rs. 2 lakhs raised against the purchasing and distributing contractors connected with the Grainshop organisation, but it is not a case of defalcation of accounts. This formal debit was raised because the contractors had failed to produce the customers' coupons for check. Ultimately the contractors produced the coupons and the examination thereof and subsequent investigation of the case reduced the claim to a very much smaller sum which was recovered and the case finally closed.

(b) It is the policy of Government to deal with each case on its merits. I may add that this particular contract was terminated in 1944. The second part of this portion of the question does not arise.

(c) The question does not arise.

DIRECTORATE OF OPEN CUT COAL MINING

843. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies inform the House about the following facts regarding Open Cut Coal Mining under the Directorate of Open Cut Coal Mining:

(i) the total expenditure incurred so far,

(ii) the amount of coal raised and the amount of each grade of coal in detail,

(iii) the cost per ton of coal of each grade so raised,

(iv) the sale price of each such grade of coal, and

(v) the amount of money spent in purchasing coal cutting machinery for working these Open Cut Coal Mining?

(b) Is it a fact that the said coal cutting machinery was purchased from the United States of America through McLeods and Company? Who negotiated the purchase?

(c) Are Government aware that such machinery is unsuitable for Indian conditions of Open Cut Coal Mining?

(d) Are Government aware that almost half the machinery so bought is in such a condition of disrepair that it is practically unusable and has to be treated as scrap? If so, what steps have Government taken in the matter?

(e) Is it a fact that the entire undertaking of Open Cut Coal Mining under the Directorate (D.O.C.C.M.) and under the Department of Industries and Supplies has been given over to Sir Lindsay Parkinson? If so, what are the terms and conditions of contract and which Department negotiated the same and why?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) (i) The information has been called for and will be laid on the table of the House.

(ii) 1,189,645 tons up to January 1946. Information as to the amount of each grade of coal raised is not available.

(iii) This is under investigation and information will be laid on the table of the House.

(iv) The sale prices of different grades of coal are given in the Industries and Supplies Department Notification No. 19, dated the 9th January, 1946. These prices apply to coal raised by DOCCM also.

(v) Figures are being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(b) No Sir; orders for this machinery were placed by the India Supply Mission Washington on behalf of the Government of India.

(c) No Sir; the machinery is in fact suitable for Indian conditions of open cut coal mining.

(d) No Sir; part of the machinery purchased was second hand; and was overhauled and retained by Messrs. Foley Brothers in America, before being shipped to India. Adequate stores were purchased along with the machinery and no item has been treated as scrap.

(e) Open cut mining operations have been entrusted to the firm of M/s. Lindsay Parkinson from the 1st December, 1945, for a period of four months on a temporary basis. The question of entering into a contract with the firm is under consideration.

Under the present arrangements Government have agreed to pay M/s. Lindsay Parkinson actual expenses incurred on technicians not available in India *plus* a sliding scale bonus based on the total tonnage of coal delivered into wagons.

The agreement was negotiated by the Industries and Supplies Department as the previous contract with M/s. Foley Brothers expired on the 30th November, 1945, and it was essential to continue operations to keep up coal production.

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE FOR BLOCK MAINTAINERS ON N. W. RAILWAY

844. *Seth Sukhdev: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Block Maintainers on the North Western Railway are frequently on tour?

(b) Are they entitled to any travelling allowance? If so, what is the scale thereof? If not, why not?

(c) Which other categories of staff who are frequently on tour are not entitled to travelling allowance?

(d) Will the Honourable Member please make enquiries whether a representation claiming travelling allowance has been received from the Block Maintainers on the North Western Railway?

(e) If the reply to (d) be in the affirmative, what are the main points of the representation, and what reply has been given to each of those points?

(f) If no reply has been sent, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes, within the beat of their Inspectors.

(b) They are allowed daily allowance under the ordinary rule contained in paragraph 224 of the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House, when they proceed beyond their sphere of duty. They are, however, not allowed and travelling allowance while touring within their sphere of duty, as when fixing their scale of pay consideration was paid to the amount of touring they would normally be called upon to perform.

(c) I lay on the table of the House a list giving the required information.

(d) Government are informed that a representation has been received.

(e) The main points raised in the representation are (i) grant of travelling allowance, and (ii) classification as continuous workers.

The staff have been informed, in regard to the first point, that the question of extending to them the concession, allowed to certain other staff, of a consolidated travelling allowance of 10 per cent. of pay is under consideration. In regard to the second point, they have been informed that their present classification is considered appropriate and calls for no modification.

(f) Does not arise.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

ENCLOSURE TO GENERAL MANAGER'S LETTER No. 776-E/466, DATED THE 5TH MARCH, 1946.

List of Staff other than Block Maintainers who are frequently on tour within their sphere of duty and are not granted any travelling allowance.

S. No.	Category.	S. No.	Category.
(1)	Khalasis.	(19)	Linemen Engineering.
(2)	Weighing Machine Mistries.	(20)	Driver of Road Roller.
(3)	Box Painter, Weighing Machine.	(21)	Foremen of Road Roller.
(4)	Box Porters.	(22)	Work Mistries.
(5)	Temporary Travelling Watermen.	(23)	Mate Works.
(6)	Time Keepers.	(24)	Pipe Fitters.
(7)	Ballast Inspectors.	(25)	Pump Fitters.
(8)	Store Munshies.	(26)	Hammermen Engineering.
(9)	Trollymen.	(27)	Bellowmen Engineering.
(10)	Senior Mistries (Interlocking).	(28)	Motor Trolly Mechanics Engineering
(11)	Junior Mistries (Interlocking).	(29)	Engineering Coolies.
(12)	Blacksmiths Engineering.	(30)	Tinkers (Carriage and Wagon).
(13)	Masons Engineering.	(31)	Mali Engineering.
(14)	P. Way Mistries Engineering.	(32)	Tinsmith Engineering.
(15)	Cleaners Engineering.	(33)	Challandars.
(16)	Painters Engineering.	(34)	Challandar Coolies.
(17)	Carpenters' Engineering.	(35)	Ahalmad.
(18)	Batterymen Engineering.		

LOSSES TO INDIAN MERCHANTS DUE TO ITALIAN INVASION OF AFRICA

845. *Mr. P. B. Gole: (a) Will the Foreign Secretary, be pleased to state whether the losses suffered by the Indian merchants in African countries such as Eritria, Abyssinia, Somaliland etc., due to the Italian invasion of their countries will be recovered from Italy?

(b) Has any representation been made by the Government of India to His Majesty's Government regarding the losses suffered by the Indian merchants due to the Italian invasion in Africa?

(c) Will the question of recoupment of losses of Indian merchants be raised at the time of final treaty with Italy?

Mr. H. Weightman: (a) and (c). The question of claims against Italy forms part of an examination now being given in London by the conference of Deputies of Foreign Ministers to the terms of the draft Treaty of peace with Italy, but it is not possible to forecast what provision in respect of such claims will appear in the final Instrument. In so far as losses of Indians in Abyssinia

are concerned the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the press communiques of the 4th August 1944, and 10th June 1945, regarding the Emperor of Abyssinia's Proclamation requiring claims to be filed with the Abyssinian authorities.

(b) A representation has been made to His Majesty's Government regarding losses suffered by Indians in Abyssinia. As regards other African territories the Government of India have no information that losses were suffered by Indian traders but are confident that if there were any, Indians concerned will receive the same treatment as other British subjects.

UNIFORMS OF INFERIOR STAFF OF THE INDUSTRIES AND SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT

846. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state why he ordered the uniform, etc., to be taken back from the inferior staff of his Department when they were discharged from service?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: It is the normal rule that temporary inferior servants must on discharge, return all articles of livery the life of which has not expired. Government have now relaxed this rule to allow temporary inferior staff employed during the War to retain such articles of livery as have less than one year to complete their normal life.

RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION

847. *Hajee Chowdhury Mohammad Ismail Khan: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state if his attention has been drawn to the incapability of British Cartridge Factories to meet Indian civil requirements?

(b) Is it a fact that from the 1st January, 1946, British Cartridge Industry has decided upon an increase in their export prices?

(c) Are Government aware that the prices of the American firms are much cheaper and that cartridges are offered with prompt deliveries?

(d) Do Government propose to remove all restrictions on imports from all foreign countries for all kinds of arms and ammunition to meet civilian demands throughout India and to fix reduced prices according to the low cost of the American stuff? If not, why not?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) No Sir. This is no longer the case

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply given to part (a) of starred question 347, by Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, on the 19th February, 1946.

(c) Government have no information to this effect.

(d) The question how far import trade control restrictions may be withdrawn on imports of arms and ammunition from the United Kingdom and other British Empire countries in the sterling area is under consideration. Owing to the need of conserving non-sterling resources, it is not possible at present to remove restrictions on imports of arms and ammunition from the U. S. A. and other difficult currency countries.

Reduction in the current prices will be considered when there is a fall in landed costs.

AERATED WATER CONTRACTOR ON E SECTION OF N. W. RAILWAY

848. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that in reply to starred question No. 348 on the 19th February 1946, he said that the present Contractor Mr. Kashi Ram Khosla was a member of the North Western Railway Local Advisory Committee, Lahore, at the time when contract for the supply of aerated water on the E Section of the North Western Railway was given to him?

(b) Is it a fact that never in the history of Indian Railways a member of a Local Advisory Committee was given any contract anywhere during the State management of Railways?

(c) If the replies to parts (a) and (b) are in the affirmative, what were the reasons and circumstances for making an exception in this case?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) The number of contracts given by all Indian Railways, managed by the State and since instructions were issued for the information of Local Advisory Committee in 1922 is so large and varied, I regret that I am unable to ask Railways to undertake the meticulous check of records necessary before the question could be answered. Further, many of the old records will by now have been destroyed.

(c) Does not arise.

IMPURE SUPPLY OF AERATED WATER ON N. W. RAILWAY

849. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Did Honourable the Railway Member state in reply to question No. 349 on the 19th February 1946 that penalties were imposed on the present contractor of aerated water on the E Section of the North Western Railway as a result of inspection?

(b) Will the Honourable Member please lay on the table of the House the inspection report, the report of various biological tests and all the medical reports received by the North Western Railway Administration in connection with the supply of aerated water manufactured by the present contractors abovementioned in the year 1945?

(c) How many times "cholera germs" and other dangerous bacteria were found according to biological test and medical report held on the contents of the bottles of aerated water supplied by the contractors abovementioned during April 1945 to November 1945?

(d) How many times were the aerated water bottle contents as supplied by the abovementioned contractors biologically examined and medically tested during the year 1945, and what were the dates and what are the reports stating separately each report?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b), (c) and (d). Inspections of contractors' aerated water factories are made by the Medical and Commercial Officers of the N. W. Railway concerned. The contractors stalls at station platforms and the arrangements for the sale on trains are subject to surprise inspections by railway officials such as Inspectors, Medical Officers and Commercial and Transportation Officers during their tours. Instructions to Station Masters include a daily inspection of the arrangements at their stations. The Honourable Member when referring to the "Inspection Report" apparently has in mind special medical reports.

One medical test by microscopical examination was made by the Bacteriologist, Headquarters Laboratory, Lahore, during the year 1945. The report furnished was as follows:

"The water contains deposits of vegetable and mineral dirt, particles of cork and moving bacteria as examined under the microscope, which clearly shows that the source of water from which aerated water supply is manufactured is not safe for human consumption."

The report makes no mention of the existence of cholera germs.

PENALTY IMPOSED ON AERATED WATER CONTRACTOR ON N. W. RAILWAY

850. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that no other contractor for aerated water supply on the E Section of the North Western Railway was ever fined at all during the last ten years and that the present contractor on this area of the North Western Railway has been fined several times with maximum penalty prescribed under rule and agreement during April 1945 to October 1945?

(b) If the reply to (a) be in the affirmative, what steps does the Honourable Member propose to take in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The answer to the first portion is in the negative. As regards the second portion I understand the present contractor was once fined the maximum penalty.

(b) I understand the G. M., N. W. Railway is issuing instructions for the intensification of inspection and the most stringent supervision to be exercised over the work of all Ice and Aerated Water contractors.

ACTION ON COMPLAINTS AGAINST AERATED WATER CONTRACTOR ON N. W. RAILWAY

851. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to lay on the table the original complaints, date by date and name by name, received by the North Western Railway Administration against the present contractors of aerated water, Messrs. Kanshi Ram Khosla and Madan Mohan Lall during their working between March 1945, and October 1945? What action has been taken by the Administration on each of the complaints received?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: A Summary of the complaints referred to, and the action taken on them is laid on the table. The time and labour involved in the production of the original complaints will be incommensurate with the value of the results.

Statement

Total number of complaints received—76.

(a) Faulty supply—15.
8 under reference with the contractor.
3 contractors fined Rs. 10, Rs. 20, Rs. 100 respectively.
1 contractor warned.
3 complaints not substantiated.

(b) Miscellaneous complaints, such as Excess charges levied, balance of change not refunded, icemen refused to supply ice or aerated water, rate lists not shown or rates labelled removed.—55
17 are under reference with the contractor.
16 not substantiated.
9 contractor asked to direct icemen not to charge in excess of fixed rates.
8 contractors asked to have adequate supply of ice and aerated water.
3 contractors asked to refund balance of change not refunded.
1 iceman discharged.
1 contractor warned.

(c) Icemen found carrying passengers without ticket or pass or not wearing uniform, etc.—5.
1 iceman was discharged and fare recovered.
3 Fares were recovered and contractor warned.
1 under reference with the contractor.

(d) Theft on the part of Iceman (stealing a basket)—
1 Contractor asked to discharge the Iceman.

TRANSFER OF POST OFFICE FROM SILIDAG TO MARAWANIAN

852. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that there has been a Post Office at Silidag in Nagar Mutari thanna of the Palamn District for the past forty years, and if this Post Office has been transferred to Marawanian in recent years or months, if so, why;

(b) if it is a fact that Silidag has a population of about 4,000 people and is a business centre, whereas Marawanian is a small village of thirty houses;

(c) whether the people of Silidag and its neighbourhood have protested against this transfer to the Postal Superintendent and the Post Master General, Patna; if so, with what result; and

(d) whether he proposes to bring the said Post Office back to the original place and thereby remove the discontent among the people there?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) to (d). Government have no information. The matter is within the competence of the Postmaster-General, Bihar and Orissa Circle, to whom a copy of the question is being sent for taking necessary action in the matter.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS OFFICES IN CHHOTA NAGPUR DIVISION

853. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state:

(a) the number of new Post and Telegraph Offices in Bihar, particularly in the Chhota Nagpur Division;

(b) the future programme of rural postal development in Chhota Nagpur;

(c) the number of applications for the new Post Offices from the people of the Hazaribagh District; and

(d) who is the final authority to sanction the establishment of the new Post Offices in rural areas?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) and (b). Apparently the Honourable Member is referring to the postwar plan of the P. and T. Department. If so, the number of post and telegraph offices to be opened in each province has not yet been fixed. The postwar plan aims generally for the opening of post offices in or in the vicinity of all villages with a population of 2,000 and over and combined post and telegraph offices in all towns with a population of 5,000 and over, where such facilities do not exist at present. Places which do not come up to the above population standards will be considered if they are otherwise important enough to justify these facilities on the basis of the potential volume of traffic.

(c) I regret the information is not available.

(d) The Postmaster-General is the final authority to sanction the opening of new post offices in rural areas.

"DUMPING OF EXPERTS"

854. *Srijut Dhirendra Kanta Lahiri Choudhury: (a) Has the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies read a letter titled "Dumping of Experts" published in the *Hindustan Times*, Delhi, dated the 14th February 1946?

(b) Is it a fact that three European rubber experts are being brought by the India Government from the U. K.?

(c) If the answer to (b) above is in the affirmative, will Government please state their qualifications and experience and the terms on which they are being imported from the U. K. by the Government of India?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Government is trying to obtain three experts, namely, two chemists for moulding and plastics respectively, and one general technologist who would be a chemist as well as an engineer. It is intended to utilize them for training rubber chemists in India. The rubber manufacturing industry is sorely in need of well trained technicians in order to improve the quality of its products. Without such improvement, it may not be able to maintanin the position achieved during the war.

INDIAN RUBBER TECHNOLOGIST

855. *Srijut Dhirendra Kanta Lahiri Choudhury: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state if it is a fact that two Indian Rubber Technologists were sent to the U. K. in March 1945 by the Government of India to study the developments in the Crude and Synthetic Rubber Industry there?

(b) If the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, will Government please state whether Government propose to utilise their services? If not, why not?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) Yes, Sir. Two Indian officers who, however, cannot be strictly described as technologists, were sent to the U. K. to study the uses of synthetic rubber.

(b) One of the officers is still in service. These two officers were sent to study the use of synthetic rubber at a time when it was essential to use synthetic in order to save natural rubber. That need no longer exists.

PRODUCTION OF CRUDE RUBBER IN MUTTRA

856. *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state how much money has been spent in the Matrikund (Muttra) Cryptostigea Grandiflora (wild rubber) plantation scheme and how much crude rubber was produced?

(b) Is it a fact that five thousand acres of best cereal growing land was acquired for the purpose, causing thereby a net loss of about one lakh maunds of foodgrains to the country every year?

(c) Is it a fact that D.I.R. was exercised to force labourers to work in the Government Rubber Estate at Matrikund?

The Honourable Mr. A. A Waugh: (a) Approximately 16 lakhs. The amount of crude rubber that would have been produced was so small and our fortunes in the War had so improved, that it was decided to stop this expensive wartime measure, and the estate was wound up in April 1945.

(b) It is correct that five thousand acres of land were taken up for the estate, but it cannot be estimated what amount of cereals might have been grown especially as the district of Muttra suffers from a low and uncertain rainfall.

(c) No, Sir.

EXPENDITURE ON OKHLA RUBBER PLANTATION SCHEME

857 *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state if it is a fact that before the (Muttra) Matrikund wild Rubber plantation scheme a trial scheme was worked out at Okhla near Delhi?

(b) If the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, will Government please state:

(i) how much money was spent in the Okhla Rubber Plantation Scheme;

(ii) who were the experts working there and what their qualification and experience were in the wild rubber plantation;

(iii) how much crude rubber was actually collected at Okhla; and

(iv) the findings of the experts working in the Okhla Rubber Plantation Scheme?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh (a) No Sir, only the most suitable methods of tapping, coagulation, etc., of latex from Cryptostegia plants were studied at Okhla.

(b) The answer to (a) is not in the affirmative; but, for the information of the Honourable Member, the information under this part of the question is as follows:

(i) About Rs. 67,000.

(ii) Messrs. Walden, Hosken and Pillai. The first two were formerly rubber planters in Malaya and had wide knowledge and experience of rubber plantations. Mr. Pillai was a research chemist in the Dunlop Plantations, Malaya.

(iii) About 150 lbs.

(iv) The results of the experiments at Okhla showed that a satisfactory quality of rubber could be obtained from the Cryptostegia plant.

WILD RUBBER PLANTATION SCHEMES

858. *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state whether it is a fact that long before the Government of India took up the Wild Rubber Plantation Scheme, the U. S. A. Government carried exhaustive experiments in the Cryptostigea Grandiflora plantation and dropped the scheme as a commercial impossibility?

(b) If the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, why did the Government of India take up such an expensive unyielding scheme?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) No, Sir. In the desparate shortage of crude rubber in the War, the U. S. Government are believed to have embarked on very large plants for production from Cryptostegia Grandiflora.

(b) At the time when the Government of India embarked on the scheme the best information available, including the experience of the United States, indicated that the extraction of rubber from Cryptostegia Grandiflora was definitely a practical proposition in the War. The failure of the scheme was due entirely to an unforeseeable development. The plants came up quite well, but, due to reasons which have not yet been fully established, failed to develop the 'whips', from which the much desired latex is extracted.

(c) No Sir; the machinery is in fact suitable for India.

IMPORT OF RADIO SETS

859. *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state whether during the course of the war the Government of India made a secret deal with a British firm for the import of Radio Sets?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, what is the number of sets so ordered?

(c) Did any such set or sets arrive in India? If so, what is their number?

(d) How did Government use the sets during the war?

(e) Now that the war is over, have Government cancelled the contract wholly or in part?

(f) If the answer to (e) is in the negative, how do Government intend to use or dispose of the sets as and when they arrive and which have already arrived?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) Towards the end of May 1945, Government placed an order on a British firm for the supply of Radio Sets to meet acute shortage of Sets in the country. The order was placed because it was apprehended that the shortage would be accentuated during 1946 on account of production difficulties in the U. K. and U. S. A. It was by no means a secret deal.

(b) 25,000 Sets.

(c) None, but a few thousands are understood to be under despatch.

(d) Does not arise in view of answer to part (c).

(e) No, Sir. But under the contract sets not despatched from the factory by the 31st July, 1946, may be cancelled at the option of the Government of India.

(f) The sets are being imported to meet the requirements of the general public and they will be distributed by the All-India Radio Merchants Association, Bombay, through the normal trade channels.

BAN ON EXPORT OF RAW HIDES

860. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) What is the object of the Honourable the Commerce Member in prohibiting, after the cessation of hostilities, the export of raw hides and in permitting the export of tanned hides only to the United Kingdom through His Majesty's Government?

(b) Have Government received complaints from merchants and others against the continuance of this control?

(c) Is this control now continuing in the interests of India or in the interests of the United Kingdom?

(d) Will Government state the total (estimated) amount of hides available, the quantity used in India and the quantity that has been permitted to be exported?

(e) What is the volume of licences for the export of raw hides given since the 1st of January 1945?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The presumption made by the Honourable Member is not quite correct. Export of certain varieties of raw hides is allowed to all permissible destinations having regard to the supply position in India and subject to the general consideration that export of finished products should be encouraged as against raw materials. East India Kips and East India tanned buffalo calves below 6 lbs. per skin are, however, allowed mostly to U. K. as that country has always been our principal buyer of these varieties of leather, apart from a small percentage of exports which went to enemy countries before the war.

(b) Yes. There is however a conflict of interests among the different sections of trade and industry and the suggestions put forward by them to remedy the situation could not therefore be given effect to.

(c) In the interest of India.

(d) As the Honourable Member has not stated the year it is difficult to supply the information. Figures regarding production and internal consumption for the war period are not readily available. Honourable Member's attention is however invited to the report by the Agricultural Marketing Adviser in India on the marketing of hides in India and Burma and also to the Seaborne Trade Accounts which are published since November 1945.

(e) Licences to the extent of 863 tons of raw hides including raw calf skins have been issued since 1st January, 1945, up to 2nd March, 1946.

EXPORT AND IMPORT LICENCES FOR TRADE WITH EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

861. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state on what basis (i) import licences are given, and (ii) export licences given with regard to trading with the countries of the Continent of Europe?

(b) What are the reasons for adhering to the formula about individual firm's quota for a particular port, and in how many cases have Government departed from a strict adherence to this formula?

(c) What happens to the quota for which no claims are put in?

(d) Have not Government, in the matter of export quota, permitted the calculation for countries, with whom trade is now possible, of the export which used to take place before the war to certain enemy countries?

(e) Do Government propose to revise the whole policy and make a clear statement?

(f) Have Government heard of complaints of corruption and favouritism with regard to the issue of import and export licences? If so, what steps have they taken to eliminate this evil?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) (i) Applications for grant of import licences are considered on their merits, having regard to the essentiality of the goods applied for and their availability in the sterling area countries. Preference is given to such traders as were regularly carrying on import trade in the particular goods with the European countries concerned, in order that established trade contacts may be maintained; applications by other firms are also considered, according to the circumstances of each case, on the production of evidence of definite offers of supply from the exporting countries.

(ii) During the War, licences for export to the four neutral countries of Europe, Spain, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland were sanctioned in accordance with a special procedure based on Economic Warfare considerations. The procedure to be followed in future in respect of trade with Continental Europe is under the consideration of the Government of India.

(b), (c) and (d). Licenses for import of goods from countries in the Continent of Europe are not granted on a quota basis.

As regards exports, the Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply under a(ii).

(e) Licensing policy is reviewed from time to time. No revision of the existing policy is at present called for.

(f) Vague allegations of the nature mentioned have sometimes been made in regard to the grant of import licenses, but the allegations have not been substantiated. No case of corruption or favouritism in the issue of export licenses has come to the notice of the Government of India, which is however, fully alive to its responsibility in the matter and is taking all possible precautions.

MUSLIM STUDENTS SELECTED FOR FOREIGN SCHOLARSHIPS

862. *Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: (a) Will the Education Secretary be pleased to state the number of students selected for foreign scholarships by the Government of India? How many of these were Muslims?

(b) Why was the quota of 25 per cent not given to the Muslims?

(c) What is the total number of members of the Selection Committee for foreign scholarships and how many of them are Muslims?

Dr. John Sargent: (a) 356 scholars were selected by the Government of India for Overseas Scholarships in 1945 and out of these 90 are Muslims.

(b) Does not arise, as Muslims obtained more than 25 per cent of the total number of Scholarships.

(c) The Selection Board consisted of six members and a Secretary. One member and the Secretary were Muslims. I should add however that the members of the Board were not appointed with communal considerations in view.

MR. RAHIM'S REPORT *re* NEW *musafirkhana* FOR HAJ PILGRIMS

863. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations please state whether the Government of India have accepted recommendation No. 46 of Mr. Rahim's Report regarding the new *musafirkhana* for Haj pilgrims at Calcutta? If not, why not? Do Government propose to expedite the matter now?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: The question is being considered in consultation with the Government of Bengal and every endeavour is being made to expedite decision.

CHARGING OF FULL FARE FROM CHILDREN OF HAJ PILGRIMS

864. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations please state the reasons for making it compulsory that sixteen square feet space on steamer should be allotted to pilgrims irrespective of age whereby the shipping company can charge full passage fare even for a child who is a few months old?

(b) Are Government aware that if the shipping company were to charge full fare for children irrespective of age on account of it being compulsory under the International Sanitary Convention to give full space of 16 feet to pilgrims irrespective of age, it will serve as great discouragement to pilgrims to undertake pilgrimage having to pay full fare for their every child?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: (a) and (b). The provision of 16 square feet of space for one pilgrim irrespective of age is based on article 100 of the International Sanitary Convention, 1926.

Shipping Companies do not charge any fare for children below one year of age and charge half fare for those between one and ten years of age. The fares charged for children are thus reasonable and the question of pilgrimage being discouraged does not, therefore, arise.

AMENDMENTS TO ANGLO-DUTCH AGREEMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SANITARY CONVENTION

865. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations please state if Government propose to amend the Anglo-Dutch Agreement and the International Sanitary Convention at an early date, so that space for one adult be allotted to two children between the age of three and twelve years and no space be allotted for children under the age of three years?

(b) Did the Government of India take the opinion of any Haj Committee or bodies interested in pilgrim matters before signing the Anglo-Dutch Agreement and the International Sanitary Convention? If so, whose opinions were taken, and what those opinions are? If not, why not?

(c) Do Government propose to get the Anglo-Dutch Agreement and International Sanitary Convention amended, so as not to make it compulsory for pilgrim ships to call at Kamaran when all the pilgrims are fully immunised against cholera and small pox? In case of epidemic, do Government propose to put the pilgrims in the Quarantine at Jeddah and to abolish the Kamaran Quarantine Station altogether?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: (a) The suggestion will be considered.

(b) Information is being collected and will be furnished on receipt.

(c) This matter is already under the consideration of the Government of India.

GROWING OF VEGETABLES AND FRUITS ON WASTE LANDS IN AND AROUND NEW DELHI

866. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Agriculture Secretary please state:

(a) if he has considered the desirability of bringing under cultivation all waste land in and around New Delhi, which is in Governmental possession and which can be cultivated under vegetable or fruit cultivation at once, in view of the anticipated scarcity of food stuffs and whether any tubers and green gram and the like can be grown as quick crops in order to add to the food rations in nearby areas;

(b) if he proposes to lay on the table a statement of the action he has taken so far or proposes to take in the matter;

(c) if the answer to (a) above is in the negative, the reasons therefor; and

(d) if he proposes to consider the advisability of putting under cultivation all the area in front of the Secretariat buildings known as the Great Place right up to the India Gate?

Sir Pheroz Kharegat: (a), (b) and (d). The Honourable Member is referred the reply given to Question No. 760, asked by Shri Satya Narayan Sinha, on the 6th March, 1946. A statement repeating the information is laid on the table.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement.

Steps have been taken to bring under vegetable cultivation 60 acres, *i.e.*, about half of the Central Vista; and part of it has already been dug up for the purpose and the rest will be ploughed up shortly. Tenants of Government bungalows have also been asked to grow vegetables in their compounds. Arrangements have also been made for officers of the Department to go round to the houses and advise the householders as to where vegetables, *etc.*, should be planted, of what types and when, and for the supply of seeds, manures, *etc.*, the limiting factor in most cases are water and lack of staff trained in the growing of vegetables.

HOUSING CONDITIONS OF LABOURERS EMPLOYED BY CENTRAL P.W.D. AND BUILDING CONTRACTORS IN NEW DELHI

867. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) the number of labourers employed directly under the Central Public Works Department and by building contractors in New Delhi for the construction of buildings in New Delhi and near about;

(b) if it is a fact that these labourers are housed in miserable ill-ventilated hovels, exposed to the vagaries of the weather all the time in sun, and rain and cold; and

(c) if the answer to (b) above is in the affirmative, what steps he proposes to take in order to provide them with cheap and sanitary housing arrangements; if none, why?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) About 12,000 labourers are employed directly under the C.P.W.D. whereas the number of labourers employed by the building contractors varies with the magnitude of the building programme.

(b) Some of the C.P.W.D. labourers have been allotted Government quarters and others have made their own arrangements for residential accommodation.

As regards the labourers employed by the contractors, about 9,000 live in their houses in the urban area of Delhi. The remaining labourers who come from outside either come to the work daily from their villages or are accommodated by the contractors at the site of the works in thatched huts which give them a certain amount of protection against sun, rain and cold.

(c) The Government have already considered the question of providing permanent accommodation to the labourers employed by the contractors and are considering the development of model bustees in the villages near Delhi, from which labour comes. Government's scheme for subsidised housing for the poorer sections of the people should also assist in the provision of better housing for contractors' labourers.

The question of providing housing facilities to C.P.W.D. labourers who have not been provided with Government accommodation is under Government's active consideration.

NEED FOR PUKKA PAVEMENTS ON BOTH SIDES OF PUNCHKUIN ROAD

868. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Health Secretary please state:

(a) if he is aware that, while the roads to the south of the Imperial Secretariat buildings on which are situated the houses of senior high officials, have got asphalted broad pavements, the roads on both sides of Panch Kuin Road, where the inferior servants of Government are housed, have no pukka pavement at all and are dusty and muddy all the year round; and

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, does he propose to issue early orders to see that this part of New Delhi is kept as clean and neat as any other part?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: (a) Some roads to the north of the Secretariat and some roads to the south have been provided with bitumen pavements. The provision of a bitumen surface on the footpaths on Panchkuin Road was sanctioned by the New Delhi Municipal Committee in 1939-40; but the work had to be postponed owing to shortage of materials. The work will be executed in 1946-47.

(b) The New Delhi Municipal Committee intends to keep this part of New Delhi as clean and neat as other parts.

REMOVAL OF SHEDS FROM COAL DEPOTS AT GOLE MARKET, NEW DELHI

869. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: With reference to his previous reply to the short notice question asked by me, on the 11th February, 1946, regarding ejection of the labourers employed in the fuel depots at Gole Market, New Delhi, will the Health Secretary please state:

(a) whether he can now say when the proposed permanent sheds for coolies will be built in the fuel depots at the Gole Market, New Delhi;

(b) whether he is aware that the coolies are experiencing great difficulty in finding accommodation for themselves;

(c) whether the galvanised iron sheets which were put over the charcoal and fuel dumps as a protection against rain have been removed by the health authorities, with the result that the charcoal becomes wet with slightest rain, thus causing loss to the Government officials who have to purchase wet charcoal there;

(d) whether he is aware that the small tin sheds in the depots used as a shelter for customers against sun and rain have also been ordered to be

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST INDIANS IN MALAYA

874. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that the British authorities before leaving Malaya owing to the Japanese advance, distributed leaflets from aeroplanes assuring the Indians and Malayans that on their return after victory, no vengeance or reprisals would be taken against any of them who might be forced into allegiance to the conqueror—Japan; if so, why the Malayan authorities have now taken legal proceedings against the Indians; and

(b) whether the Government of India have drawn the attention of the Malayan Government to the incongruity and inconsistency in the treatment meted out to the Indians; and if they have not so far done so, whether they propose to do so now?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: (a) No confirmation of this statement is available.

(b) Does not arise.

GENERAL ELECTIONS TO THE COUNCIL OF STATE

875. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state:

(a) When the general elections to the Council of State will be held and when the fresh electoral rolls will be prepared; and

(b) Whether it is contemplated to give direct representations to the Centrally Administered Areas in the Upper House?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the Press Note issued on the 21st August, 1945, in which it was stated that the life of the existing Council would be further extended to the 1st May, 1946, with a view to the holding of a general election as soon as may be after that date. This extension was duly effected, but with a view to avoid an election in the hot weather His Excellency the Governor General has now decided to grant such further short extension as will maintain the existing Council of State in existence for any Monsoon or Autumn Session which may be held this year and enable the general election to be completed before the commencement of the Budget Session of 1947. Electoral Rolls are now under preparation for all constituencies except the two Madras constituencies, the East Bengal (Non-Muhammadan) constituency and the Bombay Chamber of Commerce constituency, for which fresh rolls were recently prepared in connection with bye-elections.

(b) If the Honourable Member refers to representation by election, the answer is in the negative. But it is of course possible that one or more nominations will be made from the Centrally Administered Areas.

QUANTITY OF RATION IN CERTAIN DISTRICTS OF MADRAS PRESIDENCY

876. *Sri A. Karunakara Menon: Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the quantities of rations (in ozs.) that were being granted per adult in the District of Malabar, and other districts of the Madras Presidency where the ration system prevailed till the 15th February, 1946;

(b) whether there is a difference in the quantities, if so, why;

(c) under the recently revised scheme, whether there is any difference in the quantities of ration per adult in the two sets of areas mentioned above; if so, why;

(d) whether it is a fact that restrictions were placed on the quantity of rice that could be purchased out of the prescribed rations, in Malabar and that such restrictions did not exist in the other areas of the Presidency; and

(e) whether Government propose to remove all restrictions and distinctions and place all areas in the matter of rations on an equal basis?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) The scale of ration in force in Malabar till the 15th February, 1946 was 15·8 ozs. per adult per day.

In other rationed areas of Madras Presidency the size of ration ranged from 16 ozs. to 17·6 ozs. 1·1 lb.).

(b) The small variation was due to the difference in the standard measure adopted in different areas for measuring rationed foodgrains.

(c) The present size in Malabar is 12·375 ozs. and in the rest of the Province it is 12 oz. The difference is on account of local measures.

(d) In Malabar rice could be drawn upto 4/5 ths of the total ration, but in the rest of the Province the limit was 5/6 ths.

(e) Adjustments have to be made from time to time with reference to the Supply position.

CERTAIN RECOMMENDATIONS TO INCREASE FOODGRAINS PRODUCTION

877. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Agriculture Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if the Famine Committee Report and the Foodgrains Policy Committee Report have recommended that, in order to increase the production of foodgrains, the system of land tenure should be revised; and

(b) what steps, if any, have since been taken to implement these recommendations; if none, why?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) The Famine Enquiry Commission recommended that an examination of the land tenure system should be undertaken by the Provinces on a comprehensive basis. The Policy Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (not the Foodgrains Policy Committee) at its meeting held in June, 1944, recommended that the Provincial Governments should examine the land tenure systems prevailing in their provinces, determine what alterations were needed therein to ensure that the utilization of land resources to the maximum degree of efficiency is not hampered by the land tenure system and take steps to make the necessary modifications.

(b) The recommendations have been commended to Provincial Governments. The Government of India have also announced in their statement on Agriculture and Food policy that consultations are being undertaken with the Provincial Governments to ascertain the extent to which the existing systems of land tenure, including the rights and obligations of holders and tillers of land, impede the full productive use of land and the measures to be taken in this connection. Letters have been addressed accordingly to all provinces.

PLANS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF DELHI

878. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Health Secretary please state:

(a) if it is a fact that it is proposed to spend Rs. 7 crores on the improvement of Delhi in the near future;

(b) whether a substantial portion of this figure is proposed to be spent on the purchase of water meters and other such appliances from abroad and on staff; if so, the proposed figures for the above;

(c) whether efforts will be made to spend as little as possible on staff and other foreign imports and as much as possible on real amenities for the people; and

(d) whether he proposes to associate a committee of the Assembly before finally deciding on such schemes?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: (a) Plans for the improvement of the Delhi Province are being prepared on the assumption that the total amount available during the next six years for all development schemes (other than self financing schemes) of the Province will be about Rs. 5 crores.

removed, after being there for fifteen years or more, causing unnecessary hardship to the customers, who are mostly Government officials and others by their having to stand in the sun and rain; if so, under whose orders was this done; and

(e) whether he proposes to order the Municipality to make urgent arrangements forthwith for—

(i) the protection of charcoal and fuel against rain by roofing them with tin sheets or otherwise,

(ii) the provision of a covered platform for the use of customers who have to go there, and

(iii) the provision of a slightly raised platform for storing charcoal in order to reduce the admixture of dust and charcoal powder in these days when it sells at nearly three times its pre-war price; if not, why not?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: (a) It is not possible to give a date at present.

(b) No.

(c) No galvanised iron sheet structures were ever erected over the fuel stocks for protection from rain.

(d) There were no shelters put up for customers.

(e) The New Delhi Municipal Committee already has under consideration the whole question of the arrangements to be made in respect of municipal fuel depots, such as their location, provision of covering for fuel stored, and provision of accommodation for the labour employed therein, *etc.* The Municipal Committee has formed a special Sub-Committee to report on the matter by the 12th March, 1946.

BURMAN EVACUEES IN INDIA

870. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations please state:

(a) the number of Burman evacuees in India;

(b) the steps, if any, that are being taken to send them back to Burma;

(c) if the Government of India is incurring any expense on them by way of giving them allowances;

(d) if there are any representatives of the Burman Government in India to look after them; and

(e) if any office is maintained at Chunar in the Mirzapur district of the United Provinces on behalf of Burmans in India; if so, what exact duties does the officer-in-charge perform?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: (a) On a census held in November-December 1943 the number of Burman evacuees in India was estimated to be 9,368. Many of them have, however, returned to Burma since.

(b) The Government of Burma are taking necessary steps to register all Burman evacuees with a view to affording them facilities for returning to Burma along with Indian evacuees.

(c) Financial assistance is given, in the first place, by the Government of India to eligible Burman evacuees but all expenditure incurred on such assistance is recovered from the Government of Burma.

(d) All evacuees including Burmans are looked after by the Government of India. The Government of Burma have, however, appointed four Evacuee Welfare Officers who go about inspecting the condition of Burman evacuees and maintain liaison with the Government of India for the welfare of such evacuees.

(e) The Government of Burma maintain a settlement at Chunar for accommodating Burman and Anglo-Burman evacuees. The settlement is in general charge of a commandant assisted by the necessary staff.

NECESSITY OF OBTAINING BURMA GOVERNMENT'S PERMISSION FOR INDIANS TO RETURN TO INDIA

871. *Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that an Indian, who leaves Burma for India, has to obtain the permit of the Government of Burma to do so;

(b) whether an Indian, who arrives from Burma and lands in India, has to satisfy the police authorities in India that he has obtained the necessary permits from the Government of Burma for landing in India; and

(c) if the answers to (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, if it is in consonance with the constitutional position?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: (a) During the military administration of Burma, the antecedents of any Indian desiring to leave the country used to be scrutinised and he had to obtain a permit from the military authorities. This practice survived for some months even after the return of the civil Government. It has now been discontinued.

(b) For the reasons stated in reply to part (a) of the question, an Indian arriving in India from Burma had to produce his permit from the Government of Burma. This practice has now been discontinued.

(c) What exactly is meant by "constitutional position" is not clear. These practices were enforced during the military administration in Burma when the normal constitutional position was not adhered to.

DIFFICULTIES IN WAY OF INDIANS RETURNING FROM BURMA

872. *Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indian, who wants to return from Burma to India, has to fill in a yellow form answering several questions and has also to state the name and address of relatives or friends in India with whom the Indian, in question, wishes to reside, or who will support him when he is in India;

(b) whether it is a fact that the form, in question, after it is filled up by the Indian who desires to return to his motherland, is sent by the Government of Burma for inquiry to the police;

(c) whether it is a fact that the police in Burma is called upon to make remarks with particular reference as to whether the Indian in question, can be usefully employed in Burma; and

(d) whether the Government of India consider such information as to whether the applicant can be usefully employed in Burma essential for the return of an Indian to his own country after the enforced absence of several years?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: (a) The system of filling up application forms which was introduced by CAS(B) has now been abolished.

(b), (c) and (d). Do not arise.

NUMBER OF INDIANS ALLOWED AND DISALLOWED TO RETURN FROM BURMA

873. *Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indians in Burma desiring to return to this country are divided into three classes, white, grey and black, and whether those, who are put in the list as whites, are only allowed to return to this country; and

(b) the number of Indians, who have applied for such permits to return to India, how many have been allowed to return, and the number whose applications for return have been rejected?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: (a) No such practice exists at present.

(b) About 5,000 have applied so far, 3,267 have been repatriated. Facilities to return to India have not been refused to any.

(b) and (c). It is not a fact that a substantial portion of the amount will be spent on the purchase of water meters and other appliances from abroad. The schemes will require an increased staff but only such staff as is necessary will be entertained. It is not possible to give any figures at the present time.

(d) All important development schemes of the Delhi Province will be placed before the Standing Finance Committee.

QUANTITY OF WHEAT AND RICE MADE AVAILABLE TO DIFFERENT PROVINCES

879. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Food Secretary please state:

(a) the approximate quantity of cereals (wheat and rice) held in India in civil and military depots, on the 1st January, 1946;

(b) the quantities, if any, imported into India since that date and their allotment to the various Provinces;

(c) the quantities that have been sent from one Province to another after the 1st January, 1946, and the proposed allotments to various Provinces till the end of June 1946;

(d) if he is aware of newspaper reports to the effect that wheat in large quantities is being used as fuel in Argentine in South America, for want of coal; if so, whether he proposes to represent to His Majesty's Government to obtain wheat from Argentine by sending coal there and to send the wheat on here; if not, why not; and

(e) if he proposes to issue weekly statements about the supplies and movements of grain from Province to Province for the information of the public; if not, why not?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) the approximate quantities of cereals (wheat and wheat products) held by the Government of India in civil Depots on the 1st of January 1946 were as follows:

	(In round figures) Wheat Tons	Rice Tons
Karachi Depot	13,420	2,920
Calcutta Depot	25,600	*Nil*
Bombay Depot	14,780	*Nil*
Shamli Depot	990	*Nil*
Total	54,790	2,920

Stocks in Military Depots on 1st January 1946 were as follows:

	Tons
Atta	38,970
Flour	15,430
Rice	17,270
Total	71,670

(b) The quantities of wheat and rice imported into India since 1st January, upto 2nd March, 1946, were as follows:

	Tons
What	1,88,200
Rice	20,370

A statement showing the allotment of these imported quantities to various provinces and states is laid on the table of the House.

(c) The quantities that have moved on civil account during the period 1st January, 1946 to 21st February, 1946 amounted to 182,000 tons wheat and wheat products and 1,44,640 tons of rice.

Basic Plan for different crops are drawn for the respective crop years. The new Rabi Plan which will be effective from May 1946, to April 1947, will be issued next month.

The Basic Plan for Kharif grains is operative for the period November to October. It is not therefore possible to give allotment for the period January to June.

(d) Government have seen press reports to that effect. Distribution of Argentine wheat is controlled by the Combined Food Board and it is not open to the Government of India to barter it with coal.

(e) The publication of weekly statements is not likely to serve any useful purpose. On the other hand it may create mischief.

—	January 1946	February 1046	Total
Wheat—			
Bengal	6,388	11,678	18,066
Assam	..	..	..
Orissa	..	..	..
Bihar	..	..	..
Depot (Calcutta	10,140	5,409	15,549
Madras	4,500	2,246	6,746
Cochin	..	250	250
Depot (Coimb)	..	..	..
Mysore	6,349	..	6,349
Deccan State	1,500	1,500	3,000
Depot (Karachi)	13,683	51,846	65,529
Bombay	25,738	17,414	43,152
C. P.	..	..	..
Hyderabad	..	..	..
W. I. State	1,500	...	1,500
Defence Service	8,012	2,000	10,012
Depot (Bombay)	3,001	8,024	11,025
U. P.	..	7,000	7,000
Total	80,811	107,367	188,178
Rice—			
Travancore	8,756	*Nil*	8,756
Bombay	12,812	*Nil*	12,812
Mysore	6,000	*Nil*	6,000
Madras	1,800	*Nil*	1,800
Total	29368	*Nil*	29,368

TOUR OF MR. R. A. PEPPERALL

880. *Mr. B. P. Jhunjhunwala: (a) Will the Agriculture Secretary be pleased to state whether Mr. R. A. Pepperall, Chief Executive Officer of the British Milk Marketing Board, toured India as Milk Marketing Adviser to make recommendations on the dairy industry?

(b) While touring in India, what parts of India did he visit, and did he visit the villages also? If so, how many, and in which Provinces?

(c) What report has Mr. Pepperall submitted to Government, and what action has been taken by the Government on the said report?

(d) Do Government propose to give an opportunity to the Assembly to consider the said report and examine its recommendations?

Sir P. M. Kharegat: (a) Mr. Pepperall was appointed for a few months:

(1) to make a rapid survey of problems involved in the supply of milk to Indian cities bearing on the procurement, transport, processing (if any), quality and price control, distribution, *etc.*, of milk and put forward recommendations for (i) immediate application to meet the present emergency and (ii) as a long term policy—the two to be in the form of separate reports; and

(2) to prepare or help in the preparation of a concrete and detailed scheme for an organized marketing (including quality control) of milk to a large town —particularly in relation to the City of Bombay and to Delhi.

(b) A list of the towns visited by him is laid on the table. When at these towns, he also visited a number of villages near by; the exact number visited is not known.

(c) and (d). The report submitted by him together with a press note thereon has been published. A copy has also been placed in the Library of the House.

Statement detailing the places visited by Mr. R. A. Pepperall in India.

Bengal Province.—Calcutta.

Bombay Province.—Bombay, Bhusawal, Chalisgaon, Charodi, Anand and Ahmedabad.

C. P. and Berar.—Nagpur, Jhallar, Betul wardha.

Delhi Province.—Delhi and New Delhi.

Hyderabad State.—Secunderabad.

Madras Province.—Madras.

Punjab.—Lahore.

Sind.—Karachi and Malair area.

U. P.—Agra, Lucknow, Parbatpur, Rahmatnagar & Allahabad.

IMPROVEMENT OF LIVE STOCK

881. *Mr. B. P. Jhunjhunwala: (a) What steps has the Agriculture Secretary taken till now to improve the livestock which is in a state of semi-starvation?

(b) What has Government done to improve the animal management?

Sir P. M. Kharegat: (a) The action taken to produce more food will also produce more fodder which will help to improve the livestock. Other measures taken by Provinces are the increased cultivation of green fodder (where land can be made available for the purpose) the provision of sileage, the introduction of rotational grazing and the subsidised distribution of concentrates.

(b) The management of animals has to be improved by their owners. Governments through their animal husbandry and veterinary staff give the necessary advice and guidance and arrange for the prevention and cure of disease by means of inoculation against contagious diseases, increase of veterinary dispensaries, *etc.*

MEASURES FOR INCREASING MILK SUPPLY

882. *Mr. B. P. Jhunjhunwala: (a) Is the Agriculture Secretary aware that milk production is steadily decreasing?

(b) What steps have Government taken to stop this decrease?

(c) What steps have Government taken to meet the milk requirements of the increasing population?

(d) Have Government done anything to improve the lot of the producers who are mostly illiterate, indebted and poverty-stricken?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) There is no evidence to show that the production of milk in India is decreasing.

(b), (c) and (d). The steps taken by Government to increase milk production and improve the lot of producers have been stated in reply to part (g) of starred question No. 146, by Mr. Manu Subedar, on the 11th February, 1946.

STEPS FOR REDUCING MAXIMUM PRICE OF MILK

883. *Mr. B. P. Jhunjhunwala: (a) Is the Agriculture Secretary aware that price of milk in India is the highest in the world? If so, why?

(b) Have Government taken steps to find out at what minimum economical cost milk can be produced in India?

(c) Have Government taken any steps to reduce the price to reasonable limits?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) Government have no information about the present price of milk throughout the world. The price in India varies from place to place; in Bombay and Calcutta it is higher than in the United Kingdom and the United States of America, but in other places it is not so. The price of milk in Delhi for instance is -/3/6 a lb. as against -/3/9 in New York. The Milk Marketing Report shows that before the war, the price received by Indian producers was the lowest in the world, while the price paid by the consumer in the larger towns was very high. The reasons for the high price at present appear to be high costs of transport and processing, and the general rise in the level of prices in India. In comparing prices in India with those elsewhere it has to be borne in mind that Indian milk is usually much richer in butter fat.

(b) Figures of cost of production vary from place to place. Enquiries made in the prewar period showed that milk was being produced at between one and 1½ annas a lb. No figures are available about costs of production under existing conditions.

(c) Steps have been taken in several towns to control the price of milk, and in some to control the price of cattle feeds as well. At the same time the production of milk has been encouraged by the supply of concentrates at concession rates, by the prevention of the slaughter of milch animals, by the salvaging of dry cows, and by arranging for quick transport.

FIXING OF A REMUNERATIVE PRICE OF FOODGRAINS

884. *Mr. Madandhari Singh: (a) Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state the steps taken by Government to give remunerative prices of foodgrains produced by agriculturists?

(b) Who are responsible for fixing the price of foodgrains in Provinces?

(c) What is the basis of their regulating the price from time to time?

(d) Why do they not fix a definite and specific remunerative price for foodgrains produced in each Province in order to encourage peasants to place every available acre of land under cultivation of foodgrains?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) to (d). The Provincial Governments fix the prices of foodgrains in the beginning of each crop year in consultation with the Government of India, who, in turn, consult the Price Advisory Committee which includes representatives of producers. The prices are fixed at levels considered

fair to producers as well as consumers. The size of the crop, current market prices, general price level of other commodities and price levels in neighbouring regions are taken into onsideration in fixing the prices.

DEMARCATION OF PROVINCES ON A LINGUISTIC BASIS

885. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state:

(a) whether the Government of India are aware that the British Government propose to appoint a Boundary Commission in order to demarcate the provincial borders on linguistic basis;

(b) whether there is any proposal of the British Government for setting up a North-East Frontier Province; and

(c) if such a Boundary Commission is to be appointed, whether it is likely to consider the question of demarcation of the North-East frontier?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No.

(b) I am not aware of any such proposal.

(c) Does not arise.

IMPORT OF SOYA BEANS FROM MANCHURIA

886. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Food Secretary please state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the great nutritious value and cheapness of soya beans; and

(b) whether they would consider the possibility of importing it in large quantities from Manchuria towards mitigating the threatening famine in India?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) As regards the nutritive value of soya beans, the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to para. 11 of Chapter III of Part II of the Famine Inquiry Commission's Final Report (page 121) copies of which have been placed in the Council Library.

(b) No.

FOREIGN SCHOLARSHIPS AS MEANS TO REDUCE STERLING BALANCES

887. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Education Secretary kindly state:

(a) whether it is a fact, as stated by the *Reuter's* message of February 19, that the United States War Department will retain the ban against the transporting of Indian students to the United States;

(b) whether they are aware that there is a wide spread feeling in the country that the lavish scholarships afforded for so-called studies abroad by the Government of India, is one of the methods of reducing our sterling balances in the United Kingdom; and

(c) whether, in view of the difficulties abroad, Government propose to consider the question of spending the same amount inside the country on our higher education?

Dr. John Sargent: (a) The American Government have not yet lifted the embargo placed on non-American personnel travelling on American flag vessels but it is understood that they propose to do so as soon as the urgent need for repatriating their troops permits it.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The importance of expanding facilities for higher education in India itself has not been overlooked, and various schemes are already under consideration with this object in view. The need for sending students abroad for higher studies will however remain partly in order to get trained as quickly as possible the high grade personnel required urgently for various plans of national development and partly with a view to obtaining quickly Indian personnel of the requisite qualifications for our own training institutions. Even when these urgent needs are satisfied it will still be necessary to send students abroad. India cannot, any more than other countries, ever expect to have the most advanced facilities for specialised training in all the branches of learning.

INSURANCE PREMIUMS OF POLICY HOLDERS HELD PRISONERS OF WAR

888. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member kindly state:

(a) what measures have been suggested by the Government of India to the insurance companies concerning the Indian civilians and others, who have been prisoners of war during the war time and have been unable to pay their premiums; and

(b) whether they propose to consider the advisability of suggesting to the insurance companies concerned that they should not charge interest on arrears of *premia* or insist on re-medical examination in such cases?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) It was suggested to the insurers through their Associations that they should formulate schemes of their own showing sympathetic consideration to the plight of such policy-holders.

(b) Some suggestions made by Government were discussed at a meeting of the Insurance Advisory Committee but were not acceptable to the majority of the members present, on the ground that that would have involved several insurers in great financial loss. However, some insurers have voluntarily agreed to consider the cases of these policyholders as sympathetically as possible.

EXPORT OF SUGAR AND ITS SUPPLY POSITION IN INDIA

889. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Will the Food Secretary please state the quantity of sugar produced during 1945 and during January 1946, in the sugar mills in India?

(b) What is the quantity of sugar exported out of India on Government or private account to places in the Middle East or Far East or any other place during the period mentioned above, and specially after August, 1945?

(c) Is it a fact that Khandsari sugar cannot be obtained in Delhi at the published prices but only at double the rates for ordinary mill sugar?

(b) What is the quantity of *gur* produced or allowed to be produced in United Provinces and other places, and the quantity allowed to be exported to Delhi and the neighbouring provinces?

(e) What are the reasons for continuing sugar rationing though more than six months have elapsed after cessation of hostilities?

(f) For how long is it proposed to continue sugar rationing and to keep the Sugar Controller's Office functioning?

Mr. B. R. Sen : (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(c) Khandsari is not issued for sale in Delhi town.

(d) 15·5 lakh tons *gur* is estimated to be produced in the U.P. and 21 lakhs in the rest of India during the current year. Delhi's quota of *gur* from the U.P is 5,000 tons and of the neighbouring areas, *viz.*, Punjab and Punjab States, Central India and Rajputana States, the quotas are 54,000, 6,000 and 47,000 tons respectively.

(e) The sugar position continues to be as difficult as it was during the war time and it is necessary to continue sugar rationing in order to make an equitable distribution of available supplies.

(f) Sugar rationing will be continued as long as the sugar shortage lasts. The Office of the Sugar Controller will be kept on so long as problems connected with the production, distribution and prices of sugar require a whole-time Officer to deal with them.

I.—Statement showing quantity of sugar produced in the Sugar Mills in India during the year 1945, and January, 1946

Year	Quantity Tons
1945	1,002,200
January, 1946	290,299

II.— Statement showing the quantity of sugar exported out of India

Year	Quantity Tons
1945	9,436
January, 1946	1,017
From 1st August 1945 to 31st January, 1946	7,491

MAKING MICA A CENTRAL SUBJECT

890. *Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the British Parliament is going to amend the Government of India Act in such a way as to make Mica a Central subject?

(b) If so, will the Honourable Member kindly have it postponed till the representative Government is ushered in Bihar, which is a question of a few weeks?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) A bill has been introduced in the British Parliament to amend the Government of India Act in such a way as to give the Centre power to make laws in regard to certain matters including Mica for the transitional period from War to Peace.

(b) For the long period Government are considering the introduction of legisation in this House with reference to Item 36 of List I of the Government of ndia Act to bring certain aspects of Mica under Central Control.

EXPORT OF RICE FROM BENGAL

891. *Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: Has the attention of the Food Secretary been drawn to the report in the *Free Press Journal*, dated the 20th February, 1946, under the heading "Mystery of missing Rice" in which Mr. Khemka, President Marwari Chamber of Commerce, in reply to Mr. B. R. Sen's speech in the Editor's Conference, at Allahabad, that all export of grains has ceased since August, 1943, is reported to have said in reply that on reference to the export list issued by the Calcutta Customs House only during the months of July, August, and September, 1945, one single non-Indian firm exported from the Port of Calcutta to foreign countries no less than 22,504 tons of rice valued at over Rs. 94 lakhs and that a closer examination of the export list of the Calcutta Port would disclose further export of rice from Bengal? If so, will he please state how far is the said statement correct?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Government have seen the statement alleging that 61,797 tons rice had been exported from Calcutta during the period May to October 1945 Enquiries have been made from the Export Trade Controller, Calcutta, which indicate that the above mentioned quantity includes shipments of 16,000 tons of rice to Mysore through Marmagoa, and 42,000 tons of rice to Ceylon. The latter quantity was sent to Ceylon on a replacement basis. The entire quantity has since been made good by H. M. G. by imports. The total quantity accounted for is thus 58,000 tons. The balance of 4,000 tons is explained by the fact that the quantity sanctioned for loan to Ceylon was 46,000 tons of which only 42,000 tons was actually shipped.

Mention has also been made in the statement of exports to Colombo and coast-wise exports. The reference seems to be to small quantities of foodstuffs taken by ships sailing from Calcutta for the use of passengers and crews.

APPROACHING UNRRA FOR HELP IN REMOVING SCARCITY

892. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) if the UNRRA organisation has been approached in connection with the impending scarcity in this country, and, if so, with what results;

(b) if he is aware that China and the Philippines have formed organisations in their own countries known as CHINNRA and PINRRA respectively, so as to distribute effectively whatever aid and relief they may get from the UNRRA;

(c) if there is any similar organisation in this country or in his Department to keep in constant touch with the UNRRA and obtain relief in whatever directions it may be possible in food, medicines, *etc.*; and

(d) how the contribution by India to the UNRRA compares with the contributions made by China and the Philippines to that organisation, and to what extent relief has been afforded to these three countries?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The latter part does not arise.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

(d) The first part of the question does not arise as China and the Philippines have not made any contribution to U.N.R.R.A. for relief operations. With regard to the latter part, the position is that only token relief could be given to China up to the end of September 1945 and a sum of $1,000,000 was set aside by U.N.R.R.A. for the Philippines under the Emergency Relief scheme. In respect of India the question does not arise as no assistance has been asked for from U.N.R.R.A.

STOPPING OF INDIA'S CONSTRUCTION TO UNRRA IN CASE NO HELP IS RECEIVED

893. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) if he proposes to consider the stopping of India's contribution to the UNRRA in view of our own difficult position, in case the UNRRA decides not to grant any relief to this country;

(b) if he proposes to place all papers and literature connected with the UNRRA and India's contribution thereto and all relevant papers on the table of the House or in the Library; and

(c) whether the contribution to the UNRRA for the coming financial year is votable by the House or not; if not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) No. The contribution of Rs. 8 crores which was voted by the Assembly in the last Budget Session has already been placed at U.N.R.R.A.'s disposal and is fully tied up in the procurement of supplies for U.N.R.R.A.

(b) Yes. All the papers and literature received so far in connection with U.N.R.R.A. and India's contribution have been placed in the Library.

(c) If a further contribution is proposed for U.N.R.R.A., it will be votable by the Assembly.

EXECUTION OF BOND FOR EACH CONSIGNMENT BY SHIPPERS ON WEST COAST

894. *Sri M. K. Jinachandran: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that shippers on the West Coast (Malabar, etc.) are required to execute a bond for each consignment of goods? If so, when was the practice first introduced, and why?

(b) Was it introduced as a war measure? If so, now that the war is over, will Government consider the desirability of abandoning the practice?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Shippers by country craft are required to execute separate bonds only in respect of tea, cotton piecegoods and other restricted goods which are in short supply in the Middle East. These bonds are taken after careful enquiry in each case. This procedure was introduced from December 1945 in order to prevent diversion of goods to unauthorised destinations and to stop large scale bogus jettisoning of cargo which took place in a number of cases.

(b) It was introduced to prevent violation of export control regulations, as pointed out in reply to Part (a) of the question. The latter part of the question does not arise.

FEES FOR INDEMNITY BOND FROM SHIPPERS

895. *Sri M. K. Jinachandran: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that prior to 1942, the Captain (Tindel) alone was held responsible for the safe passage of goods on the ships and no indemnity bond was taken from the shippers?

(b) Is it a fact that since 1943, such an indemnity bond has come to be taken from each one of the shippers also? If so, why?

(c) Why was the fee of Rs. 7-8-0 for this indemnity bond from the ordinary shipper for each shipment and Rs. 10 from regualr shippers for a period of three years raised to Rs. 20 for each shipment?

(d) What is the reason for this increase?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) No. Even prior to 1942, the Tindel and the shippers jointly signed a single letter of guarantee on Rs. 1-8-0 stamp.

(b) This does not arise.

(c) and (d). Since 1944, as the result of audit objection to the stamp fee referred to in reply to para. (a) of the question, bond for twice the value of goods is being taken. The Stamp duty on the indemnity bond varies according to the value of the goods. For a bond not exceeding Rs. 1,000 the stamp duty was Rs. 7-8-0, and in other cases it was Rs. 10. These were subsequently doubled under Section 2 of the Madras Stamp (Increase of Duties) Act 1946.

GRIEVANCES OF EMPLOYEES OF GOVERNMENT PRESS, ALIGARH

896. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of the Government Press Aligarh, have given notice of strike, if so, what are their grievances and demands;

(b) if Government intend to give them a minimum living wage, if so, when, and how much;

(c) the amenities provided to them such as bathing facilities, out-door games, education of children, provision of quarters and medical aid;

(d) their working periods per week, and whether Government propose to reduce these hours to 40 per week;

(e) if Government propose to supply them foodgrains at concession rates similar to those enjoyed by the Delhi Press and other Government Departments; and

(f) whether Government intend to abolish the piece wage system and introduce monthly pay on the basis of the wages earned by the employees at present?

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

(i) reduction made by the Government of U. P. in the rationing of wheat;

(ii) revision of pay and grades;

(iii) concessional rates of foodgrains on the lines of concession allowed to Government servants in Delhi;

(iv) abolition of piece rates;
(v) revision of working hours; and
(vi) provision of quarters.

The immediate cause of the notice of a strike is the reduction in wheat rationing.

(b) The question is a general one which is engaging the attention of Government.

(c) No facilities exist at present other than for outdoor games and medical attendance. The question of granting other facilities is under consideration.

(d) The weekly working hours are 48. The question whether a reduction is advisable is being considered.

(e) No. The Employees of the Aligarh Press get foodgrains at concession rates on the lines of the U. P. Government's orders.

(f) The present policy of Government is to substitute gradually time scales of pay for both piece rates as opportunities occur.

PRODUCTION AND IMPORTS OF CHEMICAL FERTILISERS

897. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Will the Agriculture Secretary please state what the main plant foods are which are imported as chemical fertilisers?

(b) Do Government propose to import any chemical fertiliser from foreign countries for the coming year? If so, in what quantity, of what quality and at what price?

(c) What is the average output of superphosphate in the factories in India, and what is the average annual consumption?

(d) Is it a fact that the factories in India are working to less than half their capacity of production?

(e) Is it a fact that large quantities of superphosphates are lying idle in all godowns for want of transport facilities to places where they are required?

(f) Do Government propose to intensify the 'Grow More Food' campaign and thus give an impetus to a greater production and consumption of superphosphates in the country?

(g) Will Government consider the advisability of restricting imports of fertilisers only to such categories as are not manufactured in India?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) Nitrogen—Phosphate—Potash.

(b) Yes. During the Fertiliser year July 1946/June 1947 arrangements are being made to import the following fertiliser:

Ammonium Sulphate—221,500 tons @ Rs. 245 per ton f.o.r. port

Ammonium Phosphate—10,150 tons @ Rs. 255 per ton f.o.r. port

Superphosphate—400 tons @Rs. 274 per ton f.o.r. port

(c) The total estimated output amounts to 9,000 tons. This production has commenced comparatively recently and most of it is made from bones, and the average consumption is about 10,000 tons.

(d) Due to lack of supplies of Sulphuric Acid, there would be periods when factories do not work to their full capacity.

(e) No, as far as Government are aware. If any individual cases are reported to Government, the necessary help will be given.

(f) Yes.

(g) Categories that are not manufactured in India are at present being imported, particularly for meeting the requirements of sugar refineries.

DISTRIBUTION OF FOODGRAINS IN PROVINCE OF AJMER-MERWARA

898. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Food Secretary please state the present stock of wheat and other foodgrains in Ajmer-Merwara at present? How much is being released for supply every day or every week in the rural area and in the urban area?

(b) What arrangements, if any, have been made for distribution of foodgrains in rural area?

(c) Are Government prepared to advise the Chief Commissioner to release at least the same quantity of foodgrains for consumption in rural area on population basis, as he is doing in urban area? If not, why not?

(d) Is it a fact that the Punjab Government refused to supply wheat, maize and bajra and the residue of the quota allotted from there to the Ajmer Merwara Province in October last? If so, what alternative arrangement have Government made to ensure the supply of foodgrains to the Province of Ajmer-Merwara?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b) The Sub-divisional Officers have selected distribution centres in their sub-divisions to which neighbouring villages are affiliated. Supplies are sent to the centres fortnightly and distribution is effected through a committee of management on which all the villages concerned are represented.

(c) This is a matter for the local administration.

(d) The Punjab Government have expressed their inability to supply maize and the outstanding portion of the wheat and wheat products quotas only. To set off against these failures, additional allotments of wheat and barley have been made to Ajmer-Merwara.

Statement showing Stock position in Ajmer-Merwara as it stood on 17th February, 1946.

(i) Stock position of wheat and other foodgrains in Ajmer-Merwara as it stood on the 17th February, 1946, was :—

Wheat—35,253 maunds.

Other foodgrains—33,082½ maunds.

Expectations of arrival till the end of April, are :

(1) Wheat—112,500 maunds.

(2) Other foodgrains including rice 70,000 maunds.

(ii) Rate of release in urban areas—About 10,000 maunds, wheat and 5,000 maunds other foodgrains including rice, per week.

(iii) Rate of release in the rural areas—6,250 maunds of all foodgrains every week.

FOODGRAINS POSITION IN AJMER-MERWARA

899. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) In view of the very grave food situation in Ajmer-Merwara, does the Food Secretary propose to take steps to allot a sufficient quantity of barley from Bikaner where it is available and from where it can be despatched to Ajmer in a comparatively shorter time?

(b) Is it a fact that owing to a reduction in the wheat ration about 15,000 Railway workers in Ajmer have gone on strike? If so, what steps do Government contemplate to take to relieve the situation?

(c) Are Government aware that the reduction of ration to four chattaks is very unreasonable, in view of the fact that people there do not usually eat rice?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) A quota of 500 tons barley has been allotted to Ajmer-Merwara from Bikaner and steps are being taken for its immediate despatch.

(b) About 9,000 B., B. & C. I. Railway workers at Ajmer went on strike on the morning of the 12th February as a protest against the cut in the basic ration. The situation was explained to them as a result of which they abandoned the strike and resumed work the next day.

(c) The ration has not been reduced to 4 chhataks. The reduction is from 8 chhataks to 6 chhataks of which 4 chhataks can be taken in wheat. Card holders can draw the remaining two chhataks not only in rice but also in any of the other grains, *viz.*, barley, jowar, bajra, *etc.*

CERTAIN PROMOTIONS OF JUNIOR READERS IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES

900. *Hajee Chowdhury Mohammad Ismail Khan: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state the basis on which Junior Readers in all the Government of India Presses are promoted to the post of Senior Readers?

(b) Is it a fact that certain departmental employees who passed the Readership Examination at an earlier date and entered the Junior Reader's grade earlier have been superseded, not only in the Junior Reader's grade but also in the Senior Reader's grade, by those who entered the Junior Readers's grade later, in any of the Government of India Presses?

(c) Is it also a fact that certain qualified Copyholders who have greater length of total service as Junior Readers at their credit, have been declared Junior in the Junior Reader's grade, to those who have lesser length of total service as Junior Readers and who failed to qualify in the Readership Examination in which they appeared along with the former?

(d) Is it a fact that Copyholders who have put in greater length of total service in Copyholder's posts have been treated as Senior?

(e) Does the Honourable Member propose to consider the desirability of filling up Senior Reader's posts on the basis of total length of service in the Junior Reader's grade?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Except for the post of Head Reader which has been declared a "selection post", the basis for the promotion of Readers from one grade to another is seniority cum fitness.

(b) and (c). Yes, in those cases where senior Copyholders qualified in the readers' examination before the confirmation as reader of their juniors who qualified earlier. The examination being a qualifying one, it is the length of service and not the date of passing the examination that determines seniority for the purpose of appointment as readers.

(d) Yes, upto April 1943, after which seniority is determined by the length of continued service.

(e) As stated in (a) above, this is already being done except in certain selection posts of Head readers in different Presses which are filled by selection on merit.

CLOSING OF CENTRAL ASIAN ANTIQUITIES MUSEUM TO PUBLIC

901. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Education Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if the Central Asian Antiquities Museum on Queensway in New Delhi is closed to the public;

(b) if so, when and why it was closed, and for what purpose it is used now; and

(c) when it is expected that the same will be opened for the public?

Dr. John Sargent: (a) Yes.

(b) Except for the Aurel Stein paintings from Central Asia which were housed in a separate building the main collections were exhibited in the Imperial Records Buildings on Queensway. The accommodation in this building was placed in 1942 at the disposal of the Military Geographical Section of the Survey of India as a war emergency measure and the collections were therefore, dispersed for the duration of the war. The accommodation in question is still occupied by the Geographical Section.

(c) As soon as an alternative accommodation for the Geographical Section, General Staff becomes available, the Section will be shifted and the Museum will be rehabilitated and reopened to the public. Steps are being taken to expedite this.

DATE OF TERMINATION OF DEFENCE OF INDIA ACT

902. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to refer to his replies to starred questions Nos. 9 and 16, asked on the 5th February 1946, regarding the date of the official termination of the war and supplementaries thereto, and state:

(a) how long after the date fixed for the official termination of the war, the Defence of India Act and Rules thereunder will cease to be in force;

(b) if it is a fact that under the Defence of India Act itself the same has to expire six months after the termination of the war;

(c) if all the ordinances made thereunder will also cease to have effect when the Act expires; and

(d) if Government propose to consider the desirability of abolishing all ordinance rule earlier than the prescribed maximum period of six months?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: (a) Six months.

(b) Yes.

(c) Ordinances are not made under the Defence of India Act. On the assumption that the Honourable Member refers to orders made under the Defence of India Rules, the answer is in the affirmative.

(d) The Honourable Member is referred to my reply to part (e) of Starred Question No. 471, of the 25th February 1946. The policy explained therein with reference to the rules applies equally to orders under the rules.

RURAL INDEBTEDNESS IN AJMER-MERWARA

903. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Agriculture Secretary please state if it is a fact that peasantry in Ajmer-Merwara is very heavily indebted?

(b) Is it a fact that a number of representations have been made to Government from time to time on behalf of the Ajmer-Merwara Zamindar Sabha and other Agriculturist communities for extention in Ajmer-Merwara of certain debt relief Acts at present in force in the Punjab to relieve them from indebtedness?

(c) Have Government taken any action thereon? If not, why not?

(d) Are Government aware that debt relief measures have already been enacted in almost all the Provinces of British India except Ajmer-Merwara?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) In 1929 the Banking Enquiry Committee estimated the total rural debt at about 3 crores. No reliable later information is available about the extent of the present debt.

(b) Representations were received from the Ajmer-Merwara Zamindar Sabha during 1945.

(c) Legislation is being drafted and it is hoped to have it ready in a few months.

(d) Yes.

MUSLIM SECTION HOLDERS AND OVERSEERS IN GOVERNMENT PRESS, NEW DELHI.

904. *Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state the total number of permanent and temporary posts of Overseers and Section holders in the Government of India Press, New Delhi, and how many of them are at present held by Muslims?

(b) What are the duties and functions of the various Overseers in the said Press?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) 7 Overseers, 12 Section-holders. Of the seven Overseers' posts, two are held by Muslims. One is vacant. Four out of the 12 posts of Section-holders are held by Muslims.

(b) An Overseer is entirely responsible for:

(i) maintaining quality and quantity of the outturn of the operatives working under him;

(ii) keeping the sections under him fully occupied with work;

(iii) expeditious handling and economical production of work;

(iv) careful scrutiny of all overtime requisitions and keeping overtime down to a minimum; and

(v) ensuring equitable distribution of work among the operatives.

A non-technical Overseer is responsible for strict supervision over most secret and confidential work at all stages in the Press.

ESTABLISHING OF A CENTRAL ALL-INDIA PUBLIC LIBRARY CONTAINING WORKS ON SCIENTIFIC SUBJECTS

905. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Education Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if there is any Public Library, containing works on different sections of Science;

(b) if so where it is;

(c) whether it is managed in such a way that the general public can reach and utilise it easily and without much official interference;

(d) if the answers, to (a) and (c) are in the negative, whether Government propose to consider the advisability of establishing a Central All-India Public Library with effective sections to cater to the needs of students of Science also?

Dr. John Sargent: (a) As far as the Government of India are ware, there is no public library in India which caters exclusively for different branches of Science.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) Students of science ordinarily belong to colleges, universities or research institutes whose libraries usually contain special sections devoted to scientific subjects. The Imperial Library at Calcutta contains books on scientific subjects of a general character which are available for public use. The question of establishing a Central Reference Library and Library for students is under consideration but it is not contemplated that this will be confined to the Sciences.

RESERVATION OF CERTAIN STATIONS IN I. M. S. TO EUROPEANS ONLY

906. *Sardar Sampuran Singh: (a) Will the Health Secretary please state if it is a fact that in the matter of posting of the I.M.S. Officers in a Civil Department, a distinction is maintained in reserving certain stations for the Europeans only?

(b) Is it a fact that, in the event of the breach of the said rule, Provincial Governments are required to submit explanation to the Secretary of State every three months to justify the breach?

(c) Is it a fact that during the war, such stations were held efficiently by the Indian Civil Surgeons?

(d) Are Government aware that the distinction is being felt very keenly by the Indian Members of the Service?

(e) In view of the Government's policy of Indianisation of services, do they propose to consider the advisability of removing such distinction?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: (a) Certain posts have been reserved by the Secretary of State in order to provide European medical attendance for European Members of the other Secretary of State's services and their families.

(b) In accordance with the provisions of the I.M.S. (Civil) (Reserved Posts) Rules, 1939, if a non-I.M.S. officer is to be appointed to a post reserved for I.M.S. officers and if it is intended that the person so appointed shall retain his appointment for more than three months the Central or the Provincial Government has to report the appointment to the Secretary of State for India with a statement of the reasons therefor.

(c) It is a fact that during the War many of the posts were held by Indian officers of the Provincial Medical Services.

(d) Government have no information.

(e) The decision in this matter rests with the Secretary of State and not with the Government of India.

OFFICIATING PROMOTION OF RAI SAHIB C. P. MALLIK AS SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER

907. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) With reference to his reply to starred question No. 599, dated the 28th February, 1946, regarding Rai Sahib C. P. Mallik carrying on the work of Superintending Engineer will the Honourable the Labour Member please state the significance of asking an Executive Engineer to carry on the work without appointment?

(b) Does the person so invited carry on the duties of his substantive appointment as Executive Engineer? If so, does he send his reports as an Executive Engineer to himself as Superintending Engineer? If not, to whom are his reports sent? If not, will the Honourable Member explain the difference between appointment and carrying on the work?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) and (b). The significance of the arrangement is that officer does not draw the pay of a Superintending Engineer but draws only a small extra allowance for holding current charge of the routine duties of the higher post in addition to his own duties as Executive Engineer. His reports as Executive Engineer are submitted to the next higher officer, *i.e.*, the Chief Engineer.

This arrangement has the full sanction of administrative Rules and usage.

EFFORTS TO FIND MUSLIMS FOR CERTAIN POSTS IN ADMINISTRATIVE SIDE OF CENTRAL P. W. D.

908. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state whether he has approached a person of the Scheduled Class to accept the office of Administrative Officer? If so, who is the person, and what was his reply?

(b) Did he make any attempt to find a suitable Muslim?

(c) Has the Honourable Member decided to fill up all the posts of officers in the Administrative side of the Central Public Works Department by Hindus and members of the Scheduled Caste? If not, what steps has he taken to find out suitable officer to fill up the post of Administrative Officer?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) No. Does not arise.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No decision has been reached. The question of filling the post is under consideration.

RESERVATION OF CERTAIN CIVIL SURGEONS' POSTS FOR EUROPEANS

909. *Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop: Will the Health Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) How many posts of Civil Surgeon are reserved exclusively for the European I.M.S. officers in each Province;

(b) if the Government are aware that the reservation of posts for the Europeans only has caused a good deal of heart-burning and agitation amongst all classes of Indians in all the Provinces specially because better qualified Indians are available both for the Provincial and Imperial Services; and

(c) in view of the fact that almost all the posts of Civil Surgeons have been occupied by Indian Doctors during the last five years, whether Government propose to request the Secretary of State for India to remove the reservation for the European Officers?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b) Government are aware that dissatisfaction exists.

(c) The suggestion will be brought to the notice of the Secretary of State.

Statement showing number of civil surgeoncies reserved for British I. M. S. Officers in each of the Governors' Provinces

Name of Province	Number of Civil Surgeoncies reserved for British I.M.S. Officers.
Madras	8
Bombay	6
Sind	2
Bengal	6
United Provinces	11
Punjab	
Bihar	
Orissa	2
Central Provinces and Berar	4
Assam	7
N. W. F. P.	2

SCARCITY OF FOODGRAINS IN BIHAR

910. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Food Secretary please state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Bihar has within the last three years, received only one lakh tons of foodgrains as against her import quota of eight lakh tons of foodgrains to make up the deficiency in her own produce of foodgrains;

(b) whether he is aware of the fact that as a result of the failure of the last paddy crop throughout the Province of Bihar, particularly in its Chhota Nagpur Division, there is a great scarcity of rice and other articles of food in Chatra, Hazaribagh, Ranchi and many other towns of Bihar; and

(c) whether he proposes to take any immediate steps to improve the situation there; if so, what?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) Bihar has been supplied about 150,000 tons of foodgrains during the last three years (1943-44, 1944-45, and 1945-46 upto date). Normally imports of rice into Bihar are about 1,87,000 tons a year of rice and 66,000 tons of wheat. Bihar, however, had a rice crop very much above the average in the years 1942-43 and 1943-44.

(b) There has not been a failure of the paddy crop throughout the province of Bihar. The crop has been below the average particularly in Chhota Nagpur, and there is a shortage of rice in many parts of Bihar.

(c) As soon as the availability of supplies makes it possible it is proposed to increase Bihar's quota of rice. In addition it is understood that the Bihar Government propose to introduce rural distribution schemes in those areas of Bihar where this is necessary.

STEPS TO GROW MORE FOOD

911. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Secretary, Agriculture Department, please state the steps which are being, at present, taken by the Central Government and the several Provincial Governments of this country to grow more food in Centrally Administered Areas and in the Provinces?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: The steps taken to grow more food are briefly enumerated in the reply given to parts (b) and (c) of starred question No. 598, by Prof. Ranga, on the 28th February, 1946.

TITLES AND HONOURS LIST OF JANUARY 1, 1946

912. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to refer to his reply to starred question No. 592, asked on February 28, 1946, and supplementaries thereto, and state:

(a) if the list of titles and honours issued on January 1, 1946, was the biggest list ever issued of such titles and honours; if so, the reasons thereof;

(b) the total number of officials and non-officials who have received titles and honours in accordance with this list;

(c) if any communal proportion is fixed for titles and honours, if so, the proportion, and if the same has been followed in this list;

(d) if there is any gradation in the matter of these titles and honours in accordance with higher or lower status and importance; and

(e) the exact number of British-Christians, Indian-Christians, Anglo-Indian-Christians, Indian-Hindus (if possible according to their castes), Indian-Muslims, Indian-Sikhs and Indian-Parsees, who have received titles and honours on the last occasion?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes; this was a Victory list.

(b) Officials—1,180 and non-officials—647.

(c) The answer to the first part is in the negative. The other parts do not arise.

(d) Yes.

(e) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the New Year's Honours Gazette dated the 1st January 1946, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

IMPORT OF MACHINERY FROM AMERICA AND ENGLAND

913. *Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state:

(a) how many applications for priority for import of machinery have been received either for expansion of old factories or for starting new factories;

(b) how many have been sanctioned; and

(c) how much machinery has reached India, as a result thereof, from England and America, separately?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (b). I presume that the Honourable Member is referring to the applications received for import of machinery under the Capital Goods Registration Scheme. The number of applications received up to the 28th February 1946, for machinery required for new factories or expansion of existing factories, is 1,850 and of those accepted for registration 911.

(c) Government have no information other than that contained in the monthly accounts relating to the Seaborne Trade and Navigation of British India, copies of which are available in the Library.

TRADE RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA

914. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) whether Government contemplate to open negotiations with the U.S.S.R. with a view to establishing trade relations with Russia;

(b) how the trade is now governed between U.S.S.R. and India; whether it is open to any commercial concern to establish commercial contacts and do business there; and

(c) whether there is any Russian concern carrying on business now in India, and *vice versa;* if so, their names and the nature of the business done by them?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) India already enjoys trade relations with Russia, the position being that under the Commercial Agreement of 1934 between His Majesty's Government and the Soviet Union Indian goods receive most-favoured-nation treatment in Russia on terms of reciprocity.

(b) The foreign trade of the U.S.S.R. is organized as a State monopoly, licences for exports and imports being issued by the Commissariat for Foreign Trade. Subject to the operation of war-time controls in both countries, it is open to Indian firms to seek trade contacts through the Trade Delegation of the U.S.S.R. in India.

(c) The Trade Delegation of the U.S.S.R. in India, with headquarters at Calcutta, purchases goods in India for export to Russia and provides facilities for the import of Russian goods into India.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

COMPOSITION OF INDIA'S IMPORT TRADE

110. Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state the composition of India's import trade from 1939 up to 1945 as between capital goods and consumer goods in terms of both value and quantity?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: A statement showing the composition of India's import trade from 1939-40 to 1945-46, as between capital goods and consumer goods, in terms of value is laid on the table.

As quantitative statistics in respect of certain items of import (*e.g.* certain kinds of instruments and apparatus, arms and ammunition, glass and glassware, and furniture and cabinet work) are not maintained, it is not possible to furnish the required information in terms of quantity.

Statement showing the composition of the Sea-Borne import Trade of British India.

(Rs. lakhs)

	1939-40	1940-41	1941-42	1942-43	1943-44	1944-45/	1945-46 1st 8 months
1. Consumer Goods .	92,90	79,38	80,18	42,79	47,46	1,03,42	82,76
2. Capital Goods . .	14,53	11,17	13,04	10,15	11,23	16,04	12,98
3. Other Producer Goods .	57,87	66,42	79,92	57,50	59,16	81,52	66,48
Total .	1,65,30	1,56,97	1,73,14	1,10,44	1,17,85	2,00,98	1,62,22

N. B.—1. "Consumer goods" = Food, drink and tobacco, kerosene, motor spirit, coconut oil, copra or coconut kernel, apparel, drugs and medicines, cutlery, hardware, furniture and cabinet ware, glassware and earthenware, leather manufactures typewriters, sewing machines, paper, paste-board and stationery, rubber manufactures, cycles, motor cars motor cycles, cotton, silk, woollen and other textile manufactures (excluding yarn), postal articles and baggage and miscellaneous articles wholly or mainly manufactured.

2. "Capital goods" = Machinery and mill work other than typewriters and sewing machines.

3. "Other Producer goods" = Non-metallic mining and quarry products and the like, gums, resin, and lac, hides and skins, metallic ores and scrap iron or steel, oils other than kerosene, motor spirit and animal oils, mineral grease, paper making materials, tallow, stearine and wax, raw cotton and waste, raw wool, raw silk and cocoons, other textile materials, wood and timber, miscellaneous articles mainly or wholly unmanufactured, ammunition and military stores, chemicals, implements and instruments, dyes and colours, electrical goods and apparatus, iron and steel and other metal manufactures, vehicles (excluding cycles, motor cars and motor cycles) and cotton, jute, silk, woollen and other textile yarns.

YIELD FROM LAND CULTIVATED DUE TO "GROW MORE FOOD" CAMPAIGN

111. Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: (a) Will the Secretary, Agriculture Department, be pleased to state how many extra acres of land were brought under cultivation pursuant to the "Grow More Food" campaign in each of the years 1944 and 1945 in each of the districts of Murshidabad, Nadia, Jessore and Khulna?

(b) How much, and what crops were collected as a result of the said cultivation?

(c) What is the approximate total quantity of land in each of the aforesaid districts which is now available for being cultivated for the first time?

(d) What is Government's scheme, if any, for such land referred to in (c) above?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be given as soon as it becomes available.

EXPORT TO AND IMPORT FROM MIDDLE AND NEAR EAST COUNTRIES AND EAST AND SOUTH AFRICA

112. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) what articles are now being exported to the middle and near East countries and East and South Africa this year with particular reference to Iran; and

(b) whether any articles are being imported from the above countries?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The following is a list of the principal articles exported during the current year, from British India to the Middle East and Near East countries and East and South Africa.

Apparel, coffee, coir mats and mattings, leather, castor oil, linseed oil, paraffin wax, provisions and oilman's stores, sesamum, soap, betelnuts, cardamoms, ginger, pepper, tea, cotton twist and yarn, cotton piecegoods, haberdashery and milinery, gunny bags, gunny cloth, woollen carpet and rugs and unmanufactured tobacco.

Exports from British India to Iran consist chiefly of linseed oil, tea, provisions and oilman's stores, cotton piecegoods and jute manufactures.

(b) The following is a list of the principal articles imported during the current year into British India from Middle and Near East countries and East and South Africa:

Asphalt, sodium carbonate, fruits and vegetables, raw skins, spirit, unwrought copper, mineral oils, precious stones and unset pearls, salt, cloves and raw cotton.

Imports into British India from Iran consist chiefly of asphalt, fruits and vegetables and mineral oils.

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL OF STATE

Secretary of the Assembly: Sir, the following message has been received from the Council of State:

"The Council of State at its meeting held on the 11th March, 1946, agreed without any amendment to the following Bill which was
12 Noon passed by the Legislative Assembly at its meeting held on the 28th February, 1946, namely:

A Bill further to amend the Insurance Act, 1938."

STATEMENT *RE* LAND LEGISLATION IN SOUTH AFRICA

Mr. R. N. Banerjee (Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department): In the course of the debate on the adjournment motion moved on the 4th February by my Honourable friend Seth Govind Das on the proposed land legislation in South Africa, I promised to make a further statement in the

House. Our High Commissioner had been instructed to carry on certain negotiations with the Union Government and I stated that our Government would be able to take a decision about any further action in the matter after the conclusion of the High Commissioner's efforts. We have now had a report from our High Commissioner on the results of his discussions with the Union Government. Our main instruction to our High Commissioner was that he should urge upon the Union Government to discuss the Indian problem at a conference with Indian representatives with a view to exploring some alternative settlement and that pending the results of such a conference the legislation should be postponed. Our High Commissioner made personal representations to the Prime Minister of the Union Government to this effect. It is with very deep regret that I have to state that the Prime Minister has rejected these proposals. There is thus little doubt that the Union Government have decided to proceed with the draft Asiatic Land Tenure and Indian Representation Bill. The door seems to be banged against further negotiations. The Government of India have always recorded their protest against statutory segregation of Indians and they cannot therefore, consistently with their moral responsibility for the welfare of their nationals in the Union, acquiesce in this discriminatory legislation which will gradually relegate the large and progressive Indian population in the Union to a position of permanent inferiority. In view of the attitude of the Union Government and of their decision to proceed with the legislation, the Government of India have conveyed to the Union Government a message on the 9th of this month that the Government of India now consider themselves free to take counter measures. As such counter measures are likely to affect India's trade relations with the Union, the Government of India have also informed the Union Government that they propose to give the prescribed notice for the termination of India's commercial agreement with South Africa. Formal communication of such notice is being made.

Seth Govind Das (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan): May we put a few questions on the statement just now made?

Mr. President: This is not in the nature of an answer to a question and supplementary questions but a few questions may be put, provided the matter is not treated as a debate.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer (Bombay Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural): May I ask one question? In view of the statement just now made, may I suggest to the Honourable Member that he should recall to India our High Commissioner who is there. I know that is the general feeling even among the delegates of the South African Delegation in Delhi.

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Government are aware of the general feeling on that point but that is a matter which the Government consider it desirable to take some time over. After all there is unanimity in this matter between the Government and the public and I do feel, Sir, that Government is entitled to some discretion in deciding the exact nature and pace of diplomatic operations in this matter.

Seth Govind Das: The Honourable Member said that Government is still considering whether the High Commissioner should be recalled or not. May I know whether, before the termination of this Session of the Assembly, the Government will be able to make an announcement on this subject?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I hope, Sir, the House will appreciate that Government are anxious to await the reactions to the measure already taken by them and all I can say is that a further announcement about their decision regarding the recall of the High Commissioner will be made as soon as possible.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is the Honourable Member aware that it was about a year ago on the floor of this House the Members of this Assembly brought to the notice of the Government that the High Commissioner should not be sent? In spite of that, the Member in charge did so, and when asked in the House whether the High Commissioner was in India or not, he showed ignorance, whereas he was actually on the high seas.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member is referring to an incident which took place a year ago.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): In view of the failure of diplomatic negotiations and the declared intention of Government to take retaliatory measures, may I know why Government will not now respond to the unanimous feeling on this subject and do everything in their power to indicate to the South Africans that this is not an issue in which they can get a walkover and why will they not recall the High Commissioner immediately?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: That is exactly the intention of the Government.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): In view of the fact that the wife of the High Commissioner does not now English, he can easily come back.

THE GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—*contd.*

SECOND STAGE—*contd.*

DEMAND NO. 15—DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING—*contd.*

Abolition of the Organisation of Research and Reference; Information Films; Field Publicity Organisation and Arts Section—contd.

Mr. President: The House will now resume discussion on the cut motion moved by Mr. Ayyangar yesterday in respect of Demand No. 15.

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson (Bengal: European): When the House rose last evening, the cut motion standing in the name of Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar had been formally moved from the Chair and myself and my friend Mr. Nauman were competing to be called by the Chair at that moment.

I would like to say at the outset that had this cut motion been less catholic and comprehensive, and perhaps more discriminating, in its character we in the European Group might have found ourselves in support of it; but as it stands it is altogether too sweeping and would, we think, be too damaging to the Department, without effecting any of the improvements which we would like to see. There is no disguising the fact that both in the last Assembly and in this one Members have been critical of the Information and Broadcasting Department. I say that myself with a good deal of reluctance, because of my own very pleasant personal contacts with them from time to time during the war which also make me the more reluctant to say that I think the Department has shown itself somewhat unresponsive to public opinion in coming back to this House on repeated occasions, with proposals unmodified and which they know full well the House has previously been critical of. The history of the Department was outlined yesterday very roughly by the Mover of the cut motion. It is one of the Civil Departments of Government that has grown very greatly during the war, and by reason of that it might have been supposed that it would have been one of the Departments of Government which would have come forward to the House, as a result of the admonitions of the previous year, with effective proposals for reconstruction embodying retrenchment without, if I may say so, placing, one of its best friends under the painful necessity of indicating a new way of life. I would like in the few moments that I have to indicate broadly what we think the principles of administration and the conduct and growth of the department should be. I and my colleagues on these Benches would be reluctant to deprive the Broadcasting end of the Department of any ready funds of which they might reasonably be thought in want. We believe that broadcasting in India offers an immense field for expansion in both entertainment and education and we also believe, in fact, we know, that the All-India Radio is making a determined and an increasingly successful attempt to conquer this field, though there is still room for improvement. I would like to say that in my opinion All-India Radio has steadily improved its programmes,

its news services and all its other activities during the past five years. I congratulate Mr. Bukhari, the Director, and his staff upon having put us in possession of a very fine service, both technically and as to its impact upon the public. I might just, in parentheses, say that from my own observations and experience I still think that there is considerable room left for improvement in the terms of service of the personnel of All-India Radio, particularly those who serve in the provincial stations. If radio is to be made a career for youngmen of ability and promise, I think they need some assurance for their future and the terms of their service need to be made comparable with other Departments of Government.

Having offered that small bouquet to the All-India Radio or to Broadcasting side of the Department, I ask in a spirit of the greatest possible friendliness whether we can say the same thing for the Information end of the Information and Broadcasting Department and I fear that the answer is in the negative. And yet I am sorry that the Mover of this cut motion picked out for abolition certain of the activities of the Department which, in my view, have a very definite use. No publicity organisation, whether it is big or small, can, in my opinion, afford to be without a Research and Reference Branch, providing it with the raw material with which to make the finished products. I and the Members of my Group would, therefore, wish to retain the Research and Reference Division.

As regards the Field Publicity, which forms a big item in the total amount of a cut which stands at 93 lakhs (I think the Field Publicity accounts for 50 lakhs out of that) here, again, I cannot quite frankly see the logic of seeking to abolish an activity of the Department which, if properly supervised, should get down to the very people who are nearest to the land. I cannot see the sense of that, or the logic of it, during a year which we proclaim is to be a critical year on account of famine. It seems to me, as long as we take this famine seriously that we must retain this though we may object to it on some other grounds. We must retain a limb of information and publicity which does at least make an attempt to get down into the villages.

Then, again, the cut embraces the branch which deals with Information Films of India. I am not at all certain what argument the Mover had in his mind when he included Information Films of India in the compass of his cut because, I think, if I represent a growing asset, an asset which is producing desirable publicity for India and an asset which I assume, on the other side of the book, is showing to the Department some revenue in return. But perhaps when the Honourable Member comes to reply, he will make that point clear to us.

Now, Sir, all these are useful and essential adjuncts of the Department of Information and Broadcasting and, if they are removed, will, in my opinion severely truncate the whole Department. Even if it is agreed that some of the limbs are to be cut away, I would suggest that in my judgment those which the present motion seeks to abolish are the wrong ones. And that brings me to a question to which I never had an answer in this House or elsewhere in reply to the inquiries that I have made. It is this. What precisely does the Publications Division do which the Bureau of Press Information does not, or cannot, do for the Department? I find from the heads of the proposed expenditure here that the Publications Division is to spend next year 15 odd lakhs, whilst the Bureau of Public Information is to spend 14 lakhs. Now, speaking as one who himself has been for a long number of years engaged in the business of publishing, I would say that on a superficial view there is scope inside the Press Bureau itself for the absorption of a great deal, if not the whole, of the activity of the Publications Division. It is true, in my opinion, that the editor of a newspaper receives much useful material from the Press Bureau, but nonetheless it must be said that it has declined during the last two years, both as to quantity and as to quality, and that at a time when by accumulated experience and knowledge, and by reason of the enlargement of staff and resources, one might reasonably have expected the Bureau to be

[Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson]

really at the top of its form. I myself apprehend that there is a good deal of duplication of functions between the Publication Division and the Bureau of Public Information, and, as I suggested before, the proposition might be examined seriously whether the latter could not take over some of the functions of the former to the advantage of both, so that the tax-payer might feel that he was getting the fullest possible value for his money. It seems to us on these Benches that economy by means of an examination of how far duplications of that kind can be avoided would be an indication of how far the Department of Information and Broadcasting is alive to the changed times in which we are now living. One has noticed in the last year or so, very little sense of enterprise and very little evidence of that kind and restlessness of mind and body which is, I think, the hall mark of good publicity. Now, Sir, no such organisation as the Department of Information and Broadcasting can hope to go on not making mistakes from time to time and not being guilty of some wastefulness as to expenditure, particularly in time of war. But we know the war is over, and we hope, for a long period of peace and as its concomitant many of us want to see retrenchment put in hand. But subject to the fact that mistakes and some waste were inevitable, I want to say that during the War, the Information and Broadcasting Department did a very good job of work which I think when it is seen in its proper and clearer retrospect, will appear even more meritorious than it does today. But with the coming of peace, it seems to have been caught unawares between wind and water, and it seems still to be thinking out its problems and functions in terms of the past. In the Standing Finance Committee only the other day, I discovered in a budgetary item in respect of the Labour Department that a provision had been made for nine lakhs of rupees for publicity and publicity officers in connection with labour exchanges and resettlement.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): In every Department of the Government of India, there is some provision for publicity.

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson: I am prepared to admit what my Honourable friend says. I tried to elicit what the facts were but I could not establish whether the Information and Broadcasting Department had been consulted over this matter. But surely, if we are to have a department staffed with able, intelligent and experienced men, there is no necessity to have separate departmental publicity in respect of Labour or any other Department as my Honourable friend Mr. Ayyangar has mentioned. It is, Sir, that type of revelation which makes us suspicious that not only is insufficient enterprise being shown by the Department, but also that it is not sufficiently watchful and it is not covering the whole field of publicity which I suggest should be one of the chief functions of the Department of Information and Broadcasting in its new peace time guise, which will perhaps be of a more sober character, but the one in which we wish to see it proceed in the period ahead. I cannot however associate myself, or my Group, with the whole of this cut motion and I therefore oppose it.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan (North-West Frontier Province: General): Sir, I rise to support the cut motion on the Department of Information and Broadcasting moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Ayyangar with the eloquence and thoroughness characteristic of his Province and opposed by my Honourable friend Mr. Tyson so ably also. I see the greatest difficulty of Mr. Tyson is that he cannot see the logic or reasonableness of this cut motion. I promise to explain our point of view to him and convert him to our view if he only would take the trouble of listening to me. Information and Broadcasting—the name stands for activities so vitally important to the life of a nation, that none but a fool would dare to condemn them or interfere with their expansion.

We have no quarrel with it, but our quarrel is with the way it functions, with the way it is made to function. We are concerned with the voice of the musician, and the song that he sings. We have nothing but appreciation for the art of singing. You all must have heard the story of the Englishman, the Frenchman and the American who were asked to write an essay on elephant. The Englishman wrote about this magnificent and noble beast trampling the rich tropical jungles of the British Empire. The Frenchman wrote about the little loves of the little elephant. The American wrote about bigger and better elephants. That is a good story and it illustrates one point beautifully, that the man is more important than the things he talks about. The message of a picture is the real thing, not the paint that goes to the making of it. All things made by man are neutral morally. They are neither good nor bad. The split atom can carry you to the devil just as readily as it can carry you to the moon. It is neither a good horse nor a bad horse, it is merely a strong horse. Broadcasting, photography and printing are slaves that man has invented for his service and pleasure like steam, electricity or the split atom. And, like perfect slaves they have no will of their own. Your will is their will, so it is no use trotting out that old argument that publicity and broadcasting are very essential. Look, how much England spends on it. Look how many stations America has. I will agree with you there. I also say that Information and Broadcasting is fine, that India should spend 100 crores a year on it. But that is not the point. The point is on broadcasting what? It is rather a large order. I would say that we may spend that much on it, provided it is constructive, provided it rebuilds and rejuvenates our nation emotionally and spiritually. But by merely talking or writing about construction, you are not being constructive, just as by drawing lines you cannot claim to be painting a picture. You can not paint a picture without drawing lines, but you may draw a million lines, yet not make even half a picture. You make a picture only when your lines have a point, a purpose and above all a conscience and a soul. Sir, if you agree with me thus far, I would ask you to examine the activities of the Information and Broadcasting Department and its numerous progeny in the light of these observations. What does this Department send forth? Music, news, talks, publications and films. Let us take music. Music is a supplementary language. In music a nation expresses those deep and subtle things that can't be brought to the surface otherwise. It is a picture in sound of the soul of a nation. You could say that the American Foxtrot is a skyscraper made hearable or the American skyscraper is the Foxtrot made visible. They are both characteristic expressions of the mind of America.

Is the music sent forth by this Department a true picture of the soul of India? True, they give us a certain amount of old classical music. I give them credit for it as much credit as I would give to the Curator of a Museum for dusting and looking after old statues. It is the modern music the picture of this living growing India that I find not only boring but sickening. In this field you find this Department crossing our rich, cultured, matured and dignified old music with the Foxtrot, the Tango, the Rumbha and the Bogiwoogi. Now, I love Waltzes and Tangos and Foxtrots. They remind me of my student days in England and America when one kept high spirits and low company. But just because a dagger is golden, one should not stab oneself with it. I do not like them crossed with our *thumries* and *ghazals* and *behrawis*. They not only produce hybrid children but extremely illbred ones. I am not against change and progress. I am against cross-breeding with the lowest and most vulgar form of western music. It is possible to have a music that is a true picture of the mind and culture of India today. I am not dressed like my grandfather, but I am dressed like a Pathan. You could not mistake me for anything else. The Information and Broadcasting Department has failed to dress in this manner. It has given Indian music, a golf cap, a check shirt, a tail coat and no trousers and wants me to worship this horror in the name of progress and modernisation and looks pained when I don't.

[Khan Abdul Ghani Khan]

Now we shall take all the other activities of this Department. In these activities unfortunately our rulers were directly interested and therefore this Department speaks what it is told to speak, it speaks what it pays it to speak, it speaks what a mercenary is expected to speak in front of his master. It says whatever it is allowed to say and it need never be the truth. Why? Here we must go to the fundamental problem,—the interests of England against the interests of India, the point of view of the hawk and that of the dove, the point of view of the wolf against that of the sheep, the point of view of the hunter against that of the deer. This Department printed, photographed, talked, hinted, insinuated, suggested, forgot and remembered always to the interests of the rulers and never of the ruled. I do not blame them for it; they serve their masters faithfully and efficiently. I do not agree with my Honourable friend Mr. Tyson when he says that it is an inefficient Department; I think it is one of the most efficient and well-run Departments of the Government of India. But I object to their pretence of service to India and I object to their making me pay for it and thank them into the bargain. Let England thank them and let England pay for their grand effort of extending the bonds of slavery to the realm of the mind and the soul of India.

Now I want to leave the general issue and come to specific points. My unforunate province gets the full brunt of the general defects of this Department, along with others peculiar to itself. It is always so. We suffer like the rest of India from a scarcity of cloth, and we suffer more intensely because of our peculiar mode of dressing and terrible climate. The Information Department is no excepetion. Our cup of bitterness has always an extra dose added to it to suit our peculiar circumstances. Ours is the only province in India where the local programmes are given in a foreign language. You may be surprised to hear it. Take Lucknow, for example. It gets only 50 minutes of news in English every day, and the rest of the programme for the whole day and night is in Urdu. In Peshawar we get three hours of Pushto with the news thrown in, and all the rest of the time it is in Urdu which Pathans do not understand. We are not allowed a Pathan Director; we are always favoured with a genius from this part of the world. You may have an outsider for industry or roads or planning and development, but you cannot have an outsider for music. It is so deep and subtle and such an intimate part of the history and culture and growth of a race that no outsider, however gifted and sympathetic he might be, can ever dare to understand it; and the result is that we are being smothered by the cheap, syrupy, sexy music of the dancing girls of India,—the dancing girls on whom the A.I.R. chiefly depends for the interpretation of the soul and culture of India. To depend on the lowest and most degraded of the community for the interpretation of the noblest and highest form of a nation's feelings,—is something that my Honourable friend over there can explain, I cannot.

Sir, two years ago I went to Swath, the little Kashmir of the North-West Frontier. The ranges of the Hindukush were covered with snow, I stood on the bank of a river that was fresh from the snows thundering down to my little village in the plains. And I heard a song. I looked round and saw a shepherd boy who was singing. It was one of the most filthy and vulgar songs popularised through the radio by one of the most famous prostitutes of Lahore. I had a strong desire to push that shepherd boy into the icy water of the river but I realised that it was not his fault. He was young. Youth is an intense search: youth has a burning desire to express itself; and it was my duty and the duty of my Honourable friend over there to provide him with a means of expression beautiful and noble, not loud and vulgar.

The Pathans have a great and rich store of folk songs, folk music where you will find gay little colourful pictures of their tribal wars and heroes, loves and elopements. It is the one place in India, Sir, where you will find musical compositions that attempt to describe things. There are no words to go with them, but pure descriptive sounds that may give you the picture of the flight of a bird or the walk of a girl. But you may listen to our Peshawar station for a year and never hear one. Firstly because we are sadly behind the rest of India in the dancing girl line, and secondly because these things are lying spread out in the hills and valleys and little villages of the Pathans, and the bright young man who directs our station does not know where to look for them. In all fairness to my young friend let me say that he is intelligent, musical and artistic and would make a good Director for any station except Peshawar. I appeal to the Honourable Member to let the Peshawar station speak Pushto. You cannot run a broadcasting station solely for the benefit of a few shopkeepers who have migrated from the Punjab and Kashmir and elsewhere to bleed us and skin us. Give us the news in English and Urdu and everything else in Pushto. It is not an unreasonable request, when every station in the other provinces is run in this way. And in Heaven's name stop murdering our music with the cheap trash of the lowest crowd of the cities of India. If you cannot do that, shut our station down; we would rather go thirsty than drink poison.

Sir, the Information and Broadcasting Department is well got up and efficiently run, but it is not Indian and patriotic. It is bold effort on the part of the slave master to extend slavery to the realms of thought and emotion and an effort to drive the knife deeper. To vote for it would be to vote for spiritual suicide,—for an Indian and not for an Englishman. Let this Department try to make a Pathan a better Pathan, a Madrassi a better Madrassi and an Indian a better and a more cultured Indian, and we shall vote half the revenues of India for it. But the Department as it has been today and as it has been for the past six years is a tool of England and not of India. It is England that should pay for it and not we.

Sir, it would be extremely unfair if I did not speak a few words of praise for a small off-shoot of this Department, the Field Publicity Organisation of the Frontier. This small Department, though still very young, has completely identified itself with the people of the province. This autumn when malaria was rampant the organisation even distributed quinine to the poor villagers who could not get it otherwise. The credit for this goes to Abdul Karim Khan, the man who makes the best of a bad job. But my Honourable friend gives them only Rs. 92,000 out of the 138 lakhs spent on it. That is what is given by this Department for services rendered. The Field Publicity Organisation of the Frontier Province deserves praise and needs expansion. With this small but very important exception, I fully support the motion of my Honourable friend Mr. Ayyangar.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammadan): Sir, I need not deal with the history of the Department. The Honourable the Mover has given the history to this House and he has described the different denominations of the Department at the different stages of its existence, but at all time it has been serving the same purpose which the Government had in view. I will first deal with the Information Films; it is the worst kind of trash that could have been flashed in any country. Probably these are meant to convey to other countries an idea how backward India is. We had our suspicions when there was a debate on the liquidation of the National War Front, though the Secretary at that time Mr. Bozman gave an assurance that it was not his intention any more. I will quote what my Deputy Leader Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan said then:

> "I am afraid I was giving him a little more credit anyhow.....The Honourable Member's premises were wrong, therefore his conclusion is wrong. Neither does propaganda give the right type of information nor has it got the right type of people in it. Therefore its achievements cannot be of the right type also."

That was said about the National War Front and its Publicity Department. The new shape that it took did not change materially in that part at least.

[Mr. Muhammad Nauman]

Sir, I was just referring to the question of films. The method which was undergone in the matter of distribution of raw films and the corruption that their departmental men indulged in can hardly be disclosed in a debate here. I will not enter into those details here at all. I will only refer to the propaganda which has been carried on in the country through these films. What do they generally show through these films? Methods of agriculture, story of coal shortage news reels to impress the world or at least this country about the great pageantry of this Government by showing Victory celebrations and etc. The main purpose of flashing films in other countries is also to degrade this country in the estimation of others as much as possible. In this connection, I would like to refer to an A.P.I. message in which it was said that the film 'Ganga Din' was staged in Greece and flashed. It was resented to by the Indian soldiers as it was considered indecent and derogatory to the Indian taste. By showing these films, Government wanted to create an impression in the Western countries that India is full of elephants, Rajas, jewels, and such other things which would convey the impression that the civilization of this country was probably two thousand years behind the present standard. Such films are considered by them to be the true picture of Indian conditions, and they have no other purpose except to impress upon the world the justification of maintaining their hold on this country.

As regards the Publication Department, they have got the Far East Propaganda Department. What is the Far East?—It may be Far East to them, but it is Near East to us—and what is the nature of the propaganda which is being carried on there? Have we got any independent status to talk as a sovereign country with Persia or with any other country in the so called Far East? If we have not, what is the sense in carrying out any propaganda there? On the one hand we are not in the know of the substance of the propaganda which is being carried out on the other hand this can serve no useful purpose. They have been distributing in those countries books, and magazines written in Persian and it is again directed to the same end—maintaining British Imperialism in this country and trying to degrade the civilization of this country to the extent to which it is possible for them to do.

The books that are supplied to the United Nations Organization is another subject which requires careful consideration. I am told, Sir, that the Secretary of State passed on to this Organization Beverley Nichols book 'Verdict on India'. Probably it was considered by them to be the best book written on this country, but Government of India have not so far said that it was their publication. Government of India representatives have not got the courage to even testify a truth. I remember during the last Budget Session when this book was criticized on the floor of this House, Government tried to alienate themselves from that as much as they could, but when they had to suggest an authoritative book containing useful information with regard to this country, they could not help thinking this book contained the most valuable information, and therefore they passed it on to the United Nations Organisation. I do not wish to comment on the contents of this book. But I only wish to point out what they have been doing so far and how they have been evading their responsibility even in one good case, I mean publication of this book.

Then, Sir, I am told that about 2,000 publications of *The Times* of London, are purchased and supplied to different offices—for what purpose. I do not know what useful purpose is served by subscribing *The Times* of London. We are not as yet in the know of many other publications that are brought, from England. We are not in a position to know details of all the publications that are sent out from this country. It was only a few weeks ago that we received a circular letter from the Secretary of the Legislative Assembly Department asking us whether we would like to have any books publishd by this Department, but the Department never cared to send any of those magazines or books to us earlier. They were doing everything at our back; they were shy; they were afraid; as they thought that they were doing something mischievous, and therefore the representatives of the people should not receive any information in this regard. This reminds me of a Persian couplet:

"Nehán Kai mánad án ráze Kazoo Sázand mahfithá

Translation (How can you conceal things which forms the basis of your mirth and enjoyment).

You cannot keep a secret of those things which you are flashing to the world, and there you stand degraded and condemned. I want to impress upon this House that if this Department has done anything at all, it has degraded the prestige of this country in every sphere in the matter of general civilization, the methods of cultivation of this country, and so on and so forth. They have been responsible for bringing about famine in food, and famine in cloth, and they have been responsible for all the mischief that propaganda could do in this connection. One thing is very pertinent and it is this that they have been carrying on this Department in the teeth of opposition from us. The mover of the motion very clearly said that as early as March 1942, the Muslim League Party definitely opposed this programme in the Standing Finance Committee, but the Government did not take any notice of that. Again during the Budget Session of 1945, in our debate on the abolition of the National War Front we made it clear that the Publicity Department in whatever shape or form it exists under the present management was not worth having. It was against our interest and whatever propaganda they were doing was always prejudicial to this country. That being the position, I would ask the Honourable the Finance Member to think over once again on this matter and say whether he would abide by the verdict of this House by accepting a cut of Rs. 93 lakhs and doing away with this Department for good.

With regard to Films, I once again repeat that their policy has been very mischievous. About Information Section. I was told about the appointment of the Chief Publicity Officer whose educational qualification is limited to the standard of matriculation from one of the Universities of this country. He might have the ability of cajoling the officers to win their favours, but so far as his ability is concerned, it is unknown to us and it is unknown to many other people. In condemning this Department I also want to say that those who have associated with it have wronged their own genius and merit, if they have any. With these few words, Sir, I support the motion.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari (Member for Information and Broadcasting): Sir, I do not appear before this House in sack cloth and ashes. I am not ashamed for what has been done in the past or what is proposed to be done, if it is allowed to survive, by this Department in the future. Mr. Abdul Ghani Khan, in his very attractive literary exercise, which is worthy of some of the best productions of my Department, has really confined his speech to broadcasting which is not in question in the present cut motion. If he finds anything to complain of, and I am sure there are things which could be probably improved, I would very much like him to give me and Mr. Bokhari the benefit of his counsel.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Do they care to hear us? Give them as much advice and counsel!

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: As I have announced previously in the House, it is my intention that as soon as it may be, broadcasting would be under the direction of a semi-autonomous body consisting of Indian men and women of standing. Anyhow that should be ample evidence that I am very willing and so is Mr. Bokhari to act on advice.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Is it to screen it from criticism?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: I do not propose to go into the matter of publication which forms the main theme of Mr. Tyson's remarks because that again is not in question. In view. . . .

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson: May I ask the Honourable Member if he would try and address this side of the House. It is frightfully difficult to hear.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: Sir, I will do my best. There is a very good case for Publications, but I do not want to explain it now because that again is not in question and therefore I would like to confine myself to the four activities of the Department which is the subject of this cut totalling Rs. 93 lakhs. In the first place I would like to say that it is not true that I have flouted the opinion of the House expressed in the previous debate on this subject in the time of my distinguished predecessor. I joined the Department on the 1st November 1945. Very soon after I had got the hang of it, I went through myself along with my officers the various activities of this Department. I abolished some. I pruned down others and then what did I do?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Revive the third!

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: I submitted proposals to a Committee of the Executive Council and got the proposals vetted by them and then by Government as a whole. But I did not stop there. I appeared myself on all the proposals which are in question before the Standing Finance Committee on the 9th February and by a majority the Standing Finance Committee accepted every one of them. You cannot say, like the last Standing Finance Committee, that there was a majority of people of our way of thinking. Out of nine members three belonged to the Muslim League, four belonged to the Congress Party, and therefore if these proposals were passed by a majority, it must have been by a majority of elected members.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: By a majority which shall be defeated now!

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: My point is merely this: that at the earliest date, after I had examined the various activities of the Department and got governmental approval of their being carried out I placed them before a Committee of this House, and had the Committee not agreed with one or the other of these proposals I was prepared not to carry them out.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: On a point of information. Is it a fact that the Honourable Member, or as a matter of fact his predecessor started this Department before it was brought before the Standing Finance Committee. Their activities were started in June 1945 and they did not come up to the Standing Finance Committee till February 1946.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: When I joined the Department, the whole Department came under review and all the principal activities of this Department were placed before the Standing Finance Committee of this House and passed, each of them by a majority. When I come to deal with each of the four items which my Honourable friend proposes to abolish, I will read out. . . .

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): Will the Honourable the Finance Member make clear what we made clear on this subject and what I said?

Mr. President: I think it is better if the Honourable Member is given a hearing.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Since matters which transpired in the Standing Finance Committee are being read and since the position which some of us took is not properly put, I am calling upon the Finance Member, who is the Chairman, to make clear what some of us said on this subject. We do not want it to be said that in one place we took one line and today we are taking another line.

Mr. President: What I would suggest to the Honourable Members is to be a little patient while the other side is putting its case.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: There is no impatience.

Mr. President: Order, order. Instead of having running commentaries and running questions at every sentence, let us first grasp what the Honourable Member has to say. After that is done, if there is anything which requires a personal explanation, certainly Honourable Members are entitled to put their questions and get the matter clarified. But this sort of running commentary at every sentence is not going to help the debate.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: On a point of personal explanation. I am a little sorry that you should have implied that there is impatience. As a matter of fact that Honourable Member said he was not responsible. . . . .

Mr. President: Order, order. The Honourable Member is trying to justify his position without hearing the other side.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I heard the other side.

Mr. President: I respectfully differ from the Honourable Member. I am hearing the whole debate and trying to follow it up. The Honourable Member may have his own views. I am starting on a blank slate. I have no presuppositions either this way or that way. Let him develop his argument. If there is any misstatement of any facts, or misrepresentation of the views of any Honourable Members, they will certainly have an opportunity. I will give them an opportunity. But the point is that there should not be running commentaries and interruptions at every sentence. It breaks the link of the person who is arguing his own case and then the House does not get all that he wants to say. Let him say all that he wants to say. The Honourable Members will make notes of the questions they want to put and then can put them. I will give them an opportunity.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: Thank you, Sir. I will make one observation on what my Honourable friend, Mr. Manu Subedar says. I do not wish to disclose what each individual member in the Standing Finance Committee said because that is against the rules. The only reason why I mentioned the Standing Finance Committee and which I think I have every right to do is that I did at the earliest possible moment place these matters before a Committee of this House and recorded; what is stated in this publication is for anybody to see. I did not reveal any secret. Now, with the permission of the House I wish to deal with the four subjects which the Honourable the mover wants cut out.

He mentioned first field publicity and said that this was flouting the opinion of the House, that it was extravagant expenditure and in the interest of economy this particular organisation should be cut out. Of course he is perfectly right in saying that there was no difference in time between the abolition of the National War Front and the creation of this Field Publicity Organisation. He was quite right but there was a difference in bias and I will read out a few lines from what was stated in the memorandum to the Standing Finance Committee:

1 P.M.

> "With the cessation of hostilities the need for educating the people in the restriction in daily life has to some extent decreased and Government's plans of postwar development have now become of primary importance. Any plan for the general improvement of the social and material conditions of the people as a whole must pay special attention to the villages. The measures required for such improvement are many and include improved methods of agriculture, better livestock, organised marketing, the financing of agriculture, the relief of indebtedness, anti-erosion, irrigation and reclamation measures. In addition improved communications, agricultural and health services and education are required."

Those are the present objectives of the Field Publicity Organisation and how do we propose to carry them out? At the Centre there is going to be only a very small co-ordinating organisation. Out of the 51 lakhs, five lakhs is to be spent at the Centre. That is the area of my patronage—5 lakhs and nothing more. The rest of the money is to be handed out to the Provinces not of course to be spent as they like but in accordance with an agreed programme; but the appointments in the Provinces and in the Centrally-administered areas will not be made by the Centre but will be made by the Provincial Governments concerned. In this connection I was very glad to hear the tribute paid by my friend Khan Abdul Ghani Khan to the good

work which the organisation is doing on the Frontier. How is this sum arrived at? This sum of 41 lakhs to the Provinces represents half the cost of their non-recurring expenditure on equipment (which becomes the property of the Provinces) and two-thirds of their recurring expenditure. The intention is that this organisation should be tried out for a year, if you agree to it, that is for the year 1946-47. If by the end of 1946-47 it is found that the organisation has been successful and the Provincial Governments then are willing to undertake a greater measure, a greater share of the recurring expenditure, we will continue it. If it is found that they are not prepared to share a far greater measure than one-third, we will discontinue it. Therefore it is purely on an experimental basis and dependent upon whether the service which we expect it to give is in fact given. Were conditions in the country likely to remain as they have been during the last five or six years, Honourable Members opposite may have said, "Oh, yes. That is all very well. But many of these Governments are Section 93 Governments. They are under your thumb and they will just carry out such policies as are dictated to them by the Centre, which in turn are dictated to by the Secretary of State for India." Already we see popular ministries being installed in the Provinces and before this organisation really begins to get under way Provincial Ministries will be installed, I hope, in all Provinces and even the Centre, as you see it now, will be by then, I hope, in the process of dissolution. Therefore if you now cut out this grant you are really not hurting anybody except the people, who will have to carry on both in the Centre and in the Provinces the responsibilities of Government.

When this proposal was made first, fortunately we were not faced with a famine. But the fact that there is likelihood of severe scarcity and famine, probably in many parts of the country, gives me an additional reason, though I would like to have gone without it, to ask you not lightly to throw away this machinery which may be of great use in educating our people and alleviating their conditions at a time of great distress. That is all that I have got to say about the Field Publicity Organisation.

A good deal of heat was engendered about the Information Films of India which account for 30 lakhs out of this 93 lakhs. The revenues are not accounted for, which are about 14 lakhs which leaves a net expenditure of 16 lakhs.

I was really amazed that an Honourable Member opposite, who moved this motion, should have made the allegations which he did without taking the trouble to verify them. One of the allegations which he made was that we have produced the film, 'Ganga Din' and that we exhibited it in Athens which led to a riot. What are the facts? . . . . .

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I intervene, Sir. I cannot wait until the end of the Honourable Member's speech. I want to correct a misstatement. I merely said whether he did it or the Government of India did it, this is the kind of film that is going to be produced against India.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: In this case I am the Government of India

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Are you the Military Department also?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: I am just as responsible for whatever the Government of India does as any other Member of the Government of India.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Defence Department also

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: Yes. Let me continue. Now this film 'Ganga Din' was produced before the war by an American company. It proved

offensive at that time to Indian susceptibilities and rightly so. When the war was on, it was re-hashed by the Americans and they tried to cut out things which they in their ignorance felt were offensive to Indian susceptibilities, and exhibited this film and sought to import it into India. We proscribed it; and what is more: two Provincial Governments let it pass and we asked them to proscribe it in those provinces also. How can you base your claim that we have villified our own countrymen abroad on facts like these?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Why was it exhibited?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: I am not going to give way. Another allegation which was made was that "Oh yes; you show extremely good films to the legislators here, but look how you blackguard the name of Indian abroad." I will give you an answer to that. Here is the latest programme to information films which was shown in America. There were six films: the first one was "Our heritage"—portrayal of ancient Hindu, Muslim and Buddhist architecture. (2) Rural Maharashtra peasant life in Bombay province. (3) Khattak —North India's favourite classical dance. (4) Handicrafts of South India—typical examples of South Indian craftsmanship. (5) Musical Instruments of India—popular musical instruments and their melody. In that connection I would just like to mention the opinion of Mr. Walt Disney—many Honourable Members must be aware of him: they must have seen his cartoons also. He said:

"I think the films on the musical instruments were excellent. I think you will find that the people of this country, that is America, are very interested in knowing about peoples of other countries. It is films like these that create a better understanding and stimulate interest in the culture and way of life of other nations."

Another film which we showed was "The Tree of Life", dealing with the cocoanut palm in its manifold uses; here it is rather interesting if I quote to you the tributes paid to it. When this film was exhibited in America and when the press in India got notices of how this had been received, this is what '*Dawn* said:

"One of the things which can be put down to the credit side of the Government of India is the popularisation of the short film on the Indian screen."

The '*Bombay Sentinel*' said this:

"The Information Films of India may definitely pat themselves on the back on this achievement; for if we remember correctly, this is the first time that the Indian films have been reviewed by the Amrican film press and reviewed so favourably too."

I would like you to mark these words from a paper like the '*Bombay Sentinel*':

"The Inform. Films of India blazed a pioneer trail in making the production of short films a practical possibility in this country, and are now doing further valuable pioneering work by exporting them abroad and acquainting the world about India and her many-sided problems and national life."

This is what the '*Bombay Chronicle*' said:

"The Information Films of India which made the production of short films a practical possibility in India are doing further pioneer work, etc., etc."

and so on.

But my Honourable friend opposite may say "Oh, yes; but you are only reading certain chosen extracts. This is not the only films which you have produced. What about the others?" Well, Sir . . . .

Mr. President: Is the Honourable Member at a convenient point to stop? He can resume at 2-30.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: Very well, Sir.

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

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: Sir, I was saying that after I had read out the programme of films shown in America perhaps my Honourable friends opposite may say 'Oh, well, that is all very well but what about the other films that you produced'. My answer to that is that I have here a list of the 153 films which since the constitution of the Indian film unit have been produced by it. They are available to any Member of the House to see what the subjects are and if it is any one's wish I shall have any of them exhibited, so that they may be able to judge whether any of these are derogatory to the dignity or against the self-respect of our people. I do not think I will take up the time of the House by reading even some of the selected film titles but my challenge stands. I challenge any Member of this House to come and see any of these films and say whether any of them are derogatory to the self-respect of India. Now, we did show the other day to Members of the Legislature a small collection of these films and this is what one of my friends from the Congress Benches wrote to me about it. I will not mention his name. He is a very eminent man, a worthy son of a worthy father. This is what it say:

"I was greatly struck by what I saw. Allow me to say that the performance was both informing and instructive. . . . . "

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): The letter is from myself. I stand by what I said.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: Thank you.

"The photographs were exceedingly fine and I learnt much about our own ancient and medieval art. I also think that your idea is very good, that you should give a knowledge of how things are done by various departments of Government so that the public may appreciate the difficulties of the workers and co-operate with them."

We may have fallen down at times in regard to the quality but it is gradually improving. I do not say that the quality has always been excellent but to use the language which my friend Mr. Nauman used—that they depicted the great pageantry of the Government of India, that they are trash and that they are degrading is really to use words without knowing their meaning.

Then, Sir, it is a matter of considerable pride to me and I hope it will be to the House that this excellent technical unit is very largely run by Indians, our own people who have by a process of trial and error brought these films to the perfection they have so far attained. There are 164 Indians as against 6 Europeans and the head of the organisation is an India, Mr. Ezra Mir.

I have said sufficiently about the information films. I next go on to the other item, which is the Research and Reference Division of the Publications Division. The Publications Grant is not to be cut. Therefore I will not say anything about Publications at this stage. I will only confine myself to the Research and Reference Division the grant of which is about 4 lakhs. It is perfectly true that this formed part of the old Counter Propaganda Directorate but it has now been brought under the umbrella of this Department and for a very good reason. You cannot have publicity in this country about outside countries. For example our people want to know what is happening in Russia, in the Middle East, in the Far East and elsewhere, what movements are taking place and what measures of development are taking place and they cannot know, unless you have a body of information on which to write. Now, a magazine (Perspective) which I think received general approval in this House and certainly that of Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar is directed towards America. He was good enough to tell me how extremely well got up it was and what good material it contained. Now, to produce the matter contained in that magazine requires a good deal of research and a good library on which to base these articles. I agree with my Honourable friend Mr. Abdul Ghani that your instrument may be good but it all depends on who lays down the policy. That is one of the arguments in asking you not to break down this machinery at the present moment. This is a very useful bit of machinery.

Even if you do not trust me, I hope you will trust my successors. It is a very good bit of machinery on which they would base their own publicity because India will need both inside and outside publicity of the kind we are endeavouring to carry out. Now, the whole of this division is run by three officers. Two of them are Indians. One is a Muslim and the other is a Hindu. Not that I believe in these communal proportions or racial divisions. I don't but it so happens that one is a Muslim and the other is a Hindu. The chief gentleman is an Englishman. I am very sorry he is going away. He is leaving us not because I want him to go but he is going for his own purposes next month, so that the whole of this research and reference division, which has done extremely good work and which submits quarterly reports which I am prepared to lay on the table of the House and which show what it does—the whole of this is run by Indians and, I say, in the interest of India. If you like to cut it down, you can do so, but you will be doing a very wrong thing.

Then, Sir, the last item included in the cut is that of arts. I have, as my Honourable friend has said, inherited the other activities, such as, the field publicity, research and reference and the films, but arts is something which I in my simplicity did. I thought that our own people would like the Government, when they were thinking of spending crores and crores of rupees on industry, on health, on agriculture and hundred and one very desirable objectives of national improvement, to spend a little money on encouraging our culture and in helping our artists and also in preserving memorials of our past, so that they may be an example to our younger generation. My Honourable friend opposite has spoken quite truthfully, I am sure, of what he feels for the common man and woman in India. So do I, and it is just because I feel for them and for the new generation which is growing up that I had this modest provision included in the Central budget. If you go along the cities of India, where can the poor boy or girl, whose parents cannot afford to buy a good picture or who cannot afford to send them on their travels, who are going to be the future generation of India can refresh their mind, unless we now begin to have proper museums, preserve our manuscripts and preserve our records and make them available to the public at large? Take them away from the custody of the rich and make them a national inheritance. That is what my aim has been in trying to get a small initial grant which is 4 lakhs for this purpose. I have already received several letters from Indian Arts Associations, Indian Artists and so on, asking for Government assistance. They have all welcomed that at this late stage the Government are trying to do something for the cultural advancement of this country. I do not say that we will direct these activities. All that I say is that here is a small organism sought to be created in the Centre to which an appeal could be made by people, artists and sculptors, etc. for help. It is purely that. Here is an organism which will try, if it is allowed to survive, to see whether we could not create academies of art and literature, so that our artists and our men of letters might get a status in our own community. In the India of the past, writers, painters and sculptors were respected and they were looked up to. But look at their position now. It is due to the fact that they have got no status that I was hoping to try in a small way to provide them with the means to be able to reacquire that status.

There is one other incorrect statement in this connection which I would like to correct. The Honourable the Mover said that this was only another name for the dancing parties and so on, which were sent abroad for entertaining our troops. Now, that is absolutely and entirely untrue. The Indian equivalent of the European ENSA was not in charge of this Department but of the War Department, of the Directorate of Public Relations of the War Department. It has nothing to do with the Information and Arts Department. I am not saying that that was an activity which was wrong, because why should we object to our soldiers in foreign land seeing something and hearing something of the music to which they were accustomed and seeing the faces of our own people in the midst of their difficulties. But that is a different matter. It had nothing to do with the question of arts.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is not dancing an art?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: In developing your theme what you said was that I was appearing only under different colours and you implied that the Arts side of the Department was just another name for the dancing parties and so on sent for our troops. That is wrong.

Sir, I have traversed all the four items which make up the total cut of 93 lakhs. I have shown that in regard to field publicity, the bulk of the money is for the provinces. They are subject to our general directive and co-ordination but they are entirely free to manage it as they like. If you cut that out, then you knock out this particular help from being given to them and, mind you, at a time when they are faced with many grave problems. Every member of the staff of Field Publicity is an Indian. In regard to films also, I think I have given sufficient evidence that they are not what they have been alleged to be and that for the most part they are directed by Indians. In regard to Research and Reference, I have again shown you what the position is and I have mentioned to you the reasons for starting the section of Arts. Very unfortunately, all these four activities have been clubbed together in one enormous cut motion of 93 lakhs. If you pass this motion, you truncate the Information and Arts Department and I very much doubt whether it will continue to have a separate existence. I have tried, as far as I could, to run this Department in accordance with what I consider to be the national interest. If you, as representatives of the nation, duly elected, say that you do not want this activity by passing this cut motion for 93 lakhs, do not do it on the assumption that it will be restored. I, therefore, appeal to you, before you take this step, to think whether you are wise in depriving the new government, on the eve of its coming into existence, of a useful machine and of technical and competent people without hope of re-call. Sir, I have done.

3 P.M.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the demand under the head 'Department of Information and Broadcasting' be reduced by Rs. 93,34,000."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—61

Abdul Ghani Khan, Khan.
Abid Hussain, Choudhury Md.
Adityan, Sri S. T.
Ayyangar, Sri M. Ananthasayanam.
Banerjee, Sree Satyapriya.
Chaman Lall, Diwan.
Chettiar, Sri T. A. Ramalingam.
Choudhuri, Sreejut Rohini Kumar.
Daga, Seth Sheodass.
Damodar Swaroop, Sjt. Seth.
Gadgil, Sjt. N. V.
Gangaraju, Sri V.
Gole, Mr. P. B.
Gounder, Sri V. C. Vellingiri.
Govind Das, Seth.
Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur.
Hans Raj, Raizada.
Jaffer, Mr. Ahmed E. H.
Jagannathdas, Sri.
Jhunjhunwala, Mr. B. P.
Jinachandran, Sri M. K.
Khan, Mr. Debendra Lal.
Killedar, Mr. Mohammad M.
Lahiri Choudhury, Srijut Dhirendra Kanta.
Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada.
Madandhari Singh, Mr.
Mahapatra, Sri Bhagirathi.
Malaviya, Pandt Govind.
Mangal Singh, Sardar.
Manu Subedar, Mr.
Menon, Sri A. Karunakara.
Mukhopadhyay, Mr. Nagendranath.
Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava, Pandit.
Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.
Narayanamurthi, Sri N.
Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.
Neogy, Mr. K. C.
Paliwal, Pandit, Sri Krishna Dutt.
Ram Narayan Singh, Babu.
Ramayan Prasad, Mr.
Ranga, Prof. N. G.
Reddiar, Sri R. Venkatasubba.
Saksena, Shri Mohan Lal.
Salve, Mr. P. K.
Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar.
Satakopachari, Sri T. V.
Sharma, Mr. Krishna Chandra.
Sharma, Pandit Balkrishna.
Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
Sinha, Shri Satya Narayan.
Sri Prakasa, Shri.
Sukhdev, Seth.
Surjit, Singh Majithia, Squadron Leader Sardar.
Swaminadhan, Shrimati Ammu.
Thakur Das Bhargava, Pundit.
Vadilal Lallubhai, Mr.
Varma, Mr. B. B.
Vijava Ananda, Maharajkumar, Dr. Sir.
Yamin Khan, Sir Mohammed.
Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, Seth.
Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Sir.

NOES—40

Ahmad Alawee Khan Alvi, Raja Sir Saiyid.
Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Dr. Sir M.
Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.
Bewoor, Sir Gurunath.
Bhattacharyya, Rai Bahadur Devendra Mohan.
Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.
Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.
Cook, Mr. B. C. A.
Fenton, Mr. R. V.
Griffiths, Mr. P. J.
Gwilt, Mr. Leslie.
Himmatsinhji, Col. Kumar Shri.
Hirtzel, Mr. M. A. F.
Hydari, The Honourable Sir Akbar.
Inskip, Mr. A. C.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasjee.
Joshi, Mr. S. C.
Kharegat, Sir Pheroze.
Lawson, Mr. C. P.
Mason, Mr. P.
Morris, Mr. R. C.
Naqvi, Mr. A. T.
Oulsnam, Mr. S H. Y.
Raja Bahadur of Khallikote.
Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
Rowlands, The Honourable Sir Archibald.
Sargent, Dr. Sir John.
Sen, Mr. B. R.
Sharbat Khan, Khan Bahadur.
Spence, Sir George.
Sri Chand, Chaudhuri.
Stokes, Mr. H. G.
Sundaresan, Mr. N.
Thorne, The Honourable Sir John.
Turner, Mr. A. C.
Tyson, Mr. Geoffrey W.
Waugh, The Honourable Mr. A. A.
Weightman, Mr. H.
Zaman, Mr. S. R.

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 26—FOOD DEPARTMENT

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member): Sir, I beg to move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 39,55,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Food Department'."

Mr. President: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 39,55,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Food Department'."

Negligence, Inefficiency and Failure of the Food Department to satisfactorily tackle the Food Problem

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Food Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

I move this with very great and very strong feelings about the way in which the whole of the food situation has been mismanaged and is being mismanaged in an unconscionable manner by the Central Government specially and the provincial Advisers also. If I were to try to give vent to my feelings and also to give expression to the facts that I have at my disposal in order to show how unconscionably this Government have been behaving in regard to this matter, my twenty minutes will not at all be enough. Moreover, we have had a discussion for three days on this matter and grievances from all parts of the country in regard to the food administration have been ventilated. Therefore I will try to be as brief as possible so far as the grievance portion is concerned, and concern myself more with what people like to be done by the Department.

Sir, Government want to show people that it is more an act of God than of man that we are faced today with this terrible situation. Out of our 400 million people more than 300 million live in villages. These people so far have not been cared for in regard to their food needs by the Government, except in a very few places where there is supposed to be an informal rationing. And what is happening in our countryside is indeed a very dangerous thing. Government is hard put to it to find enough food for its towns; I call them "its towns" because it seems to have a special affection towards the towns: and therefore it sends its officers who behave like hooligans in our villages and try to overestimate what we produce and underestimate what we need for our own consumption, take away much more than we could possibly spare from our villages

[Prof. N. G. Ranga]

and place it at the disposal of the towns in order to assure those people at least of one pound of cereals per day per adult. The result is that famine is spreading slowly but surely in rural areas, in those rural areas which in our normal circumstances could have been expected to be self-sufficing. I am not thinking in terms of provinces at all; I am thinking in terms of taluks, groups of villages and even districts. Even in those districts or areas which are supposed to be surplus we find today a cry for more and more food from non-peasant classes who themselves do not possess any land and who yet have to work in the production of food. There are agricultural workers, there are also the artisans, and they are suffering now for want of food in these very same villages from which large quantities of foodgrains are being taken away to towns. Who is to look after them? Are Government thinking about them? By their neglect of these people—and they number no less than a hundred million people all over our villages—Government are simply condemning them to slow death. I have already communicated two small pieces of information that I have received from various people to the Department concerned as well as the Agriculture Department. I do not wish to weary the House by quoting from them now. I only wish to say this as only one of the examples that in South Canara itself, to go on producing foodgrains has become such a terrible thing—not only non-paying but also a dangerous thing—that peasants have given up cultivating more than a thousand acres, and they prefer to go to the plantations and work there as agricultural workers. Sir, these officers go there, demand much more than what the peasants themselves have produced or are able to produce. These poor peasants are obliged to sell whatever other things they have got in order to purchase grain at black-market rates in very many places and place it at the disposal of these officers, as otherwise these officers will send them to jail. Sir, I have in my possession a notice given in advance, without any name either of the village or of the peasant but signed by the Tahsildar and sent to the village headman, saying that such and such a man (no name is given) is required to place at the disposal of Government such and such quantities of grain (not knowing how much land that man actually possesses), and all this grain is supposed to be put there, and with a clear warning that if that grain is not delivered that man is likely to be sent to prison. And certainly he is sure to be sent to jail. Yesterday we had a news from Bihar saying that the Governor in his new consciousness of the food famine has given notice to all the peasants that there will be informal trials in order to try all these peasants—what he means by informal trials I do not know—who are not able or supposed to be not willing to place all the grain that is demanded of them at the disposal of these procurement officers. This is the sort of thing that is going on. I know of a case also which I brought to the notice of the Department some months ago where peasants are allowed a ration of only one seer per month per head. And how do they live? They have to go stealthily at night to the nearest town and purchase grain in the black market and bring it back after paying tips to policemen all the way. The ration comes only to one ounce a day.

Then I come to the other point. There is one gentleman from my Madras Province, who is supposed to be an adviser there, and he is treated as a great authority on food. He was a member of the Food Commission also. As it has become a sort of habit with the Government Members, I dare say my Honourable friend will get up and pay very many compliments to him against my accusations. Sir, I hold him as much responsible for the conditions which obtain in my Province as any other individual.

An Honourable Member: Who is he?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I hold the Government of India responsible for this food crisis, and why do I say so? Because the most important thing is the price of foodgrains—remunerative price—which they are not prepared to pay. Last year—nearly fourteen months ago—I suggested to Government that it

should be willing to pay a remunerative price to the peasant. I told them again and again that the price which the peasants were able to get in the market was not at all remunerative. They said they were going to think about it. What have they done so far? They have done nothing. We passed a Resolution in this House, and this Honourable Member goes to a Press Conference and asks 'For God's sake don't ask for a rise in prices; it is dangerous to increase the prices'. I have a lot of respect for him because he has got a lot of experience of the Bengal famine. I do not know what contribution he made, but I hope he did something good. 'If you are going to raise the price of foodgrains', he said, 'you will not be able to control the situation'. I have taken every possible effort in order to approach this gentleman as well as his Department, not only on my own behalf but several other Honourable Members in this House have gone there and told him that both the Muslim League Party and the Congress Party will join hands with the Government in assuring the peasants that such and such is going to be a definite price and nothing more is going to be offered to them till the end of this year, and therefore they should be satisfied with this because it is considered to be the most remunerative price for them. If this is done, there would be no danger at all of foodgrains going into hoards. I made another offer also to the Madras Government as well as to this Government that we are prepared through our own Kisan Congress Organizations and various other organisations and societies in different provinces to open registers and ask the peasants to come forward and say how much they can spare, and this can only be done if we are prepared to pay them a remunerative price.

The other day the Honourable the Food Member—I do not know where he is now was making a very very generous offer of co-operation in his very, very steady, stammering manner. We are prepared to offer our co-operation provided you are prepared to pay the peasant a remunerative price. And I am here to tell you that the price that we are paying is not at all remunerative. My Honourable friend the other day asked me to think about the non-producing people also. He was good enough to say that 58 per cent. are producers, but the other 42 per cent. are not producers. He thinks about the minority, but that minority also in the towns. He thinks of this 42 per cent. of the villages in order to deny the 58 per cent. the price that they should get. I am not concerned about this price at all. You placed consumers' goods at our disposal; place agricultural implements at our disposal. I asked them to place more and more iron at our disposal, but the Honourable Member was not prepared to give a satisfactory answer. My Honourable friend, Sir Pheroze Kharegat will get up and say that our 'Grow More Food' campaign has succeeded, we have given so many subsidies, and so on. What are the wonderful subsidies that this gentleman has given? I am not going to weary the House with facts and figures; all of them are there in the Bengal Famine Commission Report. Only 25 per cent. of all the money that the Government of India has been spending in connection with this 'Grow More Food' campaign has been given as a grant; the remaining 75 per cent. was being given to them only as loans. Wherefrom are they to pay you these loans later on? You deny them even a remunerative price today, and at the same time you load them with all these loans, and afterwards they are to pay you?

Then you say there are irrigation facilities and so on. The other day, my Honourable friend, Sir Pheroze Kharegat, stated that the Bombay Government has offered 15 rupees per acre as a subsidy; Madras Government have also done the same. I can tell the Government that in order to irrigate a land afresh, it costs them not less than Rs. 45 for baling out water alone. We wanted to start a canal and we formed a co-operative society. We offered to irrigate 1,000 acres of land, and it would cost one lakh and odd rupees. Instead of giving us any subsidy, the Madras Government is collecting subsidy from us, by way of an inclusion fee of Rs. 35 per acre, and not being satisfied with

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that, they are asking for subsidy from the Government of India. So I say that Government do not care at all for the peasants and their welfare.

So many other things have appeared this morning in the '*Hindustan Times*' with regard to the representation made by U. K. to U. S. A. not to import tractors into this country. I need not go into details. Here is the condemnation by my revered leader:

"Instead of doing the right thing, they had in their arrogance cast to the winds the warnings and protests of the people's representatives." (*Harijan*, dated 3rd March, 1946).

The Bengal famine came and went, but like Bourbons they did not learn anything. They deny a remunerative price to the peasant. They tell us that since 1939 prices have gone up. Why take 1939 prices. Here are the pre-depression prices as given by the Famine Commission themselves—Rs. 7/4 per maund. Latest price in my province is Rs. 9-10-0. The difference is two rupees and a few annas, that is to say 30 per cent. increase since the last economic depression. Since that depression the agriculturist has suffered more than any other class of people, and yet all these years have passed and what is it that we are given? 30 per cent. more. Whereas the prices of industrial goods have gone up by leaps and bounds, the price of agricultural produce has increased by only 30 per cent. Here is another pamphlet—'Run-away prices'—which deals with this question. In fixing the prices for various commodities, the dealer is allowed to add 20 per cent. on the landed cost if it is imported into this country. In regard to what is manufactured in India, the price is fixed on a system of basic price *plus* profit. We do not want any profit; we want a remunerative price and that is not being given to us. That is why I say that this Government is responsible for this food famine.

Then, Sir, this Government has introduced cash transactions. Before this we had barter system, and then the agriculturist never suffered. We are asked to believe in the efficiency of world market and modern means of communication and so on. Therefore, like all other people we also were taken in by this capitalist propaganda and we began to depend on prices with the result that the agricultural labour wishes to be paid in cash And agricultural costs have gone up tremendously. I may tell you that in our own villages it has gone up from four annas to two rupees. I do not grudge it; we are paying willingly, but at the same time we must be paid also. You may ask, 'How are you able to finance yourself'? If you come and see us in our villages, you will realize how we are managing. I sent a report recently to Mahatma Gandhi in which I stated that women are covering themselves with inverted umbrellas made of palmyra leaves. They cannot afford to get enough cloth to cover themselves. There is no food for our villagers. They are suffering like that. And then they say that the debts to Land Mortgage Banks are being repaid. But that is not due to our profits. Prices of our land have gone up. Merchants come obligingly and pay for our land, and we sell a portion of our land, and repay the debts. Yet they want us to believe in all this wrong propaganda about our so-called prosperity.

The other day I made a speech as the President of the Federation of Rural Peoples' Organizations. In it I made a number of suggestions. I discussed them with the Honourable Member for Food also, and Mahatma Gandhi has been giving series of suggestions in his '*Harijan*'. We are in need of a national campaign against this food famine. It is not the Viceroy who can possibly inaugurate that campaign; he does not carry enough weight—it may be *infra dig* to say so about such a dignitary, but it is a fact. People who carry weight in this country are the representatives of the people and you must take them into confidence. Not only the Members of the Legislative Assembly in a dignified manner, but our villagers form the Joint Councils of producers and consumers. Ask the consumers and the producers to think about their own

food needs; and those of their villages; tell them to keep their requirements and give away the surplus. Take the surplus through their co-operatives and then plan for the disposal of their surpluses. You are going to import. I hope you will succeed. I do not know whether you will succeed. There is a friend who is making a very eloquent appeal with a begging bowl. We are ashamed of it. We do not want to go to the rest of the world with a begging bowl. And yet the Food Member accuses us because we refuse to accept it. So some-one else is doing it. How long is it going to take to get the imports? Three months! In the meantime we must produce good crops, vegetables and so on. What about the rest of New Delhi—as Sri Prakasa was saying what about all the other grounds all over India? You have to pay the peasant enough to induce him to plough every bit of land. Come with me for ploughing the land and growing more vegetables and crops. You cannot do these things without paying for it. We are being paid for carrying on our work here and yet you do not want to pay those people? If you do not, then you are in for your own suicide and you will be conspiring for our funeral in this country!

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): We will kill them before we die!

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Mahatma Gandhi will not allow it. They have already been subsiding food production. That is not enough. If remunerative prices are paid then the prices may be quite high for the industrial proletariat and for our rural workers also. How are you going to solve the issue? I say subsidize consumption, open communal kitchens, eliminate wastage of food, stop all ceremonials, yours and mine. Let me assure you that everyone in this country is willing today to carry on this national campaign against this food famine but only one party non-co-operates and is obstructive, although by word of mouth it says we are prepared to co-operate. Yet in actual practice, it non-co-operates. That is this Government. Therefore, I want to condemn this Government. One friend was accusing me yesterday that I was living in a perpetual state of indignation. If they are in touch as I am with the starving masses, they would resort to some other measures that are applied in the west but which are not allowed by Mahatma Gandhi. This Government should try to explore every possible means of obtaining the co-operation of the ordinary man, not only the M.L.A.'s, not only the Collectors and the rich people, but the ordinary toiling masses. All these Government people are afraid because their administrative machinery is not enough. It is also corrupt to the core. If you allow us to run your administrative machinery as only an appendix to the great voluntary organisation that we can bring into existence and martial all our public-spirited people here, we will do it. There were more than one million people ready to go to jail. There were another one million prepared to accept your lathi charges. All these people would be ready to help. I can then tell you that without having to depend on these imports, we would be able to support the people. That is the message of Mahatma Gandhi and of every one of us here. Therefore, I move this demand and I hope the House will pass it.

Mr. President: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Food Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sardar Sampuran Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): I cannot but associate myself with the feelings expressed by my Honourable friend, Prof. Ranga. The peasantry according to that great poet of England, Mr. Gladstone, was said to be the backbone of a nation. But I am afraid it will soon disappear. People are getting disgusted with agriculture because it does not pay them. We see it written on every wall in the rural areas "Grow More Foodgrains". But the question is what facilities and encouragement is Government giving to the people to grow more foodgrains. I almost sometimes think that perhaps they only say it but they do not mean that we should grow more foodgrains because all their actions are such as to really discourage people from engaging in agriculture. I shall give you a few instances.

[Sardar Sampuran Singh]

The Central Government is now giving subsidies for tube well and other means of irrigation. But the real fact is that when you put up a tube well and irrigate a portion of your land by that the canal people remove that piece of land from their *chakabandi* and reduce the canal water to that extent. Now, what is the use of people investing so much money on tube wells and on drivers for running their crude oil engines and for repairs and other things. I have tried several times before this to tackle the officials and get some kind of guarantee that if people make investments in such methods of irrigation the Government would not reduce their canal supply. But so far no guarantee has come from the official side.

The other thing is that Government have not, so far, even calculated the cost of production of foodgrains. The result is that they go on increasing the land revenue while actually agriculture does not pay the peasant people who have nothing else to do. They go on cultivating their fields, but after some time they become so poor that they cannot carry on their profession efficiently and effectively. The result is that all over the country the crops are poor because the people who cultivate them have no means to cultivate their lands properly. The revenue authorities, when assessing revenue, do not allow any cost for labour which is 90 per cent. of the cost of production. Well if such a big item is not even brought into the calculation and about 33 per cent. of the whole produce is taken in the form of land revenue, I am afraid there is not much left for the poor agriculturist who labours on his few acres of land. Government must fix some remunerative prices for the foodgrains. I think it is only on account of their ignorance that people go on still cultivating their lands. When they start themselves calculating the cost of production and compare it with the low prices of agricultural produce, I think this profession will as a matter of course die out.

Another matter which I want to touch upon this afternoon is that Government bought a certain number of tractors from America. We saw it only this morning in the papers. But afterwards that order was cancelled, though the manufacturers in Great Britain have been definitely told that they will not be able to give any tractors before September next. If the delivery of these tractors is taken in September next from Great Britain, just at the time when the *rabi* harvest is sown and the field has to be prepared long before that, I think that means another year will be gone and we will not be able to take advantage of those tractors, which were specifically meant for these hard times.

With one more word I will finish my say. To make agriculture efficient Government should organise societies for co-operative agriculture and consolidation of holdings is absolutely necessary. Unless these two things by law—even compulsorily if necessary—are done, I do not think there is much hope of developing agriculture nor of removing the squalor and food shortage which we are so much suffering from at the present moment. With these few words I give my full support to Prof. Ranga's cut motion.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Sir, I think this is an issue where the feelings of the Government and the representatives of the people are probably one and the same. All of us are anxious to increase the production in this country and make our country self-sufficient as soon as possible. I agree with the Honourable the Mover, Prof. Ranga, that the peasants must get a remunerative price. Unless this is done there would be no initiative in the peasants to grow more food and it would not be taken as a profession with any advantage to them. Prof. Ranga very ably advocated that when traders and dealers are allowed 20 per cent. of the middleman's profit, there is no reason why the agriculturists should be denied as much profit. As a matter of course he has a better right and can claim a larger profit than these merchants and traders. If we can give encouragement to manufacturers by allowing them a higher rate of profit in certain circumstances, it is certainly necessary that remunerative prices should

be fixed with regard to the produce of the land. I would only say that as the conditions in the different Provinces are not the same, it is impossible for me to give a uniform suggestion for every part of the country. Mr. Ranga said that it costs nearly Rs. 45 to irrigate one acre of land in Madras, which is his part of the province. In my province of Bihar it is not the same. So naturally I am not in a position to say what should be the rate. I can only enunciate a certain principle, which is this: If the price of a particular class of grain, for instance, wheat, is to be fixed, Government should find out the ten years' average before the war in 1939 and then fix the price at 300 per cent. over that average rate. If in the Punjab between 1929 and 1939 the average price of wheat was Rs. 3 per maund, it should be at least Rs. 9 today, because the prices of other essential commodities have gone up by 300 per cent., in spite of the controls and other methods adopted by Government. Though the index figure stands at 238 the fact remains that the average is not less than 300 per cent. increase.

Another fact which I want to bring to the notice of the House is this. Government has miserably failed in trying to increase production in the country. Government should have taken up long ago a survey of the waste lands which can be used for cultivation. Practically in every province there are thousands and thousands of acres of land lying waste. Probably Government thought that farming would not be remunerative. By subsidies and other methods Government could have induced agriculturists and traders to take up cultivation of these lands. I should particularly mention the lands which I saw in Ajmer. I was told that many people with ten thousand and twenty thousand acres of land were not able to earn more than Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 20,000, which comes to Re. 1 or Rs. 2 per acre. Then, again, there are vast tracts of land lying waste in the province of Assam and no attention has been paid for settling these lands for cultivation, although there are number of men anxious to take the settlement there and do the best that they can to improve production. If there is an effort by the Government to provide them with the necessary facilities, I am sure Assam also can feed one-fourth of India.

I would further say that in the particular condition in which we are and the growth of the population that we have in this country, unless this problem is tackled very carefully and planned in a manner so that we might become self-sufficient soon, we will have to go with the beggar's bowl to Australia and other countries for all times to come. I do not know what would be the compensation that we would be compelled to pay for the food that we will have to import into this country. Government has said that we have got to give other countries a quota of cloth, because we want to import food from some of them. There may be other goods in which these countries may be interested and if we have to import a certain amount of food from them, we may have to part with other commodities as well and face double famine. I do not claim—none of us can—an expert knowledge of the conditions of land in India. But the Government with its paraphernalia of staff is certainly in a position to see how best those lands can be used. Just to put a small patch of vegetable garden or a bit of fruit growing is not of much use at all. It may be good propaganda but would not be of much material use to us.

With these words I support the motion and I hope the Government would take serious note of the position which we have brought to their notice on this cut motion.

Sukhdev Seth (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, during the three years of its existence, the Food Department have not only, not been able to plan for the production and conservation of foodgrains, sufficient to feed the country but has awfully bungled in several respects. It has actually created a situation in several parts of India which is as dangerously critical as ever. There are harrowing reports of famine conditions from South India, where some

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people are actually starving. Newspaper reports go to show that there is acute scarcity of even coarse grains in Ajmere, Rajputana and Kathiawar States. Sir, Sind which is a huge surplus province in wheat, rice, millets and gram, within six months of the crop had to send an S. O. S. to the Central Government for supply of foreign wheat and had to import Punjab rice. Will the Honourable Member explain this strange phenomenon in the Province of Sind which is normally exporting nearly 2 lakhs tons of wheat and as much quantity of rice, as to why it has suddenly turned into a deficit province so far as wheat and rice are concerned? Does he know that these foodgrains are not available in the muffasil, except at very high prices? How then does he justify the controls when people in surplus provinces like Sind cannot get their minimum requirements at anything near statutory prices? So far as Sind is concerned, I can say without fear of contradiction that the food administration is notoriously corrupt. I trust that the Government of India cannot plead ignorance. This corruption exists in more or less degree in other provinces and states as well. Unless official corruption is rooted out ruthlessly, no amount of control is going to succeed.

Sir, government administration has been woefully wasteful of precious foodgrains. The Food Department introduced a scheme of direct procurement in 1943, but it foundered on account of the inefficiency of officers responsible for its administration, involving heavy losses. Not only that, but huge quantities amounting to several thousands of tons of rice procured in Nepal in 1943 suffered irreparable damage, and the precious foodgrains which would have been garnered and protected with life by the trade and which would have saved the lives of starving persons had to be destroyed owing to the inexperience, criminal negligence and utter lack of responsibility of Government officers. Thousands of bags of wheat were soaked in rain water in my own city Karachi in 1944, due to Government mismanagement. This damaged stuff was partly destroyed and partly distributed in rations in the form of *atta* at the peril of civilian health. In 1944 huge surpluses of gram and pulses were locked up in my Province of Sind and several other surplus areas, such as Central India and U. P. by silly ukases. In spite of the representations of merchants and growers, thousands of tons of this valuable stuff which could have been consumed in other areas or equitably distributed for conservation for use in time of need, were allowed to deteriorate or rot. Owing to heavy accumulation of surpluses, the prices of these commodities in the growing areas dropped to such uneconomic levels that it was not worth while for cultivators to grow them, with the result that there is shortage of gram this year. With all the best intentions and professions to grow more food all efforts at it are bound to meet with inevitable failure, if such is the policy of our Food Department.

Then, Sir, this Government control which is intended to ensure supplies to consumers at reasonable prices by eliminating middleman's profits, has actually led to governmental profiteering and official corruption. At one time the Sind Government used to make a profit of over 3 rupees per maund on procurement and the Bengal Government several rupees per maund on distribution to its dying population. Even at present, approved charges for handling, storage and administration are several time more than any merchant will normally even think of. When procurement, transport and distribution are all under Government auspices and control, it is difficult to account for such wide disparity as four or five rupees per maund between procurement prices in the surplus areas and prices charged from the consumer in deficit areas . . . . .

An Honourable Member: More than five.

Sukhdev Seth: Yes; I gave the minimum figure. Official corruption in appointment of agents, issuing licenses and export permits is an open secret and yet it goes on merrily on the strength of British jurisprudence. Normal trade channels have been closed, and combines, comprising of a few

racketeers, have been set up to work in collusion with officials to collect and divide the loot. Ministers in provinces manipulate prices by means of issuing a notification one day and withdrawing it the next day under the shelter of the Defence of India Act. Do the authorities at the Centre realise that these innumerable controls and restrictions they have imposed on procurement and free movement of goods have provided officials, high and low, with a handle to exploit both the producer and the consumer? Whatever be the justification for these controls during war time, it is time that all undue interference in the realm of trade and commerce be withdrawn as early as possible, to bring in normal conditions in the country.

Sir, the Government accuse merchants of having created black-market. Do the Honourable Members here know that in 1942, when the Government fixed the ceiling rate for wheat at Rs. 5 per maund in Hapur, their own agents were buying it at a premium of 8 annas? When a responsible officer of the Commerce Department was confronted with copies of written contracts at such high price, he promised to make an inquiry, but the result of this inquiry came to nothing so far as I am aware.

The Food Department lives upon creating false slogans and cries for experts. In order to justify their existence or to obey the behests of their master in Whitehall, they import superannuated nincompoops, who know nothing about the subjects in which they claim to be experts. May I know, Sir, from the Honourable Member here, how many such foreign experts are working in his Department and on what salary; what is the nature of their duties and what expert knowledge do they possess? Could not suitable Indians be found to take their places or cannot they be replaced at this stage?

Colossal waste of money has been incurred on storage construction without planning or purpose. Sheds have been put up at many railway stations. I have seen them at a number of stations in my Province and in the Punjab, which will have to be scrapped after a few years. Bins have been constructed at wrong places, where there is no grain to go into them. In other countries like Canada and the United States of America, bins are intended for long term storage, as there is continuous surplus which has to be and can be stored over a number of years. Here there is acute shortage and yet our experts of the Food Department have thought bins necessary at a huge cost. They have no idea of the difference in climatic and other conditions obtaining in India and in those countries. It is all a criminal waste of public money. I am sure the storages put up by the Government will not be useful under normal trade conditions.

After five years of intensive war, when Germany was defeated, it was found by the Allies that in German-occupied countries, where they expected famine and distressful conditions, the distribution of food stuffs and other necessaries of life was so efficient and equitable that nobody was experiencing any particular difficulty. In England and Germany the cost of living during the years of war had risen by only 30 to 40 per cent. as compared to the base year 1939. But here in India where there was no war on the soil and we were large scale producers, the cost of living has risen at least three times. In spite of planning and employment of foreign experts and talks of 'Grow More Food' campaign ever since the commencement of war six years back, we are facing the presence of another famine.

Sir, it is reported that the Food Department have arranged for the import of ten thousand tons of milk powder and the Health Department for the import of vitamin tablets. May I know, Sir, whether the milk powder is whole milk powder or only skimmed milk powder? If the latter, I doubt if it will have much food value and I am afraid we are paying a huge price for an article which has doubtful food value. It is imperatively necessary that all such foodstuffs and drugs must be thoroughly examined by a national board of doctors and nutrition experts and certified as wholesome. There is a tendency among

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Government officials to accept everything from foreign countries as pure and wholesome. It is also necessary that such articles and drugs of supplementary food value should be distributed with the advice and co-operation of responsible public leaders. Otherwise I am afraid these will percolate to the black-market.

Before concluding, Sir, I would like to submit a few suggestions to improve the existing situation. To my mind, the main reasons for the present shortage are the recruitment of villagers for the army and the migration of able bodied agricultural labourers from villages to cities on account of high wages. Therefore demobilise the military personnel as expeditiously as possible and settle them on the lands with necessary financial and other assistance. The country has been denuded of cattle by the military. The draught animals should be procured and supplied to cultivators at concession rates and animal slaughter should be severely restricted for years to come. Agricultural implements and pure seed should be supplied to the cultivators at low rates. All undue vexatious restrictions on the procurement and movement of indigenous foodgrains should be removed. Transport should be facilitated and made abundant. There should be complete embargo on the export of foodgrains out of India and all leakage through steamers and other vessels and also the land frontiers should be completely stopped. In this connection, I want to draw the attention of the House to the fact that in the *'Indian Nation'* of the 1st March, 1946, there was a small news that two thousand bags of paddy from Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga district near Nepal were being smuggled to Nepal and when police pickets were informed no action was taken by them. Then in the *'Amrita Bazar Patrika'* of the 1st March, 1946, "it is reported from Barisal, the rice growing district of Bengal, that large exports of rice and paddy amounting to lakhs of maunds are being made from muffasil areas of the district to unknown destinations in big boats and steamers. It is being apprehended that rice is being despatched to far off places beyond the borders of Bengal." I think such things, if true, should not be allowed to occur. Overall, deficit should be carefully calculated and as far as possible made up by imports. All wastage of foodgrains and other foodstuffs should be stopped. Parties and entertainments should be totally banned. The ration of cereals may be reduced still further in the case of rich classes if necessary, ensuring however one pound cereal per day for labour. I am quite sure that the present high rate of wastage cannot be reduced until those responsible for holding the grain feel that is their personal property and is to be guarded as a trust. Either private trade should be allowed to handle the grain or the officials who handle it at present should work honestly and with a missionary spirit.

There are some other points. Sufficient grains should be left with the producers for cultivation purposes and especially where wages are given in kind and not in cash. There should be a committee of non-officials consisting of producers and other villagers also to see that the collection of foodgrains is properly done and distributed. There should be no harassment and unsympathetic treatment to producers, if grow more food campaign is to be encouraged. Sir, these, however, we cannot expect under the present Government. For this, a national government is essential. With these words, I support the motion.

Several Honourable Members: The question be now put.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. B. R. Sen (Government of India: Nominated Official): Mr. President, the debate on the Cut motion has turned out to be another food debate. The ground covered is wide. I propose only to take up one or two points which have been made today.

The main point raised in this debate is that remunerative prices are not being paid. Now, this question has been brought up from time to time and I have also given a clear reply. Today I expected that Professor Ranga would support his demand for remunerative prices with some arguments. I am sorry to say that I found nothing in his speech which gives anything more than a mere repetition of previous remarks.

[At this stage, Mr. President vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan).]

Whether prices are remunerative or not should, in my opinion, be judged according to three standards. One is—how the prices of foodgrains compare with the prices of commercial crops, the second is—how the prices of foodgrains compare with the prices of manufactured articles which enter into the cost of living of the producers and the third is whether intrinsically the prices of foodgrains are low. I have gone through the index figures of commercial crops as well as of manufactured articles and I find . .

Sardar Sampuran Singh: May I ask whether you have calculated the cost of price of foodgrains so far?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Nobody has been able to do it, not even the producers themselves.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That is how you evade the question.

Mr. B. R. Sen: Comparing the prices of foodgrains with those of commercial crops I find that for the whole of 1942-1943 and the first half of 1944, the improvement in the position of the producer of foodgrains since the outbreak of the war was greater than the improvement in the position of the producer of commercial crops, in the latter half of 1944.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What abut tobacco?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Under commercial crops, we had a premium but in recent months, this disparity has been removed. As regards manufactured goods, the index figures again show that, on the whole, the rise in prices of foodgrains and the manufactured goods has been more or less of the same order.

4 P.M.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Is the Honourable Member aware that in the matter of silk cloth, its price even today is nearly six times that which was in 1939?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I was talking of prices of things which enter into the cost of living of producers, and silk is not one of those articles.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: But these things are not available in the market.

Mr. B. R. Sen: So, judged by these standards, *viz.* the prices of commercial crops and the prices of manufactured goods which enter into the cost of living of the producers, you cannot say the prices of foodgrains are unremunerative.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: They are unremunerative and we can prove it to the hilt.

Mr. B. R. Sen: As regards intrinsic prices, I think I can do no better than quote the Famine Enquiry Commission, who went into the whole question dispassionately. The House will bear with me if I read a few sentences from this report. This is the report which was submitted last year and the Commission had several members who had much of the economic and agricultural position of the country as my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga. They observe as follows:

"The general level of prices of foodgrains in India is high compared with the world level; for instance, the price of wheat in North America is considerably lower than that prevailing in India. We are of opinion that Indian prices must fall when consumer goods become more plentiful and cheaper and imports of rice are once again available. But we are also of opinion that so long as the supply position of cereals remains as at present, that is, so long as the demands of the defence services continue at the present high level and imports of rice are not available in adequate quantities, prices, generally speaking, will have to remain at about their present levels. High prices have undoubtedly encouraged the production of cereals and if prices should fall substantially before imports of rice become available, production might suffer a setback. The present policy is to hold prices at about their present levels till the supply position is easier. We consider that this is the correct course to follow."

[Mr. B. R. Sen]

Then, again, they say:

"We think it clear that it should be the common aim of all Governments concerned to clear as early as supply conditions in the transition period (*and by transition period they mean three years after the war*) permit, that the prices both of rice and wheat in different parts of the country should be brought down to normal parity with the level of rice prices at present prevailing in Madras and Sind."

The price in Madras is about 240 per cent. above the pre-war price. (Interruption by Prof. Ranga) May I, Sir, go on with my speech? Prof. Ranga had his chance and he had better let me speak.

I have shown that intrinsically also the food prices cannot be said to be unremunerative. These prices compare very favourably with the prices elsewhere in the world. It seems to me, Sir, that in this particular matter there is a definite lack of lead from the other side of the House. My friend Prof. Ranga himself in the food debate before the last one, that is, in 1944, was a party to the passing of two resolutions which were quite contradictory to each other.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: They were not; you try to understand them again.

Mr. B. R. Sen: One was that the prices were too high and the other was that the prices were too low and he supported both the motions.

May I also refer to the speech of the Leader of the Opposition which he made in the course of the food debate and in which he said:

"The concrete proposals I would put forward are:

* * * (2) that the Government must bring the prices of staple foodstuffs within the means of the poorest of the poor; * * * *"

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Therefore subsidize it and do not ruin the peasants.

Mr. B. R. Sen: I think in this particular matter there seems to be some confusion.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: There is no confusion at all.

Mr. Deputy President: Order, order.

Mr. B. R. Sen: Sir, it is very difficult to argue with Prof. Ranga. I can only produce my arguments.

Then, he twitted me for saying that the Government are not in favour of raising prices. I have made the statement deliberately on more than one occasion that Government do not consider it sound policy to raise the prices of foodgrains at the present moment. In doing this, we are acting on our experience of the last two or three years. Again, if the House will permit me, I will quote a passage from the Bengal report. It runs thus:

"It is necessary at this stage to emphasize the sharply contradictory character of the reaction of the markets to rising prices in different conditions. A rise of prices which is believed to be likely to continue influences the minds of producers, traders, and consumers very differently from a rise of price which is generally expected to be temporary. In the latter case, sellers—both producers and traders—are anxious to sell before prices fall; and buyers—both traders and consumers—reduce, so far as possible, the quantities they buy. Such a reaction automatically corrects the temporary mal-adjustment between the available market supply and the demand which caused the upward movement in prices. If the mal-adjustment is corrected by an increase in supply in the market and a reduction in demand, prices fall again. This does not, however, happen when the rise in prices is sharp and unusual, and is also expected to continue. In these circumstances, it produces an exactly opposite reaction in the minds of buyers and sellers. Buyers are anxious to buy before a further rise occurs and therefore increase their purchases, while sellers are reluctant to sell because they wait for still better prices. This further decreases the supply available in the markets and increases the demand on the diminishing supply. Prices move up still further in consequence. This reinforces the fears of buyers and the greed of sellers and intensifies the market disturbances. Given sufficient time for the psychology of greed and fear generated in this manner to penetrate on the one hand, to the primary markets and the producers—the ultimate source of supply—and, on the other hand, to the retail shops and the consumers, the ultimate source of demand—prices may rise to such an extent that large sections of the population find themselves unable to buy."

Then they say:

"The rise of prices which we hold to be the second basic cause of the (Bengal) famine, was something more than the natural result of the shortage of supply which had occurred."

With this analysis of the Bengal famine situation, I am sorry I cannot oblige Prof. Ranga or his supporters by giving a rise in prices. I only hope that when the new Government come they will have other advisers than Prof. Ranga in the matter of prices.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: You will not be there.

Mr. B. R. Sen: The second subject raised by Prof. Ranga was that the rural people were being neglected. I can assure Prof. Ranga that it is farthest from our mind that the rural people may be neglected. We first took up rationing in urban areas because people in urban areas are all non-producers and the needs of non-producers have to be looked after first. So far as rural areas are concerned, whenever we have found them in difficulties, we have strongly pressed the Provincial Governments to extend rationing there also. I can recite the instance of Malabar. In Malabar there is rationing throughout the district since the present emergency. We have issued fresh instructions to all the Provincial Governments that they should not confine their rationing to urban areas only. Apart from the statutory rural rationing that we have in one or two districts we have also what is called informal rationing covering large rural areas in Madras. Informal rationing is based on a card system, but it has no statutory backing. Cards are issued to non-producers or inadequate producers; procurement is so regulated that the producers are left with a prescribed quantity taking into account their other needs such as payment to labourers, their dependents etc. So, it is not correct, to say that the Government are neglectful of the rural population.

Then, Sir, the question of corruption has been raised. I can assure the House that no one deplores this corruption among Government officials of certain classes than we do. From the very beginning of the war, we have been conscious of this problem. In 1941, a special policing staff was set up to check corruption. In 1945, an ordinance was passed placing it on a legal basis.

An Honourable Member: With what results?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Government have taken certain administrative steps to check corruption. Unfortunately in the matter of corruption, there are very often two parties, one, the Government Officers and the other the public. By mere administrative measures, it is not possible for Government to make the public honest. I only hope that where this Government have failed the new Government will succeed.

Sir, various useful suggestions have been made in the course of the debate, and we have taken note of these suggestions. We will give effect to them as far as possible. I do not think I need detain the House any longer by commenting on further details. The entire subject was covered in the course of the food debate and there is very little that I can add now.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That the demand under the head 'Food Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 11—EXECUTIVE COUNCIL—*contd.*

(a) *Irresponsibility, inefficiency and corruption in the administration;* (b) *administration of the centrally administered areas;* (c) *planning and Development Policy.*

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai (Ahmedabad Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Executive Council' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sir, I rise to move this Motion because I feel at this juncture that the economic development of the country has been very poorly attended to and India is quite unprepared at a time when gigantic efforts are necessary for the development of this land. I would here only deal with the Planning Department and the other subjects referred to in the Motion will be dealt with by my other Honourable friends. I am speaking here today with a heavy heart because I find that the Government of the day has totally failed in doing anything

[Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai]

to plan successfully regarding both agriculture and industry. They began this planning in June 1941. At that time various committees were brought into existence and I find that nothing was being done by those committees, because after three years in March, 1944, they issued the first report of the Reconstructions Committee. In that report they clearly stated that, "now is the time when we should try to form various committees and plan ahead in right earnest". This is what they said in March, 1944, three years after these committees were formed. They established nearly 20 committees, a Central committee, several Policy Committees, and on the Secretarial sphere they also appointed a committee of several Economists, they also appointed a Co-ordinating Policy Committee, and they also planned to have several development officers. The work of these development officers was to tour the Provinces co-ordinating the work of the provinces, the States and the Central Government. That is what they planned. The Development Officers were also to have several panels of experts. So, it is clear that for three years, they did nothing, although they had several committees in 1941. Now, we read again a second report of this Reconstruction Committee which was issued at the end of 1944. The same story is repeated again. They say, "we must take up the work in right earnest". They say in the second report issued at in the end of 1944, eight months after the first report that they must appoint Development Officers. They were talking of Development Officers in March, 1944. They again say the same thing towards the end of 1944. Here is what they say in their second report. "It is not feasible at this early stage of planning to lay down the objectives in a more definite and concrete form". They further say, "in the case of industries, it has not yet been possible to formulate even a preliminary plan". This is what they say after 3½ years when they first started the first planning committee in 1941. I will come again to what they have been doing till today. The same story is told in reports after reports. They do not seem to have appointed Development Officers, because again in the second report they talk about the same. Now let us see, what was their policy adumbrated on 21st April 1945? In the statement by the Government of India, let us see what they say. There again they are talking in the same spirit of evasion.

"The Government of India consider that the continuance of their existing policy in the conditions in which India will find herself after this war will not meet the objectives of a sound post-war development."

So, late as April, 1945, they assume that their present policy will not meet the objectives of a sound post-war development. They have had more than 20 committees and several Development Officers but nothing tangible was done till April, 1945. It was not that they did not know what ought to be done. In that report they clearly state as to what should be done, what machinery should have priority and what machinery India should have. Here is a huge list of heavy machinery that they say ought to be obtained. This is what they say in the statement:

"For the purpose of Government policy basic industries can be defined as including aircraft, automobiles and tractors, chemicals and dyes, iron and steel, prime mover, transport vehicles, electrical machinery, machine tools, electro-chemical and non-ferrous metal industries."

They know what India should have. But up till now none of these things has been procured. They appointed 29 panels and some of the reports they must have received but the work is getting on at a snail's pace. The War ended six months ago and still planning is being carried on and nothing substantial has come out as yet. Sir Ardeshir Dalal went to England and U.S.A. trying to get machinery, to get capital equipment. A delegation of industrialists was sent round. This delegation as well as Sir Ardeshir had the same story to tell. They said capital goods are not available. I will ask Government if they clearly specified what quantities of machinery they wanted to have. Did they plan what they would like to have within one year, within two years and within five years? Did they confront those countries,—the U.K., the U.S.A., Canada

and so on,—with their definite demands as to what should be obtained and what is necessary, and what is the reply that those countries gave them? If they had confronted them with these definite details and their reply was in the negative, what did they do afterwards? Did they plan according to what we possess just to get our industries going, as much as we can, from our own resources and our own large-scale industries, small-scale industries and village industries? What is happening today is that instead of getting any capital goods we have been told that we will be getting crores of rupees worth of consumer goods. India is the dumping ground for all these consumer goods. The Reconstruction Policy Report of the Government of India says that we will agree to have foreign capital although it should not be in major proportion. This has just the effect of informing foreigners that we will tolerate foreign capital. Why will foreigners give us capital machinery without bargaining for a share in our industries in these circumstances? Would it be worth while creating more and more vested interests? Would it be worth while creating complications, even political complications, because the more the vested interests are created, more the complications are bound to arise? I will refer here to the warning that Mahatma Gandhi gave to the industrialists and to Government that they must beware against creating any vested interests. We do not want foreigners to have any share in the capital; but they say in their report that they would tolerate foreign capital. Reading history we find that in 1828, the U.S.S.R. was in a difficult position. They wanted to start their industries and their five-year plans. Nobody dared ask them for a share in their industries before parting with machinery. It was rather a different story. Germany, U.S.A. and U.K. were practically their enemies and still they vied with each other in supplying her machinery to establish her industries. And thus the U.S.S.R. could go from one plan to another and succeeded in establishing her industries within a period of 15 or 20 years. If it is definite that we are not going to have capital machinery as we want because it is difficult to get, it is high time that we planned from our own resources and not just go about with a begging bowl to these countries for supplying us the machinery. No country in the world will accede to our request unless it feels that India is to be appeased and India's good-will is necessary; and I feel that in these times of world conflagration India will have to be appeased. Anyway that is not our concern; but we should have planned from our own resources, we should have cut down our requirements as we did in the last war and just as Russia did in the years 1928-32. They tightened their belt, they arranged their economy in such a way that thought they were near the breaking point, they recovered and started their industries and got all kinds of capital goods. They demanded loans which were given. We should have confronted those countries with our demand and told them that India is a poor country: she has enough sterling balances which she can pawn and we would like to have loans. We could have told them *i.e.* U.S.A. that they had given loans to the U.K. and France and the U.S.S.R. but those countries are in a much better position because their standard of living is high, and it is we who ought to be given the loan and it is for them to give us loans. It would be wrong for them to give loans to countries whose standard of living is much higher. They must consider the well-being of backward countries if they want the good-will of these backward countries and sympathies of the whole world. All this we should have told them but we did nothing of the sort and those countries never came out to offer us goods. That is our sorry plight today. Then what happened is this. We were talking about planning till the 21st April 1945. Then Sir Ardeshir Dalal had to resign and the Economist to Planning Dept. Mr. Vakeel had also to leave. And this is what Mr. Vakeel said this very month after his resignation:

"The atmosphere for economic planning of the right type does not exist because the outlook of the bureaucracy has not yet changed. Unfortunately that comprehensive grasp of things which is essential for the success of planning, and above all the necessary vision and determination to accomplish the task on national lines were lacking among those who were in charge of the work."

[Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai]

This was said only about a fortnight ago. So it comes to this, that they began to plan in June 1941, and today we are in March, 1946, which means about five years; and only fifteen days ago we learnt from the Economist to this Department that there is nothing doing in this Department. The only thing which they do is to establish a huge staff in every Department with several Secretaries and Deputy Secretaries on high salaries who go on playing with their paper files from one Department to another. In our language there is a proverb—

Kagalna Ghoda Dadavechhe.

"They run with paper horses, and they play with paper horses."

This is what they have done; their papers run from one department to another and nothing follows.

Now I will deal with the other side of it, as to what other countries had been doing during the war and what kind of planning the U.K., the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. are doing. From the speech delivered by the British Prime Minister Mr. Attlee in the House of Commons on 27th April last, we learn that up till now their exports have gone up by 45 per cent. over the pre-war level. Their export is 300 per cent. of 1944 figures. They are expecting to go 60 per cent. higher this year in exports than 1938 figures. Their plans state that by 1951, they want to raise their exports to a limit of 75 per cent. more than their 1938 figure. From the speed with which they are planning, it seems that in a few years, much earlier than 1951, they will be accomplishing that target of 75 per cent. export on the pre-war prices and on the pre-war level. That is what England is doing. Regarding their labour, they have clearly stated that their social insurance rates will be changed. About their labour problem, they have clearly said that they will vary their social insurance rates according to the rise or fall in unemployment in England. U.S.A. is doing the same. They have planned to have already 142 per cent. of their 1940 production. U.S.S.R. is also going up. Its production in steel and in other manufactured goods is going up every year by 20 to 30 per cent.

In the end, Sir, I would like to say that we are told that a National Government is in the offing. If the National Government comes in it will not waste five years as the present Government have done. In a short time we will have to plan—and we will plan—in a way that we approach the foreign governments for loans, for getting our sterling balances settled, for capital goods, and so on. If capital goods are not given, we will plan keeping in view the resources that we have. We will see what consumers goods we would like to have—and we will have only those which are absolutely necessary; we will brush aside others—and we will see that we have a good export business. With those exports we will be able to barter and see that enough capital goods are made available to us. We will tell foreign countries that these are the things that are necessary; if you want to give us, you may; if you don't, a time will come when you will have to come to us just as you went to U.S.S.R. in the year 1928. That time is bound to come in all industrial countries. Depression will be weighing heavily on their heads, and then a time will come when they will be prepared to come to us and accept our terms. We don't beg of them. We will wait till our time comes and our time is bound to come very shortly. At that time we are sure to get what we want. I hope this Government will soon end. They have been bungling in all spheres of life, and I only wish that this bungling Government may end very soon.

Mr. Deputy President: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Executive Council' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava (Ambala Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai. I would like to stress part (b) and to say something about Delhi which

is a centrally administered area. Part (a), which seeks to censure the Government on their irresponsibility, inefficiency and corruption, will also, to a certain extent, be covered by the remarks which I propose to make.

It so happens that Delhi was before the year 1858 part of the United Provinces. After 1858 it was made a part of the Punjab by way of punishment for the mutinous behaviour of those persons who belonged to Delhi and the adjoining tracts. Delhi had nothing in common with the Punjab so far as the question of language and culture was concerned, but all the same Delhiwalas and other people who were with them from times immemorial, on account of historical and other reasons, were all punished and sent to the Punjab. In 1911, when the Government sought to de-provincialize the Government of India, and they wanted that the influence of Bengal may not be more than its due share in the Government of India, they changed the capital from Calcutta to Delhi. On the 12th of December 1911, Delhi was inaugurated into a new Province. At that time Delhi used to send its representatives in the Punjab Provincial Council. Uptil 1919 the position was that Delhi stood disfranchized—Delhi had no representative in the Assembly, it had no legislative council of its own, it had no advisory council, and it was in 1920 that a representation was made to the Joint Parliamentary Committee and they agreed to give one representative to Delhi in the Central Assembly.

The present position is this: In Delhi there is the Chief Commissioner's rule; there is no advisory board; there is no legislative council; and the Chief Commissioner though exalted as such only belongs to the rank of a Commissioner. Previous to 1911 Delhi was under the Punjab and it was a Commissioner's Division. It had six districts including Hissar, Rohtak, Karnal, Gurgaon, Ambala, Simla, and Delhi itself. Delhi was bigger in size. Sonepat and Ballabgarh were taken away in 1911 from Delhi District and now Delhi is smaller in size. Yet it has got a Chief Commissioner, a Deputy Commissioner, an Additional District Magistrate and many other officials. The area is smaller but the number of high officials is much bigger. Therefore it suffers both ways. There is a top-heavy administration. It has got too many officials who have no work to do and at the same time its problems are not so well looked after as they were before.

Now, Sir, when we were told that democracy was coming, when in 1919 the preamble of the Government of India Act ran that there would be progressive realization of self-goverment, it would seem strange that Delhi the Capital of India was disfranchised. Other provinces got provincial autonomy in 1935 and there was progress so far as the apparent forms of self-government were concerned, but in Delhi the process was reversed and instead of having democracy, Delhi had full autocracy, unredeemed autocracy I should say. For the last 35 years, it so happens that Delhi has not progressed [illegible] and Delhi at present, with the exception of one representative in this Ho[illegible] as it was before any reforms were introduced into this country.

Now, Sir, it appears on page 1039 of the yearly book on India of 1944-45 that there is a tradition that Delhi will lose its empirical character after the ninth empire is destroyed. It appears that about one mile from here the ruins of eight empires are already lying and now it is quite clear that very soon we shall see the end of the British Empire also.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh (Chota Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Hear hear.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: And if for nothing else, I would submit for one offence, and that offence being that Delhi has been capitalized for Imperial purposes the Executive Council should be decapitated.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): And to justify the prophecy!

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Not only to justify my prophecy but also for the reason that the Executive Council is responsible for depriving Delhi of all kind of democratic government. Because Delhi has no Proviucial Government of its own, nobody takes the trouble of looking after Delhi. I wanted to see the reports of the Delhi Administration in the Library and I was told that since the year 1940, no report of Delhi Province has been published. I also wanted to see whether there was any debate in the House about the constitutional position of Delhi or other aspects of the Delhi administration and I found there was no discussion in the House so far. Every time that a motion was tabled it was crowded out and there was no discussion about Delhi. It appears that, as a matter of fact, if you will look to other aspects of the administration, leaving aside the existence of Provincial Council etc., you will find that Delhi is really a benighted province. If you look to the rural area you will find that there are only seven hospitals for a population of more than three lakhs of persons, which means there is one hospital for over 40,000 people. There are fifty-six District Board schools. I am quoting the figures from the administration report of 1939-40. That is the last report I could get. It appears that for every ten square miles there is one school. It means that the young boys have to travel good distances before they reach schools. If you look towards the self-governing institutions, you will be pleased to find, Sir, that there are two municipalities in the Delhi Province—the Delhi Municipality and the New Delhi Municipality and there are about six or seven Notified Area Committees. As regards this Delhi Municipality, it so appears that it has got an official President. There are very many nominated members on the Delhi Municipality and their number has been increasing of late years. We have been reading in the papers about the proceedings of the Delhi Municipality and it appears that the President is addicted to high-handedness. Whenever popular representatives bring popular motions before the House, they are all rejected. I think it appeared sometime ago in the press that he himself even refused to take the oath of office. The House knows what happened on the 7th March, 1946. I understand on the 5th March last, popular representatives wanted to discuss the question of Victory Celebrations and the motion was ruled out by the President. I think that if we were to find out the number of walk-outs of popular members from the Delhi Municipality, it would appear that there must have been about a dozen walk-outs in the last year.

My humble submission is that the Delhi Municipality which should have been a specimen of a democratic institution is run on lines which must bring shame to every person in this country. I was speaking of the Delhi Municipality.

Let us look at the New Delhi Municipality, where in New Delhi the Viceroy lives, all the M.L.A.'s live, the Members of the Executive Council live, and yet the constitution of the New Delhi Municipality is that all the members are nominated. Then again there is an official President. I do not know in what words to describe to our shame that in New Delhi Municipality where so many persons live who every day swear for democracy, they do not even care to get the system of election introduced. If you look at the Notified Area Committees, the less said the better.

Let us look at the District Boards. There too the Secretary is an official and the President is an official. They have many nominated members and as a matter of fact it so appears that whereas in many matters Delhi follows the Punjab, in this matter it has got a constitution which is not akin to the Punjab. In the Punjab they have a non-official President on the District Board but in Delhi the President of a District Board is also an official.

I have to say much about matters relating to Delhi but I am extremely sorry that time is running against me. All the same I hope to avail of an opportunity when the Finance Bill is being discussed to tell the House all the other things about Delhi. But with your permission I want to say a word about the solution which I wish to propose.

Mr. Deputy President: The bell rings two minutes before the time.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: My friend has reminded me of the old adage: *"Hinoz Delhi dur ast"*. (Delhi is still far away).

I am again reminded of the old slogan of the I.N.A. "Delhi chalo". Sir, unless and until this Delhi is emancipated and unless it comes into its own there will be no swaraj in this country. Sir, we claim Delhi both figuratively and literally. I have more than one claim on Delhi. Delhi is the Capital of India and Delhi belongs to the Ambala Division. Our affinities with Delhi are vrey old. In these last 3,000 years eight empires have been founded in Delhi.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): And destroyed!

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Since time immemorial Delhi and Agra have been one, and parts of the same province. The constitutional anomaly of Delhi will disappear if you make the Delhi-Ambala Division, the Meerut Division, as also Agra Division and some parts of Rohilkund into a separate province. This is not a new solution. The late Pirzada Mohd. Hussain, who was the President of the Reception Committee of the Muslim League proposed it in 1909 and the matter was taken up at the All Parties Conference and then the Round Table Conference by Sir Geoffrey Corbett. Mahatma Gandhi and Mr. Jinnah both approved of the scheme. The Muslim League is wedded to this scheme as also the Jat Mahasabha. Whether you have New Delhi as the Federal City or not, so far as the rural area is concerned and so far as old Delhi is concerned the rest of India has no claim to it. It belongs to the people round about. I was examined in matriculation in Delhi, which was then the centre for Hissar. When I joined the bar in 1909 I came to Delhi and got myself enrolled, in the Commissioner's Court. Delhi, Ambala Division, Meerut Division and Agra Division are akin in culture, in race and language. The political problems which are awaiting solution in this country will be more easily solved if you adopt this scheme. I would submit therefore for the consideration of the House that there is no reason why Delhi should be penalised in this manner when the whole country will enjoy democracy. There is no reason why the people of Delhi alone should be deprived of their due right. If you want to give them their due right this is the only solution which is possible and there is no other solution. Sir, I have done.

Mr. Leslie Gwilt (Bombay: European): Sir, I wish to confine my remarks to part (a) of this cut motion, that is to say "the Government on their irresponsibility, inefficiency and corruption in the administration," and particularly on the subject of corruption. Unfortunately I have not been able to find the full text of the reference I have sought but I would remind the House that when the late Finance Member was speaking on the motion for the election of the Standing Finance Committee on the 17th March, 1944, he said that he had been distressed at the number of charges of corruption that had been made in this House and to use his words;

> "I would very much like to consult a committee of this House on the question of corruption and I would like to have their suggestions, practical suggestions, in order to deal with the situation. I would also like to do this without laying additional burdens on the already over-worked departments. Similarly I would like to discuss with members of this House round the table their suggestions for dealing with waste and so on. I am anxious to have the assistance of members of the House who come into contact with people all over the country and who hear their complaints regularly."

and he finished by saying:

> "If it is not able to perform a function of that kind, then for Heaven's sake let us dispense with it altogether."

Now, Sir, the Standing Finance Committee with those additional responsibilities duly met sometime later and, if I remember correctly, this subject was the first on the agenda for discussion. When it was raised, one of the members immediately asked whether the place was privileged. The place was the Finance Member's room in the Secretariat. That question put every one in a quandary and though there was a barrister present and the question was put to

[Mr. Leslie Gwilt]

him, he said he would like to have notice of it but, if he were asked to give an opinion straightaway, he would say that the place was not privileged. Obviously in the reference I have made the Finance Member appreciated what I thiuk on some occasions are real difficulties of members who wish to bring to the attention of Government cases of bribery and corruption. To say that it does not exist I think is merely pulling wool over our eyes.

At the last meeting of the Standing Finance Committee, as I had mentioned this particular point to Sir Archibald Rowlands, he kindly inquired into it and found that the Finance Member's room is indeed not a privileged place, so that if any member makes a *bona fide* charge (and I am enfining myself only to *bona fide* charges and not to malicious charges) he may be in jeopardy of the law.

Shri Sri Prakasa: He would come under the exceptions to the defamation section of the law.

Mr. Leslie Gwilt: I would like to suggest therefore that such steps, and I do not know what those steps are, shall be taken to extend the privilege of this House (and I understand that it has to be the House in session) to a properly constituted Committee of the House and within the four walls of a committee room.

Now, Sir, if I remember rightly, the Finance Member at the time he made the statement, also asked that each party should select with care or, at any rate, take cognisance, of the added responsibilities of the Standing Finance Committee, at the time that they chose their members and I feel sure that it is a matter which parties will not overlook, and that if the privilege of the House can be extended to committee rooms only charges of a *bona fide* nature will be made.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang (East Punjab: Muhammadan): Mr. Deputy President, it is a pity indeed that when at long last I made up my mind to stand up and have my say on this many-sided cut motion, I find myself face to face with a very discouraging time limit. The cut motion is so worded as to require really a lot of time on the part of those who participate in the discussion and I think my Honourable friend who suggested that the question be now put was really doing injustice to the extensive nature of the discussion that is required, to deal adequately with the many points raised by this cut motion. For instance, if one were to talk on part (a) to censure the Government on their irresponsibility, it is a vast subject. Next comes inefficiency, that is vaster still and then on top of all comes corruption in the administration which is . . . . .

An Honourable Member: Vastest.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: Yes, vastest. This is only part (a).

Part (b) relates to the administration of the centrally administered areas. There are so many centrally administered areas and each has an administration of its own.

Mr. Deputy President: I suppose the Honourable Member would like to continue his speech tomorrow.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: Yes, Sir.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 13th February, 1946.

SECRETARIAT LIBRARY
8 JUL 1946
MADRAS GOVERNMENT

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 13th March, 1946

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

MEMBERS SWORN:

Mr. Harry Greenfield, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official); and

Mr. Madapusi Viraraghavachari Rangachari (Government of India: Nominated Official).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(*a*) ORAL ANSWERS

JOINT COMMISSION FOR PLANNING INDIA'S DEVELOPMENT

915. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Has the Honourable Member for Planning and Development invited the Joint Commission from the United Kingdom, Canada and the U.S.A., to plan India's development as reported in the Monteral message, dated the 24th January, 1946 published in the Delhi (Local) edition of the *Statesman* of the 26th January, 1946 or is it imposed on the Government of India?

(b) When did the Government of India first hear about this proposal, and from which country did it originate?

(c) Why is such a Commission considered necessary by the Government of India?

(d) Have Government given any undertaking to give any special facilities to such a Commission?

(e) Have Government considered that this is the foundation of price rigging against India with regard to goods imported from these countries?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) Neither.

(b) From the Press report from Montreal referred to in (a).

(c) to (e). Do not arise.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will not the Honourable Member give us some information as to whether these people are coming or not and whether it is a joint commission of the United Kingdom, United States and Canada?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: I have no information on the subject; it is merely a press report; we have received no notice of any such commission coming.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government made any inquiries as to whether there is any truth in this report?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: Government have made no inquiries because no approach has been made to Government from the other side.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Who keeps in touch, on behalf of the Government of India, with events in Canada or America? Is it not one of the duties of the Agent General in America?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: Yes. If the Honourable Member wants, I will ask the Agent General whether there is any truth in this report.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have Government considered that a joint commission from these three countries may involve the fixing of prices of capital and other

goods against us, whereas India wants competition between these three countries and take it from the best market and the cheapest? Have Government given any consideration to this fact?

The Honourable Sir Akbari Hydari: I have already said in answer to Professor Ranga that I will find out from the Agent General whether there is any truth in this proposed commission or whether it is just a newspaper canard.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if he is trying to consult any of these foreign experts in the matter of planning, which belongs to his Department?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: It does not arise out of this.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is the Honourable Member sure that some other Member of Government—as we found several times that one Member of Government does something which the other Honourable Member does not know—is not contriving this commission without his knowledge?

(No answer was given.)

Mr. President: Next question.

COST AND FUNCTIONS OF THE JOINT COMMISSION ON PLANNING.

916. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state who is paying the cost of the Joint Commission from the United Kingdom, Canada and the U. S. A., to plan India's development and who are the people expected?

(b) When are they expected, and what is their programme?

(c) What facilities will Government give them?

(d) Have Government expressed a desire for such a Commission, or is at that His Majesty's Government have given directions for the formation and functioning of this Commission?

(e) Did the Honourable Member during his tour in the United Kingdom and U. S. A., fix any details, or approve of the general idea of such a Commission? If so, where and when, and in what terms?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) The Government of India have no information. They are certainly *not* paying the cost.

(b) Government have no information.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e). No.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: As it has aroused the curiosity of my Honourable friend who has put the question, how is it that the Honourable Member is absolutely indifferent over this matter? He has read in the papers that this commission is coming: why has he not made any inquiries?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: One reads so many things in the newspapers. If I were to make inquiries on every one of them, there will be no end.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Apart from the joint commission of these three countries, is the Honourable Member inviting any experts from any of these countries, which may be called a commission or a group or individuals?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: I certainly make use of experts from abroad whenever there is need; but I have not, nor did my predecessor, invite any joint commission.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether His Majesty's Government is sending out any commission of this kind? It may be that the United States and Canada may not come in as part of that commission. Has there been any communication with His Majesty's Government calling out or suggesting that these men should come out here and assist this Government in planning and development?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: That is a pretty wide question. There is for example one team which we have invited from the United Kingdom to help us in investigating the possibilities for the establishment of an aircraft manufacturing industry here; but it is not any kind of economic commission mentioned by my Honourable friend.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government give an assurance that if any such development takes place as was forecast in that newspaper report, they will inform this House at once and not commit themselves until that information has been given to us?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: Certainly.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Are there any individuals coming to India from foreign countries to assist the Honourable Member in the Department of Planning, whether they come as a commission or a group or as individuals, in a short time?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: I have already answered that; from time to time my predecessor did invite experts from abroad to help him in planning and I propose to follow in his footsteps.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: The Honourable Member is not giving an answer to my question. I want to know whether any persons have been invited and if so whether they are coming.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: I have just said in answer to Mr. Subedar's question that I have invited a team from the United Kingdom to advise us as to the possibilities of establishing an aircraft manufacturing industry in India.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Apart from the aircraft manufacturing industry, in regard to other departments, are there any groups or teams or individuals coming?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: I am informed that they are. You must address that question to other Members of the Government. I can only speak for my Department.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask if it is a fact that there are other members coming, invited by other Departments of the Government for this very specific purpose for which this question has been raised?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: I do not know.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I inquire whether the Planning Member is supposed to know about the plans and developments which are forecast and projected by the other Departments or whether he is not supposed to know?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: He is supposed to know; but if you have heard Mr. Chaman Lall's question, it was connected with an economic mission. I did not say that I did not know what experts were coming in regard to road construction or some other project.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask for your protection in this matter, Mr. President? Is it the position now that the Honourable Member himself does not know whether any other Member of the Government knows whether individuals or teams or joint commissions are coming for this particular purpose for which this question has been raised?

Mr. President: Is he being requested to reply with reference to the knowledge of other Members of the Government?

Diwan Chaman Lall: In connection with this particular subject, Mr. President, the subject being the commission coming out for the purpose of rigging prices against us.

Mr. President: What does the Honourable Member know about this?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: As far as I know, the question was of a joint commission from the United Kingdom, Canada and the U.S.A to plan India's development as reported in the Montreal message. My answer to that

was that the Government of India, and I now speak for the whole of the Government of India, have no knowledge of any such commission. If we have no knowledge, we could not obviously have invited them. Another Honourable Member asked me—are you not importing or inviting experts to assist you in this or that plan of development and I said—Yes, we are. What more can I say?

Mr. President: Next question.

CURTAILMENT OF CANTEEN AND WELFARE ACTIVITIES FOR TROOPS.

917. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the War Secretary disbanded recruiting agencies, which he had set up during the war?

(b) Have Government curtailed the canteen and other welfare activities for troops in motion during the war period, which were specially created for the occasion?

(c) How many training camps were set up and how many of them are still in existence?

(d) In how many cases has the personnel of such training camps been reduced, and what is the proposal of Government in this matter to restore the position to normal peace time basis?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Yes, Sir, during the war, the number of Recruiting Offices increased from 16 to 193. Since the end of hostilities, the number has been reduced to 39. In addition, as I explained in my speech in the General debate on the Budget, 79 Offices continue to remain in order to deal with the resettlement of demobilized and released personnel pending the establishment by the Labour Department of Sub-Regional Employment Exchanges.

(b) No, Sir. It is more important than ever to maintain the morale of the fighting services. Where, however, welfare facility is insufficiently used, it is withdrawn.

(c) The total number of training schools in existence at the termination of hostilities was 123, of which 68 are still in existence. I would again refer the Honourable Member to my speech in the course of the general debate on the Budget.

(d) One of these is in the course of closing down and 27 have been considerably reduced up to the present. Further reductions are continuing, and more schools will be closed down in the near future. And as I have explained before, facilities set up for training are being used for demobilisation.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that the Finance Member in his Budget is putting forward 244 crores of rupees as the cost of defence, may we not expect the Defence Department to co-operate and to cut down those items of expenditure for which existence there is no justification whatsoever after the war has closed and to cut them down quickly instead of the slow tortoise manner which my friend has indicated?

Mr. P. Mason: All expenditure which is totally unnecessary has been cut down.

Shri Sri Prakasa: With reference to the Honourable Member's answer to part (b) of the question and his further reference to morale, may I know if these canteens serve out food or morale?

Mr. P. Mason: Both.

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I know how exactly morale is served across the table?

Mr. P. Mason: The answer I gave was that it was more necessary than ever before to maintain the morale of the fighting forces. I think the events of the past few months will bear out my statement and I think every means by which we can maintain the comfort of troops is highly desirable.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is there no value attached to the morale of the civilian population who are now anxiously waiting for considerable reduction in the army's cost and particularly on adjuncts of the kind which are indicated in this question?

Mr. P. Mason: Well, Sir, that is asking me for an expression of opinion.

Seth Govind Das: May I know if fresh recruitment is going on?

Mr. P. Mason: Certainly.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Are discharges also going on?

Mr. P. Mason: Certainly.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are these canteen facilities being provided specially for the lower paid sections of your defence forces?

Mr. P. Mason: No, Sir. They are provided for every one.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is it a fact that experienced officers are being discharged and raw recruits are being taken in?

Mr. P. Mason: I am very doubtful whether that arises. I have explained that elsewhere also.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is it a fact that experienced officers are being discharging officers?

Mr. P. Mason: The reason for that is, I should have thought, obvious. We have at present a very large strength indeed and what we are trying to get is a post war army which will be considerably smaller and which has to be a balanced army as regards age and experience. Suppose we stop recruiting for two years completely and went on discharging. At the end of that two years, you would have no youngmen and no continuous flow coming forward and it is a steady flow that is required.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask my Honourable friend whether it is not a fact that he has got the necessary nucleus already in the existing cadre of officers—in the army, Air force and Navy?

Mr. P. Mason: Yes, Sir. We have got an existing nucleus but it must be kept going by a steady flow.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Does the Honourable Member mean that he is going to discharge experienced officers and get in raw recruits?

Mr. P. Mason: Yes, Sir.

REDUCTION OF STRAIN OF MILITARY TRAFFIC ON RAILWAYS AND OF EXPENDITURE ON PROPAGANDA, ETC.

918. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) What steps have been taken by the War Secretary to reduce the strain of military traffic on the Railways with a view to giving scope for civilian traffic which was denied during the war period?

(b) What steps are taken to reduce expenditure generally incurred and much increased during the war in such matters as propaganda, information officers Press Advisers to various Commands, liaison officers [illegible] on special duty in connection with various branches, Army technicians and institutions for training, technicians in connection with the War Department, and generally all such new places, which were created since the beginning of the year 1939-40?

(c) Do Government propose to give some details of the measures taken, or proposed to be taken and of the amount of saving expected in the Defence figures through such measures?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Government have constantly in view the necessity for reducing the strain of military traffic on the Railways in order to permit the restoration of normal civilian traffic. Rolling stock is progressively released as traffic decreases.

Military stores traffic has decreased very considerably since the end of hostilities and is now only a very small fraction of the total amount of goods traffic moving. Military personnel traffic has, however, only very gradually decreased since it reached its peak in the late summer of 1945. The main reasons for this are the heavy movements involved by Indian Army demobilisation and

return of Indian troops from Europe and other theatres of operations, repatriation and release of British personnel, embarkation of occupational troops for the Far East. No material decrease can be expected during the next three months.

(b) The Honourable Member has touched on only a very few of the subjects which have come under review and I propose to answer him on a wider basis.

Before the conclusion of hostilities a list was in preparation of all activities which could be closed down as soon as hostilities ended. This was completed during the 2nd week of August 1945, and instructions were issued closing down the great majority of new works and calling for an immediate review of all existing establishments, works projects and stores projects. Reports are called for under these three headings periodically and are scrutinised at HQ by the officials of the Military Finance Department. The review is continuous and its success will be seen from my reply to part (c) of the question. The remaining expenditure is on units and these are being disbanded in succession under the demobilisation scheme.

(c) As Honourable Member will see from the Honourable the Finance Member's speech on the Budget, and the statements issued in connection therewith, military expenditure in India (taking the total of expenditure on account of the Government of India and on account of His Majesty's Government together) is reduced from very approximately Rs. 900 crores to approximately 300 crores. As to details; I can give details of any special questions in which the Honourable Member is interested, but I suggest that the most appropriate place is before the Standing Finance Committee.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the importance of the subject, may I ask my Honourable friend to place the details of that report which, he said, was prepared in August 1945 as to what sort of saving could be effected? Is it not possible even at this stage with regard to military expenditure to set up a kind of a Committee, which I suggested at the time of the last Budget, of party leaders and others, an *ad hoc* Committee to go into this issue so as to help Government with the views of the public and to find out whether there is any justification for maintaining some expenditure to the extent Government wants it? Will not the Government consider the advisability of the appointment of an *ad hoc* Committee to go into this?

Mr. P. Mason: There are two points involved. The first is whether we can put that document, which is rather a lengthy one, before the House. I will certainly go into that matter, but I cannot tell you off-hand that I will be able to do so because there may be grounds of secrecy about certain elements. But I think I can probably put it on the table of the House.

Secondly, with regard to the appointment of an *ad hoc* Committee. We have already said that we would put all defence expenditure before the Standing Finance Committee. We have already agreed to consider policy of all kinds with the Defence Consultative Committee and I would shrink from the thought of a third Committee.

Mr. Manu Subedar: During the war period it has been the experience of the civil population that there has been an expansion of all kinds of services right and left. The natural position should be that whatever is expanded should be curtailed and that process should be expedited in order to save the burden on the people of this country. Therefore, I say that neither the Standing Finance Committee nor any of the other things mentioned by my Honourable friend would suffice, but a specific Committee should be appointed whose instructions would be to cut down all unnecessary army outlay. May I ask whether such a specific Committee could not be considered by the Government? I do not want my Honourable friend to make a statement just now, but will he put it to the Commander-in-Chief?

Mr. P. Mason: Certainly, Sir.

NON-PAYMENT OF ANNUAL PAYMENTS TO INDIA BY BURMA.

919. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state how many annual payments due to India, as price for Burma's share of the joint assets at the time of the separation of Burma, has Burma not paid on account of the war?

(b) How much money has been spent by the Government of India on account of the Government of Burma since the fall of Burma till the return of that Government to Burma?

(c) Are any payments still being made on Burma account by the Government of India?

(d) In what manner, and when has the return of these sums been arranged for?

(e) Has the Reserve Bank of India incurred any liability in respect of Burma, or are there any Burma assets with the Reserve Bank of India?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) Eight half-yearly payments of Rs. 112 lakhs each on account of the pre-separation debt of Burma have remained unpaid. Payments were suspended from 1942-43 owing to the occupation of Burma by the Japanese.

(b), (c) and (d). The sum advanced by the Government of India on account of the Burma Government since the fall of Burma amount to approximately Rs. 2½ crores to the end of the current year. This represents payments made in India on account of Burma pensioners. The amount will be recovered and the Burma Government will shortly be discussing with the Government of India the method of liquidating this unredeemed liability along with the repayment of their debt to India held in abeyance during the enemy occupation of Burma.

(e) No, Sir.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What steps will Government take and when in order to recover this amount and in what form and whether the food issue cannot be linked with this?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Yes, Sir, that is one of the things that is obviously engaging our attention. If they give us food, this amount would be treated as a set-off.

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to the other assets which may be in Burma will not my Honourable friend consider Burma Government's inability to pay the accumulated instalments? Will not my Honourable friend consider some other method of taking some other assets in Burma and thus removing this liability?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: No expediency will be left out.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government bring this matter before the Standing Finance Committee?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: No, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why not?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Because we do not think it is an appropriate matter to be placed before them.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government at least consult them before they come to a final decision?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I do not think so.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will they place this matter before the House before they arrive at the final decision?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: The House will be informed.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will they recover the money at all?

(No answer was given.)

REQUIREMENTS OF DEMONETIZATION ORDINANCE.

920. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that persons in possession of currency notes of Rs. 500 and over were required under the Demonetization Ordinance to fill up a form, and to state the reasons why they had these notes in their possession and why they had not kept their money in banks;

(b) the reasons for asking such questions;

(c) if Government regard it as their right to know why their own currency is used by their subjects; and

(d) if he is satisfied with the answers given to this question by the persons concerned?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In pursuance of the general objects of the Ordinance as explained in my answer to Starred Question No. 417, by Mr. Manu Subedar, on the 21st February 1946.

(c) Yes, in prevailing circumstances and to the extent prescribed in the relevant Ordinance.

(d) It is premature to express an opinion till all the declarations have been examined.

Shri Sri Prakasa: With reference to the Honourable Member's reply to part (c) of the question and in view of the fact that it would be against the law to refuse any notes that are regarded as current legal tender, is the Honourable Member satisfied that the asking of such a question was correct and right?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member collect some of the replies which were given as to the reason why people carried these notes and will he print them in the form of a little pamphlet for the benefit of the Members of this House?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I think it will be a very interesting document when I am in a position to do so.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask who has been placed in charge of looking into these various explanations that have been given from time to time?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: One or two cases have been brought to my notice for orders and that is all.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask what is the number of such explanations?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: There are a few cases which have been referred to the Central Government by the Reserve Bank, which is examining them. Only a few cases have been referred to me personally for orders.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Who is examining the rest?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: They are being examined from three points of view. The Reserve Bank is examining them; the Income-tax authorities are examining them; and they are being examined for the possibility of the money having been acquired illicitly.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In case there is a disagreement on these matters, will the Honourable Member appoint an independent Tribunal consisting of independent and impartial men to judge these matters?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: No, Sir.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Why not?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Because Government has got to do its job without the help of outsiders.

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I know how many thousands of rupees the Honourabel Member expects to spend on this examination?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I cannot forecast that.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What is the total figure of unreturned notes and does the Honourable Member now regard that as a clear and definite advantage to the Treasury out of these measures?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I want notice of the latest date. When I was asked to give the figure up to the approved date, I gave it as 129 crores.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I ask whether the difference is now considered by Government as a definite and final gain or whether it is still considered as a suspense account and claims may be preferred against the balance that has not yet been paid up?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: The latter is certainly the case.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Does the Honourable Member realise the danger of losing all his credit when he demonetises his notes at this rate?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I did not know that my credit was involved.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know what is the total amount for which claims have been preferred?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I have just answered that question.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Will the Honourable Member examine and scrutinise the declarations made by Indian States also?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Yes, Sir; most certainly.

PROVINCE OF PANTH PIPLODA

921. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the Province of Panth Piploda consists of only an area of 25 miles and a population of less than 5,000;

(b) if the total revenue of the Province is a little above Rs. 50,000, of which nearly Rs. 12,000 are required for the administration and the rest distributed among the proprietary Thakurs;

(c) the exact position of these proprietary Thakurs, and the understanding between these Thakurs and Government;

(d) the name of the present Chief Commissioner of the Province and the amount of salary and allowances that he gets;

(e) the reasons for continuing Panth Piploda as a separate Province; and

(f) if Government propose to consider the desirability of joining it with some other British Indian Province or with the surrounding and interspersing Indian State?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) The area of Panth Piploda is 25·29 square miles and its population according to the 1941 census is 5,268.

(b) The total revenue in 1944-45 was Rs. 58,628. Rs. 28,200 was distributed amongst the Thakurs and the Khandekar Pandits, the balance being allotted for administrative purposes.

(c) Panth Piploda consists of 10½ villages distributed in five blocks held by five Thakurs. Each Thakur holds one block consisting of one or more villages. The territory was ceded to the East India Company by the Peshwa in the year 1817 along with all his territories and rights in Malwa, under article 14 of the treaty of Poona of that year. Although they hold no written authority or Sanad from Government the Thakurs or their descendants have been recognised as the proprietors of their respective villages.

(d) The Resident for Central India is also the Chief Commissioner for Panth Piploda. The present Chief Commissioner is the Honourable Lt.-Col. Campbell. He gets no extra salary or allowance for holding the post of Chief Commissioner.

(e) and (f). Panth Piploda was formed as a Chief Commissioner's Province with the object of providing a sound legal basis for a system of administration for that area. The future of Panth Piploda will presumably be considered in the course of the forthcoming constitutional discussions.

Shri Sri Prakasa: With reference to part (c), may I know under what circumstances this territory was taken from the Peshwa? Was it voluntarily ceded to the East India Company or was it forcibly taken from the Peshwa?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I do not know. Probably the Honourable Member knows more about the history and origin of this than I do.

DEATH SENTENCE ON NINE I. N. A. PRISONERS

922. ***Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the War Secretary please refer to his answer to starred question No. 41, on February 7, 1946, and state:

(a) the place or places where the nine prisoners sentenced to death were hanged and what was done with their remains;

(b) the place or places where the courts sat which sentenced them;

(c) the names of the defence counsel that were engaged by or for them; and

(d) if the charge of murder against them included any killing of men by them while engaged in actual warfare?

Mr. P. Mason: (a), (b) and (c). I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to my reply on the 18th February, 1946, to Prof. N. G. Ranga's starred question No. 337.

(d) None was charged with murder.

Shri Sri Prakasa: With reference to part (a) may I know once more—I am not quite sure whether this part of the question was covered by the question under reference—what was done to the remains of the persons who were hanged?

Mr. P. Mason: That was not contained in that question, nor is it contained in this question.

Shri Sri Prakasa: If the Honourable Member will cast his eyes to part (a) of this question . . . .

Mr. P. Mason: I am sorry, Sir. I will supply the information after enquiry.

Shri Sri Prakasa: When the Honourable Member makes an enquiry, will he also remember the reply of the Honourable the Home Member to a similar question and make sure that those persons who according to custom should have been cremated were not actually buried?

Mr. P. Mason: I will make sure of the information.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask whether these were all court martial cases?

Mr. P. Mason: Yes, Sir.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I know whether he is prepared to lay the proceedings of these court martial cases on the table of the House?

Mr. P. Mason: No, Sir.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is there any secrecy about the proceedings?

Mr. P. Mason: Yes, Sir. But this question does not arise out of the original question.

Diwan Chaman Lall: What is the secrecy that attaches to these proceedings?

Mr. P. Mason: May I submit to you, Sir, that the rule is that supplementary questions are asked to elucidate any facts supplied in answer to a question. I have supplied a very full reply, and I must point out, Sir, that it is already 35 minutes since the question hour commenced and we are only through six questions.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I am sure Honourable Members are entitled to know the reasons from the Government as to why a particular information should be withheld from this House. What is the public policy behind this particular case?

Mr. P. Mason: I do not question the right of the House to get the information. I only wish to point out that this does not arise out of this question.

Mr. Manu Subedar: This question does arise. There is a class of information which is withheld from the Members of this House on very different grounds. I want to know whether in this case there is any such reason for withholding?

Mr. President: The Honourable Member stated "on grounds of secrecy".

Mr. P. Mason: I wish to take my stand on the ground that this question does not arise out of this question. I shall be very glad to discuss this question with my Honourable friends on some other occasion. But this does not arise out of this question. I think it is rather important in view of the fact that we have been only through six questions in 35 minutes.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: The question whether a supplementary question arises or not is to be decided by the Chair. It is open to the Government Member to say that this is all the information I have or it is open to him to plead "confidential" with respect to certain matters.

Mr. President: I believe just as the Opposition is entitled to make their submissions to the Chair, so also is the Government side entitled to make its submissions. Therefore, when the Honourable War Secretary said that it does not arise, it was not a reply to the question put to him, but a submission to the Chair.

I do not think this supplementary question arises directly from the question.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: If you decide like that, then we have no say.

Mr. Manu Subedar: If you refer to the question itself, part (b) says: "the place or places where the courts sat which sentenced them;" part (c) says "the names of the defence counsel that were engaged by or for them". Surely, the information that is asked for in these two parts relate to the proceedings of the Court martial. If the Government do not desire to give this information, we are at least entitled to know the reasons for the same.

Mr. President: The information sought for may be connected remotely but it does not arise directly from this question.

BAN ON PROCESSIONS IN DELHI

923. ***Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) if there is any order in force in Delhi prohibiting processions; if so, the terms of the order and what sort of processions are banned; and

(b) if he will consider the desirability of removing the ban?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) I lay on the table a copy of the Chief Commissioner's notification No. F.5(59)/43-General, dated the 20th August, 1943, from which it will be seen that processions are prohibited unless they have been duly licensed under the Police Act or are of certain specified kinds.

(b) No, Sir, not at present.

NOTIFICATION

Delhi, dated the 20th August, 1943

No. F. 5 (59)/43-General.—In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-rule (1) of rule 56 of the Defence of Inda Rules the Chief Commissioner of Delhi, being satisfied that this measure is necessary for the purpose of securing the public safety and for the maintenance of public order, is pleased by this general order to prohibit the holding of or taking part in any public procession of ten or more persons within the jurisdiction of the Delhi Municipal Committee and the New Delhi Municipal Committee, the Delhi Civil Station, Notified Area and the Delhi Fort Notified Area:

Provided that nothing in this order shall be deemed to prohibit *bona fide* processions on the occasion of weddings or funerals or other domestic celebrations or shall apply to processions duly licensed by competent authority under sub-secton (3) of section 30 of the Police Act 1861 or to any other customary procession for the holding of which the District Magistrate of Delhi may by order in writing have granted permission.

A. V. ASKWITH,
Chief Commissioner, Delhi.

Seth Govind Das: Are the Government aware that all the troubles we find in the country today are on account of this banning of processions and meetings?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: That is a matter of opinion and my opinion is strongly adverse to my Honourable friend's.

Shri Sri Prakasa: How many persons going together would form a procession according to this notification?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Ten or more.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: If ten Honourable Members walk out of this House, would it come under procession?

Mr. President: Order, order; next question.

POLICY *RE* RETURN OF PRIVATE REQUISITIONED PROPERTY

924. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state if it was not the declared policy of Government that private property requisitioned for war purposes during the days of the war will be returned to the respective owners after the termination of the war?

(b) What led to the change of this policy, and what necessitated the issue of a fresh Ordinance in December, 1945, for acquisition of such property?

(c) Did Government requisition from the Ramjas College Society, Delhi, the buildings occupied by the Ramjas College and School and their hostels at Anandparbat in June 1942, and did they pay rent for some time? What led to a change in their policy, so as to decide to acquire the said buildings and the land attached thereto?

(d) Will Government be pleased to explain the special circumstances under which they want to acquire the said landed property which covers an area of about 1,700,000 sq. yards? Are they aware that some of these buildings were built with the help of public donations?

(e) Are Government aware that the Secretary of the Ramjas College Society has for some time been in correspondence with the authorities concerned protesting against the acquisition of the said property by Government? If so, what action has been taken by Government on such repesentation?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Yes, Sir. It is the intention of the Government to hand back as quickly as possible private property requisitioned for war purposes. An exception will be made only in the following cases:

(i) Requisitioned property required for the needs of the post-war army will be acquired.

(ii) Where the cost of restoring property to its condition at the time of requisition would be excessive, the property will be acquired.

(iii) Where valuable assets have been created on requisitioned property these will normally be offered to the owner at a fair valuation at the time of release. If the owner is unwilling to take them over the entire property may have to be acquired.

(b) There has been no change in policy. Ordinance No. XLV of 1945, was promulgated because the Government were advised that under the Defence of India Act and Rules as they then stood they had no power to acquire property in the circumstances referred to under points (ii) and (iv) in the reply to (a).

(c) In 1942 it was found necessary to take over the Ramjas College and School property for an urgent military requirement.

As private negotiations were not successful, the property was requisitioned in May 1945. The Army had meanwhile occupied the property and had added assets to the approximate value of Rs. 35 lakhs. Up to date a sum of Rs. 3,34,076 has been paid as compensatory interim payments to be set off against whatever compensation is ultimately paid. The nature and amount of the final compensation will depend on whether the building is handed back or acquired.

(d) The continued retention of the property is being considered. I believe that some of the College buildings have been built with the help of public donations, and I agree that this would be a strong argument for returning the property.

(e) Yes, Sir. The representations made by the Secretary of the Ramjas Society are being carefully considered along with other relevant factors.

Mr. Manu Subedar: As my Honourable friend has enunciated some very important general principles, may I know if Government will distinctly make a difference between the date of notice of acquisition and the date on which it is actually requsitioned, as during the interval the price basis has in some cases very seriously altered?

Mr. P. Mason: Certainly, Sir.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: May I know at what price these properties will be acquired? As the Land Acquisition Act does not apply, will it be the price on the date of requisition or the price on the date of acquisition?

Mr. P. Mason: I shall require notice of that question.

Mr. Manu Subedar: When Government requisitioned the properties they required them temporarily for their purposes; but they have now decided to acquire. It is a new decision and a fresh notice of acquisition will have to be given. Is not that what my Honourable friend implied in reply to my first question?

Mr. P. Mason: I shall require notice of it because that part of the question is not one that I have studied.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In the matter of all those people whose properties they have taken—farms, fields, lands and buildings—will they not consider the intermediate change of rise of prices which has come in or will they take steps which will be regarded as confiscatory?

Mr. P. Mason: I have explained that the matter will be considered.

Sir N. V. Gadgil: Will the final acquisition be under the Land Acquisition Act or under the D. I. Rules?

Mr. P. Mason: I take it that it will be under Ordinance 45 of 1945?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know how long Government will take to come to a decision with regard to this property?

Mr. P. Mason: I do not know, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Do not Government make any distinction between educational institutions like this and ordinary properties, in disposing of all these matters?

Mr. P. Mason: Yes, certainly. As I said before, I think the fact—if it is a fact—that the property was constructed largely by subscription is a very strong argument for returning it.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will not all acquisitions expire with the expiry of the Act?

Mr. P. Mason: No, Sir; certainly not.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will Government expedite their decision with regard to this matter because it concerns an educational institution?

Mr. P. Mason: Yes, we will, certainly.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government come to this House for fresh powers when the old powers expire on 30th September?

Mr. P. Mason: That, Sir, is a question of hypothesis.

PAY AND QUALIFICATIONS OF MRS. KHIN ZAW OF ALL-INDIA RADIO.

925. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Arts be pleased to state if it is a fact that Mrs. Khin Zaw is working in the Central News Organisation, All-India Radio, as an Officer-in-Charge of Broadcasting for Indians Overseas? If so, what are her qualifications and nationality; on what pay was she originally appointed; and what is her present pay?

(b) Is it a fact that she has been promoted in supersession of many qualified and senior Indian Officers in the News Organisation?

(c) What are the journalistic and other qualifications of Mrs. Khin Zaw for holding the present post?

(d) How was the selection of Mrs. Khin Zaw made? Was she selected by the Federal Public Service Commission or any other Selection Board?

(e) Is it also a fact that Mrs. Khin Zaw was originally appointed as a Reference Officer and towards the end of 1944 was appointed as News Editor in the English Political Warfare Section, under Lt.-Col. White House, but was removed only after a few days by Lt.-Col. White House on the ground of incompetence?

(f) Is it also a fact that instead of reverting her to her original post a new post of Private Secretary or Personal Assistant was created to provide her with a higher job?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) to (f). My information on the points raised by Honourable Member is not yet complete. I will send him a reply shortly.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state what country mourns the absence of Mrs. Khin Zaw?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: I think it is Burma, Sir.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact that notice of this question was sent about a fortnight ago or even earlier?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: That is perfectly true but . . . . .

Mr. President: Order, order. Next question.

DEMAND OF SECURITY FROM SARASWATI PRESS, DELHI

926. *Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Is the Honourable the Home Member aware that the Chief Commissioner of Delhi has proscribed a book written in Hindi entitled Jai Hind, published by the Saraswati Pustak Mandir, Delhi, and printed at the Saraswati Press?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that Mr. R. C. Bharati son of Pandit Lokman Das, the Keeper of the Saraswati Press, has been asked to deposit a security of Rs. 1,000?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware that the said book is a compilation of several newspaper cuttings?

(d) Why were not those articles in the newspapers concerned proscribed?

(e) Why was this book proscribed and security demanded?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) and (d). I am prepared to accept the Honourable Member's assertion that the book is a compilation of newspaper articles. I do not know whether any action was taken in respect of the articles when they appeared in newspapers.

(e) The reasons are indicated in the orders of the Chief Commissioner of which a copy is placed in the Library.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: In view of the fact that more information than is contained in that book is available to the public at large, is there any justification for Government to proscribe this pamphlet?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: That is really a matter for the Chief Commissioner and for the court to whom an application can be made against his order. But I would point that a book is far more of a permanent record than a newspaper article.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if from time to time the Honourable Member or his Department reviews orders regarding the banning of publication or proscribing of books?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: The orders are not those of the Central Government but of the Chief Commissioner.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: But the Chief Commissioner of Delhi is directly under the Central Government. Does not the Honourable Member review the orders passed by him?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: No, Sir, because under the Act the order is subject to appeal to the High Court.

DISBANDMENT OF W. V. S. (I).

927. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) if his attention has been drawn to the news item in the *Hindustan Times* of the 17th February, 1946, under the caption "WVS(I) not to be disbanded";

(b) the number of members in the WVS(I), giving the officers and others, separately, and also showing them under (i) Indians, (ii) Anglo-Indians, and (iii) Europeans;

(c) the total amount of money spent on this service during the war, and since the cessation of hostilities on the 15th August, 1945;

(d) the nature of duties performed by them, and whether such duties cannot equally efficiently be performed by male personnel, if not, why not; and

(e) whether he proposes to take early steps to repatriate all non-Indian personnel in this service out of India as soon as possible?

Mr. P. Mason: *General.*—Before answering the questions put by the Honourable Member in detail, I should like to clear up some misconceptions about the WVS(I).

The Womens' Voluntary Service (India) is, as its name implies, a voluntary organisation, and is not in the military sense a "service". Similar organisations exist in many other countries. It was originally intended to fill various needs and provide a means of contributing to the war effort for those women who by reason of family or other ties could not join a whole-time paid service.

The great majority of the members of this Body are unpaid, and work voluntarily. There are at present approximately 9,703 members, and of these 9,610 are voluntary unpaid workers. The organisation is in general on a provincial basis, but there is a small Headquarters at Delhi designed to co-ordinate the work.

The duties they perform are for the benefit of both British and Indian troops. I shall mention the more important of these in my answers to the detailed questions.

Detailed answers to questions.—(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of members in the WVS(I) is 9,703. There are no officers. The figure showing the number of workers under the three headings are: (i) Indian—1,926; (ii) Anglo-Indian—1,197; and (iii) European—6,388.

In addition there are 192 members belonging to other Allied Nations.

(c) Amounts spent on W.V.S. (I) are as under:

(1) During the War.—(i) During the greater part of the war, the W.V.S. (I) operated entirely as a Voluntary Body with no assistance financially from the Government of India.

(ii) In 1943 certain assistance was granted in kind, such as free travel when on duty, and free use of Government Road Transport. The total expense involved in this cannot be assessed.

(iii) In addition, grants were sanctioned to the W.V.S. (I) for office expenses and publicity and the like by the Government of India totalling Rs. 27,440.

The Home Department gave a grant of Rs. 1,800 for administrative expenses incurred in connection with work for evacuees from countries east of Asia.

(2) Since the end of hostilities.—The total amount spent since the cessation of hostilities is approximately Rs. 1,80,700 mainly on the allowances of whole-time workers.

The much higher expenditure after the war is due to the fact that the decision to obtain paid workers from England was taken as a result of the Munster Report but they did not actually arrive until hostilities were over. No more paid workers will be brought from England.

(d) The duties performed by members of the W.V.S. (I) during and since the War are too widespread and diverse for complete enumeration. The following are some of their activities:

(i) They serve in canteens both static and mobile, for both British and Indian troops.

(ii) They cut out and make up garments required for patients in hospitals and prepare bandages. They visit the sick, write letters for them and instruct in occupational therapy in both British and Indian hospitals.

(iii) They have worked in Military Offices as unpaid workers and have taken an active part in the collection of salvage and scrap.

(iv) They invite troops, particularly convalescent, to their houses for tea and entertainments, the cost being borne by the host.

(v) They organise garden parties for Indian and British troops.

(vi) They establish information bureaux in hill stations and leave centres and assist in the "Welcome Home" of Indian Troops from overseas.

(vii) They help with Indian forces family welfare and feed civilian destitutes.

Most of the above work could, by its very nature, not be performed as well by male people.

(e) The total of whole time workers recruited out of India at present number 84. These are under contract to serve 18 months in India, the contract being terminable at three months' notice. It is not proposed to terminate these contracts. The remainder of the W.V.S. (I), both locally enrolled paid workers who are very few and those not paid, who are not of Indian domicile are the wives and daughters of men employed in India.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In view of the fact that the W. A. C. (I) organisation is being disbanded, may I know why the Honourable Member does not consider the advisability of disbanding this organisation also?

Mr. P. Mason: I do not think that the two are very much connected. One is paid and the other is not paid.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Though they have not been paid, may I know whether honorarium and other allowances have also not been paid to these persons?

Mr. P. Mason: They were to the extent which I have enumerated in my long answer to the question.

Mr. Leslie Gwilt: Does the Honourable Member agree that these women have done magnificent service, and the country has cause to be very deeply indebted to them?

Mr. P. Mason: I do, Sir.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that these ten thousand persons are receiving free travel and free petrol, not to speak of some other amenities which we do not know, will not Government now try to reduce this burden created by this organisation so as to reduce the pressure on the civil population?

Mr. P. Mason: I do not think that the amount of free travel accorded to ten thousand people will make a great deal of difference to the civilian population, and as my Honourable friend, Mr. Gwilt, has said, I think we ought all to be extremely grateful to the people who are prepared to work for nothing and have done magnificent work in the past.

Mr. Manu Subedar: It is not a question of gratitude. It is a question of relieving pressure on the civil population which has been entrenched during the period of the war, and I again say that however small the relief may be, will not Government now try to let the civil population get back their own?

Mr. P. Mason: I have already said that we are doing all we can to relieve the traffic of civil population, but I really do not think that ten thousand is going to make much difference in a population of 400 millions.

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I know if ever an embarrassing situation has arisen by a soldier dictating a love letter to a lady in this service meant for another lady?

Mr. P. Mason: I have no information on the subject. At any rate not as much information as my Honourable friend seems to have.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Will the Honourable Member repeat the figures in respect of travelling? I believe he said Rs. 26,000 during all the years of the war.

Mr. P. Mason: Rs. 26,000 was for office expenditure—publicity, and things of that kind. What I said about travelling was that it was impossible to assess.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: What is the total quantity of petrol consumed by them?

Mr. P. Mason: I am afraid I shall require notice of that question.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know if it is a fact that officers' wives are working in this organization and they are getting free supply of petrol which they are using?

Mr. P. Mason: I could not understand the question, Sir.

Mr. President: Order, order. Next question.

TRANSFER OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DEPARTMENTS FROM SIMLA TO DELHI.

928. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) if there is a proposal to bring down any of the staff relating to any of the Departments of the Government of India from Simla to Delhi;

(b) if so, which are the Departments, and how many persons are to be brought down to Delhi;

(c) when they were transferred from Delhi to Simla;

(d) whether Government have considered any complaints from the staff regarding the inconvenience of transfer on account of the eduction of their children and the approaching summer season; and

(e) whether Government have considered the question of their accommodation at Delhi; whether all of them will be provided with quarters?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) Yes. It is proposed to bring down some staff in certain Departments.

(b) to (d). A statement showing the particulars is laid on the table.

(e) Yes. It is not possible for Government to provide residential accommodation for all Government servants in Delhi. But they have given certain travelling allowance and rent concessions to the staff who are required to move down from Simla.

Statement

Department	Number of persons to be brought down	Date of transfer from Delhi to Simla	Particulars regarding complaints from staff regarding inconvenience etc.
Food (Office of the Sugar Controller)	88	1942	No complaint has been received
Legislative . . .	57	1942	The staff represented that the move may be deferred till October 1946 and this has been acceded to
Labour . . .	152	1942	Representation has been received from ministerial staff and is under consideration
Post and Air Railway Inspectorate branch	19	1942	No complaint has been received
Director General Posts and Telegraphs	49	1942	No complaint has been received
Headquarters of the Controller of telegraph office	5	1944	No complaint has been received
Information and Arts	161	1942	Some representations have been received but further action on them has been held up pending a final decision whether the move shall take place
Railway . . .	23	1942	No complaint has been received. The staff has shown willingness to move down to Delhi
Political . . .	14	1942	No complaint has been received
External Affairs . .	20	1942	The lack of residential accommodation in Delhi is preventing the move of the staff to Delhi
War Pension Branch .	367	1945	Certain representations have been received but it was necessary to order these moves in the interests of efficiency
General Headquarters .	97	1944	

Seth Govind Das: Does the Honourable Member realize that in spite of these allowances, these persons, who are returning from Simla, will not be able to build houses for themselves, and it is very difficult to get houses in Delhi?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Yes, Sir. I am quite aware that there must be some temporary inconvenience.

Seth Govind Das: Are they going to get shelter under trees under these circumstances?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I don't think that will be necessary.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What effort has been made in order to bring into use of Government servants, all this accommodation which has been vacated by Americans and other officers and which I find locked and unoccupied? Why are not Government making an effort to accommodate their own servants in some of these?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: That does not directly relate to my Department, but I have no doubt that the Honourable Member in charge of the subject will require notice of that.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know from the Honourable Member if it is not a fact that these offices were transferred to Simla for want of accommodation in Delhi, and if it is so has additional accommodation been provided in Delhi before bringing down these offices?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: As far as possible, these people are accommodated in Delhi, but for the period during which it may not be possible to provide them with Government accommodation, quite generous concessions of various kinds, including continuance of their families in the accommodation provided for them in Simla, have been provided.

Sri. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if priorities in regard to accommodation are allowed to these people, who were transferred to Simla, after their return to Delhi?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I cannot answer that straightaway.

Sri. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: As regards the educational facilities for their children, in as much as it is the middle of the year, has the Honourable Member considered the complaints made by many of these officers that the education of their children will be disturbed if they are transferred immediately, and is he prepared to consider the postponement of their transfer till after the educational year is over?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: If my Honourable friend will study the concessions that are being granted, I think he will see that whatever is possible has been done to meet the difficulties that would arise from the whole families immediately coming down to Delhi.

Seth Govind Das: Are these people satisfied with the concessions which have been offered?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Some of them appear to be. We have had no complaints with regard to some of the Departments.

REDUCTION OF FOODGRAIN RATIONS FOR DEFENCE FORCES.

929. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact, as stated by Mr. Sen, Secretary, Food Department, in his speech at the All India Newspaper Editor's Conference, Allahabad, that Troops in the Air Defence Forces are given foodgrains ration of 1½ lbs. per day;

(b) whether it exceeds by 50 per cent. of the ration allowed to our urban masses;

(c) whether even in those few rural areas in which rationing is introduced, the agricultural workers who have to put in atleast as much physical exertion as the troops, are not allotted more than 1 lb. ration per day;

(d) if it is a fact that troops get supplementary rations of non-cereal food stuffs, roots, vegetables, fruit, mutton, *etc.*; and

(e) in view of the Governor-General's appeal to everyone to economise on food consumption and the prevailing food scarcity all over India, whether Government propose to consider the advisability of exploring all possible opportunities to reduce the foodgrain consumption by the Defence Forces?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) The basic foodgrain ration of all Indian troops including Indian airmen is 24 oz. per man per day. In view, however, of the acute food shortage in the country, a cut of 2 oz. has been made with effect from 11th November 1945.

(b) No, Sir, not quite. The average civilian ration is 16·15 oz. and for troops 22 oz

(c) Agricultural workers are not allowed more than 1 lb. of cereal ration per day.

(d) The scale of rations for troops is laid down on the advice of the military medical authorities and is intended to provide a balanced diet which includes meat, vegetables, potatoes, *etc.*, in addition to cereals.

(e) We have already done so, Sir. In addition to a cut of 2 oz. in troops rations, orders are now under issue reducing daily grain rations of all animals of Defence Services by one lb. per head.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Even after this cut of 2 oz. out of the total of 24 oz. of foodgrains they would be left with 22 oz., that is 10 oz. more than the maximum that is being allowed to townsmen in our country or even to the agricultural worker. Why does the Government insist upon giving this excessive ration to the troops?

Mr. P. Mason: It may be 10 oz. more in certain parts of the country, but the figure I gave is 16·15 which is an average over the whole of India for the urban areas, I am told. With regard to the question of the reason, the numbers of troops compared to the total population of the country is small. I agree that everything that can be done to provide food should be done, but one has to balance that necessity against the importance of keeping the troops well and healthy and contented, and that is more important at present than keeping the remainder of the population contented because, Sir, they have dangerous weapons in their hands.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that there is a feeling that normally in armies all over the world there is a certain amount of waste, will not my Honourable friend take special steps in the present Session in order to see if there is any waste and to eliminate it?

Mr. P. Mason: Certainly, Sir. This is always going on and I will certainly ask it to be accelerated.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that that a great majority of our present troops possess the minimum degree of patriotism, will the Government consider the advisability of consulting them whether they would be willing to accept a further cut?

Mr. P. Mason: I do not know who made the statement to which the Honourable Member refers. I do not think, however, there can be any question of asking them to accept such a suggestion. The machinery for obtaining such information will be far too complicated.

Mr. President: Order, order. The question hour is now over.

(*b*) WRITTEN ANSWERS

RADIO BROADCASTS IN KAUNADA LANGUAGE.

930. *Shri D. P. Karmarkar: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Arts please state:

(a) whether any time is allotted for broadcasts in the Kaunada language from the All-India Radio, New Delhi;

(b) if not, whether Government propose to make arrangements for news and talks in the Kaunada language;

(c) the time allotted for broadcasts in the Kaunada language from the Madras and Bombay stations, and what steps are proposed to be taken to increase the said time; and

(d) whether Government are considering the question of erecting a Broadcasting Station specially for the Kaunada speaking areas?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) The time allotted for Kaunada broadcasts from the Madras and Bombay Station of All-India Radio is as follows:

Madras—30 minutes per month for music,

Bombay—about 20 minutes per month for music and about 30 minutes per month for talks in the broadcasts for schools.

An increase in the time is under the consideration of the Government of India.

(d) Yes.

CONTINUATION OF MILITARY TRAINING CENTRES.

331. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to continue their Military Training Centres, which were being run during the war at Dehra Dun, Mhow, Belgaum, Poona, Bangalore, if not, why not;

(b) if the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, how many students, per annum, they propose to take;

(c) whether it was a fact that a very large number of new officers, recruited since the beginning of the war, have distinguished themselves like Lt. Bhagat V.C. with not more than two years' training; and

(d) whether there are any proposals to turn out in a shorter period than had been the practice before the war, efficient officers from out of our new cadets?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) It is proposed to continue the Military Training Centres (or more correctly Officers' Training Schools) at Dehra Dun and Bangalore. Those at Belgaum and Mhow have now been disbanded because of the reduced size of the army. There never was an Officers' Training School at Poona.

(b) The total number of regular officers required within a year is approximately 450. Until the setting up of the National War Academy, cadets for the regular army are being trained at the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, which has now reverted to its peace-time role.

Emergency Commissions are still being granted and the requirement of such officers depends upon the progressive reduction of the size of the army. These officers are being trained at the Officers' Training School, Bangalore.

(c) Yes Sir, a large number of new officers have distinguished themselves.

(d) The courses now being instituted at the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, are starting on a one year duration progressively increasing to two years. It is not intended to shorten the training period for the post-war regular officer.

PSYCHIATRISTS IN BRITISH ARMY SERVICES SELECTION BOARDS.

932. *Khan Bahadur Hafiz M. Ghazanfarulla: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state if it is a fact that Psychiatrists are no longer employed in the British Army Services Selection Boards?

(b) Are Government aware that Psychiatrists are considered to be important members of the Indian Army Selection Boards?

(c) Will he please state why Psychiatrists are so necessary for Indian Army Services Selection Boards and why so much weight is attached to their opinion when the science of psychiatry is yet in experimental stage?

(d) Will he please give the number of psychiatrists attached to the Indian Army Service Selection Boards and state how many of them are fully trained and duly qualified as such; what their exact qualifications are and the place and period of training undergone?

(e) Is it a fact that Groups Testing Officers in the Indian Army Services Selection Boards are generally only Emergency Commissioned Officers?

(f) Is it a fact that a large number of Indian Emergency Commissioned Officers who proved their worth in action against the enemy and were highly reported of by their Commanding Officers have been rejected by the Indian Army Services Selection Boards. If so, why?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Psychiatrists are used on War Office Selection Boards in England. They are not employed on War Office Selection Boards in India, because sufficient Psychiatrists, of the required experience and calibre, are not available at present, and the Boards are therefore at a considerable disadvantage.

(b) Yes Sir. Psychiatrists are important members of Indian Army Selection Boards, because it is not possible to administer and interpret Personality Tests, unless there is a Psychiatrist on the Board.

(c) Psychiatrists are necessary on Services Selection Boards to make possible scientific selection. Psychiatry is not in its experimental stage but has been developed in Europe, America and Russia for over 50 years.

(d) Nine. All of these are fully qualified psychiatrists with several years of psychiatric experience both of a civil and military nature. All have Diplomas in medicine being M.B., B.S. or M.B. and nearly all possess the Diploma of D.P.M. (Diploma of Psychiatry and Medicine). They have all received the requisite training at recognised institutions either in India or abroad.

(e) Yes, Sir. But all the Groups Testing Officers employed on services selection Boards are suitable for Regular Commissions and 18 out of the 32 employed have been accepted for Regular Commissioners. Of the other 14, six are debarred from applying for Regular Commissions for reasons of age or low medical category.

All Groups Testing Officers will be Regular Commissioned Officers eventually.

(f) No, Sir. The function of psychiatrists and Groups Testing Officers is to grade not to reject candidates. There are cases in which officers make gallant and efficient junior leaders, but would be quite unsuitable as senior officers, owing to age, lack of ability or instability.

AGE RESTRICTIONS FOR GRANT OF REGULAR COMMISSIONS TO EMERGENCY COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

933. *Khan Bahadur Hafiz M. Ghazanfarulla: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state if it is a fact that a large number of Indian Emergency Commissioned Officers are being barred from applying for regular commissions only because they are above a certain age limit?

(b) Is it also a fact that there is reported to be a shortage of applicants from amongst Emergency Commissioned Officers for regular commissions?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) It is correct that a considerable number of Indian Emergency Commissioned Officers are debarred from applying for regular commissions because they are above certain age limits. This applies equally to British Emergency Commissioned Officers in regard to regular commissions in the British Army.

(b) Yes, Sir. There is at present a shortage of applicants of the required standards. Applications are still being received, however, at the rate of 130 a month and the situation is improving.

REGULAR COMMISSIONS IN THE ARMY.

934. *Khan Bahadur Hafiz M. Ghazanfarulla: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) the number of applicants under 35 years of age who have been rendered ineligible to apply for regular commissions on account of the age limit, the total number of applicants for regular Commission and the total number so far accepted and rejected;

(b) if Government are aware that great dissatisfaction prevails among Indian Commissioned Officers many of whom have served for a number of years, or had received approved Military Education from Child-hood, on account of extra-ordinary large rejections and age limit restrictions, and, if so, whether Government are prepared to remedy this state of affairs by reconsidering the case of rejected applicants and extending the age limit to 35; and

(c) if Government are aware that there is a strong feeling prevalent among Indian Emergency Commissioned Officers and the public at large that these large scale rejections and low age limits have been imposed so as to enable a large number of British Army personnel to be attached to the Indian Army?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Approximately 4,000 Emergency Indian Commissioned Officers under 35 years of age are barred by the age limit from applying for regular commissions in the Indian Army. Up to the 25th February 1946 (the latest date for which figures are available) 2,593 combatant EICOs had applied for regular commissions and out of these 1,790 had been interviewed by Selection Boards and 105 granted regular commissions. The grading and interviewing of the rest is progressing. Up to the present no actual rejection has taken place.

(b) The age-limits prescribed, which happen to be the same as those laid down by the War Office for the British Army, have been carefully designed to assure the individual officer a reasonable career and, at the same time, to maintain the efficiency of the Army. If the age-limits and length of service of officers were to be ignored, blocks in promotion would be created necessitating "axing" of a proportion of officers in later years to clear the blocks. A plan is, however, now under consideration by which it is hoped to utilise the services of suitable officers who are too old for regular commissions, possibly by the award of short-term commissions.

(c) If this impression exists, Sir, it is quite wrong. Officers of the British Army will only be attached to the Indian Army if suitably qualified Indian officers are not available.

SEIZURE OF FIRE ARMS IN ASSAM.

935. *Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) how many fire-arms were seized in the Province of Assam on the alleged ground that they would be kept in safe custody during the period of the war;

(b) how many of them have since been returned to the owners; and

(c) the reasons for not returning the rest?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) Weapons called in for the reason given and requisitioned for arming police forces numbered 504.

(b) 244.

(c) Some of the weapons were acquired by the Government. Some required for use during operations on the Burma Frontier have not yet been returned by the military authorities but will be returned to the owners as and when they are returned and sorted out. In some cases the original owners no longer hold licences.

EXTERNMENT ORDER ON SRI BAID OMKARNATH SARMA OF DELHI

936. *Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that Sri Baid Omkarnath Sarma has been recently served with an externment order directing him to leave Delhi within twenty-four hours? If so, why?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: No.

ASSAM I. N. A. PRISONERS.

937. *Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state the number of I. N. A. prisoners belonging to Assam, who have been (i) executed, (ii) sentenced to transportation, (iii) imprisoned, or (iv) awaiting trial?

(b) What are the places in which they are at present detained or imprisoned?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) None, Sir.

(b) Ten persons from Assam are at the Holding and Enquiry Centre at Baraset while their cases are being investigated. From information so far available, none of these men is likely to be tried by Court Martial.

DEGRADING OF INCOME-TAX DEPARTMENT CLERKS IN SIND CIRCLE

938. *Seth Sukhdev: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in the Sind Circle of the Income Tax Department certain clerks were degraded from the senior to the junior grade or reverted from higher grades during 1944-45?

(b) If so, was this ordered as a result of the test prescribed by the Income Tax Commissioner, Bombay, or on account of general inefficiency of the affected staff?

(c) if the degradation was not for inefficiency, is it proposed to restore them to the higher grades to which they are entitled permanently or in officiating capacities?

(d) Is it a fact that only one chance was allowed for the test referred to in (b) above?

(e) Is it also a fact that Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors of the Income Tax Department are allowed three chances for the Departmental Examination? If so, why is there discrimination in the case of clerical staff?

(f) Is it proposed to remove this discrimination?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: (a) Yes; certain clerks who were officiating in the Upper Division were reverted to their substantive appointments in the Lower Division.

(b) This was ordered on account of the inefficiency of the clerks concerned, as corroborated by the results of a test conducted by the Commissioner.

(c) Does not arise in view of my reply to part (b).

(d) Yes; only one test has so far been held. The Commissioner is proposing to hold another test in May 1946 when the clerks concerned will get a second chance.

(e) and (f). Yes; Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors are allowed three chances. The examination for them is conducted annually by the Central Board of Revenue and there is strictly no parallel between this examination and the one held by the Commissioner of Income-tax. In the circumstances, in view of my reply to part (d) there is no question of any discrimination or its removal.

TEST PRESCRIBED FOR INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT CLERKS IN SIND CIRCLE.

939. *Seth Sukhdev: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the test for clerical staff introduced by the Income Tax Commissioner, Bombay, for the Sind Circle provided for results being announced by groups A,B,C, and D?

(b) Was any syllabus prescribed for the said test before it was actually held? If so, when, and what it was?

(c) Is it a fact that certain clerks who appeared for the test in 1944-45 were placed in the B Group (Pass Class)?

(d) Is it also a fact that after three or four months a corrigendum was issued placing them in the C Group (Failure Class)? If so, why, and how did the mistake arise?

(e) Is it a fact, that clerks on medical leave were also summoned to appear for the test? If so, why?

(f) Do Government propose to direct a review of the results referred to in (d) and (e)?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: (a) Yes.

(b) No detailed syllabus was prescribed; but the candidates were informed in advance that there would be three papers, one each in English, office procedure and simple arithmetic.

(c) Yes. The test was actually held in February 1944.

(d) A corrigendum was issued placing one of them in the 'C' Group. The mistake was due to an error in the addition of marks.

(e) The reply to the first part is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

(f) No.

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT OF CLERKS TO INCOME-TAX DEPARTMENT, BOMBAY

940. *Seth Sukhdev: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the ministerial staff of the Income Tax Department are required to possess requisite educational qualifications for recruitment in service?

(b) Are they required to pass any Departmental Examination? If so, when, and what it is?

(c) Is it a fact that a Departmental Examination was held at Karachi in the year 1944-45 under orders of the Income Tax Commissioner, Bombay? If so, under what rule of the Income Tax Office Manual?

(d) Have such Departmental Examinations been held in any other Income Tax Circle? If so, where? If not, why this discrimination for the Bombay Circle staff only?

(e) Is it a fact that the Central Board of Revenue received a representation from the employees' Union? If so, how was the same disposed of?

(f) Do Government propose to cancel the Examination and its results with retrospective effect? If not, why not?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: (a) Yes.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

(c) A simple written test was held by the Commissioner in February 1944 with a view to selecting clerks for promotion or for retention in the Upper Division in which they were officiating. There is no specific rule in the Income-tax Office Manual prescribing such tests.

(d) Yes; similar tests have been held in the Punjab and in Madras. The last part of the question does not arise.

(e) Yes; the Union was told that the Board saw no reason to interfere with the Commissioner's action.

(f) No; the examination serves the purpose for which it is intended.

COMMUNAL RATIO FOR RECRUITMENT TO PERMANENT COMMISSION IN R. I. N.

941. *Mr. Mohammad M. Killedar: (a) Will the War Secretary please state if it is a fact that a certain number of Emergency Commissioned Officers of the R.I.N.R. and R.I.N.V.R. will be given permanent Commissions in the R.I.N.?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, do Government propose to observe the communal ratio of the total number of the existing vacancies between Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Parsis and Anglo-Indians? If not, why not?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir, because no account is taken of caste or creed in the selection of officers for the Royal Indian Navy.

INTERVIEW FOR PERMANENT COMMISSIONS IN R. I. N.

942. *Mr. Mohammad M. Killedar: Will the War Secretary please state: (a) whether it is a fact that a selection board at Lonavla is interviewing Officers of R.I.N.R. and R.I.N.V.R. for permanent Commissioned in the R.I.N.; and

(b) if the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, how many Officers have been recommended by that Board for permanent Commissions; and how many have been selected from them by the Naval Headquarters?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Selection Board grades officers in various categories; it does not make a recommendation. This grading is then compared with the officer's previous records and a selection is finally made on the basis both of the Board's grading and the previous records. The number selected upto date on the basis of these two factors is 45.

GRANT OF PERMANENT COMMISSIONS TO R. N. RATINGS

943. *Mr. Mohammad M. Killedar: (a) Will the War Secretary please state whether it is a fact that a large number of permanent commissioned vacancies in the R.I.N. have been filled up by R.N. Ratings and other non-commissioned Ranks?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, what are the reasons for giving preference to Non-Indian Non-commissioned Ranks, over Indian Emergency commissioned Officers?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) No, Sir. Before the recent war a few R. N. ratings were transferred to the R.I.N. as Warrant Officers and (in common with Indian Warrant Officers) have been promoted to commissioned rank. One only has been transferred since the beginning of the war and been so promoted.

(b) Does not arise.

DISCONTENT AMONG VICEROY'S COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND OTHER RANKS FOR NON-OBSERVANCE OF RULES OF PROCEDURE BY COURTS MARTIAL

944. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Has the attention of the War Secretary been drawn to the fact that the mandate contained in Rule of Procedure No. 48 has not been followed in the case of His Majesty's Indian Forces even when they are on "active service" and that the Courts Martial have failed to observe the law that "the court shall award one sentence in respect of all the offences of which the offender is found guilty" while non-judicial officers have added one or more sentences to the number of those already passed by Courts Martial?

(b) Will he please state the reasons for the facts referred to in (a) above with reference to War Department letter No. 59813/5/P.S.3(b)(ii), dated the 12th September, 1944, register No. 10436-A/W/6?

(c) Is he aware that great discontentment prevails among the Viceroy's Commissioned Officers, and Indian other ranks on account of the infliction of more than one sentence?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) and (b). Rule of Procedure 48 refers to the Army Act and has no application to the Indian Forces.

The corresponding Rule under the I.A.A. is I.A.A. Rule 54 (see also I.A.A. Rule 110 as to S. Cs. M.) which provides that the court shall award one sentence in respect of all the offences of which the accused is found guilty.

The provision that only one sentence shall be awarded does not prohibit the inclusion in such sentence of more than one punishment where appropriate and permissible (*vide* I.A.A. Sec. 47 and note 1 thereto).

War Department Memo. No. 59813/5/P.S.3(b) (ii), dated the 12th September, 1944, refers to the case of Jem. Rahmat Ullah Khan, who was tried by S.G.C.M. on 1st, 2nd and 3rd April, 1943, convicted of dishonestly misappropriating military stores, the property of the Crown and was sentenced to six months R. I. and dismissal from the service.

The combination of R. I. and dismissal in one sentence was perfectly legal.

(c) No, Sir.

DISCHARGE OF FUNCTIONS OF COURTS MARTIAL BY OTHER BODY

945. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Has the attention of the War Secretary been drawn to the fact that the function: "forfeiture in the case of a person sentenced to dismissal from the service of all arrears of pay and allowance and other public money due to him at the time of such dismissal" assigned to Court Martial, *vide* Section 43(h)(iii), Indian Army Act, has in numerous cases been discharged by a body other than Court Martial and that the infliction of such sentences has not only been restricted to the case of a "person" but has also been extended to the case of an "officer"?

(b) Will he please state the statutory authority of the body other than Court Martial referred to in (a) with reference to Indian Army Order No. 816, dated the 26th October, 1920, and War Department letter No. 54796/A.G.14(c), dated the 7th September, 1943, register No. 11366/A-W/5?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Yes, Sir, frequently, by the Honourable Member, but the position is not as stated by him. The function to which he refers is not assigned exclusively to a Court Martial as is clear from Section 50(2) of the Indian Army Act.

(b) Indian Army Order 816/1920 refers to a dismissal under Indian Army Act Section 13 which is an entirely distinct function from a dismissal by sentence of Court Martial under Indian Army Act Section 43 and the forfeiture mentioned in the letter referred to resulted from such dismissal under authority of Pension Regulations Part II, Rule 195.

POWER OF DISMISSAL OF A VICEROY'S COMMISSIONED OFFICER

946. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) whether any officer other than the Commander-in-Chief has power to dismiss, discharge or in any way remove from "active service" a Viceroy's Commissioned Officer; if so, the rule or law sanctioning the procedure;

(b) whether the officer so dismissed, discharged or in any way removed as referred to in (a) above gets any compensation or pension; and

(c) whether the Viceroy's Commissioned Officer when discharged with the remark: "Services no longer required" is allowed pension not of his Commissioned Rank but of non-Commissioned Rank.

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Only the Commander-in-Chief has power to dismiss a V.C.O. from the service [Indian Army Act Section 13(2)].

A V.C.O. may however be discharged by the authorities and in the circumstances shown in the statement placed on the table.

(b) A V.C.O. who is dismissed forfeits all claim to pension or gratuity in respect of all previous service.

A V.C.O. who is discharged from service is granted any pension or gratuity to which he may be entitled under Pension Regulations for the Army in India, Part II.

(c) A V.C.O. discharged on account of services no longer required is allowed the pension of a commissioned rank provided (i) the lowest substantive or war substantive rank held during the last three years of his service qualifying for pension was a commissioned rank, and (ii) his total service qualifying for pension was 15 years or more.

Statement

Cause of Discharge	Competent authority to authorise discharge
1 (i) (a) On completion of the period service or tenure specified in the Regulations for his rank or appointment or on reaching the age limit, whichever is earlier unless retained on the active list for a further specified period with the sanction of the Commander-in-Chief in India	Commanding Officer
(b) At his own request on transfer to the pension establishment	Ditto
(ii) Having been found medically unfit for further service	Commanding Officer
(iii) All other classes of discharge	(a) In the case of V. C. Os. granted direct commissions during the first 12 months service District or Divisional Commander or Major General administration army command (b) In any other case any officer not below the rank of Lieut. General appointed by the Commander-in-Chief in India in this behalf

COMPENSATION AND PENSIONS FOR DEATHS AND DISABILITIES ON ACTIVE SERVICE

947. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) whether Government in the case of deaths and disabilities sustained by the Indian forces on "active service", secure an opinion by medical experts in their pay, to the effect that the death or disability is not attributable to military service;

(b) whether compensations or pensions for deaths and disabilities have, in the first instance, been refused on the basis of the medical opinion referred to in (a) without hearing the affected party?

(c) whether the medical opinion is kept confidential; and

(d) whether appeals against this opinion have been disposed of by a non-judicial body without hearing the affected party?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) and (b). Individuals, who are disabled, are invariably examined initially by medical officers and later by medical boards, whose opinion is then considered by medical experts in the light of the accepted consensus of medical opinion with regard to the particular diseases for which the person may have been invalided. The recommendations of the medical experts are then for the decision of Government.

(c) If the claimant gives Notice of Appeal under the Pensions Appeal Tribunal Rules, 1945, he is informed of the reasons which led to the Government's decision.

(d) The decisions of Government are given under two sets of rules, namely (i) the old rules drawn up by the Government of India which were in force up to 16th August, 1943 and (ii) the new rules which primarily govern entitlement in respect of casualties arising during the war of 1939-45. In respect of the decisions given under the latter a claimant may lodge an appeal to a Pensions Appeal Tribunal and in this case he will have a full opportunity of bringing evidence and cross-examining any Government witness.

In considering an appeal submitted to the Government of India against a decision given under the old rules, Government gives the fullest weight to any points adduced by the petitioner in requesting reconsideration of Government's original decision, but there is no similar judicial procedure laid down.

WARSHIPS FOR R. . N.

948. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Will the War Secretary please state if three cruisers have been ordered for the R.I.N. from the United Kingdom? If so, what is the cost of each of these cruisers?

(b) Who settled the price and selected the cruisers?

(c) How old are the cruisers, and of what type? If they do not belong to the latest type or types, why not?

(d) What is the need for purchasing these cruisers at this time, after the war is over? Is it in pursuance of any scheme or policy to expand the R.I.N.? If so, what is the proposed full capacity, and when is the target expected to be reached?

(e) Have any arrangements been made to obtain any warships belonging to Germany as part of reparations due to India? If so, how many, and of what type? If not, why not?

(f) Are Government aware that experiments are being made in America and the United Kingdom regarding the possibility of destroying war ships sailing on high seas by atomic bombs or atomic energy? If so, why is the Government of India hastening the purchase of these vessels while the course of future naval defences is still uncertain?

(g) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a leading article in the *Hindu* of the 22nd February?

(h) Do Government propose to suspend or keep the proposal in abeyance pending further light from the experiments proposed to be undertaken shortly?

Mr. P. Mason: The answer to parts (a), (b) and the first part of part (c) of the question were given in my answer to parts (a) and (b) of the Honourable Member's question No. 793, on the 8th March, 1946. They are modern ships though not of the latest type. No country in the world will be prepared to part with a cruiser of the very latest type built for herself. Further, the latest types are very expensive, and there will be big problems to be overcome in training crews for this advance. Nor are the latest types suitable for tropical waters. Ships of the class proposed are expected to have a further life of 12-15 years in the Royal Navy.

(d) It is proposed to provide the R.I.N. with three cruisers of suitably modern type in order that India may have a modern and effective fleet. It is intended for the present that the fleet shall consist of those three cruisers, and in addition sloops, corvettes, frigates, trawlers, fleet minesweepers, a survey ship, and a number of motor boats, and military landing craft. The total strength should be reached during 1948/49.

(e) No, Sir. As will be seen from the press the remains of the German fleet has been divided between U.S.A., U.S.S.R., and U.K. Those vessels would be most unsuitable for Indian waters because they are none of them fitted for tropical waters or long range, nor are they provided with armament or technical equipment of allied standards, and as is well known these vessels are being largely used for research and target purposes.

(f) Yes, Sir. There is no reason to suppose that the atomic bomb will make naval forces unnecessary in the future. Cruisers are being obtained because they are the most valuable form of reasonably priced Naval vessels, and are the smallest vessels capable of long sea voyages and full sea training. The wisdom of this is obvious from the keen competitive bidding, which is being made by other nations for the limited number of available British cruisers, particularly those which were most successful in action in the late war.

(g) Yes, Sir. I have answered all the points raised in the article.

(h) Although this matter has not been finally settled, the Government of India are anxious to acquire these three cruisers being of the most suitable type, and in view of the keen competition from other nations for these vessels they will lose the chance if they delay. Delay would also make it both difficult and very much more costly to enquip the R.I.N. suitably.

PRICE OF SILVER AND GOLD

949. *Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state the causes of the present abnormal rise in the silver and gold price?

(b) Is it a fact that Government have indirectly helped speculators to push up the silver and gold prices by some secret purchase through the Reserve Bank of India?

(c) Are Government intending to take any steps to check the abnormal rise in the silver and gold price? If none, why?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) The prices of gold and silver at any one time depend on the result of supply and demand.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Government have the matter under continual review, but since the bullion market is a speculative and sensitive market, it would not be in the public interest to disclose in advance what action, if any, the Government contemplate taking.

RETRENCHMENT IN WAR DEPARTMENT AND G. H. Q.

950. *Mr. Ramayan Prasad: (a) Will the War Secretary please state if it is a fact that a reduction of staff is in progress in the War Department and the General Headquarters and that for the purpose of judging merits and efficiency the personnel have been classed under the following categories: "A"—Outstanding, "B"—Above average, "C"—High average, "D"—Average, and "E"—Unfit for employment?

(b) Is it a fact that there are a number of personnel on deputation from other Government offices, who though more efficient than the temporary clerks, employed in the War Department and the General Headquarters are being retrenched irrespective of their merits and efficiency?

(c) Is it a fact that under the rules a deputationist categorised "A" (*i.e.*, Outstanding) is required to be retrenched before a temporary clerk who is categorised "E" (*i.e.*, unfit for employment)?

(d) Are Government aware that the personnel on deputation, if reverted, will displace personnel officiating in their substantive posts, with the result that the former will suffer due to reduction in emoluments and the latter due to loss of employment?

(e) Is it a fact that the number of the personnel on deputation in the General Headquarters is slightly above hundred and that even if they are reverted outright there can be no material relief in view of the huge number to be retrenched?

(f) Do Government propose to consider the cases of the deputationists on their merits, and treat them on par with the temporary clerks?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Yes Sir.

(b) There are a number of personnel on deputation from other offices some of whom are more efficient than some of the temporary personnel. It is however considered to be more fair to revert temporary personnel to their parent offices than to throw out of employment temporary personnel who are efficient. There is no question of keeping on temprary personnel who are inefficient.

(c) A person on deputation reverts to his parent office where his expectations are those he had on entering the service.

(d) This may be so, Sir, in some cases, but since the reduction in War Department will be greater than in some other Department, it seems fair to spread the discharge over a wide area so that only the most inefficient go.

(e) It is true that the number of personnel on deputation is not much over 100, but if these deputationists are retained, then the same number of temporary clerks would have to be retrenched.

(f) Deputationists as a class will revert before temporary clerks are retrenched but any special case will be considered on its merits.

QUALIFICATION OF CANDIDATES FOR 'HINDUSTANI' NEWS EDITORSHIP, AND OTHER POSTS

951. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Arts please state:

(a) the qualifications required of candidates for the posts of 'Hindustani' news editors, programme assistants, announcers, and other posts in the 'Hindustani' programme section:

(b) the test applied to find out a candidate's proficiency in writing and speaking 'Hindustani';

(c) the total number of the members of the Hindustani staff, and the number possessing degrees or diplomas in Hindi and Urdu and in both separately;

(d) how many of the degree or diploma holders in the 'Hindustani' staff had Hindi as their first language and how many had Urdu as their first language;

(e) whether any knowledge of Hindi is required of the members of the Hindustani staff whose first language was Urdu and *vice versa*, if so, of what standard;

(f) how this knowledge is ascertained; and

(g) the number of (i) permanent and (ii) temporary posts in the Hindustani programme section held by Hindi and Urdu middle pass persons respectively?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: The information is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

HOLIDAYS IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT

952. *Sardar Mangal Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state whether it is a fact that five holidays have recently been added to the list of closed holidays santioned for the Central Government staff and that communal holidays have been reduced to four?

(b) Was the question of including Guru Govind Singh's birthday in the list of closed holidays considered?

(c) If the answer to (b) above is in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member please intimate the reasons leading to the rejection of the proposal?

(d) In view of the importance of this day to the Sikhs and a reduction in communal holidays, does the Honourable Member propose to reconsider the question and declare this day as a closed holiday?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) The number of closed holidays added to the list is seven. The reply to the second part of the question is in the affirmative.

(b) to (d). It is difficult to adjust holidays to suit the convenience of various communities, but I am considering how this can be done with the least dislocation of work.

STAFF IN ALL-INDIA RADIO

953. *Choudhury Md. Abid Hussain: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Arts please state the number of gazetted and non-gazetted staff in the All-India Radio (including all the Radio Stations)?

(b) What is the ratio of Muslim Gazetted and non-Gazetted Staff, and what are the numbers?

(c) What is the total number of Muslim Gazetted and non-Gazetted officers in the Press Information Bureau, and what is the ratio of Muslim Officers?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) Gazetted—112; Non-Gazetted—988.

(b) First Part.—Gazetted—29 per cent; Non-Gazetted 27 per cent.

Second Part.—Gazetted—32; Non-Gazetted—268.

(c) First Part.—Gazetted—7 Non-Gazetted 75.

Second Part.—Gazetted—16 per cent; Non-Gazetted—81 per cent.

PROPAGANDA FOR CONGRESS PARTY IN INFORMATION FILMS OF INDIA

954. *Choudhury Md. Abid Hussain: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable Member for Information and Arts been drawn to the editorial in the *Dawn*, dated the 28th February, 1946, criticising the prominence and publicity given to the Congress by the Information Fimls of India?

(b) Why should a Government Department do propaganda for one political party in India?

(c) Are Government aware that in a recent News Parade featuring the visit of the British Parliamentary Delegation only Congress meetings and Congress leaders have been given publicity?

(d) Are Government aware that in the news parade featuring Simla talks, full glare of publicity has been given to the Congress Party only?

(e) What steps do Government propose to take to remedy the state of affairs which allows public money to be spent on the propaganda of one political party?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) If the Honourable Member means the Indian News Parade, the answer is 'Yes'.

(b) The Indian News Parade is authorised to cover all items which may be of interest to the public. It's policy is not to single out any political party for publicity.

(c) Indian News Parade issues Nos. 152,154 and 155 which featured the visit of the British Parliamentary Delegation contained pictures of the Delegation's meeting with a leader of the Muslim League as well as two leaders of the Congress Party.

(d) The Indian News Parade issue relating to the Simla Conference featured the leaders of all parties and not Congress only.

(e) Does not arise.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

REWARD TO CERTAIN I. N. A. PERSONNEL REMAINING LOYAL

113. Choudhury Md. Abid Hussain: (a) In view of the fact that it has been said by Government spokesmen that I. N. A. men found guilty of brutality will be punished in the interest of those I. N. A. men who remained loyal to Government, will the War Secretary please state the number of such loyal persons, and how their services are to be rewarded?

(b) Are Government aware that even the services of some of these persons are to be dispensed with?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) On the assumption that the Honourable Member means men of the Indian Army who remained loyal to Government, the reply is that the total strength of the Indian Army at its peak was 2,053,000, of whom all but about 20,000 remained true to their oaths. The gratuities and terminal benefits, *etc.*, admissible have been published in Government orders from time to time. The question of a special reward for P. O. W. who remained true to their allegiance has been considered, but it was decided that it was very hard to distinguish between a man who remained true in captivity and for example a man who fought right through the long campaign in Burma and who risked his life almost daily. A number of special cases of outstanding conduct while P. O. W. are being considered for the award of decorations and several have been announced. A further announcement may be expected in the near future.

(b) Yes, Sir, it is inevitable.

MACHINERY FOR PROPOSED RADIO STATION AT PATNA.

114. Choudhury Md. Abid Hussain: (a) In view of the statement made by the Information and Arts Member that Radio machinery meant for the proposed Patna Station of the All India Radio is under test in the United Kingdom, does he propose to take steps to expedite the arrival of the machinery in India and arrange shifting priority?

(b) Is there any radio machinery lying idle in the All India Radio? *If so*, could it not be instaled in Patna, as this could cover the needs not only of Bihar but also of Orissa?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) Yes.

(b) No.

PAYMENT OF PRICES OF CRUISERS FROM ACCUMULATED STERLING BALANCES.

115. Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether his attention has been drawn to the following editorial remarks of the *Hindu* of Madras, dated the 22nd February, 1946:

"The new price of each of the cruisers is about one and a half million pounds—roughly two crores of rupees. Even if the price is substantially reduced the sum is likely to be a heavy charge on the assets of a country like India. . . . . India is not anxious to acquire what may be expensive toys".?

(b) Are the payments in respect of these cruisers made to England from the accumulated sterling in London?

(c) What are the facts in the matter?

(d) Will this matter be brought before the Central Legislative Assembly? If so, when? If not, why not?

(e) What are the other purchases of like nature, which are being effected and in respect of which payments are being made from the accumulated sterling?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) and (c). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by the War Secretary to Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar's question No. 798, on the 8th March, 1946.

(b) Payment to H. M. G. will be made out of accumulated sterling in case the cruisers in question are purchased.

(d) I understand, Sir, that the matter will be laid before the Defence Consultative Committee.

(e) None at present.

CONVERSION OF INDIA'S CREDITS IN THE DOLLAR POOL BY BRITAIN FOR HER OWN USE

116. Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member been drawn to the following remarks in the *Hindu* of Madras, dated the 22nd February, 1946:

"Have these credits (*i.e.*, India's credits in the Dollar Pool) been absorbed by Britain by converting them for her own use against corresponding additions to the sterling balances part of which she now seeks to get adjusted."?

(b) What is the material, on the strength of which the Finance Secretary in the Council of State declared that dollars contributed to the Dollar Pool by India will be very small?

(c) Why is this material being withheld from the House?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to paragraph 29 of my Budget Speech.

NEED FOR ADDITIONAL RADIO TRANSMITTERS FOR BOMBAY

117. Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the Honourable Member for Information and Arts seen the following extract from the *Radio Times of India*, dated February 16, 1946:

"Neglect of the legitimate claims of Bombay for more transmitters is reflected in the extremely slow rise of licences of the past few years. During 1940-45 (figures upto September, 1945 are available) Madras recorded the highest rise of 181 per cent. while Bombay could show only 66 per cent. The reasons are not far to seek. Alternative programmes were available for South India; two from Madras and Trichy, the third from ASIS, Delhi, the fourth from Mysore and the fifth from Travancore, not to mention those from Colombo and Hyderabad. Equally striking is the rise in the circles in the North-West. Both the circles, the Punjab and N.-W. F. P. and Sind with Baluchistan record a high proportion of increase 158 and 147 per cent., respectively. The presence of troops in the areas was perhaps mainly responsible for the rise. But the way in which the Peshawar station was brought into being and the wide-range or alternative programmes available Lahore, Peshawar, Delhi, and Kabul were not less important contributory factors.

Claims of Bombay for more stations or additional transmitters are therefore pressing. Bombay can no longer be neglected. It has already suffered a lot. It is paying a far greater amount in licence fees than any other circle and it is also responsible for a considerable trade in radios and accessories."?

(b) Have Government any plan for the introduction of additional broadcasting stations anywhere in the Bombay Province? If so, at what places?

(c) If it is not found feasible to instal additional stations at any other place in the Bombay Province, do Government propose to discontinue the English music broadcast from Bombay and give more varied programmes?

(d) Are Government aware that there are several languages in the Bombay Province, in contrast with other Provinces where there is one language? If so, what do Government propose to do in order to give varied programmes for the Bombay public, who are making the largest contribution to the revenues?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) Yes.

(b) Government have under consideration a plan for the development of broadcasting in India which provides for the establishment of additional stations in the Provinces including Bombay. The exact localities have not yet been determined.

(c) No. These programmes fulfil the requirements of a large number of licence holders.

(d) As additional stations are opened programmes will become more varied.

SMALL CAUSES COURTS IN DELHI PROVINCE

118. Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) the number of Courts of Small Causes, established under Section 5 of the Provincial Small Cause Court Act (IX of 1887) within the Delhi Province;

(b) the place where they are situated or where they sit;

(c) the local limit of their jurisdiction; and

(d) the value of suits cognizable by them?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) One.

(b) and (c). I invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply which I gave to his starred question No. 220, on the 12th February 1946.

(d) Not exceeding Rs. 500.

FUTURE OF DEMOBED INDIAN PERSONNEL OF R. I. A. F.

119. Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Is it a fact that the War Secretary intends to reduce the strength of the R. I. A. F. and to increase the men and personnel in the R. A. F.?

(b) Is it a fact that Government have decided to get Canadians, who are being demobilised, into the R. I. A. F., but have no scheme for reducing the demobilisation of the R. I. A. F. and for building up an Indian Air Force in India?

(c) Is it a fact that preparations have been made for the Indian men and officers being sent away, and that officers of like qualification are being engaged from Britishers, whose expense will be borne by the Indian revenues?

(d) What attempts have Government made, when, and with what results, to see that demobilised R. I. A. F. personnel and officers find engagement in civil aviation in India?

(e) Have Government published any statement of their policy on this subject, which will reassure Indian men and officers in the R. I. A. F.?

(f) Are Government solicitous for the welfare of men, who have given them good service? If so, what efforts are Government making with regard to the future of those whom they intend to demob?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) No, Sir. Government's intention is to reduce the R. I. A. F. down to the force necessary to maintain ten squadrons *plus* the necessary training and other ancillary units to provide a fully balanced force. Simultaneously, R. A. F. personnel in India are also being reduced, and on a much larger scale.

(b) The appointment of Canadians to the R. A. F. is a matter for His Majesty's Government. When announcing their intention to maintain a balanced force of ten R. I. A. F. squadrons post-war, Government emphasised that this was only an initial minimum strength and would be expanded as rapidly as conditions permit and as personnel particularly pilots become available. The main reduction now being undertaken is intended to reduce the R. I. A. F. element in the R. A. F. squadrons.

(c) No, Sir!

(d) and (e). Close liaison is maintained between Air Headquarters and the Director General, Civil Aviation, in respect of possible employment for R.I.A.F. personnel in civil aviation and information as to specific posts available is circularized. As already announced the policy of Government is to reserve 70 per cent. of permanent vacancies ordinarily filled by direct recruitment for candidates with War Service.

(f) Yes, Sir. Reports of the efforts being made by Government in regard to the future of the men to be demobilized have appeared in the Press on various occasions. I would also invite the Honourable Member's attention to a booklet 'Release and Resettlement' and the Progress Report for the period 18th July to 31st December, 1946, copies of which are available in the Library of the House. They give details of the Employment Exchange Organisation under the Labour Department and of a number of training schemes for settlement in peace-time jobs of demobilized soldiers. Provincial Governments also have schemes exclusively for the benefit of *ex*-servicemen.

PROPER STRENGTH OF R. I. A. F.

120. Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the War Secretary please state the strength of the R. I. A. F. in squadrons and in men and officers as compared with pre-war, and how much reduction Government contemplate?

(b) What is the proper strength of the R. I. A. F.?

(c) Have Government estimated, or have they got any recommendation from any committee as to the proper strength of the R. I. A. F. for the defence of India, which they should maintain?

(d) Is it a fact that large expenditure has been incurred by India in training up the personnel of the R. I. A. F.? If so, why is it proposed that all this should now be lost and the men sent back in search of civil jobs, which they may not find?

(e) Is it a fact that in the process of contraction, it is the Indian officers, who are made to go, and not Britishers?

(f) Is it a fact that Britishers alone hold all the high ranks? If not, what is the percentage of Indians and Englishmen in the R. I. A. F. officers?

(g) Have Government represented to His Majesty's Government that the R. A. F. may be completely withdrawn from India and that the R. I. A. F. may be built up to a suitable size for the defence of India?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) and (b). The pre-war strength of the R. I. A. F. was one squadron, 22 officers and 264 other ranks. Its present strength is ten squadrons and in addition to their own squadrons, the R.I.A.F. also provide some personnel for work with the R. A. F. The total strength is 1,419 officers and 24,931 other ranks.

Government have already publicly announced their intention to maintain the Royal Indian Air Force after the war at an initial strength of not less than ten squadrons *plus* the necessary training and other ancillary units required to provide a fully balanced force. The R. I. A. F. however will not in future provide personnel for the R. A. F.

(c) Yes, Sir. To begin with, it will be necessary to supplement the R. I. A. F. by certain R. A. F. squadrons, who will be replaced as the R. I. A. F. expand.

(d) The Royal Indian Air Force was recruited on a voluntary basis and many of them want to be released. Personnel recruited during the war can claim their release when, by age and service group, they are eligible for demobilization. Their training, however, should be of value in civil life. There is no question of losing all that has been spent which has been of great value.

(e) and (f). These questions are based on a misconception. There are no British officers in the Royal Indian Air Force. As the expansion of the service is very recent, there are very few senior R. I. A. F. officers, and British officers have to be attached.

(g) It is, Sir, the ultimate aim that the R. I. A. F. should be built up to a suitable size for the defence of India and H. M. G. are aware of this.

WORKING HOURS IN DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS.

121. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Defence Headquarters are observing, even after the cessation of hostilities, the same office hours as were adopted during the war;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no closed holidays are observed in the D. H. Qs.;

(c) whether Government are aware that strong resentment prevails among the staff of the D. H. Qs. and other allied Departments on account of longer office hours as compared to Civil Departments and the absence of closed holidays; and

(d) if the reply to (c) is in the affirmative, what steps are Government taking to remove this disparity between the Civil Departments and the D. H. Qs.?

Mr. P. Mason: (a), (b), (c) and (d). It is a fact that during the war Defence Headquarters worked longer hours than other Departments and observed no closed holidays. There were no free Saturday afternoons. For this they received no extra pay. On the termination of hostilities there was a reduction of work in some branches of the Headquarters but not by any means in all, and in fact in some Directorates work has increased. It was thought therefore preferable in the interest of the tax payer, to reduce personnel where possible and to keep the war-time office hours, except for the introduction of a free Saturday afternoon. These amount to slightly less than 40 hours a week. Although the work is still very heavy and there is much to be done, it has now been decided that with effect from 1st March Closed holidays will be observed, and with effect from 1st April office hours will be those observed by other Departments. In fact, however, if the work is to be finished, few officers will be able to work to these hours, and many clerks will also have to work outside office hours.

Mr. President: There are two small points to which I wish to invite the attention of the House. I do not want any further discussion on either of them. One is with reference to the answer, which the Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari gave to a question in which he said: "My information on the point raised by the Honourable Member is not yet complete. I shall send him a reply shortly." The proper procedure will be to place the reply on the table of the House. The House has been in possession of the question and the reply and the supply of further information should not be a private arrangement between an Honourable Member and the Government.

12 NOON

The other point is with reference to the vexed question of reaching all the questions during the question hour. I have had some suggestions which I shall place before the House and which I am now investigating. I am trying to come to some arrangement, with reference to what I have said previously. But I am just telling the House what is passing in my mind only to keep Members informed about the position. I am practically thinking audibly, and that is: Would it not be a better way, if not better at least one of the ways to be considered, that the question hour should be divided by the number of Members who put questions and each Member be allotted time according to his proportion?

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): We shall run into vulgar fractions!

Mr President: I am just placing before the House what is passing through my mind, so that each Member will stand an opportunity of his question being reached. I find that there is a complaint from many quarters that questions are not reached. Well, it entirely depends on and as a matter of fact, it is more or less in the hands of Members. If less supplementaries are put, if questions are put straight without the background of preambles or reasons and all that, a lot of time could be saved. In addition to that I was just considering as to whether some such arrangement as to division of time could not be made whereby all Members will get equal opportunities of putting their questions. I do not wish to have the reaction of Members over this in the House. It is only an idea which was passing through in my mind and I thought it might be fair to put it to the House. We might discuss it outside the House.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): The office may arrange the questions according to your suggestion.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha (Darbhanga *cum* Saran: Non-Muhammadan): Why could not the answers be printed as suggested by you?

Mr. President: I have already been considering that and trying to see what is possible. But I find that a large number of questions are tabled for a particular day. One of the ways for the Members would be to see what number of questions are tabled and then adjust the dates.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Could not only two supplementaries be permitted to the Member who puts the question and one supplementary to somebody else, except in those cases where you think the subject is of wider importance?

Mr. President: Order, order. I said I do not want a discussion and we are drifting into a discussion.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmed (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Will you consider one point: The right of asking supplementaries should not be monopolised by a few individuals. It should be the privilege of others as well.

Mr. President: I am trying to see to that. But when I see no other persons wishing to put supplementaries I have to allow the few persons to put more questions. But the order I would prefer is that the Honourable Member who puts the question should have precedence of putting supplementary questions over all others. As I said once before, I am merely placing this before the House and instead of the control coming from the Chair, it should grow from within and that is the best way of adjustment. However, we will now proceed with the business of the day.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Let us have two hours for questions.

Mr. President: Even then the complaint will stand unless some method is divised.

GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—*contd.*

SECOND STAGE—*contd.*

DEMAND NO. 11—EXECUTIVE COUNCIL—*contd.*

(a) *Irresponsibility, Inefficiency and Corruption in the Administration;* (b) *Administration of the Centrally Administered Areas;* (c) *Planning and Development Policy*

Mr. President: Now we will resume discussion on the cut motion of Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai. Mr. Ghulam Bhik Nairang.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang (East Punjab: Muhammadan): Yesterday when I just started my speech the knell of parting day was tolled and I had to wait till this morning. I was saying at the close of my very brief remarks yesterday that Centrally Administered Areas are several and the administration of each of them is peculiar to itself and therefore to offer any remarks about all of them impracticable within the time limit which is set to a speech by anyone who supports or opposes the motion. We know that the areas which are said to be Centrally Administered are the Provinces of Delhi, Ajmere-Merwara, the Andamans and Nicobar Islands, Baluchistan, and that tract bearing the most curious of all names, Panth Piploda of which we heard something in the course of the question hour today. The Central Government, Sir, has taken upon itself the administration of such far-flung pieces of land and naturally the administration of each has to be of a peculiar type, till we heard today that Panth Piploda is under an honorary Chief Commissioner. Anyhow, Sir, I do not propose to traverse the whole ground of the administration of the Centrally Administered Areas. I will take up one topic out of the many. That can illustrate the dissatisfaction which we all feel with the administration of Centrally Administered Areas. My Honourable friend, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, was good enough to tell us yesterday a good many things about the Province of Delhi and I want to just call attention to the circumstances which have prevailed for sixty years and more in Baluchistan. The subject of Baluchistan, Sir, came up for discussion in this House on several occasions even within the short time that I have been in the House. The last Assembly discussed a Resolution on the subject which I had myself the honour to move in 1939 during the Simla Session. The Resolution then moved was:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to take immediate steps for the purpose of establishing provincial autonomy in Baluchistan on the same footing as in other provinces."

The Resolution elicited from the Government spokesman a long apologia as to why no provincial autonomy could be conferred on Baluchistan. In 1941 again I returned to the subject by moving a cut motion during the Budget Session of the last Assembly and again reiterated all the grievances of the inhabitants of Baluchistan. There was a long debate again ending in smoke. In 1944 the Deputy Leader of my Party, Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan, moved a Resolution which appeared to have greater chances of bearing fruit. That Resolution was:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to appoint immediately a committee with a majority of elected members of the Central Legislature on it to recommend as to what steps should be taken to associate constitutionally the people of Baluchistan with the administration of the Province on lines similar to other Provinces of British India."

The wording of that Resolution showed that the demand for reforms to be inaugurated in Baluchistan had been very much diluted and we had come down to a demand for such reforms as might serve to associate the people of the Province with the administration. On that there was a full-dress debate which took all the non-official Resolution days. All parties participated in the debate. There was general agreement on all sides that such a step should be taken and a committee should be appointed and that at a very early date: in fact, the word in the Resolution was 'immediately' and the resolution was passed by the House. Of course, when I say that there was general agreement, I do not mean that the Government spokesman on that occasion very much encouraged the hope which we entertained of a committee being appointed nor do I forget the circumstance that a gentleman, who is not with us now (Nawab Major Sir Ahmed Nawaz Khan) and who used to support Government on all occasions, however unreasonable their attitude might have been, opposed the idea. All others supported the motion. There was attempt on the part of another Honourable Member, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, to move an amendment but really even that did not mean opposition to the Resolution but to make it more specific on certain points. That amendment was negatived and the Resolution was carried.

It followed, therefore, that this House gave unmistakable expression to its considered opinion that whatever else might have been done or might not have been done, the time was ripe, at least, for the appointment of a committee of this House, on which the elected members of this House were to be in a majority to consider and report as to what changes in the administration of Baluchistan were necessary, so that the inhabitants of that Province might be associated with the administration. As far as I am aware, no such committee has ever come into existence and the resolution has been consigned to the waste-paper basket of the Government (which is a very big receptacle indeed). But the point for us is that it is really a great insult to this House that when this Honourable House, after such a detailed and full dress debate in which all sections of the non-official members of the House agreed and supported the resolution and the resolution was duly carried, Government did not pay the slightest heed to the resolution and did not take any steps to carry it out and we find Baluchistan where it was more than sixty years ago, when the British first took charge of that Province, under the variegated administrative machinery which applied differently to what was called British Baluchistan, what was called the Tribal Baluchistan, and what was called the Kalat State and Las Bela State. Such a conglomeration of different kinds of tracts, which makes up the sum total called Baluchistan, is administered according to notions of administration which are neither modern nor mediaeval but which I think can be described purely as a kind of military administration which should be regarded even in the present stage of constitutional development in India (although there is so much that remains to be done in the matter of the constitutional progress of India) and judging from the lines on which it has been carried on, as a blot on the fair name of British statesmanship and a standing insult to the honour of India. Therefore merely on the ground that Government has behaved with culpable disregard of the considered opinion of this House and has insulted this House, if for no other reason (of course there are many other reasons too) I would for this reason alone support the cut motion, even without considering other parts of the motion. This reason alone will suffice for me to support the motion.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque (Commerce Member): Sir, yesterday my friend was referring to the fact that it was not possible for India to get capital goods and he attributed the responsibility to Government on the ground that steps were not taken in time to place orders for such capital goods abroad. I would only reply for the period during which I was in charge; from May 1943 till Sir Ardeshir Dalal took it over the planning was actually in charge of the respective Departments; and as the Member in charge of Industry I had the responsibility of looking to the question of planning for the industrial future of India. Let me say that I had just then come after a period of one year's stay in London, to take charge of this Department. What I could gather in London was that every country had been trying its level best to plan its future, especially those countries devastated by the enemy forces. I was therefore extremely anxious, knowing as I did at the time that steps were being taken to place orders even at that stage by some of the occupied countries, that India also should go ahead, and with a view to that I went round to all the important places of commerce and industry personally, spoke to the industry and trade organisations and thereafter about the end of the year we issued a circular to all the industries concerned that they should help us with a view to collating information that was necessary for Government in order to place some sort of order at the London end. My friend is well aware of the fact that the response to that circular, in which materials were asked from the industries, was extremely poor. It was indeed true that some of the textile industries did try to supply some information, but it was not complete; yet in those cases we tried to help them immediately. But barring that, in the bulk of industries the data and materials were not before Government. I do not say that in a spirit

of complaint. Probably they had other views in the matter; probably they thought that the war would continue much longer and it was too premature; probably they did not themselves realise or understand the fullest implications of the future post-war world order. But I am merely stating it as a fact that it would have been almost impossible for any government, placed it is here, to place orders for capital goods in other countries, without knowing from the industries as to their actual needs, both for replacement as well as for expansion and new development. I must say—and here again I am giving only my personal opinion—that in other countries the trade, commerce and industrial organisations have played and do play a very large part in formulating their schemes for development, expansion and replacement; and I appeal to the Honourable Members to find out the extent to which the trade, commerce and industrial organisations here have taken up that task, at least at the time about which I was speaking.

The other thing we did was this. The development of industry in any country must not only depend on the extent of the capital goods available, but also on suitably trained technical personnel and a very large amount of industrial and scientific research is necessary before a country can embark upon a big programme. That part we did take up. As is well known we had proposals for the establishment of five national laboratories and also the appointment of a committee to plan the future of industrial and scientific research in this country, with a view to training up suitable technical personnel within the country. But in the matter of capital goods it is a fact that the industries themselves, at the time when we were very anxious that some sort of rough estimate should be made as to the total capital goods requirements of India, we could not get any response from the industries themselves. I am not in a position, placed as I am today, to complain: and therefore I will not certainly murmur if in spite of their omissions they still complain today; I will leave my friend Sir Akbar Hydari to reply to as to what had been done thereafter. I am definitely of opinion that if in 1943 and even in 1944 the industries had responded to what the Government required of them in the matter of collating materials for the future expansion of industries in India, India would not have been in the present position today. What actually happened is that long before the war was finished, other countries were able to place their orders and we could not, because we had not the assistance from the industries. The post-war rehabilitation of industries of those countries wherefrom we will require our goods will take a little time, and it is not possible for a country like England to supply such capital goods as are needed for the expansion of Indian industries till the industries in the United Kingdom are placed on a normal peace time footing, and that takes a little time . . . . .

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): On a point of information, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state what the Government of India themselves did for the collection of such materials which they expected the industries to supply but the industries did not?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: As regards that, I think my Honourable friend is new to the House but I can supply him with a detailed statement which was circulated to all the chamber organisations and all the industries throughout the country. My Honourable friend will realise that if India requires today textile development or the processing of foodstuffs, it would not be possible for any secretariat in the world to evolve a plan of that nature until either it is a Government in which industries are nationalised or in conditions of private enterprise, materials are supplied by the industries; under existing conditions, as industry is in the hands of private enterprise, it is, private enterprise which must supply the necessary information before any such step can be taken . . . . .

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai (Ahmedabad Millowners Association: Indian Commerce): Can I ask one question at this stage? My Honourable friend referred

[Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai]

to occupied countries. I would ask him how the U. S. S. R. did in their first five-year plan? They were as backward as India. The other thing he referred to was about machinery lists, that the industrialists did not supply except the textile industry. What did they do about new industries that were to be started? And how much did even the textile industry get? It is starving for want of machinery.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: As regards the U. S. S. R. and what has been done there, I think that question could better be answered after the constitutional reform comes and my friends are in power.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: We will be able to do it.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I think that is not the reply; there are certain methods in which things can be done. I can also do it; the U. S. S. R. scrapped all private properties and they nationalised all the industries; and my friend himself will be the first person hit if I would have taken that step . . . .

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: If India benefits, the industrialists will be in it.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have yet to see. I have had many lessons; I have known industries—as to how on the one hand on public platforms they cry for nationalisation, and on the other hand they have gone on accumulating their private profit as a result of war conditions. I know how at the cost of the people of this country high prices have been charged only to create profit for themselves. That part may be left over . . . . .

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: The Government allowed it. What did the Government do to check it?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: As regards textile machinery we tried our best to get such machinery and replacements as were available even under war conditions. As regards future planning, all those who registered themselves before December 1945 automatically get an import license . . . . .

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: But did they get the machinery?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: Whether they get the machinery or not, if they had given us those materials which they were prepared to give, by the end of 1944, the position would have been different.

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar (Madras: Indian Commerce): Will the Honourable Member see that applications sent before the 31st December and which are still pending are sanctioned immediately? There are some cases like that?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I do not think there is any case like that but if there is any case and if my friend will supply me with facts, I will certainly inquire into the matter.

As regards new industries, I hope it will be remembered that this question of new industries comes up with the question of planning of expansion. Unfortunately Sir Ardeshir Dalal is not here but Sir Akbar Hydari will be able to reply on that subject. I am only concerned with that part for which I was responsible at the time when I was in charge of the Department. I do not make any complaint of it but I felt that at that time when it would have been possible for me to do something for the industrial advantage of India. I could not do anything because my friend who is complaining today was not prepared to give the materials to us.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: My Honourable friend said that the Industries did not give him information. The textile industry did give him all the information.

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava (Amjer-Merwara: General): Mr. President, this cut motion is intended to censure and condemn this bureaucratic Government which sits on the opposite benches for their callous indifference and

culpable negligence towards the administration of what are known as the Centrally Administered Areas. Now, Sir, these Centrally Administered Areas are scattered tracts situated at a great distances from one another. One is in the extreme north, Baluchistan and another is in the extreme south, the province of Coorg. These tracts were carved out with the specific object of tightening the Imperialistic grip on the different parts of this country and my unfortunate province is the worst victim of this imperialistic policy. Historically Ajmer-Merwara is a province that has played a great part in different phases of Indian history from the time of Hindu rule up to the present day. Ajmer was the capital of the illustrious Prithvi Raj. Later it was the chief place of visit of all the great Pathan and Moghul emperors from Akbar onwards up to the eclipse of the Moghul Empire. Even in the British period, Ajmer-Merwara has been clutched by the Imperialists for the specific purpose, I assert, of maintaining their hold upon the surrounding Rajput Chiefs of Rajputana. It was in the year 1818 that Ajmer was conquered by the British and it was then attached to the then existing province of North-Western Provinces of Agra and Oudh now called the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh. Up till 1870 it remained attached to that province but subsequently the British Government in India who had by that time entered into various treaties with Rajput Chiefs was anxious to get a seat for maintaining its clutch on the Rajput Chiefs and then they separated and segregated this province from the North-Western Provinces of Agra and Oudh and called it a minor administration and handed it over to the Agent to the Governor-General for Rajputana States who then began to act as the *ex-officio* Chief Commissioner. From 1870 up to 1943 it was the Agent to the Governor General known as the Resident of the Rajputana States, under the Constitution Act of 1935. Who held the office of the Chief Commissioner and it is only in 1943 after much hue and cry and after great protest had been raised, that these two offices were separated but this separation of office has not ameliorated the lot of six lakhs of people who inhabit this part of the country.

Now, Sir, even now Ajmer is not an insignificant place. It occupies a very important place in the religious life of this country. Every year it is visited by thousand of Muslim pilgrims from different parts of the country to pay their homage at the shrine of Khwaja Mohmuddin Chisti. Ajmer has a picturesque and beautiful lake, called the Pushkar Lake which is mentioned in books like the *Rig Veda* which is the oldest book of the world. Every year it is visited by lakhs of Hindu pilgrims from each and every part of the country. Notwithstanding this, because of the Imperialist policy of this Government and because it was necessary to maintain its hold on the Rajput Chiefs, this province of Ajmer-Merwara which is a very small tract of 2,400 square miles with a population of six lakhs of people has been consistently neglected. Now, my friend on the left side, while discussing the fate of Baluchistan said that though this Assembly resolved that a non-official committee should be appointed to make certain recommendations, still no action has been taken on it. My assertion is that as early as 1921 an official inquiry committee known as the Ashworth Committee was appointed after the Government of India Act of 1919 came into force to consider the constitutional position of Ajmer-Merwara. What were the recommendation, that this Committee made. It definitely recommended that Ajmer-Merwara should be merged both administratively and judicially with the province of the United Provinces within a period of two years and till that is done, the recommendation of the Committee was that the autocratic Chief Commissioner must be associated with an advisory council consisting of a non-official majority. 25 years have passed and no action has been taken upon any of the recommendation of that committee. What is the present position of the Chief Commissioner? He is as autocratic as any of the old rulers of the Moghul times. Occupying as he does the palatial bungalow overlooking the picturesque lake of Ana Sagar with the marble baradari built by Emperor Shah Jehan, he

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is altogether unapproachable. He is in the same position as a great Maharaja or a Nawab and there is no public voice in the administration which is carried on at his sweet will and according to his whims and caprices. We come to the Deputy Commissioner, till 1943 designated as Commissioner. He is the virtual head of the administration and you will be pleased to find that his office is a curious muddle of portfolios. He is everything in the province. He is the Inspector General of Jails, he is the District Magistrate. He is the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. He is also the head of the Controlling and Rationing Department which has been recently set up. You can easily imagine, Sir, that a man who occupies so many offices can hardly do justice to any of them. The result is inefficiency and corruption every where. Then, Sir, my greatest misfortune is that all these key offices are held by outsiders, persons who are not acquainted with the local conditions and who have very little sympathy with the people. Their whole function is to permeate this province of Ajmer-Merwara with persons of their own choice and from their own province. Recently, in the emergency Departments of Control and Rationing, according to the official figures given to me a few days ago on the floor of the House, no less than 51 have been recruited from outside and the reason given is that local talents, are not available. I respectfully submit that it is absurd to say that. The average literacy in my province is higher than in any other province. It is 13·1 per cent. and in urban population it goes up to 25 per cent. notwithstanding the fact that nothing has been done by this Government to import rural education. This much with regard to administration.

Then, we proceed to public health. So far as the Public Health Department is concerned, it is unknown to Ajmer-Merwara. I know that in the present budget some money has been provided, but we have yet to see how it is utilised. As regards the hospitals, there is only one hospital, the Victoria Hospital, in Ajmer. The Central Government conceded years ago that it should be a first class hospital but still it is a second class hospital with inadequate medicine, inadequate appliances and doctors can have private practice. The staff is inadequate and accommodation is scarce. This is the condition of public health.

Coming to the water problem, which any sagacious administration could have tackled long ago, it is as yet unsolved. Every third year there is a famine in Ajmer-Merwara because there is an awful paucity of water and the rains are scarce. Government has never seriously tackled this problem. It could have been very well tackled if Government had the imagination and the sympathy to tackle it, because at a distance of 150 miles from Deoli, the extreme end of my province, there is a perennial source of water in the Chambal river. If the Government had invested just a few crores of rupees at one time on the scheme to irrigate this unfortunate province, its fate would have been quite different, and instead of a deficit province, it would have been a surplus province producing lots of foodgrains because the soil is very fertile and the difficulty is only that of water. I suggest and I respectfully bring it to the notice of those concerned that this problem must be confronted at an early date if you want to avoid a perpetual state of famine in my province. I have only to draw the attention of the Government to the miserable state of affairs in which the people of that unfortunate province are at present because they are confronted by these famine times. I am surprised to find that not a single pie has been provided for famine relief in the budget for 1946-47. The condition of the tenancy is miserable. The Istimrardars who are akin to the Talukadars in U. P. are exploiting the tenants and though the official Committees Dela Fogue and Irwin have been appointed from time to time and they have made their reports, these reports are kept in cold storage. We do not know what their contents are. Whenever we have asked for their contents we have been told that they are confidential records. I ask, why their contents have not been disclosed? The reason is

clear. They were against the Istimrardars, whose vested interests Government is not inclined to ignore, and in the meanwhile the conditions of tenants, are growing more and more miserable. A man might have been cultivating the land for generations and yet he can be ejected without notice. I press upon the Government the desirability of having a tenancy legislation at as early a date as possible, which has been in contemplation for 15 years. Settlement has taken almost three years and no result is coming forth. And what is more distressing is that they are contemplating to increase the assessment by Rs. 40,000 —24 per cent. in the Beawar Tahsil and 16 per cent. in the Ajmer Tahsil. This is absolutely unwarranted by the local conditions of the peasantry and tenancy legislation should be taken in hand at the earliest possible moment.

Mr. President: Sir John Thorne.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne (Home Member): Sir, I was not proposing to speak now. If there is any one else who wishes to speak before Lunch, I am prepared to wait until my Honourable friend has spoken.

Mr. President: I think it will be better if the Honourable Member speaks now. If he has any reply to make afterwards or if he feels that he should answer some point, I will give him another chance.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Very well, Sir. If I may say so, so far the debate on this cut motion has gone, it is being carried out with a rather blunt knife. Perhaps that is not the most suitable metaphor because, the weapon seems to be more like a three-pronged fork or *trisul;* (a) is about the irresponsibility, inefficiency and corruption in the administration; (b) is the administration of the Centrally administered areas; and (c) is the planning and development policy. Well, Sir, that is rather omnibus and I am concerned only with parts. (a) and (b) of the motion. (a) itself is sub-divided into three subjects, another three-pronged fork. I have listened with some care—it is disadvantageous, if I may say so, that I should be speaking so early in the debate—I have listened with some care to see the grounds on which the Government are to be censured for irresponsibility, inefficiency and corruption. Of those, clearly the most important charge is that of corruption. On that, a great deal might be said and a great deal in the course of a session is said in scattered references to the subject. I shall say very little on the legislative and executive measures that have been taken to check corruption, but I would remind the House of what has been done in that way.

In 1943 an Ordinance was passed, I think it was Ordinance XXII of 1943, to set up a special Police Department or rather to put on a statutory basis the Police establishment which had been working since 1941, more especially in connection with the affairs of defence, supply and railways with a view to the more speedy detection and punishment of offences which may be lumped under the general head 'corruption'. Then, in the same connection an Ordinance was passed setting up special tribunals for the same purpose, the procedure was simplified, special rules of evidence were provided, all with the object of obtaining speedier trial and heavier punishments for offences of this kind. I believe that recently an Ordinance has been published which makes some part of that Ordinance in relation to special rules of evidence, part of the law of the land, applying throughout India, at any rate until there is other legislation to displace it. Then, Sir, there was another ordinance, for which I can claim some credit as a father, which had a very useful and desirable object of freezing ill gotten gains pending the hearing of the cases in order that they should not be tucked away somewhere, where at the end of the trial if it ended in conviction they would not be accessible. That is a brief summary of the steps taken by way of legislation and setting up of the establishments of police and judiciary to meet these very special needs. We are all agreed about the need. There is no doubt whatever that during the war corruption greatly increased. I believe if a survey

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were made of all the countries at war, and probably even of those that were not at war, it will be found that that phenomenon was general. Opportunities increased, temptations increased and I doubt whether any country has succeeded in keeping its administration as clean as it was before the war. I admit, it is public knowledge, that here in India we have had a great deal of corruption. But, Sir, none of us can feel that man can be made and kept good by legislation or even by increased police and judicial powers. There must be something else, there must be something more profound and fundamental in the community if corruption is to be stamped out. Now that the war is over, we may hope that those temptations and those opportunities will decrease and we shall not hear perhaps in the next few years of as many flagrant cases as have been brought to notice during the war. But there is, as I say, something more fundamental required. When I listened to my Honourable friends not only today, but when this matter came up on previous days, I wondered exactly who these government servants are who are regarded as a class, as so inefficient and corrupt. One would suppose, Sir, that people were born as government servants or if not born as government servants, brought up as government servants as some sort of special species or genus of the animal kingdom, something like elephants or tigers. Well, Sir, that is not so. The average government servant is some one very much like any of my Honourable friends here, he comes very much from the same level of society as many of us here, who are no doubt related to many government servants, and the government servant is just the product of the community.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: There may be a cadre of these.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: But they are not endowed either at birth or during their bringing up with any special qualities . . . . .

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: They are your creatures.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: They have all the same qualities of the community from which they come. Well, Sir, that is one thing I want to say—that they are not a special class or caste or as my Honourable friend calls them, special cadre. They are in no way different from the material form which the great majority of the folk in India are made.

Then, Sir, there is another thing, and I will repeat what my Honourable colleague of the Food Department said yesterday, that corruption is a matter of give and take. If there were no bribe givers, there would be no bribe takers. That is a commonplace which had been said time and again. But here again, who are the bribe givers? Are they some special class, caste or cadre or are they the people who are thrown up by circumstances from all communities? They are not a special class. What is wanted is a much more lively and vivid sense in the community of the shamefulness, the shameful greed and the shameful dishonesty which is involved in the giving and taking of bribes. (Interruption). It is a great pity that the Honourable Member does not even get up to speak. I have not much time to deal with this subject, the first of the prongs with which I am concerned. Inefficiency—I might have said more about it, but I did not hear very much about this in the course of the debate.

I shall not keep the House long on the second subject which is the administration of centrally administered areas, those areas which are officially known as the Chief Commissioner's Provinces. My Honourable friend Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang enumerated them just now. I think he omitted one for which I have a special affection, Coorg. Baluchistan is not my concern, and I dare say, if there is time, my colleague of the External Affairs Department will deal with it. Panth Piploda—we have heard those magic words this morning, and I am sorry that some of my Honourable friends opposite did not hear the debate which I think was amusing—they were on strike at the time, I think it was in 1939 at Simla.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang (East Punjab: Muhammadan): I heard that debate.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I very much enjoyed it. I think in these unhappy days, there is a good deal to be said for an area which gives us no trouble and which provides some of us with a little harmless amusement. Of the other areas, only two are represented here, Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara. I have listened with attention to what has been said, I am sorry that circumstances prevent the representative of Delhi from being here himself, but I have listened with attention to what has been said by the Pundit who deputised for him and the other Pundit who told us about Ajmer-Merwara. Well, Sir, I am rather a fraud on these occasions because I am not really officially concerned with the subjects which mostly interest my Honourable friends, that is to say, the provision for what are called the nation building activities in the Chief Commissioners provinces. Each department of the Government of India is concerned with that part of the subject which falls within its ordinary scope. That may, I think, be a defect, I cannot help feeling it is a defect, I should myself hope that some arrangement may be found of rather closer co-ordination between the activities of the various departments in the Chief Commissioners provinces than is possible under the present arrangement. However, there it is and I cannot answer for the public health facilities or irrigation facilities, subjects which have been referred to in these speeches. As regards Ajmer-Merwara I confess I do not know as I have not yet had time to visit it. But as regards Delhi I should have thought that the complaint that Delhi has been neglected has very little foundation. We are all aware of the great interest taken in the welfare of Delhi Province by Lord Linlithgow and we are acquainted with the zeal with which various measures were initiated by Sir Evan Jenkins, and I have no doubt they are still being carried on. But, as I say, I cannot answer for that side of the subject.

1 P.M.

Then my Honourable friends complained of the constitutional footing of these two provinces,—here they are, ruled by autocrats, no democratic bodies, no advisory councils, even local boards dominated by if not official majorities by nominated majorities. That was certainly said of Delhi; I am not certain whether anything on the same theme was said about Ajmer-Merwara. What is the solution? I listened rather carefully for the views of my Honourable friends as to what should be done about it. The Pundit who spoke in regard to Delhi is in favour—if I understood him aright—of the formation of a large province which shall take in adjoining areas of the Punjab and the United Provinces. What the solution suggested by my other Pundit friend from Ajmer-Merwara was I did not quite gather. He referred to a Committee which reported in 1921; and so far as I could make out, the main recommendation of that Committee was that Ajmr-Merwara should be merged in the United Provinces. Sir, these are matters which I hope my Honourable friends will have an opportunity of urging before the constitution making body. It is not for me to say whether the Chief Commissioners' provinces will be represented on that body: I hope they will be, because there are problems and we are all conscious of them. The administrations of those small areas are bound to be somewhat top-heavy, they are bound to be somewhat extravagant by the ordinary principles which apply to larger areas like Governors' provinces. I do not know about Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara, but certainly with regard to another Chief Commissioner's province with which I have some acquaintance, namely Coorg, there is quite a strong feeling of local patriotism, so to speak. I have recently visited Coorg and I know that opinions there are almost as much divided as they were nearly twenty years ago when I served as Commissioner of that province. But whatever the prevailing opinion is there is quite a strong sense of local individuality and tradition. If Ajmer-Merwara were merged in the United Provinces something would be lost and something might be gained. After all it would be a very small corner of the United Provinces. And I should have thought that

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even in material matters, and certainly in the perhaps more important spiritual feeling of the people, something would be lost by their being merged in a much larger unit.

Sri T. V. Satakopachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, after hearing the Honourable Home Member I think I should support the cut motion of my Honourable friend Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai, which seeks to censure Government on their irresponsibility, inefficiency and corruption in the administration. I should have thought that any Member of Government would have defended, if corruption exists in the department, on other grounds than those which have been put forward by the Honourable Home Member and some other Members of Government. Corruption has been admitted to exist in many of their departments. It is so glaring, so public, and such a notorious fact that they have been forced to admit it. Otherwise I am sure they would have tried all sorts of tortuous means to hide the fact and speak as if the administration is pure and straight. I do not really understand the comparison that is made between this country and other countries. It was said that there was as much corruption in this country as there was in any other country, it was war corruption and it was a consequence of the war, because several things had to be done which in well ordered times and in peace time would not be done, and so there was necessarily corruption. In the same breath the Honourable Member said that there was something fundamentally wrong with the community here to make corruption possible. I really do not understand him. The one thing that is fundamentally wrong is the existence of people like Sir John Thorne here, the existence of that kind of bureaucracy in this country, the existence of foreign domination. Here is a correct example of the proverb that power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely; and because absolute power is vested in this executive it has corrupted every member absolutely. And that is what I find from their attitude and outlook.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne was several years ago in my own district of Tanjore. At that time the salt satyagraha was in progress and Mahatma Gandhi had marched to Dandi and Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar had marched to Vedaranyam in my district. Sir John Thorne did not have any touch with the people of the country; he promulgated an order saying that any man who gave food to any of these persons that came marching with Mr. Rajagopalachariar committed a great crime and would be liable to punishment under the Indian Penal Code. I happened to be in the management of the Bar Association and we looked into the legal side of it; and he got a communication from us that it was a wrong interpretation of the law. I expected that in the decades that have passed since then Sir John Thorne has gained some experience of this country, but perhaps he has receded further and further away from the people whom he is supposed to govern and to protect. I would go to the extent of saying that he is doing a disservice to his own country by irritating people with such remarks as this and losing this country and this empire and I believe several other countries which they want to dominate. Sir, corruption is there and if it is there and is not weeded out, then even the national Government would be accused of responsibility in the affair and they also may be unable to weed it out; in which case Government would be accused of inefficiency and incompetency. These things are to my mind inseparable: Inefficiency, incompetency and irresponsibility breed, in their turn, corruption. The man who is irresponsible and incompetent is bound to be corrupt, and where there is corruption there can be no efficiency. That is why we charge you with inefficiency and corruption. I find that the present Executive Council delights in being irresponsible. When I use the word 'irresponsible', I use it in all the three significances of the term: I mean irresponsibility as opposed to responsible Government, because the Executive Council, as it is constituted at present, is not responsible to the Legislature, and therefore it is not responsible to the people of this country. Secondly, irresponsible in the way in which it is unresponsive to public opinion—it does not care for the needs of the people; it does not care for the opinions of the people; it flouts the opinions of the leaders of the people; it flouts the legislatures of the people. Because it is unresponsive to public opinion, therefore it is irresponsible. Sir, I come to the logical extreme and say it is irresponsible in this respect: reckless, regardless of duty, regardless of consequences. The present Executive Councillors think that if they are able to carry on the administration anyhow, it will fulfil their purpose. Because they know they are irremovable, they take delight in such irresponsibility. If they have any conscience, if they have any sense of responsibility, if they have any regard for their duty, they would not wallow in it and stew in their juice as they are doing now. Sir, it is not only the political orators who make such charges against this Administration. Recently Dr. R. B. Pal, the Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University, in his Convocation Address two days ago, referring to the incidents as a result of students' demonstration and disturbances by students, said:

"The root of such tragic incidents seemed to be in the fact that those who were here entrusted with the task of maintaining peace and order were not troubled by any wholesome fear of public opinion. No storm of public indignation, however strong and weighty could in any way affect them."

In their indifference and in their complacence they think that nothing would touch them. That is the root cause of the evil; that is the cause of inefficiency in the administration; and that is the cause of corruption which cannot be eradicated. During the war there was corruption in other countries too, but they have adopted measures to eradicate this evil. It persists in this country because of the British administration and the British way of administration where people who are most rotten are employed in the various departments to run the Government. Here alone we can see this strange phenomenon of an executive, against whom daily the elected legislature passes motions of adjournment and censure, continuing to govern the country. We pass motions against them from day to day—motions of adjournment, Resolutions, and so on—but nothing is done. Their conscience does not seem to be troubled at all; we find them lolling about, yawning and discussing things with one another. What have they done in regard to the food and cloth situation? We have asked time and again that remunerative prices should be given to the cultivators. Have they done that? On the contrary, Mr. Sen would rise and say that it is the policy of Government not to encourage any high prices, etc. etc. And then, again, what is the situation in regard to political prisoners. They have bungled all through; I find the Executive Council is completely muddled up. In regard to the Indian National Army, the Victory celebrations, on-Indianization of administration branches of the Army, non-consultation and flouting of the opinion of this House in regard to the Bretton Woods affair, all these things show that irresponsibility even in the constitutional sense is rampant, and that is why inefficiency is given rise to. They become inefficient because they are not responsible to anyone; they are the stooges of the British Empire.

Mr. President: Order, order. The Honourable Member may resume his speech at 2-30. The House is adjourned now.

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

[The Assembly re-assembled after lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

Sri T. V. Satakopachari: How much more time have I got Sir?

Mr. President: The Honourable Member's time is five minutes more. He has spoken for ten minutes.

Sri T. V. Satakopachari: I feel, I wish, I had more minutes in which I could pack all the things I want to say and I wish I had the tongue of

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a Burke or a Sheridan to put the case clearly against corruption and how the present administration is responsible for it. The accusation against the public which one or the other Member of Government always brings forward when we talk of the inefficiency of this Government or the corruption in their ranks, is absolutely unfounded and wrong. These people do not know our country. I may just take the House back to history. When quite recently in the time of the Empire of Vijayanagar, Hiouen-Tsang from China and Pais and Nunez from the West, all foreigners, visited it, they spoke of our open market places with heaps of jewels, pearls and precious stones, with only boys to take care of them and to sell them to the people, the administration being so immensely pure, the people being so very honest and all that. That was the status of the Indian people in those years gone by. What is the present state now? You can callously sit back and accuse the people of being instruments accessible to bribery, jobbery and corruption. Who has produced that state of things? Isn't it these two centuries of British rule? I would remind the House that sometime ago when the English came here, and found a very rich empire, there was an enormous system of bribery and corruption introduced by them. The East India Company is responsible for all this here. Clive himself one of the expert technicians in this job was astonished and surprised at the amount of corruption that reigned supreme here when he came back to this country. Such is the state of things and this is the tradition that is being handed down. The arm of the law is long enough to put me into detention for being patriotic and trying to fight for my country's cause. The arm is strong enough to muzzle the press. It is strong enough to do so many wrong things. But if it pretends that it is not strong to put down corruption we can really put it down as a lie. (*An Honourable Member*: A white lie!) Yes, it is a white lie of the blackest thing that ever exists. So it is the lie of lies.

Sir Azizul Huque sometime ago spoke of the public being partly blamable for this state of affairs. What could a citizen do with all these Defence of India Rules, with all the officials armed with extraordinary powers. They can do what they like. An accusation is no easy job. You know how difficult it is to charge a man of bribery. But bribery and corruption exist. The Honourable the Home Member said that they have taken steps by passing some Ordinance in 1943 and in establishing an anti-corruption tribunal. I find in the demand for grants that instead of 16 officers they are increasing it to 21 officers and they are asking for nine months extra money. That is the state of the situation. Sometime ago Sir Archibald (I do not find him here) was Chairman of a Committee on the administration of Bengal. He found that corruption was rampant there. He suggested certain steps. Did this Government take those steps? He said that the penal laws should be stronger and the penalties should be heavier. Did they do these things? I would suggest that they take the people into confidence, that they take the non-officials into confidence, that they should establish tribunals consisting of them also and that they are encouraged to say the right things at the proper moments so that they can trace the cases.

Lastly, the Food Department was probably congratulating itself that its administration here at the Centre was pure and correct. I will first draw the attention of the House to an editorial in the "*Hindustan Times*" of last evening with the heading "Just a minute". Five hundred crawling American tractors had been ordered for our country in order to plough the waste lands in South India and the Deccan. There are millions of acres of waste lands which can be brought under the plough. You have to bring water and you have to tear up the soil. That is all. All the tractors from America would have done the job. Five hundred tractors were ordered: only two hundred have arrived. But you cannot use them. Do you know why? Because even if we had ordered the tractors from America, it appears that the accessories had to be supplied by Britain who would not let America supply the accessories

and our Government bowed low and said we will take accessories from you and not from America. And so these two hundred tractors are lying idle. Three hundred are still to come and we are nowhere. And the British people say they cannot supply accessories till September or so, and God alone knows when they can. I find this is what it states:

"It is not only the loss of the large quantity of foodgrains which the waste lands could have produced which is grievous. What is perhaps more galling is the prevailing shortsightedness and utter incompetence in high official quarters."

I charge this Government this Executive Council with incompetence, inefficiency amounting to imbecility. I charge the subordinates with corruption. Mr. Gwilt felt that he could not say anything in the Standing Finance Committee. Yes, we could not say many things in the Finance Committee. I want to take the privilege in this House and say this truth, that you are responsible for the corruption in your Department. You cannot shift the moral responsibility on them and escape Scot free.

Sir Azizul Huque also said that the capitalists did not want capital goods in this country because they were not sure when the war would end and whether they would be losing profits. I ask him, Sir, Why did you go to the capitalists. If you are really as you boast of yourself a strong Government maintaining law and order, if you want these industries to prosper, why did you not take the matter in your hands and get the capital goods into this country. I find in the memorandum and in the speech of the Honourable the Finance Member that it will not be possible to get capital goods, because the countries which have to supply the capital goods have to fulfil the requirements of their own country first. The home country has to be satisfied first. That was the argument advanced by the Honourable the Finance Member. The Honourable the Commerce Member said that other countries had placed their orders first and hence they got priority. We did not place our orders early and so we did not get the machinery. I do not know which is the truth. This is the state of things, Sir, and therefore I support the cut motion of my Honourable friend Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai and request that it be adopted by the House.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I rise to support the cut motion moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai. The scope of the motion is so wide that it covers the entire field of administration. The first item is the irresponsibility of this Government. This Government is constituted under the Act of 1919 and more than 25 years have passed. The world has changed and two wars have intervened between these two points of time but this Government has not changed. Thrones have been thrown out and Dukes have become cooks but Col. Blimps and Benthalls remain for ever! Sir, I know that when we charge them with irresponsibility it is not the constitutional aspect of irresponsibility that we mean, because if we were to emphasise that I know they will point out the Act under which they are in existence: nor do I charge them with a legal irresponsibility. What I submit is that they are morally irresponsible. It is not the Act so much but it is the spirit with it is worked that really counts. It is no mere platitude to say that whatever may be the letter of the law it is the spirit that ultimately determines the course that the people have to follow when they are under a particular regime. The main characteristic of this Government is that primarily it is a Police Government. It is a police state which is merely concerned with law and order and when it tries to be modern in the sense of doing some public service, every step that it takes is bound up with inefficiency corruption and incompetence.

As I said, the field that this cut motion covers is so wide that it is impossible to do it full justice. But a few departments may be selected for criticism.

The first duty of a modern state is protection. In this matter this country has suffered more than any other country for two reasons. One reason is that this country is not the master of its own foreign policy. Its foreign policy is dictated by England and England has no friend and India has no enemy. And yet it is this country that has suffered more in point of men, money and

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material than England herself. Some people may take exception to this. If you remember the stakes involved in this war, the stakes of England and the stakes of this country, I am sure you will agree that what I have said is absolutely correct. In the field of education, in the field of commerce, in the field of industry, whatever department one may take and if we apply the test of good government no man, howsoever partial he may be, will pronounce this Government as being up to standard. The Chinese philosopher, Confucius, was once asked by the King to define what was a good government and the philosopher replied. "If there is sufficiency of food and clothing, if there is sufficiency of protection and, if there is faith that justice will be done, then that is a good government." Take the first thing. Is there sufficiency of food? This is called the richest land, where rivers are everlastingly flowing, forests are ever green, the bowels of the earth are full of rich minerals. An English economist described this country as a rich country with a poor people and, I only add, a perverse Government.

Sir, in so far as food is concerned, whether in the matter of production, procurement or distribution, I cannot accuse this Government of efficiency at all. Even today when the country is faced with a terrible famine, cultivators are sowing money crops and no steps are being taken to prevent them from doing that either by offering a remunerative price for foodcrops or in other ways. In the matter of procurement, if one were to visit villages, where the levy system is in vogue, you hear of nothing but police *zoolum*. Every petty village officer enters the house of the villager under the pretext of collecting the levy and leaves nothing to the poor agriculturist. It is all right for one of my friends from Bombay to say that the policy has worked very well in Bombay. I had no opportunity to contradict him then. His experience is confined only to Bombay. In the cities where labour predominates, where labour is organised, where you have half a dozen morning papers and half a dozen evening papers, they get the ear of the Government. People in the cities are more or less organised but in the countryside there is no organisation. Only last week I was touring in Nagar district which is a famine district. For three years out of five years there is famine in Nagar. The poverty there is absolute. One of the high English officials once stated to me that all that we talk about Indian poverty is not correct: it is only relative. I asked him to visit certain tracts in Nagar, in Sholapur and Poona districts and when he returned he agreed that, at any rate, in these tracts the poverty was absolute. A month and a half ago famine was declared in these areas but famine works have not begun. Prices of controlled articles have risen and people are migrating. I regret to say that parents are leaving their children behind because they cannot feed them. I was present in a gathering of thousands of peasants. I could see the indignation in their eyes. This is true everywhere. The atmosphere is tense and one word from any one of us would result in a situation which no government, howsoever strong, will be able to cope with. What is the policy with regard to distribution? A new department is created; —people who know nothing about the food have become rationing officers. They sit in their rooms and decide. They do not know the normal diet of the people: those who eat rice are asked to eat wheat and schools have been opened to teach them how to prepare cakes. That is with respect to food.

Take every other department, particularly where the control system obtains. A man who had nothing to do with a particular business is given a monopoly of that business. A man who cannot distinguish between a pillar and a post suddenly becomes a building contractor. A man who does not know how to deal with cotton—whether to weigh it or measure it—becomes 'A' license holder. A man who does not know about the trade suddenly gets a license, although the policy of the Government is not to disturb normal trade channels. Why is this done? Is it efficiency or corruption? The Honourable Home Member said that the government servants are not a special or privileged caste. He thereby hinted that the whole of the community was

responsible for it. It hurt me. I want to say in all humility that the corruption that we are witnessing today and in the course of the last six years, is so great that an old man of 80 told me at Nagar that in the course of his long life he had not seen a situation like this. How does it occur? A needy citizen and a greedy merchant are the two persons who are responsible for it. A man who wants to attend the funeral of his father or the marriage of his daughter or the sick bed of his friend must have a ticket, and he must pay. I have paid four annas more for a Bombay ticket. (*An Honourable Member*: You got off cheap!) and the greedy merchant in order to pocket his profit—I have no soft corner in my heart for him—but who is responsible for this? It is this very system of government. You cannot, like Viswamitra, disown this child and say "No, no; it is not mine; it is yours"; because you are inefficient, because you have created conditions in which one cannot get anything except through corruption, you cannot fasten the blame on the community.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Viswamitra was caught: they are not!

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: I ask the Honourable the Home Member, has he no control over the government servants under him? Has he no standard of conduct for him? I will quote the words of an eminent English high official who said "the marks of an ideal public servant are integrity, industry and anonymity." So far as anonymity is concerned, they have opened the Public Information Department, the Publicity Department; and it was only through a mistake that a part of that department escaped yesterday: in fact that was the greatest culprit. However, so far as anonymity is concerned, I cannot accuse them of it. Every official is now calling a press conference, whether he is a Talati—Honourable the Finance Member says 'no' I will make an exception in his case—that only proves the rule—even from the Talati every official is becoming press conference-minded. As regards integrity less said the better. As regards industry there has been great increase in the number of officials and subordinates; and if an inquiry is instituted, I am sure you will find that the average official today works less than he used to do before the war started.

I go further. As regards the second test, sufficiency of protection, how many riots have taken place in the course of the last six months? It is no good telling us that the hooligans are responsible and you are not. Mahatma Gandhi has accused us and has stated that we cannot plead moral alibi. But at the same time the Government cannot plead moral alibi. If they are responsible for peace and order, then if one life is lost, if one citizen suffers, the blame primarily is on the head of the Government.

Then the third test which the Chinese philosopher laid down—whether there is sufficient justice done. As between man and man I may confess that some justice is done; but between the individual and the state, there is no justice. What would in other countries be termed as a high patriotic act would be high treason here. Imagine that Indians fighting for freedom, whether violently or non-violently, are rebels. It is like this: if a thief takes away my watch and I try to get it back, if I have the strength, by violence, and if not by persuasion, is that theft on my part? If my freedom is taken away by fraud or force and if I try to get it back, am I to be considered a rebel? This is a novel thing.

The Honourable Home Member said that the whole community is to be blamed. Am I to blame the whole of England for the misdeeds of you few? It would be wrong. I would have read history to no purpose if I were to say that. No community as such can be condemned. You cannot indict a whole nation. But that does not mean that I should not point out the moral responsibility of the individual; and that is exactly the purpose which has prompted me to participate in this debate. The British connection here has been a great tragedy. It has been bad while you ruled and lived. Now, when you are about to go, let it be said that your last act was good and noble. Sir, I support the motion.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari (Member for Information and Arts and Planning and Development): Sir, I rise to answer that part of the cut motion which relates to planning and development policy. In his remarks the Mover confined himself to the alleged failure of the Government to procure for Indian industrialists the capital goods they wanted; and coming as he does from Ahmedabad, I imagine that his reference was more specially to the lack of capital equipment in the cotton textile industry. Sir, I would like to explain that in October 1943, before the establishment of the Planning and Development Department—a point to which my friend Sir Azizul Huque has referred, but I will give you a few further facts—a letter was addressed to all the appropriate chambers of commerce and industry, asking them as follows:

"I am therefore to request you in the interests of the industry to communicate to the Government of India without delay the industry's or your requirements of capital goods for delivery during a period of say two years after the end of the war for (a) replacement of worn out machinery and (b) normal development of the industry."

As Sir Azizul Huque, pointed out, the reply to this communication was not at all satisfactory except in the case of the textile industry. I am not blaming the various industries at that time for not having sent more extensive replies. We were then in a rather critical period of the war and the industries were fully engaged in churning out war orders and I do not blame them, for they could not sit down with their depleted staffs to work out plans of post-war reconstruction; but while I do not blame the industry, the blame should also not rest on Government. We gave them such a picture as we then could and asked them to provide the information. I am glad to say that so far as the cotton textile industry was concerned we had by that time constituted the Cotton Textile Control Board and through their help we were able to give the United Kingdom a rough idea of the capital goods which the industry might require. We gave fairly full details and the total bill came to 37 crores. I do not think therefore that Government could be blamed for not having taken as early action as they could in letting known the wants of our industrialists to the United Kingdom.

3 P.M.

Then we come to the period of the starting of the Planning and Development Department under Sir Ardeshir Dalal. This was the picture he found—very little response from the industrialists as to what were their capital requirements—the only industry about which he was able to say anything was the textile industry. In order to get a move on, he did two things. He constituted about 26 panels. Under each panel various industries were grouped. These panels were composed of experts businessmen and so on. They were given definite targets as to what was necessary to be done. For example, in the case of Cotton textiles, the target was that the production had to be increased from 5 thousand million yards to seven thousand two hundred million yards. At the same time with the encouragement of His Excellency the present Viceroy we approached the great Indian industrialists and said to them—if you want to go to Europe and America to survey conditions there and look for possibilities for obtaining capital goods or machinery required for starting new industries we will give you the necessary facilities. That was in 1944. The industrialists did not go till some time in the middle of 1945. We also sent a delegation of Indian industrialists to Australia and the reason was that we felt that Australia was a country which in its industrial development had to overcome some of the difficulties which face our own country. So, we sent a different team of industralists there. Though the war was still on and it was difficult to obtain passages, we also gave facilities for travel to the United Kingdom and to the United States to any serious minded industrialist who wanted to go and negotiate either for the purchase of machinery or for getting technical expert advice in respect of any new schemes which he had. Therefore I do not think that you can blame Government for not having taken as early steps as we possibly could to help Indian industry in the matter of the procurement of

capital goods to the greatest extent. My Honourable friend has quoted the example of Russia but Russia in 1928, and India in the middle of a war in 1943-46, are two quite different propositions. Russia had no lack of experienced man power and they were at peace. We were at war and we did not have sufficient man power. Another important consideration is that Russia, when it started on its five year plans had a strong dictatorship which was able to make its will felt over all sections of the people. I do not think it is a correct analogy to compare Russia of 1928 and India during the last three years of war. I think, Sir, I have said enough on this point.

Now, on the general question of the policy of the Planning and Development Department, Sir Ardeshir Dalal soon after he left issued a statement which was widely published in the Press surveying what had been done under his leadership during the 18 months when he was in office. I think anybody who knew, as I know, the difficulties under which he worked will realise that he, assisted by the Departments of the Government of India and, if I may say so, the Finance Department, did an extremely good piece of work. I am not going to take up the time of the House on it, because the whole thing is in print and I can let Honourable Members have a copy of Sir Ardeshir Dalal's statement as to what had been done during the 18 months that he was in office. (*An Honourable Member*: Why did he go out?) That point does not arise. I think, when you have read it, you will consider it a very creditable achievement.

I now take up the story after the time Sir Ardeshir Dalal left a few weeks ago and my own responsibility began. I found that a great number of the panels had reported or were on the point of reporting their conclusions. And the action we have taken is to hurry up the work, present the reports to Government and get the Government decisions on them. I hope that it may be possible to finish this work by the end of next month. I would remind the House that in answer to a question the other day or in answer to a speech of my Honourable friend Mr. Griffiths, I revealed that we were now taking action in the matter of fixing priorities as between the various schemes of development; so that the Central Departments as well as Provincial Governments would know how much money would be available from the Central for the various schemes under the different headings: Health, Agriculture and so on. I hope that this work will soon be concluded, so that when our successors come into office they will find, I hope, the plans going forward with the money earmarked for them. Of course, these will be five-year plans and all the money will not be given in the first year, so that our successors will, in consultation with the then Provincial Governments, be able to alter the decisions in this or that respect either from experience or because of changes in policy.

I do not think I need say much more. Please remember that the planning and development policy of this Government has been fashioned in concert with industrialists and public men. They are serving on most of our panels. It is not a policy evolved in purlieus of the Secretariat, but it is something which has been fashioned by a man who is a great industrialist himself and in consultation with those available and best suited to advise in this connection. Sir I have nothing more to say.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: May I, Sir, ask a question or two from the Honourable Member? I quite realise that Sir Akbar is in charge of this Department only for the last two months. In the second part of their report, the Re-Construction Committee have said that they have no data about their own Ordnance factories.

Mr. President: What is the question which the Honourable Member wants to ask?

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: The Honourable Member said that the industrialists did not give him the data and I was saying that he has not got the data of his own factories.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: I can explain that in a minute, Sir. In the first place, I do not complain about the textile industry; I rather praised them. It is one of the three industries which really did give us the data. But on the point about ordnance factories, the reference in the report is to this. At the time the report was written, it was not known what would be the strength of the army in peace time. How much of the production of the ordnance factories would be necessary to continue making munitions of war? What ordnance factories, if any, could be set free for turning over to civil production and so on? That was the reference and not anything else. We had the technical data, but at the time when that report was written, we had no knowledge or at least we had no decisions as to what the strength of the army in peace time would be and therefore what would be the load from the army side on these ordnance factories.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): How is it that no adequate care was taken to consult either the agricultural interests or the artisans, that is, cottage industry of the people? You suggested at the time of the Standing Finance Committee that a special panel should be constituted for cottage industries, but nothing has been done. I would like to have some information on that.

Mr. President: If it is within the province of the Honourable Member, he may give the information.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi (Calcutta and Suburbs: Muhammadan Urban): I rise to a point of order, Sir. Is this within the rules of debate that after the speaker has uttered his utterance of the day, we can go on cross-examining him?

Mr. President: We do not cross-examine at all. If there is any cross-examination, it will be done outside this House. But if questions are asked to elicit information for the benefit of the House, I do not think there should be any serious objection to them.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: Sir, data are being collected for the following cottage industries: paper making, calico printing, Gur marking, basket making, coir manufacture, metal industries, pottery, sericulture and silk-weaving, gold-thread industry, carpet making, cotton ginning, tobacco and tanning industries. It is very difficult these days to get together bodies of people for constituting all sorts of panels. As I said before, there are 26 panels already and the data for many of these cottage industries are being collected. Once the data are collected, the Government of the time can constitute a panel or a Committee to take steps to see how that particular cottage industry can be encouraged.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqui: Mr. President, Sir, I will request you to extend to me your generosity because this cut motion is a bit of a jumble, where many problems have been mixed up together and it is difficult to concentrate on any single point connected with them. The word "irresponsibility" naturally leads one to imagine that the Honourable Mover had perhaps forgotten that the Government of the day is not a responsible government. Every action that comes from that quarter must have in it, if not full irresponsibility, at least a tinge of it, and, therefore, until we have changed it or until they have decided to change it themselves, we have got to be prepared to receive it with an element of irresponsibility attached to it. 'Inefficiency and corruption' are the other two aspects of the problem on which the Honourable Mover wishes to condemn the Government. We are all labouring under a terrible difficulty today. After six years of war in which things had to be done—never mind, whether the law permitted it or not—and the mentality which insisted that the war had to be won—law or no law—, we cannot yet sit down in judgment and we cannot yet say, "You are wrong here and you are wrong there". The turn over from the war to a normal peace administration would be a difficult process and I think I will have to wait a bit longer to give that judgment until, if the prophesies that I hear are correct, we occupy those benches. We shall then try and enforce our own ideals of administration and of public affairs and then see

whether we can improve things to our advantage. We should not forget that the sole objective of the successors of the East India Company in this country is profit. The methods of collecting the profits may have changed, but England is not here for our advantage. We are different and our interests are different from the interests of our rulers. It, therefore, appears to me to be a cry in the wilderness to expect the leopard to change its spots. The best thing the leopard can do, I hope it will be soon, is to go back home and leave things here alone. The third aspect is corruption. I have heard of it for many years past, but I entirely agree with the Honourable the Home Member when he says that there should be two parties to corruption. The word for corruption in the Bengali language, and particularly in Calcutta, is *ghoos*, and in one of my speeches, I had said that like mercy, the quality of *ghoos*, is not strained; it blesseth him that takes and it blesseth him that gives. I entirely agree with him and as an Indian I feel ashamed to state that we the public have not established any higher standards, as regards the methods of corruption. By that I do not mean that the Indian habit is any different from any other in the world, but then there must be two sides to it. War has killed humanity, but war has killed morality also. The liaison between officials and the commercial world was something that made one's heart bleed. The money that passed from one side to the other was to be counted not in lakhs but sometimes in crores and the wastage which helped them to find new supplies added to the cost. Had the officials at the Centre not been obsessed with the idea of defeating Japan, they would perhaps have looked at this aspect of the matter also, but they did not care. They allowed things to go from bad to worse, and the result is that we shall have to suffer this burden whether in the shape of increased expenditure in India or Sterling Balances outside India, for generations to come. I feel that if the men in Delhi had been a bit more careful, corruption in their own services and corruption to which we as members of the public were party, could have been crushed.

As regards planning and development, we heard the Honourable Member in charge tell us many things and he gave us lists of things for which panels had been appointed. Sir, here I think we can take the Government of India to task in a firmer manner. You will remember, Sir, that the predecessor of our present Governor General changed three Honourable Members for the Food Department at a time when Bengal was suffering. I do not know why the Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal came into the Governor General's Council, and if he had come, he had no business to go away at a time when we needed his experience and his great knowledge of industries most. To change horse in midstream is dangerous and I am surprised that the Governor General allowed Sir Ardeshir Dalal to go away, and what is more surprising is that Sir Ardeshir Dalal thought it fit and wise to go away at a time when we needed his expert knowledge. I do not know how long the present Honourable Member will remain as Member in charge of this Department. If he goes away, then we shall have number 3, and when No. 3 goes away, we shall have perhaps, a change in the constitution. Very valuable time will have been lost and we shall be left behind. That, Sir, may explain the conspiracy between the capitalists of India and the capitalists of England and may I add that the remover of the Excess Profits Tax in this House has joined hands to allow the Indian capitalists to import English manufactured goods by giving them more money. The whole thing, as I look at it, and if I am wrong I should like to be corrected, is to let India remain where it is. These people can afford to die like flies. Let us see how much of our heavy goods and manufactured things can be sold, and let them buy what they can. We are here to manipulate Indian finances, and we shall see to it that we do not suffer.

Another thing of which he read in the list was cottage industries. We need not follow the lines of progress in post-war period as they have laid them down in America or Great Britain. Our conditions are different, and we have got

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to evolve a system of industries large or small or medium and to arrange things in such a way that we get the utmost advantage out of it. You will agree with me, Sir, that the English mind cannot go beyond a few miles of the sea coast, and the result is, Bombay and Ahmedabad on the one side, and Calcutta and the territory round about it are supposed to be the only industrialised areas. Agriculturists who cannot find enough to eat have to be given industries and in the map of distribution of industries they have left out large tracts and millions of people untouched by the industrial regeneration which they are thinking of. That, Sir, is not going to bring any good to the country. Industries have to be distributed in such a way that every section of the people and every area, wherever raw products are available, gets equal benefit.

Sir, I shall have finished in a minute more. The Honourable the Home Member said he had nothing to do with Baluchistan, if I understood him aright. He restricted his remarks to Delhi, Coorg and Ajmer-Merwara. But, Sir similar difficulties arose in connection with the Frontier Province, non-regulation areas as they were called, previously. I do not see why the people in Baluchistan should be relegated to the uncivilised sections of India. They are as educated, they are economically as good as any other sections of India. The Government of India should now consider whether Baluchistan should be raised to the status, say of Sind or the Frontier Province. Why should the people there suffer? He said to us that this matter may be taken up by the Constitution-Making Body. Yes, I admit that, but I am not one of those hopeful ones who think that by the pressing of an electric button by Lord Pethwick Lawrence or his two companions we are going to become an independent republic or a dominion overnight. A friend of mine was saying that the liquidation of commercial houses takes four and five years and in one case it took almost forty years; the liquidation of the British Empire in India may take longer. We may be able to control the destinies of some of the Departments here but whoever comes and sits there by May or June next or whoever sits there in May or June 1947, to him my request is that plans should be started immediately, and where injustices prevail they should be removed, whether by the present Government or those who succeed it. And therefore in spite of the jumble that I find in this motion I feel that there is room for considerable improvement even before we come into our own and Lord Pethwick Lawrence like a fairy godmother waves his wand and the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition becomes the Honourable Leader of the House.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose (Calcutta: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, within the short space of a few minutes allowed to me it is quite impossible to deal with all the grounds on which this censure motion is based, and I shall not attempt to do so. I shall only take up the first ground and that is the irresponsibility of the Executive Council, their inefficiency and corruption in their administration. Sir, it is unnecessary to dilate at length on the inefficiency of the Executive Council or the corruption in their administration. What we find all over the country today—and we have been finding almost the same state of affairs since the year 1942—are scarcity of cloth, scarcity of food, deprivation of the ordinary necessaries of life, inflation to an extent almost undreamt of, accumulation of sterling balances still further accumulating day after day, want of a proper planning and development policy, and in consequence of all these, untold misery throughout the length and breadth of the land; all these are sufficient to convict the Executive Council of inefficiency and their administration of corruption. The Honourable the Home Member earlier this afternoon practically admitted that there was corruption in the administration. He could not very well deny it, because the whole administration reeks of it; but he put forward some sort of excuse or justification by laying the responsibility on the communities inhabiting this country of ours.

Sir, the Honourable the Home Member has tossed the ball across the net to this side of the House, and I am confident I shall be able to return it with redoubled vigour. In reply to him I shall say, that the communities inhabiting this vast country of ours have a higher sense of honour, a better standard of honesty and rectitude, a nobler standard of public and private morality than what has been imported into this country by members of the ruling race.

I shall now come to the question of the irresponsibility of the Executive Council. I do not mean, and this side of the House does not mean, irresponsibility in the sense in which it was used by my Honourable friend Mr. Siddiqi. In using the word 'irresponsibility' we were not thinking of legal or constitutional irresponsibility; we were thinking of the irresponsibility of the Executive Council which has brought into being an even more irresponsible police *raj* in this country. We were thinking of the irresponsible police *raj* which has established itself under the patronage and with the blessings of the Executive Council of the Government of India,—established itself by terror and is maintaining itself by terror. You walk along the highways and you find the myrmidons of the police and C. I. D. round the corner or following your footsteps; you sit in the privacy of your home and you find their eyes peeping through keyholes or through doors and windows. You sit confined in jails and detention camps and you find them eavesdropping in order to catch every word that is falling from your lips or from the lips of your companions. And it is this irresponsible police *raj* which exists and flourishes under the patronage of Honourable Members opposite which has set up in many places—more numerous than I can mention—dark dungeons and torture chambers, the worst of which are in the Delhi and Lahore forts, dark dungeons and torture chambers where men like Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar, Jai Prakash Narain, Ram Manohar Lohia, Lala Shankar Lal of Delhi, Dwijendra Nath Bose, Sisir Kumar Bose, Satya Ranjan Bakshi, Niranjan Singh Talib and hundreds of others were subjected to third degree methods day after day, week after week, month after month. That is what we mean when we use the words 'irresponsibility of the Executive Council'.

Sir, I have heard many Members sitting on Benches opposite talk during the last few weeks of the coming change of power. I am disposed at the moment to treat all that as loose, irresponsible talk. While they talk of the coming change of power, the recruitment to the I.C.S. and the I.P.S. goes on. Verily, verily, it is a coming change of power of a kind unknown in the history of any other country.

Now, Sir, this irresponsible police *raj* which, I repeat, has been flourishing under the patronage of Members on the Benches opposite,—has been spreading its tentacles over every Department of the administration. And to illustrate what I mean, I shall read to the House a recent letter written by one Major-General B. P. T. O'Brien, who signs himself as Director of Intelligence. The terms of the letter will satisfy you and the House that, whether it is the Naval Services, or the Army Services, or the Air Services or the Civil Services, the irresponsible and the irrepressible Police is there and must be there. This is what Major-General O'Brien says in a letter, the date of which is, I believe, the 13th of February 1946, if my copy is correct. Says the Gallant Major-General:

> "It has been decided to introduce a common policy regarding verification and (when necessary) disciplinary procedure in the case of service personnel in the Naval, Army and Air Services in the India Command and for civilian employment therein, on whom the Police report that they have previously participated in subversive or anti-Government activities. ...
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> "An Indian known to have taken part in subversive or illegal anti-Government activities will normally be recommended for rejection provided that in the interval he has not given positive evidence of change of attitude. . . . . ."

[Shri Sarat Chandra Bose]

That means, evidence of a slave mentality. Now comes the Neo-Mosaic Law, if I may so describe it:

"If a report indicates that there is nothing known against the applicant himself, but he is closely related or connected with persons who have taken part in subversive or anti-Government activities, the case will be examined on merits. A recommendation for rejection would normally be made if there is reason to believe that the applicant has himself become tainted with the views of his relatives or close friends."

So the Police is omniscient; the Police is omnipresent; and the Police reports are sacrosanct. Now comes the next paragraph:

"Should an adverse report on a sailor or airman, (which terms include officers) be received after enlistment owing to faulty Police verification or other causes, the case will be judged on its merits. If his services are satisfactory, he is to be placed under special observation in accordance with the Security instructions in force in the Service concerned."

That. I hope satisfies the House that, apart from the normal rules of the Services, there are some Security instructions in force which are to be followed or, shall I say to be operated upon by the Police section of it. The paragraph proceeds:

"Should the man, while under observation, be found to be attempting to convert his comrades, form a cell or to be otherwise attempting activity to assist his party, disciplinary action is to be taken in the normal way and full details reported to the Security Staff of the man's Service immediately."

Now comes the fifth paragraph:

"When a person in Service employed is dismissed as the result of an adverse Police report or of subsequent political activities . . . ."

not because of incompetency or inefficiency, or irresponsibility for the matter of that, but because of an adverse police report—

"or of subsequent political activities, the following are to be informed by the man's Commanding Officer, as early as possible and at the latest on the day that the man is discharged or dismissed:

(i) The Superintendent of Police of the individual's home district.

(ii) The Superintendent of Police in whose district the individual's unit is located.

(iii) In the case of Naval and Air Force personnel the Security Staffs at N. H. Q. and A. H. Q. respectively; in the case of Army personnel, H. Q. Command through such channels as they may direct. This conforms with the normal procedure on discharge of undesirables already laid down in G. H. Q. letter to H. Qs. Commands Number so and so dated so and so."

Sir, I started by saying that this irresponsible and irrepressible Police *raj* is one of the gifts to this country by Members of the Executive Council who sit opposite. That is not all. We have been told recently many a time by some Members on the Treasury Benches and also by one or two of their Secretaries sitting behind them that everything is being done for the release of I.N.A. officers and men and for the repatriation of I.N.A. officers and men, or I.N.A. civilian personnel in Burma. May I read to the House two letters in this connection copies of which have reached my hands? They are quite recent too: one is dated the 5th of February 1946, and the other is dated 12th February 1946. They will show that the irresponsibility of Members opposite and of their statements in this House have no limits whatever. The letter of the 5th of February 1946, which purports to be written by a gentleman who signs himself as General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Command, and is written from Calcutta on the 5th of February last to the Chief of the General Staff, G.H.Q., New Delhi, is as follows:

"Subject :—I.N.A.—Lieut.-Col. A. C. Chatterjee, I.M.S,

This H. Q. is concerned at the probable return to Bengal in the near future of Lt.-Col. A. C. Chatterjee, I.M.S. This officer had very considerable influence in this province, and apart from his official status as Director of Public Health in Bengal before the war and his personal contacts with leaders of political strife, was appointed by Subhas Bose as the Governor-Designate of the Liberated Countries. Had Bengal been invaded and captured, he would have been Governor of Bengal. This alone would give him popular support second only to Subhas Chandra himself.

2. His return at this juncture would revive the excitement and enthusiasm in the I.N.A., which at present is showing a tendency to switch to other forms of political propaganda such as cloth shortage, famine, release of political prisoners and detenus and even defence of the Maharaja of Rewa.

3. It is understood that the Intelligence Branch (C.I.D.) Bengal. . . . . ."—

of course, Intelligence Branches are supposed to have a monopoly of all intelligence—

"It is understood that the Intelligence Branch (C.I.D.) Bengal may petition the Government of Bengal to pass orders for the detention under Regulation III of Lt.-Col. Chatterjee on his release. . . . . ."

As the House is aware, Regulation III of 1918 has come in handy in the past and will also come in handy in the future inspite of the statements and utterances of Members opposite. They will say one thing here, and, of course, their Police and C.I.D., who thrive under their patronage, will do quite a different thing elsewhere.

"As it is not known what the reaction of the Government of Bengal will be to such a request the holding of this officer for two, or three months in military custody would tide over a difficult period, at the end of which it is hoped, the popularity of the I. N. A. will have been further reduced."

The fourth paragraph reads:

"It is suggested therefore that Lt.-Col. Chatterjee should be kept in military custody outside India or failing that in custody in India outside this Command for as long as possible and at any rate till at least one month after the provincial elecions in Bengal. In Bengal these are being held at the end of March."

What becomes of the statement which has been made time and again on the floor of this House by Members opposite that in the case of those officers against whom no charge of atrocity or brutality is made or can be made, steps are being taken for their early release? This letter shows, Sir, quite clearly that the ground put forward is not that of fighting the British in another place, but because he is considered to be popular in this country and therefore Regulation III of 1818 must be applied to him.

Now, Sir, the last letter which I desire to place before the House is dated the 12th February, 1946. It is addressed by a gentleman who signs for Chief of the General Staff, from General Headquarters, India, New Delhi, to Headquarters, Allied Land Forces, SEA:

"Subject :—Screening of Indian Immigrants.

2. The Government of India's views on the principles governing the repatriation of Indian civilians were communicated to H.Q. SACSEA, last October. You have presumably received instructions accordingly from the latter.

3. Briefly, these views are that individuals reasonably suspected or confirmed to have collaborated with the enemy during the occupation would be better outside India for the present and should be given no offical assistance to return; but their eventual return under their own arrangements will not be resisted except in the case of a few individuals."

Sir, we had responsible statements made on the floor of the House not very long ago that persons, against whom the only charge was of having collaborated with the enemy, would find no difficulty in obtaining their release within a short time. But this solemn document says that individuals reasonably suspected or confirmed to have collaborated with the enemy during the occupation would be better outside India.

"The latters' names are contained. . . . . ."

that is, the names of the few individuals whose return must be resisted by the Government of India.

Mr. P. Mason (Government of India: Nominated Official): Whom is this letter from?

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: From Chief of the General Staff, General Headquarters, India, General Staff Branch, New Delhi, dated the 12th February 1946.

"The latters' names are contained in a 'short list' which is about to be sent to SACSEA by the Government of India. . . . . ."

I suppose that means Members opposite:

"in the Home Department with the request that their return should be impeded until further notice on grounds of internal security in India."

Not that their repatriation and release was to be accelerated but their repatriation was to be impeded under the instructions of the Home Department of the Government of India. (*Honourable Members on Congress Benches*: "Shame, shame"!).

"Non-suspects may return at any time, and there is no objection to their being repatriated under Government auspices.

4. Prior warning of the arrival of suspects, with all available information about their cases should be sent to the Provincial Governments concerned in India and to the Central Government.

5. It is presumed that the problem of Indian civilians wishing to return to India is being handled in accordance with these principles. . . . .—

and not in accordance with the principles laid down so honourably either by the Honourable the Home Member or by the War Secretary—

". . . . . and if so this answers para. 6(a) of No. 4 F. I. U.'s letter. Presumably, India will be informed of all persons on the 'short list' to when facilities to retain to India are refused . . . . . ."

(At this stage Mr. P. Mason made attempts to interrupt).

I am not giving way as my time will be up.

"Presumably, India will be informed of all persons on the 'short list' to whom facilities to return to India are refused. Please note that all information and references on the subject of Indian civilian repatriation should be addressed to the Government of India in the Home Department. . . .—

and Sir, the words that follow are important:

"(and also, if considered, desirable, to the Director, Intelligence Bureau, Home Department, Government of India), and *not* to G.H.Q."

That, I believe, is the officer who is responsible for the treatment of Government of India prisoners in the dark dungeons and torture cells in the Delhi Fort and in the Lahore Fort.

My time is almost up and I shall not allow myself to detain the House unnecessarily. I have placed before the House three documents which convict the Government, which is represented in this House by Members of the Executive Council, of irresponsibility—I shall not, Sir, use the word dishonesty. I believe I have satisfied the House that the record of Members opposite is dark. It cannot be darker. In those circumstances I submit, on behalf of the Opposition, that I am right in saying that we do not owe Members of the Executive Council one farthing out of our revenues. We do not owe them our confidence. I am not sure that we owe them even the common courtesies of life.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha (Darbhanga *cum* Saran: Non-Muhammadan): I move that the question be now put.

Mr. P. Mason: May I ask Sir, when am I supposed to have said anything on the subject of repatriation of civilians from Malaya with which he has charged me?

Mr. President: I think when he said the War Secretary he meant the Commonwealth Relations Secretary.

Diwan Chaman Lall (West Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): The army Secretary mentioned about the release of members of the I.N.A.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the question be now put"

subject of course to any remarks that the Leader of the House may wish to make.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: The Leader of the House must remember that the time will be up.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths (Assam: European): If he so wishes is he not entitled to talk the motion out?

Mr. President: I think he is entitled to do so but I will point out a technical difficulty. The motion is by the Honourable the Finance Member and the only person who has the right of reply will be the Finance Member.

Some Honourable Members (on Treasury Benches): It is a cut motion.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: Any Member in possession of the House is entitled to take his full fifteen minutes.

Mr. President: The only point is when there is a closure then the right of reply from the Member, if he has any, should be allowed. That is how I understand the rule. But as time is short, I will not argue or discuss the matter further. I will keep it open. But I believe that as the original motion, that is the demand, is by the Honourable the Finance Member, and a cut motion is treated as an amendment to that, the only Member who has a right of reply will technically be, to my mind, the Honourable the Finance Member.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member): Then I will have to answer for every Department of Government.

Mr. President: Therefore the House will take into consideration another factor. Three Members of Government were given time, and the name of the fourth Member never came to me. Had it come to me earlier, I would have given him time. But under the circumstances, it would be unfair to the Party which wants that the question be put that further time should be given.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Leader of the House): Sir, I understood that your ruling at the beginning of the debate was that the Honourable the Mover of the motion should have 20 minutes, other Members 15 minutes and that the final and principal speaker of the Government should have 20 minutes or more. But it may help matters if I say that I have no desire to thwart my friends opposite of a vote and that I do not propose to take more than a few minutes of the time.

4. P. M.

In the earlier part of this debate I mentally congratulated Government, and indeed the House, on the temperate nature of the debate and I almost felt that the House was beginning at last to appreciate the Treasury Benches, if only for the fact that instead of being a total cut it was only a cut this year of Rs. 100.

Sir, we have been accused throughout the debate, not with any conviction I think, of various things—of incompetence, of inefficiency, of imbecility and of having a corrupt administration. Sir, we are well used to debating terms of that nature from the Benches opposite but I should like to take this opportunity of referring to the speech of the Leader of the Opposition, who finished up his remarks by drawing attention to the record of the Government. Sir, I maintain that over the most critical years that India has ever faced the record of the Government is something to be proud of . . . . . b

Prof. N. G. Ranga: A very shameful thing.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: . . . . and I am glad to have this opportunity, the last opportunity I shall have on a debate of this sort in this House, to pay tribute to my colleagues and particularly to my Indian colleagues on the front Bench. My friend opposite, the Leader of the Opposition, has accused this Government of creating a scarcity of cloth and of food. If he keeps his eyes open the Honourable Member would have known that the scarcity of cloth, of food and all such things is a worldwide scarcity, for which this Government can be no more blamed than the Government of any other country. He accuses this Government of accumulating sterling balances, but he ought to give credit to this Government for accumulating the balances, when most other governments have accumulated deficits. I should like to ask my friends Opposite what is the record of this Government and how does it compare with the record of others? Who won the war? Was it the Congress or the Treasury Benches?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: You lost the war.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Who has carried the burden?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: We carried the burden.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Who has carried the burden all throughout these most difficult years. (Interruptions). The Honourable Members opposite, Sir, are petulant . . . . I had better not say more. I maintain, Sir, that this Government during the last four or five years have carried the burden of the most difficult times that India has ever faced. This Government, my Honourable Indian colleagues especially, have kept their courage throughout the darkest days and in 1942, and thereabouts they were extremely dark, with the Japanese threatening the country on one side and the Germans from the other. They stood firm and did the country well at a time when other people were stabbing the soldiers in the back and were prepared that the Hindustan of the future should be a Japanistan.

Then, Sir, it is this Government and its predecessors, and particularly my Indian colleagues who have made self-government possible, the self-government of India and but for what they have done and stood up to in the last few years, the future that we are all looking forward to would not have been possible.

It has been said, at times very frequently, that this Government lacks support. Throughout the war the men have come forward in all the hundreds of thousands that have been necessary to win this war. The simple soldiers have come from their villages trusting in the Government and its cause. The simple industrialist or the merchant has put up the funds necessary to win the war and has rushed forward to take the contracts which have been offered. This Government has throughout the war carried the confidence of the country sufficiently to enable it to take a prominent part in defeating the two most powerful enemies that have ever faced this world.

In the dark days I have been a tremendous admirer of my colleagues' stout heartedness. They have had to face criticism and insults of every kind from their own people and I know from personal experience how difficult it is to stand up against one's own people, when one believes a thing to be for the good of the country. But I am glad to take this opportunity to say that I consider that my colleagues on the front Benches—not only those who are here now but also some of those who have fallen by the wayside during the course of the war—have shown a very great degree of moral courage in the face not only of the enemy but also of criticism from parties in this country. At the present moment the Government is in a particularly difficult position trying to maintain an active administration, at a time when we are also doing our best to prepare the ground for handing over to another administration and I have never admired my colleagues more than in the difficult times which they are facing

now. The Leader of the House, whose position I am occupying temporarily, is abroad, where he is building up an international reputation not only for himself but also for the country from which he has gone. He has placed India on the map, high in the comity of nations, and has given whosoever succeeds him an opportunity to follow in his shoes. All my colleagues here are laying the foundations of a government by others who will step into their shoes—a government which (if we are to believe my friends opposite) will be free from *zoolum*, free from incompetence, free from inefficiency and where, I gather, there will be no police!

An Honourable Member: What about corruption?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, free from corruption too. No Government that has been in power as long as this Government has, exactly expects appreciation but . . . . . .

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: We expect some courtesy.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: As my Honourable colleague suggests, we do expect some courtesy. We can take courage. The Right Honourable Winston Churchill saw the country, the Commonwealth and India through the war and saved it for civilisation and democracy. This front Bench has done its smaller share in seeing this country through the war and making it possible for self-government or independence to come to this country. But as, my Honourable friend Mr. Siddiqi said, if I understood him right, this is not the time to judge the record of the present Government; we should look at it in the future in a cooler light. I maintain that when the record of this Government is looked at in a cooler light in the light of history, it will be recorded—I am not speaking for myself and my British colleagues but of my Indian friends —that they served their country well in her hour of danger. No man can wish for a verdict better than that. I am confident that that will be the verdict and I would remind my Honourable friends opposite that they have yet to earn anything of that nature.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the demand under the head 'Executive Council' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: There are only four minutes left. I wonder if the Congress Party cares to move their next cut motion. The demand has been moved already. Mr. Jaffer.

Paucity of Muslims in Officers and Ministerial Grades of Departments, Non-appointment of Muslims in Key Posts and Retrenchment of Muslims where they are less than 25 per cent.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer (Bombay Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Executive Council' be reduced by Rs. 100."

We are well aware of the fact that we have the G.R. of 1934, of the Home Department, fixing 25 per cent. quota as the minimum share of the Muslims in the central services. The idea of reservation was that the minimum percentage should be reserved for under-represented minority communities. Over and above this reservation, they were allowed to compete for non-reserved vacancies. But the actual position is that Muslims have not even got their minimum share in the central services in this quota. The other day, the Home Member replying to my question admitted on the floor of the House that the quota of representation of Muslims in the central services was 20·6 per cent. which is about 5 per cent. less than that fixed by the G.R.

[Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer.]

[At this stage Mr. President vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan)].

In spite of the fact that we are below the required quota of 25 per cent. in the matter of retrenchment Muslims are being retrenched where retrenchment is not called for. I maintain and I insist that the quota of Muslims wherever they are short of the required percentage of 25 per cent, should be maintained and Muslims who have been employed during the course of this war whether in temporary or permanent appointments should not be retrenched, unless and until their quota of 25 per cent is reached. The causes of this trouble are very obvious. All the key posts in various Departments are held by non-Muslims, with the result that Muslims do not get fair play and justice. I should like to ask the Honourable the Home Member and the Honourable Indian Members to whom the Leader of the House has just paid a tribute, to tell us how many Muslims today are occupying posts of Secretaries to the Government of India. I would also like to know how many of them are additional Secretaries. I am sure the Honourable the Home Member will enlighten us on that subject in his reply. Can it also be denied that Muslims of equal standing and capacity to those who are holding these posts are not available? I should also like to know what is the proportion of Muslim Joint Secretaries to others. As far as I know there is only one Muslim as Joint Secretary in the Government of India at present.

Let me now take the lower rungs of service. What is the proportion of Muslim Assistant Secretaries and Superintendents in the Central Government services? I hope I shall get a reply on this point also. I suggest and I feel very strongly that it is very necessary that a detailed statement showing the representation of various communities in various grades of service in each Department should be supplied to Members of this House at the beginning of every budget session, as is done in some of the Provinces in India. We shall then watch the progress or deterioration of representation of Muslims and the minorities in the Central Services. I should also like that clear instructions should be issued that in filling vacancies reserved for war service candidates and in new posts that are being created as a result of expansion, the deficiencies in Muslim representation should be made up. My contention is that in every grade of Government service Muslims must get their due representation in the filling up of reserved vacancies and in new posts the deficiencies in the past must be made up by giving them higher representation till such time as they have got their due share in all grades of the Central Services. I have some suggestions to make.

I suggest that in each Department of the Government of India an officer not below the rank of Deputy Secretary should be made personally responsible to ensure that each community gets its due share in all grades of posts, as laid down in the G.R. of 1934. I also suggest that one senior Muslim I.C.S. officer should be appointed in the Home Department to collect information from various Departments with a view to ensuring that Government orders regarding communal representation are carried out faithfully both in letter and in spirit. The other day I had a question tabled asking the Honourable the Home Member, in which I suggested that a Muslim officer should be appointed to look into the working of this G.R. in the Government of India. I am very sorry to say that the Home Member in his reply expressed his regret in not accepting my proposal.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: No.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: You said 'no'.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I said it was under my consideration.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: I stand corrected. I am glad to see that the matter was then under consideration. I hope today the Honourable the Home Member in his reply will tell us that he has acceded to our wishes and that he will see his way to appoint a Muslim officer to see whether the G.R. of 1934 was properly worked or not.

I should like to deal now briefly with the various Departments of the Government of India where we have some complaints to make. First, I should like to deal with the Department of Commonwealth Relations, in charge of which is Dr. Khare. I see my Honourable friend Mr. Banerjee smiling. The other day I had a question on this issue and my Honourable friend Mr. Banerjee informed us that the present Honourable Member in charge, Dr. Khare, during his period of office had appointed seven Indians as Agents General overseas. We know very well that today we have not got one Muslim as an Agent General. In supplementary questions I asked how many were appointed by the Honourable Dr. Khare himself during the time he has been member, and the reply was seven; the further reply was that not one was a Muslim. May I ask why no Muslim was appointed to such an appointment? Did the Honourable Member not find any suitable Muslim to go overseas and occupy a diplomatic position of this kind? In filling up important foreign posts which have a direct bearing on the prestige of India in foreign countries, Dr. Khare has filled all the appointments by Hindus, nay by his personal friends. I hope that the broadminded and patriotic Hindus, my friends on the right, will join us in censuring this unpatriotic act of nepotism committed by the Member in charge of the Commonwealth Relations Department. Surely he cannot claim that his province of C.P. alone has the monopoly of intellect and qualities of diplomacy which are essential qualifications for these posts. I want to ask the Members of the Executive Council who belong to the minority communities—I do not say that they do represent the minorities in this House—what they did, at any time, to protect the minority interests and whether they did anything to stop the highhanded and unpatriotic action of their colleague. It was with this very idea that I put a question the other day whether the Muslim Members protested against these appointments and my Honourable friend very conveniently evaded the issue by saying that the appointments were made by the Governor General in Council. Even today I want to know whether the Muslim Members of the Council protested to Dr. Khare when he was going ahead with his full programme of having Hindus for all these appointments.

Now, I take the Commerce Department. We want our proper share in appointments of Trade Commissioners overseas. At the moment I do know that we have some Muslims who have been sent as Trade Commissioners to Muslim countries. Not as a matter of favour, I say, because I do know that those Muslim countries would never have cared to have any non-Muslim in those countries. My contention is that Muslims should be sent to those countries in Europe and America where trade is in full swing. Some petty jobs in Afghanistan and other places are no doubt given to Muslims but I want that they should be sent to America and European countries. Secondly, I want that the proper share of Muslims should be given in trade conferences that are taking place from time to time and that will soon follow and also in the trade delegations which are being sent by the Commerce Department. I know that Sir Azizul Huque as Commerce Member is doing his best but whatever has been done is not enough and a lot remains yet to be done and I hope he will do the needful in that Department.

Now, I come to the Disposals Department. We are aware that this department is going to be a very important Department and will play an important part in the post-war period. It is a matter of great regret that of the four

[Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer]

appointments of Regional Commissioners that have been made by Government, not one Muslim occupies a place. I hope that Government will reconsider the decision and see that at least we have our share in these appointments as well. In the posts of Director General, Deputy Directors General and Directors, I am sorry to say that we do not find any Muslim. There may be one or two, I am not sure but I hope that the Honourable Member in charge will enlighten us on that issue.

Now, I come to the Planning and Development Department. The key posts in this Department have all gone to Non-Muslims and the representation of Muslims is far below the required quota. The result is that Muslim interests are overlooked. In the new planning schemes of Government, Muslims are not getting their due share. In the matter of import of machinery and in the matter of the new industrial concerns that are being set up, the textile mills and the cement factories, I am sorry to say that the claims of Muslims have been overlooked. I know that Muslims are refused permit for starting cement factories. There have been applications from Muslim industrialists . . .

An Honourable Member: The applications of Muslims were turned down.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: They were not even looked at.

I now come to the Labour Department. Muslims in this Department and particularly in the Central P.W.D. are much below the 25 per cent. quota fixed by Government. The just claims of Muslims have been overlooked and instead non-Muslims have been appointed. My Honourable friend who will follow me will deal with this question at length and I maintain that the Central P.W.D. should be separated from the Labour Department and the portfolio should be given to another member. Leaving aside the question of Muslims in this Department who are below the quota laid down, the question greatly affects Muslim trade. In one instance I know of the Lodhi Road Colony, out of 5½ crores worth contract, only six lakhs worth of contracts were given to Muslims. I am open to correction. I hope my Honourable friend will tell us what the true facts are if I am wrong. The trouble is that we have not got Muslims in most of the engineering posts and I maintain that not only in service but also in the contracts of the P.W.D. Muslims must get their due share.

Now, I come to the Supply Department. During the six years of existence of this department, up to the end of December 1945, about a dozen men have been appointed as Directors General, about three dozen men have been appointed as Deputy Directors General or Additional Directors General and hardly any Muslim worth his name is there. Similarly about a couple of hundred men have been appointed to the posts of Directors but we find very few are Muslims and we have not got our share. When we ask for figures as to how many are Muslims in particular departments, we are told that the quota of 25 per cent. is there but we are not told as to how many of them are chaprasis and chaukidars and in this, their figure is also included. We must have our share not only of the lower appointments but also of the top appointments. You must also consider the salaries drawn. If there are 12 jobs of one thousand rupees each, 3 of them must go to Muslims. Not that low paid jobs should go to Muslims and the higher paid posts to non-Muslims. Sir Homi Mody and Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar had issued orders to this effect and after that some improvement was made but I am sorry to say that when the Department was reorganised in the early part of this year, the position has reversed and it is going from bad to worse.

Now, I come to the Education Department. The Education Department is very much expanding and it is a matter of great regret that the claims of the Aligarh Muslim University which is directly under the Government of India are being overlooked and no attention has been paid to this University. Then there is Ajmer-Merwara which is a very important Muslim province on

account of the shrines but attempts are being made not to have any Muslim officers in the officers' grade of the Education Department.

It has been brought to my notice by my Honourable friend Nawab Siddique Ali Khan, that the Muslims working in the Gun Carriage Factory at Jubbulpore and in the Ordnance Factories at Khamari and Katni are very shabbily treated. The quota before the war was much below 25 per cent. Today it is 6·7 per cent. and in the recent retrenchment they are the worst sufferers. Those who brought the great war to a successful termination are today wandering in the streets uncared of. The welfare officer who was very popular amongst all sections of the people was transferred to Calcutta in spite of requests from the people. Similarly is the case in the Central Ordnance Depot at Cawnpore and Delhi. I have figures in my possession which clearly show that the number of Muslims is very meagre. I invite the attention of the Honourable Member to this glaring instance.

I have dealt with the question of retrenchment. I feel very strongly and my Party feels very strongly on this issue, that the retrenchment that is going to take place in the Supply Department particularly, should be in a way that the quota of Muslims 25 per cent. is maintained. Of those who are employed in a temporary measure in the course of this war, most of the non-Muslims have been retained for no rhyme or reason. As our quota is already low, no retrenchment axe should be applied to the Muslims who were appointed as a temporary measure.

Sir, now I would like to deal with the condition of the Muslim staff in the Civil and Personal Inspectorate and General Stores Laboratory, Cawnpore, under the parent organisation of Controller General of Inspection, M.G.O. Branch, General Headquarters, India, where the position is pitiable. I have got figures from which I can show that they form a very negligible ratio and I trust that the Member in charge will look into this.

Then, I have something to say in regard to the question of the Central Excise Administration in the Central Excise Directorate, Allahabad. There the Muslims are being oppressed and their quota is much lower than fixed. Under some excuse or other, Muslims are being asked to get out and those who were even junior to them have been retained. I submit that here is a case which requires careful consideration and I hope the matter will be looked into.

With these words I move this cut motion and I hope I shall be supported, in view of our difficulties and in view of the way in which we have been treated, by my Honourable friends to my right.

Mr. Deputy President: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Executive Council' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Shri Sri Prakasa: Mr. Deputy President, constituted as I am, I must confess that I feel very unhappy whenever discussions of a communal or racial character take place in this House or anywhere outside. Still, I feel that I should add my voice to the voice of my Honourable friend who had just spoken and express my heart-felt sympthy with the point of view that my Honourable friend has taken. I feel that I am perhaps one of the few persons who can speak on a question like this without being misunderstood, and, therefore, I have taken my courage in my both hands to stand up and speak out my mind.

I have never made any calculation about the ratio of services held by my own community. I do not exactly know what my community, is, but I know that the large conglomeration of peoples called Hindus, are divided into about 4,000 castes and each is more or less confined to itself in matters of food and marriage. If I gave the name of my particular community, perhaps most Members will say they never heard about it. So, I think it had better remain unnamed; but I shall be glad of the day when no member of that community gets any service in this Government. I am one

[Shri Sri Prakasa.]

of those who think that no countrymen of ours should want to serve this Government. I always feel sorry when a particular countryman of mine wants to serve this Government; for Sir, we want to be rulers and not servants in our own country. We want to see the colour of the ruler and not the colour of the servants.

I am looking forward to the day when we shall have a democratic government, a government consisting of persons who enjoy the confidence of the electorate in general, and I also think that that democratic government, when it comes into existence, will have to seek the services of men from many countries outside India. We will have to man our services with men from many lands in order that we may improve our country in the various facets of its existence. But as things now stand, I feel that the great Muslim people should have a proportionate share in the administration of the land from top to bottom, and if they have any grievance, it should be redressed. I do not like a man with a grievance. Personally, I have no grievance against anyone: So, whenever I meet a man with a grievance, I feel that I should do my best to redress that grievance and make him as happy as myself. The Muslim people, so far as I can judge from the speeches they make in the House and from the questions they put to the Government, suffer from many disabilities. In any case, they labour under many disadvantages and they have a great grievance regarding their proportion in the services. Why not see that that grievance is removed and that what they want is given to them? I do not think any harm will be done to anyone if what they want is acceded to them.

Sir, since I heard my Honourable friend Mr. Siddiqi say the other day that most of the difficulties of the country will be solved if the services are properly divided among the various peoples that live in this country, I have from that they made up my mind that we must do all that we can in order that all the difficulties that we are faced with should be met and all the grievances removed. I am sure Mr. Siddiqi knew the mind of the people he represents in the country. And when he openly said in the House what no other person, I think, had said before, that the chief trouble was the improper distribution of the services among the various communities of the land, I think it is time that we sat down round a table and distributed the services in such a manner that there should be peace and plenty in the country. When I have heard that from my Honourable friend and when I have heard it mentioned in so many speeches and in so many questions in the House, I think it is time that we faced that problem boldly and squarely. And if our Muslim friends want a certain portion of the services, the same should be granted to them.

I think their demand is very moderate. Judging from the words in the brackets, I find that they want only 25 per cent. Why not more? Give them more services. If mere services would satisfy our friends, why not give them? Where is the harm in it? I cannot see any harm in giving services. What the Government is objecting to, I believe, is not that our people should be their servants but that our people should be the masters in their own country. In fact, the Government is being carried on with the help of our people. I have always been advocating in this House just the opposite of what my other friends have been advocating. I have always advocated the Europeanisation of all the services from top to bottom because, I think, it is up to the English people who rule this country to bring all their servants from their own country which will enable us to see in our country that even Englishmen can be sweepers, scavengers, boot-polishers, etc. We, in India, have an idea that nobody does these menial services in other countries and that Indians go abroad to do such services there also. Why should they have our service? Why should they get us to do anything for them? Why cannot they get their own people to do their work?

So long as the Government of India is British, so long the British people themselves should be in all the services. When we get Swaraj, we may have our own people in all the services; but as long as the services are in the hands of the British, all their servants should be British. What is the difference, I ask in all seriousness, between the English people and my own countrymen who sit on the other side of the House except that above their collars and beyond their sleeves heads and fingers come out with same pigment on the skin on some and none on others. Otherwise from neck to foot they seem alike to me. They are dressed alike. The answers they give to the questions we put and the speeches they make are also alike. Their attitude is also alike. I see no difference. I really wonder why any person wants to be a servant of this Government. The idea never struck me, I am always surprised when I find any of my countrymen wanting to serve this government; but if any of my countrymen wants to serve them, well, I have no objection, let them serve them. Why should I object to it.

While I fully sympathise with my Muslim friends and brothers in their desire for service, I should also like them to think of the danger that underlies their demand, lest they should be satisfied with service only and not demand the mastership of the country. We must not be merely satisfied with serving, we must also desire to rule. That is what I stand for, and that is what I would like the Muslims also to do. But I do not want to break any hearts. I know that in India people are divided into communities and I know that tradition also imposes on various communities the necessity for seeking service as an avenue for economic betterment. Our society itself is so constituted. There are many communities among the Hindus also who live by service, and if you deprive them of their service, they do not know what else to do. I only want that persons like myself, for instance, who have other avenues of employment—I am a sort of exploiter myself, who lives on unearned income, who is a landlord—that persons who are landlords and trader or have other means, should not want to be Government servants as well. Why should I have everything myself? Why should not other also have it? I know many Muslims in my Province, especially among the urban population who have to seek service. They have no other means of livelihood except service. I am always ashamed to see any person who has other means of livelihood going to compete with them and deprive them of their sources of income which is their only means of livelihood. This is the attitude that we should take, and we should see this problem from that angle. Those persons who have no other means of livelihood except service must not be deprived of their services, whether they are Hindus or Muslims. It does not matter what their community is. There are many communities among Hindus who live entirely by service, they should also get services. These communities who have other means of employment need not be anxious to have services. I know most Muslims have to depend on service. We must not deprive them of this. Otherwise, we are in for trouble. After the clear and unequivocal statement made by Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, regarding the solution of our difficulties, it is up to not only the Government but also us of the Congress and all parties in the Assembly and outside, to see to it that their difficulties are properly tackled; that their grievances are properly redressed and that those who deserve service are not deprived of it. Sir, I support the motion.

Khan Bahadur Habibur Rahman (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to support the cut motion so ably moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer, a worth son of a worthy father. He has ably dealt with all the Departments. I am glad my Honourable friend to my Right has given us encouragement as regards his Party's assistance in helping us to get our share. He was telling us to ask for a formal share. We have been asking them to give us a share, but it is my friend's Party that is not co-operating with us. It is a well known fact that according to the Home Department Resolution of 1934, 25 per cent. was the minimum fixed for Muslims in the

[Khan Bahadur Habibur Rahman.]

appointments under Government. This minimum was interpreted as the maximum. Even this minimum was not obtained and various methods were adopted in keeping the Muslims back. It was maintained that this rule of 25 per cent. will not apply to promotions, which is not correct. This principle of percentage in promotion has been adopted in several provinces. They also say that places were not filled up, they were kept in abeyance and arrangements were made to carry on the work by giving chance to others. These arguments may have some force in the case of old Departments, but in the case of new Departments, which have recently been established, such as the Planning and Development Department, the Disposal Directorate, Information and Arsts Department, there can be no justification for not recruiting 25 per cent. Muslims in all grades. Every attempt is made to avoid this order. In these four Departments, the Muslims are recruited in the lowest grade while the posts carrying higher emoluments have always been given to non-Muslims. Therefore, we press and I would ask the Honourable the Home Member to modify the Resolution that 25 per cent. should be fixed in every grade not only in recruitment but in promotions as well. Every grade is rather a vague expression, and I suggest that the salary bill of Muslims should be 25 per cent. in each Department.

The question of retrenchment is now engaging the attention of the Members of the Legislature and particularly of Muslims. We apprehend that this retrenchment will seriously affect the proportion of Muslims. We therefore propose that retrenchment should be made in a manner that 25 per cent. proportion of Muslims after retrenchment may be maintained but not only in number but in every grade. I suggest that the following methods be adopted for retrenchment. The persons who have been drawn from business commercial concerns may be sent back to their own work. The retired persons who were re-employed should also be retrenched in prference to younger men. It is remarkable that the persons who have been brought from other Departments on higher salaries in the Supply Department are now being reverted on lower salaries to their own departments, but this principle applies to Muslims only and non-Muslims were retained. Such differentiation is not desirable. Mr. Agarwal has been promoted and given charge of a Directorate. I wonder if the Honourable Member ever read the entries in his character roll. Complaints have been made repeatedly that the applications of Muslims are destroyed and competent Muslims are not called for interview by the ministerial staff of the Federal Public Service Commission under the influence of non-Muslims. This is a serious matter and the efficiency of the Federal Public Service Commission is being questioned, and it is a blot on their impartiality. I will give the names of these persons to the Chairman of the Federal Public Service Commission and to the Honourable the Home Member.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Names of whom?

Khan Bahadur Habibur Rahman: I will give in writing. I now come to the Mining Section. No Muslim has ever been appointed or placed in charge of coal mines either as Coal Manager or as Superintendent. Out of fifteen Coal Managers and Superintendents not a single Muslim has been taken in the past or at present. In the School of Mines at Dhanbad, as pointed out by Mr. Nauman last year, the Muslims are not admitted. Out of 45 students admitted last year only one was a Muslim. The Honourable Member said that the admission was in the hands of the Governing Body. The Governing Body reply that the fixation of seats is a question which concerns the Government of India.

Then I take the case of the Central P.W.D. a circular letter has already been issued to some Members of the Assembly showing cases of corruption. My Honourable friend Dr. Ambedkar may say that he has appointed a Muslim Chief Engineer but he has cut off his hands and legs. In the whole Secretariat of the Labour Department there is not a single Muslim officer. The

Central P.W.D. is expanding every day; the budget like the army budget is daily increasing. I do not know why this should be tacked on to the Labour Department; it should be separated forthwith. We have been pressing for the last two months that the post of Administrative Officer should be filled up by a Muslim according to our convention and a Muslim should be appointed to the vacant post of Superintending Engineer. But my Honourable friend the Honourable Member has been keeping one post vacant and asking the Chief Engineer to carry on, with a view that this appointment may be made after the adjournment of the Assembly. The number of officers is very small and the few Muslim officers here do not find their life worth living on account of the manner in which their work is cornered.

When we come to the lower officers, not a single Executive Engineers has been appointed. It is remarkable, and I would point out to the Honourable Member that he raised subordinates belonging to the scheduled caste to the post of Executive Engineers and ignored the claims of the Muslims. It has been pointed out that in the administrative side after the transfer of the Administrative Officer there is not a single Muslim in the administrative side as well. I warn the Honourable Member that there exists grave discontent among Muslim officers in the Central P.W.D., among the Muslim Members of the Legislature and among Muslims in general except in the Labour Department where there is no Muslim and this question of discontent does not arise.

The other day Sir Gurunath Bewoor assured the House that the personnel of the Civil Aviation Department is being Indianised. In this connection I may point out that the position of the Muslims is very deplorable. Out of a total strength of 66 officers only two are Muslims and they are Assistant Aerodrome Officers carrying a salary of Rs. 300 per month. Since the opening of the Civil Aviation Department in India no Muslim Administrative Officer has ever been appointed. As for the air services Muslims have no share whatsoever. Sir Frederick Tymms has a record in his character roll that he never gave any scholarship to a Muslim. The Honourable Member should give an assurance that the deficiency in the officers' cadre as well as in the ministerial establishment of Muslims in the Civil Aviation Directorate will be made up in the post-war schemes from the personnel shortly to be demobilised from the army. It is understood that a large number of Muslim Ground Engineers and pilots who have got enough technical knowledge and experience are or will be available for employment as aircraft inspectors and aerodrome officers.

As regards the Commonwealth Relations Department, the Honourable Member always believes in the old proverb that charity should begin at home; Mahrattas are the only Indians who are suitable for appointment in his Department. There is not only the question of Muslims but also of the depressed classes and caste Hindus.

From the very inception of the Supply Department Muslims were treated like untouchables and received step-motherly treatment. Let us come to facts. For a short period they had a Muslim Additional Secretary and after he left the Department this post was abolished, and early in 1945, a Muslim Joint Secretary was appointed and it is understood that at present they have no Muslim senior officers in headquarters and there is no intention of appointing a Muslim in key posts. The Supply Department has recently set up a new organisation, namely, disposals. Here too Muslim representation is very poor and key posts are mostly occupied by Europeans. It is understood that the Director General is shortly retiring and this post is being filled up by an I.C.S. who has no experience of stores or engineering. In the Provinces the post of Regional Deputy Commissioners who are responsible for disposal of stores are all held by non-Muslims, and it is understood that in a vacancy which is likely to occur in the near future it is proposed to appoint a non-Muslim. Early this year a new Director General of Supply was set up and since the appointment of the new officer the proportion of Muslims is going down in all ranks and Muslims are being demoted, reverted and dispensed with on some plea or other.

[Khan Bahadur Habibur Rahman.]

While their non-Muslim compeers are being retained under some pretence or another. There are many instances where Muslim officers with good records of service have been reduced to lower ranks and their pay has been cut down indiscriminately, while in the case of non-Muslims there are officers whose pay has been increased in spite of drastic retrenchment. I have got the names with me but I do not like to mention them here; I shall communicate them to the Honourable Member. In spite of promises made by the previous three Supply Members and in spite of the fact that there were vacancies no Muslims have ever been appointed as Deputy Director General. It will be interesting to mention that a Muslim officer who was recently very fit for such a post has now been condemned by the new Director General. In spite of such a drastic retrenchment in the Supply Department outsiders have been imported, people who had left were recalled and pensioners are still continuing in service. Officers and other ranks were asked for by their permanent Departments but only the Muslims were spared and Hindus were retained.

I have already dealt with the question and the Supply Department is guilty. At this critical juncture when the future and life of loyal and trusted Government servants is at stake the Supply Department has handed over the administration of work in most of their organisations to non-Muslims and officers with little experience of administration. It is very unfortunate that the representatives of the Finance Department have more say in administrative matters than the regular Supply Department Secretariat, and the senior posts in the Supply Finance are occupied by non-Muslims and in many instances the uncalled for interference by Finance Department is used not on financial grounds, but on communal considerations. I specially invite the attention of the Finance Member and request him to instruct his representatives to confine themselves to their legitimate duties and do not give effect to their communal tendencies.

My woeful story is a long one and time does not permit me to give all the details. But before I finish my speech I would like to make some reference about the Agriculture Department. In this Department there is not a single Muslim in the Main Secretariat in the officer's grade. Out of 12 Advisers, 3 first class officers, 2 Directors, 6 heads of Divisions, not a single one is Muslim. In the second-class Officers' grade out of 17, there are only 4 Muslims. In the Scientific and Technical side with a salary of Rs. 100 and upwards, out of 39 there are only 2 Muslims. In the lower Scientific Staff, out of 37 there are 9 Muslims. In the upper ministerial staff out of 10 there is only one officiating Muslim and the number is made up by lower ministerial staff where out of 35, 10 are Muslims.

5. P. M.

In the Veterinary Section, the officers are all non-Muslims. Even in subordinate posts like Personal Assistants the Mussalmans have been replaced by non-Muslims, one of whom is not even a Matriculate. The Administration is also thoroughly bad and its officers have either left or are about to leave. I request the Government to look into the administration of the Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar.

Nationalisation means equal advantages to all and these advantages should also be of equivalent value and if our just claims are not attended to, then my Honourable friend may tell me what is the other solution except that we demand Pakistan.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 14th March, 1946.

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MADRAS GOVERNMENT

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 14th March, 1946

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

MEMBER SWORN:

Dr. Dhirendra Mohan Sen, M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY TIME TABLE.

955. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that the East Indian Railway Time-Table in force from January 1, 1946, includes a 15 Up and 16 Down Benares Express between Benares and Howrah, but that the same have not yet been started; and

(b) when the Railway Administration expects to start these trains, and why they have been put in the Time-Table beforehand?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes, but there is a note in the Time Table against the timings of these trains which reads: "Will be introduced from a date to be notified later".

(b) The re-introduction of these trains depends on the release of coaching stock by the military authorities, and as this is still an uncertain factor, no definite date can be indicated. These trains were included in the Time Table as at the time when it was being framed it was expected that the coaching stock position would improve sufficiently to permit of the running of these trains within a month or so of the issue of the Time Table, and their inclusion in the Time Table would be convenient for the public as it would save them the trouble of making enquiries at stations. The expectations have however not materialised.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Was it right in the opinion of the Honourable Member to give such false hopes and would it be possible for the railway administration to start these trains as early as possible?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The first question is asking for an opinion. As regards the second part of the question, we shall endeavour to start all these trains as soon as the rolling stock position improves, and as I mentioned earlier, we shall begin to get back rolling stock and coaching stock from next month.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I ask whether the Honourable Member is expecting fresh stock from Europe, or is he having it constructed in India?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Two hundred broad-gauge underframes are being imported from Australia and 94 meter gauge under-frames. Apart from that, no other coaching stock will be imported. But we are going to put bodies on those underframes as soon as possible and also we are calling into service any under-frames that we have been able to erect together on the Indian railways for the purpose of building on them third-class bodies.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: What about engines?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The engine position is fairly satisfactory.

PUBLICATION OF BIGGER TIME TABLES OF E I. RAILWAY.

956. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) if the East Indian Railway used to issue a large Time-Table priced at six annas containing much useful and necessary information, besides a smaller one priced at two annas; and

(b) if they intend to re-start the publication of these bigger Time-Tables; if so, when?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes, but the two anna edition was only introduced during the war.

(b) Yes, in April 1946 in addition to the two anna edition.

PUBLICATION OF TIME TABLES BEFORE CHANGING THE TIMINGS

957. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is fact that new timings on the East Indian Railway came in force on January 1, 1946;

(b) if the Time-Table was not on sale till about three weeks thereafter;

(c) if avoidable inconvenience was not caused to the public; and

(d) if Government propose to impress on the Administration the extreme desirability of publishing their Time-Tables before changing the times of their trains?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) No. Copies of the Time Table were sent to the various sale depots as they came out of the press. The first supply was made on the 29th December, and by the 19th January some 13,400 copies had been placed on sale.

(c) Such inconvenience as may have been caused was unavoidable.

(d) The Railway Administration are fully alive to the necessity of issuing their Time Tables in good time, but it was clearly not in the public interest to defer introducing new services pending the production and distribution of time tables.

Shri Sri Prakasa: I am sorry I could not catch the date the Honourable Member gave when the first publication was made of these time-tables.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The 29th December.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Would the Honourable Member give an idea as to the stations on the East Indian Railway on which these time-tables were available, because at the Benares Cantonment Station there was none available till the end of January?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I think that is quite likely. The first issue was a small one. But I have not the information at which stations they were available.

EXAMINATION OF RAILWAY TICKETS AT THE BIDDING OF C. I. D. MEN.

958. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that Ticket Collectors and Travelling Ticket Examiner's examine particular passenger's tickets and take down notes of the numbers of these at the bidding of the C.I.D. men;

(b) if such examination takes place of higher class passengers even at times when their tickets are usually not examined;

(c) if the Railway officials are bound to obey the behests of the C.I.D. men, if so, under what law; and

(d) if the C.I.D. men have to purchase platform tickets; if not, why an exception is made in their case?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) This is not a general practice, but there have been a few occasions when the staff agreed to the requests of C. I. D. men to examine particulars of tickets held by certain passengers.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No.

(d) There is no uniform practice. On some Railways tickets are required to be purchased; on others free platform passes are issued on request from the District Police Authorities.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Why does the Honourable Member think that part (b) does not arise?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Out of the answer to part (a).

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I know, Sir, if the railway administration is compelled under any section of the law to allow its servants to examine tickets at the bidding of the C. I. D. men?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Not under any particular law: but there is close liaison between Government Departments.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Does the Honourable Member think it right that there should be this sort of liaison when the passengers whom he is taking on his railways are made to suffer like this?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I think that in the particular case that the Honourable has in mind the Staff were a little tactless.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is 'tactless' the only word the Honourable Member can use.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir, the only word!

MUSLIMS IN THE KARACHI PORT TRUST

959. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Will the Honourable Member for War Transport please state:

(a) the number of Muslims in the service of the Karachi Port Trust under each grade on the 1st January, 1946, (i) permanent hands, (ii) on probation, and (iii) in vacancies created due to war;

(b) the number of Hindus in the service of the Karachi Port Trust under each grade on the 1st January, 1946, (i) permanent hands, (ii) on probation, and (iii) in vacancies created due to war; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to improve the Muslim representation in the service of the Karachi Port Trust?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). Such information as could conveniently be collected within the time available has been obtained and a statement is laid on the table.

(c) The power to fill appointments under the Port Trust vests by law in the Port Trust Board and its Chairman except in the case of a small number of high posts. The policy followed by the Government of India in regard to direct recruitment has been more than once brought to the notice of Port Trusts with a suggestion that they should adopt a similar policy, as far as possible, in regard to their services. Government are prescribing a periodical return to watch progress in this respect but, except in the case of a few high posts, have no authority to issue binding instructions.

Statement showing the number of Muslims and Hindus in the service of the Karachi Port Trust on the 1st January 1946.

—	Muslims.	Hindus.
(i) appointments carrying a maximum of Rs. 500 and above p. m. .	4	8
(ii) appointments carrying a maximum of less than Rs. 500 but not less than Rs. 100 p. m.	158	485
(iii) appointments carrying a maximum of less than Rs. 100 p. m. .	1304	1325

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Is it not a fact that the Karachi Port Trust Board consists of one Muslim Member only in whose hands the appointments are?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That may be so. But it does not follow that any injustice is done.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Therefore I believe that injustice is being done as there are no Muslim appointments by the Board and consequently appointments should go to the Federal Public Service Commission.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Karachi Port Trust passed the following resolution in 1942:

"At the express desire of the two Muslims Port Trustees the Board agrees that Government should be informed that, as the present Chairman is fully carrying out the policy enunciated by the Government of India in the Home Department Resolution No. 14/17-B/33, dated 4th July 1934, it is not necessary to frame rules of recruitment on a communal basis."

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: This resolution was passed when there were two Muslim members. Now there is only one.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: If the Honourable Member would look at the paper which I have placed on the table, I think he will see there is no injustice.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How long will the Government take to fully Indianise the Port Trust authorities?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That does not arise.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Now that the war is over, why is the Honourable Member still called the War Transport Member?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That question also does not arise.

REPORTS FROM U. N. O. DELGATION

960. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Foreign Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if Government have been receiving periodical reports from their delegation to the U.N.O. (London session); if so, on what questions that came up for discussion at the General Body and the Security Council of the U.N.O. they have received reports;

(b) whether Government will place on the table of the House a gist of that portion of their reports which are not particularly confidential; and

(c) when the report of the delegation about their work will be published?

Mr. H. Weightman: (a) Government have received reports from the Delegation on various subjects which came up before the General Assembly or in

Committees, such as the creation of a Capital Fund, recruitment for the Secretarait and other U. N. O. posts, the election of Judges for the International Court and so on. No reports on matters laid before the Security Council have been received from the Delegation as the proceedings have been fully reported in the Press.

(b) No Sir. There seem little purpose in doing so since Press reports have so fully covered all proceedings.

(c) The report will be completed as soon as possible and copies will be laid on the table of the House.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has our Indian Delegation brought to the notice of the U. N. O. or the Security Council the opinion of this House as expressed in the adjournment motion on South Africa?

Mr. H. Weightman: That question, I submit, Sir, does not arise out of this one which relates to the receiving of periodical reports from the Indian Delegation to the U.N.O.

Mr. President: I think it is a consequential question.

Mr. H. Weightman: If I may, I should like to reply to that question in connection with the next one.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has the head of our delegation, Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, pressed for a seat for India on the Security Council?

Mr. H. Weightman: No, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why not, Sir?

Mr. H. Weightman: It was not thought opportune to do so at the time.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it wrong for India—I am not asking for an opinion—is it not the duty of the Indian delegation to press for a seat for India on the Security Council in order to enable her to pull her full weight on the Security Council as well as on the U.N.O.?

Mr. H. Weightman: It is arguable that India's claim to seat on the Security Council will come better at the next election, by which time we hope India will have her own Government.

Seth Govind Das: Were any instructions in this respect given to Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar by the Government of India?

Mr. H. Weightman: General instructions were given to him.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are we to understand that as a result of the informal negotiations as between the different delegations India's claim for a seat on the Security Council was not pressed in the light of an informal assurance given by other delegations that at the next election a seat would be assured to India?

Mr. H. Weightman: No, Sir.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know if it was at the instance of the British Delegation that India's claim for a seat was not pressed?

Mr. H. Weightman: No, Sir.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether it is not a fact that in order to secure a place either for Canada or Australia India's claim was not pressed?

Mr. H. Weightman: No, Sir. That is not the case.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Was it not in order to avoid the semblance of the British Empire monopolising the vote of too many units in the Security Council that India's claims were not pressed for a seat?

Mr. H. Weightman: No, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Was there any formal or informal correspondence as between the heads of the various delegations in regard to securing for India a place on the Security Council?

Mr. H. Weightman: The prospects were explored in the lobbies.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Why is the Honourable Member objecting then to the placing of the report on the table of the House?

Mr. H. Weightman: As I have said, the proceedings of the U.N.O. have been fully reported in the press.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Part (b) of the question says: "Whether the Government will place on the table of the House the gist of that portion of their reports which are not particularly confidential not the entire reports given by your representatives to you. Why will you not place that on the table of the House?

Mr. H. Weightman: You will find in my reply to part (c) of the question that I have promised that the final report will be completed as soon as possible and copies will be laid on the table of the House.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I know why should not the interim reports made on instructions given by the Government to their representatives be placed on the table of the House?

Mr. H. Weightman: There has been no formal interim report on that particular matter.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Am I to take it that no report so far has been made to the Government by their representatives?

Mr. H. Weightman: No, Sir. We have received reports.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Why then is the Honourable Member objecting to placing the reports on the table of the House.

Mr. H. Weightman: I have already replied to that question.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is it because it would be inconvenient for the Government to place them on the table of the House?

Mr. H. Weightman: Not in the least.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the position in England? Are such reports placed or not on the table in the British Parliament?

Mr. H. Weightman: I have not the faintest notion.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know if Government have anything to conceal in this matter, because India's claims were not pressed properly as against the claims of other members of the British Commonwealth? If not, why will they not make the reports available now that this House has expressed its desire?

Mr. H. Weightman: Government have nothing to conceal. I have already replied to the rest of the question.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Am I to take it that my Honourable friend has no objection to placing on the table of the House the Government's instructions to their delegates and the delegation's report to the Government of India?

Mr. H. Weightman: I am not prepared to place the Government of India's instructions to their delegates on the table of the House but I am prepared, as I have already stated, to place the report of the delegation when received on the table of the House.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member says that he refuses to place the instructions to their delegates on the table of the House. He must give the grounds to support it. What are the grounds? Is there anything secret about it?

Mr. H. Weightman: The instructions of the Government of India to their delegation are confidential.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the Honourable Member is our prototype of the British Foreign Minister will he try to ascertain the practice that is followed in this case, especially in England, by the British Foreign Minister?

Mr. H. Weightman: Yes, I am prepared to do that.

ATTITUDE OF U. N. O. TOWARDS INDONESIAN AND LEBONESE FREEDOM STRUGGLE

961. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Foreign Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if Government have received any reports from their delegation to the U.N.O.;

(b) the attitude taken and the nature of the speeches made and notes given when the Indonesian, Greek and Lebonon questions came up for discussion in the Security Council and the General Body; and

(c) whether the Indian delegation made it clear to the other delegations either when the General Body or the Security Council was in session or privately, India's strong sympathies for Indonesians and Lebonese, in their struggle for freedom; if not, why not?

Mr. H. Weightman: (a) Yes.

(b) Does not arise as these questions came up for discussion before the Security Council of which India is not a member and not before the General Assembly.

(c) No, since the question of Indonesian and Lebonese independence was not substantially in issue before either Body.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I repeat my earlier question before I take up other supplementaries, whether the Indian Delegation brought to the notice of the U.N.O. General Assembly as well as the Security Council the feelings expressed by this House in passing the adjournment motion over the South African Legislation against Indians?

Mr. H. Weightman: I have answered that. It does not arise. The question of Indonesian and Lebonese independence was not substantially in issue before either the General Assembly or the Security Council.

Mr. M. R. Masani: Will the Honourable Member state whether the Indian delegation took any opportunity to express the strong sympathy of the Indian people for the Iranian people against Russian aggression?

Mr. H. Weightman: No, Sir.

Mr. M. R. Masani: Why not?

Mr. H. Weightman: I am not sure that that question has been before the Security Council either.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it not a fact that Ukraine which was not a member of the Security Council did raise this question and if that is so, why was only the representation of India's views by the so-called representatives of India not carried out?

Mr. H. Weightman: I take it that the Honourable Member is referring to the fact that the Ukrainian delegate raised the question of the presence of British troops in Indonesia. Is that correct?

Mr. President: I believe that is so.

Mr. H. Weightman: I understand that is provided under the Charter of the United Nations Organisation that any member—whether a member of the Security Council or not—can address a communication to the Chairman of the Security Council pointing out the existence, in his opinion, of a state of affairs which is dangerous to the peace of the world.

Mr. Manu Subedar: That is exactly the reason why I ask this. Since that particular method was open to us, why was India's representative—I must say 'so-called' in this case—not instructed, in view of the strong feelings in this House, to represent the views of India on the Indonesian and other questions, particularly on the Indonesian question which the Ukrainians had already raised?

Mr. H. Weightman: Sir, I wonder whether it would be of any value if I read parts of the letter of the Ukrainian delegate so that the House

will understand that there was no question before the U.N.O., in any of its bodies, of Indonesian independence. The letter reads:

"As is known, in that country, (i.e., *in Indonesia*), during several months military actions directed against local populations have been waged, in which regular British forces as well as Japanese enemy armed forces are taking part. In the opinion of the Ukranian Government the situation creates a state of threat to the maintenance of international peace and security, which is covered by Article 34 of the Charter."

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that this House passed an adjournment motion that I had already alluded to in regard to South Africa and in view also of the fact that the Government of India considered the matter and came recently to the conclusion as regards the advisability of imposing economic sections against South Africa why is it that the Indian delegation did not address any communication to the U.N.O. Security Council drawing their attention to the fact that this situation that is brewing in South Africa is likely to endanger the world's peace and amity?

Mr. H. Weightman: I shall require notice of this question about South Africa which, I submit, does not arise out of the question which has been tabled.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I take objection to this. On an earlier question (960) you were good enough to rule that it arose as a consequential supplementary. When I put that supplementary my Honourable friend said that he would prefer to answer it when we reached No. 961. Now when I have put that question he tries to evade it by saying that it does not arise out of this question.

Mr. H. Weightman: I am sorry; when the Honourable Member put his question before I did not hear him say 'South Africa'.

Mr. President: That explains it. Next question.

GRIEVANCES OF COMMERCIAL STAFF ON N. W. RAILWAY

962. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether Government have received any representation from the North Western Railway Line Commercial Staff?

(b) Is it a fact that they have to work for 60 hours a week, and further that they have been made to work for extra hours without any payment for overtime work?

(c) Is it also a fact that the pay of the Line Commercial Clerks (N.W.R.) starts from Rs. 30 and rises to Rs. 60 in about twelve years?

(d) Is it also a fact that the existing privileges regarding free passes and P.T.Os. are not fully and freely allowed to be availed of?

(e) What action, if any, do Government propose to take to redress their grievances?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Commercial Line staff have to work up to a limit of 60 hours a week or 84 hours a week according as they are classified as "Continuous" or "Essentially Intermittent" for the purposes of the Hours of Employment Regulations. When called upon to work beyond these limits, they are paid overtime as admissible under section 71-o(3) (b) of the Regulations.

(c) The lowest scales of pay for the Commercial Clerks were as given below:

(i) Rs. 33—3—60 (old)
(ii) Rs. 30—5—50—5/2—60 (revised)
(iii) Rs. 30—2½—50—2—60 (revised and applicable to staff appointed from 1st October 1941 onwards).

It would take eight and twelve years respectively to reach the maximum of scales (ii) and (iii), but I may remind the Honourable Member that the minimum of these scales was increased by ten in April 1944 as a temporary measure.

(d) The reply is in the negative.

(e) No action is considered necessary.

RE-APPOINTMENT OF RETIRED SERVANTS ON RAILWAYS

963. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state how many retired Government servants have been re-appointed in the North Western, East Indian, and Great Indian Peninsula Railways?

(b) When do Government propose to dispense with their services?

(c) Is it a fact that some retired hands who are above 60 years of age have been re-appointed in the Survey and Construction Branch of the North Western Railway? If so, why?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The number of retired railway servants who have been re-employed on the North Western, East Indian and G.I.P. Railways is 408, 551 and 220 respectively. The G.I.P. Railway figure does not include labourers and inferior staff.

(b) Government anticipate that, except in very exceptional cases, none of the retired railway servants who have been re-employed will be retained in service after the close of the year.

(c) Yes, owing to the urgency of the work and the fact that experienced hands with the requisite technical experience were not available, three persons have been re-appointed.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Am I to understand that the close of the year means the 31st March?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir; it means the calendar year.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Does that mean the 31st December 1946?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: What is the nationality of these three men?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have no information.

DEATH OF ONE R. ZAVIER IN POONA MAIL

†964. *Shri D. P. Karmarkar: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the 2nd December, 1945, at 7-30 P.M. a person named R. Zavier was found lying dead on the floor of a third class compartment when the up Poona mail from Bangalore side arrived at the Belgaum Station on the Madras and South Mahratta Railway;

(b) whether it is a fact that the compartment in which he was found had no light but that a bulb was fixed only after the passengers clamoured for it;

(c) whether it is a fact that his death was due to any accident caused by there being no light in the compartment;

(d) if not, what was found to be the cause of his death; and

(e) whether immediate arrangements are proposed to be made to light all carriages of the trains in the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) I have not yet received information. The Railway Administration is being asked to make further enquiries and the result will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

(c) No.

(d) Heart failure.

(e) The M. and S. M., like all other railways, has experienced great difficulty in providing and maintaining adequate lighting arrangements in trains. Now that the supply of bulbs and other essentials is easier, a gradual improvement is anticipated.

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

SCHEME FOR SETTING UP AN AIR BOARD

965. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that Government are thinking of setting up an Air Board or some such authority to scrutinize applications and issue licences for pilots, private aeroplane-owners, training centres, private commercial concerns interested in civil aviation, *etc.;* if so the details of that scheme;

(b) whether Government's consideration of the matter is over;

(c) whether an opportunity will be given to the Assembly to discuss the scheme;

(d) who is to appoint and who are to form the personnel of the Board; whether the personnel will be Indian or British; and

(e) whether Government propose to wait until the new constitution is formulated and a National Government is formed?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) and (b). The rules for the licensing of air transport services published with the Posts and Air Department Notification No. 11-MA(1)/46, dated 23rd January, 1946, provide for the establishment of an Air Transport Licensing Board. A copy of the rules has been laid on the table of the House and is also available in the Library of the House. Rules 135 and 136 of these rules give details of the constitution and functions of the Board. The Government of India are taking steps to constitute this Board at an early date. The Air Transport Licensing Board is not concerned with the scrutiny of applications for or issue of Pilots' licences or similar other certificates. This work will be done, as hitherto, by the Director General of Civil Aviation in India and his officers duly authorised by him in this behalf, as laid down in the Indian Aircraft Rules.

(c) The Honourable Member is aware that the matter has been discussed in connection with the Budget Grants.

(d) The Government of India will appoint the Board in accordance with the rules already referred to. The Board has not yet been appointed.

(e) No, Sir, because Government do not desire to hold up the development of air services but it will always be open to Government in future to modify the rules if they so desire.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Has any member of this Board been appointed so far?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: No, Sir.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What about the reported appointment of the Chairman of this Board who has been imported from England?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: No Chairman has been appointed or imported, and I would like to assure the Honourable Member that no Chairman will be imported from outside.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: When these people are appointed are their appointments also terminable at short notice of two months or three months?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: No, Sir; the members are appointed for a period of years. That is laid down in the rules. But I can assure the Honourable Member, who apparently seems to think that we are going to import these people from outside, that that is not so.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Even if they are not imported from outside but happen to be Indians, why is it that the Government of India wish to anticipate the new constitution and the new Government to come by appointing these gentlemen for a period of years?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: It would be wrong to appoint any member just for one or two months. The work of the Board is concerned with the granting of licenses which involves considerable examination of the applications involved and the rules provide that the member should be appointed for a fixed period

of years at the end of which the member will either retire or may be reappointed or some other member appointed. But I do not think we could stop the constituting of the Board unless the Honourable Member can give me a definite date by which the National Government is going to come.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is the Licensing Board going to be subordinate to the Government of India in the discharge of its duties and will its decisions be subject to appeal to the Government of India?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The rules as they stand at present put the Licensing Board under the Department of Posts and Air, but no provision has been made for any appeal to the Government of India against the decision of the Licensing Board. It is a statutory Board and it will make its own decisions under the statutory authority. The question whether there should be an appeal to a tribunal or an air tribunal constituted for the purpose of providing for an appeal on specific questions is at present under consideration.

There have been suggestions made that such a tribunal may be an *ad hoc* tribunal constituted for any particular appeal or it may be a standing tribunal. That matter is under consideration but for the time being, I do not think there is any great hurry about it.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Do I take it that in constituting this licencing board and placing it on the footing of a statutory authority, the Government was guided by the example of the statutory Railway authority as provided for in the present Government of India Act?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: No, Sir: I do not think we went on that particular line. We considered the problem of air transport by itself.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: The Honourable Member has referred to the statutory authority of the licencing board. Is the statutory authority going to be given to this Board under a specific legislation which is contemplated by the Government?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: No, Sir. The Assembly passed an amendment of the Indian Aircraft Act which gave power to Government to frame certain rules and rules have been framed under that section and the licencing board has been constituted under those rules. It is open to Government at any time to modify those rules and notify them and follow the procedure laid down in the Indian Aircraft Act.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Do I take it that the Honourable Member's view is that under those rules it is possible to constitute a licencing board which would be wholly independent of the Government of India in regard to the discharge of its functions?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: We have prescribed the rules of the licencing board and laid down their functions and their powers and we expect the licencing board to act according to those rules. No provision has been made for an appeal from the decision of the licencing board to the Government of India. In fact no provision has been made for an appeal at all because it was felt that the board was constituted in such a manner that its decisions may be expected to be impartial and acceptable but suggestions were made to Government in the policy committee that there ought to be an appellate tribunal and Government have promised to examine this question of constituting a tribunal to which appeals could made but as I said before, the question whether it should be a standing tribunal or an *ad hoc* tribunal will be considered.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Do I take it that the Government of India have definitely come to the decision that the function and activities of the licencing board will be discharged independently of the Government of India. I want to know whether at least on that point the Government of India have come to a definite decision. The Honourable Member was talking about an appeal to another tribunal.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: That is the present position. The rules provide for that for the time being.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: This is a definite decision and not liable to revision. That is what I wanted to know. Do I take it that so far as that point is concerned it is not open to revision as far as the present Government of India go?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: That is the present position but I mentioned that the question of constituting an Air Tribunal is under consideration.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is the Honourable Member in a position to give this House an idea about the composition and functions of similar bodies in other parts of the world, particularly with reference to the control exercised by the Governments of those countries?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: In constituting the licencing board, in India, we tried to follow the Civil Aeronautics Board in the United States. In the United States, that Board consists of a certain number of members appointed by the President and they deal with all questions of what you might call permitting or licencing of air transport service both internal and external. The United Kingdom legislation provides for a licencing board but it has never been constituted and it seems no longer necessary in view of the policy of His Majesty's Government to have all air service operated by the State.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I know why the Government of India have decided that the air service in India will be done by companies and not by the State as in the case of the Indian Railways?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I tried to state the policy of the Government the other day in this House but unfortunately I did not have time. The policy of the Government of India has been stated in a Press Communique. I have not got the text of it here but briefly speaking the policy is that generally air transport is to be operated by private enterprise but there is no bar to the State either taking a part in the capital of certain services or in operating any particular service entirely by the State.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: The Honourable Member is aware of the history of the Indian Railways. They started with the same idea and after 70 years' experience they found it was wrong and have taken it over as a State service. Why is the mistake of the Indian Railways being repeated?

Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel: Will the Honourable Member say whether the States' representatives have accepted the jurisdiction of the licencing board on behalf of the Indian States?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The matter is still under negotiation.

NON-SUPPLY OF BRASS SHEETS TO BRASS METAL WORKERS IN C. P.

966. *Mr. P. B. Gole: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Non-Ferreous Metals Officer received any communication from the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Central Provinces and Berar, bringing to the notice of the said officer, that Co-operative Associations of Brass Metal Workers in Nagpur, Bhandara, and Raipur Districts were not getting any quota of brass sheets, although these Societies consist of actual workers of brass vessels and pots;

(b) whether in consequence of the said communication any instructions were issued by the Department of Industries to the Metal Exchange Association, Bombay, to make any allotment to the said Co-operative Societies;

(c) whether any brass sheets were accordingly supplied to the said Societies;

(d) whether manufacturers in the Co-operative Societies at Nagpur, Bhandara and Raipur have not so far received any brass sheets, and whether all the workers in these Societies have to remain idle owing to the non-supply of brass sheets and consequentially have to starve?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes. The Metal Exchange Association, Bombay who handle the imported sheets was requested to arrange for supplies to the Societies in accordance with the general instructions issued to them by Government.

(c) It does not appear that any sheets were supplied.

(d) Government have no information. The general policy of Government is that normal trade channels should not be disturbed, but where there is reason to believe that any dealer is not keeping to his normal trade practice, Government are ready to take special steps to see that reasonable quantities reach manufacturers and workers.

Mr. P. B. Gole: May I know what are these ordinary channels of trade?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I have dealt with that in reply to the Honourable Member's next question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are not the co-operative societies also to be considered ordinary channels of trade?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: Hitherto, not for the purpose of receiving brass sheets.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the recognition of these co-operative societies and thus helping the workers who have to work on this important metal to receive it at the earliest possible opportunity, without having to pay for middle men?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I am considering that very seriously, and will come to a decision after a meeting to be held on the 21st March in which all the interests will be represented.

Mr. P. B. Gole: Is the Honourable Member aware that the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, C.P. and Berar, wired that he is being handicapped on account of the non-supply of these sheets?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: But there is an overall scarcity of this metal.

Mr. P. B. Gole: Is it a fact that no reply was sent to the Registrar of Co-operative Societies in this connection?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: No, Sir.

Mr. P. B. Gole: Was any reply sent?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I cannot give the reply straightaway but the Registrar himself will be here for this meeting on the 21st of March when it is proposed to go thoroughly into the whole question.

Seth Govind Das: Was any reply sent to the Registrar? That was the question?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I think a reply was sent but I cannot give the exact date of it.

Mr. P. B. Gole: The Registrar, Co-operative Societies wired again that he has not even received the condescension of a reply from the Government of India to his wire.

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I believe that is correct. Inquiries were going on. That accounts for the delay in replying.

Seth Govind Das: How does the Honourable Member say that a reply was sent when he now says that no reply was sent to the telegram?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: The reply was probably sent after the telegram.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not the policy of the Government of India to encourage cottage industries?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: Yes.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is he not aware that the manufacturers and the co-operative societies have considerably suffered and the manufacturers have been thrown out of employment?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: That may be so.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will Government take immediate steps to see that brass sheets are supplied to these societies through the Registrar, if necessary?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I hope to do so as soon as supplies are received. The whole question will be considered at the meeting to be held on the 21st of March.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact that a Conference of these manufacturers was held in Delhi and resolutions were passed in January last and were communicated to the Honourable Member's Department?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: Possibly there has been a Conference, but I have not seen the proceedings. They have not been sent to me.

Seth Govind Das: Has there been no distribution of these brass sheets to every province according to the condition of the industry which is prevailing there?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: Yes, Sir. The distribution has been according to the cottage manufacturers in each area.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Has the Honourable Member's Department given a monopoly to a few firms to import brass sheets in India?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: If the Honourable Member is referring to the manufacture of brass, certainly not. If he is considering the question of the importers, we have used the established importers.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Member satisfy himself that the copies of the resolutions of the Conference held in Delhi were sent to his Department and that somebody is sitting on them because I have received a copy of them myself?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I cannot say, but I can assure the Honourable Member that if any copy was addressed to me, I should be expected to have received it by now.

Mr. P. B. Gole: Is it not a fact that these 30 tons of brass sheets were supplied to traders and dealers and not to manufacturers?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I think that question arises out of the Honourable Member's next question and not out of this.

SUPPLY OF BRASS SHEETS TO DEALERS IN PREFERENCE TO CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES OF BRASS METAL WORKERS

967. *Mr. P. B. Gole: Will the Honourable the Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) whether out of the quota of ninety tons of brass sheets allotted to the Central Provinces and Berar, thirty tons of brass sheets were supplied to the Bhandara Brass Metal Works Company, which are not manufacturers of brass vessels;

(b) why any quota is not being given to the Co-operative Societies of actual manufacturers, in spite of the recommendation of the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, and why any brass sheets are being supplied to dealers in brass vessels who reap enormous profits by selling brass utensils;

(c) whether Government will take immediate steps to supply these Co-operative Societies with brass sheets to enable them to earn their bread; and

(d) who were given the remaining sixty tons of brass sheets; on whose instructions any brass sheets were supplied to persons who are only dealers in brass utensils and not manufacturers?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) First Part.—Yes.

Second Part.—The Bhandra Metal Works Company comprises both dealers and manufacturers.

(b) Government are considering the recommendation of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. It is necessary to settle what would be a reasonable quantity to allocate to the Co-operative Societies and through what channels the brass sheets should be distributed to them.

(c) A meeting to discuss the issues has been convened for the 21st March 1946. The Registrar and representatives of the Metal Exchange Association, the Bhandra Metal Works Company and the Co-operative Societies, will be present.

(d) The remaining quantity was allocated to the C.P. and Berar Merchants Association against their quota of 8½ per cent of the receipts of the Metal Exchange Association. The distribution of brass sheets is made by the Metal Exchange Association in accordance with a scheme approved by the Central Government by which available supplies are distributed through normal trade channels in certain fixed proportions. Some dealers in brass utensils get them made by purchasing the sheets and handing them to workmen for fabrication. Such dealers would also receive supplies in accordance with normal practice.

Mr. P. B. Gole: May I bring to the notice of the Honourable Member the Order, dated the 6th October, 1945, in which the functions of dealers and manufacturers have been given?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I cannot recollect the terms of that at the moment.

Mr. P. B. Gole: Does not that order indicate that all these sheets should be supplied to the actual manufacturers and not to the dealers?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: This Company, as I have said, is a mixed company of dealers and manufacturers.

Mr. P. B. Gole: May I know whether it is not a fact that so far as trade channels are concerned, merchants and middlemen are making huge profits in dealing with these brass sheets?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: If they are making huge profits, I should be glad to have detailed information, because the profit allowed by Government is limited to five per cent.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is the Honourable Member aware that the dealers organised themselves into a Society of Dealers and Manufacturers simply to get round the provisions of the Order?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: On that point my information is that this particular Metal Works Company was formed somewhere early in 1945, before the late Industries and Civil Supplies Department had formulated its policy.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: May I ask if the Honourable Member has received complaints from the manufacturers of brass utensils from Moradabad to the effect that they are not getting their proper quota of these brass sheets and that they are being handicapped on account of the policy of the Government?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I have had complaints from Moradabad. As I have already said, there is at the moment an acute shortage of brass sheets.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I ask whether Government will make a special effort to import larger quantities of brass sheets in order to supply the unsatisfied demand which exists all over the country?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: Yes, Sir. We have already made efforts, but we were rather disappointed about the quantity which we were to get from the Middle East, but we propose to renew our efforts.

Seth Govind Das: Is it not a fact that it is a complaint not only of one province but of the whole of India that these dealers are monopolising the whole quantity which is received and the real manufacturers are not receiving any quantity from them?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I cannot say how far the complaints from other parts of India, besides the Central Provinces, are true.

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know if the Honourable Member has received any complaints from the Punjab?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: Yes, I have had a complaint from the Punjab.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government make an effort to get surplus brass either in the form of scrap, ingots or sheets, which is reported to be available from Australia?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: Certainly, Sir.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Government take early steps to see that these orders are not used to the disadvantage of manufacturers, particularly the village manufacturers?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: Certainly, Sir, and that is why I am having this meeting on the 21st March.

Mr. P. B. Gole: May I ask whether this Control Order, dated the 6th October, 1945, was issued by the Government of India for the benefit of manufacturers and not for the benefit of dealers?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: It was meant for the benefit of manufacturers.

Mr. P. B. Gole: Then why is it that these brass sheets are allotted to persons who are dealers and not manufacturers?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: There have been allegations and counter-allegations between the dealers and the manufacturers' societies. If I find that the dealers have not observed the rules laid down, I shall take drastic action to see that the manufacturers get what there is to give them.

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: Has the Government not received a similar complaint from Madras?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: So far as I am aware, I have had no complaint myself from Madras.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: What more evidence is required than the communication from the Registrar of Co-operative Societies that the work of these Co-operative Societies was being handicapped for want of brass sheets?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: The information that I would like to have from the Registrar of the Central Provinces is what quantity is required for each of these Societies.

Seth Govind Das: Is the Honourable Member now satisfied because Sardar Mangal Singh, Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan and another gentleman of our Party from Madras have all said that this is a universal complaint and will he now move in the matter and see that the manufacturers do receive their quota?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I entirely agree and am satisfied that the present position is unsatisfactory. I am anxious to remedy it and I wish to do all I can as soon as I have had this meeting on the 21st March.

DISMANTLED RAILWAY LINES IN U. P.

968. ***Khan Bahadur Hafiz M. Ghazanfarulla:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state the names of Railway Lines which were dismantled during the war from United Provinces?

(b) What are the names of the Lines which are to be relaid, and when?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The following railway lines in the United Provinces were dismantled during the war:

(i) Dalmau-Daryapur;

(ii) Akbarpur-Tanda;

(iii) Bijnor-Chandpur Siau;

(iv) Auhadpur-Balamau;

(v) Cawnpore-Khairada;

(vi) Utraitia-Sultanpur-Zafarabad;

(vii) Unao-Madhoganj;

(viii) Barabanki-Burhwal (third rail only thus converting this mixed gauge to Metre Gauge); and

(ix) Burhwal-Bahramghat.

(b) Of the above, it has already been decided to restore Cawnpore-Khairada and the restoration of the following lines is under investigation:

(i) Bijnor-Chandpur Siau;

(ii) Unao-Madhoganj-Balamau; and

(iii) Utraitia-Sultanpur-Zafarabad.

The decision whether to restore these lines or not will depend on the results of the surveys now being carried out and until this decision is taken, it is not possible to say when the lines will be relaid.

Khan Bahadur Hafiz M. Ghazanfarulla: What about the Chandpur-Bijnor line?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The restoration of that line is under investigation.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please lay on the table a comprehensive statement furnishing information about all the railway lines that were dismantled during the war?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have done so on two occasions.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Government give an assurance to this House that the resources of Government will not be spent on the construction of new lines, or strategic lines, but that they will be used to restore lines which were pulled down during the war?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: They will be used for all purposes.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I am sorry I am unable to understand the reply of the Honourable Member. May I ask whether Government will postpone construction of new lines, and in particular strategic lines, and whether Government will restore old lines which were dismantled?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know why the conveniences which were taken away during the war from the civil population should not be restored in the first instance and why should not this be given the first priority?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Because they are a financial burden on the country in most cases.

DISCRIMINATION IN THE GRANT OF UNIFIED SCALES OF PAY BETWEEN EMPLOYEES OF NASIK SECURITY PRESS AND NASIK ROAD POST OFFICE.

969. ***Sardar M. G. Vinchoorkar:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the employees of the Security Printing Press at Nasik Road are allowed to draw pay in the Unified Scales of pay sanctioned for Government servants at Nasik and Nasik Road; and

(b) whether it is a fact that employees of the Nasik Road Post Office are not allowed to draw pay in the above stated Unified Scales, though the Security

Printing Press and the Nasik Road Post Office are in the same locality, which is midway between Nasik and Deolali; if so, the reasons for such discriminations?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) Yes.

(b) It has recently been decided to extend the Unified Scale to employees of the Nasik Road Post Office.

GRIEVANCES DUE TO INTRODUCTION OF UNIFIED SCALES OF PAY

970. *Sardar N. G. Vinchoorkar: Is the Secretary for Posts and Air aware of the anomalous position of the clerks who joined service in 1935-36 as a result of the introduction of the unified scale since 1944? If so, do Government propose to redress their grievances by applying 'B' grade to them?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative; the second part does not therefore arise.

OVER-TIME WORK IN THE POST OFFICES

971. *Sardar N. G. Vinchoorkar: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the time required according to the Time Test for doing a day's work in the Post Office exceeds the total number of hours of duty of all the staff; if so, what arrangements are made for the disposal of the work;

(b) whether it is a fact that an additional clerk is sanctioned for a Post office when the work hours exceed the total duty hours of the existing staff by more than four hours according to the Time Test; if so, when the work hours are less than four hours, whether it is a fact that the existing staff has to do overtime work; if not, whether any arrangements are made to complete the excess work, if so, whether the extra work is compensated by some allowance?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) The time test which has been prescribed for determining the strength of the staff justified for a post office is not to be applied as a rigid mathematical formula. It provides margins and is to be treated as a general guide. Additional staff is sanctioned when the time required according to the time test exceeds the total number of hours of duty of the staff.

(b) The principles governing the employment of additional staff in post offices are explained in paragraphs 31 and 33 and in Appendix A2 of the Report on the Revision of Time Tests in the post office a copy of which is in the Library of the House. When the increase in work in an office does not justify the employment of an additional hand according to these principles, work can generally be managed by the existing staff without involving overtime.

Seth Govind Das: Is it not a fact that there is a general complaint in this Department that the staff of post offices have to do overtime work and they are not paid for it?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I am answering that in the next question.

EMPLOYMENT OF ADDITIONAL STAFF IN POST OFFICES.

972. *Sardar N. G. Vinchoorkar: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that additional staff was justified by Time-Test at some Post Offices but the same was not immediately employed for want of provision of funds; if so, whether the delay in employment of additional staff resulted in causing the existing staff of such offices to work beyond prescribed hours;

(b) whether the work done beyond prescribed hours owing to either inadequate staff or occasional abnormal rush of work by the Postal Staff is treated as overtime work and compensated for; if not, the reasons for paying no compensation; and

(c) if the answer to the latter part of (a) is in the affirmative, the rates of remuneration for overtime work for Post Offices?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) The Honourable Member has not specified any particular instances. If he would do so, an enquiry will be made.

(b) Overtime is not a regular feature in the case of the postal staff. The work varies from day to day within certain limits. The question whether the staff should be compensated if they are required to work overtime on any particular occasion and if so how, is considered on the merits of each case.

(c) Does not arise.

SCRAPPING OF TEZPUR-BALIPARA RAILWAY

973. *Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that the Tezpur Balipara Railway was condemned about seven years ago by an Inspector deputed by the Railway Board to examine the line from Rangapara North to the Tezpur Town;

(b) if it is a fact: (i) that compartments of this Railway have no doors, (ii) that the Railway lines passing through the town and thickly populated villages are not fenced, and (iii) that as a result of these frequent accidents take place; and

(c) whether Government propose to consider the desirability of scrapping this line and extending the Bengal and Assam Railway line from Rangapara North to the Tezpur Town in the near future?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No.

(b) (i) Detailed information in regard to the types of carriages in use is not available.

(ii) according to available information the line is fenced only at stations.

(iii) Government are not aware of any accidents taking place as the result of the absence of fencing.

(c) Government have the option of acquiring the railway in 1952, and the suggestion will be fully considered before a decision is reached.

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: With reference to parts (a) and (b) will the Government be pleased to enquire?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have given all the available information. I have said that the line is fenced only at stations. What further information does the Honourable Member want? In reply to part (a) I have said that the railway was not condemned.

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: In reply to the first part of (b), the Honourable Member said that detailed information was not available about the types of carriages. I asked whether the compartments have no doors.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: In reply to part (b) (i) I said that detailed information in regard to the types of carriages in use is not available. The types of carriages are very old, some of them more than 45 years old. They have just been renovated. I do not know whether the Honourable Member really wants me to lay on the table a sketch of the carriages.

Mr. President: I believe the Honourable Member's point was about there being no doors.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are there any carriages which have no doors?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Honourable Member says so.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Open door policy.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: This is a private railway company. I am perfectly aware that the rolling stock is old and that is one of the reasons why the Government have not acquired it at the price at which it has been offered.

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Is the Honourable Member aware that gunny bags are hanging in place of wooden doors?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I should not be surprised.

RAILWAY LINE BETWEEN RANGAPARA NOTRH AND NORTH LAKHIMPUR

974. *Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state if, in view of the fact, that there is no satisfactory communication between Tezpur and North Lakhimpur, steps are proposed to be taken for opening a Railway line between Rangapara North and North Lakhimpur?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The construction of a railway line between Rangapara North and North Lakhimpur is not included in the post-war plan as it stands at present.

STOPPAGE OF TRAINS AT KAMAKHYA STATION

975. *Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that up to 1935 a passenger train used to stop at the Kamakhya Station?

(b) Is it a fact that Hindu pilgrims to Kamakhya from all over India have been demanding the re-opening of this Station?

(c) Is it a fact that the shuttle train which has been recently running from Pandu to Gauhati also does not stop at the Kamakhya Station? If so, do Government propose to direct the stopping of at least this train at the Kamakhya station.

(d) Is it a fact that a pucca station building and a pucca platform are already provided at this station?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) Not so far as the Railway Administration are aware. They have however received one representation from Kamakhya and another from Gauhati.

(c) The answer to the first part is yes, and to the Second, no, because the normal traffic does not justify a stop at the station. At Mela times, however, when the volume of traffic warrants it, the Railway Administration propose to open the Station to passenger traffic as in pre-war years.

(d) The station building is pucca, and there is a low level platform.

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know what difficulty there is in stopping one of the shuttle trains at Kamakhya?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The normal traffic there does not justify the stopping of the train. The expenses incurred in stopping are heavy.

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Is it a fact that recently a number of shuttle trains between Pandu and Gauhati has been introduced in order to compete with bus service? If so, can the Government not stop one of these shuttle trains at that station?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Honourable Member should take up the matter with the Local Advisory Council for Railways.

LOSS IN THE STATE RAILWAY COAL DEPARTMENT THROUGH FAULTY SUPERVISION

976. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state if it is a fact that the Railway Board have commented that the Chief Mining Engineer, Railway Board, Mr. J. R. Harrison, has a tendency to give rates to the contractors?

(b) Who is the Raising and Haulage Contractor of Hetla Pit (Serampore Colliery)?

(c) Is it a fact that originally the contract was given as a Works Contract without calling for tenders? Who gave such contract, and was he authorised to do so?

(d) Are Government aware that twice during the last five years State Railways' Coal Department had lost to the extent of about four lakhs of rupees

through fraud in supply of timber or through faulty supervision and watch and ward of stores? What action was taken in the matter?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) No, Sir.

(b) Mr. A. J. Chanchani.

(c) Yes, Sir. The contract was sanctioned by the C.M.E., Railway Board, who is the competent authority, on the recommendation of the Colliery Manager and Colliery Superintendent. The rates for the work were based on approved rates for similar work.

(d) No, Sir, no such loss has been incurred during the last five years.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Why were not tenders called for?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: Because I imagine the work was urgent and the rates quoted were at the sanctioned rates.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is there no higher authority to investigate into the propriety or otherwise of these rates from time to time in the Central Government over the rates that are given by the Local Governments?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: They have to be justified to the Railway Board.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: How many such cases have arisen on account of the urgency of the work, where tenders were not called for but contracts were given straightaway?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I want notice.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What was the urgency in this particular case?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I would have to enquire into it. I imagine, it was during the war when there was acute shortage of labour, contractors, and coal.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Does the Honourable Member enquire into cases where deviation is made in the matter of giving contracts where tenders are not called for?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: These cases are enquired into.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Has this particular case been enquired into?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I want notice.

PAYMENT OF DEARNESS ALLOWANCE TO THE EMPLOYEES OF CONTRACTORS OF STATE RAILWAY COLLIERIES

977. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state the procedure by which payment of dearness allowance to the employees of contractors of the State Railway Collieries of Giridih and Bokaro is ensured by the Railway Board?

(b) Is it a fact that contractors working the quaries of the State Railway Collieries of Bokaro and Giridih are fully or partly misappropriating the dearness allowance which is meant for the workers under the contractors and which the Railway Board is paying out to the contractors?

(c) Is it a fact that this fact of misappropriation by contractors of dearness allowance meant for the workers has been brought to the notice of the Chief Mining Engineer, Railway Board, a number of times including the local management but no tangible action has been taken so far?

(d) If these corrupt practices by the contractors are true do Government propose to arrange payment of the dearness allowance to the contractors' employees departmentally?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) Dearness Allowance to Contractors' labour is paid through the Contractors whose books and accounts are examined periodically by Colliery Managers and Colliery Superintendents to ensure that payment is actually made. The contractors' books are also examined by the Accounts Officers.

This payment is very carefully watched and scrutinised by the colliery management.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Complaints have been received by the Chief Mining Engineer, Railway Board and the Colliery Superintendents but investigations by the Colliery Managements showed that the allegations were unfounded.

(d) The question does not arise.

Sri. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In view of the fact that allegations are made that monies sanctioned as dearness allowances are not paid by contractors straightaway to coolies, what is the objection of the Honourable Member to have these amounts paid to the coolies departmentally instead of handing over the same to the contractors and thereafter merely looking into their accounts whether correct entries are made or not? Why don't you disburse this departmentally?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: Because these complaints were found to be unfounded. It does not really pay the contractor to cheat his own labour, because it will be ruinous to him in the long run. There is no reason why more work should be taken on by the Government officials.

Diwan Chaman Lall: How did the Government come to the conclusion that these complaints were unfounded? What was the nature of the enquiry which the Government made?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: This is a matter of some years ago. I have not got details.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is it not a fact that the workers were not consulted by those who made the enquiry?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I imagine they were consulted by the colliery management.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Does my Honourable friend merely imagine it or does he know?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: No; I do not know.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Will my Honourable friend then make an inquiry into the matter and find out what the nature of the inquiry was?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I am not prepared to go into a matter which is quite old and which was proved to be unfounded.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not a fact that once these coolies, who are supplied by the contractors, expose the contractors, they will be dismissed by them and that they are at the mercy of the contractors?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: They cannot be dismissed.

Mr. President: The question hour is over.

(*b*) WRITTEN ANSWERS

MALPRACTICES IN THE SYSTEM OF GIVING CONTRACTS IN COAL FIELDS

978. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state if it is a fact that for work in the quaries of the Serampore Colliery and Jatkuti Hills heading in Kurharbaree, bills have been paid to contractors for clearing overburden for which no actual or commensurate work has been done? Do Government propose to get the whole region resurveyed and see that such malpractices are stopped?

(b) In view of the malpractices which the system of giving out contracts in coalfields entail and in view of the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Labour on the subject, does the Honourable Member propose to see that the State Railways' Coal Department discontinue the practice of giving contracts in raising, haulage and loading of coal and do the entire work departmentally?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) No, Sir, the contractors have been paid for clearing overburden on actual measurements done by colliery Surveyors, checked by colliery Managers, and countersigned by colliery Superintendents. The question of resurvey does not, therefore, arise.

(b) I do not admit that the present system entails malpractices. The question of departmental working *versus* contract working in railway collieries has several times been examined by Government, and it has always been concluded that the contract system is the better, as it ensures an adequate labour force giving an adequate output.

QUALIFICATIONS OF ELECTRICAL CHARGEMAN IN BOKARO

979. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state who is the present Electrical Chargeman in Bokaro? What are his qualifications and when did he enter the service and on what pay? Is it a fact that he superseded many seniors to him? Is he in any way related to the Personal Assistant to the Chief Mining Engineer, Railway Board?

(b) What is the number of coal tub bodies supplied to the Giridih and Bokaro State Railway Collieries and at what cost per coal tub body? If the cost of manufacturing the coal tub body in Beniadih Railway Workshop is much cheaper, why was the contract given to a firm outside? Is the Personal Assistant to the Chief Mining Engineer, Railway Board, in any way connected with the firm? What is the name of the firm?

(c) What steps does the Honourable Member propose to take in view of the many instances of corruption and mal-practices in the Giridih and Bokaro State Railway Collieries for full-fledged enquiry, detection and punishment of those persons responsible for such mal-practices and which deprived the public revenues of crores of rupees?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) Mr. S. C. Bannerji. He holds the qualifications required for an Electrical Chargeman. He entered service in 1934 on a pay of Rs. 50; he did not supersede any one; he is the son of the Personal Assistant to the Chief Mining Engineer, Railway Board.

(b) The number of coal tub bodies supplied is as follows:

Giridih—400 at Rs. 212 each;

Bokaro—106 at Rs. 235 each.

The Beniadih workshop was engaged to its full capacity on repair work at the time these coal tub bodies were required.

The tubs for Giridih Collieries were supplied by M/s. S. Dass & Brothers, and the tubs for Bokaro by M/s. Hardware Trading Co.

The personal Assistant to the Chief Mining Engineer, Railway Board, is not in any way connected with these firms.

(c) In view of the replies to parts (a) and (b) of the question, part (c) does not arise.

CONSTRUCTION OF OVERBRIDGE AT BACHHRAWAN STATION

980. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether he has received any complaint from the President of the Bachhrawan Congress Committee for the construction of an overbridge at the Bachhrawan Station; and if so, what action, if any, does he propose to take thereon?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes. The request for the construction of an overbridge at Bachhrawan has been passed on to the General Manager E. I. Railway who is the authority competent to deal with this matter.

SUBSTITUTION OF ADULTERATED GHEE FOR PURE GHEE FOR SUPPLY TO N. W. RAILWAY SERVANTS IN KASHMIR

981. *Seth Sukhdev: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that only pure ghee and no other kind of ghee is allowed to be sold in the Kashmir and Jammu State;

(b) whether it is a fact that pure ghee worth Rs. 2,000 was purchased for supply to the Railwaymen at concessional rates at stations in the Kashmir and Jammu State;

(c) whether it is a fact that the pure ghee was substituted by some one by vegetable or adulterated stuff;

(d) whether it is a fact that the State authorities reported the matter to the North Western Railway Administration; and

(e) whether Government propose to make a brief statement in regard to the incident, the result of any enquiry and the action taken?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) to (d). The reply is in the affirmative.

(e) The question is already under investigation.

SELECTION FOR POSTS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

982. *Seth Sukhdev: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that selections for posts on the North Western Railway are made in accordance with statutory rules contained in the State Railway Establishment Code;

(b) whether a selection for Food Inspectors on the Karachi Division of the North Western Railway was made early this year;

(c) whether it is a fact that certain candidates were selected in the order of merit; if so, whether the Honourable Member proposes to place a list of the selected candidates in the order of merit on the table of the House;

(d) whether it is a fact that the results of the selections were not announced and that the same were cancelled; if so, why;

(e) the rules on the subject of cancellation of results of selections once arrived at, and where they are published; and

(f) if no powers exist for the cancellation of selection results, whether it is proposed to direct the North Western Railway Administration to conform to the result of the first selection; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) to (f). I have called for information, which I will lay on the table of the House in due course, except that asked for in the latter portion of part (c) of the question, in regard to which I regret I do not consider that any public interest would be served by complying with the Honourable Member's request.

LOSS OF SUGAR AND WHEAT IN RATIONING DEPARTMENT AT MUGHALPURA

983. *Seth Sukhdev: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that stock verification of the Workshop Sub-Division of the Rationing Department at Mughalpura was made in June-July 1945;

(b) whether it is a fact that 2,000 maunds of sugar and 5,000 maunds of wheat were found short; if so whether the debit for their cost was raised and paid up;

(c) if no debit was raised, how the amount was adjusted;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Accounts Branch of the North Western Railway was unable to get any reply in regard to the adjustment of shortages; and

(e) the total amount of debit, and who was responsible for the loss?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The stock-verification of the Workshop sub-division was carried out in May and June 1945.

(b) No.

(c) The value of quantities actually found short at the stock verification was written off except a few cases which are still under examination.

(d) Replies to queries in the stock sheets were received and action taken thereon. In certain cases, however, further objections were raised and these are still under correspondence.

(e) As the net shortage was within the permissible limit no debit has so far been raised and nobody has so far been held responsible for the loss.

CONSTRUCTION OF A PROPER CULVERT NEAR MAU JUNCTION RAILWAY STATION

984. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that near the distant signal on the Aurihar side of the Mau Junction Railway Station on the Oudh Tirhut Railway, there is a Railway culvert over a stream;

(b) whether this is the only method of crossing from the Railway side to the other;

(c) whether the whole topography of the place was changed because of the high embankment of the Railway, causing water logging;

(d) whether many accidents resulting even in deaths have taken place while men walked across this culvert;

(e) if the Railway Administration propose to broaden the culvert and put balustrades to enable people to go across in safety; and

(f) if they propose to put up light there at nights pending the construction of a proper culvert?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) This is the only bridge in the vicinity of the station. The bed of the stream is dry for the greater part of the year and, during the short period when water flows the stream is believed to be fordable.

(c) No. Adequate waterway exists in the railway bank for drainage.

(d) No records of such accidents are available.

(e) The culvert has been provided for passing only railway traffic over the stream. The provision of facilities for the public to cross the stream would appear to be the responsibility of the civil authorities.

(f) No.

RESTORATION OF HARIANA EXPRESS RAILWAY SERVICE

985. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) where the shuttle train (Engine and Compartments combined) which used to run between Hissar and Delhi and was known as Hariana Express is at present;

(b) when the running of this train was discontinued, and for what reasons;

(c) if it is a fact that the said train was sent to some foreign country and that it has now been received back;

(d) if it is a fact that it took only four to five hours to reach Delhi from Hissar, whereas double the amount of time is required to perform this journey at present; and

(e) whether Government will be pleased to consider the advisability of restoring the service of the said train as soon as possible; if not, what objections or obstacles there exist to the resumption of the said service?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (c). The Hariana Express was run with an ordinary engine and coaches, and was not,—as the Honourable Member assumes,—a rail-coach service. The stock was not sent abroad for war purposes.

(b) Between Rewari and Hissar on the 22nd August, 1941, and between Rewari and Delhi on the 1st September, 1941. The service which was introduced in competition with the road, was discontinued in pursuance of the general policy of curtailing all but the most essential passenger services, in order to conserve Railway resources for the movement of vital war-time military and civil traffic.

(d) The Hariana Express took six hours between Hissar and Delhi. As there is now no through train between these places, the journey takes 11½ hours.

(e) The service cannot be re-introduced in the very near future owing to the general shortage of coaching stock. Railway Administrations are, however, alive to the necessity of restoring, as and when more coaching stock and power becomes available, all passenger services for which there is a justification in the volume of traffic offering. Nevertheless, I am bringing the Honourable Member's question to the notice of the B. B. and C. I. Railway Administration.

LIGHT RAILWAYS ON N. W. RAILWAY

986. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Light Railways which are connecting wayside towns to Railway Stations of the North Western Railway at present with less than twenty miles of distance;

(b) the number of times these Light Railways failed during the last six months to convey passengers to Main Railway Stations in time to enable them to catch the connecting trains on the North Western Railway; and

(c) the reasons for such failure in general?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I am afraid I am not clear as to what light railways the Honourable Member has in mind: the only light Railway that fits his description is the Jagadhri Light Railway.

(b) and (c). In the absence of a definite indication of which light railways are meant, I have been unable to have the required information collected. In any case I doubt if the time and labour involved in its collection would be commensurate with the value of the results to be obtained.

SHORT SUPPLY OF BUILDING MATERIAL

987. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies kindly state:

(a) if Government are aware that on account of shortage of supply of coal and iron materials many school and hospital buildings and other works of charitable and philanthropic nature as well as private houses are awaiting construction in various parts of the country;

(b) if Government are aware that in certain parts of the Punjab pucca bricks are available at no less than four or five times of their pre-war prices and that iron girders are not available at all; and

(c) whether Government propose to take any steps to increase the supply of coal, iron girders, *etc.*, in the mofussil areas of the Punjab with a view to enabling people to build schools, hospitals and private houses in the near future; if so, when?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) Not specifically, but I am aware that building generally has been held up for lack of materials.

(b) I have no information.

(c) I invite the Honourable Member's attention to the answer given by the Honourable Member for Labour, to part (b) of Mr. Manu Subedar's question No. 469, on 25th February, 1946. Government attach great importance to acceleration of building and will do their best to make building materials available.

REDUCTION OF SURPLUS STAFF ON RAILWAYS

988. *Diwan Chaman Lall: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether in reducing surplus staff on Railways, it is proposed to invite voluntary resignations and premature retirements of staff by giving them some liberal terms?

(b) If the reply to (a) above be in the affirmative, will he please give particulars of the terms so offered?

(c) What steps have been taken by the Railway Board to action the instructions contained in the Labour Department's letter, dated the 20th July, 1945, on the principles of reduction of staff?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply is in the negative.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Railways have been directed to provide special facilities in regard to the grant of leave to staff by utilising surplus staff. Other measures are under constant consideration and appropriate steps will be taken when considered necessary. At present the policy is to absorb as many surplus staff as are possible in postwar reconstruction and other schemes, and to avoid as much as possible depriving railways of trained and experienced staff whose services would be indispensable in future railway operation and to the working out of the post-war development programme.

GRANT OF UNEARNED LEAVE TO RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

989. *Diwan Chaman Lall: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the provisions of Rule 2121(c), Fundamental Rule 81(c), in regard to grant of leave to Railway employees in advance, are not usually put into operation;

(b) whether it is a fact that in cases in which leave not due has been enjoyed and wages drawn, it is subsequently cancelled and amount of wages recovered; if so, under what provision of the Payment of Wages Act, such deductions are made; and

(c) whether Government will consider the issue of instructions that in all cases in which reasonable prospects exist that the employee would earn leave enjoyed in advance it should not be refused; if not, the basis for exercise of discretion by officers to grant leave not due?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Government are not aware of any complaints from employees on this question but the number of cases in which the question of grant of leave not due arises cannot be considerable.

(b) If the Honourable Member will specify the railway or railways where this has taken place and favour me with details of such cases, the matter will be enquired into further, and instructions will be issued if found necessary.

(c) The grant of leave 'not due' is, like the grant of other leave, subject to the exigencies of the service. The principles underlying the grant of leave not due are explained in rule 710(2) of the State Railway Establishment Code Volume I, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

VICTORY BONUSES TO RAILWAY MEN

990. *Diwan Chaman Lall: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether the Railway Board recommended the grant to Railwaymen of Victory Bonus equal to three months pay? When is the Bonus likely to be paid? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The question of a victory bonus to railway employees has been considered in its relation to the general qusetion of a similar bonus to all employees of Government, but it has been decided not to pursue the question further for reasons which are mainly economic and financial.

POSTS ABOVE RS. 500 IN CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT.

991. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state how many places above Rs. 500 existed in the Civil Aviation Department at the time of the stoppage of hostilities with Germany? Who were the people occupying such places, and what were their qualifications?

(b) How many new places have since been created, or are proposed to be created, and in what manner are these places to be filled up?

(c) What efforts are being made to secure the services of every outstanding Indian, who has experience in the line?

(d) Is it by direct approaches or by advertisements, or do Government propose to use any other means?

(e) Why are these places being filled up with imported men without a chance being given to Indians?

(f) What steps, if any, do Government propose to take in order that in future at least these places should go to Indians?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) The information asked for is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House as soon as possible.

(b) A statement is laid on the table showing the posts, which have been or are proposed to be created during 1946-1947 in the new organisation of the Civil Aviation Department. Some of the posts are in replacement of certain existing posts. Recruitment to these posts will be made by selection, by advertisement and interview or by promotion of suitable existing officers of the Department.

(c) and (d). By advertisement and by circulation to officers in the Royal Indian Air Force and other defence services.

(e) It is not correct to say that the places are being filled up without a chance being given to Indians. Only in cases where suitable Indians with the requisite qualifications and experience are not available, have non-Indians been appointed.

(f) In view of my reply to parts (c), (d) and (e) this question does not arise.

Statement

Civil Aviation organisation proposed for 1946-1947

Designation of post	Total number of posts
Director General of Civil Aviation	1
Deputy Director General of Civil Aviation	2
Director	6
Chief Administrative Officer	1
Research and Development Officer	1
Chief Inspector of Accidents	1
Deputy Director	7

Designation of post	Total number of posts
Administrative Officer	2
Scientific Officer	1
Assistant Director	10
Aerodrome Planning Officer	1
Estate Officer	1
Aerodrome Inspector	1
Junior Scientific Officer	1
Accounts Officer	1
Regional Aerodrome Officer	5
Aerodrome Officer Grade I	6
Aerodrome Officer Grade II	13
Aeronautical Inspector	3
Aircraft Inspector	5
Assistant Aircraft Inspector	9
Examiner of Personnel	2
Chief Instructor of Aerodrome School	1
Chief Test Pilot	1
Test Pilot	1
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REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT HELP BY THE AIR SERVICES OF INDIA, LTD.

992. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state whether any approach has been made by the Air Services of India, Limited, to Government for help or subsidy or facilities for purchasing plans or licence to run new routes? If so, what replies have Government given to this Company?

(b) Is it a fact that between 1937 and 1940 this Company was responsible for somewhere near eighty per cent. of traffic carried by air inside India? If so, what has led Government to leave this Company out of the scheme for subsidised and aided civil aviation by private enterprise in India?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) During the war the Air Services of India, Ltd., made repeated proposals that they should by employed to operate air services on behalf of the Government and they were informed that as they had no organisation it was impracticable to accede to their request during the war. No specific request for subsidy or financial assistance to the Company to operate air services in the post-war period has been received, and while the Government are in constant communication with the Company concerning the details of their plans, the question of a licence to operate air services does not arise until the date prescribed in the rules for the licensing of air transport services which is 1st October 1946. The company asked for and were given advice about the purchase of aircraft and have now purchased them.

(b) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative.

As regards the second part, the company has not been left out. It is not yet organised for operation.

WANT OF WAGONS FOR CARRYING CLOTH TO BIHAR.

993. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state whether it is a fact that for want of wagons, the Bihar quota of cloth has, for months, been lying in the Ahmedabad Mills and not taken to its proper place for distribution and if so, why?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir. The movement of the Bihar quota of cloth from Ahmedabad has been made regularly during recent months. The following are the figures of the number of bales despatched:

October 1945	8,895 bales
November 1945	6,967 ,,
December 1945	8,761 ,,
January 1946	6,784 ,,

In the first twelve days of February, 1946, 4,628 bales were despatched, and on the 15th February 1946, 1,298 bales were awaiting despatch.

NEW CONSTRUCTION OF RAILWAYS IN BIHAR

994. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state whether in the proposed new construction of Railways in Bihar, he is prepared to consult the Congress and other non-official organisations with regard to their alignments and if so, when and how?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The present plan of new constructions has been formulated after full consultations with Provincial Governments. It has been assumed that the Provincial Governments have consulted public opinion.

If the Congress or other non-official organisations have any suggestions to make with regard to the alignments of the projects under investigations or in regard to the construction of new lines, they may be forwarded to the Railway Board where they will doubtless receive the most careful consideration.

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

995. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Senior Food Control Officer of Oudh and Tirhut Railway is alleged to have indulged in all sorts of irregularities in connection with foodgrains purchase and its priority movements during the time he was in charge of the "Food Department" on Oudh and Tirhut Railway?

(b) Has the matter been entrusted to the enquiry by Police at Gorakhpur and has the report been furnished to the Oudh and Tirhut Administration or the Railway Board?

(c) Has it been found that he used to write private letters to the Regional Food Control Officer of Bihar to help individual merchants for securing permits in 1945 for *Urad Dal* from Naugachia Station (Oudh and Tirhut Railway) to Gorakhpur although this commodity was not required by the Railway Food Department of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway?

(d) How many appointments in the Oudh and Tirhut Railway Food Department were made by the present Senior Food Control Officer and what was the number of Muslims in these appointments?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). There is nothing to indicate that the allegation against the present senior Food Control Officer is correct. It is understood that certain vendors with whom purchase orders for *Dal Urd* were placed by the O. T. Railway Food Department brought 17,690 maunds of *Urd* and *Dal Urd*, as against 6,418 maunds required by the Railway Food Department, from certain stations in Bihar to the U. P. without the requisite permits, thereby infringing the embargo placed by the Bihar Government on the movement of foodgrains. The irregularity was reported by the railway administration to the Bihar Government and the matter is said to be under investigation by the Bihar Government.

(c) Government are informed that in one case the senior Food Control Officer recommended a vendor for a permit for 1,750 maunds of *Dal Urd ex*-Naugachia to Gorakhpur, but as the accepted tender was for a quality of *Dal* which was not available at Naugachia, the permit was stopped. In the meantime supply had been made from another source.

(d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

PURCHASE OF SEVENTY THOUSAND PAIRS OF CHAPPALS BY O. T. RAILWAY SENIOR FOOD CONTROL OFFICER

996. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that seventy thousand pairs of chappals were purchased by the Oudh and Tirhut Railway under orders of the Senior Food Control Officer?

(b) Were all these chappals required by the Oudh and Tirhut Railway and were they absorbed by the staff in the same year?

(c) Was any committee of enquiry set up to verify the requirements, source of supply and method of purchase during the regime of this Officer?

(d) If the reply to part (c) be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member give the summary of the report and the action taken in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No; only 18,375 pairs were purchased.

(b) The chappals were ordered by the officer concerned under a belief that they would be required for sale to the employees of the O. T. Railway. But the expectation did not materialise and 12,726 pairs are lying unsold.

(c) The reply is in the affirmative.

(d) Government have not so far received the report with the recommendations of the General Manager, O. T. Railway, who is examining the same.

PURCHASE OF ARHAR DAL FOR THE O. T. RAILWAY.

997. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Senior Food Controller of Oudh and Tirhut Railway secured permit from Regional Food Control Officer Gorakhpur for nearly forty thousand maunds of *Arhar Dal* and that this quantity was despatched from Gorakhpur to Samastipoor?

(b) Is it a fact that only five thousand maunds of *Arhar Dal* was required by the Oudh and Tirhut Railway Food Department at Samastipoor and balance of thirty five thousand maunds was made over to merchants at Samastipoor for selling the same in open market?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware that the merchants earned a profit of over two and a half lakh of rupees as the difference in prices of the United Provinces and Bihar *Arhar Dal* was nearly six rupees per maund?

(d) Is it a fact that Accounts Department of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway has furnished full report to the Oudh and Tirhut Administration and to the Railway Board in these matters of irregularities?

(e) If reply to part (d) be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state what action has been taken in this matter?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes, except that the total quantity exported in the name of the Food Department during the period covered by the permits from different stations in the U. P. for certain stations in Bihar was 43,237 maunds.

(b) No, the quantity taken over by the O. T. Railway Food Department was 38,524 maunds.

(c) Government have no information.

(d) The Accounts Department of the Railway did not submit any report in this connection, as it was not at that time considered to be an Accounts matter and as it was understood that the Regional Food Control Officer, Gorakhpur, was making certain enquiries about the supplies made against the permits issued by him. The Railway Administration has however recently ordered a further enquiry.

(e) Does not arise.

RE-ORGANIZATION OF THE STORE DEPARTMENT OF O. T. RAILWAY.

998. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Store Department of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway has been the subject of "Reorganisation" since about a year and that a new officer has been given the charge as "Controller of Stores"?

(b) What is the qualification of this newly appointed officer and what experience of "Store Department" he has?

(c) How many new appointments were made in the new "Re-organisation of the Store Department" and what is the number of Muslims?

(d) What improvements have been made in the Store Department since the "Re-organisation scheme" has been under the present Controller of Stores and what difference in the expenditure incurred on the department has been found?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). Yes, except that the officer concerned has not been newly appointed, but has been transferred from the Bengal Assam Railway in view of his 30 years' continuous experience of Stores Department work on Railways.

(c) Of the 150 new subordinate employees engaged in this connection, 36 are Muslims.

(d) The re-organization of the *ex*-Company's Stores administration with a view to introducing essential State Railway procedure and forms as required by the State Railway Stores Code, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House, is progressing satisfactorily. As regards the latter portion, it is too early yet to assess the financial results of the re-organization.

CATERING ON O. T. RAILWAY

999. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state who are the contractors for catering and vending on the entire Oudh and Tirhut Railway?

(b) Is it a fact that Hindu and Muslim refreshment room catering is given to a Hindu caterer and that no Muslim has been given the contract?

(c) When are these contracts due for renewal?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I lay on the table a list of contractors for all types of catering and vending on the entire O. T. Railway.

(b) No. Out of the five contractors for Indian refreshment rooms, two are Muslims.

(c) The contracts, with the exception of that held by Messrs. Razzak Md. Jan & Sons which is renewable every year are not limited to any specific period and are, therefore, not due for renewal on any particular dates.

Statement

There are first and second class refreshment rooms at the following stations on this Railway. In the B. N. W. zone Messrs. G. F. Kellner & Co., hold the contract for these Refreshment Rooms and in the R. K. zone, Messrs. Razzak Md. Jan & Sons run them:

B. N. W. Zone—

(1) Thanabihpur.

(2) Barauni Jn.

(3) Sonepore.

(4) Chupra.

(5) Savan.

(6) Bhatni.

(7) Gorakhpur.

(8) Basti.

(9) Gonda.

(10) Muzaffarpur

(11) Samastipur.

(12) Motihari.

(13) Narkatiaganj.

(14) Mau Jn.

(15) Raxaul.

(16) On Mokamehghat, and Palezaghat Steamers.

R. & K. Zone—

(1) Kathgodam.

(2) Mailani.

Messrs. Razzak M.l. Jan and Sons have also the contract for running a dining car on day trains between Barelly and Kathgodam.

There are Indian Refreshment Rooms at the following stations and the names of contractors appointed to run them are shown against each. In these Refreshment Rooms meals for all classes of passengers are served:

Stations.	*Contractors.*
(2) Aunrihar Jn. (1) Thanabihpur.	Messrs. Singh & Sons.
(1) Ballia. (2) Muzaffarpur. (3) Darbhanga. (4) Samastipur.	Messrs. Ganesh Lall & Co.
(5) Gorakhpur. (1) Sonepore.	Rai Saheb H. P. Verma & Sons.
(2) Barauni Jn.	Messrs. Quadir Bux & Sons.
(1) Gonda.	Messrs. Razzak Md. Jan & Sons.
(1) Kathgodam.	

DISPOSAL OF STOCKS OF ARMY VEHICLES AND STORES.

1000. *Mr. R. C. Morris: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state:

(a) when lists will be available from the Director General of Disposals, detailing the army vehicles and stores (U.S. and British), by types, in stock for disposal; and

(b) when the prices of the above will be known; also their condition and delivery points?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) Catalogues of all surpluses will be issued monthly by the Director General of Disposals. It is expected that the first catalogue will be ready in April 1946.

(b) The price policy is under consideration but this will be settled before surpluses are available for disposal. The location of stores and their condition will be indicated in the catalogues.

INCREASED TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE AND OTHER RELIEF TO BLOCK MAINTAINERS ON N. W. RAILWAY.

1001. *Seth Sukhdev: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that travelling allowance admissible to the Railway employees has been increased on the North Western Railway; if so, the percentage of increase;

(b) whether any travelling allowance is paid to the Block Maintainers;

(c) if reply to (b) above be in the negative, what relief has been given to the Block Maintainers to compensate them for increased expenses during their tour on duty;

(d) if it is a fact that certain categories of staff not entitled to travelling allowance have been given some compensation towards travelling allowance; and

(d) Yes.

(e) if it is proposed to give a similar relief to the Block Maintainers; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply to the first portion is in the affirmative. As regards the second portion, the increase in the travelling allowance admissible to non-gazetted employees is about 50 per cent.

(b), (c) and (e). The Honourable Member is referred to my reply to parts (b) and (e) of his Starred Question No. 844, asked on 12th March 1946.

(d) Yes.

PUBLICATION OF REPORTS OF ROGER AND GRADY MISSIONS

1002. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state:

(a) whether and if so, when the Government of India propose to publish the reports of the Roger Mission and the Grady Mission; and

(b) whether Government propose to consider the question of publishing the same as early as possible, in view of the fact that the statistical and factual details would be of great assistance on the industrialists of the country?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) and (b). With regard to the Grady Mission, I invite the Honourable Member's attention to the answer given on 27th February, 1946, to question 541.

Government will examine the question in relation to the Reports of the Roger Mission.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

TRANSFER OF CERTAIN TIMBER TRANSPORT PRIORITIES AND PERMITS

122. Seth Govind Das: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that the Timber Transport Advisory Committee at Nagpur issued timber transport priorities and permits in favour of a Forest Contractor of Seoni, District Chhindwara, Central Provinces and that the District Traffic Superintendent, Bengal and Nagpur Railway, Nainpur, transferred three of these in favour of a dealer of Delhi without any authority to do so and in spite of the instructions of the Chairman of the Timber Transport Advisory Committee, Nagpur?

(b) Is it not a fact that this matter was brought to the notice of the Chairman, Timber Transport Advisory Committee, the District Traffic Superintendent, Bengal and Nagpur Railway, Nainpur, and the anti-corruption department of the Government of India? Has any inquiry been made in the matter? If so, with what results?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take in the matter now?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The Honourable Member has not indicated the date of the occurrence, but it is assumed that he is referring to a transaction of May or June 1943, relating to the allotment of ten wagons for the transport of sawn timber from Seoni to New Delhi. The inquiry I have had made into the matter reveals that the District Traffic Superintendent, Nainpur, did not act in contravention of the instructions he had received from the Chairman of the Timber Transport Advisory Committee.

(b) As it was suspected that there was some irregularity somewhere, the matter was investigated by the Special Police Staff, War Department. The inquiry showed that no irregularity had been committed by the District Traffic Superintendent or his office.

(c) In view of the reply to (a) and (b) this does not arise.

PURCHASES OF TIMBER BY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

123. Seth Govind Das: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state whether the Central Government made purchases of timber through the Forest Department of the Government of Central Provinces and Berar?

(b) If so, is it a fact that the Supply Department instructed the said Government to charge a certain fixed percentage on rates fixed by the Supply Department and in spite of these instructions the purchasing authorities charged more than the scheduled percentage thereby making a profit of more than 20 per cent. permitted under the Defence of India Rules?

(c) Is it a fact that the purchasing authority at the same place and at the same time has made purchase at different rates for similar material and thus no uniform policy has been followed, resulting in favouritism? What steps do Government propose to take to remedy the injustice and inequality thus perpetrated and the financial loss suffered by the dealers who were unable to sell the material in open market due to complete control of transport of timber by Government?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The Supply Department purchased timber from the Government of C. P. and Berar at scheduled rates negotiated between the two Governments from time to time. No instructions were issued from the Supply Department to the C. P. and Berar Government laying down the prices at which the latter were to purchase timber from their contractors. The Supply Department were, however, aware that the C. P. and Berar Government were making purchases at prices below the scheduled rates paid by the Central Government. This difference was intended to cover the overhead charges of the C. P. Forest Department in connection with the purchase, production and handling of the timber, and not with the object of making profit.

(c) The rates paid by the Provincial authorities for timber bought by them were fixed under agreements drawn up between them and the suppliers. As conditions differed widely from division to division, the overhead charges were different in different localities, and the suppliers too offered varying terms, with the result that the margin of difference between the scheduled rates at which the Supply Department brought timber from the C. P. and Berar Government, and the rates agreed between the Provincial authorities and their suppliers, also varied.

As far as is known, no compulsion was brought to bear upon forest contractors, timber merchants and private forest owners to sell their timber at rates unacceptable to them, and in the case of those persons who did not wish to sell their timber, the rates to be paid to them were fixed under the agreements drawn up between the supplier and the territorial officer concerned.

The quantities of timber purchased by the C. P. and Berar Government from forest contractors, timber merchants and private owners in 1943-44 and 1944-45 represented only about 15 per cent. of the total quantities supplied by the C. P. and Berar Forest Department to the late Supply Department in each of these years, the remainder being produced by departmental agency from the Government Reserved Forests.

In view of the position as explained above, the latter part of question does not arise.

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE TO G. I. P. RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

124. Seth Sukhdev: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no travelling allowance is allowed to employees on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway for work for a distance of more than five miles from their Headquarters Station;

(b) whether such a travelling allowance is refused on the plea that the distance by rail-*cum*-road is short of five miles;

(c) whether it is a fact that according to rule 203 of the Establishment Code, distance is to be calculated on an open line of a Railway; if not, what other instructions have been issued by the Railway Board on the subject; and

(d) if no instructions have so far been issued, whether it is proposed to clarify that the distance is to be on the open line of a Railway?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) to (d). I regret I am not quite clear what the Honourable Member means. In accordance with Rules 203 and 208 of the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, daily allowance is admissible to a railway servant, who is not in receipt of a permanent travelling allowance, for a journey on an open line of a railway, if he proceeds on tour beyond a radius of 5 miles from his headquarters, the distance being calculated from the railway station, provided the duration of his absence from headquarters is not less than 8 consecutive hours. These rules apply on the G. I. P. Railway.

SANCTIONED POSTS IN CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF RAILWAY STAFF

125. Seth Sukhdev: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of sanctioned posts in various grades of the following categories of staff on the North Western Railway, separately, for each Division on the 1st January, 1946—

(i) Station and Assistant Station Masters,

(ii) Signallers,

(iii) Goods Clerks,

(iv) Parcel Clerks,

(v) Booking Clerks,

(vi) Train Clerks,

(vii) Electric and Carriage Clerks,

(viii) Ticket Collectors,

(ix) Guards, and

(x) Train Examiners;

(b) the percentage of leave reserve sanctioned and actual percentage for each Division; and

(c) if the actual percentage is below the sanctioned percentage, what steps are being taken to fill up the posts; if none, why?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have called for the information and will lay it on the table of the House in due course.

SELECTION OF RAILWAY FOOD INSPECTORS AT KARACHI

126. Seth Sukhdev: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a selection for Food Inspectors was held at Karachi on the North Western Railway in January last;

(b) whether the results of the first selection were cancelled and a further selection held in February;

(c) whether it is a fact that in the first selection the first two places were secured by Hindus;

(d) whether it is a fact that in the second selection, the first place was secured by a Muslim;

(e) whether it is a fact that the first selection was cancelled by the Divisional Personnel Officer, North Western Railway with the approval of the Senior Assistant Personnel, North Western Railway Headquarters, Lahore;

(f) whether both these officers are Muslims; and

(g) what steps Government propose to take to ensure fairness and observance of rules of procedure in selections?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have called for the information and will lay the same on the table of the House in due course.

DEPOSITS FROM CASH MEMO CLERKS AND MANAGERS OF RAILWAY GRAIN SHOPS AT MOGHALPURA

127. Diwan Chaman Lall: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons employed as Cash Memo Clerks and grain shop Managers, community-wise, in each Division of the North Western Railway including the Moghalpura Workshops;

(b) whether they are required to keep any deposit with the Railway;

(c) whether the condition of deposit applies to permanent employees also;

(d) whether it is a fact that in the Moghalpura Workshops, communal discrimination is observed in demanding and taking deposits; if so, why; and

(e) if the reply to the first portion of (d) above be in the negative, whether the Honourable Member please lay on the table of the House a statement showing the number of employees, community-wise, who have not yet given any deposit?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Information regarding all the Divisions is not readily available and its collection would involve an expenditure of time and labour incommensurate with the results expected. The number of staff of the two categories employed in the Moghalpura Workshops' Grain shops is, however, given below, community-wise:

—	Grainshop Managers.	Cash Memo Clerks
Muslims	5	28
Sikhs	1	2
Hindus	1	18

Government are informed that in addition to the above staff, 9 Registration Clerks, comprising 4 Muslims, 4 Hindus and 1 Sikh, are also utilised as Cash Memo Clerks when the pressure of work necessitates it.

(b) Yes, all Grainshop Managers, Cash Memo Clerks and Registration Clerks are required to deposit security with the railway.

(c) The reply is in the affirmative.

(d) No. The reply to the second portion does not arise.

(e) Government are informed that of such staff of the Moghalpura Workshops' Grain shops who are required to deposit security, there is no employee who is not complying with this rule.

PROVISION OF DEPARTMENTAL ENQUIRY AND CHARGE SHEET ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

128. Diwan Chaman Lall: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether rules provide for a departmental enquiry and charge sheet, in case it was proposed to remove an employee having continuous service of seven years or more;

(b) whether it is a fact that on the North Western Railway, the benefits referred to in part (a) above are denied to employees with seven years continuous service on the ground of their not having been confirmed; if so, why; and

(c) what general instructions the Railway Board have issued for the interpretation of the word 'continuous service'; if none, whether it is proposed to clarify that the use of the term continuous service in the Discipline and Appeal Rules for Railwaymen indicates total service put in continuously?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The Honourable Member is referred to Rule 1709 of the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House. This rule gives the correct position in this respect.

(b) No. The reply to the latter portion does not arise.

(c) No instructions have been issued as none are considered necessary.

REDUCTION IN WORKING HOURS OF NON-FACTORY RAILWAYMEN

129. Diwan Chaman Lall: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) how many Railwaymen will be benefitted by the reduction in the working hours to 48 per week in the proposed amendment of the Indian Factories Act;

(b) whether it is proposed to reduce working hours of non-factory Railwaymen also; if so, when the necessary amending Bill will be brought forward; and

(c) if the reply to the first part of (b) above be in the negative, what steps Government propose to take to remove discrimination between Factory and non-factory workers in the matter of hours of work; if none, why?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) As the hours of work in workshops on railways normally do not exceed 48 hours per week, there will be no change in respect of working hours after the proposed amendment passes into law.

(b) The question of reducing the hours of work of staff not falling within the scope of the Indian Factories Act is being examined in consultation with railway administrations. As regards the latter portion of this part of the question necessary action to amend the Hours of Employment Regulations will be taken if, as a result of the examination referred to, it is decided to reduce the existing limits of hours of work of staff governed by these Regulations.

(c) Does not arise.

COMPENSATION TO BLOCK MAINTAINERS DUE TO INCREASED EXPENSES ON TOURING DUTY

130. Seth Sukhdev: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an increase in allowances to running staff on a percentage basis has been made on the North Western Railway;

(b) whether any travelling allowance or some such compensation is allowed to the Block Maintainers on the North Western Railway, in view of increased expenses on touring duty; and

(c) if the reply to (b) above be in the negative, whether it is proposed to consider their case for some allowance?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The Honourable Member is referred to my reply to parts (b) and (c) of his Starred Question No. 844 asked in the House on 12th March 1946.

TRANSFER OF E. I. RAILWAY CLAIMS OFFICE FROM BENARES TO CALCUTTA

131. Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether it is a fact that statistics of claims dealt with by class I Railways are maintained by the Railway Board? If so, how does the E. I. Railway stand in this regard?

(b) Is it a fact that the E. I. Railway Claims Office Section "D" was transferred to Calcutta from Benares some time in the year 1944 under the direct supervision of the Chief Commercial Manager? Will the Honourable Member lay a comparative statement of claims dealt with by this section and the average time taken during two years with the Claims statistics of the Benares Office?

(c) Is it a fact that the efficiency at the Benares Office (Claims) is greater than the sections working directly under the Chief Commercial Manager, E. I. Railway, Calcutta? If not, what is the fact?

(d) Will not the Honourable Member look into the advisability of allowing the Claims Sections of the E. I. Railway which deal with the claims pertaining to the Allahabad, Lucknow, Moradabad and Dinapore Divisions to remain at Benares in the best interest of the public and business circles of the United Provinces and Bihar? If not, why not?

(e) Will the Honourable Member postpone the transfer of the Claims Office from Benares to Calcutta for the present till food situation and housing conditions become easy in Bengal, and not force the transfer under the pretext of direct control by the Chief Commercial Manager?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The Honourable Member is referred to paragraph 52, pages 33 and 34, Chapter IV of Vol. I of the Report by the Railway Board on Indian Railways for 1944-45 which is available in the Library of the House.

(b) Yes. One Section of the main Claims Office dealing with compensation claims regarding parcel consignments booked to Howrah and Calcutta stations and goods and parcel traffic booked to other stations on the Howrah Division was retransferred from Benares to Calcutta in August 1944 as this was found necessary in the interests of efficiency. The information asked for in the latter part of the question is not readily available. Figures are being compiled and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(c) The answer is in the negative. It will be incorrect to draw any comparison between the standard of work of the main Office and any of its branches. Results can only be judged as a whole.

(d) No, Sir. The Claims Office is an integral part of the Headquarters Commercial organisation and was temporarily shifted from Calcutta to Benares only as a measures of war emergency. It is not possible to give prior consideration to the interests of particular localities. The question of administrative efficiency must be considered from the point of view of the whole E. I. Railway, which involves correspondence in connection with claims matters over the whole of India.

(e) It is the intention to bring the claims office back to Calcutta as soon as accommodation is easily available. The food situation will also be taken into account, but it is believed that the position in this respect at Calcutta is not more acute than at Benares.

DISCONTINUING GRANTING OF CERTIFICATES BY GUARDS TO PERSONS UNABLE TO BUY TICKETS ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY

132. Mr. B. B. Varma: Is the Honourable the Railway Member aware that the Administration of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway have prohibited the issue of certificates by Guards of trains to those passengers who happen to be unable to purchase their tickets before the arrival of trains? If so, does he propose to consider this demand, and restore the pre-war system?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes. As a result of the abnormal conditions created by the War the privilege has been withdrawn with a view to discouraging passengers travelling without tickets when trains are running overcrowded. The question of re-introducing this privilege will be considered as soon as conditions return to normality.

TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS' FLYING SQUAD ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY

133. Mr. B. B. Varma: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) the number of Travelling Ticket Examiners, with their scales of pay, who were taken in service in 1936 and in 1941 as Travelling Ticket Examiners' Flying Squad on the Oudh and Tirhut Railway; and

(b) if it is a fact that in making promotions and confirmations and granting increments in time-scales of pay, seniority in service was not taken into consideration while giving preference to juniors?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I regret I cannot undertake to examine whether the promotions and confirmation effected when the railway was under the Company management were made on the basis of seniority or otherwise.

WARNING TO RAILWAY STAFF AGAINST APPROACHING M. L. A.'S FOR REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES

134. Mr. B. B. Varma: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that recently the Railway Board have directed Railway Administrations to warn the staff under them from approaching the Honourable Members of the Central Legislature for the redress of their grievances; if not, what the fact is;

(b) if the reply to (a) be in the affirmative, whether he proposes to place those directions on the table of the House; if not, why not; and

(c) the procedure prescribed by the Oudh and Tirhut Railway Administration under which their employees could have the redress of their grievances; if no procedure is prescribed, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The Honourable Member is probably referring to the circular issued in September, 1945, asking railway administrations to remind the staff of (i) the undesirability from the point of view of discipline of approaching the Members of the Central Legislature with a view to having their individual grievances, which are rarely of public importance, made the subject matter of interpellations and (ii) the fact that disclosure to non-officials of information which has been obtained from official sources entails a breach of Rule 17 of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules.

(b) I lay on the table of the House a copy of the circular in question, together with a copy of the Home Department Office Memoranda referred to therein.

(c) Railway servants have the right of appeal to the competent authority through the proper channel and the rules on the subject are contained in Rules 1717 to 1727 of the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

RAILWAY DEPARTMENT (RAILWAY BOARD).

No. E-45-G.S.-13 (2).

Dated New Delhi, the 21st September, 1945.

The undermentioned papers are forwarded to the General Managers, State-managed Railways, Director Railway Clearing Accounts Office, Secretary, R. R. A. C., General Secretary, I. R. C. A., and the President, N. W. Railway Service Commission for information and necessary action. This is in continuation of Railway Board's letter No. 876E-22, dated 20th June, 1922.

M. E. BARTLEY,

Deputy Director, Railway Board.

Papers forwarded.

COPY OF THE HOME DEPARTMENT MEMO. No. 50/10/45-PUBLIC, DATED 15TH JUNE 1945 (WITH ENCLOSURE).

OFFICE MEMORANDUM.

SUBJECT :—*Practice of the Secretariat establishment approaching members of the Legislature with a view to airing their grievances.*

The undersigned is directed to refer to the Home Department Office Memorandum No. F.-369, dated the 8th June, 1922 (copy enclosed) on the subject noted above, and to say that several cases have recently been brought to notice in which Government servants employed in the Secretariat must have approached Members of the Central Legislature with a view to having their individual grievances made the subject matter of interpellations in the Chambers. Apart from the fact that such a conduct is highly undesirable from the point of view of office discipline, the procedure adopted usually entails, as stated in the Home Department Office Memorandum referred to above, a breach of rule 17 of the Government Servants Conduct Rules.

2. It has been suggested that the recurrence of cases of this kind is to a large extent due to the fact that most of the new members of the Secretariat establishments are not made fully aware of the provision of rule 17 of and of the consequences which may follow a breach of the rule. It is therefore requested that the Finance Department/etc., may again bring to the notice of their staff the provisions of this rule and the warning conveyed in the Home Department Office Memo. No. F.-369, dated the 8th June, 1922. The substance of the present Office Memorandum may also be communicated to the offices subordinate to the Finance Department/etc. for informaton and necessary action.

COPY OF AN OFFICE MEMORANDUM No. F.-369, DATED THE 8TH JUNE 1922, FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, HOME DEPARTMENT, NEW DELHI, TO ALL DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, ETC.

Cases have come to the notice of the Government of India in which members of the Secretariat establishments have approached Members of the Legislatures with a view to having their individual grievances made the subject of interpellations in the Chambers. Apart from the fact that the questions involved are rarely, if ever, of public importance, the practice usually entails the disclosure to non-official persons of information which has been obtained from official sources or has come into the possession of the members of the Secretariat in the course of his official duties; and any such disclosure is a breach of rule 17 of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules. The undersigned is therefore directed to request that the attention of the office establishment in the Foreign and Political/etc. Department may be drawn to the provisions of this rule and that they may be warned that any communication to a Member of the Legislature which involves an infringement thereof will be severely dealt with. It is further requested that the substance of this Memorandum may be communicated to the offices subordinate to the Foreign and Political/etc. Department if any, for information and necessary action.

COPY OF LETTER No. 876-E-22, DATED THE 20TH JUNE 1922, FROM THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY, RAILWAY BOARD, TO THE AGENT, N. W., E. B. AND O. & R. RAILWAYS, ETC.

Disclosure to non-official persons of information which has been obtained from official sources.

I am directed to state that cases have come to the notice of the Government of India in which Government servants have approached members of the Legislatures with a view to having their individual grievances made the subject of interpellations in the Chambers. Apart from the fact that the questions involved are rarely, if ever, of public importance, the practice usually entails the disclosure to non-official persons of information which has been obtained from official sources or has come into the possession of the Government Servant in the course of his official duties and any such disclosure is a breach of Rule 17 of the Government Servants Conduct Rules. I am therefore to request that the attention of the staff generally under your control may be drawn to the provision of this rule and that they may be warned that any communicaion to a Member of the Legislatures which involves an infringement thereof will be severely dealt with.

INCONVENIENCE TO PUBLIC DUE TO SHORTAGE OF STAFF AT CERTAIN STATIONS ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY

135. Mr. B. B. Varma: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if he is aware that due to shortage of staff at the Markatiganj, Bettiah, Motihari, Muzaffarpur, Chapra, Mahendrughat and Dighaghat Stations on the Oudh and Tirhut Railway the Travelling public are put to great inconvenience during booking hours and purchasing of tickets?

(b) Does he propose to remove the inconvenience? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative. The O. T. Railway Administration reports that it is not a fact that there is shortage of staff at the stations mentioned or that the travelling public are put to inconvenience during booking hours and purchasing of tickets. The latter part of the question does not arise.

(b) This does not arise.

HEARING APPEALS BY HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY

136. Mr. B. B. Varma: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the General Manager and other Heads of Departments on the Oudh and Tirhut Railway are the authorities to hear appeals against the orders of their subordinate officers, *i.e.*, District Traffic Superintendent, etc., if not, what the fact is; and

(b) if it is a fact that on appointment of a subordinate officer to the post of the Head of a Department or General Manager he has to hear an appeal against his own orders passed as a subordinate officers; if so, how far it is permissible and admissible in administering justice?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Detailed rules on the subject are contained in rule 1717, as amended by Correction Slip No. 11, of the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

(b) Yes, though cases of this nature are not frequent and Government have no reason to believe that officers referred to would hesitate to alter their own decision if fresh arguments brought forward in an appeal demand that course.

GROSS MISUSE OF TIMBER TRANSPORT PRIORITIES BY M. E. S. CONTRACTORS

137. Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that gross misuse of timber transport priorities, issued to the Military Engineering Service contractors has taken place during the war;

(b) whether he is aware that one such act was brought to the notice of high ranking officers of the Central Province T. T. A. C., Nagpur when in the month of March 1943, timber under transport for military works at Pullgaon by a M. E. S. was publicly sold at Nagpur by an M. E. S. contractor, at the railway timber siding, and that at the instance of the then Divisional Traffic Manager, Great Indian Peninsula Railway and the Personal Assistant of the C. C. F., Central Province and Berar, material belonging to an M. E. S. contractor of wagons 64867, 00862 and 00608 from Pandhurna to Nagpur and from Ramakona to Nagpur was purchased by a test purchaser; and

(c) if it is a fact that an inquiry was made in the matter, and, if so, what the result of the inquiry was and why the matter was hushed up?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The information is being collected from the Government of C. P. and Berar and will be laid on the table of the House in due course

THE GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—*contd.*

SECOND STAGE—*contd.*

DEMAND NO. 11—EXECUTIVE COUNCIL—*contd.*

Paucity of Muslims in Officers and Ministerial Grades of Departments; non-appointment of Muslims in Key Posts and retrenchment of Muslims where they are less than 25 per cent.—concld.

Mr. President: Discussion will now be resumed on the cut motion of Mr. Jaffer.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I am very thankful to my friend Mr. Sri Prakasa for the very nice speech he made yesterday. If people like Mr. Sri Prakasa come forward to help in solving this very complicated problem in this country, I think matters can be easily solved. Men with broad views like Mr. Sri Prakasa are needed to handle this complicated problem which has been facing this House since 1922.

12 NOON

I remember in 1922 for the first time this matter came before this House, and after that it has been brought in year after year. Twenty-four years have passed since then. If Government had been serious in solving this problem, I think there would not have been a single member on the Muslim League Benches to get up and ask about the number of Muslims in service. I remember that for three years past no question of this kind was debated here simply because of the abnormal conditions prevailing in the country: on account of war conditions ventilation of this grievance was not sought. After several years this question has come up again and it would be the best solution if Government decides this matter once for all, so that we may never have this question again on the floor of this House. If the present Government really thinks they are abdicating and going to hand over charge to the other Government, it will be right and proper that they should not leave a legacy of this kind which has been witnessed year after year in this House—they must find out some kind of solution satisfying all sides and all parties.

I am very glad that some Honourable Members from the Congress Benches said yesterday that they were prepared to give even cent. per cent. seats to the Muslims. This was a very nice gesture, and if this kind of spirit is evinced they will find that the Muslims will not demand anything more than their rights.

I had this kind of problem before me in the committee which was sitting in London in 1933; and when I found that people could not come to any agreement in other places, we came, within ten minutes, to an agreement of this problem, which was supported unanimously; and it is recorded that it is the unanimous desire of the Hindu and Muslim Members of the legislature—we decided that within ten minutes. This matter can be decided easily, but unfortunately Government is not paying much attention to solve this problem . . .

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): They do not want to.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: When this question came up here in 1928 or 1929, one very revered and respected Hindu gentleman, Pandit Madan Malaviya said that the Muslims must get their quota. That was 18 years ago—in 1928 or 1929, I forget which year it was. Mr. Jinnah then said that it seemed to be the policy of the Government that they should keep the Muslims discontented and by this discontentment the Muslims should go on asking questions and blaming the Hindus, so that by these tactics they may go on keeping up the quarrel in this House, and thus continue the quarrel outside in the country also. Mr. Jinnah also said then that if the Government seriously wanted to stop these communal questions, the best way was to come to a solution. Now nearly 18 years have passed and I still find that this question is being debated and there is still discontent in the matter.

[Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan.]

My friend Mr. Jaffer gave figures about many Departments of the Government of India and Khan Bahadur Habibur Rahman also gave same figures of other Departments. They show that Government has not seriously attended to this problem and try to do away with it. It is time now that a policy is adopted which would bring about a permanent solution and not a half-hearted solution. In 1934 the Home Department passed a resolution. It was very good and I am thankful to two old friends who were here—one was the Home Member and the other the Home Secretary, Sir Harry Haig and Sir Maurice Hallett. They did a lot, but though they made a great advance the problem is still there. Where there is a quota fixed for new recruits, we find that in other ways the Muslims are thwarted in their proper desire to get promotion. There is no quota for the superior grades to which people are promoted from the lower grades. This means that half the number of jobs are filled through promotion and half through direct recruitment; if there are 80 jobs, 40 are reserved to be filled in through promotion and the remaining 40 through direct recruitment. Now the Mussalmans are entitled to 25 per cent. of jobs which are filled through direct recruitment, that is 10. But they do not get their share out of the quota reserved for promotion, with the result that instead of getting 20 out of 80, they actually get 10 out of 80, and that is the cause of heart-burning. This creates a bad atmosphere in this House. I want the Government to see that their instructions are carried out properly both in letter and in spirit.

I remember, Sir, in 1939, when the war broke out, and the Honourable Sir John Thorne was officiating as Home Member, a deputation called upon him and a representation was made to him by several Members of the Muslim League Party to the effect that a quota for Muslims should be reserved in the temporary posts which would be created due to the war. He gave an assurance that this would be done, but when the war progressed it was found that it was not practicable because people were required to take up jobs immediately and a sufficient number of Muslims was not coming forward. The Muslim Members realized that it would not be reasonable to insist on this to be followed invariably, and they told the then Home Member, Sir Reginald Maxwell that they would be satisfied if an assurance was given that at the time of retrenchment this fact would be taken into consideration and the Mussalmans would be compensated for the loss which they had sustained at the time of recruitment, and that the Muslims would get their share among the staff who would be permanently retained after the war. Sir Reginald Maxwell could not commit himself to anything, but he said that that was a reasonable demand and it would be taken into consideration at the proper time. Now, Sir, is the proper time to rectify this position. If Mussalmans did not get the opportunity to fill their quota at the time of recruitment, now at least their number is enough to make up their 25 per cent. in the posts which will be permanently retained. I therefore say that as far as possible retrenchment in all the Departments should be done in such a manner that the percentage of Muslims, which in 1922 was 2½ and which after 22 years of clamouring has increased to 6, should be raised to 25 per cent. which they deserve. If in the permanent cadres the percentage of Muslims is low, then the temporary Muslims hands may not be retrenched until their quota is full. This can be done easily, and if this policy is adopted, I am sure this problem will be solved.

Sir, we do not like it to be said that Mussalmans are communalists and they talk about jobs. Nobody is happy to bring forward this question of jobs to this House, but what is to be done? There are hungry, needy people who want jobs; they deserve but they do not get jobs and naturally when they do not get their proper share in Government services they come to us. I quite agree with my Honourable friend, Mr. Sri Prakasa, that people should not be anxious to come in Government service and they should seek other employments. Several communities who have been in business and have Lawyers and are highly qualified in other respects and who can get other jobs, also try for Government jobs. They should not do so. But there are certain other classes who have done nothing but Government service during the last two or three hundred years. They are being ousted; where should they go? It will take time for such people to take to business, and until then Government have to find a solution of this problem.

I personally think, Sir, that Government is not really serious to solve this question of maintaining proper communal ratio in Government services. I can give you an example. During the war many Departments have been created and thousands of people have been appointed. Although all these jobs are of a temporary nature, but still it is ridiculous to find that, for instance in the War Transport Department, out of 33 posts of officers' grade not a single one has been given to a Muslim. Can it be said that no Muslims were available or Muslims are not considered fit for these jobs? No. I find that people have been recruited from different walks of life—trade, business, engineering and so on—but not a single Mussalman has been taken in the War Transport Department. On the Roads side in the same Department out of 34 officers there is only one Muslim—one of the Assistant Secretaries. Out of 10 Superintendents there are 2 Muslims, and on the top of it people who have already put in their full service and have retired are re-employed and are being kept on still, and younger people are not given a chance. Why is it that the Mussalmans are deprived of their due share in the War Transport Department? It proves that Government are not making any serious attempt to see that their instructions are actually carried out in practice. What actually happens is this: If one man gets in, he tries to bring as many of his friends and relatives as he can at the cost of others. It is the duty of the Home Department to keep a watch on these things. They issue instructions but I wonder if they ever try and see that their instructions are complied with. The other day the Honourable the Home Member, in reply to a question, gave a big ratio of Muslims in certain Departments. On examination I found that that ratio included the chaprasis, the daftris, and so on. If he includes them in the total number in the whole Department, it is all right. But the question is how many Muslims are there in the Officers' grade. Is there anybody in the Officer grade, say, in his own Department? Has he got a Muslim Additional Secretary, or Joint Secretary, or Deputy Secretary, or Under Secretary? Yesterday in reply to a question the Honourable the Labour Member said, 'There is the Chief Engineer'.

An Honourable Member: In name.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: I know, but he is in the P. W. D. What about the Secretariat? How many Muslim officers are there? Has he got a Muslim Secretary, or Joint Secretary, or Deputy Secretary, or Under Secretary? Not a single one out of these. It is not difficult to find out how many there are. Just take up the telephone directory and go through the names of officers in the various Departments. I say that this is the time to create a good atmosphere in the country; let us create a brotherly feeling. Why should there be an animosity between the various communities? Why do you do thing in such a way that one people are forced to call bad names to others? Why not solve the problem in a proper way? I suggest, Sir, that if the Honourable the Home Member takes up this matter seriously and in his own hands, its solution will not be very difficult. Sir, I support the motion.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne (Home Member): I leave to my colleagues representing the other Departments to deal, so far as possible within the time limit, with the complaints which have been made. I admit that Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan has just added my Department to the list, but I will deal with that at a later stage. My main concern is with the Government of India Resolution of 1934 which has been quoted by most speakers today. May I remind the House what exactly the policy laid down, so far as Muslims are concerned, in the Resolution is. Paragraph 7 says:

[Sir John Thorne]

"In the Indian Civil Service and the Central and Subordinate services to which recruitment is made on an all-India basis, the following rules will be observed:

(1) 25 per cent. of all vacancies to be filled by direct recruitment of Indians will be reserved for Muslims. . . . .

(2) When recruitment is made by open competition, if Muslims or the other minority communities obtain less than these percentages, these percentages will be secured to them by means of nomination. If, however, Muslims obtain more than their reserved percentage in open competition no reduction will be made in the percentage reserved for other minorities. While if the other minorities obtain more than their reserved percentage in open competition, no reduction will be made in the percentage reserved for Muslims."

I need not read the other parts of the Resolution but what I want to stress is that the undertaking given in that applies only to direct recruitment. In paragraph 6 we get a sentence: "They (*i.e.* the rules) relate only to direct recruitment and not to recruitment by promotion which will continue to be made as at present, solely on merit."

Well, I know, of course that my Muslim friends complain that at present promotions are not made solely on merit. But I cannot offer any undertaking that as a general statement of policy the Government of India will now go back on what is stated in this Resolution in regard to appointment by promotion. Now, Sir, what is the position which has after ten years or more resulted from the operation of this Resolution? I laid on the table the other day in response to a question of my Honourable friend, Mr. Jaffer, a statement which many in this House may not yet have read, which gave figures for the position, after ten years, that is from 1st January 1935 to the 1st January 1945. It shows the percentage increases during those ten years in various services, *i.e.*, the Indian Civil Service, the Central services of various classes, the subordinate services and so on. Now the percentage increase for Muslims in all services taken together in those ten years is 2·55 per cent. In some services it is considerably higher. For instance in the Indian Civil Service it is over 5 per cent., in the Central Services, Class I and Class II it is between 3 and 4 per cent. But the figure for all services together is 2·55 per cent. The resulting position is that in all services together, the proportion of Muslims on the 1st January 1945 is 20·67 per cent. There again in various services there is some difference. In the Indian Civil Service it is over 20 per cent. In some other services it is as low as 15 and 16 per cent. Well. Sir, appended to that statement are a note or two which I think would be of use if I read to the House, because if I did not read them to the House I should have to say much of it out of my head.

"The increase of representation of the minority communities would probably have been more marked but for the war, (*I know my Honourable friend, Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan has recognised that* during the war a large number of new posts, requiring special and technical qualifications were created suddenly and it was not always possible to find suitable minority candidates on short notice and the attractions of military service reduced the numbers available for civil posts. The extent of the problem is indicated by the war-time recruitment to the subordinate services where the number of temporary posts increased from 4,519 on the 1st January 1939, to 46,720 on the 1st January 1945. All permanent recruitment to the Central Services was however stopped from June 1942, 70 per cent. of permanent vacancies being reserved for war service candidates and the remaining 30 per cent. for temporary employees under Government. Government have issued instructions that in filling the 70 per cent, reservation for war service candidates and the 30 per cent reservation for temporary men, the rules regarding communal representation should be strictly followed. Government have further directed that where retrenchment is necessary (*and this was a point raised by several of my Muslim friends*) the temporary staff should be so discharged that the composition of the persons retained is, as far as possible, in accordance with the communal ratios prescribed for recruitment."

Now, Sir, I do not quite follow what my Muslim friends want in regard to retrenchment. I should have thought, so far as I could understand their request that the order to which that note refers meets the demand, but if that is not so,

there is some loophole in this arrangement which they do not like. I shall be very glad to hear about it and see whether it can be stopped.

One thing I would point out is this it has been stated, I thing, at times that in the flow of recruits to the armed forces and to all other forms of war service,—the definition covers quite a large field in that flow Muslims are represented in a considerably higher proportion than their proportion in the population. If that is so, then clearly they stand a better chance of recruitmeit in the 70 per cent. of posts which are now reserved for people with war service. The 25 per cent. for Muslims is not a maximum. It is a minimum as is clear from the portion of the rule that I read, and if the proportion of Muslims with war service is considerably higher than 25 per cent. then surely they stand a good chance of getting more than 25 per cent. of this 70 per cent. which has been reserved for people with war service.

Now, Sir, it is of course clear from what I have said that Muslims have not succeeded in getting 25 per cent. of the posts in Government service. I think that over on a superficial reading of the resolution of 1934 it could not be held that Government have guaranteed that Muslims shall get 25 per cent. There may be various causes (sometimes unavoidable causes) which will prevent that. But I quite sympathise with their feeling that 20 per cent. after ten years is hardly good enough; and it is our business, it is the business of the Home Department, to come to a conclusion as clear as possible as to the causes which have prevented Muslims from filling by this time a proportion certainly closer to the 25 per cent. which was fixed for direct recruitment. That applies specially to the higher services in the Central Services. In Class I the proportion of Muslims is 16·05 per cent. in Class II it is only 18·32 per cent. and in the superior railway service it is 15·21 per cent. And those figures, if I were a Muslim, would cause me some dissatisfaction.

What are the causes? The suggestion is that the principal cause is that the rules are not properly applied, they are not properly enforced and there are influences working against the Muslims in Government service which prevent them from getting their due proportion. As I have said, Sir, there are other possible causes and of course the main one is the possibility that there are not, especially for certain types of posts, enough suitable candidates from the Muslim community. These higher posts in particular are mostly filled in consultation with the Federal Public Service Commission, through the agency and control of the Federal Public Service Commission.

Now, Sir, I was sorry to hear a remark that fell from my friend, Mr. Habibur Rahman I think it was. I did not follow exactly what he said but it seemed to me that he was making a suggestion that the Federal Public Service Commission itself is not properly following the policy which has been laid down in this regard. I hope that suggestion was not made and that I misunderstood my Hononurable friend's meaning.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang (East Punjab: Muhammadan): He did not say so: he meant no reflection on the Federal Public Service Commission.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I withdraw my supposition that he had said anything of the sort. He referred to the Commission but I accept my friend's assurance that there was no suggestion of a bias on the part of the Commission. I am very glad to hear that. I was going to say that the Federal Public Service Commission has proved and will continue to prove a very great safeguard not only for the cleanliness of the administration, cleanliness of appointments as a whole, but in particular a great safeguard of the rights of the minorities as laid down in the resolution of 1934.

I quite admit that the present arrangements which have been laid down by the Home Department for ensuring that the resolution shall be faithfully carried out are unsatisfactory. I have been looking into them lately, not for the purpose of meeting this cut motion but, shall I say, out of a fundamental desire to do

[Sir John Thorne]

my duty. I have been looking into them and I am not satisfied with them. We take an immense amount of pains. We give the other Departments of the Government of India a great deal of trouble and when it is all done we have not got, to my mind, a clear assurance as to the causes which still prevent not only Muslims but other communities for whom proportions had been reserved from reaching the figures stated in the resolution. We have prescribed returns: it is inevitable that returns should be prescribed. We have, if I may say so, great difficulty in getting from some of the Departments these returns properly and punctually filled up: in particular there are some attached offices which are habitual offenders in the matter of the submission of these returns. They are not punctually submitted and when they come they are imperfectly prepared and there has to be a great deal of passing to and fro before we are assured that the figures are correct. Even if we get what we have prescribed as returns, which should be received by the 1st April relating to the previous calendar year, even if we got those returns properly prepared, they would still, to my mind, not meet the need which exists. We should still be conducting only a *post-mortem* on appointments which are largely irrevocable at that stage instead of what I should like to see, a running check on appointments as they are made. I am not imputing to the Departments the motive which my Muslim friends impute to them, but I do feel that the duty of my own Department is not sufficiently fulfilled at present, because we have this mass of figures coming well after the event and we cannot be assured whether Muslims and members of the other communities had not received their proportion of appointments and whether the causes are fair and inevitable. I must of course make it clear that I am not concerned only with Muslims, I think I have made that clear. But I am now considering (I know my Honourable friends have not much respect for that phrase, more especially when a member of Government says that he is carefully considering or has carefully considered something, but it is an inevitable phrase) I am considering how we can improve that position. I should have liked to have something fairly definite to state to the House but I have not. It is a very difficult matter. It will mean a fairly elaborate machine. We cannot be content with just appointing a Muslim officer and handing the job over to him. Nor can we be content, as the mover suggested, with appointing a Muslim Deputy Secretary in each Department and requiring him to be personally responsible. Neither of those measures would meet the need which seems to exist and that is to have a running check, as appointments are made, on compliance with the terms of the resolution. I cannot go into more detail on that at the present moment but I do assure my friends, Muslims and others, that I mean business in regard to this. It is a matter on which I should like to consult the Standing Committee of the Home Department. If we have anything ready before the session ends that of course will be done. I am not sure whether that would be possible. I fear it may not be. We shall have to consult the Federal Public Service Commission over this, and it will not be easy to get hold of busy men whose headquarters, unfortunately, are not in Delhi. But if there is an opportunity which I can seize, without causing undue delay, or consulting the Standing Committee, I shall certainly do so; and I must repeat that I do feel that the present position is unsatisfactory, and it is my intention to do all I can to put it right.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): Mr. President, it must be within the recollection of many Members of this House that many stones have been hurled at the Labour Department . . . . .

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): Bricks, not stones . . . .

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: or bricks, during the last week which preceded this cut motion. It is only fair that I should rise in my seat to state

how the position of Muslims stands in my Department. Yesterday I listened to a sort of running commentary by the two speakers who spoke on this cut motion; they gave some figures regarding the position of Muslim employees in the different Departments of the Government of India. As I listened to that commentary, I cannot help saying that, having the facts before me, I felt considerably proud that the Muslim employees under the Labour Department had certainly fared much better than the story that was revealed by the speakers with regard to other Departments of the Government of India. That this is no vain boast but that it is supported by facts is what I propose to do during the few minutes that I propose to occupy today. I have collected, and if I may say so, I have taken great pains in collecting figures regarding the percentage of the employees of the Government of India in the Labour Department, not only in the Labour section, but in the P. W. D. and in all other attached offices, figures which show what the position of the communities is, the position of the Muslims is as well as the position of the other minorities. But I quite realise that within the time that I have it would be quite impossible for me to lay out in completeness the position of these different communities, and therefore I propose today merely to give the figures of Muslims—not only the totals but also the percentages, so that the members of the Muslim League Party may know what exactly the position is.

I begin with the communal composition of the Labour Department secretariat; and in doing so I propose to give not merely the figures as they stand now, but to give the figures on a comparative basis. I think the comparative basis is very necessary and very essential. So far as I have been able to understand the working of this rule, I think I may say that it is somewhat like shooting at a target: a target has a bulls eye; it has an inner circle and it has an outer circle. The percentages are the bulls-eye, undoubtedly. But I do not think that it would at all be possible for any member of the Government of India, no matter what his personal predelictions may be, that he can arrange the services under him in such a manner that he would always be able to hit the bulls eye. What I submit is that there should be an endeavour on the part of every member to see that no community as far as possible is pushed out of what is called the centre; and the question therefore that we have to consider in passing judgment upon the doings of any particular Department is to know whether the position of any particular class of employees in that Department has deteriorated or has bettered, and from that point of view I think a comparative statement is the proper way of studying this matter.

I have collected figures in all cases for 1939 and for 1946-March. I said that I will first present the figures with regard to the Labour Department secretariat. The gazetted posts in the year 1939 were 12 and the Muslim percentage was 8. In 1946, the total number of gazetted post is 80 and the Muslim per cent. proportion is 20 per cent. I will give the figures for the non-gazetted posts. In 1939 the total number of such posts was 75 and of that the Muslims had 23 per cent. In 1946 the total number of posts was 457, and the percentage of Muslims is 24.

Now I will come to that much-talked of C. P. W. D. I will give the figures for the gazetted posts. In 1939 the total number of gazetted posts in the C. P. W. D. was 43, of which the Muslims had 21 per cent. In 1946 the total number of posts was 181; and notwithstanding the difficulties to which my Honourable friend the Home Member referred in the matter of observing the communal proportions during the war emergency, the Muslims had 21·1 per cent. Now, this probably may not quite give enough comfort for the Mover of this cut motion; and I therefore propose to take the time of the House further to analyse the composition of the gazetted posts in the C. P. W. D. in the year 1946, taking the different grades for finding out the percentages. In Superintending engineers, the total posts are 14 and there is one Muslim—which gives 7 per cent. Of Executive Engineers there are 64, and the Muslim percentage is

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18 per cent. Electrical Engineers are 12, and the Muslim quota is 6-2/3 per cent. Assistant Executive Engineers—the quota for Muslims is 14 per cent. Temporary Engineers total 72 and the Muslim percentage is 32 per cent. While discussing the C. P. W. D. one of my Honourable friends—I forget which it was—mentioned the question of contracts of the Lodi Road . . . . . .

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer (Bombay Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural): Myself.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I think yourself. I forget exactly the figure mentioned by the Honourable Member . . . . . .

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: 5 crores.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: His complaint was that in the contracts for the Lodi Road works, the Muslim contractors got a very small percentage. I forget the exact figure.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: I referred to the Lodi Road Colony in particular and there are so many others in general.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The Honourable Member made his speech towards the end of the day and it was impossible for me to get the necessary figures but the figures are these.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural): There was no necessity for you to intervene at this stage. You could have waited for some time longer.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am very much obliged to my Honourable friend for this advice but I thought it desirable to let the Muslim League have sufficient time for their other cut motions. That is the reason why I intervened. Otherwise it was really a general motion. I had no desire to intervene at all and there was no necessity to. It is only to allay the fears which some Members have about the Labour Department that I got up.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Very kind of you.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The position with regard to the Lodi Road works was this. According to the information supplied to me by the Chief Engineer, the Muslims have got altogether contracts worth 10·5 lakhs of rupees, which is a figure much higher than the figure mentioned by my Honourable friend.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Out of?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Out of three crores. My Honourable friend will also remember and take the fact into consideration that on these works the Executive Engineer was a Muslim?

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: What about the official pressure put on him not to give it to Muslims?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: My friend is making all sorts of allegations. I hope he has got sufficient evidence to back them up. Nobody has drawn my attention to them. If my friend will give me the facts, I will certainly make inquiries.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: I will give it to you on the floor of the House.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The fact is that there is a Muslim Executive Engineer in charge of these works. The second fact is that an officer of the Central P.W.D. who is in charge of works, whether he is a Muslim or whether he is a Hindu, no matter what community he belongs to, he is bound by the Central P.W.D. Code. The Central P.W.D. Code requires that the contracts shall be given to a man whose tender is the lowest. I have made inquiries overnight and I have been informed by the Chief Engineer that there was no Muhammadan whose contract was the lowest who did not receive the contract.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: On a point of order. . . . .

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am not giving way. I have very little time.

Mr. President: Let the Honourable Member go on.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: These rules of the Central P.W.D. that the contract shall be given to the lowest bidder are subject to scrutiny from two different directions. One is the Auditor General and the second is the Public Accounts Committee. Both of them would require the departmental officer who broke this rule to give the necessary explanation as why he did so.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: That will be a *post-mortem*.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It is a question whether the rules are observed or not.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: The rules can be changed?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The Honourable Member knows more about it. He did a great deal of work in the Aligarh University. He ought to know something about the P.W.D. and doing the work of this kind. I cannot go into it now.

Let me take the Estate Office. In the Estate Office there are altogether 8 gazetted posts. Of them one is vacant. There the position is that there are six Hindus, one Scheduled Caste. There was one Muslim who recently was sent to his parent province. With regard to the non-gazetted posts, the total posts are 235. Of them the Muslims have 18·2 per cent.

Let me come to what are called the attached offices and I can only give the figures in a collective form—not item by item, which would take me very long. Here again the position in 1939 was this. There were altogether 64 posts. The Muslims had only 1·5 per cent. In 1946 the total posts were 155 and the Muslim percentage has risen from 1·5 per cent to 11·5 per cent. Let me take the non-gazetted posts in the attached offices. In 1936 the total number of posts were 2,238. The Muslims had 34 per cent. In 1946 the total number of non-gazetted posts had risen to 3,929 and the Muslim quota is 30 per cent.

Now, Sir, I will take the Geological Survey. As everybody in the House knows, the Geological Survey so far has been only a skeleton. It is during the war under the new projects of the Government of India relating to post-war development that we have taken up the work of the expansion of the Geological Survey. We recently made a beginning by the appointment of 13 permanent posts of Assistant Geologists. Now, I would like to tell my Honourable friend the real position so far as these appointments are concerned. We were naturally bound to fill these posts through the Federal Public Service Commission, which recommended altogether 40 names in order of merit. We had only to select 13. Out of the 13 there was only one Muslim whom we could select.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: Out of 40 names.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes. The names were given in order of merit and we had only 13 posts. Obviously we had to stop with the 13. If we had stopped with the 13, there was only one Muslim in that list of 13. As I said, these posts are technical posts and therefore we had to be very certain about the qualifications. If the Labour Department had stuck to their original proposition that they shall only take men recommended by the Federal Public Service Commission on a purely meritorious basis, they would have had only one Muslim Candidate but the Labour Department knowing that this would not be satisfactory from the point of view of the Muslims went down the list and picked 3 candidates who were far below 13 in order to make up their quota of 4 another thing we have done and which I know some people might regard as very improper is this. We found that in the office of the Director General of Geological Survey there were no Muslim officers. What did we do. We selected two Muslim students from the University represented by my Honourable friend Sir Zia Uddin Ahmed. . . .

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: The credit does not go to you.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: They were not geologists by their training. They had qualified themselves only in geography but notwithstanding this we selected two. We trained them so that they may be subsequently recruited to the office of the Geological Survey.

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Now, Sir, I come to the School of Mines. There were some questions in the last Assembly on that.

May I know, Sir, how much more time I have.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member can have 20 minutes. I am prepared to give him more time if necessary. He can go on till 1/15.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): You can take 25 per cent. of the time.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I do not wish to deal with this subject in that half philanthropic and half flippant manner that my friend has done.

Shri Sri Prakasa: I was not flippant at all.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Coming to the School of Mines, the position is this. We have from 1937 restricted admissions to the School of Mines to 24; originally, there were about 50. It was discovered that there was not sufficient accommodation for such a large number of students and, therefore, it was restricted to 24. Now, the selection for the admission to the college is primarily provincial and not communal. Sixteen seats are allotted to the provinces and two to the Indian States. I had examined the figures up to 1937 and I did not discover any single year in which there were not at least 2 Muslim students, who had sought admission to the School of Mines. I, therefore, did not think that any particular reservation was necessary to safeguard the interests of the Muslim students joining the School of Mines. However, when the matter was pressed by some Members of the Muslim League here, Members of the last Legislative Assembly, I did pass orders that two seats at least should be reserved for the Muslims in the Indian School of Mines.

1 P.M.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: Out of how many?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Out of 24. Now, Sir, even here I would like to tell the House what steps the Labour Department have taken in order to see that the Muslims are able to realise the full quota which has been reserved for them; and I shall give the figures for this year. This year we have altogether admitted 48 students on the recommendation of the Governing Body. Out of these 48 students, there only one Muslim who had satisfied the qualifying test.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur cum Orissa: Muhammadan): That is what I referred to you.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: But, Sir, in order to make good the reservation that was made, it was ordered that the fifty-ninth student, who was a Muslim, may be taken, over-riding the claims of practically 11 other boys.

Now, Sir, I will refer briefly to the various training schemes which have been sponsored by the Labour Department—some overseas—and to show that even here the Labour Department has not only been correct but has been very considerate. I will first refer to the training scheme sponsored by the Labour Department for the training of Assistant Geologists in the Melbourne University of Australia, as a part of the re-organisation of the Geological Survey. This took place in 1946. The total number of men that were selected was 9. Out of them, 5 were Hindus, 3 Muslims and 1 of other minorities. It will be seen that in this selection the Muslim proportion has been 33 1/3 per cent.

The second scheme sponsored by the Labour Department was to train men in commercial and administrative side of electricity. Electricity is going to play one of the greatest part in the reconstruction of India's economic and social life. Obviously, there must be people in India who are trained in the commercial and administrative side of it and we decided to train some men. Obviously, for a training of this sort, you could not take up raw boys from the university. You ought to have some men who have had some experience in this matter. We, therefore, decided to ask the Provincial Governments whether they would suggest names of some of their employees in their Electricity Department for being sent abroad. The selection, therefore, was not a selection made by the Labour Department or in the Government of India. The selection was entirely within the purview and charge of the Provincial Governments. The total number of men selected was 10. Out of them one was a Muslim. He was selected by the Hyderabad State. The other Provinces did not suggest the name of any Muslim. I do not know why. Probably because there were not any Muslims in their Electricity Department.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan (North-West Frontier Province: General): In the Frontier Province there are about 90 per cent. Muslims in the Electricity Department.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am sorry, but your Province did not recommend any Muslim name. You had better address a question in the Assembly of the Frontier Province.

I am coming now to three other schemes which were sponsored by the Labour Department for training abroad. One was the Bevin training scheme. The total number of boys who were sent was 787. Out of them, Muslims were 154, or 19 per cent. Then, we have in the Government of India a scheme for training Labour Officers for welfare purposes. These officers are not selected by the Labour Department; they are selected by the different Departments concerned. And here the position is this. Altogether 23 have, so far, been sent. Out of these 23, 18 are Muslims, which is a proportion of 79 per cent. Then, Sir, we have another scheme which is a scheme for giving higher technical training to the employees of private employers. The Government of India circularised private employers that in view of the necessity of improving technical efficiency of Indians if they desire to send any of their employees for training abroad, the Government of India in the Labour Department would do their best to secure opportunities for training in foreign countries. In this connection, so far, 6 men have been sent. Unfortunately, there was no Muslim amongst them, but that certainly is not the fault of the Labour Department, because they were not responsible for the training.

Now, Sir, another point which I would refer to is the recruitment of what are called Project Officers and Utilisation Officers under the Central Technical Power Board. We required 9 posts, one of a Utilisation Officer and 8 of what are called Project Officers. These appointments, again, had to be filled through the Federal Public Service Commission. Unfortunately, there was no Muslim among the 9 posts that were filled. In this connection, I would like to draw the attention of the Mover of the cut motion to the correspondence which the Labour Department had with the Federal Public Services Commission. We queried when we got the selection and found that there was not a single Muslim. I asked my Department to address a query to the Federal Public Service Commission as to why there was no Muslim in the names that they had suggested. The reply of the Federal Public Service Commission was this. It is interesting, I think, because it throws a different light on the subject. The Federal Public Service Commission said that, in response to their advertisement, altogether 240 applications were received. Out of that number, only 8 were Muslims, and out of these 8 Muslims, they invited 3 for interview. Out of three, they found not one suitable for the post. Well, Sir, this is in brief a record of the Labour Department in the matter of communal representation. I claim, Sir, that during the period that I have occupied this post, it can be fairly said that the position of Muslims, far from having deteriorated has considerably advanced. Sir, I do not claim anything more for the Department in which I hold charge. I should like to conclude just by making two observations. I have no idea how many Honourable Members of the Muslim League Party know what part I played in the issue of this communal Ratio Resolution. I think if any Member of the Muslim League Party was present when the Round Table Conference was held in London, he would very well realise that among those who fought for securing

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these privileges to the minority communities, I claim that I have played a considerable part. It cannot therefore be said that I am out of sympathy with the demand of the Muslims or the demand of any other minority community. It is for this that I have fought, it is for this I have been fighting, and it is for this that I will fight.

The second proposition that I should like to make, if my Honourable Colleague, the Home Member would permit me to say so, is that the action which he promised the House that he will take in order to see that the Government of India will not be merely content with rearguard action on the various Departments making default in this matter but that he will take some substantial steps so that as and when appointments are made, proper check is applied at the time, the credit must go to me because it is I who wrote to him a letter that this state of affairs ought to be rectified. I do not want to say anything more.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: On a point of information, Sir. I want to know whether in the figures which he just now quoted, are the appointments in the resettlement also included?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes, it is a consolidated section of the Labour Secretariat.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Including resettlement.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have so many figures. I must say they are so interesting that if my Honourable friend wants, I am quite prepared to pass it on to him for his further study.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Sir, I had no intention to speak on this debate, and in fact, our Party decided to withdraw the cut Motion after the speech of the Honourable the Home Member. But after the speech which has just been delivered by the Honourable Labour Member, it is very difficult to restrain myself without saying a few words. The first point that was raised was that it was not desirable that the department of services should be combined with the department of profit. That is, the Public Works Department must be separated from the Labour Department altogether. This was the point raised by my Honourable friend the Mover of the cut motion. That is the point which I wish to press. I thank the Honourable Dr. Ambedkar for the services which he claims to have done for the minority communities at the Round Table Conference and perhaps elsewhere also, but I think he will be able to do better service if this Department of Central Public Works is separated from the Labour Department.

At the beginning of this session we brought to the notice of the Honourable Member, myself and some of my Colleagues in the Muslim League Party drew the attention of the Government to the convention that whenever the Chief Administrative Officer was a non-Muslim, then his two Assistants should be Muslims and *vice versa*. At present the two Assistants are non-Muslims. One of them was a Muslim, Mr. Nasim, but he was shifted to some other Department. We urge upon the Honourable Member that he should follow the convention and appoint a Muslim in his place. We have been pressing this for the last two months, but no action has been taken. We apprehend that as soon as the Assembly session is over, he will quietly appoint some one other than a Muslim for this post. We have reasons to believe that actually some persons belonging to the Scheduled caste were approached to accept this post.

Mr. President: If the Honourable Member will take some time, we will now adjourn for Lunch.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Yes, Sir.

Mr. President: The Assembly will now adjourn for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

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

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Sir, when we rose for Lunch I was making the point, which was also made by the Mover, that the two Departments of profit and service should be separated. There can never be any coordination between these two contradictories; it is done only here and in no other country. The sooner we separate them the better for the efficiency of both. Even in the Provinces you do not find these two combined.

My second point is that though any amount of figures may be quoted, it is not, as was pointed out by Khan Bahadur Habibur Rahman, only the percentage with which we are concerned but we should like to see the salary bills also and find out whether the higher posts are filled by non-Muslims and only the lower ones by Muslims. Pursuing the same point he said that out of thirteen Superintending Engineers there is only one Muslim. I approached the Honourable Dr. Ambedkar along with my Honourable friend Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang and another friend and said that now that there is a vacancy and a suitable Muslim is available he should be appointed. But he has now started a new procedure, and that is to ask some one to carry on and that some one does not even hold a permanent post. You can carry on for some time but not indefinitely. What we wanted to draw his attention to is that in the higher posts also Muslim claims should be considered provided suitable men are available.

There is of course a great deal in what the Honourable Home Member said that Muslims should not be promoted out of place. But in making promotions they adopt two principles, namely, seniority and efficiency. In practice we find that only that principle is adopted which makes Muslims lower. Therefore we said that the senior man may be given the post and if he proved inefficient it may be given to the next man who may be efficient. But in this particular case when the senior man has been passed over some officer or the head of the Department should look into the matter personally and satisfy himself that he was really inefficient. That is all that we desire and nothing more.

The third thing we object to is that in addition to these two principles of seniority and efficiency Dr. Ambedkar has added a third one, namely, co-ordination of work. As the post was vacant he would not appoint any one and that in spite of our repeated requests. Persons who could be appointed to permanent posts will be Muslims because they are senior and efficient. We do not think it is fair that when the Assembly is on, the appointment should not be made in spite of our requests but that some one else should be quietly appointed when the Assembly is over, so that we may not move an adjournment motion and the interval between two sessions is long. That is not a fair method. I personally believe in discussing these matters privately outside the House without giving them any publicity. But if our requests are always refused the only thing to do is to give them publicity on the floor of the House. And it is with great reluctance that we adopt that course.

Then with regard to the Secretariat, there is an Assistant Secretary, a Deputy Secretary, a Joint Secretary and so on. All these people deal with the cases of Muslim officers. I do not like to speak about the Deputy Secretary because I spoke to the Premier of the Province to which he belongs and he said that he would like to have away from Bengal. I am sorry I have mentioned the name but still I do not wish to discuss personalities. But we have heard that he takes action even on anonymous letters provided the person concerned is a Muslim; otherwise he takes no action. Then, the Under-Secretary has been given three extensions; he is on the retired list and in these days when so many persons are available there is no need to give these extensions; and the same is about the Assistant Secretary.

So that out of four or five officers in the Labour Department one at least should be a Muslim, and many of the difficulties point out will disappear.

[Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad]

I regret the heated debate that followed the Home Member's speech but he took it on himself for nothing and drew our attention to many things which we had not thought of before. He clearly emphasised that we should not only look at the percentage but to the percentage in the different grades, which means looking into the salary bill of the whole Department.

Sir, I did not like to say very much on this because I think that the Members who are in charge of the Government of India represent the people of India as a whole and not one community only. They should look to the interests of everybody and there should be complete impartiality. That is what we claim. But, as was pointed out by Khan Bahadur Habibur Rahman, there is great discontent among the Muslims in the Central P. W. D. Some posts carry some profit because there is work going on; these are not given to Muslims, but it is only posts of a routine nature which carry no profits that are given to them. There is discontent among them because they do not get fair treatment and the result is that Muslim contractors also suffer because they do not get their fair share. The only remedy is that we should adopt the practice followed in the rest of the world and separate the Central P. W. D. from the Labour Department.

Mr. President: Does the Honourable the Finance Member wish to say anything?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member): No, Sir.

M. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: In view of the assurance given by the Honourable the Home Member and the sympathy expressed by him, I do not desire to press the motion, and I therefore ask for the leave of the House to withdraw it.

The motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

DEMAND No. 22—COMMERCE DEPARTMENT

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 31,38,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Commerce Department'."

Mr. President: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 31,38,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Commerce Department'."

Unsatisfactory Position of Export of Hides and Skins involving enormous loss to India

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Mr. President, Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Commerce Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sir, I find it extremely difficult to discuss the question of the hides and skins trade in such a short time that I have at my disposal, *i.e.*, 20 minutes. In my capacity as President of the Hides and Skins Traders Association of Calcutta, an organisation of over hundred years standing, I have been issuing statements to the Press from time to time. The last one which I issued was in February last in which I particularly drew the attention of the Honourable the Commerce Member to certain important aspects of this trade. I represented the Hide and Skins Trade of India at the meeting which was convened by the Supply Department on the 24th and 25th of October 1944 and that was also a critical stage for this trade as effort was being made to throttle down this trade by certain scheme of "monopoly buying by Government", and thanks to the genius and understanding of the then Honourable Member in charge, Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar who conceeded to my point of view when I placed the case before the Conference on behalf of the entire hides and skins trade of the country—as all the other Hide and Skin Association of India who were invited to the Conference elected me as the only sole representative on their behalf for settling matters with Government. Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar was convinced and agreed to the point of view expressed by me in spite of contrary opinions given by the officials circle under the influence of Mr. Inskip of Cooper Allen &

Co. Now, Sir, again I find that the official agencies are trying to create a difficult position in the matter of export of hides and skins, and that official opinion is mostly obsessed by our friend, Mr. Inskip, the Government Adviser who is here, and Mr. Randell, the Director of Tanning and Footware, both of them belong to the section of the tanning industry run by foreign agency, foreign money, and foreign influence. I doubt very much whether the opinions that they give to Government could ever be in the interest of this country.

Let me now review the present position of the raw hides and goatskins trade. During the war, prices of all commodities increased nearly 400 per cent. with the exception of raw hides which did not register an increase of more than 50 per cent. if you calculate the average of 1939-45 the 6 years of war and this increase was due to the higher cost of labour and high price of salt required for curing and preserving raw hides in good condition. I would like to impress upon the House in this connection that although the rise was to an average of nearly 50 per cent. the real factors which were responsible for this increase were the cost of labour and the cost of salt. During the war the hide merchants and producers co-operated with the Government in keeping low level of prices to allow Government to make their purchases of finished leather, like shoes, at the pre-war levels, but by manipulations of traders in the footware industry, this did not happen and prices of shoes, despite control, registered a rise of nearly 250 per cent. compared to the level of prices which prevailed in 1939. On some pretext or other shoe traders like "Battas" could convince the Supply Department that procurement was not possible unless higher rates were given to them and they were supported by our friends, Mr. Inskip, Mr. Rendell and his group.

During the war a new arrangement affected expert adversely. 'Allied Shipping Pool' was established and a new scheme of buying through monopolist purchasing agencies was organized by U. K. and U. S. A. During the war and even now that the hostilities have terminated everywhere there methods were adopted to keep down the price of raw hides and goatskins in India. Regulations were formed by Government of India to restrict sales of raw and half-tanned Madras kips to the various branches of the combined "Raw material Purchasing Mission" of the United Kingdom and the United States of America. While it could be argued that for the duration of the existence of the "Allied Shipping Pool" the Government of India was forced to restrict the export of raw and half-tanned hides almost exclusively to the agencies of purchase created or controlled by this 'Allied Shipping Pool', which we understand has ceased to exist after the 2nd of March 1946, there can be no purpose other than allowing the exploitation of India by maintaining the regulation for the sale of raw and tanned cowhides, and goatskins at uneconomic prices to there monopolist organisation. As the question of securing freight for many other countries will not be a matter of any Allied Pool control any more, the Government of India must at once withdraw the regulation which is restricting the sale of raw hides and goatskins to this monopolistic purchasing agency of the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The House will be surprised to hear that Canada, France, and of all the countries, South Africa,—a country on which we would have marched with our army to conquer it if we had an independent status,—have been given a hand in the pie. White robbers have joined hands to rob Indian wealth and instead of one East India Company there are a quite a few East India Companies established to impoverish our resources. The ceiling price as enforced by the Allied Control is nothing short of loot and exploitation of Indian original producer of raw hides and skins at cheap and uneconomic prices. As soon as the regulations are withdrawn and free trade in raw hides and tanned kips is resumed, each country will have to pay economic prices to us for the supply of our raw hides and skins. The countries other than those in the Allied pool have got very little facilities and as they are not in this *combine*, they cannot have facilities for shipment to States like Turkey, the

[Mr. Muhammad Nauman]

Balkans, Greece and Palestine and other places, although they are prepared to pay for raw hides nearly three times the price that these Purchasing Missions can pay today. Speaking for my own firm we have cables and letters from clients in Greece and Turkey who are prepared to pay us 34*d*. per lb. for light raw cowhides whereas the U. K. Board would not give more than 18/19*d*. per lb. You can understand what the difference means. I demand, Sir, that immediately the regulations be withdrawn—and this view was also placed before the Honourable the Commerce Member when he called together a certain conference in last February the deliberations of which I hold in my possession, although I do feel that this conference was not at all representative as the Honourable Member in charge did not care to invite representatives from the stockist of raw hides and skins and producers of these raw materials and particularly the organisation to which I have referred the Hide and Skin Traders Association of Calcutta which has a standing of over 100 years and he is in the know of importance of this organisation in the trade. He did know of the great influence this organization commands as he himself belongs to Calcutta and Bengal. That is the position which I want to clarify and protest on his method of nomination to such conference, which become rather farce.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque (Commerce Member): I do not know, but I did know of your office in Damzen Lane.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: But the organisations office is in 9, Maharani Swarnamoyee Road and the office of my firm "M. Jameel Ahmed & Sons", a firm of over fifty years standing is at 10, Damzen Lane—Calcutta.

I get support in this demand from even official representative in the conference that regulation of restrictions should be withdrawn.

Mr. President, now I come to the question of the peculiar position in the goatskin trade. The goatskin prices in 1939 were about 25*d*. per price C. I. F. Port of destination and the average of the depression years that is between 1929-39 works to 37*d*. each whereas this U. S. A. Board would not give us more than 22*d*. in 1945-46. And there you have to take into consideration the present factor of a higher cost of labour and salt, which actually means that they are paying nearly 18*d*. for the same commodity that they were paying 37*d*. on the average of the ten years calculation between 1929-39. That is the deplorable position which has been created by these "Monopolist" buying agencies of U. S. A. and U. K.

Now, as soon as this regulation is taken away I have no doubt that we would be able to get for our raw goatskins three or four times the prices that we are being quoted today by these Boards. Probably the Honourable the Commerce Member should know that the African skins of Mombassa are far inferior and are selling at 68*d*. each. The China goatskins which are still inferior are fetching 60*d*. a piece. To give their Government a right idea of the price position, Sir, I would say that in 1918-19 the average Indian goatskin, Mozaffarpur quality was fetching eighty pence per piece and at the same time Mombassas and Chinas Skins were fetching nearly fifty pence per piece. That would be the real position if we had a free hand in the trade and if the Government of India did not interfere to throttle down our business, all the foreign buyers will have to buy at our dictation.

There is a belief that the supply position is not very satisfactory and we have not enough hide for exports. Let me come to the supply position of raw hides and expose this plea of Government by their own figures. In the meeting of the Advisory Council of export in Bombay, in September 1945 Government agreed that the supply position had considerably increased and since September 1945 there is a further increase in the supply position. I will now refer to the Calcutta market position which is the chief emporium of Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and parts of the Central Provinces. In 1944 tanners and exporters purchased

1,32,558 pieces monthly, whereas the average in 1945 was 1,64,888 pieces and you will not be surprised to appreciate the fact that the monthly average of unsold stock in the market was nearly 58,800 in 1944 and nearly 84,350 in 1945. By this I mean that that 84,350 pieces cowhides was the monthly unsold stock carried from one month to the other. That is in one particular month we could not liquidate the entire stock which the Calcutta market had imported from moffasil agencies. What it showed was that the internal demand could not absorb the whole of the increased supply and this is the position, Sir, when prices have been kept down below the average as compared with any other commodity of this country.

India's capacity to consume her own resources of raw material in this class has been very limited. India has been one of the biggest exporters of raw hides and skins since over 150 years, I can prove to you that even 200 years ago, Surat and Calcutta used to be those ports from where we used to ship our raw hides to different countries and get much higher value for that that India could pay them. India in those days was self-sufficient in the matter of her own shoes requirements and India used to produce her own shoes through the system of cottage industries on a vast scale.

Now I come to the tanning industry. The most pertinent question here is whether the old and patent plea for safeguarding tanning industry should compel India to sell her raw hides at an uneconomic rate to tanners and in turn allow the East India Kip Tanners to either play in the hands of the present Purchasing Boards of the U. K. and the U. S. A. or allow them to earn all the profits in foreign trade and only pay Indian producer a pitiable uneconomic price. The House knows that we gave the tanning industry a chance to build up her capacity and for a number of years protective duties were levied on the export of raw hides and skins for this purpose and they had the advantage of the two big wars where these tanners had ample opportunities to develop their industry by scientific researches and by experience. If our tanners are not able to compete on world parity prices for purchase of raw hides and skins even with the advantages offered to them for near by 30 years they cannot live on the charity of 400 million people of India for all time to come and ignore the question of the producer's position and the consumer's cost. They deserve no support when they have proved so incompetent in their own act of developing tanning industry.

I will now give the figures. The total production of hides was on the average is 257 lakh pieces, *i.e.*, 2 crores 57 lakhs out of which one crore and 13 lakhs hides were exported. Speaking for average of the Calcutta market exports, nearly 40 lakhs pieces hides were exported during 1938-39 out of which 5 lakhs pieces went to Madras and the balance to other parts of the world. The position I will try to show is that a competitive price we had built up a trade with all parts of the world including every country of Europe say—Norway, Sweden, Finland, France, etc. and all the important countries in the Middle East like Palestine and others: all the important ports of the U. S. A. were the biggest buyers for our goatskins.

Now, Sir, the total position in Calcutta of arrivals has dwindled down to 10·5 lakhs in 1945 out of hich 9·75 lakhs were sent to Madras as facilities for exports were blocked practically on all sides. Now compare this position as to that of 45 lakhs export average of Calcutta and if we export our cow hides at prices available today in Turkey, Egypt, Palestine, the Balkan States and other places which is nearly 34*d*. to 35*d*. per lb. for light qualities whereas our tanners can only afford to give us 16*d*. to 17*d*. per lb. and sell it to the present monopolist pool at dictated prices, we can bring our trade to old days in the export and continue the supply to tanneries in full.

I will tell the House one thing more. If the export is made free, prices of raw hides and skins will improve on competition. I want to give an idea of the personnel engaged in the raw hides and skins trade in Calcutta market alone.

[Mr. Muhammad Nauman]

The total membership in my organization of "Hides and Skins Merchants Association" is nearly 120 in Calcutta and with their agencies in the provinces concerned the number is nearly 25,000, and taking the average of six persons engaged in each agency, you will have over one lakh and sixty thousand of people engaged in this trade in one market of Calcutta. As regards the price, the most easy calculation is this: Out of a total of 257 lakh pieces of raw hides the average production of 10 years, if the weight is put at eight pounds average per piece, you will notice that 2,056 lakhs pounds will be the total weight. In tons 91,785 tons and if we sold at 34*d.* per pound instead of 16*d.* the value would be just double. This country will be losing to the tune of 50 crores of rupees if export of raw hides is restricted.

The most surprising factor is this. Mr. Inskip is a great advocate of the tanning industry and he referred to the development of tanning during the war. Still he has been one of those who has been opposing the indigenous tanners tooth and nail in conferences and elsewhere on all occasions. What I want to impress is this that in developing our tanning industry we have got to tell our tanners that they have got to compete with the world parity prices in the matter of their purchase of raw products of India and if there is any protection to be given we have got to develop this in a manner so that we may be exporters of finished leather goods like shoes, suitcases, attaches, etc. There is no reason why any preference should be shown to the half-tanned and tanned skins exporters to those exporters who send them in raw condition when this country is to lose so heavily say about 50 crores of rupees to the Indian producer of Indian Raw Hides and Skins. I have not got much time to convince the Honourable the Commerce Member as to how the imports to Calcutta markets and other markets were affected by the depression in prices. Probably he knows that three fourth of the total production in the country is out of fallen hides. Unless those who go to collect them in the jungles and other parts get a remunerative price, which would enable them to make a living, they would not take the trouble of continuing this profession of collection of hides. Naturally it was pointed out by the merchants representative in the conference that the import to the Calcutta market slowed down as soon as the prices became un-remunerative for those who are engaged in this trade. I will convince the Honourable Member about the truth of this if he discussed it with me and as he promised me a few weeks ago. We cannot be guided by the opinion of these tanners whose self-interest would not allow them to do justice to the producer and stockists of Hides and Skins. The industry should be developed on proper lines so that the country could have a proper value for its production. When I say proper value I mean the value which hides and skins can fetch in the world on parity prices basis, prices which these commodities can fetch in world competition of raw products. It is no use saying that the conditions in this country would not allow tanners to pay a price which will be on world parity and therefore control the prices at the cost of the producers and stockists and again control the import of finished leather at the cost of the consumers for all times. That is something which is probably most obnoxious. We should develop our industry in a manner which would give a fillip to the entire production of the leather manufactured goods and unless the industry is able to benefit all sections we do not suppose they deserve any credit and can claim any particular preference which they have been asking for and which we gave them for many years in the past.

3 P.M.

My last submission is that raw hides should be allowed to go through its normal channels and efforts should be made to restore this trade to their old conditions, so that the tanneries which depended on Indian stock would still depend on them and pay rates which world conditions demand of them. It will be noticed that all those commodities that we are importing from foreign markets are being paid 300 per cent. higher rates and there is no reason why

our raw products should not be sold at the same rate of 300 per cent. over the pre-war levels. Tanners must get high prices for their own products and pay for raw product in same proportion.

With these few words, Sir, I move the motion.

Mr. President: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Commerce Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. A. C. Inskip (United Provinces: European): Sir, this cut motion has been moved to consider the unsatisfactory position of export of hides and skins involving an enormous loss to India. (Interruption by *Mr. Muhammad Nauman*) I did not interrupt when my Honourable friend spoke and I hope he will show me the same courtesy. The position in regard to the export of skins is unsatisfactory and had the mover confined his motion to the question of goat and sheep skins I would have supported him. He has, however, included raw hides in the subject for discussion and for this reason I must join issue with him.

Sir, when viewed from the exporter's point of view the export of raw hides is unsatisfactory but far from involving this conuntry in financial loss, the present position is bringing increased revenue to India and is providing a source of employment to many thousands. In putting forward this cut motion, if I may say so, without giving offence to my Honourable friends on my right, the Members on the Muslim League Benches are not doing justice, I contend, to the many thousands of their own community, who are engaged in the leather and tanning industries of this country. Does my Honourable friend appreciate that for every person engaged in the export of raw hides, there are no less than ten thousand, mostly of his own community who are engaged in the processing of those hides into leather and the fabrication of the leather into such articles as footwear and other leather goods. Is he also aware of the fact that the Indian tanning Industry has expanded to such an extent during the war years that the industry is now able to process all the hides which are available in this country. I particularly mention hides and not skins.

Sir, even before the commenment of the recent war raw hide exports showed a considerable decline, while the export of tanned leather showed a corresponding increase. Let me quote from official government records in support of my statement. The trend of development before the present war can be judged, I think, by comparing the export figures of 1913-14 and those of 1938-39. Raw hide exports for the year 1913-14 amounted in the case of cow hides to 92·6 lakh pieces. In the year 1938-39 this figure was reduced to 46·1 lakh pieces.

Then, Sir, in regard to raw buffalo hides, the exports in the year 1913-14 amounted to 28·9 lakh pieces while that of 1938-39 was 6·2 lakh pieces.

Now, Sir, let me quote the export figures for tanned leather for the same periods. During the fiscal year 1913-14 the export of tanned cow hides totalled 29 lakh pieces but this increased to 48 lakh pieces in the year 1938-39. Similarly, in the case of chrome tanned cow hides, the volume of exports increased by no less than 28 times during the two periods I have mentioned. (Interruption by *Mr. Muhammad Nauman*). The Honourable Member says that I have selected those years which are convenient. I shall quote, if he wishes the figures for the other years regarding the export of buff hides. Here are the figures:

1913-14, 28·9 lakh pieces.
1918-19, 13·4 lakh pieces.
1923-24, 8·7 lakh pieces.
1928-29, 10·2 lakh pieces.
1933-34, 5·2 lakh pieces.
1938-39, 6·2 lakh prices.

[Mr. A. C. Inskip]

I did not want to labour the House with all these figures but since my Honourable friend wanted them, I have given them.

This was the position before the recent war. But since then, the tanning industry has expanded to such an extent that despite what my Honourable friend has said just now, it is not able to secure its full requirements of raw materials, with the result that the majority of the tanneries in this country are now working to only 50 per cent. of their capacity.

Now, Sir, let me give the House as briefly as possible details of the industry's expansion during the war years. As early as 1940 the industry through its trade organisation willingly came forward to assist Government in meeting the enormous war demand for leather and leather goods. As the demand increased, new tanneries came into existence and extensions were undertaking in existing concerns. With the wholehearted co-operation of all concerned, war demands were met, although this necessitated the introduction of a very rigid control, involving as it did the abandonment of all civil trade and export markets. But let me quote the opening and closing sentences of a speech made by Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar when he addressed the quarterly conference of tanners in January 1945. He commenced his speech with these words:

"Yours is one of the earliest organisations which have met under the auspices of Government and which have tried to help the Government in its efforts to produce the required articles for war purposes. I think it was early in 1940 that your conference was first convened, convened when you expressed your willingness to come together and help the Government in the problems that then faced it. From that time onwards you have had regular and frequent conferences."

He finished his address on the same occasion with these words:

"I want to assure you that the Government is deeply grateful for all you have done during the last five years and they are very much concerned with the permanent and lasting benefit which this industry will give to the country as a whole."

Sir, by reason of its war effort the tanning and leather industries have a right to look to Government for assistance at this time. Indeed that assistance was actually promised by Government through the late Supply Member in January 1945. In the speech to which I have previously referred, Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar said:

"I realise that the Government of this country particularly has an obligation also. Having dislocated all your normal channels of trade and commerce and having put you on special purposes to meet the Government demands, I do not think it is right or fair that the Government as soon as its needs are over should turn and say 'Now, look after yourself.' I do not think we want to do that with reference to any industry, least of all that industry which has already helped us so much."

Now, let us look more closely into the position as it exists today. According to the latest trade statistics, the volume of hide production in this country amounts annually to some 12½ million cattle hides and just under 1¾ million buffalo hides. Prices now paid by the tanning industry in this country for its raw supplies are far above world parity figures despite what my Honourable friend has said, and represent an advance of over 300 per cent. on pre-war levels; and in that connection I will refer my Honourable friend to the record note of the trade meeting to which he himself has referred: a member of his own trade, the export trade, gave figures on that occasion which read something like this:

"In answer to a question by the Chairman Mr. Gresham stated that the history of the prices of raw hides was as follows: In 1938, just prior to the war, Rs. 3-15 to Rs. 5-8 per piece: in 1945, Rs. 16 to Rs. 17 per piece."

This is from an exporter. If as my Honourable friend states there are such huge surpluses of raw hides available in this country for export, and he accepts the fact that prices are governed by the law of supply and demand, then perhaps he will endeavour to explain why the present high level of prices obtains.

At the same time, he might also explain why the tanning industry—and here I include the cottage tanning industry—are unable to secure their full requirements even at present price levels.

No, Sir. The true facts are that, due to the present world shortage of leather, certain countries which were not large purchasers of Indian raw hides in pre-war years are now anxious to obtain their supplies of raw materials from us. This temporary export demand can only be met at the expense of the tanning industry in this country; and as the industry has now grown in strength, I submit that it should receive the first consideration of Government. The position in which we find ourselves now was correctly forecast by the late Supply Member when in the speech from which I have already quoted, he said:

"The tanning industry in this country has grown during the war. We used to export our hides and skins during the war. Owing to circumstances many of which were beyond our control and which have been brought about by the accident of war, we had to turn our attention to a phase of work which was not done on a very large scale except in the south, and we have proceeded very far indeed with it. It would be a great pity indeed if the progress that we have made during the war was in any way lost in the post-war period. You know it better than myself that this tanning industry which has been so much developed should continue to develop in the post-war period also. We hope that it will continue to flourish and grow in strength and take its rightful place as the exporter of manufactured goods and not as the exporter of raw hides."

Sir, with the tanning industry working to capacity, the leather it can produce would, I agree, be in excess of India's requirements, but with the existing world shortage the present is an opportune time to develop and expand our export markets for leather and leather goods. In this regard, Sir, I would urge on Government the necessity of adopting a more liberal policy in the matter of the export of these commodities. Many of the present export restrictions are relics of the war, and as some show preference towards certain sections of the industry at the expense of others, a general review of the position in the light of conditions as they exist today, is much overdue. Arising from the meeting which was convened by the Commerce Member on the 9th February last, to which we have had a reference from the Honqurable Member, Government is now conversant with the views of all sections of the trade; and in replying to this debate I trust the Honourable Member in charge of Commerce will provide the House with details of the policy that Government propose to follow. Sir, I oppose the motion.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Sir, I have no interest in the hides and skins trade or in any other trade, and I speak only from the economic point of view, I have as much interest in raw hides as I have in the half-tanned hides and skins produced in Madras, because I have got friends both in Madras and Calcutta who are interested in one or the other. This particular industry is very unfortunate—I do not know what sins they committed during the great war. Soon after the war, the first thing they did was to levy an export duty of 15 per cent. on hides and skins. This expoort duty was condemned by the Fiscal Commission; it was condemned by the Taxation Inquiry Committee, but still it was put on. In 1927 we had a debate on the floor of the House about the abolition of the duty and the House was divided between the Madras supporters on one side and the supporters of Bengal on the other and there was an equality of votes. I was not in the House then but the matter was decided by the casting vote of the Chair and he naturally gave his ruling in favour of the *status quo*. The duty remained as it was in 1937.

When I came up I raised this question again in 1931 and I said this:

The value to India of this industry taken as a whole is about forty to fifty crores; it provides employment to large numbers of men and is a factor in the economic well being of millions of the depressed classes. There is scope for work in order to reduce the national waste.

Then I quoted from the report of the Hide Cess Committee and said:

The report alse tells us that the larger percentage of exports consists of inferior grade hides from animals which have died a natural death, while the

[Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad]

greater proportion of the hides of animals which have been slaughtered in slaughter houses is utilised by Indian tanners. Sir, we find that on account of this exchange policy of the Government, coupled with the export duty, which is really an insult to injury added, we find that the trade of the export of hides is going down very rapidly.

Now, my friend Mr. Inskip quoted figures and he said that the trade was flourishing in 1932. While advocating that this duty should be abolished, I quoted figures of the money received by means of the import duty and clearly showed that the law of diminishing returns was operating and then I pointed out at that time that in 1919-20 the money realised by export duty was 90,24,651 and year by year it has been falling down so much so that in the year 1930-31 it was reduced to 23,83,600 and to 12 lakhs in the following year. When the export duty of 5 per cent. has been falling down and the law of diminishing returns had begun to operate how on earth can you say that the export has been flouhishing.

I took up the question again in the year 1934 and after a good deal of discussoin the export duty was abolished. I had a great discussion with the then Commerce Member, Sir Joseph Bhore and I proved that it was on account of this export duty of 5 per cent. that the hides and skins trade, both tanned and raw, was really suffering. Sir James Grigg in the following year was satisfied by my arguments and he by the certification of the Government abolished the duty of 5 per cent. for the first time. Sir Cowasji Jehangir is not here. He could not understand why the Government should abolish the duty by means of certification by the Viceroy. The fact is that the case was genuine and real and Sir James Grigg did it. During the first great war, the trade suffered enonmously and during the last year it suffered still further. The war does not suit this industry. And I do not know how much troubles are still in store for this industry.

I shall now put one or two sumple questions to Mr. Inskip and any person who does not agree with me. Take the census of cows and buffaloes in India. It comes to 20 crores. The life of a buffalo is 7 years. So every year there must be a natural death of 3 crores. Exactly it comes to 275 lakhs. Out of this 3 crores India can only consume one crore. Where do the other 2 crores go? How are they consumed. If my friends stop the export altogether in order that our industry may be benefitted, then I entirely agree but they must show on the floor of the House that they have got facilities to tan the hides and skins in this country.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Let us create the facilities.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Unless those facilities exist now, these hides and skins will go to waste. My friend is an economist. He cannot allow waste to go on. Now, I should like to tell my friend that the export of both tanned and raw hides is falling. Where has it gone. This really means that a large number of persons, specially the village chamars, who used to take the skins from the dead bodies of animals do not consider it worth while to take the skins. (*An Honourable Member*: It is wrong). Where does it go then? It is no use simply saying that I am wrong. You must be able to account for it satisfactorily. They have not gone outside, as the export has been stopped.

I shall now put two questions on which my whole case depends. I do not think any one engaged in the trade will support for a single moment the monopoly purchase system. I ask the Commerce Member whether it is not a fact that one organisation in London and one in the United States have got the sole right to purchase. Is this what you call freedom of trade? Why do you allow export only to these two countries and stop the export to other countries. This is absolutely not justifiable and I am sure that Professor Ranga as a champion of trade and industry will not support this.

Then as regards prices, the prices are not fixed by the market and by the local conditions but the purchasers have got the sole right to fix the price. They have got the right to fix any price they like and they have also got the monopoly of purchasing. I am not talking as a business man. I take my figures from the 'Economist'. Whenever the prices are going up of one article, then naturally the prices of all other articles go up in sympathy with each other. I have got the paper "The Economist" before me and I have got there the index figures of all the articles. The index price of rice has gone up from 100 to 333; the index price of wheat has gone up from 100 to 372; the index price of coal has gone up from Rs. 100 to 287; but the index price of hides and skins has gone up from 100 to 128 only. So, 128 is the price which these foreign purchasers have fixed for the purchase of hides and skins.

I object to it on two principles. Firstly, there should be an open trade in hides and skins and we should be free to send them to any country we like; and, secondly, they should be sold at the economic price. And what we are getting now for hides and skins is not the economic price. When the purchasing power of the rupee has fallen to such a great extent in the case of rice, wheat and coal, it has not fallen to this extent in the case of hides and skins, so that the foreign people may be benefited by it. These are the two points which I would like to press.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: May I ask the Honourable Member what he is reading from?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I thought I was reading from *The Economist* but it is *The Capital* I am reading from. But that does not matter because the figures of *The Capital* are just as good as those of *The Economist* except that they are a bit old.

The industry of hides and skins is rather unfortunate because the foreign markets are closed and shipping is not available. Government purchased all its military requirements at prices which were fixed by the purchasing authority. These are the difficulties under which this particular industry is suffering. In this particular case, they have really to consider the requirements of the villagers also, because unless you pay them an economic price, they will not undertake to take out the skin from the dead bodies. The price of meat, which used to be 6 annas a seer before the war, has gone up to Rs. 1-8-0.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: In Calcutta it is Rs. 3 per seer.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: It has gone up four times and therefore it is not worth while for these people to deal in hides and skins, to remove the skins from the dead bodies and then sell them. They do not get much from the skins and they have made up their loss by raising the price of meat. So, the price of other foodstuffs has gone up by 4 times, but the price of hides and skins has gone up only by about 42 per cent.

Mr. A. C. Inskip: It has gone up by about 4 times.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: The Honourable Member is thinking of the finished leather articles. Their price may have gone up by 4 times and that is also very unfair. The manufacturer of leather goods has raised the price four times, but he refuses to pay in the same proportion for the raw material from which he has manufactured his finished leather articles. If you charge the finished article a particular price, then economically it is correct and just that you should also raise the price of the raw material on which the manufacture of the finished article is based.

Mr. A. C. Inskip: May I point out to my Honourable friend that I made it clear in my speech that the price of raw hides had increased by no less than 400 per cent. He might be interested to know that the actual cost of the finished leather has increased only by 200 per cent. I think that answers his question.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: The question before me is this: whether I should believe Mr. Inskip or I should believe the Capital? The Captital says that the price of hides and skins has gone up by 128 only.

Mr. A. C. Inskip: It includes skins and there I agree with it.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I am talking of hides and skins; my motion also relates to hides and skins and I am not separating them.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I would ask the Honourable Member to cease to be an economist but be a mathematician.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: The figures that I have given are for both hides and skins and my cut motion is also with regard to both. If my Honourable friend Mr. Inskip wants to produce leather goods and if he wants to buy hides and skins at a cheap price, then let him go to the open market. He should not use the influence of the Government and get the price fixed, nor should there be the Defence of India Rules which fix an uneconomic price, as is evident from the figures I have given. If they go into the open market and do not depend upon the Defence of India Rules and follow the legitimate principles of trade, I will have no objection; but this is not what they are doing. What right have you to force this particular trade to sell its stuff only to a particular firm in England and also in America? What right have you to say that they must sell it at the price which they fix?

In conclusion, I would like to say that this trade has suffered a lot. It is a trade which has been given about 50 crores of rupees and we cannot allow it to be dwindled by artificial methods of the Defence of India Rules. My friend says that whatever benefits and advantages they had been deriving during the war they should continue to have during the post-war period also. We strongly object to it. We allowed you to have enormous profits during the war, but after the war we want you to look after the people whose income is limited. You should not take advantage of the Defence of India Rules but you should follow the usual trade channels. Come to the open market and give us freedom to sell at any price we like and then we will have no objection.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava (Ambala Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I am not a leather merchant nor have I take any part in any such trade and I want to look at this question from the point of view of the common man living in the villages. I want to look at this question from the point of view of the cultivator.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: And also from the point of view of the village chamar.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Yes. The cattle belong to the cultivator and the chamar only takes the carcass and then prepares the hide. I join with Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad in his complaint that there should be no monopoly. I quite see his point. I also feel that the purchaser should not be allowed to fix a price for himself. I can see the ground of the charges. All the same, what I want and what I aim at is that instead of giving a fillip to the whole trade, the slaughter of cattle should be stopped altogether.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: And their deaths should also be stopped.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: My point is that if there is an export and the cattle are being slaughtered for purposes of being exported, then this scandalous. In India, if you consider the figures, you will be pleased to see that production of hides in this country is 257·2 lakhs, import is 21 lakhs and the export in tanned hides is roughly 103·44 lakhs. India only uses in this manner 175 lakhs of pieces of raw hides for itself. The rest is exported. If you see how many hides are made from fallen animals and how many from slaughtered animals, you will see that about 66 lakhs of animals are slaughtered and 191·2 lakhs of hides are obtained from fallen cattle. It appears therefore that so far as internal needs of India are concerned, the hides from these fallen cattle are more than enough for general consumption of India. The hides of cattle which are slaughtered are exported. I want to submit that if in this country it is

proved to the satisfaction of this House that the number of bullocks, and the number of cows are very small and the number is deteriorating every day, there is a case in which conditions should be so brought about that export is not encouraged. Now, Sir, if you kindly see the census of cattle so far as bullocks are concerned, we have got 4,39,34,150 including the States which possess 1,56,73,990, bullocks and the total is 5,96,08,140. Now, Sir, this is the number of bullocks over three years of age that is bullocks which grow food for us. The amount of cultivated land in this country is 36 crores 20 lakhs acres, including both British India and the States. If you kindly see the report of the Agricultural Commission, and consider also the figures given in Statement II of Mr. Burns' book, you will come to the conclusion that to cultivate 100 acres of land, you require ten pairs of bullocks. This is the estimate given in these two books and it is fairly accurate. Now, just finding what the number of bullocks in our country should be, I come to the conclusion that we require something like 7,24,00,000 bullocks—because 36 crores 20 lakhs of acres divided by five, gives this figure. We have got only 5,96,08,146 bullocks which means that we are in deficit of more than 125 lakhs of bullocks only to cultivate the land which is to be cultivated. It may be argued that camels and he-buffaloes also are used for the purpose of cultivation. Even considering the number of camels and he-buffalos, it is quite clear that we are still in deficit as regards the number of bullocks required to cultivate all the lands. I do not want to go in detail. I submit that about 80 lakhs more of bullocks are required to cultivate the land which is already fit for cultivation. Some of my Honourable friends have no familiarity with village conditions. I very well know how this paucity of bullocks affect the villagers. I come from a district where there is great paucity of bullocks. You will be perhaps surprised to hear that after the last famine, even donkeys were used for ploughing, even cows were used and sometimes even men and women were used for ploughing. In a country like India where the supply of bullocks is not sufficieit, it is suicidal to think of export of hides.

Now, again, Sir, if you kindly see the cultivable land of this countdy, it is about 25 crores of acres which require another five crores of bullocks, which means that in order to make the Grow More Food campaign a success, we require 5 crores, 80 lakhs of bullocks more, so that we may be able to cultivate just the cultivable lands. If you then see the present figures of cows and bullocks in this country, you will be surprised to know that in spite of what the Government of India tell us that they are doing in the matter of increase of cattle, actually the cattle are decreasing. In the Punjab, in 1895, there were 43,50,374 working bullocks, that is 20 bullocks per 100 acres. Now in 1944, the number of bullocks is 44 lakhs 5 thousand while acreage has increased which means that we in the Punjab have got only 14 bullocks for every 100 acres of cultivable land in 1944.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: The Punjab is one of the biggest provinces that export cattle to North West Frontier Province and other places. They cannot have it both ways.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: It is true that from the Punjab, bullocks are also exported. Our difficulty is that there is no National Government in the Punjab. If there were a National Government, we won't allow a single cattle to go out of the Punjab. As a matter of fact these conditions are quite unknown to many people and the Government themselves do not care to improve these conditions and that is why the cattle are exported. I come from a district which has been very and is famous for its cattle wealth. The Punjab which was also the richest province in cattle wealth has now become poor and we need 16 lakhs of bullocks more to cultivate our lands in 1944. If you see the number of cattle which existed in the Punjab in 1869, you will see that we had 38·6 cows and bullocks per 100 persons whereas in 1940-41, we had only 22·8 per cent. If you look at the figures in U.P. and Madras, you will find a similar tale. It appears from the Famine Enquiry Commission report page 177 that in U.P. the number of cows decreased 11 per cent. in 1944 and in Madras there is also a decrease. In such a state of affairs, how can you view

[Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava]

with equanimity when export trade is asked to be encouraged. Now, Sir, leaving this matter aside, there is another aspect which must be considered before you come to any conclusion as to whether exporting conditions should be made more favourable to those who are engaged in the trade. The consideration which I want to place before you is that the children in India generally do not get the milk they require. It is well known that we want more milk for nourishing children, but how can you have more milk if you slaughter 66 lakhs of cattle for the purpose of export of hides only. I do not want to look at this matter from a religious point of view. I look at it only from an economic point of view. I submit that in the Punjab as well as in the whole of India, the children of Muslim peasants require more milk for their sustenance. They are not in the habit of taking animal food. If you see the report on marketing of hides, you will see on page 4 and 56 that in this country as a matter of fact except for some urban towns, the cattle are not slaughtered for the purpose of supply of beef. And this is true not only of the Hindus but also of the Muslims who do not want to slaughter their cattle for food. Therefore my submission is that in this country where according to Government's own report we want to increase the supply of milk by 300 per cent. we cannot say that the slaughter of cattle should not be stopped. The Government of India issued instructions some time ago and I know that there were certain Governments including the Punjab which did not stop the slaughter of cattle as advised by Government.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, on a point of order, may I remind my Honourable friend that it is not an Agriculture demand but a Commerce Department demand?

Mr. President: I may invite the attention of the Honourable Member who raises the point of order, that the cut motion relates to the unsatisfactory position of export of hides, and the position is unsatisfactory, according to the argument, if the slaughter is permitted.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am glad you have supplied the last answer.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Now, Sir, I just heard from Sir Zia Uddin that he was in favour of putting an embargo on exports if these hides were needed in the country. I will refer him to page 102 of the report on the marketing of hides which says that in this country out 175 lakhs of hides 12 lakhs are used as raw hides, and of the remaining 163 lakhs only half is used for chappals and country shoes. You will find that the number of hides is only just enough to supply the needs of one-fifth of the population of this country. If every person in India is to be furnished with a pair of shoes you will require many more heads, and the total supply will not be enough to cover the naked feet of all the people of the country.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I point out that the number is 275 and not 175?

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: My Honourable friend will excuse me if I tell him that the total production is 257·3 out of which about 103 lakhs are exported and the rest consumed in this country, *i.e.*, about 175 lakhs (with the additions of 21 lakhs exported). And we can give shoes only to one-fifth of the population of India. It is clear that even if all the hides are used in this country they would not be sufficient for the needs of all the people in India. Moreover, if you want that the hides should be used here, I submit that they must be entirely tanned here. The chamar and the butcher, with both of whom I have got sympathy for their not getting proper prices, will get much better prices. Why do you allow hides to go out? If you tan the leather here you will get much better prices. The poor chamar is an ignorant person and he is being exploited by the butcher and the merchant every day. The question is between the chamar and the ordinary man in the street who are interested in agriculture and production of food on one side and the leather merchant who wants to take advantage of them on the other. I have no

antipathy against any leather merchant, but I do not want that these people should take advantage of their position and thrive at the expense of the poor people. Therefore so far as the interest of the poor chamar and the cultivator are concerned, all slaughter should be absolutely stopped at once. It may go on only for religious purposes. The people who want to take meat is very small and the country in general does not require the cattle to be slaughtered. To every Hindu and Muslim peasant his cattle are as dear as his children and people who know the conditions in the villages are aware that it is repugnant to them that this slaughter should be continued. Leaving aside this consideration.....

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: Have you not heard of the tractor?

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Yes, I will deal with that. We read in the papers yesterday that tractors will not come till September. But how many tractors will you bring in and how can you go on with the agriculture of this country with tractors? In the Punjab many people are small owners of land; can you conceive of any time in the near future when people will take to collective farming? I do not think it will be possible in the near future to use tractors for agricultural purposes.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: You can use them on holdings of 20 acres.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: I wish my Honourable friend had the same experience as I have. I understand it is his intention that tractors should cultivate the land in the country that all the people will combine and distribute the produce. I do not think that is likely to happen. Perhaps for another fifty years we would not want tractors; we want bullocks and cows. The tractors will not give dung and urine to fertilise the soil. If you read the books on manure which are issued by the Government of India you will find that the best manure for the soil comes from the excreta of the cattle. We want therefore our cattle for fertility; they will give us food, raiment and every other thing.

I do not make these submissions from the point of view of religion. Perhaps in the N.W.F. Province there are not many animals and so the difficulty is not realised there. So far as Punjab and the rest of the country are concerned I am on solid ground when I ask for the stoppage of cattle slaughter and the total stoppage of raw hides being exported, what to speak of facilities for greater export. I have refrained from saying anything about skins of goats, etc., because I have not studied that question; but so far as hides are concerned, I am positive that in the best interests of the country it is imperative that our hides should never be allowed to be exported.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, my Honourable friend Sir Zia Uddin said with an apology that he is not interested in this business. I have no hesitation in saying that I am interested in this business. You may be surprised with this mark on my forehead, that I can be interested in this business at all. Sir, I come from Madras and Madras consumes 90 per cent. of the skins and hides which are tanned in this country, and the lowest of the low are engaged in this business. We have seven lakhs of villages in this country and on an average three heads of cattle die every month in each village, and about 36 or 40 is the total number that a village has by way of fallen or slaughtered cattle. In all we have 257 lakhs of skins produced in this country per year, out of which 197·1 lakhs are dead animals, not slaughtered. Therefore this is a very important industry. I would have whole-heartedly supported the motion of my Honourable friend Mr. Nauman if he had not used the word "raw". Goats and skins and hides are produced in this country of the value of 50 crores of rupees a year. I find that by the monoply that is practised by Government proper prices are not being given either for raw hides or for tanned hides. Whereas raw hides have been going down in exports, the prices and exports of tanned hides also have been going down. If we are interested in the tanning industry at least tanned hides must have a proper market elsewhere. To that extent I join with my Honourable friend in condemning the action of Government in securing a

[Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.]

monopoly and fixing prices which are not in conflict with the prices that ought to be given to them and against the interests of producers in this country and all in favour of those persons who wanted to buy us out. To that extent I whole-heartedly support it. But, Sir, I disagree with him in this respect that I am in favour of not exporting any kind of hide or skin whether tanned or raw. Our country can consume the entire quantity. The fault lies with the Government. A number of years ago my Honourable friend, Sir James Grigg, who was then the Finance Member, allotted one crore of rupees for the improvement of village industries. A number of batches of persons were taught—chamars and others—in the art of tanning and they were despatched from Bombay and other Presidencies from village to village, but that scheme stopped after one year. Tanning is of three kinds: Hides and skins are tanned as a cottage industry. There are such hides and skins which are tanned locally in each village and are used for the purposes of making chappals and other leather articles—that is going on to a large extent. It is a secondary occupation for chamars; they live on agriculture, and this is another occupation. This is not touched by Hindus. Mussalmans do not do the business of flaying but a number of them are engaged in the business of tanning in my part of the Presidency. Over five lakhs of men are engaged in this industry and three millions of harijans are also labourers in this industry, and therefore it will seriously affect them if raw produce is sent away to foreign countries. The tanning industry in my country would be seriously affected. That is why about 8 or 9 years ago when export duty placed upon the export of hides and skins was sought to be removed, my Honourable friend, Mr. Nauman, who wants export of raw hides and skins from this country,.....

4 P. M.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Sir, just a word of personal explanation. What I said then, and have been saying all through, is that economic price should be given, *i.e.*, tanners should be able to compete on the world parity prices; if the United Kingdom of Turkey is prepared to pay Rs. 10 for a certain class of hide, the tanners in India should also be prepared to give the same price so that there may not be any loss to the original producer.

[At this stage Mr. President vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan.]

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I am only sorry he is not on the Treasury Benches. Such kinds of answers I have received from the Treasury Benches when a measure of protection of industry in this country was brought before this House. They used to say how are you going to protect the consumers? For a number of years the industry is not going to stand on its own legs. Whether industry in a short period of time can stand on its own legs or not, the industry must be protected.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: For how long?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Eternally. Where I am pulling this side, you are always pulling that side. It is unfortunate that in this country we have taken sides—some people have taken the side of producers and others have taken the side of manufacturers. They are not struggling with the British Government, but they are struggling against each other. My Honourable friend must have helped the tanning industry in some parts, but there is one big or small tanning industry in Cawnpore. He does not know in how many small factories, tanning is going on in my part of the Presidency. Instead of joining hands with me in forcing this Government to help those poor who are struggling for occupation, you are going against them. I am not putting it on religious grounds. Cattle must die sometimes; they are also slaughtered; I am not against people who eat them.....

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: You want to give the hides away for a song.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: My Honourable friend, Mr. Nauman, is possibly a rich man—I am not so rich—and I would like that all his property

should be given away to the poor if it is a question of helping the poor in this country, giving one more morsel of food. The sooner he gives up asking for export of hides and skins, he will do a real service to this country. So long as they are not giving proper price for tanned hides, I agree in condemning the Government. My Honourable friend in charge of the Department certainly is sympathetic, but he is unable, in the midst of a number of others sitting alongside him, to do anything. I have no quarrel with any of the dark men sitting there, because they are small wheels in a huge machine, and they can only laugh.....

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: Say 'tanned men'!

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I have not much to say; I only want to say that I am unable to give support from this side of the House and that I am not able to see eye to eye with Mr. Nauman.

So far as Sir Zia Uddin Ahmed is concerned, he has been misunderstood. I have understood him aright. A long time ago he was also against the export of raw hides and skins. He gave an illustration. He said, ladies in Western countries and in America are very anxious to have dove-like skin which is very soft and malleable and therefore they are not satisfied with the skin of animals born in the natural way. They would like to remove the uterus, kill the animal and remove it so that the skin if it is peeled out may be very soft. That is what happens in this country.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I did not say that.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: You said so. I have got the reports here.

Lastly, so much tribute has been given to the Honourable Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar. He was a Member of this House, and his speeches have been recorded. When he was an ordinary member of this House and when the motion for removing export duty, came up before this Assembly as long ago as 1934, instead of Mr. Nauman there was some other Mr. Mazdoor and he was anxious to get this export duty removed, and Sir Ramaswami cried out 'no, no'. Therefore even then, so long ago, he voiced the feelings of Madras. We are opposed to export of raw hides, and therefore all of us agree that this industry should flourish and we condemn this Government in not having developed this industry as cottage industry and industry in factory both of finished and tanned articles. To that extent I agree, but in as much as it is not properly worded we are not able to vote in favour of this motion.

Sardar Sampuran Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): I have full sympathy with my Honourable friend, Mr. Ayyangar, from Madras. It is not only the problem of his province, but this cottage industry exists all over the country. The *chamar* in every village in the Punjab cures and tans hides in his own crude way, and they are used for making shoes for the villagers. I think we should develop this small industry to make good leather and eventually we should be able to tan all the skins and hides which we produce in this country. I do not agree with Dr. Sir Zia Uddin when he says that bullocks could be substituted by tractors. I shall welcome the day—(I am sorry I mean Khan Abdul Ghani Khan).

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: I did not say substituted.

Sardar Sampuran Singh: I shall welcome the day when we can cultivate large areas by tractors but so far they have failed, and failed for the following reasons:

(a) We by use of tractors demolish the banks which we require for irrigation purposes.

(b) We need ordinary ploughs for inter-culture of cotton and other crops, which cannot be done by tractors, and if we keep bullocks we have to incur double expense.

[Sardar Sampuran Singh]

(c) As it was pointed out by Pandit Bhargava, we require cattle also for manure. That is an additional help in agriculture.

(d) The farm holdings are so small that unless with the interference of Government lands are consolidated and there is co-operative agriculture, till then, we cannot use tractors in this country successfully except by very big landlords and at great expense I think.

But I cannot agree with Pandit Bhargava that the number of bullocks in this country is small. His calculations are even wrong and based on wrong data because he thinks that we require a pair of bullocks for ten acres of land. At least it is not so in the Punjab. Ordinarily one pair of bullocks cultivates 14 to 15 acres of land.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: In India where the average is 10·8 acres per pair whereas the acreage is only six or seven in Madras, Bombay and Bengal, etc. If you will kindly see statement II, p. 113 in Burns' Book.

Sardar Sampuran Singh: I am talking from practical knowledge. I am a farmer myself and I know. To our tenants we give 14 to 15 acres of land per pair of bullock but they always demand more land and it is with great pressure that we keep them within those limits. Besides it is a well known fact that the quality of cattle in our country has so much deteriorated and if we go on breeding out of them and increase the number of cattle in our country, I think we will be creating so many more parasites to eat the grain which we require for human beings. For that simple reason we have to reorganise this cattle question throughout the country. We have to reduce their number. That may be done by stopping breeding from inferior animals and by improving the breed. Unless we take some radical steps in that direction, I think we would be creating so many animals which I think we really do not require.

In the end, Sir, I have to say only one word. Tanning and curing is a great industry, which with one or two exceptions is practically ignored all over the country and this can be very much developed as a cottage industry where a few men in each village can make their living out of tanning the skins and hides which they get from their own village. For that reason also I would submit that if it is to be exported, let it be exported not in a raw form but in a manufactured form.

***Chaudhri Sri Chand** (Nominated Non-Official): Is it not a matter for regret and for surprise that in this Land of India which was proverbial for its streams of milk, milk is now being imported from other countries? I read, a few days ago, in the papers that 70,00,000 tons of milk would be imported into India. It has been discussed in this House that facilities may be provided to export hides to foreign countries. It would have been better if we had discussed to export milk to foreign countries and to import hides from those countries. At present, we, Indians, can neither get pure milk nor unmixed *ghee*. In cities skimmed milk, containing a large proportion of water, and, vegetable *ghee* in place of the genuine *ghee* are being used. This has bred dangerous diseases like tuberculosis which are daily on the increase. In villages, where in the absence of fruit and vegetables, people lived on milk and *ghee* these commodities have become so scarce that they cannot be had even for children.

India is an agricultural country. 70 per cent. of her people live in villages and depend on cultivation. Villagers, whether Hindus or Muslims, have no taste for meat-eating. They prefer milk to meat. They love their cattle more than their children. Leave aside eating them, they cannot bear to see them slaughtered. For Indians, cattle are essential for their milk, curd and *ghee*, etc. Pandit Thakar Das has told us the pace at which cattle are decreasing in India. If this pace is kept on we shall have no cattle left in India nor shall we have hides to export to other countries.

*The Honourable Member spoke in Urdu.

Population is increasing while cattle are decreasing. I am afraid that if the slaughter of cattle is not stopped the health of the villagers will deteriorate after a very short time.

In cities, cattle are slaughtered merely for their hides. Lacs of cattle from the District of Rohtak in the Punjab are carried to larger towns, such as, Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Delhi, etc., etc., where their calves are forthwith slaughtered while they are allowed to live till they become dry and then slaughtered for their hides.

The export of hides and skins must be stopped otherwise the practice of slaughtering cattle will never end. Poor *chamars* used to live on the skins of dead animals. This has gradually been monopolized by capitalists in each town, who are greedy of money and export hides to other countries while poor villagers go about barefooted. Seventy per cent. of the people of India live on agriculture but owing to export of hides they kill bullocks. I am told that bullocks and calves are severely beaten before they are slaughtered. This is done to make the hide tougher and weightier. Sheep are killed in pregnancy for the skin of the unborn lamb because it is delicate and soft and fetches good price. Bullocks have decreased to such an extent that camels, cows, buffaloes and donkeys are yoked to the plough. He farmer knows that by ploughing with the help of these animals the yield from the field is greatly reduced because they cannot plough the soil deep enough to make it more productive. After the last famine men and women were yoked to the plough. Pandit Thakar Das has rightly said that the area of land under cultivation is larger than before and yet the number of bullocks has much decreased. Somebody suggested that we should follow the Americans and cultivate our land by means of tractors which will come to India from foreign countries by the month of September next. My learned friend seems to have no rural experience. In the Punjab a cultivator possesses, on an average, two acres of land. He is too poor to buy a tractor nor has he so much land as to need a tractor. The time is yet far off when tractors will be used for cultivating land in India. Bullocks are essential for the farmer. Cattle are most necessary for the health and economy of India. Sardar Sampuran Singh has suggested that the number of cattle may be decreased but their breed may be improved. I do not agree with him. The number of cattle is already insufficient in the country and an increase in their number is essential. The breed was not good at first but since the increase in price the cultivators have tried to improve the breed and we can now see cattle of the highest breed in our villages. Hence I am against his suggestion.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, I will not try to preface my remarks by saying that I only propose to speak a few words as my friend Mr. Nauman said but concluded his speech after 20 minutes. My friend is suffering under a misconception and I personally tried to explain to him that we have been at considerable pains to find out as to what should be the future export position of hides and skins in this country. I can assure my friend, though I am not in the trade like my friend, that I am fully cognisant of the position of hides and skin export, so far as India's future postwar trade is concerned. There are a certain number of export articles for which India had been reputed in the past and if we have to maintain an export market for this country in future, these avenues should be explored to the utmost. Long before my friend even wrote to me his letter I took up this question myself. I will not say anything more on this. I felt that with the cessation of war the time has come when we should review the position. In fact I may tell him that by tabling this cut motion he has made my position more difficult than what it was. That is the very least I can say without disclosing some of the facts.

My friend has got a copy of the proceedings from which he read. He will find that on the 9th February the hide and skin conference was called. The Export Advisory Council was held sometime about the end of December or at

[Sir M. Azizul Huque]

the beginning of January. And even though I plead guilty that I did not invite the representatives of my friend's association, to it my only excuse was that in the matter of export the real interests concerned for the time being were not those who actually collected from the field or got from the middlemen, but the traders who export or the manufacturers who manufacture. I thought that I need not confuse the issue and in order to come to a conclusion as to what should be the future export line, people, who have been in the export trade and people who are in the manufacture should be invited to a conference. That was the line I took, it was not because I did not recognise the existence of my friend's association and I will try to show that I wanted to consult every possible interest in the country, apart from the question of the different Departments which are concerned in this matter. I shall read the names of those bodies which attended the conference, though there are a number who did not.

(1) Hides and Skins Shippers Association, Calcutta. (2) South India Tanners and Dealers Association, Ranipet. (3) Southern India Skin and Hide Merchants Association, Madras. (4) Karachi Hide and Skin Shippers Association. (5) Federation of Muslim Chambers of Commerce and Industry. (6) Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry. (7) Tanners Federation of India. (8) Associated Chambers of Commerce. (9) The Indian Merchants Chamber, Bombay. (10) The Buyers and Shippers Chamber, Karachi. (11) Hide and Skin Merchants Association, Amritsar. (12) Hides and Skin Merchants Association, Multan. (13) Amritsar Muslim Traders Association. (14) Hide Merchants and Suppliers Association, Lahore. (15) Goat and Sheep Skin Exporters, Delhi. (16) Leather Goods Manufacturers Association, Bombay. (17) Association of Indian Industries. (18) All-India Footwear Federation. (19) Bata Shoe Company. (20) Agra Shoe Manufacturers Association.

If after this long list, my friend Mr. Nauman comes to the House and says that this is not a representative conference, as his association was not convened, I think that he is doing wrong to those distinguished men who came to represent the various interests concerned. Sir, I only wanted to bring to your notice that long before this cut motion I had thought out this problem and I wanted to do my best in order to help the trade.

Let me here quote what I said in my opening speech on that occasion:

"The Chairman opened the discussion stating that the views expressed in the past by various interests regarding the supply position and export possibilities of hides, skins and leather goods were irreconcilable. This Conference was therefore called in order to reach agreed conclusions if possible regarding the future export position of these commodities. He added that the position of these articles was quite different at present from what it was before the war. Since 1929 there has been a tendency for increased tanning and finishing of leather goods in this country, apart from the fillip given to organised factories and cottage industries during the war period. It was the policy of the Government of India to develop wherever possible manufacture of indigenous articles in the country. The question therefore, before the conference was to ascertain what quantities of raw materials could be processed within the country and to what extent raw materials or manufactured goods could be exported."

I made my position quite clear, that I was anxious to find out or explore the possibility from those who were interested as to what is actually the consuming capacity of the country, what can be consumed in the near future and if there is any balance left, whether or not we should export that. I hope every section of the House will agree that that was the only sound position to take up. Unfortunately I have not had many facts or statistics. My friend has not given me any figures to answer any of these actual points which should determine the issue. My friend has not said anything as to what is the present consuming capacity of the tanning industry both in the factories as well as in the cottages. If my friend can give it, I can come to a conclusion tomorrow. My friend has not given any data on which I can estimate the present production of hides and skins in this country. Sir, having regard to these two factors I therefore wanted a little data. Unfortunately there are

two interests each against the other and irreconcilable almost till the end I therefore immediately took steps to issue a long note about surveying the actual position today and I wanted from the different Departments concerned as to the actual facts and figures with reference to these three factors which I have referred to. I have not been able to get them. It was written in my own hand. If my friend can answer any of these points on the floor of the House or even tomorrow or within a week, I can assure him that I will be able to come to a decision immediately on this export policy. I said, for example that there has been a complaint in the country, that there has been a reduction in the cattle population of the country. We must know what is the cattle population today. What are the actual figures of the death rates within the last few years? What is the annual production of hides within the last few years? To what extent they are fallen hides and to what extent are they slaughtered? Are there any corresponding figures for any of these items during the recent war years and also corresponding figures for goats and sheep? We wanted also to know the extent of the expansion of the tanning industry in organised factories and also the nature of expansion in the village cottage industries including footwear industry. Only after knowing all these facts we can come to a decision. I hope my friend will not press this motion on the ground that simply because there was this export before irrespective of the consideration of the internal manufacturing capacity of this country, we should allow exports to be resumed. While I am in sympathy with the object of my friend, I cannot assure him straightaway as to what line we shall take. But I can give this assurance, that if I am satisfied reasonably that after allowing all that is necessary for internal manufacture in this industry at the present moment there is still a good or fair surplus or likelihood of such a surplus, I will certainly try my best to revise the present policy, by encouraging exports, because this wealth will return to the man who collects it; and if I can allow export to that extent, it will help his economic position. But I will be jeopardising the economic position if I allow an article to be exported which can be consumed within the country itself. That has been the policy of the Government of India and I stand by that policy. My Honourable friend has referred to certain prices. Sometimes it is dangerous for a mathematician to be an economist. My friend Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad is a distinguished mathematician, but he tried to play the role of an economist also. He gave certain figures and it was with great difficulty that I was able to get the facts: I found that whereas Mr. Inskip was referring to the price of hides in Calcutta, Sir Zia Uddin was referring to the prices of both hides and skins, together; and it is well known that whereas the price of hides has risen very high, the price of skins is comparatively on a lower level; and the combined figures naturally will react on one another . . . .

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: The motion refers to both.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: But my figures referred to hides only, and Mr. Inskip also referred to hides only. Mr. Inskip's point was—and he was quoting from the same proceedings to which my friend Mr. Nauman referred—that according to those who wanted export to be encouraged, the figures in Calcutta were: in the year 1938, Rs. 3/15 to Rs. 5/8 a piece; and in 1945, the prices were Rs. 16 to Rs. 17; and the present ruling price was Rs. 16. Therefore it cannot be complained about the Calcutta price it is more than 400 per cent. . . . . .

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I interrupt? The particular class of hides he is referring to is different. Besides, the question I put is this, whether Indian hides are able to fetch higher prices through export or not. I am not by any chance going to say that we should not help our industries or that we are not prepared to co-operate with industries. At the same time what I wish to impress on the Honourable Member is that industries should not be allowed to pay Rs. 5 for an article which can be sold at Rs. 15 elsewhere.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have understood my friend perfectly. At the same time I should think that it is not a sound economic proposition from the point of view of economic development of any country, that because you can get a rupee more outside, as against the local price which is 300 per cent more, you must send it outside, even when you are satisfied that the price you are getting is a fair economic price here. I think it will be wrong if our export policy is only governed by the price consideration. There are so many other considerations. The question of unemployment, the question of manufacturing in this country, the question of strategy and defence all these are factors on which the export policy has to be built up; and it is for that reason that as a part of the war effort, the sanctions of economic warfare were considered very important with a view to winning the war. Anyway, even supposing, that my friend is correct, I take it that there is no special virtue in the Dacca hide, except that it is dry salted. Others are not dry-salted, but treated in another manner; and if ordinary experience is any guide and if it is a fact that the Dacca price has gone from 3/15 to 17, (and my friend cannot contradict me unless he gives me the facts), I say that other prices must have followed the same parity. That is only reasonable, unless my friend can satisfy me that though the Dacca price by virtue of adding a little salt has increased so much, the prices of other articles have not increased. I do not know if that is his contention. As I said, I am anxiously waiting for figures. Unfortunately in my experience—and I plead this very humbly—we often talk of general propositions but unsubstantiated by facts which are necessary to come to a conclusion on such propositions. I am quite prepared to accept my friend's argument wholly that I should not be guided by the self-interest of tanners. I think he will also agree with me that the other side is also true, namely, that I should not be guided only by the advice of the exporters. In all conscience I must look to the development of the country as a whole; and it was with that view that I brought all these interests together in order that they may be reconciled in one place. My friend has seen their proceedings. In fact this matter still requires a considerable amount of reference to different Departments and different ports and different trade interests in a vast country like India, before you can come to a satisfactory solution. But I do hope that I shall be able to come to some conclusion within a week or two at the utmost.

I shall take only a few minutes more because I have to reply to all these points. As I said, I recognise the value of this hides and skins business. Our business was with almost every country in the world before, and I am anxious that this should also if possible be one of our exports; but if these goods can be manufactured in this country, the better: and if from the tanned leather, we can manufacture shoes and export them, it is still better. Therefore I must try to find out a reconciliation between all these interests before I can come to a conclusion.

I do not think I need answer the point because when Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad put a simple question to those who did not agree with him, I felt that it was a very complicated question. I do not think I need enter into the question of slaughters and bulls *versus* bullocks and tractors and all those factors which I consider wholly beside the point for a considered judgment on the export policy. Suffice it for me to say that I have been for the last two or three months trying to get the actual data on all these points, and I can assure the House that if I am satisfied that having regard to the needs of the country there is likelihood of a surplus of hides and skins in this country, I certainly would be the first to see that they are exported in order that India may get wealth from abroad. But simultaneously I should also try to do everything possible to help the manufacturers.

There is one point which I must say. As a matter of fact we have relaxed to a large extend in our export policy, and my friend knows well that we have relaxed a great deal in that direction and are permitting a certain number of things to go out in reasonable quantities.

As regards his offer for monopoly purchases, I think that is a matter which should be tackled by the Supply Department, because the price factor was controlled by the Supply Department, and that is wholly beyond the issue of the export policy; but for the information of my friend I can tell him that the Combined Raw Materials Resources Board at Washington, which was dealing with this, has been, I think, dissolved; and therefore the question of price-combination by the Governments of other countries does not arise in the present moment. Whether there is any trade cartel or not, I can assure him that India is not a participant in the trade cartel and I would certainly very carefully watch the situation before I enter into a negotiation with such an organisation which can control and monopolise the price, so far as India's export is concerned.

As regards the price, as I said, this is a point which is outside the scope of the Commerce Department and therefore I would not like to touch it. I think, Sir, that is all I have got to say. So far as Mr. Inskip is concerned, I want to make it quite clear that in so far as the interest of the internal manufacturer and the tanning industry is concerned, both in factories and within the country, we shall certainly watch before we think of doing anything which might jeopardise their position. Sir, I oppose the motion.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi (Calcutta and Suburbs: Muhammadan Urban): I think the debate on this question has been side tracked by my friends on my left as well as by my friends on my right. I will leave the cow to take care of itself and I shall leave the milk of the cow for the children again to take care of itself. The problem here is that in order to help tanners the Honourable Member wishes to crush the trade in hides and skins and is stopping us from selling our goods to the best buyers. If Indian tanners want the hides and skins let them pay a price which other countries in the world are prepared to pay. I cannot understand how the Honourable Member for Commerce could come and tell us of his great theories about industrialisation and about the needs of the tanners when we know that the price of hides for export and even goat skins is not fixed by the seller or the buyer through negotiation but by other influences outside of them. The Honourable the Commerce Member ought to know the trick played about jute, about tea and certain other monopoly commodities in this country. My request to him is—leave us alone. If the man in New York or the man in London or the man in Hamburg, whenever he comes into the picture, wishes to purchase Indian hides and skins, let him pay the price which is fair. The Indian tanner, in competition, will benefit to the extent of the transportation and insurance charges. I cannot understand why the merchants of hides and skins should be punished because of the desire of the Honourable the Commerce Member to have more tanneries in India.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: May I ask whether in deciding the export policy I must forget the tanneries altogether?

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: The tanneries should, in my humble judgment, take care of themselves, but I shall not be robbed and here I speak with some feeling, because you will understand me better; when I say, *Barq girti hai to bechare Mussalmanon par.* This is the one trade in which the Muslim has some standing. This is the one trade he has understood at least for a hundred years and certainly understands it today. Why hold him back? You sell other goods. You sell other things. Let the Indian tanner come into the market and pay me my price, not the price that New York or London or any of the big folk outside India fix.

Sir M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Does the Honourable Member know that the tanner is also a Mussalman?

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: The tanner may be a Mussalman or a Marwari. That does not matter. Even if he is a Muslim tanner, he has to pay the full price for the goods he purchases. These manipulations have led to heavy losses. I do not know when their great tanning programme will come into being. Until then I should not be punished. Increase your tanneries, increase your village tanneries also and cottage industries and all what you like and create a balancing between exports and imports in this country but until you are able to give us a definite plan, you must leave us alone. The Honourable the Commerce Member, according to his own confession, still wants the Honourable the Mover of this Cut, to supply him with figures. What is his great Department doing? I refuse to give him figures. Let him find them out and when he has done that and when he has distributed the hides and skins between the tanners and our great masters in New York and London, then I shall begin to think of another distribution of a higher percentage in India and to a lower percentage outside. It is absolutely correct fact that certain combitions in London and New York bring such great pressure on us that we are unable to sell our hides and skins to Middle Eastern countries where we are liable to get higher prices. What happens is, they take away our goods at prices fixed by them and then they sell at a higher price to others. Would not the Commerce Member let me have that little margin between the two prices. That is what I am trying to impress upon him. It is all very well to talk of industrialization and so on. I hope it will come soon but until then do not crush us. Do not pulverise us and do not throw us back into poverty once more.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That the demand under the head 'Commerce Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The Assembly divided:

[While the division was in progress, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) resumed the Chair.]

AYES—24.

Abdul Ghani Khan, Khan.	Killedar, Mr. Mohammad M.
Abdullah, Hafiz Mohammad.	Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada.
Abid Hussain, Captain Syed.	Mehr Shah, Nawab Sir Syed Muhammad.
Abid Hussain, Choudhury Md.	Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.
Ahmad Ali Khan Alvi, Raja Sir Saiyid.	Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.
Ali Asghar Khan, Mr.	Rahmat-ullah, Mr. Muhammad.
E. H. Jaffer, Mr. Ahmed.	Sharbat Khan, Khan Bahadur.
Ghazanfarulla, Khan Bahadur Hafiz M.	Siddiqi, Mr. Abdur Rahman.
Guruswami, Mr. S.	Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur.	Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, Seth.
Ismail Khan, Hajee Chowdhury Mohammad.	Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.
Jeelani, Khan Bahadur Makhdum Al-Haj Syed Sher Shah.	Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Sir.

NOES—37.

Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.	Kharegat, Sir Pheroze.
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Dr. Sir M.	Mason, Mr. P.
Banerjee, Mr. R. N.	Morris, Mr. R. C.
Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.	Naqvi, Mr. A. T.
Bewoor, Sir Gurunath.	Oulsnam, Mr. S. H. Y.
Bhattacharyya, Rai Bahadur Devendra Mohan.	Raja Bahadur of Khallikote.
Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.	Rangachari, Mr. M. V.
Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.	Rowlands, The Honourable Sir Archibald.
Cook, Mr. B. C. A.	Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
Fenton, Mr. R. V.	Sen, Dr. D. M.
Greenfield, Mr. H.	Sen, Mr. B. R.
Griffiths, Mr. P. J.	Spence, Sir George.
Gwilt, Mr. Leslie.	Sri Chand, Chaudhri.
Hirtzel, Mr. M. A. F.	Stokes, Mr. H. G.
Hydari, The Honourable Sir Akbar.	Thorne, The Honourable Sir John.
Inskip, Mr. A. C.	Turner, Mr. A. C.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasjee.	Tyson, Mr. Geoffrey W.
Joshi, Mr. S. C.	Waugh, The Honourable Mr. A. A.
	Weightman, Mr. H.

The motion was negatived.

Mr. President: It is just one minute to Five and there is hardly any time for moving any further cut motions. So, I will put the Demands for Grants to the vote.

DEMAND NO. 1—CUSTOMS

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,08,04,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Customs'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 2—CENTRAL EXCISE AND SALT

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,04,42,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Central Excise and Salt'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 3—TAXES ON INCOME INCLUDING CORPORATION TAX

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,28,96,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in corse of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Taxes on Income including Corporation Tax'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 4—OPIUM

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,09,55,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Opium'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 5—PROVINCIAL EXCISE

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,61,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Provincial Excise'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 6—STAMPS

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 58,33,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Stamps'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 7—FOREST

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,56,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Forest'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 8—IRRIGATION (INCLUDING WORKING EXPENSES NAVIGATION, EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS MET FROM REVENUE)

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,31,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Irrigation (including Working Expenses, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works met from Revenue'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 9—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT (INCLUDING WORKING EXPENSES)

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,81,50,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 10—INTEREST ON DEBT AND OTHER OBLIGATIONS AND REDUCTION OR AVOIDANCE OF DEBT

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,06,12,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Interest on Debt and Other Obligations and Reduction or Avoidance of Debt'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 11—EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a reduced sum not exceeding Rs. 3,54,700 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Executive Council'."

The Assembly divided.

AYES—42

Ahmad Ali Khan Alvi, Raja Sir Saiyid.
Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Dr. Sir M.
Banerjee, Mr. R. N.
Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.
Bewoor, Sir Gurunath.
Bhattacharyya, Rai Bahadur Devendra Mohan.
Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.
Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.
Cook, Mr. B. C. A.
Fenton, Mr. R. V.
Greenfield, Mr. H.
Griffiths, Mr. P. J.
Guruswami, Mr. S.
Gwilt, Mr. Leslie.
Himmatsinhji, Col. Kumar Shri.
Hirtzel, Mr. M. A. F.
Hydari, The Honourable Sir Akbar.
Inskip, Mr. A. C.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasjee.
Joshi, Mr. S. C.
Kharegat, Sir Pheroze.
Lawson, Mr. C. P.
Mason, Mr. P.
Morris, Mr. R. C.
Naqvi, Mr. A. T.
Oulsnam, Mr. S. H. Y.
Raja Bahadur of Khallikote.
Rangachari, Mr. M. V.
Rowlands, The Honourable Sir Archibald.
Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
Sen, Dr. D. M.
Sen, Mr. B. R.
Sharbat Khan, Khan Bahadur.
Spence, Sir George.
Sri Chand, Chaudhri.
Stokes, Mr. H. G.
Thorne, The Honourable Sir John.
Turner, Mr. A. C.
Tyson, Mr. Geoffrey W.
Waugh, The Honourable Mr. A. A.
Weightman, Mr. H.

NOES—49

Abdul Ghani Khan, Khan.
Adityan, Sri S. T.
Ayyangar, Sri M. Ananthasayanam.
Banerjee, Sree Satyapriya.
Bose, Shri Sarat Chandra.
Chaman Lall, Diwan.
Chettiar, Sri T. A. Ramalingam.
Choudhury, Sreejut Rohini Kumar.
Daga, Seth Sheodass.
Damodar Swaroop, Sjt. Seth.
Dani, Mr. G. B.
Gadgil, Sjt. N. V.
Gangaraju, Sri V.
Gole, Mr. P. B.
Gounder, Sri V. C. Vellingiri.
Govind Das, Seth.
Hiray, Sjt. B. S.
Jagannathdas, Sri.
Jhunjhunwala, Mr. B. P.
Jinachandran, Sri M. K.
Khan, Mr. Debendra Lal.
Lahiri Choudhury, Srijut Dhirendra Kanta.
Mahapatra, Sri Bhagirathi.
Malaviya, Pandit Govind.
Mangal Singh, Sardar.
Manu Subedar, Mr.
Masani, Mr. M. R.
Menon, Sri A. Karunakara.
Mukhopadhyay, Mr. Nagendranath.
Narayanamurthi, Sri N.
Neogy, Mr. K. C.
Ram Narayan Singh, Babu.
Ramayan Prasad, Mr.
Ranga, Prof. N. G.
Reddiar, Sri R. Venkatasubba.
Saksena, Shri Mohan Lal.
Salve, Mr. P. K.
Sampuran Singh, Sardar.
Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar.
Satakopachari, Sri T. V.
Sharma, Mr. Krishna Chandra.
Sinha, Shri Satya Narayan.
Sri Prakasa, Shri.
Sukhdev, Seth.
Surjit Singh Majithia, Squadron Leader Sardar.
Swaminadhan, Shrimati Ammu.
Thakur Das Bhargava, Pundit.
Vadilal Lallubhai, Mr.
Varma, Mr. B. B.

The motion was negatived.

DEMAND NO. 12—COUNCIL OF STATE

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,49,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of Council of State'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 13—LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEPT.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,73,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Legislative Assembly and Legislative Assembly Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 14—HOME DEPARTMENT

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,65,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Home Department'."

The Assembly divided.

AYES—59

Abdullah, Hafiz Mohammad.
Abid Hussain, Captain Syed.
Abid Hussain, Choudhury Md.
Ahmad Ali Khan Alvi, Raja Sir Saiyid.
Ali Asghar Khan, Mr.
Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Dr. Sir M.
Banerjee, Mr. R. N.
Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.
Bewoor, Sir Gurunath.
Bhattacharyya, Rai Bahadur Devendra Mohan
Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.
Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.
Cook, Mr. B. C. A.
Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer, Mr. Ahmed.
Fenton, Mr. R. V.
Ghazanfarulla, Khan Bahadur Hafiz M.
Greenfield, Mr. H.
Griffiths, Mr. P. J.
Gwilt, Mr. Leslie.
Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur.
Himmatsinhji, Col. Kumar Shri.
Hirtzel, Mr. M. A. F.
Hydari, The Honourable Sir Akbar.
Inskip, Mr. A. C.
Jeelani, Khan Bahadur Makhdum Al Haj Syed Sher Shah.

AYES—59—*contd.*

Jehangir, Sir Cowasjee.
Joshi, Mr. S. C.
Kharegat, Sir Pheroze.
Killedar, Mr. Mohammad M.
Lawson, Mr. C. P.
Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada.
Mason, Mr. P.
Morris, Mr. R. C.
Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.
Naqvi, Mr. A. T.
Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.
Oulsnam, Mr. S. H. Y.
Rahmat-ullah, Mr. Muhammad.
Raja Bahadur of Khallikote.
Rangachari, Mr. M. V.
Rowlands, The Honourable Sir Archibald.
Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
Sen, Dr. D. M.
Sen, Mr. B. R.
Sharbat Khan, Khan Bahadur.
Siddiqi, Mr. Abdur Rahman.
Spence, Sir George.
Sri Chand Chaudhari.
Stokes, Mr. H. G.
Thorne, The Honourable Sir John.
Turner, Mr. A. C.
Tyson, Mr. Geoffrey W.
Waugh, The Honourable Mr., A. A.
Weightman, Mr. H.
Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, Seth.
Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.
Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Sir.

NOES—49

Abdul Ghani Khan, Khan.
Adityan, Sri S. T.
Ayyangar, Sri M. Ananthasayanam.
Banerjee, Sree Satyapriya.
Bose, Shri Sarat Chandra.
Chaman Lall, Diwan.
Chettiar, Sri T. A. Ramalingam.
Choudhury, Sreejut Rohini Kumar.
Daga, Seth Sheodass.
Damodar Swaroop, Sjt. Seth.
Dani, Mr. G. B.
Gadgil, Sjt. N. V.
Gangaraju, Sri V.
Gole, Mr. P. B.
Gounder, Sri V. C. Vellingiri.
Govind Das, Seth.
Hiray, Sjt. B. S.
Jagannathdas, Sri.
Jhunjhunwala, Mr. B. P.
Jinachandran, Sri M. K.
Khan, Mr. Debendra Lal.
Lahiri Choudhury, Srijut Dhirendra Kanta
Mahapatra, Sri Bhagirathi.
Malaviya, Pandit Govind.
Mangal Singh, Sardar.
Manu Subedar, Mr.
Masani, Mr. M. R.
Menon, Sri A. Karunakara.
Mukhopadhyay, Mr. Nagendranath.
Narayanamurthi, Sri N.
Neogy, Mr. K. C.
Ram Narayan Singh, Babu.
Ramayan Prasad, Mr.
Ranga, Prof. N. G.
Reddiar, Sri R. Venkatasubba.
Saksena, Shri Mohan Lal.
Salve, Mr. P. K.
Sampuran Singh, Sardar.
Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar.
Satakopachari, Sri T. V.
Sharma, Mr. Krishna Chandra.
Sinha, Shri Satya Narayan.
Sri Prakasa, Shri
Sukhdev, Seth.
Surjit Singh Majithia, Squadron Leader Sardar.
Swaminadhan, Shrimati Ammu.
Thakur Das Bhargava, Pundit.
Vadilal Lallubhai, Mr.
Varma, Mr. B. B.

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 15—DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a reduced sum not exceeding Rs. 42,95,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Department of Information and Broadcasting'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 16—LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,73,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Legislative Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 17—DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,13,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Department of Education'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 18—DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 18,32,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Department of Agriculture'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 19—DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,55,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Department of Health'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 20—DEPARTMENT OF COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,74,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Department of Commonwealth Relations'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 21—FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,04,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Finance Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 22—COMMERCE DEPARTMENT

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 31,38,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Commerce Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 23—DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,96,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Department of Labour'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 24—DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND AIR

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,25,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of Department of Posts and Air'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 25—WAR TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,49,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'War Transport Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 26—FOOD DEPARTMENT

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a reduced sum not exceeding Rs. 39,54,900 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Food Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 27—CENTRAL BOARD OF REVENUE

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,04,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Central Board of Revenue'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 28—INDIA OFFICE AND HIGH COMMISSIONER'S ESTABLISHMENT CHARGES

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 37,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'India Office and High Commissioner's establishment charges'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 29—PAYMENTS TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS, DEPARTMENTS, ETC. ON ACCOUNT OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF AGENCY SUBJECTS AND MANAGEMENT OF TREASURIES

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 96,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Payments to other Government Departments, etc., on account of the Administration of Agency Subjects and Management of Treasuries'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 30—AUDIT

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,47,74,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Audit'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 31—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,76,000 be granted to the Governor General in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Administration of Justice'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 32—JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENTS

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,21,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Jails and Convict Settlements'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 33—POLICE

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 58,49,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Police'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 34—PORTS AND PILOTAGE

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 25,20,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Ports and Pilotage'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 35—LIGHTHOUSES AND LIGHTSHIPS

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,72,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Lighthouses and Lightships'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 36—SURVEY OF INDIA

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 88,20,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Survey of India'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 37—BOTANICAL SURVEY

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 89,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Botanical Survey'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 38—ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,67,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Zoological Survey'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 39—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 17,40,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Geological Survey'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 40—MINES

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,56,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Mines'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 41—ARCHÆOLOGY

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 18,68,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Archæology'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 42—METEOROLOGY

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 45,89,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947 in respect of 'Meteorology.'"

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 43—OTHER SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENTS

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 28,53,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Other Scientific Departments'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 44—EDUCATION

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 34,47,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Education'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 45—MEDICAL SERVICES

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 28,81,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Medical Services'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 46—PUBLIC HEALTH

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 42,98,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Public Health'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 47—AGRICULTURE

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 55,49,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Agriculture'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 48—CIVIL VETERINARY SERVICES

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 18,89,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Civil Veterinary Services'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 49—INDUSTRIES

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,61,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Industries'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 50—SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,23,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Scientific and Industrial Research'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 51—AVIATION

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a reduced sum not exceeding Rs. 1,25,64,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Aviation'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 52—BROADCASTING

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 98,66,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Broadcasting'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 53—DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND SUPPLIES

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,83,43,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Department of Industries and Supplies'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 54—EMIGRATION

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,90,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Emigration'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 55—COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE AND STATISTICS

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,61,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Commercial Intelligence and Statistics'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 56—CENSUS

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,05,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Census'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 57—JOINT-STOCK COMPANIES

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,84,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Joint-Stock Companies'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 58—IMPERIAL DAIRY DEPARTMENT

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,20,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Imperial Dairy Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 59—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 36,01,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 60—CURRENCY

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 39,13,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Currency'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 61—MINT

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,05,84,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Mint'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 62—CIVIL WORKS

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,01,75,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Civil Works'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 63—CENTRAL ROAD FUND

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,42,00,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947 in respect of 'Central Road Fund'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 64—SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,42,43,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Superannuation Allowances and Pensions'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 65—STATIONERY AND PRINTING

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,03,19,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947 in respect of 'Stationery and Printing'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 66—MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,96,27,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Miscellaneous'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 67—MISCELLANEOUS ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN THE CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 78,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 68—POST-WAR PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,63,84,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Post-War Planning and Development'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 69—CIVIL DEFENCE

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,24,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Civil Defence'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 70—DELHI

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,27,23,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Delhi'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 71—AJMER-MERWARA

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 47,97,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Ajmer-Merwara'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 72—PANTH PIPLODA

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 49,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Panth Piploda'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 73—ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 65,34,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Andaman and Nicobar Islands'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 74—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON SALT

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,27,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Salt'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 75—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON FORESTS

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 37,68,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Forests'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 76—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON THE SECURITY PRINTING PRESS

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 17,00,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on the Security Printing Press'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 77—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS (NOT MET FROM REVENUE)

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,38,79,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Indian Posts and Telegraphs (Not met from Revenue)'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 78—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS—STORES SUSPENSE (NOT MET FROM REVENUE)

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs—Stores Suspense (Not met from Revenue)'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 79—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,96,38,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Industrial Development'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 80—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON CIVIL AVIATION

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,38,99,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Civil Avaton'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 81—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON BROADCASTING

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Captal Outlay on Broadcasting'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 82—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON MINTS

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 98,50,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Mints'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 83—DELHI CAPITAL OUTLAY

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 89,80,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Delhi Capital Outlay'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 84—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON CIVIL WORKS

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,25,29,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Civil Works'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 85—COMMUTED VALUE OF PENSIONS

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Commuted Value of Pensions'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 86—PAYMENTS TO RETRENCHED PERSONNEL

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 35,00,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Payments to Retrenched Personnel'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 87—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON SCHEMES OF STATE TRADING

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 38,70,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Schemes of State Trading'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 88—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON DEVELOPMENT

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 41,26,00,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Development'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 89—INTEREST-FREE AND INTEREST BEARING ADVANCES

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 34,91,82,000 be granted to the Governor General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Interest-Free and Interest Bearing Advances'."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 15th March, 1946.

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